

## **Selectmen's Meeting – December 1, 2009**

Present were Selectmen Deborah J. Davis, Nancy L. Carlson and Bruce L. Tatro. Also present was Town Administrator Elizabeth Fox.

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**Financial Matters.** Selectmen reviewed and approved accounts payable and payroll manifests.

**NH Fish & Game/UNH Bobcat Study.** Selectmen met with Mike Morrison who reviewed with the board a study underway assessing the abundance of bobcat in the state. The study involves trapping, collecting data, placing collar transmitters and releasing bobcat. Transmitters will allow researchers to collect data on the habitat and seasonal activities of the species and help identify important corridors to the species. Permission is sought to live trap on 2 town owned parcels. The process used for trapping was described by Morrison. After discussion, Selectmen voted to authorize use of town properties for study data collection. Chairman Davis was also authorized to sign the necessary NH Fish & Game permits to allow the activity on town parcels.

**Budget 2010.** Selectmen continued work on the proposed 2010 budget.

Department of Public Works. Selectmen met with DPW Director Lee Dunham continuing review of the department's 2010 budget proposals. An updated road plan and CIP for 2010 through 2013 was reviewed with board members. Dunham advised he had deferred plans to reconstruct Main Street due to concern regarding rock hauling associated with the dam project which may be completed in 2010 or later. Matthews Road and the type of work proposed for a section was reviewed. The overall road plan aims to treat (shim, overlay, chip seal, reclaim, rebuild etc) 5 miles of road a year through appropriations within the operating budget and contributions and withdrawals to the expendable trust accounts (identified as the capital budget). The status of the DPW Heavy highway equipment & trucks capital reserve account and the associated CIP was discussed. A copy of the plan updated during the budget development process will be forwarded to Dunham for review and updating this year. Options and alternatives to other equipment purchases proposed related to Cemetery, Parks and Facilities Maintenance were discussed including a small tractor, need for a lawnmower replacement schedule and snow blower.

Overall Budget. Selectmen reviewed the current overall budget requesting some initial revisions to portions of the capital reserve and expendable trust appropriations.

**Tax Rate 2009 & 2010.** Receipt of the State Education Tax Warrant for Tax Year 2010 was acknowledged assessing the town \$1,287,792 (versus \$1,304,022 in 2009). This impact of this adjustment to the state education tax will be reflected in the December 2010 tax bills. In addition, the 2009 rate has been set by the Department of Revenue at \$24.75 with an additional .78 cents for properties located in the North Swanzey Water & Fire Precinct. Selectmen executed warrants committing the final tax bills for 2009 and authorizing their issuance.

**Cheshire County Regional Prosecution Program.** Selectmen acknowledge an invitation to a meeting regarding the program requesting the Police Department send a representative as it conflicts with the board's weekly meeting.

**Cheshire TV Agreement.** Selectmen confirmed that the town's agreement with Cheshire TV is scheduled to expire in January. Continuation of the agreement was discussed. Selectmen advised they were not inclined to continue to participate or extend the agreement for 6 months to provide opportunity to renegotiate for another 5 year term.

**Consent Agenda.** Selectmen reviewed and approved the following:

- Notice of Lien, Tax Map 73 Lot 2-1
- Regular Full Time Employee Holiday Schedule – Fire Department (Attachment #1)

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting. Selectmen reviewed and approved public session minutes of their meeting of November 24, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox  
Town Administrator