

## **Selectmen's Meeting – January 3, 2007**

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

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

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

**Cheshire County.** Selectmen met with County Commissioners Roger Zerba, Stillman Rogers and Jack Pratt reviewing the status of the county's efforts to find a location to build a new county jail. Sites under consideration in Swanzey include or have included Yale Forest, Bardwell Farm and Collier Property. Commissioners expressed their view that all 3 of these sites were still "on the table". Selectmen asked why no Keene locations were "on the table". Commissioners felt that sites considered in the past in Keene were either no longer available or too expensive to acquire or develop. Whether 580 Main Street (former Keene DPW) was a viable site was discussed at length. Commissioner Rogers advised he would not consider that site because of pollution. Why Commissioners were not looking a land for the jail that is already owned by the county in Westmorland instead of removing prime commercial real estate from the town and county tax rolls was also discussed. Commission Pratt expressed his view that the election results indicated that voters did not support construction of a jail in Westmoreland as they had elected Pratt and many democrats who opposed putting the jail on county owned land in that town. The politics of locating the new jail and the need to obtain a 2/3 vote to fund the project was discussed at length. Selectmen reiterated concerns about the Swanzey locations under consideration particularly the Collier property which is located in the town's TIF District. Investment in the area to support commercial and industrial development by the town was discussed. Commissioners queried whether combining the jail with a technical college complex in the TIF made the proposal more agreeable to the town? Commissioners discussed their need to address a "county" problem to which Swanzey would contribute a share of the cost of any solution. Previous sites considered for the jail were discussed. Keene's willingness to accommodate the utility needs of a Swanzey site were discussed. Whether a PILOT payment would be appropriate was discussed. Upcoming meetings regarding the issue were also reviewed. Robert Beauregard offered a site a location for the jail located in Keene on the Keene/Swanzey border.

**Open Space Committee.** Selectmen met with Katherine Feist and Victoria Barlow reviewing the activities of the committee. Funding needs for acquisition were discussed with Selectmen agreeing to include a \$50,000 contribution toward the reserve fund in the proposed 2007 budget. Strategies and areas to focus efforts on within the town were reviewed.

**Nominations.** Selectmen voted to appoint Jeanne Thieme and Bud Winsor to the Open Space Committee. Appointment papers will need to be executed and terms set for these appointments.

**Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIb, Hiring.** Selectmen voted by roll call to go into non-public session at 8:10 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 8:12 p.m. authorizing staff to address a query from a position applicant and advise that the candidate was not considered by the Board.

**Land Use Change Tax.** Selectmen discussed penalties requiring assessment for 2 parcels. Selectmen voted to set the market value for Tax Map 79 Lot 6 at \$1,000,000 with the penalty being 10% of that value. Market value for land being converted to active excavation was set at \$ 413,000.

**Donations – Carpenter Home, RSA 31:95-b.** Selectmen were advised of 2 donations received for the home totaling \$ 300. The donations were directed toward resident activities. Selectmen voted to accept and expend pursuant to RSA 31:95-b the donations to the home.

**Kempton Road.** Selectmen were advised that DPW Director Dunham planned to post the road to ensure it was not damaged by trucks hauling gravel.

**Budget 2007.** Selectmen reviewed the proposed budget finalizing it for consideration at the hearing set for January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting.** Selectmen approved as written the minutes of their meeting of 12/27/2006.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Elizabeth A. Fox  
Town Administrator