

Selectmen's Meeting – January 26, 2010

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

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

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

First Session – Town Meeting 2010. Selectmen reviewed with Town Moderator Gus Lerandeau the warrant articles to be considered at the upcoming session set for 2/2. Selectmen requested staff contact the Boy Scouts asking if a scout could lead the session in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Buck & Ike. Victoria Barlow updated Selectmen on Buck's medical condition and the re-emergence of the tumors around his eyes since surgery in the early winter. Unfortunately the tumors have returned with a vengeance and it is expected he will not last until spring. Efforts to find a companion for Ike are underway. A celebration of Buck's life is in the planning stages and scheduled for March 20th. Suggested was establishing for donations in Buck's memory a fund that could be used for materials and related costs to re-do the "Welcome to Swanzey" sign in the Route 32 triangle. Deb Crowder has offered her talents to create it.

Monadnock Regional School Board Vacancy. Selectmen reviewed the nomination received (Patricia Bauries) to fill this vacancy until the March elections. Selectmen voted to recommend the appointment of Patricia Bauries to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Jane Fortson until the next election. Selectmen requested district officials be notified of the board's decision.

Sidewalk Maintenance. Selectman Carlson noted that the sidewalk's winter maintenance was being well done. Whoever is running the sidewalk tractor this year seems to have gotten the hang of the machine and is doing a good job.

Budget 2010. Selectmen reviewed a chart developed by DPW Director Dunham detailing salt consumption since November as compared to prior winters. Selectmen decided, given the information available to date, to "hold the course" relative to winter road maintenance funding deferring consideration of amending the recommended budget at the town's deliberative session set for 2/2.

Economic Revitalization Zones (ERZ). Selectmen endorsed submission of applications designating 2 areas for participation in this state program. The first area, known as the Swanzey Revenue Development District includes properties identified in Attachment #1. Selectmen found that the designation would likely result in the reduction of the rate of vacant and/or under-utilized properties within the zone. The second area, known as the Homestead Woolen Mills District includes properties identified in Attachment #2.

Selectmen found that the designation would likely result in the reduction of the rate of vacant and/or under-utilized properties within this zone. Designation as an ERZ allows businesses located in those zones access to tax credits and government programs. Selectmen designated the town planner as contact point for both nominations.

Chandler v. Town of Swanzey (BTLA). Selectmen acknowledge receipt of correspondence from the property owners accepting the resolution proposed by the board. Paperwork regarding the agreement, once executed by the property owners, will be forwarded to the Board Chair who was authorized by members to sign necessary documents on behalf of the board.

NHDOT Route 12 & Lake Street Intersection. Selectmen reviewed and approved draft correspondence responding to NHDOT's queries regarding a variety of environmental issues in this neighborhood.

Fire Department. Selectmen met with Chief Skantze discussing the following matters:

- **ISO Rating.** Skantze updated members regarding activities and actions related to updating of the town's insurance rating. Recent correspondence from ISO advising of a rating change to 6/9 was reviewed. Skantze advised that a telephone meeting had been scheduled with an ISO representative to discuss the re-classification. Components of the rating system and associated scores were reviewed by Skantze. He advised that revisions to the automatic response system for first alarms, additional water supply training and demonstration of water supply capacity were short term ways to improve the rating. Documentation of training activities and addition of an aerial piece (Fall 2009) should also improve it. Selectmen requested the Chief keep them informed of developments pertaining to the town's ISO fire service rating.
- **Ambulance Contract.** Expiration of the town's agreement with DiLuzio Ambulance Service on June 30, 2010 was discussed with Chief Skantze being advised by the board to initiate negotiations with DiLuzio and seek a proposal from the City for service.
- **Fire Prevention Officer.** Chief Skantze outlined a proposed work plan for the fire prevention officer's (captain) position which would involve conducting site visits to existing facilities and businesses in the community to collect information that could assist in department pre-planning. A survey form has been developed to serve as a data collection tool for inputting information into firehouse software in the future. Tasking the fire prevention officer with this effort, which can be done on a more flexible schedule versus plan review, construction inspections, complaints and enforcement, seems to be more effective to Skantze given the part time availability of the current personnel.
- **Broad implementation strategies related to the chief's proposal to convert from the point system, used to compensate volunteer personnel, to an hourly wage plan for calls and training were reviewed. Strategies and a timetable for implementation, as well as the associated policies and procedures for its administration, need to be organized and developed for the board's consideration and approval. Implementing some of the concepts reviewed in the chief's**

12/14/2009 draft while the department operates under the point system was suggested by Selectmen and supported by Skantze.

Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIa, Personnel Matter. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session at 8:25 pursuant to RSA 91-A:3IIa. Present for the session were Fire Chief Skantze and Town Administrator Fox. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 8:47 p.m. voting by roll call to seal the minutes of the session indefinitely.

February meeting schedule. Selectmen reviewed the calendar scheduling business meetings on the 9th, 16th and tentatively on 23rd.

Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIa, Personnel Matters. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3IIa at 8:55 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 9:30 p.m. voting by roll call to seal the minutes of the session indefinitely.

Minutes of Previous Meeting. Selectmen reviewed and approved as written the public and non-public session minutes of their meeting of January 19, 2010.

Consent Agenda. Selectmen approved the following item by consent:

- Raffle Permits #2010-4 & 5.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox
Town Administrator