

TOWN OF SWANZEY
NEW HAMPSHIRE

2015 VOTING GUIDE

OFFICIAL BALLOT VOTING
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015
8:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

Location:
Christian Life Fellowship Church
211 Whitcomb Road

It is not too late to register to vote!
You may do so at the polls before you vote.
Please remember to bring photo identification.

Article 1 To choose by ballot town officers:

Selectman

For 3 Years (Vote For 1)
Kenneth P. Colby, Jr.
David A. Pierce

_____ (Write-in)

Town Clerk

For 3 Years (Vote For 1)
Ronald F. Fontaine
Donna Munson

_____ (Write-in)

Trustee of Trust Funds

For 3 Years (Vote For 1)

_____ (Write-in)

Sewer Commissioner

For 3 Years (Vote For 1)
William J. Snyder

_____ (Write-in)

Library Trustee

For 3 Years (Vote For 1)
Arthur Boufford

_____ (Write-in)

Library Trustee

For 2 Years (Vote For 1)
Robert J. Kenney

_____ (Write-in)

Library Trustee

For 1 Year (Vote For 1)
Hazel Balch

_____ (Write-in)

Zoning Board of Adjustment

For 3 Years (Vote For 2)
Sara Tatro
Keith F. Thibault

_____ (Write-in)

_____ (Write-in)

Zoning Board of Adjustment

For 2 Years (Vote For 1)
Bryan J. Rudgers

_____ (Write-in)

Planning Board

For 3 Years (Vote For 2)
Jeffrey Goller
Jane B. Johnson
Don Skiba

_____ (Write-in)

_____ (Write-in)

Article 2 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Million Eight Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (**\$4,860,000**) for the purpose of preparing plans and specifications, and constructing, equipping and furnishing a new Public Safety Facility for the Fire Department and emergency management operations; Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (**\$4,500,000**) of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended; to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto? If this article is approved, the Board of Selectmen will withdraw Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (**\$360,000**) from the Future Fire Station Capital Reserve Fund for the new Public Safety Facility.

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN - 3/5 Ballot Vote Required)

Article 2 explanation. The Swanzey Selectboard and the Swanzey Fire Department propose to build a new one-story 17,000 square-foot fire station on Safford Drive to replace the current Swanzey Center Station 2 presently located in the basement of the Town Hall. This project requires bonding of \$4.5 million of the overall cost.

The project has a long history, beginning in 1988 when the Voters established a fire station replacement capital reserve fund. Later, the 2003 Town Master Plan called for improving overall fire service and constructing a new fire station to serve as headquarters. In 2013 the Selectboard appointed the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Committee, which was charged with conducting a municipal facilities needs and site alternatives analysis involving Town Hall, Police and Fire facilities, Public Works and Recycling facilities. With the assistance of a team of facility, land use and construction consultants led by Daniel V. Scully Architects of Keene, a thorough analysis of existing facilities and department operations, and an assessment of present and future programmatic needs of each of these Town service functions was undertaken, and a series of facility designs and preliminary cost estimates were generated and presented to the Board in the fall of 2014 as the Swanzey Municipal Study.

-continued on next page

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Article 2 explanation (continued)

Noting that there were several priority needs, particularly those involving structural safety and space needs of Town Hall and the Center Fire Station, the Selectboard decided that the first step of an overall facilities improvement plan should be to move the Fire Department from beneath the Town Hall and build a new facility. The Board has taken the step of preparing preliminary plans and cost estimates for a new fire station on property to be donated to the Town on the new section of Safford Drive.

The current facility beneath Town Hall is too small and does not have room for essential functions such as decontamination, training, truck maintenance, offices, meeting with the public, and storage. The apparatus bay is too small for today's trucks and there is no room for proper storage of turnout gear. In addition, the fire station is in poor physical condition with many building and life safety code violations. There is no sprinkler system, the facility is not ADA compliant, and ventilation and egress are inadequate. Renovation is not recommended due to limited space at the site and the building's overall poor condition.

The new headquarters would allow the Fire Department to consolidate programs and equipment without giving up needed decentralized coverage from three stations. Functions not currently available could take place at the new station such as ambulance service, community para-medicine, training and recertification of firefighters with State Fire Academy courses, vehicle maintenance, and bunking in.

Stations 1 in East Swanzey and 3 in West Swanzey would not be affected by construction of a new facility. The new location allows for coordination with the other two stations and also allows for quick access to major routes and connecting roads. The site is in proximity to the busiest response district while providing access to all areas of the town and providing alternative routes that navigate around Swanzey's four covered bridges. With this location the Fire Department will be able to maintain the Town's 6-6y ISO rating (Insurance Service Office ratings that measure municipal fire-protection efforts in communities throughout the United States). Another positive is the availability of municipal water and sewer services. The building itself is proposed to be made of durable, low maintenance, and highly energy efficient materials designed for a useful life of more than 75 years.

The overall project cost is estimated to be \$4.86 million, of which \$4.5 million would be borrowed, while the balance would come from existing capital reserve funds and possible grants. The bond payment for a 20-year \$4.5 million bond at 3.998% interest is \$400,500 in year one and \$319,500 in year ten. Adding these payments to the 2014 budget would result in a tax increase for a home with an assessed value of \$100,000 of approximately \$74 in year one and \$60 in year ten, respectively, though the first year in which there would be a tax impact would be 2016 due to the project schedule.

Article 3 Shall the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the First Session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **\$6,012,393**? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **\$5,852,076**, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

(RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

Article 3 explanation. *The recommended municipal operating budget for 2015 reflects an increase of \$60,564, or 1.0%, over that approved for 2014. Budget increases are seen in personnel salary adjustments and administration, particularly from the NH Retirement System rate increases, employment taxes and workers compensation insurance, in Land Use expenses due to the Code Enforcement Officer position becoming a full-time position, in County Prosecutor cost due to returning to the previous contracted level after a one-year reduction, in General Assistance with increased housing assistance due to greater community need, and in Town contributions to Libraries. Savings are being realized primarily through a decrease in health insurance and legal costs, in personnel adjustments in the Recycling Center, Carpenter Home and Cemetery/Parks Maintenance budgets, in debt service, and in various Sewer Department reductions.*

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Article 3 - continued

Town of Swanzev Budget 2015 Purpose of Appropriation	Approved 2014	Expended 2014	Proposed 2015
General Government	1,727,408	1,410,031	1,718,648
Police Department	841,155	809,112	862,035
Fire Department	349,260	342,593	366,910
Other Public Safety	187,698	242,215	207,810
Department of Public Works	941,860	913,045	942,307
Recycling	354,425	327,321	344,025
Health & Welfare	260,385	287,270	304,815
Culture, Conservation & Recreation	237,110	233,704	251,245
Economic Development	7,500	8,441	7,500
Debt Service	97,692	87,994	82,455
Carpenter Home	465,275	506,653	454,390
Sewer Commissioners	482,060	550,850	470,254
Recommended Operating Budget	\$5,951,828	\$5,811,277	\$6,012,393

Article 4 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$609,250** to be placed in the following expendable trust and capital reserve accounts of the Town? (RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

PURPOSE OF FUND	AMOUNT
Expendable Trust Funds	
Town Hall IMS	\$5,000
Revaluations & Updates	\$35,000
Police IMS	\$4,000
Police Facilities	\$4,000
Fire Station Maintenance	\$20,000
Fire Department Tools & Equipment	\$10,000
Emergency Communications	\$10,000
Emergency Mgt. Facilities & Equip.	\$5,000
Fire Ponds	\$5,000
Road Rehab. & Reconstruction	\$170,000
DPW Facility Improvements	\$10,000
Cemetery Expansion & Layout	\$2,250
Mt. Caesar Union Library	\$2,000
Stratton Free Library	\$2,000
Whitcomb Hall Rehabilitation	\$50,000
Capital Reserve Funds	
Fire Trucks	\$80,000
Highway & Cemetery Equipment	\$87,500
Town Bridges	\$35,000
Covered Bridges	\$5,000
Recreation Facilities Improvements	\$7,500
Conservation Land Acquisition	\$50,000
Police Cruisers	\$10,000

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Article 4 explanation. *Expendable trust and capital reserve accounts are used for capital and infrastructure investments, multi-year projects, land acquisition, equipment replacements and facility maintenance or improvement projects. Funds set aside by voters in these accounts frequently serve as needed leverage for grant opportunities (in the case of bridge aid) or may be combined with other resources (such as insurance proceeds) to address Town needs. Overall funding recommended in 2014 is \$47,500 (8.5%) higher than the 2014 level of \$561,750, due primarily to the addition of funds for fire ponds, Whitcomb Hall rehabilitation and the conservation land acquisition. Funds are held and invested by the Trustees of Trust Funds and expenditure is restricted to the purposes approved by voters when establishing each fund.*

Article 5 Shall the Town vote, pursuant to the applicable provisions of RSA 31:39, to study the adoption of an ordinance as proposed by the Selectmen, to be reported back on the 2016 Warrant, as follows: A comprehensive ordinance making it illegal to dump, deposit, place, throw or leave litter on any public or private property in the town of Swanzey, with enforcement by means including fines? (RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

Article 5 explanation. *In response to its community-wide cleanup efforts and the proliferation of trash and litter found in and around roadways and some properties, the Conservation Commission developed a proposed ordinance to control and prevent illegal dumping in the community. A Town Ordinance violation is a non-criminal act where a fine is paid and there is no criminal arrest, no criminal record, and no booking of the individual. At the February 3rd Deliberative Session, those in attendance voted to amend the proposed ordinance to exempt from regulation any waste material placed by property owners on their own property. Those in attendance then voted to amend the main article to change it from a decision on whether to adopt the ordinance to a decision on whether to study the adoption of the ordinance and report back the following year. The Selectboard continues to support this Article.*

Article 6 Shall the Town vote, pursuant to RSA 35:9-a,II to authorize the Trustees of Trust Funds to pay for capital reserve and expendable trust investment management services, and any other expenses incurred, from their respective Income Funds? No vote by the Town to rescind such authority shall occur within five years of the original adoption of this article. (RECOMMENDED BY SELECTMEN)

Article 6 explanation. *This article is included at the request of the Trustees of Trust Funds, who wish to place a portion of Town's Capital Reserves and Expendable Trusts with an investment manager, in order to gain access to the equity markets for funds which otherwise must remain, by law, in government-guaranteed vehicles. This article allows for fees for investment management services to come from investment income, rather than the Town's general fund budget.*

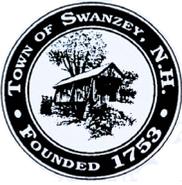
The Trustees regard it as their fiduciary duty to manage public assets such that they at least track the rate of inflation. Their highest responsibility is preservation of capital, but an interest-rate environment of near zero percent, combined with an inflation rate of one to three percent (depending on one's measure), leaves them struggling to prevent the erosion of municipal purchasing power. The Trustees have invested other accounts over which they have more discretion in combinations of varied conservative investments achieving results at least five times better than the Capital Reserve and Expendable Trusts. The Trustees propose to apply that experience to these all-important funds on which the Town relies. RSA 387.3.V limits the amount of these funds that can be invested with an investment manager to 15%.

The recently-enacted HB 297 now permits investment management fees to be paid out of investment income, rather than Town budgets, and the Trustees propose to proceed accordingly. If approved at Town Meeting, this authority would remain in effect for five years.

Article 7 Shall the Town of Swanzey prohibit the use of electronic computerized voting machines, tabulators or other electronic or mechanical devices for sorting and counting votes hidden from the human eye, and require the use of the hand count method, in all elections, to sort and count votes in full public view with full citizen oversight of the entire voting system? (The citizen's right to vote in secret to be maintained).

(SUBMITTED BY PETITION)

Article 7 was submitted by petition

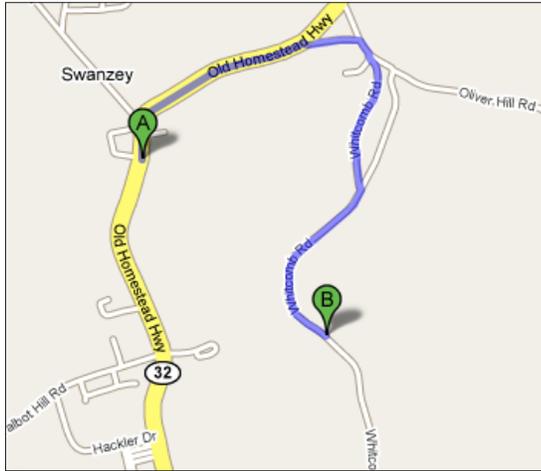


Town of Swanzey
 620 Old Homestead Highway
 PO Box 10009
 Swanzey, NH 03446-0009
 (603) 352-7411

Return Service Requested

PRSR. STD.
 PAID
 Swanzey, NH
 Permit #11
 ECRWSS

www.town.swanzey.nh.us



Postal Patron
North Swanzey, NH 03431

**Town & School District
 Official Ballot Voting
 Tuesday, March 10, 2015**

8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Polls are located at the
 Christian Life Fellowship Church,
 211 Whitcomb Road, Swanzey

From Carlton Road
 Church/voting site is 1 mile on right.
From Oliver Hill Road (Route 32 end)
 Church/voting site is ½ mile on the left.

This voter guide previews Town offices to be filled by election, and official ballot questions that resulted from our deliberative session in early February. The guide explains each ballot question in everyday terms.

istrator and other department leaders welcome your questions. Your vote does count! Participate in making the decisions that will shape the future of our town and come to the polls on March 10th!

The Town's Annual Report contains additional information about matters to be considered by official ballot as well as finances and activities of the Town during the past year. The Annual Report is available at Town Hall, and may be viewed on the Town's website. Selectmen, board members, the Town Admin-

Kenneth P. Colby, Jr.
 Deborah J. Davis
 W. William Hutwelker, III
Swanzey Board of Selectmen

Town Hall hours on Election Day

The Town Clerk's office will be closed on Election Day, March 10 and will re-open for business at 8 a.m. Wednesday, March 11th. Other offices at Town Hall will hold regular business hours on Election Day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Make a difference

Your town needs you! Selectmen often seek nominations for positions on Town boards, committees and commissions. Consult the Annual Report to see which group most interests you, and find nomination forms and additional information at www.town.swanzey.nh.us.