

## **Selectmen's Meeting – August 2, 2011**

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

Chairman Tatro called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

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

**Richardson Park.** Selectmen reviewed correspondence from property owner Peter Minnich expressing concern that non-resident property owners were not provided access to the town's waterfront park. Selectmen requested a copy of the policy regarding use of the park be provided to members for discussion at a future meeting. In addition, they requested correspondence be sent to the property owner advising that the board would be reviewing policy and that in advance of their next visit they should request access.

**Ashuelot Rail Trail Project.** Selectmen were advised that walk through of the project was set for early next week and that work was almost complete.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan.** Selectmen were advised that approval of the town's plan had been received from FEMA. Approval is good for 5 years – until July 2016.

**CDBG Feasibility Grant Administration.** Selectmen authorized issuance of an RFP seeking a grant administrator for the Viewpoint Cooperative Feasibility Study funded through the CDBG program.

**City of Keene.** Selectmen met with Mayor Dale Pregent and City Manager John MacLean discussing a variety of matters involving the 2 communities. The Mayor commented on the rail trail work now underway connecting the two communities and how nice the improved trail was. The NHDOT pedestrian bridge (believed to be scheduled for 2013) crossing Route 101 along the rail trail was discussed. Other areas which might be opportunities for cooperative efforts (like the rail trail project) were discussed. Transportation network connections impacting both communities including the intersection of Base Hill Road and Route 9, Matthews Road and Lower Winchester Street, Route 12 and Route 32 were discussed. Reaching out to appropriate parties regarding work on Optical Ave and Lower Main Street (initially included as part of the bypass project) was identified. Various types of modifications to traffic movements that might improve intersections were discussed. Commonality of problems and issues between communities regionally and nationally was discussed. Efforts of the Airport Advisory Commission Marketing Sub-committee were also discussed with the Mayor advising he would keep Swanzey informed of when the recommendations will be discussed. The hope is that recommendations from the sub-committee can be implemented in a manner that benefits both communities. Utilities shared between the two communities – water and wastewater – were discussed. Negotiation of an agreement to replace the interim (2 yr agreement) between the North Swanzey Water & Fire

Precinct was discussed with Selectmen and city officials agreeing that the town needed to be involved in those discussions. Development of a water source within Swanzev and possible expansion of the supply network in the future was also discussed. Plans in development to expand water service in the area of the TIF district and loop service were reviewed. Plans to upgrade the Keene WWTP (serving the town of Swanzev, Marlborough and Keene) to comply with EPA requirements are also moving forward and it is expected that a warrant article to fund Swanzev's share will be on the March 2012 town meeting agenda. Yale Forest, plans in development to upgrade the Cheshire County Courthouse and the PEG access channel agreement were also discussed. It was noted the numerous fronts and opportunities available for the two communities to partner.

**School Resource Officer MOU.** Selectmen met with Chief Busick discussing the SRO program emphasizing the need to get an agreement in place between the district and town prior to the start of school. The School Board's most recent action was discussed at length. Negative impacts on the effectiveness of the program which would result from assignment of personnel to serve as SRO on a part time basis required to operate the program within the \$50,000 cap set by the district's July action were also discussed. Disappointment that action was taken at this meeting by the district board on the SRO issue – specifically listed on school board's published agenda as an item deferred to the August meeting – was expressed by Swanzev officials who had anticipated an opportunity to attend a school board meeting with the goal of completing an MOU for the program. Selectmen discussed the MOU and methods to resolve the impasse that might allow the program to continue to operate basically full time for the upcoming school year. Amendments to the proposed MOU aimed at reducing overtime exposure were discussed and approved. Noting that the town had previously conceded to reducing the district's costs for the program by 20%, and to allow the program to continue with full time assignment of the SRO at the school during the school day, the Selectmen agreed to reduce the district's budgetary exposure an additional \$12,000 establishing a maximum cost to the district of \$62,000 for the 2011/2012 school year. Absent such compromise, development of an alternate agreement providing a part time assignment will be required. In light of other budget actions taken (deferring filling of an officer's position vacated last year) reducing police resources available to the Swanzev community at large, resources are not available within the town's budget to absorb any addition costs associated for assignment of a police officer at the regional high school/middle school. Selectmen also discussed and decided to attend the next school board meeting in hopes that an MOU can be concluded prior to the start of school.

**Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIa, Personnel, PD.** Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session at 8:30 p.m. with Chief Busick. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 8:50 p.m. voting by roll call to seal the minutes of the session indefinitely.

**Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIa, Personnel, DPW & RC.** Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3IIa at 8:51 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 8:54 p.m. voting by roll call to seal the

minutes of the session. FMLA leave status for an employee through October 24 was authorized.

**Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIe, Forest View Estates v. Swanzey.** Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3IIe at 8:55 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 9:05 p.m. voting by roll call to seal the minutes of the session indefinitely.

**Health Officer Matters.** Selectmen noted they had not observed any improvements at the 127 Homestead Ave property resulting from the town's offer to waive disposal costs. The Recycling Center reports they did not receive any material either. Follow up by the health officer was requested.

**Survey Proposals – Upper & Lower Wilson Pond Dams, Branch River diversion Channel area and Richardson Park.** Proposals from SVE and Dubois & King were reviewed with Selectmen being advised of the recommendation received from DPW Director Dunham to contract with SVE to do the survey work necessary for to move forward and address the requirements of the Dam Bureau and establish a base map for the Richardson Park property to serve as the foundation for development of facility improvement plans. Selectmen approved contracting with SVE at a total cost of \$19,300 authorizing staff to execute the necessary agreements. Funding source designated for the survey work related to the Upper, Lower and Branch River Dams is the remaining 2005 FEMA Flood funds (committing an additional \$13,800 of the \$16,162 available - \$15,000 was previously committed for breach analysis, inundation mapping and EAP development). Funding source approved for the Richardson Park work is the capital reserve fund for recreational facilities improvements.

**Nominations – Monadnock Regional School District Budget Committee.** Selectmen noted one nomination, Robert Smith, voting to move that candidate forward to the School Board.

**Tree Cutting.** Selectmen discussed an email from Greg Johnson received by members expressing concern about cutting noting that work was being conducted by PSNH with property owner permission in an effort to improve power reliability.

**SRDD Phase II Planning.** Selectmen were updated on efforts to develop plans for the intersection and associated adjacent accesses and unexpected challenges related to the north side of the intersection in part because the buildings are almost in the state right of way.

**Consent Agenda.** Selectmen reviewed and approved the following consent agenda items:

- Accepting pursuant to RSA 31:95-b, donation received in memory of R. Beaugard to benefit the Carpenter Home from J. & S. Twombly.
- Event Permit #2011-13 authorizing waiving of event permit fee.
- Raffle Permit #2011-16 & 17.

- Authorized Police Chief Busick to execute, on behalf of the governing body, contract documents pertaining to lease of cruisers for the department as approved by voters at Town Meeting 2011.

**Consideration of Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting of July 26, 2011.** Selectmen reviewed and approved as written the public and non-public minutes of their meeting of July 26, 2011.

**Stone Sealing.** Selectman Tatro queried when sweeping of the roads sealed would occur.

**Cheshire County & Fire Mutual Aid.** Selectmen discussed correspondence from the county commissioners regarding meeting to discuss the mutual aid dispatch center.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox  
Town Administrator