

## HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### Minutes of the Meeting with Department Heads on August 18, 1997

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman E. Lorraine Madison at 3:32 p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Selectman Ann Seabury

### 3. **ATTENDANCE**

**Selectmen**: E. Lorraine Madison, Rhona Charbonneau (arrived 3:40), Shawn N. Jasper (arrived 4:00), Ann Seabury and Terry Stewart

**Staff/Others**: Paul Sharon, Town Administrator; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Richard Gendron, Chief of Police; Frank Carpentino, Fire Chief; Steve Malizia, Finance Director; Leo Lessard, Road Agent

### 4. **DISCUSSION W/DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Chairman Madison said the Board didn't receive any agenda items from Finance or Highway, so she assumed everything was running wonderfully in those two departments.

#### **A. Police Department**

1. **Vehicle Replacement Program** -- Chief Gendron said the budget season is rapidly approaching and this issue always is a stickler. He'd like a program that the Town will stick with and asked the Board what they wanted. The options are to lease, to purchase and something called a take home program. He asked if the old vehicles will be traded in or if they will be handed over to other departments. Chairman Madison thought that decision had been made last year, that they get a better return if they are traded in, and all the other departments should start their own fleet of vehicles. The Chief said Public Works (P/E/Z) was left with nothing, so they asked him about getting his trade-ins. He makes out better by using them as trade-ins would prefer to keep it that way. Chairman Madison and the Board members who were present said it was ok with them. Chief Gendron said he'd probably be including a Tahoe police package in his budget, recommended by GM.. They have it for a week to test drive. It's not a big sport utility vehicle; it's a police vehicle.

2. Proposed Radio System -- Chief Gendron said they are in the first phase of upgrading the computer system, using federal funds. On the 26th, they will be asking to buy hardware for the computer. The second aspect is installing another frequency for a data line. It will give the officers the capability of running license checks and motor vehicle records right from their cruiser. They can also send their reports over the computer lines and dump it into the system. He will try to get grant money, too.

3. Professional Management Association -- Chief Gendron asked to hold this item till later.

4. Customer Service -- Chief Gendron thinks all departments should be more service oriented, especially if the Town wants to attract business. Everyone should do their part to help people when they come in, including being helpful during the permitting process, including following up to see how things are going. Chairman Madison agreed. At the staff meeting she held with all of the department heads, that was one an item she brought up. She wants everyone to work on customer service and things of that nature. When someone comes into a Town building, that person should feel like he or she is the most important person at that time. If that person needs help in going from the Town Clerk to Planning to Engineering, they should be escorted. Whomever is helping that person should set their work aside to help that person. People at Town Hall need to work on that. Overall, the employees do an average job of handling the public; it needs work. She thinks some departments tend to come across like sour grapes and she wanted staff to work on that in the next year. People come in for a reason, not because they don't have anything else to do, and employees should pay attention to those wants and needs. People shouldn't be given the run-around. If staff doesn't know the answer, they should say so, and then they should get back to the person with the answer. Selectman Charbonneau has noticed that clerical workers in stores and wait staff in restaurants are more friendly and courteous than ever before. She said the clerks in the Town Clerk's office are friendlier than they used to be. She said this is important because when people think they are above you, it's not a good feeling. Chairman Madison added, especially when someone is asking for help. If someone is new in Town, they should be directed where to go next, as appropriate. Each department should be able to interface with the others, everyone should be able to give directions and instructions, and work together to serve the public. Everyone needs to be a little more on the ball.

Chief Gendron said the feedback he's gotten from businesses is that they have to go through an awful lot of red tape in Hudson, and that's not good PR, if the Town wants to attract business to offset all of the residential building. Chairman Madison said there may be red tape to go through, but it's not as bad if it's done with a smile. She said the Board needs to work on themselves, too.

Chief Gendron said a lot of people are doing things over the Internet, including building permits. That would save so much time, and if someone could guide them through the process, it would be even better. If there was a mission statement, everyone would know what is supposed to be done. Customer service should be number one. Paul said P/E/Z has three or four different models that they are trying to work with to come up with their own. It's something that needs to be done. Selectman Charbonneau said the employees have to bend over backwards to help people out. Chief Gendron said when people come up to get a pistol permit, some of them don't want to hear the answers they get, but the Town has to be protected from liability issues. Chairman Madison said even though the person might get upset, the employee should stay calm and professional, which is hard to do at times.

5. Dilapidated Buildings in Town -- Chief Gendron said there are some buildings in Town that are going to start to turn into problems for him and Chief Carpentino, and they reflect badly on the Town, as a whole. There are three dilapidated buildings on Ferry Street alone. Kids are starting to hang around the one on the corner of Ferry and Burnham Road, the old Bednar property, and someone is going to either get hurt or set it on fire. There's another one across from Bill Cahill's and one on Kimball Hill and Route 111. The Town doesn't have any ordinance to regulate these structures. In Phoenix, they have an ordinance that addresses these types of things. The owner of an old building on Burnham Road contacted the Fire Chief to see about having it burned down by the Fire Department, but when he found out how much it was going to cost (for the Fire Department to recoup their costs), he got upset. The same thing with the State's building on Kimball Hill Road and Route 111. Paul said it's a code enforcement issue. Susan tries, but she gets discouraged because of the libertarian attitude that is so pervasive in the state, that is so protective of property rights. In Framingham, MA they put up big day glow signs, saying that if people are offended by the property, to call the owner, and they list the phone number.

Chairman Madison asked how property becomes condemned. Paul said it's a code enforcement issue and if it's unsafe for habitation, it is condemned. But, in order for it to be demolished, you have to go through a lengthy process. Chief Gendron asked if they could pass an ordinance saying that if a building is condemned, regulations would be put in place between code enforcement and the Fire Department, that the structure would be taken down within a certain number of days. Paul said some towns have 'peel and paint' ordinances, in which people can be cited for buildings with peeling paint. Chief Gendron said if someone gets hurt in a dilapidated building, people will start pointing fingers at Town staff and officials, asking why they didn't take it down. Chairman Madison asked if the Zoning Administrator was looking into this situation. Paul said Susan is well aware of it. Chairman Madison asked what could be done right now to get these buildings taken care of. Paul said to write them letters. Selectman Seabury asked about putting liens on the property. Paul said it would have to go to court because you'd be demolishing a person's property; Susan and John Ratigan have already been in court on some of these. (Talking over each other.)

Chief Carpentino said the Town has already taken the lead by razing two structures in Town. The Town could say to the property owners, "You own property that is not desirable to the community. We've already razed two; we're asking you to do the same thing." Chief Gendron agreed. When the Town took over the property, they condemned them, then knocked them down. The owners should be held liable, too. Chairman Madison suggested asking Susan Snide to draft an ordinance, with the Board and other staff members adding their input.

#### 6. CHIPS (Children of Hudson Interacting with Police Services)

Chief Gendron said the CHIPS group, comprised of Hudson residents, has been doing a lot of things in Town since 1990. They hold fund-raisers and get donations. They hold Fright Night on Halloween, which has been a tremendous success, and costs about \$2,000 for decorations and food. They will be preparing a budget, asking for financial assistance. He hopes the Selectmen and Budget Committee will agree to help them out. The funds go exclusively to the kids in Town and it is money well spent.

#### Questions from the Selectmen

Animal Shelter -- Selectman Seabury asked Chief Gendron if he was going to be asking for any major items in his budget this year. Chief Gendron said they might ask for partial funding of the radio system and they might ask for a part-time dispatcher's position be turned into a full-time position.

Selectman Seabury said there has been some pressure put on them to go forward with an animal shelter. Angela Hurschman was at the last Selectmen's meeting. During the discussion, Chairman Madison had suggested putting the question to the voters, asking them if they wanted an animal shelter or not. Selectman Seabury said, in order to be prepared for Town Meeting, she wanted to know what the current costs are and what the proposed costs would be. Chairman Madison said if the animal facility people want a building, it is up to them to come up with those figures; it's not up to the Board. Chief Gendron said Angela did go to the Police Station to find out what the costs were. They gave her the figures through June 30, 1997, so she knows what they are. The total current costs to run the animal control division are about \$40,000. When you open up a shelter, which is different from a dog pound, they will run into a whole lot of problems they don't have now and it involved a tremendous amount of liability. If someone drops off a litter of kittens or puppies, they have to take care of them. The current group is dead set against putting down any animals after the state requirement of 10 days. They want a petting zoo.

(Start Tape 1, Second Side)

In one instance, someone living at Fox Hollow could no longer keep their German Shepard, so they gave it to Animal Control. They had said it was a good dog, and it seemed like it was, so it was adopted out to a family in Londonderry, and ended up biting a three-year old child in the face. The Town was threatened with a lawsuit because the dog didn't like kids. Also, an animal shelter has to be manned seven days a week, and that includes cleaning. He suggested to Angela that she contact Londonderry and Litchfield and see if they want to sub with Hudson in order to make some money. They could also build a small incinerator, because you can't just bury the animals.

Chairman Madison didn't think this Board was interested in building a dog shelter. Chief Gendron said he wanted them to know they won't come out ahead by having a facility and, if the voters do want to go ahead with it, they should consider something regional. Chairman Madison said when she spoke with Fidele about it, she told him they were looking at a highway garage, a library and, with 1,400 proposed homes being built, they will be looking at expansion of the fire station and police department. She's not sure, even though voters have put aside money each year, they are prepared to go forward and actually build a shelter. The people have put aside \$15,000 each year thinking they won't have to deal with it for 'another year.'

Chairman Madison said the Board told Angela someone needs to submit a warrant article, asking the voters whether or not they want a dog pound, including facts and figures. First they have to find out if the voters want one. If they don't have the facts and figures and they want to spend some of that money in the account, they need permission from Town Meeting to withdraw X amount of dollars to prepare the plans. Chief Gendron said, if the Town goes forward with an animal facility, the \$40,000 budget will double.

Internet -- Selectman Seabury asked if all of the departments had access to the Internet. Paul said not yet, but it is being worked on. Presently, it's Steve Malizia, Jim Michaud and Mike Reynolds. Chairman Madison said she didn't want "Charlie Brown" playing on the Internet for 1½ hours. Paul didn't think that that would happen. Selectman Seabury asked if the Internet was that important. Steve said he's found NHMA information, plus other. Paul said he pulled Customer Service stuff off the Internet. Chief Gendron said there is an ICP net case log, which Ray uses quite a bit. Chief Carpentino said they looked up a particular type of insulation, and they get all kinds of information on it. You can get anything from any fire department in the world. Paul said it costs the Town \$19.95 a month for the organization to be tied into it. Chief Gendron said the AG's office said town departments should start monitoring calls. There was an incident where a 14-yr old girl went into a chat room, gave her address out and ended up getting raped. If someone complains to the Police Department that their child is heavily involved in the Internet, the Police can get access and set the guy up.

Police Car on Flatbed Trailer -- Selectman Stewart said it went by her office window and she asked where it was going. The Chief didn't know anything about it, but thought it might be used for training purposes.

Car Wash -- Selectman Stewart L'il Squirt recons the cars every year. Every Sunday, the officers clean and vacuum them.

Dispatchers -- Selectman Stewart said this was on customer service, something that happened to her when she was dropping off some paperwork. It was during the day, and there are two dispatchers at the Police Station. Neither one of them was on a call, they were just standing up, having a little 'girl talk.' Instead of coming to the window to see what she wanted, they flipped on the speaker. She thought that was very impersonal. Chief Gendron said the speaker was put on the console because, if a call comes in, the dispatcher cannot leave the area. Chairman Madison said they probably didn't know who Terry was, but it shouldn't have made any difference. Chief Gendron agreed, saying that it wasn't right for them to stand around talking.

Speedway -- Selectman Stewart asked if there had been any more complaints about 'mooning.' Chief Gendron said the Police Department can't throw anyone out, but Bob Weber promised to back up the Police Department if someone was acting up. He said there were two rival groups that hate each other. Chairman Madison said she thought one group set up the other one. Chief Gendron said the Speedway knew there was a problem, but the officers who were there didn't know about anyone mooning anyone or urinating in anyone's car. The main attraction to the Speedway is the competition between the two rival teams.

## **B. Fire Department**

1. CIP -- Chief Carpentino said he submitted his CIP last week. The Fire Department's six-year plan has a lot of items on it. Most of them have been asked for in prior years.

2. FY-99 Budget -- Chief Carpentino said they were going to do the next budget a little differently next time by breaking a couple of categories out. When Joe Wozniak had asked how much it cost for dispatching, he couldn't tell him because other things from other parts of the Fire Department were included. They will break out the dive team, communications and fire alarms from where they are so an actual cost factor can be attributed to them. The overtime has increased substantially. He talked with Gary, Clint and Patty who have never calculated how much it cost for the time people have to take off. People in PMA and IAFF have earned time and have to take a mandatory X amount of time off, and the cost for that has never been calculated. In addition to that are training costs, Call force costs, etc. These are things he has no control over. Chief Carpentino stated they just transferred \$17,000 from the sub-contractor accounts into the over-time accounts to help offset the costs.

3. PMA Contract Negotiations --Captain's and Deputy Chief's Pay

Chief Carpentino said he wanted to talk about this later tonight, during the 7:00 p.m. parameter setting meeting. Chairman Madison said the Board also has a meeting tomorrow night at 7:00 and another at 9:00.

#### 4. Fire Department Staffing

Chief Carpentino said he was going to be asking for four people in the next budget, including two fire fighters to balance out the shifts and two staff positions. He said there is no way the current staff can work at the pace at which they are going. He is putting in between 25-30 extra hours per week and Gary is putting in 12-15 to try to keep up with where they are at right now. Steve Dube and Shane and falling further and further behind every day, just trying to do their job in fire prevention. The second deputy's position has to become a reality, and they need someone full time to do training. Neal Carter took over for Jack Brewer about three months ago. For him to get things back up and running, he's putting in a tremendous amount of time. What they need to do is fill the positions and distribute the work--or pay overtime. And it's not cost effective to pay someone time and a half rather than pay someone straight time to do the same thing. Chairman Madison said Chief Carpentino needs to come up with a proposal that he can sell to the Board and the Budget Committee. Last year, the Fire Department asked for eight people, but the Board authorized only two, saying that they would work on some each year.

#### 5. Vehicle Reserve Accounts

Chief Carpentino said he has to talk about Engine 1. Right now, the Town has an account set aside and X amount of dollars goes into it to replace the ambulances, but there are no accounts to replace other apparatus. He'd like to see an account set up in 5730 to put money aside every year to help offset the cost of the purchase of new vehicles. It makes sense to do it this way because, the bottom line for a new fire truck is \$200,000. Chairman Madison said he'd have to submit a warrant article for something like what he is proposing.

#### 6. Fire Alarm Technician Position and Fire Alarm Fee

Chief Carpentino said this is a real headache that takes a lot of time and money and someone needs to be in there. A decision has to be made whether to put someone in, or contract it out. It's not cost effective right now.

There should be a user fee or a maintenance fee for fire alarms. Right now, if you own a fire alarm system, the Town picks up the tab. At the same time, these

people are receiving incentives and discounts from their insurance companies, while the alarm system is monitored by the Town at no cost to them. The majority of the alarm systems in Hudson, which are mostly business, are maintained by the Fire Department. Very few are maintained by private companies. Selectman Charbonneau said those businesses are tax payers and you have to give them something. Selectman Jasper said it's a catch-22; the Town requires someone to hook up to it, but then assesses a fee. Chairman Madison said all the Chief was saying was they need more help in the Fire Department. Paul asked at what point this was going to be wireless. Chief Carpentino said a long way off; he probably wouldn't see it.

## 7. Out of Service Vehicle Status

Chief Carpentino said Engine 1 is in worse shape than originally anticipated, and this situation is bringing other things to light that shouldn't have been caught, but hadn't been. The transmission is a very small part of what is wrong with the truck. Someone came up from Greenwood Fire Apparatus and as soon as he looked under the truck, he said the springs are shot and need to be replaced, the fuel tank has to be replaced (\$3,000), the tires (\$400-\$500 each) have to be replaced, and the transmission has to be replaced (\$10,000-\$15,000). The chemicals are affecting the material and they aren't holding up. Allison Transmission won't even work on the transmission in that vehicle.

Chairman Madison asked him what he was asking for. Selectman Charbonneau said he was looking for a new truck. Chief Carpentino said the Town needs several new trucks. He could not, in good conscience, recommend putting the money (about \$30,000) in to fixing Engine 1. They would never get the money back if they were to use it for a trade in or to sell it outright. He called several vendors. The lowest price truck to get the job done is a commercial pumper, (a commercial chassis with a fire truck on it), tank, pump, at \$136,000.

(Start Tape 2, Side A)

Engine 1 had maintenance problems after the Town had it six months, back in '83, and the same problems have recurred year after year. The CIP items for this year are Central station renovations and a replacement ambulance. Engine 1 would have to be an emergency purchase. The Town is down almost two trucks right now. Engine 3 hasn't passed the pump test in the last couple of years. It has been recommended that Engine 1 be taken out of service immediately. If that truck gets into an accident, the Town will be faced with a major liability. Selectman Seabury asked if he was asking for two trucks. Chief Carpentino said he was just letting them know the situation. The only buyer for Engine 1 might be Boxboro, MA who would use it for parts. Chairman Madison reminded the Chief that, whatever he requests in the budget, to include plenty of backup.

Paul asked if this was a major indictment of Pelham Diesel. Chief Carpentino said it's not an indictment, but he has a lot of points to make. When he got here, he wasn't sure if Pelham Diesel was the way to go, but he was assured by two people in the Fire Department, who deal with Pelham Diesel, these were the greatest guys on earth. But he has some serious questions about that. The springs didn't break overnight. Chairman Madison said he might need to find another vendor, if he's uncomfortable with the one they are using. Chief Carpentino said they are the closest, but because of that, that's why they are in the situation they are now. They are looking into others. He wanted to leave everyone with the knowledge that there are two fire trucks out of service. They can't do a whole lot with the equipment they have.

## **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **A. Special Election**

Chairman Madison said this item will be on the agenda for the next Board meeting. (House Representative David Feng's position.)

### **B. Highway Garage**

Selectman Seabury said they were going to go forward with the public works garage this year, so Leo should have everything down pat for what he wants. He probably should also talk about the employee parking problems. She told him to think about asking for part of the package this year and the rest next year, since the voters already said no last year. She thought he might consider asking for money to be put into a capital reserve, saying that there is always money that appears magically at the end of the year. Paul asked if she was talking about the Workers' Comp rebate, which is not a given. Selectman Seabury said she remembered Lydia coming before them, saying that there was extra money. Paul said she underestimated revenues, which is what she was supposed to do. Selectman Seabury asked why they couldn't tell the voters they had an extra \$200,000 that could be put into a capital reserve, and ask them to match it. That way, they wouldn't have to have a 2/3rds vote.

Chairman Madison was not in favor of this and said she wouldn't support it. They can't afford to wait for a Town garage. If the people vote it down, and the State ends up getting involved and the Town gets fined, it will be a wake up call to them. They want everything, but don't want to pay for anything. The Town also needs a library and new schools--and Hudson is a wealthy town, whether or not anyone wants to hear that. They need to sell the garage at Town Meeting. Selectman Charbonneau said that there is no way they would know whether or not they will have a \$200,000 surplus. Chairman Madison said that, by the time they

would get around to building the garage, costs would have risen to three times as much. Selectman Charbonneau agreed; the longer they hold off, the more expensive it will be.

Chief Gendron said the tax impact of the Police Station is minor, but a lot of people think that it will be expensive paying for that, and then adding a public works building, and then schools are needed. If people knew the Town was in decent shape, they'd be more willing. Chairman Madison said someone got up at Town Meeting and questioned spending a large amount of money for a garage, and no one had a serious rebuttal to it. No one. They all need to be better prepared this year. Chief Gendron said they made it through the Town Meeting o.k; it was the voters that nixed it, especially when they saw the long list of things. He said he and Selectman Jasper talked about the departments pulling together to sell the Town garage and that he would make an effort not to put forward too many warrant articles from the Police Department.

Chairman Madison thought all of the department heads spoke at Town Meeting in favor of the garage. Selectman Jasper said it's not Town Meeting that's the problem, it's the ballot. They should put up some posters, do some letter writing, have handouts available. Chairman Madison said the people in Hudson are service-oriented and they will give the Fire Department or Police Department whatever they ask for. So, it may carry some weight if those department heads support the Town garage--and not just at Town Meeting. There should be something about it in the HLN every couple of months. Chief Gendron said the Public Works Department is involved with public safety, too. Selectman Charbonneau said the average person thinks this is 'just a garage.' and they feel \$1 million is too much money just to house trucks. They have got to get the point across this is a public safety issue. She said the State will come down sooner or later because the salt is leeching into the nearby stream. If IPA comes in, they might hit the Town with a \$1 million fine, which the Town will have to pay and will have nothing to show for it. Chairman Madison said sooner or later, the Town will have to build a Public Works garage.

Selectman Jasper suggested that Leo should contact John Bednar, who was vocal in his opposition to the garage at Town Meeting, and ask him what his ideas are and to suggest a better location. He also suggested that Leo contact the other person who spoke against the garage at Town Meeting by calling it a Taj Mahal, and invite him to go over the plans. If Leo personally seeks out these people, it may work to the Town's advantage. Chairman Madison thought that was an excellent idea. She said Town Meeting was on television and some people watched it every time it was aired. The Selectmen agreed they didn't do a good job of selling the facility last year.

Chief Carpentino said if the Highway Garage doesn't pass this year, it's not fair to the other departments who are being asked to wait until next year to bring anything forward. The other departments need things, too, and they will just get further behind. Chairman Madison said that even though a lot of money has been

spent in the Police and Fire departments, they still don't have everything they need, but you can't do everything at once. Right now, they have to work on the Highway Department.

Selectman Charbonneau suggested marketing the public works facility like you would a political campaign. Paul cautioned against spending public funds for that. Selectman Charbonneau said people could put up signs on their own property. The signs could say, "Vote for Article Such & Such, Donated by." Chairman Madison said Leo will have to work the civic group circuit and she hoped he will follow up on Selectman Jasper's suggestion about getting together with the two people who spoke against the highway garage--talk to them, show them around the garage, take them to lunch. Selectman Jasper asked Leo to look for things he could live without for one year, such as not finishing the offices and using the trailers for another year. Chief Gendron thought people would want it done right the first time. Chairman Madison agreed, saying she didn't want it to be piecemeal. Chief Gendron said if the whole Board gets up and promotes this at Town Meeting, saying, "We need to get this thing built; we need to worry about those employees, who are a part of public safety, just like police and fire. They have got to get the vehicles out during a snowstorm and if you like what you see during the winter, then give them this. They need it." That's what the people have got to hear.

### **C. Layouts of Roads**

Selectman Seabury asked Leo if he was worked with the Town Engineer on layouts of roads, if they coordinate projects, specifically Springwood Circle. Leo said no because that was new construction, but the builder walked away and there wasn't enough money to go to private hire so Leo got him a sub to do the undergrade and then Leo did the overlay and the berm. Selectman Seabury asked Leo if he worked together with the Town Engineer. Leo said it depends. On the Town's existing roads, he does what he has to do. Selectman Seabury said Bob Perreault and Al Hogan used to work closely together.

Selectman Jasper said he went to the ZBA meeting Thursday night relative to the wetlands application for the Jackson lot. He knew that the Jackson's were not the applicant and knew the Town didn't own the land. He learned that the Town of Hudson was the applicant to get a permit to fill in wetlands on property the Town doesn't own. While at the meeting, someone told him blasting was being done on Bush Hill Road. The existing roads, essentially, belong to the Board of Selectmen. Back in the old days, if anyone wanted to cut the street, they would have to get authorization from the Board of Selectmen. That has now been delegated to Leo. However, Leo didn't have anything to do with the dynamite blowing up Bush Hill Road. The Planning Board required the work, but if the Selectmen didn't know about it and Leo didn't know about it, there is a problem with the system. No one is supposed to do anything to the roads without Leo's signature, but at the ZBA meeting, he heard that that happens all of the time now. They have got to get this

back under the control of the Road Agent. It doesn't need to come before the Selectmen, but the roads have to be done to Leo's standards because he is responsible. There was a culvert in there that Leo wanted to replace, but he was told he didn't have anything to do with it and to stay away.

Chairman Madison said this goes back to the original question; is Leo working closely with the Town Engineer? Selectman Jasper said they need to tell the Town Engineer that when it comes to a street that the Town has accepted, he is not to do anything without the Road Agent's approval. Paul asked Leo who was telling him to stay out of it. Leo said when the job started, he asked Mike if he needed to take care of the permit and Mike said he would take care of it. As for the culvert, he would have gone in and replaced it, whereas they just piece-mealed it together. If there was a heavy rain storm, it might have washed out the whole road.

Chairman Madison said Paul should memo Mike, saying that Leo must be included in the loop on all existing streets. Paul said he wouldn't memo this one, but he would sit down with Leo and Mike. Selectman Jasper said the Town Engineer should be going to the Road Agent, saying, "This is what we'd like to do. Do you have any suggestions?" And then Leo should sign off on it, after he is satisfied with what is going on. Until then, nothing should happen with the road.

Paul said the Planning Board and Richard Maynard should not be dictating to the Board what to do. Leo said, at Springwood Circle, his men replaced 200' of berm. Mike said it wasn't the right type of berm so he didn't know if the Planning Board would accept it. Leo said he was fixing stuff they weren't even supposed to be doing because they let too much money go. Chairman Madison asked if the Planning Board was out of control.

(Start Tape 2, Second Side)

Selectman Jasper said Richard Maynard admitted that the Planning Board has just assumed that when it comes to a Town-accepted street, they can make anybody do anything they want. The Planning Board is getting the Selectmen into a situation where they have to assume maintenance costs on things they like, and those things ought to go to Leo. If Leo says he can assume the maintenance on it, ok, but if Leo doesn't like it, they should do it the way he wants it done. Leo is the one who has to maintain it, not the Planning Board and not the Town Engineer. Chairman Madison said Paul would get this squared away with Mike and Leo. Selectman Jasper said this information has to get back to the Planning Board, such as with the blasting out there. If Leo says no, the answer is no.

#### **D. Traffic Islands**

Selectman Stewart said the traffic islands look wonderful, except for the grass. Leo said they sprayed the grass, but it didn't work. Chairman Madison told him not to worry about it, that the frost would kill the grass soon enough.

#### **E. Personal Use of Town Vehicles**

Selectman Stewart said someone called her about this. Leo said that Kevin picks up his two kids on his way home, which he authorized him to do.

#### **F. Computer System**

Selectman Seabury said Lydia had talked to them about changing over the computer system so it would be more cost effective. Steve said he's had some tentative discussions about it, at this point.

#### **G. Office Renovation/Move**

Selectman Seabury asked who would be responsible for the moving costs when Finance goes downstairs, and when Assessing and the Town Clerk's offices are renovated, and who would do the actual move. Paul said the original intent was that there would be enough money left over from the warrant article to do a modest amount of the work upstairs, such as breaking down the walls. Anything else, such as furniture, counters, shelving and that kind of thing would become a departmental budget. They will probably run short by the time they get the furniture of having enough to take down the wall between the Clerk's Office and Assessing. They might have to do a small warrant article.

Chairman Madison said she told the employees she does not want the handicapped lift used as a moving elevator. The floor is all torn up now in the lift. They spend money for other things, so they should be able to spend money to have someone move them.

#### **H. Advertising for Police Officers**

Chief Gendron asked for authorization to re-advertise for police officers. There

were no objection from the Board.

**I. Scheduling another BOS-Dept. Head Mtg**

It was agreed to meet quarterly. The department heads and Board members thought that was a good idea and that 3:30 was a good idea.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion to adjourn at 5:15 p.m. by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, carried unanimously.*

Recorded and Transcribed by Priscilla Boisvert

Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

**HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

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**E. Lorraine Madison, Chairman**

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**Rhona Charbonneau**

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**Shawn N. Jasper**

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**Ann Seabury**

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**Terry Stewart**