

**HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Minutes of the March 7, 2005 Meeting**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Pro Tem Teresa Stewart at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting room at Town Hall.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Selectman Rick Maddox.

3. **ATTENDANCE**

**Selectmen:** Teresa Stewart, Kenneth J. Massey and Richard J. Maddox. (William P Cole and Kathleen R MacLean were absent, both of whom were out of the area.)

**Staff/Others:** Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director; Jess Forrence, Highway Department Supervisor; Ray Rowell; Anne Lundregan, TEL

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Chair Pro Tem Stewart asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board at this time.

Raymond Rowell, 6 Marshmallow Path, read the following prepared statement. "I come to you with trouble on my mind about the turmoil that's happening in the Town of Hudson. As a taxpayer of this Town, I think what the Highway Department does for this Town is outstanding. Because of their hard work throughout the years, they have kept the outsourcing to a minimum. For example, building the skate park—so kids can have a place to call their own and not have to cross the bridge into Nashua--working on Lowell Road on the Presentation of Mary entrances, installation of sewer lines and street repairs. This department also takes pride in what it does, like the installation of the beautiful-looking Christmas lights at Library Park. They also take great pride in the addition of Merrifield Park, Merril Park and the many other areas in Town during the summer and the winter. There is a long list of things this department does for the Town that the average person might not see, but I do. We look hard at what this Town really needs--keeping the Hudson Highway Department the way it is and its dedication to the Town. This Town also has to look at what we need and what we would like to have. What I mean by this is the statement, 'all we like to do is buy open space in Town to protect the possibility of development.' We all know that sometimes, down the road, this Town will soon become larger than what it is now. I guess I have to ask the question. If we put in for a \$2 million bond to buy open space, who pays the taxes on the property if we buy it? Does the taxpayers pay it, or does it get sold and the taxes gets paid when it is sold? Don't get me wrong; I am for open space, but is this what we really want to do right now, or later? To get back to my original question, what do we need or like to have? A town library is a place to go and get information and for research, maybe for even more. It would be a nice place to put an expansion on a historical library. You and I know there is a lot of controversy about the land containing an amount of asbestos. I guess I have another question. The talk is the new expansion will not go beyond the parking lot, so why does the Library Committee or the Library Trustees purchase the three parcels of land adjacent to the library property? Is the way, in the future, to offset the cost of the expansion? The library is a good refuge place for the Townspeople to come and read and research. Is the expansion what we need now, or what we would like to have? The expansion is a good idea, but for the location, it is not. To put a state-of-the-art building on the current site is wrong. We need, as residents of this Town, to take a harder look at a better location. I would also like to take a challenge to residents in Town to go to the various departments and see what they need and what they should have. Residents rely on the Selectmen and the Budget Committee on what they say, but as residents you need to hear it and see it for yourselves. We have three local unions looking for cost and wage increases this year. These three locals do a tremendous job throughout the Town. For example, Police with their continuous time and effort for keeping our streets safe from crime and being there by their efforts to keep our kids safe by offering free child safety checks on our car seats, for Fright Nights at the Community Building and for having officers in our schools. The Highway Department, for endless nights, while we are snuggled, warm in our homes, are out there working like a well-oiled piece of machinery, plowing, scraping, salting and sanding our roads. We also have talented members in this department that care and perform many tasks, like plowing, scraping, landscaping, excavation and laying sewage and drainage pipes. Let's not forget the Christmas lights, but especially the time and effort they put towards the conditions of what our parks look like, as I explained in the previous statements. The Hudson Fire Department is a group of individuals that also put their lives and dedication on the line every day for everyone in the Town. They also go beyond the call of duty by assisting members of the elderly, disabled and the unfortunate ones. As a department, they also encourage the younger generation to participate in their Explorer group, to shape the minds of our future fire fighters of this Town. They also have a great fire prevention program for the youngsters in our elementary schools. It is very clear that we have several other departments in Town that care just as much, or even more about this Town, and the residents within it. I know that you and I have a great concern about the taxes in Town, but what is going to happen if these contracts don't pass the vote of the public? We lose the dedication of the employees, see more early retirements and lost the excellent help to neighboring towns. I don't know about you, but being in management for some time now, it is very hard to find the type of employees we have in Town, with the same type of training, dedication and caring for this Town. In my closing statement, I would like to ask the 23,000 plus residents to come out and vote tomorrow. There is a big ballot and a lot of articles to decide on. If you are as concerned about the future of this Town as I am, we need better than 2% of the turnout we had last year. Thank you."

5. **CONSENT ITEMS**

Chair Pro Tem Stewart asked if any Board member wished to remove an item(s) for separate consideration. Selectman Massey did not want to remove anything, but noted that the Water Utility Committee meeting on March 16 was scheduled to start at 5:30, not 5:00 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to receive the consent items, A-E, as appropriate, carried 3-0.

**A. Assessing Items**

- 1) 2004 Abatements (13A & 13 B Gillis St; 10B Chandler Ct; 1 Sterling Way; 27 Hazelwood Rd; 32 Copeland Dr; 16 Rita Ave; 31 Bradford Cir; 35 Riverside Dr) w/recommendation to approve.
- 2) Abatement Application (52 Campbello Street) w/recommendation to deny.
- 3) Veterans' Tax Credits/Exemptions/Abatements [backup in BOS Office] (63 Glasgow Cr; 63 Highland St; 48 Burns Hill Rd; 32 Riviera Rd; 54 Willow Creek Dr) w/recommendation to grant.

**B. Sewer/Water Utility Items**

Ref #S-05-05, S-BET-05-01 (38 Burns Hill Road, Acct. #6380) w/recommendation to approve.

**C. Licenses and Permits**

Request by Hudson Heal Girls' Softball Team to collect monies at Market Basket on March 19, 2005

**D. Acceptance of Minutes**

Minutes of the February 22, 2005 Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

**E. Committee Announcements**

Mar 08 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Voting @ Lions Hall

Mar 09 7:00 Benson's Committee in BOS Meeting Rm

Mar 09 7:00 Planning Board in CD Meeting Room

Mar 10 6:30 Recreation Committee @ Rec Center

Mar 10 7:00 Sewer Utility in BOS Meeting Room

Mar 10 7:30 ZBA in CD Meeting Room

Mar 11 Chamber Dinner

Mar 15 7:00 Cable Utility in BOS Meeting Rm

Mar 16 ~~5:00~~ 5:30 Water Utility in BOS Meeting Rm

Mar 17 7:30 Budget Committee in BOS Meeting Rm

Mar 20 First Day of Spring !!!

Mar 21 3:00 Library Building Cmt in CD Meeting Rm

Mar 21 6:30 School Board in BOS Meeting Rm

Mar 21 7:30 Conservation Cmsn in CD Meeting Rm

Mar 22 3:00 Library Bldg Cmt in CD Meeting Rm

Mar 22 7:00 Board of Selectmen in BOS Meeting Rm

Mar 23 7:00 Planning Board in CD Meeting Room

Mar 24 7:00 Lower Merrimack River Cmt @ NRPC

Mar 24 7:30 ZBA in CD Meeting Room

Apr 04 Daylight Saving Time Begins !!!

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Ambulance Billing Rates**

Finance Director Kathy Carpentier was recognized and said, as in previous years, she was before them, seeking their approval for the new ambulance billing rates. The last change was April 1, 2004, following the Medicare Fee Schedule, being phased in for five years. This is the fifth year of phasing in the national fee schedule. They are also layering on the regional fee schedule, that will be phased in over the next five and a half years. The increase is at a rate of about 3%. The reason for changing the billing structure is that they went from a per-unit charge to a bundled rate. She asked if there were any questions. Selectman Maddox said the suggested mileage rate was \$8.48 or higher, but the documentation before them indicated an amount just slightly higher than last year's rate. Ms. Carpentier said they are already currently at the \$8.48 rate. She just didn't pencil it in. Selectman Maddox asked, then, if the \$5.84 on his copy was incorrect. Ms. Carpentier said that was the rate, but they were recommending the \$8.48 and is what the Town went with last year, and what is being recommended again this year. Selectman Maddox asked how anyone would know that. Mr. Malizia interjected that the billing people know because she transmits the documents to them and puts in the \$8.48 rate. Selectman Maddox asked if they were adopting the document that indicated \$5.84. He wanted clarification of why they were saying one thing, but doing something else. Mr. Malizia said the motion could indicate the \$8.48 rate. Ms. Carpentier said that point was noted, but last year, all they did was 'no change at this time.' They adopted the items straight off the form and picked up the \$8.48, so that rate wouldn't be changing from last year to this year.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to accept the Medicare National Fee Schedule Allowed Amounts as the Town of Hudson's ambulance billing rates, effective April 1, 2005, as recommended by the Finance Director and the Fire Chief, with the mileage rate set at \$8.48, carried 3-0.

**B. Lease-Purchase of Four Replacement Dump Trucks for the Highway Department**

Jess Forrence, Highway Department Supervisor, and Finance Director Kathy Carpentier were recognized. Mr. Forrence said

earlier this year, Road Agent Kevin Burns received authorization to go out bid for these trucks, which he did. They received back two bids, and they were recommending going with the low bidder. Ms. Carpentier said this was in the 2006 operating budget for a five-year lease for four 10-wheel dump/plow trucks. Selectman Stewart explained that no purchase order would be cut until after tomorrow's vote because this was in the operating budget. Mr. Malizia agreed, saying this has a lead time of up to six months and that's why they were doing this now. They didn't want to wait until next January to receive the trucks. Mr. Forrence said a signed PO locks in the interest rate. Ms. Carpentier said to stay in compliance, the PO will state that payment will not be made, nor will the Town receive the goods prior to July 1. Selectman Maddox asked if the other bidder took the trucks as trade-in because there was a significant difference between the two. Mr. Forrence said yes, they did. Selectman Massey asked if this has the municipal opt-out provision. Mr. Forrence said it did, confirmed by Mr. Malizia, who said it was the nonappropriation clause.

*Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Massey, to award the lease-purchase of four 2006 Mack CV713 10-wheel dump/plow trucks to the lowest bidder, McDevitt Trucks, Inc., with a yearly lease of \$111,930 and a 5-year total cost of \$559,650, contingent upon the passage of the proposed Town budget, carried 3-0.*

**C. Burns Hill Landfill, GZA, Addendum #8, \$10,700**

Town Administrator Steve Malizia said this is for the continuing water quality monitoring at the old Burns Hill landfill and is budgeted in Solid Waste Management. Selectman Maddox didn't like being held hostage to this, but would second the motion.

*Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to approve Addendum #8 to the GZA contract for ground water sampling at the Burns Hill Landfill, as recommended by the Town Engineer in his memo dated February 28, 2005, carried 3-0.*

**7. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN**

Ken Massey didn't have any other business or remarks tonight.

Rick Maddox wished Selectman Massey all the best tomorrow, which he understands will be a cold, rainy day. He asked the townspeople to look at the Town Warrant in the HLN. The Board of Selectmen tried to make a concerted effort to prioritize the needs in Town, to put on the ballot the items they felt were of highest importance. There is some detail on the sample ballot that will guide people, plus the recommendations on the articles by two official, elected bodies. He hoped people understand that as much as any one of them might believe differently, the Board and Budget Committee looked at the big picture, not for or against any one thing. He hoped huge throngs of people would come out to vote tomorrow to give the guidance necessary to continue what they have started and, hopefully, move forward. It has been a year since his election, and it has been an interesting, frustrating and joyous time, and looks forward to his Sophomore year. Chairman Cole has finally acquiesced to workshops, so hopefully they will start to do some long-range planning that is desperately needed--Fire Department issues, vehicle replacement, recreation, etc. He hoped they would have a better grasp next year on where they are going to go. He noted that meetings go faster when Selectman Stewart is the Chair. He thanked Priscilla, Linda and Steve for guiding the new Selectmen, keeping them from getting into deep water. They really endured the Selectmen's first year very well and he thanked them, as well as all Town employees, who were helpful and answered all the mundane questions from the new Selectmen. This is a great town and, for all their disagreements, a great community--and he's proud to serve on the Board.

Terry Stewart said Hudson's latest police officers, Roger Lamarche and Patrick Broderick, will graduate from the Police Academy on Friday, March 25, 2005. Everyone is invited. Hudson is looking forward to having these two highly motivated individuals patrolling the Town streets. Tuesday, March 15 is the next Police Department/Red Cross Blood Drive at Hudson Community Center. This has been a successful endeavor in the past and hopefully, this event will be successful, as well. She hoped everyone exercises their civic duty and votes tomorrow.

**8. NONPUBLIC SESSION (There were no items.)**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. carried 3-0.*

Recorded and Transcribed by Priscilla Boisvert  
Executive Assistant

**HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

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**William P. Cole, Chairman**

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**Teresa Stewart, Vice-Chairman**

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**Kathleen R. MacLean, Selectman**

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**Richard J. Maddox, Selectman**

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**Kenneth J. Massey, Selectman**