

**HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Minutes of the July 17, 2007 Workshop**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Shawn Jasper at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Selectman Doug Robinson.
3. **ATTENDANCE**  
**Selectmen:** Shawn Jasper, Rick Maddox and Doug Robinson. (Selectman Massey was on vacation and Selectman Nadeau won Red Sox box tickets.)  
**Staff/Others:** Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director; Kevin Burns, Road Agent; Dave Yates, Recreation Director; Mike O'Keefe, Cable Committee Chairman; Tom Tollefson, HLN. (Town Administrator Steve Malizia was on vacation.)
4. **OLD BUSINESS**  
Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of June 26, 2007  
*Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to accept the Selectmen's Minutes of June 26, 2007, carried 3-0.*
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **Budget to Actuals**

Chairman Jasper said these were the unaudited numbers, so there may be some changes. Selectman Maddox asked when that would be firmed up. Finance Director Kathy Carpentier said if any expenses come in between now and when the auditors arrive on August 3, like phone bills or gas bills, these number will be affected by that. There are also entries the auditors do—anything coming from fund balance. A good example is the sewer fund additional money from fund balance that they were able to use. She could produce another one of these on August 1, right before the auditors get here, but until the auditors do their final adjusting entries, it's not a complete fiscal year end.

Chairman Jasper said it looks like they closed out the year in pretty good shape; very tight, but that's because there was \$55,000 or so that had been requested to be transferred from the earned time pool, which they opted not to do. Ms. Carpentier said it ends up being about \$126,000 because she didn't come back and request more until they found the results, which would have wiped out the capital reserve fund. The departments were able to absorb those appropriations, primarily making it look like Fire and Police are overspent, but they are not, because of the earned time payouts. There were a lot of senior people, who had been here for a long time, 20 years or so, leave and take their earned time with them.

Selectman Maddox asked if they would see that in a line item during budget season, where that went, as opposed to salaries where it might skew the numbers in the following years, as they are looking at the actuals, two or three years from now. Chairman Jasper said the Board could request that. It won't automatically show up, but they can have a separate sheet prepared, so as they are looking at those numbers, they will be able to identify them. Selectman Maddox said they rely heavily on the past actuals, so that could skew that number, as they go further and further out. Ms. Carpentier said she has work sheets and could supply the Board with that, but they also end up getting some favorability from that person leaving, if it takes a month or so to hire them. Sometimes, they'd see a dip in salaries, if the earned times are excluded. Chairman Jasper said their budget numbers for salaries are built on actuals, with positions, so one year doesn't really affect the other, in the way that some accounts might.

Selectman Maddox the Police Department's facility operations was significantly over and wondered if that was the phones. Ms. Carpentier thought it was, if it was about \$30,000. Selectman Maddox said they were going to do something else, or swap something with this year. Ms. Carpentier said they could do a line item transfer, if they wanted to, but they absorbed it in their numbers. They are coming in at almost \$12,000 overspent, but they are owed \$29,000 from earned time, so they have covered that expense. Selectman Maddox asked if the Library puts about \$20,000 into some fund and wondered if that was reflected in this number. Ms. Carpentier said she requested the actuals from the Library, but has not received them yet. The Trustees needed to meet, and then give them to her. They did encumber about \$20,000 but she didn't know exactly what had been spent by June 30. Those are salaries through June, but only through April with the actuals.

Chairman Jasper said on the General Fund side, property taxes, 99.923% was collected, which is pretty darned remarkable. He didn't know why 'boat tax' was in there. They budgeted \$1,500 but didn't take in a penny. He didn't even know what that was. They did extremely well on income on investments, nearly doubling that. From \$200,000 projected to \$395,000. For those who don't necessarily think it's a good idea to have surplus on hand, they have nearly \$400,000 to the good by having that money, and being able to invest it. That does save the taxpayer a great deal of money, in the long run. Ms. Carpentier said they are very conservative when they budgeted because interest rates were very low. Now that they are coming back to normal, they are picking up that favorability.

Chairman Jasper said building permits were only at 80% of what they had expected, so there is some fall off on building in town. That shows up even more drastically when they look at Planning Board fees, which were less than 45% of what

they had budgeted, so it does look like the Planning Board is slowing down. They have actually taken the month of July off, which is the first time any of them can remember that happening. That might give the town a little breathing room.

**B. Public Hearing on the acceptance of a CMAQ Grant in the amount of \$120,000**

Chairman Jasper opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m. and asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak on this. There being no response, he closed the hearing.

Motion to accept the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) grant in the amount of \$120,000 for the Library and Central Street signalization project and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the CMAQ agreement between the Town and the NH Department of Transportation carried 3-0.

**C. Highway Department**

**Recycling Program** -- Road Agent Kevin Burns thanked the Board for its support of the new solid waste program, as well as the people, who have been wonderful, giving 99.8% cooperation. Everyone is recycling, and the numbers will bear that out. Contrary to what people believe, they are not leaving barrels behind because they are facing the wrong way, or there is a tree in the way, and no one is looking in the barrels to make sure recyclables aren't in there. That's not the way this program was set up. It's a voluntary program. In the first two weeks, a total of 250 tons was what they actually threw away. They recycled a total of 104 tons, or 30%. In the first two weeks alone, they increased recycling from 11% to 30%. For those first two weeks, that savings was \$7,635—cost avoidance. That's money the town doesn't have to pay the contractor to get rid of Hudson's trash. If he projected this out over the course of a year, the savings just from the recycling at 30% would be \$195,511. Pretty impressive. Historically, the town generated 211 tons of trash per week. Right now, they're generating only 124 tons. With this program, they've 'lost' 60 tons of trash a week, somewhere. He spoke with the former solid waste contractor, as well as the current one, and what everyone believes is that the missing 60 tons of trash is what people from other communities were bring into Hudson—imported trash—from small businesses in the area, and bulk items, because Hudson was the last of the free-for-alls. The 250 tons of trash that was thrown away is actually all the town is paying for. He estimated the tipping fees for the year to be approximately \$474,890 which is a savings of \$379,000 over what's budgeted. They budgeted with the existing numbers; that's all they had to work with. If these numbers hold true for the year, they are going to save almost \$400,000 in tipping fees. If you add that to the approximately \$300,000 they saved by going to this system, getting away from throwing everything away, they are looking at a savings of \$679,000 a year, \$3.4 million over the term of the five year contract. He was very nervous at the start of this, but is very pleased with the results, so far.

Chairman Jasper congratulated Mr. Burns for having taken the lead in this, recognizing there was an issue that had to be dealt with. He went about it in an aggressive manner. Two weeks is a good period of time, but they will need a little more time to really see where they are at. Hopefully people are listening and can try to do even a little better in their recycling efforts. In hearing the numbers, people have to realize that it does make a difference. He's sure they can do better than 30%, but it looks like this is going to be a real benefit, all the way around. Kudos to the Road Agent. There were a couple of very vocal nay-sayers that he hoped were listening to these numbers and realize that they were wrong.

Selectman Maddox said it is vacation season, so they will see some of that pick up slightly, but \$600,000 is a huge savings, when all they saw was the cost of solid waste disposal going up and up and up. He asked if the West Road landfill was going to be open this Saturday. Mr. Burns said next Saturday, 8:00 – 2:00. Last Saturday of every month. Selectman Maddox said that's where everyone can get rid of their large, bulk items. Chairman Jasper added that people could also call and pay to have them picked up.

**CAT Grader Replacement** -- Mr. Burns said they've done very well updating the fleet since he's been Road Agent. With the program he's started, they've been able to update a lot of the equipment, but still keep the budget level funded. He passed out a list of what they've got left for outstanding payments on their leases. They tried to set it up so one capital piece gets paid off every year, and then they move on to the next one. They hope to get caught up with the retirement of the older dinosaurs. The big, expensive pieces have long life spans, but they haven't replaced any since the 80's. The last two big items he has is a 1985 CAT front end loader. They had it rebuilt, and it still has several years left in it, so he wouldn't even want to project a date for that. It doesn't work as hard as it once did because the new loader goes out on the construction jobs and plowing. This one stays in the yard and loads the trucks in the winter, works the landfill, and goes out on some construction jobs when they need two, but not every day, like the new IT does. The big one is the grader. It is a 1982 CAT 130 and has seen much better days. They had rebuilt it about 12 years ago, a minor rebuild, so they asked for a rebuild price from CAT. In 2005, that price was \$122,660 and they will still have a 25-year old grader. It is dead; it moves, but barely. Plowing snow, it won't get above 10 mph. It doesn't make a storm without something falling off and it has outlived its life expectancy. The cost to replace it is around \$240,000—fire truck range. He asked for direction on how the Board wanted to go with this. He looked into rentals for the winter, like they did for the large excavator that they use for the summer construction season, but there aren't that many out there. No one will equip a grader for them for the winter, and he's called everyone. They tell him yes, but call back later and say they can't do that. He'd have preferred to rent one for the winter season, and send it back.

Chairman Jasper asked if that was its primary use. Mr. Burns said yes; if his fleet was the Navy, the grader is the aircraft carrier. It does the main roads; it's the big one. But it also works on the dirt roads. It did the Bush Hill project. It does the ball fields, and works with the reclaimer. The reclaimer comes with a grader, but when they move on, whatever needs to

be touched up before paving is the town's responsibility. There are still a couple of dirt roads in town that need to be graded, but he didn't want to make light of how important it is in the winter. It plows the main roads and does a fantastic job, and it is the only piece of equipment they have that will scrape ice. When there is 3" of hard pack, a plow truck will just bounce over it, but the grader will peel it off and is the only piece that can do it. They've talked about the possibility of replacing it with something else that is cheaper, but it won't do everything this vehicle can do. They really need to have one in the inventory. It's expensive, but it will last for 25 years. A lease-purchase will be about \$50,000 a year.

Chairman Jasper said too bad it couldn't make it until the Mack trucks were up, but it doesn't look like it will. Mr. Burns said it made it through this winter because it was a mild winter. If they have a hard winter, he didn't think it would. Chairman Jasper said he's got to go forward with a lease purchase. Selectman Robinson said for the safety of the town, this is something that needs to be done. Selectman Maddox asked if a road construction company, that wasn't using their equipment during the winter months would lease it, as opposed to the manufacturer. Mr. Burns didn't think so. They don't like doing it and are not equipped for it. None of them have wings and without that, they are losing half of the plowing capability. The town roads used to be two lanes, but now they are up to five and six lanes. In the past, they've used a Continental grader to help them out, but they don't plow much wider than a pickup. Selectman Maddox said they should at least get a price. Chairman Jasper said Mr. Burns absolutely needs to come forward with a presentation for the budget. He asked if the remaining lease payments were after this fiscal year. Mr. Burns said that was correct.

**Manpower** – Mr. Burns said this is the first time he's come to the Board with this concern; it's time to start looking at manpower. They've done everything possible to stretch the people they have. Years ago, he eliminated two foremen's positions to make them laborers to try to get more worker bees instead of supervisors. What he needs to do is hire back a third mechanic. He's always said if he has the right tools, it's cheaper than people. People is the most expensive cost. And they have upgraded the tools, but they also have a lot more tools that they didn't have 20 years ago. Up until 1991, they had three mechanics. Right after the Council form of government dissolved and they went back to Selectmen, after a mechanic was terminated, the Selectmen voted not to fill the position. They've made it through with two all these years, but they've had to supplement. It used to be only in the winter, but now it's year-round. In the winter, it's Joey Anger from the Sewer Division and in the summer, Bill Davidson from the Street Division goes in and works as a mechanic. He is running three mechanics, but he is robbing from Peter to pay Paul. He has less people out on the street because he needs the third mechanic in the shop. They maintain all Town Hall vehicles, and there are many more of them than there were before. When they had three mechanics, they didn't have a street sweeper, roadside mower, or as many dump and pickup trucks, chainsaws, etc. This is something they need to consider. He is hoping to go the route of filling an unfilled position, and that he can just budget for it, if the Board agrees, and not have to go through the whole process. At one point, there were 32 people assigned to the Highway, but now they are down to 24. They do a heck of a lot more than was ever done with 32 people. They've done very well with what they've had for personnel. If the Board was agreeable to looking at this, he thought that maybe the position could be funded in the next fiscal year at 50%, to try to keep the budget somewhat level-funded, like he has always tried to do. They could fill the position half a year, so the first year, the impact is only half of the salary. He'd advertise December 1<sup>st</sup> and bring the mechanic on January 1<sup>st</sup>, and on July 1<sup>st</sup>, it would be funded the full amount. Salary and benefits would be around \$50,000, but it would be a gradual increase. He knows there are also Town Hall, Police and Fire personnel considerations, as well, and Highway is only a piece of the puzzle.

Chairman Jasper said Mr. Burns made an interesting point, and probably the only department where this would be applicable. They actually had a higher number of authorized personnel, and then they dropped down because it wasn't budgeted for. If Kevin goes back and reconstructs the 32, and make the case they he's got less than that now, that's a reasonable argument to make to avoid going to the warrant. If the voters authorized it in the past, and it was just a budgetary decision that was made, it is still an authorized position—at least, in his opinion. Selectman Maddox asked if those positions have been used elsewhere. Chairman Jasper didn't think that happened, but perhaps they could try to reconstruct it. He thinks the only time they did that was with the part-time positions in the Fire Department to get someone into Assessing. Mr. Burns said all of that happened prior to the warrant article, saying everything needed to go to the voters. Chairman Jasper said that was a warrant article that was in place, prior to the Council. Selectman Maddox said someone should be able to reconstruct that, so they know they are on firm ground, that that is, in fact, the case, that those positions are still available, before they simply say they are open. Chairman Jasper said that was reasonable. If it is an authorized position, and it was never unauthorized by a vote of Town Meeting, it just wasn't funded, he'd have a difficult time saying it needs to go back to the voters again, for authorization again. That's something to look at. He likes the idea of funding for half a year, hiring in January. It makes the budget impact a little easier. They've done similar things on the county level, as well, such as funding a position for only 10 months.

**Update on Projects** -- Mr. Burns said even with the need for the grader and a mechanic, he can pretty much guarantee that he will come in with a low budget this year because of the trash. Chairman Jasper said this gives him the opportunity to keep his budget level to look at putting a lot more resources into pavement. While they've got some very good roads, they've got others that are very bad. Mr. Burns said Bush Hill Road has been completed. The entire 2.5 miles have been reclaimed and repaved. Roosevelt Avenue was paved yesterday and reclaimed, after the sewer was replaced. Tomorrow, they are going to put the finish pavement on three streets in the south end, off Wason—Colson, Gregory and Hunter—that they put the water main on, then they will have cleanup. At the end of the week, they hope to start reclaiming on Derry Lane and then get that paved next week. The only other two streets are off Kienia Road, Edgewood and Stevens, which will be reclaimed and repaved, with new curbing installed. All of the roads he just mentioned, they are reclaiming

and putting binder on, so they are going to need finish pavement either in the spring, with any surplus funds if Mother Nature cooperates like she did last year, or the next budget. The extra \$140,000 they were able to pave with this spring with winter money that wasn't used, was helpful, so he could move off on to new streets instead of putting money on top of the streets they reclaimed the prior year. Big improvement on Bush Hill Road. The curve at Hazelson's was straightened out and the hill knocked down. The visibility is significantly improved, compared to what it was, coming out of Flying Rock Road.

Chairman Jasper asked him to talk a little bit about the situation on Wason Road, with the poor compaction. Mr. Burns said he keeps getting calls on that. Friday, they're going in to shim it. They have to cut joints on either end, then they are going to reshim it and repave it with 2" of binder again. They will let it sit for the winter, and then put another inch of top on it next construction season, all paid for by the developer. Town money isn't being spent on this. There were compaction problems because they didn't do a good job the first time. Because of it, they are doing it again. It was about a \$45,000 mistake, but the developer owned up to it. Chairman Jasper asked if he felt confident that the compaction that is going to take place, has taken place. Mr. Burns said they measured the depth of some of the depressions and checked it before they signed off on doing this. The water table came up high this year, so hopefully, the water table took down whatever finds were going to go down, and it's gone down as far as it's going to go. He can't give a 100% guarantee. That's why they are holding off a year on the finish, in case there is more settlement, which can be shimmed before the final is put on. Chairman Jasper said he was glad it was going to be done on Friday because it's not a pleasant road to drive over. Mr. Burns said for those who were listening, if they have an alternative route on Friday, take it.

Selectman Maddox said at the last budget cycle, they talked about traffic signals, all of the lights around Library Park. Mr. Burns said they put together a package with a price at the request of the Town Engineer and he is developing a mechanism to pay for it. Chairman Jasper asked if that was part of what they did tonight, the \$120,000 grant for Library and Central Street signalization. Selectman Maddox didn't think that upgraded the lights, that it just did the roadway realignment. Are they getting people trained in the new lights that are hammer driven, as opposed to loop driven, like the lights at Nottingham Square? Mr. Burns said yes. He has a full-time traffic technician. His street foreman used to be the traffic technician, and he has one guy in training. Three of them went out for a three-day course for training on operating those. As far as the update for the upgrade for the lights on the common, they'd have to refer to Tom Sommers. (Later in the meeting Chairman Jasper noted that, relative to the \$120,000 grant, it does say, "installation of traffic signal coordination system," so he thought it would address a good deal of what they were talking about. It also said a study would be conducted to find additional methods of decreasing traffic at the intersection of 3-A, 102 and 111. Selectman Maddox said he was talking about going to the cameras and upgrading the internal guts. A couple of years ago, they were told they were going to be realigned, as far as the timing and all of that. He will find out from the Engineering Department.)

Mr. Burns said the new pedestrian lights are up on Melendy Road, the last crossing guard post that didn't have the flashing school zone lights that lowers the speed limit, and they are solar—the first time they've gone that route. Installation was great; took about three hours each because they didn't have electrical, poles and meters. This is the first venture into solar school zone lights. Chairman Jasper said it would be interesting to see how they work during dark, dreary winter days. Mr. Burns said they are LED, so they draw very little power. They say they work great. The tech said five years ago, he wouldn't have recommended them, but nowadays with the improved technology, they are great, and they look good.

**D. Recreation Department**

**Jette Field II** --- Recreation Director Dave Yates said Manny Sousa is building a field for the town, Jette Field II, which is about 95% completed. They are waiting for the electrician to put in a transformer to convert 220 to 110 for the irrigation system. The excavation work is done, the fence is up and they were putting up the gates today. The well has been dug and the pump is in the well. All of the irrigation hoses have been put in the ground, but there was some vandalism at the first a couple of weeks ago. The hoses were left a foot or two out of the ground so the heads could be put on, and kids managed to pull out three or four more feet of hose out of the ground. They also pulled some logs down on the new field and had a bonfire. It never ends, but they continue to plug along, trying to make it a better place. It's frustrating, sometimes. Overall, the new field is looking very good. The hydroseeding should be done shortly, and then they will let it sit for this year. Hopefully, they will be playing ball there next May. Chairman Jasper said vandalism is nothing new. He has a story he tells the kids when they come to the Number 9 schoolhouse. It was built in the summer of 1886 and it was almost ready to open. Of course, there was no electricity or heat or anything. Somebody came along and burned it down, just before it was ready to open. There is nothing new under the sun.

**Current Programs and Revenue** – Mr. Yates said last year's revenue was \$178,711. Excluding administration, the recreation programs cost the town about \$60,000 a year, so they are doing pretty good. Attendance is higher than ever. As of last week, the summer program has 540 children enrolled, with a daily attendance of 260. Their highest day was 297. People come in every day to register, so he anticipates the numbers will be even higher by the end of the summer. They have done their sports programs—tennis, Babe Ruth baseball, softball soccer—and they've added some new programs, some special events they'd like to do every year. The community activities are doing great—comedy nights, etc. They added Cabin Fever for the second year in a row, a special event in the middle of winter, geared more to the younger children. This year, they had the Father-Daughter dance, which was a great success. They had over 220 attend. The Rec Committee recommends a Mother-Son event, doing one or the other on alternate years, so the novelty doesn't wear off.

**Additional Playground** – Mr. Yates said he wasn't sure what direction the Board wanted to go with this. In the past, it has been mentioned that there isn't anything down in the south end. One of the ideas was a south end playground. He will look into it, if that's the direction of the Board. There are a couple parcels of land down there. Equipment for a nice playground structure would probably cost about \$40,000 and then there would be the cost of excavation and clearing the land. He asked if he should pursue this, or hold off. Chairman Jasper said his only concern is vandalism. If they keep things in the center of town, there is a lot of traffic, more police presence and more light so people can see more of what is going on. They further out they go, there might be more vandalism. That has been a problem with some communities, such as Darrah Pond in Litchfield. Mr. Yates said they wouldn't put it on a street like Joan Ave., where it would be hidden in the back, but they wouldn't want it on a busy road, either. He'd have to look at the parcels available. Merrifield Park is on a busy road, but it's back a little, but it is very visible. That's what he is envisioning; something like that. Chairman Jasper asked how much use that park gets, if the investment is worth it. Mr. Yates said every time he's gone by that park, he's seen families there. It is well used, and with the addition of the volleyball court, people request to use it. It gets used more than Greeley Park because it's shady. Greeley Park is a great playground, but they stay away on the hot days. They are both very good, but they are within a mile and a half of each other. Chairman Jasper didn't think there was any hard in looking to try to identify a site and see if there is something suitable. Mr. Yates said he'd look into it some more, then.

**Recreation Center** – Mr. Yates said there has been talk about a Senior Center and a Rec Center. About two months ago, he talked with the Town Engineer about the vision for Robinson Pond. The Road Agent pointed out to him that there wouldn't be any water or sewer service at Robinson Pond, so that could be a tough sell. Do they want to do a warrant article for a feasibility study, or do they sit and wait? He didn't know what direction the Board wanted to go in.

Mr. Maddox said he was meeting with staff this week. They put together a preliminary sketch of a facility, looking at the land grades, topography issues, the wetlands, etc., so he should have something for the Board in the very near future, something they can kick around so they can start pushing forward with this. Chairman Jasper said he'd like to see them do that, whether it's a feasibility study or whatever, but to master plan it by the Rec Committee—look at what's there, see what the topography is, and determine what you could put out there. Leachfields are doable, if the soils are right. It's not like there is going to be a tremendous use, in terms of people taking showers, being there 24-7. He didn't think that was a major issue, and there is plenty of water out in that area, so getting a decent well is probably shouldn't be a huge concern. To some degree, the Rec Committee needs to determine what they are looking for, to come forward with a plan. They need to say how much money they'd like for a feasibility study, or site plan, however they want to do it. They are the people who will have to run it, so the committee needs to take the lead on it to move it forward.

**Field Space** – Jette Field II will be a big help, but they still need plenty of other fields. He didn't know what's going on with the Stop & Shop field, or the soccer field. Chairman Jasper said he spoke with Nancy Mayville yesterday and asked her where they were with the agreement. He didn't think any of them particularly want the field there because it's likely to be short-lived. He thinks they will end up with some money to do something someplace, whether it's Bensons, or another location, he didn't know. The Recreation Committee needs to work with the Assessor to identify a spot that works, within the land they have. There are a lot of parcels in town. Where can they put something that will work, in terms of parking and topography. Land is available at Freedom Field, but is that really feasible to build a second field there? You can move material around, but you may run into ledge. What's out there? Mr. Yates thought that might be the easiest solution. It is already semi-cleared and parking is not a major consideration there because you've got the schools. That might be the way to go, but he will bring it up to the Rec Committee at their next meeting. Chairman Jasper said if that's a feasible site, they probably ought to move forward to develop that second field out there.

Selectman Maddox said the Chairman has had breakfast with the Chairman of the School Board, and they are doing a Master Plan of the Alvirne site. Maybe it's a good time to speak to them to see if there is land that they might be able, as a town, to take for fields off the perimeter of that site. Something they could utilize for the next 50 years, as they continue on with their Master Plan, but at least be thinking about the town's needs for recreation. Chairman Jasper said from having looked at some of their proposals for the Alvirne site, they do have more fields on there, so it wouldn't be additional fields for the town. They look at it as a symbiotic relationship, and the town uses their fields all the time. They are trying to be conservative about the use of fields because they don't want to take away from the forestry program, or the agriculture program, so spots are limited, but they do have additional field space on the Master Plan, already. Selectman Maddox said there is a recreation document done in 1988, outlining a number of parcels where things could be done. Rather than reinventing the wheel, that master plan is available that the town paid a lot of money for a number of years ago that could be utilized. It could be a starting point.

**Program Director** – Mr. Yates said it's always a tough sell when asking for personnel, but they are behind in this area, and they are busy. They are keeping up now, but as things grow and the programs grow... a typical department would have a program director. This position would eliminate individual program directors for each individual sport. The one person would run all of the programs and he would be able to concentrate more on what they were talking about earlier—fields, the budget, etc. Chairman Jasper said he tells all department heads it is their job to ask for what they think they need, and it's the Board's job to decide what they can afford, or what they think the voters will support. If he feels that's what he needs, he should put a proposal together for this year's budget and the Board will look at it. He may or may not support it, but he wouldn't reject it out of hand.

Selectman Maddox asked how much money was being spent on the various program directors, piece-meal. Mr. Yates said around \$15,000. If course, if they hire a full-timer, they're talking about \$30,000 plus benefits or about \$40,000. Selectman Maddox agreed with the Chairman—show him where the benefit is. Show him what he is getting by having another person in the function. He wonders if it would be realistic. Who would want to be a program director? As it is now, each of these people are not working every night and every weekend. A program director will be pretty much nights and weekends. He didn't know if the projected salary would be enough to get someone to do the job. Chairman Jasper said he'd always rather have part-time people doing a little bit here and there, letting people supplement their income. At some point, that may not be practical. If Mr. Yates puts something together, they'll take a look at it.

**Replacement Vehicle** – Currently, they have a 1996 Chevy S-10 that is slowly falling apart. The mileage is fairly low, but it is rusting out and the windshield wipers don't work. He may come back to the Board with this at budget season. Chairman Jasper said they'd like to rotate vehicles out of other departments, even if it's only a short life span. Fire or Police may not have anything, but that's the first place he'd look and suggested Mr. Yates talk with the Town Administrator to see what those departments would have that they're looking to rotate out of their fleet. Probably a Bronco would work just as well for Recreation as a pickup would. Mr. Yates agreed.

**Recreation Department Job Summaries** – Selectman Maddox asked if the job description for Recreation Director was what was presently being used. Mr. Yates said he just generated it a couple of weeks ago. He never had one. He sent this to Steve, who tweaked it a little, made some changes, and this was what they came up with. Selectman Maddox said he had a lot of changes he'd like to make to it. Chairman Jasper said they could either do it now, or wait until Steve gets back. Everyone should have a job description, but if they felt this wasn't ready for prime time, it might be a good thing for Selectman Maddox to give his concerns to Steve to see what he thinks, and come back with something else. At that point, the Board might want to tweak it some more, but at least it's a start. Selectman Maddox said he'd take this as an action item to get together with Steve when he gets back from vacation to go over this job description, and then bring it to the Board. Chairman Jasper asked if he planned to do the same thing with the job description for the Office Administrator. Selectman Maddox thought that one looked pretty standard. He didn't find much wrong with that one. Chairman Jasper said when it was ready to bring it back to the Board.

Selectman Maddox asked Mr. Yates what the number one complaint was that he gets. Mr. Yates said lack of facilities. A lot of people go to tournaments in other towns and whether it is basketball or baseball, they talk about what those other towns have. Selectman Maddox said they should task Mr. Yates with finding out how these other towns did it. Was it a bond issue? Volunteers? How did they manage to do what they do? In Londonderry, if it's called Continental Fields, he thinks he knows how that worked. Selectman Maddox said if certain facilities stand out, how did they make it happen?

**E. Cable Committee**

Cable Committee Chairman Mike O'Keefe said last year, one of the big things was the installation of a new control room in the Community Development meeting room, which allowed them to double the number of meeting that are recorded and played back for the public. That has been received fairly well. Recently, approval was given for the purchase of a new automation and video service system, which should be in within a week or two. That will greatly increase their capabilities, including streaming their programming over the web, which is going to be a big bonus to the community, particularly for those who don't have cable TV. This past year, they've continued to produce local programming. In addition to the government meetings, they've had talk shows, school concerts and plays, sporting events, parades, and religious programming, and the feedback from the community has been extremely positive towards these programs. In this coming year, from a budget perspective, their budget is based entirely from the revenue from the franchise fees, paid to the town by Comcast. Based on the fees they received so far, it looks like the revenue will continue at the pace they expect. The three biggest line items continue to be professional services, the fees paid for the camera operators and the facilitator, the equipment they purchase and the deposits to the capital reserve account. In terms of goals, it's more of the same—increase local programming, produce programming and work towards the establishment of a local access center. If more people want to produce programming, they need to be able to provide facilities to do that. It's kind of a Catch 22, because without facilities, they don't get people coming forward to produce. A number of years ago, the voters established a capital reserve fund to accrue money to be used for the establishment of a local access center, including the money which will be deposited as part of the FY-08 budget. They will have approximately \$440,000. It's getting to the point where they really need to start exploring utilizing that money, and the Cable Committee, over the coming year, will look at all options available for establishing an access center. He wanted to bring up an issue he keeps hearing about. Verizon has recently installed fiber optic cable throughout the town, referred to as FIOS. About a year ago, Verizon approached the towns in Southern NH, requesting a franchise to provide Cable TV service in town. Before the committee was able to review the proposal, Verizon pulled out of NH, and have not indicated if or when they would be back. Because of all the FIOS ads seen on TV and elsewhere, he has been receiving regular questions from residents about the availability of FIOS TV in Hudson. In fact, he's been told that representatives of Verizon have been telling people that the Town of Hudson has refused to give them a franchise agreement. He wanted to use this forum to let the residents know that nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the Cable Committee would be very supportive of negotiating a cable TV franchise with Verizon, since this would encourage competition and would likely benefit all cable TV subscribers in Hudson. Unfortunately, at this point, it appears that Verizon is not interested in pursuing franchise agreements in New Hampshire. This may be related to Verizon's impending sale of its NH assets to Fairpoint Communications, but that's just speculation on his part.

Chairman Jasper thanked Mr. O'Keefe for what HCTV has been doing. There certainly has been more on Hudson Cable TV than there has been in the past. It continues to expand, and that is appreciated. He is constantly hearing from people he talks to that sees the Selectmen's meetings and other meetings and they like having them available. The HCTV folks are doing a great job.

Mr. O'Keefe said one of their big goals is to have an access center, where they have studios, suites and they can really produce some programming. They are following along with what is happening in town, which facilities might be vacated, etc. If plans go forward, such as a rec center, Cable is considered, as well, as potential users of some of the space. Selectman Maddox asked if space could be leased, such as in the industrial park, or someplace else they could rent for two or three years, to try it out. He thought they should try it out for a number of years before they try to refit a town building, which they probably don't have, right now. Chairman Jasper said they are moving towards a senior center at the Community Center, and they are moving towards a rec center, perhaps, at Robinson Pond. They've got the building at Oakwood, which may or may not be suitable. If all of the above occurs, the Oakwood facility will be an under-utilized building. Mr. O'Keefe hasn't looked at the building lately, so he couldn't recall the size.

Selectman Maddox asked if there was a design he could work with. How many rooms does he need of X size? Taller? Bigger? or whatever, if they put money into a building, could they get most of it back, taking equipment back out, if they were to lease a building for those three years until they were able to get the rec center, or wherever they go with... open up Oakwood? Is that something that is feasible to try out? Mr. O'Keefe said the Cable Committee has had some discussions about doing just that. He thinks it is worth pursuing. They do need a studio set-up and control room and whatnot, so if they are going to put that into a rented building with the assumption that it's going to be pulled out, are they going to be wasting money? There might be a tradeoff there, but he thinks it's probably worth looking into, if something more permanent isn't in the very near future. Selectman Maddox said he was just trying to get them to that next step because, even though he doesn't have cable, a lot of people tell him they see a lot more on TV, seeing programming. He hoped (Mr. O'Keefe) would bicycle the tapes of the various meetings over to the other towns and see if they will do the same. They used to be able to watch Litchfield and some of the other towns. Some people still miss that. They see that some of the problems Hudson has are the same that other towns have. It would fill up some of that blue screen, trying to move the Cable Utility from where it was, to where it is now, to the next step. This group has been very diligent in keeping this thing moving. He wanted to see if there was anything else this Board can do with that.

Mr. O'Keefe said he reviewed the plans that Londonderry used when they built their facility three, four years ago and he has their blueprints, so he kind of knows what he'd like to have. Londonderry has a 4,000 sq. ft. facility. Hudson doesn't necessarily need that much, but that's what they have. On occasion, they run programs from other communities. They belong to a group that shares programming between the various members, so on occasion, they run some of that, and they have sent some of their programming out to other communities. They don't actually air other towns' programming any more. That went away a number of years ago.

## 6. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Maddox said for those that read the paper, they saw that there was a heated discussion. He said they must be getting more civil in their old age, as Hudson gets more citizens because hearing some of the stories he's heard about Selectmen's meetings and Budget Committee hearings. If that was heated, the other ones must have been intense. A discussion, a debate between Board members is what they are supposed to do. He took it as exactly that. It was a debate about issues. He didn't think it was heated. Again, it's all relative. They've been relatively calm for a number of years, so they don't remember some of the things that he has heard about that used to happen at various Hudson Board of Selectmen meetings. It was what they were supposed to do. Have a debate. Have a discussion. Maybe they were a little more excited than they mostly are, but again, it is truly what they are there to do. Debate the issue. When they were done, they moved on to the next item. So, if there is something he is missing, he hoped this puts it to sleep. Chairman Jasper said if that's as heated as it ever gets, he'll be very happy, because that was certainly very tame. Selectman Maddox said exactly. When he read it, he thought, wow! It got heated? Sometimes, when you are there, you might not be as objective.

Selectman Robinson said, as an observer, it's OK to disagree; it's OK to be passionate. As Selectmen, they need to be passionate about what they really feel strongly about, and to voice those concerns. If folks misread that, so be it. It's good to put the ideas and feelings on the table and let people know where you stand, period. They all walk away from the table every couple of weeks, and they're still friends and still talk to each other and still respect each other. That's what it comes down to. From where he was sitting, it was fine.

Selectman Jasper said they received a letter from Steve Buckley, relative to his attending the meeting for Nashua Landing. He suggested taking a break so the other two Selectmen could check their mail and read it, because the Board needed to take action on Atty. Buckley's recommendation tonight.

Chairman Jasper declared a recess at 8:20 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:26 p.m.

Chairman Jasper said the recommendation was to engage Mr. Kennedy to review the Nashua Landing Traffic studies, to determine whether or not the town should be reasonably concerned about the impact from the traffic. The consultants for the developer told the Planning Board in Nashua that it would increase traffic in Hudson by only one or two percent, so they really need to have this

looked at. Selectman Robinson said, in order to give the viewers a little history, a week or two ago, the Selectmen asked the Town Attorney to attend the Planning Board meeting in Nashua regarding the development they are having of the property. The Selectmen feel it will have an impact on Hudson, the traffic through Hudson. They believe there will be an impact to Hudson; that's called a regional impact, so they asked the attorney to attend the meeting to see what he thought. Which leads them to where they are at tonight. Chairman Jasper said the Planning Board in Nashua approved this project at that meeting that Atty. Buckley attended on July 11, and it appears they had already determined that it was not of regional impact. Hudson certainly needs to look into seeing when that was determined, but the Chairman had sent a letter and was not given an indication in any response that that was the case. The bottom line is that the town has 30 days to appeal this, if they so choose, so they need to have Mr. Kennedy do this, since he has indicated that he can do the review in a timely fashion to allow the Board to appeal the Nashua Planning Board's decision, if the traffic data would support that.

Motion by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to engage Mr. Kennedy to review the Nashua Landing Traffic Studies.

Selectman Maddox was concerned about the time frame, so he suggested that Chairman Jasper or Priscilla contact the attorney to get this moving tomorrow. Chairman Jasper asked Priscilla if she would be able to take care of that. She replied in the affirmative. Selectman Robinson said in the Selectmen's office, there was a book "this" thick, from the Nashua Planning Commission on the effect of the traffic to Hudson and surrounding towns. It's huge, so there is a lot of data. Chairman Jasper was sure Mr. Kennedy would cut to the chase. It just seems beyond belief to him that there would be only one or two percent increase in Hudson's traffic, as a result of that. This is going to be unlike anything else they have in the area. It's baffling and unfortunate that Hudson's concerns were just brushed aside so quickly. He is greatly disappointed in the response received from Mayor Streeter, and now it appears, all along, the powers that be in Nashua had already determined this was not going to be a regional impact. This is not neighborly. Communities need to work together. Hudson said, right from the outset, they were working on the full blown Green Meadow project that they expected that would be a project of regional impact. They were quite concerned about the impact it was going to have, not only to Nashua, but to the neighbors to the south in Massachusetts. Here is a case where Hudson may have, to some degree, pushed this project away, which would have had a significant positive impact, by being overly cautious. It is less than a third the size of what was being proposed in Hudson, 600,000 sq. ft., versus 2.2. In one meeting it was just done, and it's just beyond comprehension to him. He would have hoped to have had better treatment from Nashua in this.

Selectman Maddox said the first phase of Green Meadow was only 1.2 million sq. ft., and there were 30 intersections in the town of Hudson that were being studied because they were going to be impacted by the traffic. They may be going over to Nashua now, but they are still coming through Hudson, from Windham, 93... all those communities that are going to be coming in the same basic direction. There will still be impact to the town. Maybe only half as much, but to simply say there will be no impact is not what they want to rely on. It's imperative they do something quickly to protect their legal rights.

Vote: Motion carried 3-0.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to adjourn at 8:34 p.m., carried 3-0.

Recorded by HGTV and transcribed by Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant

**HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

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Richard J. Maddox, Selectman

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Douglas K. Robinson, Selectman