

**HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Minutes of the September 4, 2007 Workshop Meeting**

6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Attorney-Client Session

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Shawn Jasper at 7:02 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Selectman Ken Massey.

3. **ATTENDANCE**

**Selectmen:** Shawn Jasper, Ben Nadeau, Ken Massey, Rick Maddox and Doug Robinson.

**Staff/Others:** Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Sean Sullivan, Director of Community Development; Fire Chief Shawn Murray; Deputy Fire Chief Neal Carter; Deputy Fire Chief Rob Buxton; Dennis Ross of Pacheco Ross Architects; Richard Patterson; Howard Dilworth, Jr; Tom Tollefson, HLN

4. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **Budget to Actuals**

Town Administrator Steve Malizia said all of the capital reserve transfers are made at the beginning of the year, so various lines, such as the Cable Committee, may look like they are overspending, but that's just the result of a natural function. The same for transfers out of the Sewer Utility to various reserve funds. Also, they just made a bond payment for water, so they see some anomalies at the beginning of the year. As time goes by, the percentages for that will change. Selectman Massey said it would be beneficial if they could start receiving the actual versus budget revenue. Mr. Malizia said they normally do, but it's the beginning of the year and it's not ready yet. They would normally get that. Selectman Massey said on an on-going basis. Mr. Malizia said yes; they are still getting the numbers tied out.

B. **Community Development Department**

Community Development Director Sean Sullivan referred to his memo dated August 21, 2007, listing his department's successes in 2006, which included the re-certification of the Building Inspector, adding that there are not a lot of certified building inspectors in this region. Last year, the hours for the Electrical Inspector were increased to three days a week. The \$800,000 project on Route 102 from Highland Street to McDonald's is underway—drainage improvements, roadway widening and sidewalk installation. The town's 20% match was paid for by CAP fees. People don't like to pay impact fees, but they work, as evidenced by this project. Selectman Robinson said practically everyone in Hudson is affected by the 102 project and wondered how much longer it was going to take. Mr. Sullivan said the contract the contractor has with DOT talks about October 16. Selectman Robinson asked if their schedule could be changed to nights and, if that is not possible, if they could have a policy, henceforth, stating that work would be done at night. Mr. Sullivan said yes, to the second part. When they did some work last year with a different contractor, they had to move some unanticipated asbestos, and they received calls on a daily basis, who had real problems with the noise associated with night work. Selectman Robinson said they could look into it, adding that the needs of many outweigh the needs of a few. Chairman Jasper said everyone needs their sleep and construction is much more expensive at night. It's very difficult to do that during the night, unlike paving. Selectman Robinson said he appreciated Chairman Jasper's remarks, but he was asking about looking into it, going forward.

Relative to Code Enforcement, Mr. Sullivan said it wasn't Utopian, but it is a whole lot better than it was a year ago. There has been significant effort to bring that report up to where it is today, and they continue working to improve it with the new computer system. They had a contract Planner for six months, January-July. ¾'s of the way through that, the Green Meadow project took an unanticipated turn. The service provided during that six-month period was beneficial. A full-time Secretary was recently hired, filling a vacant position. Debra Winter is working out very well.

In late 06, early 07, he and other town officials testified before the House Committee, to advocate passage of Rep. Lynne Ober's bill for a third bridge across the Merrimack River. Lastly, the town has not had any mosquitoes that have tested positive for having EEE or West Nile Virus, and they have been trapping and testing on a weekly basis. The preventative program was started in early spring, staying ahead of the curve. Monies are available to provide spraying services of public properties owned by the town, including school properties, if need be.

For 07 projects, the laserfiche of property files is going to begin September 20 & 21, all day training. That may include hiring temporary personnel to accelerate the process because monies are available to do that. In-house staff will be trained first, so they become proficient in that activity.

The Route 102 sidewalk project, from Megan Drive to Evergreen Drive has lingered, somewhat. NH DOT did some repaving work along that stretch and had asked the town to refrain from actively constructing the sidewalk during this construction season so they could finish their project, which is pretty much complete. The Town Engineer has been working on that project and he's been helping him out. The Lowell Road sidewalk, from Birch Street to Central, is progressing. He met with the Town Attorney last week for a couple of hours. That project is moving. There is an eminent domain case that may have to come to the Board, if there is an impasse. They will try to prevent that, if they can. Just about every other easement has been signed. There are a couple legal technicalities with a couple of them that the Town Attorney is working on. His goal is to get a plan from the contract engineer so they can get the plan recorded, get the easements they do have recorded and then proceed with eminent domain on one piece of property, if need be. They are still hoping that can be avoided, with the goal of construction next season. Selectman Massey thought they were at the point where they had to do eminent domain. Mr.

Sullivan said the Board voted to do that, and the Town Attorney is preparing the paperwork, but from a legal standpoint, has recommended one more last ditch effort. Selectman Massey asked when the drop-dead date was. Mr. Sullivan said he didn't say, but told the Attorney that this project was a priority that he didn't want to get lost in the shuffle. Selectman Maddox asked the Town Administrator to get a written status report from the Town Attorney on where this project sits, as of tomorrow morning because this project has lingered way too long.

The Green Meadow project has shifted gears. For a good part of 06, it was in high gear. They had a load of engineers and attorneys they were dealing with on a regular basis and a consultant was helping them out. Given the professionalism of the staff, they were able to keep the town in good hands during that process. Chairman Jasper said they all saw the article in the HLN last week and heard some things about the Friels coming in with a plan for a roadway. The question he has had during this whole process is how can you design a roadway to handle traffic when you don't know what the development feeding into it is going to be? He was confused by that. While the concept of the road is good, how do you know what to do? Selectman Maddox said that's exactly what he asked at the Planning Board meeting. It's great that they have this road they want to call a bypass, although it brings you right through their project. Right now, they are under conceptual review and he has repeatedly asked for information. They can't say this road is nice until they are told how many cars are going to be on it. The Planning Board is asking that very question. They (the Friels) are struggling with what they can do with that property. There's still a real issue that the Selectmen will, ultimately, be the determiner of, whether they are going to sign on the dotted line to break into that federally-funded highway to connect this roadway, so there are a lot of things still to happen. Are you going to put in 4-million sq. ft? 2-million sq. ft? Retail? Housing? What will it be? Until they know that, if the road will work is secondary. That is a question that has been asked and they are still grappling with trying to figure out what they are going to do since W/S left; they are trying to fill that vacuum and it's a challenging one.

Mr. Sullivan said they recently initiated implementation of MuniSmart impact fee accounting and receipting for CDD. They do take in a significant amount of revenue every day. How the fees are processed and tracked and account numbers assigned is completely different now than it was three, four months ago. They are still working their way through the system, finding quirks. The vendor has been extremely helpful and IT has been even more than extremely helpful. Chairman Jasper asked if CDD was completely off the VAX now. Mr. Sullivan said yes. Employees are continuing to be trained and are improving. Selectman Massey said on 4/24, Mr. Sullivan indicated he was going to rework the fee schedule, and asked where he was on that project. Mr. Sullivan said they were working on that and hoped to have something in the October. Chairman Jasper hoped in time for the preparation of the budget.

In terms of code enforcement reporting, Mr. Sullivan said they are taking the reporting system another step forward. Essentially, they are starting over, using information they have gathered since the first of July and will move forward in the fiscal year, as the vendor recommended, plugging in the detail information they have in terms of address, violation, type, when letter was sent, etc. They will plug that into the MuniSmart system and come out with an even better report. That is the goal. MuniSmart is a finance-based software, not code enforcement-based, but it can be programmed to do almost anything. MuniSmart has advised this is not their field of expertise; they are a BETA on-site to help CDD and MuniSmart. They've had a half day training, so far. CDD is at their mercy, to a certain extent and nowhere near, in terms of progress, with code enforcement reporting using MuniSmart than they are with impact fees and cash receipting. Selectman Maddox asked why they didn't go with an off-the-shelf code enforcement package. Why do they want to be a BETA site for a company that is not in this business? Why didn't they look at buying something off the shelf that would facilitate ready to go, rather than something they are developing as they go. They're probably wondering if they will sell more than two of them. Mr. Sullivan said he had a vendor who would provide off-the-shelf service, but it was \$30,000 and he didn't have the money in his budget. MuniSmart can be purchased for pennies on the dollar, compared to the other one. Selectman Maddox said they weren't the only vendor out there; \$2,000; he thinks they are buying the Cadillac with an aircraft carrier on the roof for \$30,000. Mr. Sullivan said at the LGC Conference, there are vendors that will provide that service. He tried to grab their cards, but the cost was more and he didn't have any money in his budget for that, and IT had some money, so it got shifted that way.

For FY09, he recommended the Building Inspector's 1996 Ford Bronco be replaced. Mr. Malizia said they'll also be looking at the Police vehicles, which they talked about at a previous meeting, so this may or may not have a dollar impact on his budget, one less trade-in, or whatnot. From a comprehensive viewpoint, he's looking at what Chief Gendron has for reliable vehicles that could be used for another year or two for the smaller departments that don't traditionally have much success in getting replacement vehicles. This year, that seemed to have worked out pretty good. The Chief had talked to the Board about doing that, so they will be considering that, town-wide.

Mr. Sullivan said they'd like to enhance their GIS information. They have a layer of data they have not yet overlaid on to the GIS system that they paid for a few months back. He'd like to set that as a goal, with input and assistance from the vendor to determine when the next fly-over would be necessary. They have some shelved information they can apply, from a software standpoint, and at some point, they need to do a fly-over to update the layers. Selectman Massey said his understanding was they have a capital reserve fund, and it's scheduled to be done in 2010 or 2011. Mr. Malizia questioned whether or not that passed. Selectman Massey said the plan was to put aside \$6,000 a year for the number of years it would take to pay for a fly-over, and they put money in the budget last year for that. Selectman Maddox asked why they would do another fly-over when they haven't even implemented the stuff they did two years ago. Mr. Sullivan said that was a good point that they needed to evaluate. Mr. Malizia said there are different pieces. They did a fly-over in 98, which is a layer they can look at, and they did a flyover in 2006, which is on the database. It's in the system. Mr. Sullivan said the pictures are there. (Talking back and forth and over each other.) Selectman Maddox thought the last fly-over was going to look at manhole covers, hydrants—a number of infrastructure items that still needed to be digitized into the system, and the last he heard was that had not been

done. He didn't want to do another fly-over when they haven't inputted all of the data they already have. Mr. Malizia didn't think they'd be doing another fly-over until the teens. He will check the reserve fund, but didn't think that passed. They proposed it and looked at some financing, they looked at the topo layer and the fly-over layer. He remembers putting it together, but he's not sure it made it out of the Budget Committee, because the Selectmen were the agents to expend. Chairman Jasper recalled the same thing; the whole thing died because it wasn't one of those things that you just absolutely had to have the Board do. If that's the case, it won't make it out of the Budget committee.

Relative to the implementation of Library and Central Street/Chase and Central Street traffic improvements, Mr. Sullivan said it is anticipated for the next construction cycle. They continue to work with the consultant. Bids will be advertised shortly. The consultant has made a recommendation of the anticipated cost and when that information comes in, they will proceed. He believes they are going out either this month, or next month, and Betty has been helping out with that project. He's been working diligently with Rahm McDahly from NH DOT, and with NRPC, on this project. The DOT advanced funds that took federal approval, and they were successful in getting those funds advanced three fiscal years. By the time they were ready to go, they were too far into the construction cycle, so the engineering consultant recommended putting out the bid before the onset of the first frost, the cost would be more than the budget could handle, so they thought it would be prudent to implement that project in the spring. Selectman Massey said the Chase and Central Street piece of that project is a second project because they only have enough money to do half of this project, and it was decided that the critical intersection was Library and Central. Any work that is going to be done on Chase and Central will have to be another project. When they go to bid, they will be bidding only Library and Central, plus the work that has to be done at the signals on Lowell and Central.

Continuing, Mr. Sullivan said the Riverwalk Trail is a goal. Back in 2005, the Board authorized a grant application to be submitted in the 2006 round, but those grants never became available to be applied for, so no grant application was submitted. This year, the summer interns GPS'd the location of the trail. He passed out maps, indicating the trail, which is about six and a half miles and would cost about \$1/2 million; the cost to the town would be about \$100,000. The goal is to continue with this project and if the grant becomes available, they will file that application. Questions have been raised about this project, and it hasn't fallen off the radar screen, but the \$400,000 grant money never became available. NRPC has assured him that when and if the grant round becomes available, they will alert him and get the application filed. Chairman Jasper thought the numbers were wrong, saying that Signs and Striping was \$215,280 and was more than the Trail Construction, which was \$212,700. Mr. Sullivan said these were the numbers the engineer put together. Several Board members agreed the numbers seemed wrong. Mr. Sullivan said he'd talk to the consultant who prepared this and have them rework the numbers. Chairman Jasper said have the Highway Department do the striping and Alvirne can build the signs and save \$215,000. Selectman Maddox said once again, government goes overboard. The town is looking for a rowboat and they're getting an aircraft carrier. They just want a path so the citizens can have a clear path to delineate the easements the town has collected over the years so people can walk along the river, but \$1/2 million? He thought this would be a Boy Scout project, and they've made it into building 93. He understands Mr. Sullivan is doing what he believes is the right thing, but at the very least, getting the GIS data on to a town map, and next time an Eagle Scout wants a project, to start clearing a path would be better than waiting for somebody to give them \$1/2 million. Selectman Robinson said given them a shovel and a rake and say go for it. Selectman Maddox said if Kevin ever had a slow moment, he'd be done with this by now. They need to be able to clearly mark it out. He's fascinated that they've gotten this to \$1/2 million for trails so people can walk along the river. Chairman Jasper was sure there are slopes and areas where it might be difficult to construct and it's a long piece, so the \$212,000 component doesn't surprise him; it's the signage. Even \$21,500 would seem high. Selectman Robinson read the breakdown of the figures for the viewing audience. (For 6.5 miles along the Merrimack River for a proposed bicycle and walking trail, Permitting is \$19,400; Design is \$25,300; Easements is \$25,300; Trail Construction is \$212,700; Signs and Striping is \$215,280 for a total cost of \$497,980.) He thought more work could be done to make this a blue light special.

Selectman Massey said they, once again, were leaping to some conclusions. \$500,000 may be a lot of money, but they don't know what that \$500,000 is made up of. He is absolutely convinced that, to be a safe trail, you'd have to put up a fence, because the river, at that point, is pretty steep. So, before they leap to too many conclusions, they'd have to know what this is made up of. However, he didn't think they were looking for a paved trail, rather a simple walking path. He thinks they need more information on what the costs are made up of, with the clear indication that it's going to be a walking trail, which means cinders, not pavement. Selectman Robinson said and at a cost a lot less than \$497,980. Selectman Maddox asked that the Community Development Director have this information prepared for them for their September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting—a breakdown of what this actually is, and what those numbers reflect. Chairman Jasper said that may not be necessary, if grant money isn't available. He didn't want him to put any more time into this, but if he comes forward with a grant application, the Board will need a lot more money. He asked if that was satisfactory. Selectman Maddox said no. The Board needs to have a hard number, if they were ever to include this in another Riverwalk-type project, or development project. It would be nice to know what it would really cost, what it entails and how far it goes from and to, are they better off breaking this into a two-mile segment, get it done and people see that it works before they build the entire thing, and it doesn't work. There needs to be more information provided to the Selectmen and land use boards so they can be planning for this, as they move through the process. Just saying they don't have the grant money available and forget about the \$1/2 million—a Boy Scout Eagle project could get at least part of this started, and see if it works. Why do they want to sink \$1/2 million, no matter whose money it is, whether it's from his federal pocket or local pocket, if nobody is going to use it? See what the project is going to look like before they even jump off that proverbial cliff. He thought they should ask for more information from the Community Development Director. Chairman Jasper said if it's information that's readily available, certainly, but if it will cost additional money to find out, then that needs to come back to the Board to decide. It would seem, where numbers are prepared, there is some backup data available. Mr. Sullivan said he'd have that information for the Board's meeting on September 25.

Mr. Sullivan referred to his memo of August 23, Development of Regional Impact Criteria. He asked the Board to consider asking NRPC to develop criteria that will assist communities when considering if a development project should be deemed a development of regional impact. In reviewing the statutes and in a discussion with the Town Attorney and with the NRPC Director, all came to the same conclusion. The statutes are pretty vague when it comes to what standards a community would use when determining whether or not a project is deemed a development project of regional impact. He talked to Steve Williams, who thought it was a good idea, to ask NRPC, at no additional cost to the town, to develop some standards that they would recommend, that could be used by other communities in the region. Selectman Massey said the statute would have to be changed, which says it's the local planning board that makes the decision whether or not to declare something a project of regional impact. Nashua, without any apparent public discussion, never even made a decision. It just appears to be a fiat that they weren't going to go into that, so unless there was a change to the state statute that discusses regional impact, having NRPC do the legwork doesn't make much sense.

Selectman Maddox agreed; this is just a waste of all of their resources. If they are going to give free research, put them back on the Riverwalk project, which was originally theirs. They did a lot of the design work and ask them what the breakdown would be. This is DOA, until the Legislature, in its wisdom, decides to define it, having the NRPC do it is just a waste of paper. Chairman Jasper agreed, saying it might be more productive to ask them to develop proposed language to amend the statute, and he would be willing to put in a bill that would do that. The filing period opens up on September 10, but he didn't recall when it ends. It might be worth talking to them because it's useless right now, unless a community wants to. It doesn't do anything for a community that may be impacted. The other Planning Board can tell them to go away. Selectman Maddox said that's why he thinks this is something that is a nice idea, but unless it's a state mandate, if it meets this criteria, it must be regional impact, and this is the Live Free or Die state, he didn't see that being put forth by the Legislature, so this is just something that is, again, if they are getting something for free from NRPC, go back to the Riverwalk and get something out of it. This is just an expenditure of effort. Without having the Legislature behind it, it's just not going to go anywhere. Chairman Jasper said he wasn't saying the Legislature wouldn't get behind a definition. It's certainly worth a shot, and they've got the prime example to show why it's necessary. There may be a number of Representatives from Nashua who might find that to be a valid point; Hudson was summarily dismissed in this case. Selectman Maddox said they know his position on that. Chairman Jasper said they can sit around and complain, or try to do something. If they put something forward to the Legislature and it gets shot down... Selectman Maddox said he'd rather get the bridge out of them rather than something of regional impact. This is just going nowhere for the few that it might ever be applicable to again. He didn't think it was worth the effort.

Selectman Massey said it isn't really free money because this town pays an assessment to NRPC, and they use those assessed dollars to do projects that are of interest to the region. In the scheme of things, the priority that he would be interested in NRPC doing, this would be far down the list. The critical one is the bridge, and he'd rather have them putting money into that issue than this. Chairman Jasper said he wasn't liking what he was hearing about what they are doing for the town, in that regard. Selectman Massey said maybe they should consider the town's fees for the coming year, and maybe change what they are paying. Chairman Jasper said if what he was hearing, and he didn't want to discuss it right now, was true, then it would behoove the town to get out of that organization and spend that money on consultants, as needed. If what he is hearing is true, they are working adversely to Hudson's interests. Selectman Massey said, obviously, then they need to hear that, as some point. Chairman Jasper didn't wish to discuss it because he was hearing it secondhand. Hopefully, the representatives to NRPC will come forward with that information and, at some point, may find out more, legislatively. He hopes what he is hearing is not the case. He thought Mr. Sullivan understood the direction of the Board. Mr. Sullivan said he did.

Lastly, Mr. Sullivan spoke about something that wasn't included in his information submitted to the Board, saying he recently had a discussion with the Board about communication among board members and Community Development staff and was asked to take a look at that, which he has done. Members of the Board of Selectmen serve on various land use boards and suggested that the Board consider a liaison to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, Conservation Commission and Planning Board by considered. Selectman Maddox is the liaison to the Community Development Department. Mr. Sullivan asked the Board to consider that if there is a specific concern that pertains to the Conservation Commission, that the liaison to that commission would know what that is, and then he or she could relate that—and it's pretty tough for a department head to have three liaisons, adding that he didn't think any other department head did, which is pretty tricky—so if the three land use boards had a liaison and they worked with the Community Development liaison, who could then work with him (Mr. Sullivan), almost like a chain of command. That isn't meant to dump anything on Selectmen Maddox, as the CDD liaison, but if it is a Conservation Commission issue, and the liaison is Selectman Massey, perhaps he could talk to Selectman Maddox, who could then talk to Mr. Sullivan. He didn't mean not to pick up the phone because he hoped they all knew him better than that, but this would give some order, at the very least. Something like that might help to improve communication among boards and staff. When it comes to Planning Board, with Mr. Sullivan's oversight, John Cashell is the person at those meetings. Typically, he (Mr. Sullivan) attends Zoning Board meetings; Bill Oleksak may pinch hit for him, if needed, or if the Board has issues. Mr. Sullivan also recommended, at the same time, for a zoning determination, which are pretty formal and pretty important, he suggested they keep them formal because if somebody disagrees, there is a formal mechanism to appeal. When you get to court, the formality of the appeal process is really of utmost importance. He does review plans before they go to the Planning Board, and certainly before they go to the Zoning Board, as well. He can't say that he sees every single Conservation Commission plan, but if he can, he does. Does he make a zoning determination specifically on each plan that is presented to a board? No. Does he review it, and if sees things that he think is important to the Board, to point out some ideas, does he do that? Yes. He typically does that for the Planning Board through the Town Planner. If the Planning Board has a specific zoning question that he couldn't anticipate, which has been the case. He recommended that the Board vote to request a specific interpretation of a section of the plan, as it relates to the ordinance, and relay that through the

liaison to Mr. Sullivan. There are two things he requested. A vote is important, because as they all know, lots of different things come up at meetings and three people may think on one side of the aisle and four people think on the other, and it's kind of fuzzy. If there is a vote, there's no doubt there is a clear majority of Board members who are interested in the determination, and if it's in writing, he knows specifically what is being asked. There was a recent question from the Planning Board, in writing, which was a very fair request, that he looked at from a different angle, so it's not going to be perfect, but it can be better. He looked at it from a different angle than the Board did, but at least it was in writing. However, they were able to work through it because it was in writing. Ultimately, it was beneficial to have it in writing, both to the Community Development Department and the Planning Board. Working with the liaison, who could bring that to his attention, he can get back to them in writing. If there is a disagreement, which people have a right to do, they can appeal that—but he doesn't encourage that, because they are on the same team—but he would recommend that as a suggested option for the Board.

Selectman Maddox asked Mr. Sullivan to write this up in memo form to the Board because there was a lot to chew on. He, personally, thinks there is a separation between the ZBA, the Conservation and the Planning Board for a reason. As much as he, or anyone, would want to be the funnel for all of that, they need to be reporting separately. The Planning Board looks at a plan differently than ZBA than Conservation. The liaison would have a much better grasp of what that Board was actually looking for. He would be getting it secondhand, not different than the Community Development Director, if it wasn't for the Planning Board. He didn't have a problem having it funneled through him, but he was just a waste of funnel space. If Selectman Massey is the Conservation liaison, it would go through him to the Community Development Director and leave him (Selectman Maddox) completely out of it. Chairman Jasper agreed. Selectman Maddox said Mr. Sullivan should write out his recommendation so the Board can kick it around. Chairman Jasper said perhaps the Board could consider appointing a ZBA, just for the purpose of asking questions or raising concerns.

Selectman Massey said aside from the Planning Board, which has a statutory representation by the Board of Selectmen, none of the other land use boards, neither the Zoning Board nor the Conservation Commission, has a statutory requirement for a Board of Selectmen to be there and, therefore, it is presumptuous on the part of the Selectmen to usurp the power of those two boards. If they need to have a determination, the chairman of that Zoning Board or Conservation Commission should be submitting the request in writing to the Zoning Administrator. To follow up with the other piece of it that fits in there, the Planning Board, statutorily, they are a voting member. The liaison to the Conservation Commission doesn't take part, or shouldn't, and as of last month, from his perspective, he no longer engages in any conversations during that meeting. He thinks it would be appropriate to do the same thing with the Zoning Board, to have a liaison from the Board of Selectmen as a liaison to the Zoning Board, that they would have the same responsibility that the Conservation liaison has, which is basically to be there to provide any input to them, if they need it, but not to participate in any case that comes before them.

Chairman Jasper said he was right, but the point is to have questions funneled through the Board of Selectmen to staff. Staff works for the Board, not for the land use boards. Therefore, it is appropriate that the Board of Selectmen be aware of what is going on, what the relationship is because the Selectmen make the appointments to those land use boards. It gives the Selectmen a better perspective of what is going on, which is lacking now. He has no idea, aside from occasionally catching a meeting, of what's happening there, and how the interaction is going on. It's important to have a better buffer between the employees and an appointed board is a good idea. There is no reason to be there to discuss, and for instance, if they were to have a liaison to the ZBA, he would not anticipate attending meetings, if he was the liaison. He would be someone who the chairman could call and relate the questions or concerns they may have. If it's a formal, legal process of asking for a zoning determination, that is a separate process, but if it's simply they don't think the Community Development Department is doing a very good job of providing information requested, then the Board of Selectmen could have a rational discussion of where they were going, sort of like what has been going on with the committee they've created to look at recycling, which seems to be headed off in the wrong direction, at times. It is appropriate to have someone there to buffer, and to have another set of eyes to see what is going on because the Board of Selectmen is responsible to the voters for the people they appoint to the boards and, for the most part, the Selectmen don't know what is going on on those boards, good, bad or indifferent. This might, at least, given them a better window into what's going on in a realm the Selectmen don't have a formal role in, except to make the appointments. He would like to see the suggestions written out so it can be put on an agenda and see where they come out. Mr. Sullivan said he'd get that.

Chairman Jasper declared a recess at 7:55 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:05 p.m.

**C. Fire Department**

Fire Chief Shawn Murray, Deputy Chief Neal Carter and Deputy Chief Rob Buxton were recognized. Chief Murray said they have a number of items to go over—Fire Department overview, facilities/facilities study, fire station location study, apparatus replacement program, impact fees, protective clothing and equipment capital reserve fund and full-time mechanic. The mission of the Hudson Fire Department is to preserve life, property and the environment from man-made and natural disasters, while providing emergency medical services, fire and rescue operations, as well as communications, public education and fire prevention programs. Currently, they have 61 personnel on the employee roster (provided in the packet). He also noted a breakdown for calls in 2006. They had a total of 3,638 calls for service, which represents a 7% increase from 2005. From 2002 – 2006, they've experienced a 27% increase in calls for service.

Selectman Maddox questioned how the Chief counted the 3,638 as calls in Hudson, when the spreadsheet showed there were 699 for Litchfield—total incidents by town, Hudson 2,939; Litchfield, 699 which comes to the total of 3,638. He thought some of those calls were being answered by Litchfield. The ambulance was going out there, but the Chief was calling that

number as calls for service when half of those may still be Litchfield only, so that total does not reflect. Chief Murray said the majority of Litchfield calls are EMS, and if you take that out, their other calls are fire calls. Selectman Maddox said they say there are 249 ambulance/engine calls, which he assumed the town would go on, but that still leaves... again, the number 3,638 does not reflect the calls to Hudson. Chief Murray said they are still dispatching calls, but he didn't have it broken down exactly. Selectman Maddox said maybe they need to look at that again. The Chief was giving the Board a number showing an increase and the amount of calls, but some of them aren't Hudson calls. That's all he's trying to bring up at this point. Chief Murray asked Selectman Maddox thought he was being given false numbers. Selectman Maddox said he was just suggesting that if the breakdown he was going to keep telling the Board that that is the number of calls for Hudson, they should be calls for Hudson. That's all he's looking to do. Selectman Robinson said maybe he could help out. Like the Police Chief gives a breakdown for the amount of calls for service he has, the Fire Department is doing the same thing. The fire station received 699 calls for service for the town of Litchfield, and he received 2,939 calls for service for the residents of Hudson. He had to respond in some way, some fashion, somehow to some incident in Litchfield. It may have been to send an ambulance, an ambulance and a tanker, or a fire truck.

Chairman Jasper said the Chief has given them all that information. Of the 699 for Litchfield, 261 were ambulance and while, perhaps, there is a stray incident in there, 340 were still alarms, there were a couple pieces of property on 102 they responded to. Selectman Robinson agreed, saying those were the calls that something had to be dispatched for. Chairman Jasper said not to make it like dispatching is involving the Fire Department; it's a contractual service which has nothing to do with times the town responded to something—picking up the phone and dispatching somebody else. That is not involving on-duty personnel. They're sitting there in a room, anyhow, answering the phone. Selectman Maddox makes a valid point, but the Chief is not hiding anything because the information is there. The only unknown is how many still alarms might have been on those few properties, such as Tabernacle Baptist Church or 7-Eleven, if they have an alarm. The numbers the Board have are going to be fairly consistent, 2002 – 2006, assuming they were all figured in the same way. It looks like the town is responding to over 10 calls a day. That number may be misleading in the pure, raw form, but they can back it out by other means. Chief Murray said the numbers include District 9, which are the Mutual Aid calls, too. This is the way the figures have been reported consistently since he has been in Hudson. Chairman Jasper said the Chief was giving them the information, and District 9 is included, which is valid, because they are actually putting a piece of apparatus on the road. Selectman Robinson said he respectfully disagreed with the Chairman. The Chief has given the Board the numbers, as he has every single year. If they choose, going forward, to have him add a line to state, "still alarms," that might be something to do, but the documentation before them is sufficient, as is. Chief Murray said if they go to the five year incident review, there is a significant increase in their service calls. In 2002-2003, they didn't really track all of their service calls. A service call is anything from putting a fire alarm box back on line, a smoke or odor investigation, anything that doesn't fall under the category of an emergency. Over the last three years since he's been Chief, he's started tracking service calls because, whether it's a service call or an emergency, there is still a fire truck or crew out on the road, taking care of that problem. He is not sure that plays into it, but he will take a look at how they are tracking the calls and see if he can make it clearer.

Selectman Massey wanted to follow up on Selectman Maddox's comment because it really strikes... the question is for Litchfield, were those 699 incidents an incident where a piece of apparatus from the Hudson went to Litchfield, or were some of those incidents where they took the call and dispatched an apparatus, which would primarily have been an engine, from a Litchfield station to a Litchfield location? That's what he thinks Selectman Maddox is really trying to get at. How many of those 699 Litchfield calls for service were dispatched only from Hudson and how many were dispatched with equipment from Hudson, going to Litchfield? Chairman Jasper said that's the question, and that is important overall, but the only thing it will get to is... they probably has been a growth in Litchfield, so that would be skewing the numbers. They need to keep their eyes on, in terms of the critical responses for the town of Hudson is the EMS rescue and fire calls, which have been fairly stable since 2002 because even with the 3,600 you are looking at 10 calls a day. Percentage-wise, it's pretty significant, but in terms of the resources they are putting out there, is that something to get excited about? When you look at those service calls, as the Chief said, he wasn't really tracking those and that's why it went from 337 to 536, a significant number, but they are not emergency service calls; they are service calls. They are providing a service, and that's where the number gets skewed. Selectman Maddox said that's where he was coming from. Is an alarm no fire false is 27% increase, but how many of those were actually in Litchfield? That 27% increase would show up... could be 10% in Hudson and 17% in Litchfield because they are seeing more residential. Chairman Jasper said this is why percentages get dangerous, because they are going from 226 in 2002, up to 352 in 2005; the numbers are relatively small. Percentages, when dealing with numbers like this, can really skew things. What's really more important is how long they are on the road; how many back to back incidents do they have? How many times were they unable to respond in a timely fashion? That's all most people in the town care about. Do they get the equipment there when they need it? That's the bottom line they should be concerned about. Hopefully, they won't get bogged down in numbers. The Chief has heard what they've had to say on this. Hopefully, they could move on.

Selectman Maddox said the Chief pointed out that the increase from 2002 to 2006 was 27% and asked what the increase was in staffing in those years. Chief Murray didn't have that information on hand, but he would get that information for Selectman Maddox, adding that in 2002, they started manning the Burns Hill Station. Selectman Robinson referred to the Chief's memo that indicated, relative to the fire station location study by the IAFF that had not been finished, it is five or six months they've been waiting for it. Chief Murray said they didn't get started until early June, so they are a little behind. Hopefully, it will be done within the next month, certainly in time for budget season.

#### **Facilities Study:**

Chief Murray said tonight Dennis Ross was present, from Pacheco Ross Architects, to give the Board an overview and draft of the final report on the facilities study. He turned the meeting over to Deputy Buxton, who took over the facilities study

project. Deputy Buxton said they were prepared to present the draft facilities report. In June, the Board approved the Fire Department entering into a contract with Pacheco Ross Architects and conducting a facilities study. The purpose of the study was to examine the Central Fire Station and the Administration Building. This included a 15 point survey, starting with the existing building assessment outside, all the way through the building envelope, to program what they are trying to provide for services out of that building, where they are maintenance-wise and replacement program-wise, and where they need to be in the future, and the same thing for the Administration Building. In a three-month period, they have aggressively gone through this report in an attempt to try to prepare for budget season. Tonight, they were presenting the draft report. In summary, Central Fire Station has been found to have several building code, ADA and NFPA violations. Probably the biggest point for him was the single means of egress to the second floor of the structure. That means they do not have a fire escape on their own fire station. They have one way up and down, so currently there is no way for personnel to get down, if the stairs were cut off during an emergency. The Administration Building has several of the ADA and NFPA violations. Pacheco Ross would like to see them enter into a two tiered system, where they looked at developing into routine maintenance and capital projects, which has been discussed with Capt. Morin, who is the head of buildings and grounds, and is a piece of the program they will be preparing for this year's budget. The programming portion of the budget was to examine the square footage, what they have in the facility today, which is 11,660 sq. ft. They sat down with Mr. Ross and had a four hour meeting. He asked what their services were, what they did today, personnel, offices and feasibility and came up with a number of 23,529 sq. ft. that they need in order to operate under one roof. Mr. Ross has proposed three potential options. One would be a repair, maintenance and minor remodel, which would be cosmetic change only. They would be putting money into a bad building, which was built in 1952 and is beginning to reach the end of its serviceable life. They have to make some decisions of where they want to go with that facility. The second piece of the proposal was to look at a renovation or addition to that. That would be inclusive with some selective demolition, remodeling and it would be difficult, with an increased cost to the town because they'd need to keep a 24-hour a day service running, while they were going through the construction. Then they get into the big ticket items—the construction of a new facility, whether it was on the existing site or another site somewhere in town. Both of those segments were broken down. If they were to add on to the current building, it would not fit at the present location. They would have to consider a couple of things—either move Town Hall, or move the Fire Station. One of the big questions that has been kicked around for a couple years is the feasibility of adding a second floor over the one story addition of the side of the fire station, which would afford them the opportunity of adding approximately 1,800 sq. ft. to the building, but the vendor does not feel this is a feasible option as the construction of the building would not hold a second floor, plus other egress issues. The recommendation of the Fire Department will be to begin to look at the feasibility of a new facility and develop a plan, along with the Board and members of the community. The maintenance program will be in the upcoming budget season. He then introduced Dennis Ross of Pacheco and Ross.

Mr. Ross said Deputy Chief Buxton did such a good summarizing, that he simply opened the floor to questions. Selectman Maddox asked how many new fire stations Pacheco and Ross has designed in the last year. Mr. Ross estimated 12. Selectman Maddox asked how many renovations they've done of existing fire stations, in that same time period. Mr. Ross said four. Selectman Maddox asked if the building was structurally sound. Mr. Ross said yes. Selectman Maddox didn't think the current building needed to meet the current building code. Mr. Ross said if it sits there, exactly like it is, that was correct. Selectman Maddox said they talk about the ADA requirements, but it was his understanding that unless you expend more than 50% of the value of the building, that does not kick in. Mr. Ross said the 50% was a guideline, but once they open that can of worms, it's hard to close it back up again. Selectman Maddox said NFPA was referenced in the report regarding 1720, but his copy of 1720 reads, "The organization and deployment of fire suppression operations, emergency medical operations and special operations to the public by volunteer fire departments." He asked why that would be applicable to Hudson, which was not, for the most part, a volunteer fire department. Mr. Ross said that was a typo; it was supposed to be 1710. They are almost identical. The only difference is for the career departments, they hold them to a higher standard on response because they are there all the time so they have tighter time standards for response, as opposed to volunteers. Selectman Maddox said there was talk about egress from the second floor and thought the fire pole was a means of egress. Mr. Ross said absolutely not, nor would a ladder on the outside. The only legal means of egress, as far as code is considered, would be an actual enclosed stair. Selectman Massey asked if it couldn't be a wrought iron, uncovered staircase. He didn't know why it has to be covered, if it's an egress. Mr. Ross said because it needs fire separation. The whole idea for egress is during an emergency, and that could be a fire. They are trying to separate that stair, so people in the stair are safe, until they actually reach the ground and get away from the building. Typically, especially in an older building, there are ways around it, but they are fairly complicated. It's easier when they are designing new buildings.

Selectman Maddox said Mr. Ross read the zoning ordinance because he saw part of that in the report, relative to setbacks and all of that. His problem with the study is that it didn't do what the Board asked to be done. They asked that a facilities study be put together for the Lenny Smith station; he didn't remember including the administration building. He read from the June 5 Board of Selectmen minutes, "Selectman Massey asked if it would include an estimated cost of any renovations or retrofitting," and Deputy Buxton had replied in the affirmative, but he didn't see any breakdown of costs. Maybe he was confused inasmuch as he thought this study was going to say when this station would need to be able to facilitate bringing it up to today, as far as electrical, HVAC, etc. He didn't see that in the report. He sees \$6 million to replace the station and he was wondering if he missed something. Chief Murray said part of the study and part of the charge to the architect was to look at fire department operations and the space needs of all the personnel at Central Station, and part of that includes some of the potential future uses, if that building was to be expanded, and that includes the fire administration building. The report clearly breaks down individual space needs for, not only fire suppression people, but dispatch, fire administration, so he did exactly what he was asked to do—take a look from the top down at the entire site and operation of the Fire Department. Selectman Maddox asked where the estimate was that they told they were going to get for renovations and retrofitting. Mr. Ross said that becomes somewhat problematic and he might not have spelled that out clearly in the report. What became clear in the

physical assessment of the building, as you start doing those sorts of things, you open that can of worms and many things become apparent. For example, if they wanted to do the HVAC system, just to put a number of that becomes difficult and would take quite a bit of contractor time and effort and mechanical time and effort just to figure how to get it out of there and then how to get something back in, and what other problems that would cause, such as to electric. He anticipated new electric would be needed to handle the new equipment. Then they would have to bump the service size, all the conductors, and these things mushroom, so they would have to charge him to say, "look at that compressor," "look at this whole system," look at this one system," "how does one system impact another," and it gets extremely complicated and it will open them up to that magic 50% for ADA, because now they are starting to look at fairly costly renovations. That would mean code upgrades, the HVAC system, the electricals start having to meet codes, and the upgrade starts feeding on itself, and where do you stop? It just becomes problematic and fairly complex for a small study like this.

Selectman Maddox said, again, mistakenly or not, that's what he was thinking they were getting out of the study; what it would need to bring that building up to those types of issues, not the Fire Department needs twice as much space. It was to say, was the electrical service adequate for what is there? Again, that's the impression he was under. Same thing with the doors. He didn't see the overhead doors mentioned, and that was a concern, and it was said that would be looked at. He felt he wasn't getting what he thought he was paying for. Mr. Ross said there was a whole section on the physical assessment. All those things were looked at and assessed—all the doors, overhead doors, windows, roofs, inside-outside site, HVAC, electrical, plumbing. Every one of those was looked at and analyzed and it's in the total assessment. It's all there in black and white. Continuing, Mr. Ross said in addition to the physical assessment of the property, they were charged to see if the building could manage, with renovation or addition, to handle what the department needs to do now, and into the future, so they go hand in hand. To physically analyze the building to see if the building can handle selective demolition and renovation, to see if it's even cost effective to do that. The other thing was to find out what the department has today and what they need in the future to operate, because just to say yes, the building can handle renovation, the question is how much renovation? They don't know until their needs are programmed, so they have to find out what they have in the way of equipment, operations, response, training, education and administration to find out what their needs are and see if those needs will fit in the building and if they will even fit in the building in some manner, shape or form, can you renovate it to handle that need? That's typically how they handle these types of situations. He's done over 100 reports like that, and they use that type of system.

Selectman Robinson sort of felt like Selectman Maddox because on a couple of occasions, when he went to the station to find out how the study was going and what it would cost to renovate the building, and was told they were working on it. He was under the impression they would be looking at what it would cost to upgrade the facility so it was a little more palatable to the firefighters, but what he has is a brand new building, which is well and good, but it might have been better if they came to the Board of Selectmen and said, "while they're in the station, how about if we do this, too, in addition to," and then, when the final project is done, to upgrade the motion the Selectman made. That might have given them a different idea of what to expect instead of just getting hit with this. He applauded the great, detailed report, but he kind of felt like Selectman Maddox.

Chief Murray addressed the Board, saying with all due respect, the department asked the Board for authorization to do a feasibility study. They hired one of the best architects in New England, and perhaps the United States, to come in. They talked to him about renovation and asked him to give them everything he found. In the report, Mr. Ross details what the problems with the electrical, mechanical and plumbing are. When he was done with his assessment, it was clear to him that the reality of that station is it really needs to be completely gutted, torn down and a new building put up. That's the reality of the situation, and his figures are in there. He talks about a budget for a new building, but he breaks down the air conditioning systems—and there are four or five different systems over there—so he was surprised to hear the Board say this report wasn't what they wanted or what they had expected or had asked for because everything is in there.

Selectman Massey said the current sq. footage is listed at 11,606 but there wasn't anything he could find in the report that describes what they really need is 23,529. He referred them to page six, the bolded section, second paragraph from the bottom, "If the town commits to stay in the current building, then we recommend code upgrades, such as the second means of egress and compliant door hardware." and this is what he thinks is relevant for discussion and what they thought they were going to see, as a result of the report, "We do not believe that major renovations projects, such as replacing the HVAC or electrical systems are cost effective, due to the fact that the building is simply too small for the Hudson Fire Department." That's not what they asked. They asked what it would cost to upgrade that, and he can't tell them right now whether that statement is valid or not because he didn't know what the cost for upgrading would be. They never talked about expanding, as part of this project, the size of that building. They talked about making that building useful and the cost of upgrading that.

Chairman Jasper said in answer to the first question, the document that was handed out tonight includes the space analysis he was asking for, piece by piece, square footage by square footage. He didn't have the minutes in front of him, but recalled they talked about feasibility. Was it feasible to renovate that, or was a new station going to be necessary? In his mind, that was clear, that they were going to look at both. Selectman Massey said he has no problem with understanding what a new station would cost, but they are not in any position to understand what it would cost to upgrade the place. They don't have those estimates in front of them. Where is the cost to upgrade this facility, as it stands, without expanding the size of it? Chairman Jasper said dollar by dollar, that figure isn't there. Selectman Massey said that was what they were asking for as part of the original charge. Chairman Jasper said Deputy Buxton said they would get that. Chairman Jasper thought it was pointless to get the cost to renovate a building that isn't even close to meeting the needs of the department. Selectman Massey said they've never had that conversation, of what is needed. Chairman Jasper said it was before them now. Selectman Massey said it was here now as a fait accompli, that, "oh, by the way, in order to upgrade, you have to expand, and we don't think you

should upgrade because the cost simply is too great.” He’d like to see what the costs are first. Chairman Jasper said they were told they would get that. At this point, it’s relatively pointless to be talking about putting any substantial amount of money into a building that isn’t suitable, so their discussion should be about the square footage. The real discussion shouldn’t be about what they have in terms of numbers. It’s is 23,000 sq. ft. realistic, or 11,000 sq. feet realistic. Selectman Massey said no, the real discussion should be if this town should build a fire and police combined facility. Chairman Jasper said they have a police stations that’s 10 years old, so he didn’t know where Selectman Massey came up with that.

Selectman Massey said he had one last comment, that he found it hard to understand on page three of the report, Mr. Ross indicated that the soft cost for this project would be for testing agency services during construction, yet when he looks at the soft costs, he’s looking at \$30,000 for kitchen appliances, \$40,000 for audio-visual computers and furniture. He is having a hard time understanding what is the fit-up cost and the cost to hire an agency to certify that your concrete is the right density, etc. There is a total of \$1.2 million for soft costs, which don’t all add up to what was indicated would be included. Mr. Ross said he’d try to answer all of the questions. In the report, there is an entire section of budgeting that tries to explain the difference between hard cost and soft cost. Hard cost is bricks and sticks and the labor to erect them; soft cost is everything else. Everything else could be disruption of services, testing agencies, professional services, all sorts of things—fixtures, furniture, communications, etc. What he was trying to show was there are soft costs to the projects, not that these are the specific soft costs because he doesn’t know what those are. It takes both hard and soft cost to come up with a project budget, and that’s all this is trying to tell them.

Mr. Ross said tonight, he’s heard three Board members’ concerns of what the report did not answer, that they want answered, so he will attempt to answer that. He’s not quite sure how; it’s obviously going to be somewhat conceptual, but if this Board is unsatisfied with the nature of the report, then they will get the answer they are looking for, which will be numbers for the cost of renovation. Chairman Jasper said he appreciated that. Mr. Ross said if that’s what they understood, that’s what they are going to get. The way he sees breaking that up would be the major systems—HVAC, electrical, plumbing, code upgrades, the interior upgrades and a factor he termed disruption of service to both the Fire Department and contractors working there because those types of renovations, working around a 24/7 operation are not easy. There will be some sort of factor to take that into account. If the Board wants to look at numbers with that building in place, he’ll put that together.

Selectman Nadeau asked if it was possible to put on a second floor over the apparatus bay. Mr. Ross said anything can be done, but not cost-effectively. The building was never constructed to hold a second floor, so they’d have to work from the ground up. The foundations would not support it; they would settle. The walls would not support it. The roof is a roof structure, not a structural floor, so it would have to come out and a structural floor would go in, plus they would be building next to two existing buildings, so they’d have to figure out how all of that would be configured together. All of the existing windows on that side of the building would be wiped out. It would be extremely difficult and not cost-effective to do that.

Selectman Maddox said the report was challenging, and he guessed the Board wasn’t prepared for what they got. He didn’t know if they ever mentioned the magic number, but it’s like \$6.5 million, and part of it is almost taking this lot, which Town Hall is on, \$5.675 million, but that does not include the relocation of Town Hall. They may have been incorrect in working backwards. The report is trying to look at the space needs for the Fire Department; the Board was looking for the needs of that particular building. Maybe the Board needs to decide if that building becomes the Central Station, inasmuch that if that was a substation, not needing all of the office space and all of the administrative space, those type of issues, what would it take to make that building up to code, as far as electrical, HVAC, trying to fit, doubling the size, 23,000 even on that lot, as suggested, would mean taking down Town Hall and relocating that somewhere else. That wouldn’t work. What would it take to keep that building, as it sits today, and bring it up to livable—again, it’s 50 years old—what do they have to do to look at the HVAC, the ventilation—he was surprised ventilation was included because they just put in the Plymovent, so he was surprised that that was a deficiency. What do they need to do to make that station a much better station, into the future, as it sits today? It wasn’t ever his intention to make that a new Central Fire Station, with administration, on that lot. He is of firm mind that it does go somewhere else. He’s looking to fix Lenny Smith station, a station that would do them well as a fire station, maybe not the central station, not needing all of this program space reflected in the report, but what it would take to make that station a fire station for the next x amount of years. He thought that’s where they were headed.

Chairman Jasper said they were told they’d get that information. Selectman Maddox said if he still goes on the premise that they are looking to put 23,529 sq. ft. in there, that’s not where he’s coming from. Chairman Jasper said no, they can’t do that, and Mr. Ross has assumed a new central fire station on a new site. (Talking back and forth and over each other.) Selectman Maddox said all he was getting at was he wanted to know what was the cost to make that station still a fire station, but not the central fire station. Chairman Jasper said that’s the number they will get on renovations. If they buy into the square footage needs, they cannot say it’s going to be central. He disagreed that they want to have four fire stations in town, so realistically, if they buy into the square footage, and if they buy into the need for a new station, then they need to determine the other possible reuses for that building. If they want to go to four fire stations, they would eat up a lot of money on an annual basis. Selectman Maddox said, again, he is only one Selectman, but thought they still need to deal with the Burns Hill situation. That has not gone away; it’s just been quieter. That would become their central station. That was, again, his thought process; that station... Chairman Jasper said now he was talking about building two new fire stations. Selectman Maddox said no, he was talking about renovating Lenny Smith for \$1 million as a fire station and having to build a fire station to replace Burns Hill somewhere in that general area, after the siting study is back, but again, these are decisions the Board didn’t make, and they sent them off, maybe, incorrectly; that’s not what he was looking for. Chairman Jasper said the whole connotation of central is just that. Central. You can’t put a central station at an extreme end of the town. Selectman Maddox said right now, it’s at the edge of town. Chairman Jasper said no, it isn’t. It’s only on the edge in terms of the river, but it’s centrally located.

Selectman Robinson suggested to tie in the IAFF report with the next time Mr. Ross comes to the Board to know if the Central Fire Station, which is in the central location for the town, is centrally located for what they want to have so they know the renovations are really a wise idea. If they tie it in with the IAFF report, they will be making a sounder decision to monetary spending of the town. Chairman Jasper said they should certainly see that report, but if you build another station, unless you decide to put \$1 million here, or \$2 million here, then you are going to go to the extreme of town and put your administration down to the south end and build a new station there, now you're spending the \$5,600,000 plus \$1 million to renovate the building. He's not sure they've had the conversation enough to even thought that through very well. Selectman Robinson said that's not what he was saying. This report being processed right now by the IAFF has been on the books five and a half months; they've been charged with it for three months. He'd like to see that report when Ross and Pacheco comes back. Chairman Jasper said, hopefully, they would have that, but he didn't know if Mr. Ross was coming back, or was just going to provide them with the numbers. The report is done. Mr. Ross said he'd be more than happy to come back.

Chairman Jasper said all they really need are the renovation costs. He'd like to see the Board have the discussion, and he wanted to address something Selectman Massey said, even if you believe they need a new police station, too, whether or not they build a safety complex with both, that doesn't address the square foot needs, and that is going to tie into this price. He may feel they can probably do it cheaper than this, that there are things they can look at to reduce that price. The question is the square footage, and the square footage doesn't change if you build a massive public safety complex of 50,000 sq. ft. or not. He was hoping this Board would focus in on the square footage needs to determine if this is a realistic number. They are arguing about things that, at the end of the day, don't get them any place, and the real question is, what are the needs of the Fire Department for the building. He read the report and came to the unfortunate conclusion that that site just doesn't work any more and they need to do something else, that it's too small. Frankly, if it's not going to be the central station, there is the interesting concept of renovating and building a new administration complex with everything else, someplace else in town and maintaining three stations. He wasn't thinking of that; he wasn't wedded to the idea. They should look at the square footage needs. Do they think these are realistic square footages? Do they need 20,000? 15,000? What is it they really need to accomplish the mission? Granted, since that building was built, they've added two fire stations. One if real small. He asked what the square footages of the two other stations. When that building was built, it was the only fire station, the population of the town was about 5,000 people. Now, there is five times that amount, looking at a potential growth of another 10,000 over the next 15 years. They are certainly a lot closer to build out than they were before they did all the zoning changes. At one time, the build out of town was about 40,000 and the numbers in here are in the low to mid 30's. Selectman Maddox said that was for 2020, not for build out. Chairman Jasper thought that was probably true, because it was 40,000 before, with one-acre zoning, and now they are at two-acre zoning, so that number makes sense. Regardless, most of the growth in town, population-wise, has gone by the board. They are not going to double in size, and they're certainly not going to go from 25,000 to 100,000 people. It's sort of like the library, only not quite as bad. The library has been 100 years; this has been only 55. They should try to focus on the square footage and the needs and see how the Board feels. Those are the questions Mr. Ross can best answer for them tonight, while he is here.

Selectman Massey said, to that end, he's looking at the square footages and can't understand what drove the square footage because there has never been any discussion of how many pieces of apparatus should be sited at that facility. This indicates there would be seven double deep bays, which, to him, translates to at least three new pieces of apparatus, which they don't have today, or would it be thinking about going to the future? It also assumes that each bunk room is an 80 x 20, or some combination thereof, which is a fairly large... and it's assuming 10, so before they can decide on how much square footage they need, they have to decide what the function of the building is, and the function is driven by how many pieces of apparatus you want to store there, what they of apparatus it's going to be and what's going to be the number of firefighters who are going to be resident there during their shift. Chairman Jasper said that's the discussion they ought to be having. Selectman Massey said that's what he was suggesting, that those are the two key elements he thinks would drive the ultimate size—how many pieces of apparatus need to be stored and what's the complement of personnel, including the command structure and the firefighters, which would include office space and all the other things that are listed there.

Chief Murray said those are the results that are in front of them; a programming study and session with Mr. Ross of over four hours, deciding how much square footage they need for the bays, now and for the future. This fire station, whether new or renovated, has to last another 50 years. To not look at apparatus space, and the future needs—just walking next door, you can see that the space is totally inadequate. You can't spread your arms out between the forestry truck and the ambulance, or the ladder truck and rescue because of the stuff in there. Chairman Jasper said that's the point. Explain to the Board why seven double deep; get down into the details of what would go on that floor space so the Board has an idea of what it is. Right now, if it's built correctly, they can add bays on the side, as it grows, like was done there, where they added two on the side. Unfortunately, the lot is such they can't add more. But at \$241 a sq. ft., plus, if they don't have the equipment today to fill out seven double deep bays, do they only build five and construct the building in such a way that they build two more later? That's what he's trying to get the Board to focus on. Chief Murray said one of the bays was going to be used for apparatus maintenance, which they don't have the room for now. Chairman Jasper didn't know if that was in the details of the report, or not. Mr. Ross said it was, but they could talk about it.

Deputy Buxton said presently, they have nine pieces of apparatus in the station. In the first bay are three pieces of apparatus that are backed in on top of each other. Chairman Jasper said a lot of the back part of the station is taken up by equipment and the weight room, but if the main apparatus floor were all opened again, what are the dimensions of that? Selectman Maddox said for the original, 3,363 and the addition was 1,800. Chairman Jasper said they've got the ladder truck, so it's full. They are talking just under 6,000 sq. ft. and they've got a lot of wasted space, in terms of apparatus.

Selectman Nadeau asked, if they took out all the stuff that's in there now, how much space would they open up, taking out the mechanic's room, the weight room and all the other stuff that's in there? Mr. Ross said the space would be opened up, but the response time would be hindered. Bays don't work, sitting there all by themselves. It's like a doctor having an OR, with no support space around it. You can't do it. You have to have some support space, and they are already lacking in that. The only non-bay support space is the weight room. The supply space is lockable space that's needed to stock the ambulances. The mezzanine or the work room, those are things that are integral to the bay, so the function of the bay is dependent on the rooms to help support it, and they are already lacking. The weight room is the only non-bay function.

Selectman Maddox thought they have sufficiently dazzled this item. Until the IAFF report comes back, indicating how many stations they feel is needed, they need to step back. Chairman Jasper didn't think that was what they were looking at; it's where the calls are occurring from. They're not doing a station location study. Selectman Robinson said they are doing a station location study. Deputy Buxton said the International Association of Firefighters is doing a station location study, but are looking at response times, etc. Selectman Maddox said whether the 23,529 sq. ft. should be 21,260 sq. ft. or 18,000 is beyond their comprehension this evening and trying to put it on this site is impractical. Chairman Jasper said they could all agree on that. Selectman Maddox said again, they all wanted to know what that station cost to renovate as a fire station. Somehow or other, it leaped to that being a central fire station, with all of the accoutrements of administration and all the other items into it. Maybe, again, he was misguided or whatever, but that's what he was looking for. The report brought up a point they needed to look at, but until they have that study of where stations should be, how many, whatever, they are just spinning their wheels, especially since some of the documentation they just got, how they are going to interpret it, doesn't mean anything this evening. He asked to move this to another date.

Selectman Massey said before that do that, before they go down this same path the next time, what exactly is the IAFF report going to consist of? Deputy Buxton said it's a station location study. Selectman Massey said to him, that means the study is going to say, "we think that, based on the fire calls that are occurring in town, this is where your fire stations should be located," and asked if that's what it was going to be. Deputy Buxton said absolutely. Chairman Jasper said the problem there is they could divide that up into six stations. Deputy Buxton said they are going to take the NFPA codes, response times and they are going to interpret that for the sq. footage of the community. He's not sure what that is going to come out to. The one piece he'd like to remind them is that they've talked about how much it is to renovate that station. One of the charges that Mr. Ross was given was to look at a space analysis of that facility, and if they could get in that facility. Chairman Jasper said absolutely. Deputy Buxton said that was one of the deliverables they talked about at length at a Board meeting. For \$3,500, they agreed what they were going to have done, so that piece of the puzzle is important—whether or not they all fit in that station.

Chairman Jasper said he never had any idea that they were going to look at that station becoming a sub-station; he did not recall any discussion that led in that direction. His understanding was if it was feasible to continue to use that as Central Fire Station, and what it was going to cost to renovate it, and that was pretty much regardless. One answer they have is no, so in his mind, what's the point of the second part, but that was the charge. It's like you're going to have all the bodywork done on a car, but at the end of the day, the transmission and engine don't work any more, but you're going to have a beautiful looking car. What's the point? That's where they are at with that building. Selectman Maddox said he had to disagree. They also didn't say to put administration into the building, so there were a couple of things that may have been overlooked by all, but he never was of the mind that the administration building, that seems to be sitting there relatively well, needed to be brought into the Lenny Smith Central Fire Station, which is located on the edge of town. Chairman Jasper didn't know how they could do a study to see what their space needs were without at least looking at that as part of the mix. That's part of the Central Fire Station in his mind. No, they didn't ask for renovation costs and they didn't ask for condition, but when you're looking at square footage needs, that has to come into that because you can't just separate that function from the rest. Selectman Nadeau said he disagreed, too, on that. They have to look at where they are, compared to where everything else is happening. You go over to the station, and you have to go up and down the stairs 45 times to go back and forth each day. The Chief has to go, "one Deputy is in this building over here; one Deputy is in the other building over there," and they're forever going back and forth. It's important to look at combining them, but it doesn't necessarily have to happen that way, but it would be very helpful to the town, if it was that way. He thinks it would be a good idea to combine them.

Mr. Ross said, in order that everyone on the Board understands what he is going to come back with, because he didn't want confusion, especially if he was not present, are the infrastructure, HVAC, electrical and plumbing. Then, he will have to look at what they call code and ADA upgrades, and in order to do that, that means there has to be a stairwell, and elevator addition—that's not an upgrade; they are going to be physically added, and how that is going to happen, he does not know yet, where it can physically go, but they will assume it can go somewhere—and then they will have to look at interior, exterior, roof over the two-bay addition and those types of upgrades. So, unless the Board tells him otherwise, those are the types of things and categories he'd like to break this down into. If that opens up more discussion, he'd be happy to listen to it because he wants to make sure he gets this right.

Selectman Maddox said he was looking for the infamous bay doors. Mr. Ross said they will be part of that, absolutely. Selectman Maddox said, again, the ADA only kicks in—he's trying not to build an elevator—he's having a tough leap to the ADA requirements, depending on how much they spend. He's looking at...he understands, but he's not understanding. Chairman Jasper said it would be penny wise and pound foolish of them not to look at that because that is certainly an issue that when they do renovations, and whatever the number is, they have to at least be aware of it, whether or not they choose to do it, whether or not they get a waiver from whatever powers that be, it would be totally foolish, in his mind, not to consider that when they are looking at a building rehab.

Chief Murray said let alone life safety code issues, relative to a second means of egress. Relative to the apparatus bay doors, they spend \$2,500 three years ago on that, and they have a report from an architect, and he said it was going to be at least \$80,000 to raise the doors. What more do they want to learn about the apparatus bay doors? Chairman Jasper said what they learned was that the trucks they were buying could fit in there, and they are not costing more. A previous Chief raised a red herring and they are still focused on that red herring. Maybe it's time to move beyond that because they can buy trucks that can fit in there. Selectman Maddox said at additional cost. Chairman Jasper and Chief Murray both disagreed with him. Selectman Maddox said the report states that those bay doors are inadequate for today's modern fire apparatus. Chairman Jasper didn't think it was talking about height. Mr. Ross said not necessarily the height of the doors; the height of the bays. He also believes the doors are too small, but the height of the bays are too low. Chairman Jasper said there was nothing they could do about that. Mr. Ross agreed, saying he read the report from the other architect and agreed that the doors can be raised, but he sees no point in doing that. It's money being thrown away to get a few inches out of the door that isn't going to do anything. The door is a little bigger, but the bay is still too small, so what's the point? He'd go back to the analogy about the car. It's the same kind of thing. However, the doors themselves are pretty beat up and new bay doors should be in place, and would be part of the maintenance replacement, which would be specifying what the doors, hardware, motors, track, etc. should be, so that when they do replace them, they'll have consistent doors, motors, hardware, and one company can repair all, and they'd know where to go to replace them, the local distributor, etc. That's how they should be looking at them, when doing those kinds of things. Same thing with light fixtures and all those kind of parts and pieces that need replacement.

Selectman Massey wanted to understand what the issue was about a second floor over the flat room section. He wasn't aware that that was something they were looking at doing. Chairman Jasper thought he was the one who requested they look at that. He thought he recalled that when that was built, it was built with the idea of doing that, but the question has been answered that that is not feasible. Selectman Massey said his understanding was that when the station was built, and one of the reasons why he was never really going to be supportive of raising the doors, is that those footings are not very solid. Could they do anything relative to adding additional weight to that building, based on the fact that that entire area is sand? When he was looking at the project originally whether or not it was feasible to increase the height, there was some issue relative to the way the columns that support the bays are physically anchored in the ground. Chief Murray said the architect that looked at the apparatus bay doors had that same concern and a good part of that cost was going to be from digging up the front and the footings, putting new ones in, resetting them and all of that.

Mr. Ross asked if the Board would like him to come back. He didn't want to put out a report that's going to leave any question unanswered. Chairman Jasper thought it would be best if the Board receives the report and has an opportunity to review it, and then they could discuss whether or not that was necessary; they don't have to get him back needlessly. Mr. Ross said his only concern was that the Board members were happy with the report.

#### **Vehicle Replacement Program:**

Chief Murray said the packet contained some information and rationale for making adjustments to the program. There was some confusion in reading the form. After some discussion, it was explained that the form should be interpreted by moving all of the years one column to the left. Deputy Carter said for this budget cycle, they'd be looking for the bucket truck, which is about 37 years old, to replace all the fire alarm wire, and the Highway Department currently uses it for some lighting issues, and the car, the Crown Vic (Car 3, w/54,000 miles). Fire Prevention and the Training Division are in need of another vehicle. The Tahoe (Car 1) already has 35,000 miles on it. Chairman Jasper said they show Car 1 as being replaced after Car 2, which has less mileage. Deputy Carter said that would probably be reversed. When that is replaced, it will go to the Fire Prevention division and replace the older Crown Vic, when that is replaced. When Car 3 is replaced, it will go to the Chief. His vehicle would go to Prevention. Deputy Buxton's Crown Vic would go to the Prevention Division, so the inspectors could use it to do inspections because they are currently using one of the Forestry trucks. When the Training Officer has to go from station to station, he is using a Forestry truck. They are trying to alleviate the Forestry trucks being out in the wintertime. Selectman Massey asked if they were talking about taking Car 3 and assigning it to the Training and Prevention Division. Deputy Carter said currently Car 3 was Deputy Buxton's vehicle. Selectman Massey said then the Deputies and Chief have only two vehicles. Deputy Carter said Car 3, the 2000 Crown Vic, has been moved to this year. They are in need of another vehicle in Fire Prevention and Training Division. The idea is to purchase a new, low profile vehicle for the Fire Chief. They would then give his vehicle to Deputy Buxton. They would keep the Crown Vic. Selectman Massey said the form needs to be updated to show another car in the inventory. Deputy Carter agreed.

Selectman Maddox referred to Fire Prevention and asked why they wouldn't do the Crown Vic, rather than buying a new car. Why not use a Police Department vehicle and utilize that, move that over, rather than buying a brand new vehicle. Chairman Jasper said the three chief officers need to have newer vehicles. Selectman Maddox said no, give it to Fire Prevention. Chairman Jasper said that's what they were doing with the 2000 Crown Vic; that's one of the three chief officers' vehicles. They are doing the same thing, and it probably has less mileage than a police cruiser.

Selectman Massey said what they were not seeing was another car on the inventory. Chairman Jasper said the inventory shows only the vehicles they currently have. The backup provides rationale why they need another one. Selectman Massey said if he does that, they are minus one car, so if they don't agree to the swap, then they only have three cars. If they agree to the swap, they will have four cars. Chairman Jasper said that would show up on the next inventory, once they physically purchase it. Selectman Massey disagreed. If they want to have four cars on July 1, 2008 they'd need to order another car. They are going to take Car 3... Chairman Jasper interrupted to say that was a budget detail. The inventory before them was what they physically have today. Selectman Massey said it is also a plan for the future, and that fourth car is not on the plan. Chairman Jasper said Selectman Massey labeled this a plan; the Fire Department hadn't. Selectman Massey said he didn't

know what they're looking at when somebody gives you 12 year of documents that it's not a plan and, as a matter of fact, Deputy Buxton said this was an update of the 2006 plan. Chairman Jasper said it's a plan for replacement of vehicles they physically own. They are making things very complicated. Selectman Massey said he didn't understand the problem They were talking about taking the Crown Vic and transferring it to the Prevention Division. That leaves one Chief without a vehicle. If they transfer it, they have to purchase a vehicle in 2009. Chairman Jasper reiterated that that was a budgetary item. If they took this inventory to the Budget Committee, showing a vehicle they didn't have, you'd have all kinds of problems. The document before them shows the vehicles they have; they can't just add on vehicles they'd like to have. Selectman Massey asked if the Chairman was saying they have a vehicle in FY17. Chairman Jasper said it's a replacement; he's not adding. Selectman Massey said that was precisely his point. It's not a replacement, it's an addition. Chairman Jasper said there is a vehicle that they are going to request that will be an addition. This is a replacement plan for the vehicles they currently have, going out into the future. They were making much ado about nothing because what Selectman Massey was talking about exists on the next page. Chief Murray said this was a workshop and, as such, the Fire Department was trying to get a consensus from the Board that it would approve this request. If the Board did give its approval, tomorrow the form would reflect the fourth vehicle. Selectman Massey thanked him.

Selectman Robinson said it was requested that Cars 1 and 2 be replaced every six years and he wanted to know what it was now for those vehicles. Deputy Carter said 10. With the high mileage on the vehicles, they thought it was prudent to replace them sooner. Car 1 has over 35,000 miles and Car 2 has almost 26,000. Selectman Robinson said same question for engines. Deputy Carter said right now, they replace them at 15 years. He thought, to make the operation more efficient and more cost-effective, they should be replaced every 12 years. An attachment was the costs for the last three years of the 90 and 92 KME's. The Board explained that that information was not in the packet; two pages of the rationale was included, instead.

Chairman Jasper declared a brief recess for a tape change by HGTV from 9:30 – 9:37 p.m.

Deputy Carter said the 1990 KME, which they replaced, cost \$22,338 for maintenance when it was 13 years old. When the 1992 KME was 11 years old in 2003, they had to spend \$24,282 on repair and maintenance costs. In 2004, the 1990 KME was 14 years old, they dropped \$10,000 into it for repairs and maintenance. The 1992 KME, in 2004 was 12 years old, and they dropped \$29,755 into it. The 1990 KME, in 2005, was 15 years old and they put \$12,882 into it. The 1992 KME in 2005 was 13 years old, and they spent \$12,174 on it. In 2006, they spent \$7,000 on the 1992 KME. They looked at the money the maintenance and repair work was costing them and the amount of time the apparatus was out of service and decided it would be prudent to replace the engines sooner than 15 years. Over the spring and summer, they were down to two trucks instead of four. Two of them are out of service on a regular basis.

Selectman Nadeau asked what Engine 4 was. Deputy Carter said that was the 1990 KME that was replaced. They got a new engine in the spring of 2006. Selectman Nadeau asked if Truck 34 is now Engine 4, which is a new vehicle. Deputy Carter said that was correct. Selectman Nadeau said he almost fell over looking at the new report dated September 4. Possible conversation to a rescue pumper, Truck 34/Engine 4? Deputy Carter said that is just adding a compartment to put a combination tool in it to assist in extrications. The 'conversion' was just a term that was used.

Selectman Maddox said to buy a new truck is about \$35,000 a year on a 12-year replacement schedule. Are they better off doing a better job of maintenance to keep the vehicles running longer. Twelve years for a fire truck? The city of Boston runs trucks much longer than that, even realizing that they have their own maintenance fleet. He is bewildered. He keeps hearing KME, and maybe that was the problem. He was taken aback that the bouncing was still unresolved. Deputy Carter asked if he meant the popping issue with the throttle pedal, being too sensitive. They are trying to engineer that problem out. Selectman Maddox asked what damage that was doing to the drive train, pumps, etc., that might end up costing downstream. Chief Murray said it is pretty much resolved; it is not hopping. They redesigned a throttle for it. Part of it is now a software programming issue. Selectman Maddox said he was concerned about issues downstream that they will end up paying for. He is having a problem replacing vehicles at 12 years.

Chairman Jasper agreed, saying they may have hit the nail on the head and maybe in the future, they look at spending more up front. Perhaps at 10 years old, go out and do a really thorough going through so they will last 17, 18, 19 years. With the problems they currently have in the fleet, that may not be realistic. Deputy Carter said the vehicles they are buying for the amount of money being appropriated. He talked to area departments and mechanics to see what they were doing. Londonderry currently places their engines every 12 years. They run them first out for 10, put them in reserve for two, then replace them at 12 years. They spend about \$370,000 for an engine, like Hudson does. Nashua and Salem replace vehicles every 15 years, running them first out for 12 years and in reserve for three, but they are also spending about \$430,000 average for truck. They get the heavier duty chassis, motor, transmission—a step up. For \$370,000 they are getting the lower end manufactured fire trucks.

Selectman Nadeau asked if they'd be better off doing more preventative maintenance. Deputy Carter said absolutely. Mr. Malizia said perhaps they could set up a capital reserve for repair of large fire apparatus, expendable by the Board of Selectmen, it might alleviate some of the need to replace a vehicle in 12 years, so maybe they would get 15. They'd have sufficient funds to repair them and get another five years out of the truck. That's something worth looking at. They already have an apparatus fund to buy apparatus; having a fund to repair apparatus might be prudent and something to think about for this budget cycle, or a future one.

Selectman Massey said what he was internalizing was what the cost could be, the 12-year cost, including maintenance and what the 15-year cost would be, including maintenance. It would make it easier to understand because if you don't set up the cost, then they are at the back end when they are on the reserve line, or for the second out, or whatever, you are in this heavy maintenance cost, but if they plan either a 12-year cycle or a 15-year cycle, and had the cost of the maintenance based on that cycle included, then it would be easier to plan for whether it was going to be a 12 or 15 year project. That would be the first piece. The second thing is that he is still coming back to, he thinks what is being suggested is they want to come in this year with two vehicles in the budget, a fire alarm truck and a new vehicle for the Chief. Deputy Carter said that was correct.

Selectman Nadeau asked if the cost for the fire alarm truck should be shared with DPW, or if they should buy it outright. He didn't like to see lease purchases. Chief Murray said he'd like to buy the new utility and give the Highway Department the old utility because they are currently using the Fire Department fire alarm truck to change light bulbs on the streets and to do tree trimming. In a perfect world, they shouldn't be risking that fire alarm truck for cutting branches for fear of damaging the bucket truck. Selectman Maddox asked how much a bucket truck cost. Chief Murray said just under \$100,000. Selectman Maddox asked if they were using it only three days a month, or 10 days. Chief Murray said potentially. Selectman Maddox said he was trying to look outside the box a little bit and ask if it's a better idea to go out and rent that truck. The utilities don't even have all of their own bucket trucks; they go out to a company that provides that service. They wouldn't have to maintain or store it; it would be a cost per day, per week, or whatever, but they don't have to find garage space for it. He is just trying to look at another option. Chairman Jasper said that was nice, but what happens when a fire alarm system goes down at 2 a.m., or there is a bad snowstorm. Selectman Nadeau had the same concerns as Chairman Jasper. Selectman Maddox said they could be called out any time day or night. Deputy Carter said the cost would be approximately \$102,000 and they keep all their tools and equipment in the compartments to do repairs or installations. There is a lot they do with that truck. Selectman Maddox asked if they would be better off to sub that work out completely. Again, space, truck—is there a better way to do that? Chief Murray said they looked into subbing out a couple of years ago, and there are no cost savings.

Selectman Massey asked if it could be a Chevy 3500 or a Ford 350, with a bucket. Deputy Buxton said the vehicle that is presently being bid is a Ford 550, and it needs to be that big for the reach. On Lowell Road or Central Street, the reach is easy, but it's difficult in some areas, such as behind PMA, where they've got wire running. They need a significant reach to do those repairs. Selectman Massey asked who owned those fire alarm systems. Deputy Buxton said it was the municipal fire alarm loop, owned and maintained by the town. Selectman Maddox said, to that end, a lot of communities are going to a radio box. He asked if that was something Hudson will look at in the near future. Chief Murray said he was pretty proud of the system they currently have. Through many storms in the past two years, he's seen that system hold up. It is well maintained by Lt. Kearns and his crew, so he wouldn't think about going to radio boxes with such a well-working system they have now. Selectman Maddox said, again, what would that cost them, as opposed to what would be saved. They wouldn't have to buy a bucket truck or need the wire. At some point, radio boxes are going to be the way, and a lot of communities have gone to that. Do they buy a vehicle that is going to support technology that is no longer there? He asked the Chief to come in with the information. Chairman Jasper asked if Selectman Maddox wanted to know what it would cost to replace every master box in town. Selectman Maddox said that's the responsibility of the owner of the building; tell them they've got five years to swap over. That's what most towns are doing right now; that's what his employer does. They change them over because it does get cost prohibitive to continuously maintain those lines. Chairman Jasper said for some people, that's about the only service they get for their property taxes. Chief Murray said they pay a fee for their permits, though.

Deputy Carter said they were talking about the bucket truck and car for this year. He moved the tanker back a year, with the idea of replacing it with a larger tanker that would actually replace both of their tankers. When Tanker 5 is due to be replaced, they just wouldn't do it. They would try to make the operation work with the one tanker, a 3,000 tank, versus 1,500 each. He moved out the rescue two years. Currently, it has low maintenance and repair cost with very low mileage, so he bumped that out to 2012. Chairman Jasper said Deputy Carter wasn't here last year, but part of the discussion was, in replacing the engine, was to make it more like a rescue, so they would not be replacing that rescue; perhaps with a vehicle that would transport people, but not replacing it with a rescue like that. Deputy Carter said he was up to speed on that, but didn't know if he agreed with that philosophy. It's going to be hard with what that rescue truck gives them without putting pieces on this truck and pieces on that truck. They're not going to be able to replace the cascade system; they won't be able to put the heavy duty Hearst tool and get manpower to the scene to use that, with the airbags, the rams, the cribbing and everything else that truck holds, not to mention all the ropes, the water rescue, low grade, heights rescue—all that truck does for them. Chairman Jasper said that was the discussion they had with Fire Administration last year, supplying the new engine as a rescue pumper and trying to think outside the box on some of the other things. Does this town actually need four engines? He has long felt the only reason they need four engines, for the most part, is for backup when one goes down. Following the discussion they had, that was pretty much the conclusion they came to, but he didn't disagree with some of the things the Deputy had to say. There was some discussion that went into the whole process. Chief Murray said they were moving it out to 2012 and by then they will have run the new engine and have a better understanding and feel for whether they need to keep it or get away with getting rid of it. It has low mileage and low maintenance, right now. They will do some minor light changes, put some LED lights on it and take care of those, and then they will reevaluate it in 2012. Deputy Carter the concept of a rescue pumper is a good one. It definitely lets them start the operation before the rescue truck can get there, so that definitely enhances the operation, and he agreed 100% with that. He just didn't know if they'd be able to replace what that truck does for them when they need it.

Continuing, Deputy Carter said the other truck they moved out was the ladder, from FY2010 to 2015. With the work that was done on the motor, the \$42,000 that was put into the motor, with the refurb of the lighting systems because the current lights are corroded. The mechanics have been replacing them as they die. The air system will have to be looked at and some body

work. It's starting to rust. With some minor refurbishment, he thinks they can move that out to 2015. Everything else, they kept the same. They pushed the prevention van back a year because that's in decent shape.

Selectman Massey wanted a consensus of the Board because for the budget cycle, he'd like to see a cost of ownership for a 12 year cycle for the engines and a cost of ownership for a 15 year cycle so they could determine, from a budgeting perspective, which of those two avenues to go down because, again, as the Town Administrator indicated, if they are thinking they are going to go for 12 years, and they don't budget the right kind of maintenance, then they don't make 12 years. If they change it to 15 years, that's a different kind of maintenance, so the cost of ownership is the entire cost of purchasing and maintaining for either the 12 or 15 year cycle. If the rest of the Board doesn't think that's important, he understands. Mr. Malizia asked if he wanted that information in order to determine if a capital reserve fund was appropriate, or just for the exercise. Selectman Massey said to determine if a capital reserve fund was appropriate. It may turn out not to be cost effective to have a 15 year cost of ownership. Chief Murray asked what figure the Board wanted to use for the cost of the apparatus. Mr. Malizia said an appropriation accelerated by a percentage every year. (Talking over each other.) Selectman Massey said if he was going to go do this, he'd be looking at this... they know what Engine 1 cost in 1997, and if they are going to replace it in FY12, then they have to estimate how much it's going to cost to maintain it for those 12 years. If they were going to maintain it for 15 years, they'd add three additional years of maintenance on to it. The cost of ownership is for the current equipment, not for the next piece that comes after it. Chief Murray said they'd look at that. Selectman Massey asked if he was missing something. Mr. Malizia said Engine 1 and Engine 3 are not the typical engines they are procuring today. They are lesser engines, bought sort of on an emergency basis. They spent about half of what they are spending. He asked if they wanted to maintain those, which are not built to go 12 or 15 years. Chairman Jasper said they were meant to go 10, 12 maximum, when they were bought. Selectman Massey said what they were being asked tonight was to endorse a plan that sets a 12-year replacement cycle and they have no data to indicate whether 12 years is the right number, 15 or 20. Five years ago, people were talking about 20-year life cycles. All of a sudden, they are down to 12? What happened to cause that? Probably 20 was not quite realistic, but to go to 12? He's trying to understand why they can't set it at 15.

Selectman Robinson said the preventative maintenance program might be a wise way to go and maybe they should look at the cost of that, a maintenance technician who can work on these types of engines and see if that route would be more cost effective than the route Selectman Massey is suggesting. If they brought it in-house, how much could they save in the long run? And, with that, it would lengthen the life of the fire engines. Chairman Jasper said they really would have to polish that crystal ball. Selectman Maddox said they were now in the process of shoveling against the ocean with a pitchfork. Whatever the Board decides today will be changed by the five people sitting in these chairs in five years, so 15 years is a nice number to plug in and see where it goes. When he first got to be a Selectmen, he was told a fire truck would last 20 years, and now it is down to 12. They've got to show him why that happened. The document they were following tonight might not be the document the Selectmen would follow in 2014, so it was just a waste of all of their energies. It will be what the town can afford. It will be what the town believes it needs, at that point. This is just purely a guideline and they are tying themselves to a document that is fluid, at best. As Fire Prevention gets better, there are fewer fire calls. They may have six ambulances and one fire truck. They don't know what is going to happen 10 years from now, and trying to put this on paper tonight... leave it at 15, and where that goes for the next souls sitting in these chairs will be another decision for another night.

Chairman Jasper didn't think they need to worry about whether it's 12 or 15 tonight because it's going to change and the reality is what they can afford, the condition of the trucks at that time. He didn't think they really need to look, for the purpose of what they were doing, beyond the next two or three years. As far as big equipment, if they go all the way out to 12, they've got one engine. As Deputy Carter said, by 12, that 97 will be 15 years. That's the max on that. They won't worry about another engine on the 12 year replacement schedule until 2019. Selectman Maddox said he didn't also want to stick the Selectmen that the Board has set up a policy that's 12 because none of them will be there, except Selectman Jasper. Chairman Jasper said in 2022, nobody is going to say the Selectmen in 2007 said this, because the current Selectmen aren't worrying about what the Town Council said. Look at the next few years. Is it a reasonable schedule for what they can see out in the next few years? Yes, because even the rescue is out to 2013, and he isn't going to worry about 2013 today.

Selectman Massey said he agrees with both of them. It really doesn't matter. This is kind of a guideline and, as a matter of fact, whether they do next year what is on the plan is going to depend on who the five Selectmen are and what the town needs and can afford, etc. However, it does still say that on an annual basis, based on the current life cycle of apparatus, a prudent budgeting effort for maintenance needs to be there. He has to believe there are vehicle maintenance software programs that can help determine, based on the engine hours and the service hours what kind of maintenance they could be predicting—a predictive maintenance system. Otherwise, they wind up in this same thing—\$50,000 in unplanned maintenance, and that was kind of an off the wall occurrence, but you live and die by preventative maintenance. You live with preventative maintenance; you die with emergency maintenance.

Deputy Carter agreed with Selectman Massey about preventative maintenance. He pulled up some figures today. Last year, from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007, maintenance and repair expenditures on all their apparatus was \$96,649. Their cost for in-house mechanics, part time and overtime, not to mention firefighters who have come in to shuffle the vehicles around to go to Manchester, Reading, MA, Connecticut, they paid out \$28,899. They are putting money into preventative maintenance, but they probably could be doing more. Selectman Massey said his point was, just like they all have automobiles, and the manufacturer has a maintenance schedule and, at certain intervals, you do certain things, and each one of those intervals costs some money and at other intervals, they cost a lot of money because a lot more work is done and it's based on the miles on the car. With fire apparatus, he believes it is based on engine hours because the engine is sitting there running when it is not moving. It's not the mileage that drives, although it does a little bit because it's wear and tear when

running down the road, but engine idling when pumping water, so he has to believe there are software programs out there that can help determine the appropriate points in time and the cost of those types of maintenance programs. Chairman Jasper said he was sure there are, in terms of lubes and filters and servicing the transmissions and all of that. The fact is, no matter what they do, things are going to go. Head gaskets are going to blow and no amount of preventative maintenance is going to stop some of those things. They just happen and there's nothing you can do to stop those things from happening.

Selectman Nadeau was surprised to hear the \$28,000 overtime figure, just to shuffle equipment around. Chairman Jasper clarified that that was the cost, including that. Deputy Carter said they currently pay the mechanics, working part-time, \$28,900. It doesn't include what they do with on-duty personnel. Selectman Nadeau thought that was a lot of money. Selectman Maddox wanted to swing back to memory lane and said one of the reasons why maintenance costs were so high during the previous year was they made a conscious effort to delay replacement of the second KME engine in 1992, to stop having the next Board of Selectmen in 12, 15, 20 years back to back, so they kind of carried more maintenance; that's in that \$90,000 or whatever, to keep that truck on the road another year so that they would be able to spread apart buying brand new fire trucks, not back to back, but several years in between, so some of those numbers might be slightly skewed, inasmuch as they are carrying around a truck they knew they were going to pay more for maintenance this year. He asked if the consensus was 15 and they could move on. Chairman Jasper said he wasn't worrying about anything past 2012, and that's one engine, which will be 15 years. What they put beyond that, he couldn't care, because it isn't going to matter because it was too many years out and there were too many variables.

Chief Murray asked if there was consensus from the Board, or direction from the Board, whether the Selectmen would support a car and a utility this year. Chairman Jasper asked what the Chief would be driving. Chief Murray said he'd be staying with a Tahoe. Selectman Maddox asked what was low profile about that vehicle. Chief Murray said he didn't have the LED lights, etc. It was replacing what he already has, and it will be state bid. Selectman Massey said he supports seeing it come in during the budget, but reserved the option, based on the entire town budget, to make appropriate changes. It should be brought in, as part of the budget package. Chairman Jasper said that's the utility vehicle and the Tahoe. Selectman Robinson said he'd support the utility, but they'd have to work on him for the fourth car. Selectman Nadeau asked if it could be something smaller than a Tahoe. Chief Murray said they would look at state bid to see what they have, but the Tahoes they have are mid-size and he's very pleased with the way they handle. Selectman Nadeau thought something smaller might like, like the Police Department's Trail Blazer. Chief Murray said he carries a lot of stuff, including fire gear, which the police don't carry. Last time, they got a good price on the Tahoes because they were state bid. Selectman Nadeau said he'd wait to see what the state bid came in at.

Chairman Jasper said they talked about the Training Officer using a Forestry truck and asked if they should look at keeping another police cruiser for his runaround vehicle, instead of a pickup truck. Deputy Carter said that's what they're using the Crown Vic for. Chairman Jasper thought that was going to Fire Prevention. Deputy Carter said it'd be doing double duty. On the days the Fire Prevention guys aren't out doing inspections, the Training Captain can grab it and do what he needs to do. The Crown Vic is getting up there in miles and age, so instead of getting rid of it, they'd keep it and get some use out of it. Selectman Maddox why they couldn't use a police cruiser for the Deputy. Two vehicles in one year is a little tough. Chairman Jasper said they were mixing apples with oranges. They want to get rid of the 2000 Crown Vic, but rather than sending it off to auction, they decided to keep it. They were due to get another command vehicle, anyhow. Selectman Maddox said he was just trying to be cheap. When they want to buy a \$100,000 bucket truck in the same year you are going to buy a \$34,000 Tahoe, he was trying to see... Chairman Jasper said next year, they are looking at a tanker, which is going to be a lot more money than a utility and a Tahoe. Selectman Maddox said they're going to get that with a grant. The Quint! All he was trying to do was keep down that number in the Fire Department and total budget. He could be talked into it later, but he's just saying that's one way to get a \$110,000 vehicle and a police vehicle for short money for one year, then come in for the Tahoe. They all know the tanker, whatever... Chairman Jasper said they're looking at the tanker which, at that point, will be 23 years old. Deputy Carter said the bucket truck is currently 37 years old; almost older than him! Chairman Jasper said if they start running those tankers too long... when he drove a tanker, it finally got to the point where he told the Deputy Chief, at that time, he wasn't driving it any more. He was very upset and called the state, who looked at it and took it off. That truck was 23 years old. There is a point when they've got to replace vehicles. They can push it off one year, but then it lines up with three vehicles the next year—the ambulance, a tanker and a car. Selectman Maddox said in 10, there's nothing but a car and a prevention van. Again, he was... Chairman Jasper said that's actually 2011. Selectman Massey said they were shifting all of the dates to the left one column. Selectman Maddox said in 11, there is a car and a prevention van. Chairman Jasper said now he was saying the Vic would be 11 years old and have over 100,000, as a vehicle for command staff. Selectman Maddox said they need to see where his number comes out for the final budget. At this point, they are all just spinning.

Selectman Robinson said if he had Mr. Dilworth's horse, he'd push it over, at this point in time. Chairman Jasper agreed, but if the Board wants to talk, the Board can talk. Selectman Robinson asked to make a motion to move this along. Chairman Jasper said there is nothing to move.

### **Impact Fees**

Chief Murray asked the Board for authorization to investigate, including seeking legal counsel, on the Fire Department's ability to work with the Planning Board on collecting impact fees. In the previous year, the town was facing a potentially very large development, and there is talk in the media about another conceptual plan, consisting of 800 units, older adult community, assisted living and perhaps a nursing home facility. They continue to see growth within the town and he thinks it is time to look at the cost of public safety facilities, and the potential for future development in town and, perhaps, offset

some of that cost of public safety by adding the Fire Department/public safety to the public impact fee schedule. He had provided the Board with some of the state RSA's on impact fees. He started to research the subject, checking with other fire departments and reading up on the legislation, but as he's been told, a lot of that is driven by the Planning Board. He asked if he should be moving forward with this.

Chairman Jasper didn't know if there was much to research. His only concern is that the six years the Planning Board has imposed, and the Planning Board has the ability to change that number. The statute doesn't seem to say six year. Selectman Maddox believed that was statute-driven. Chairman Jasper said he was reading this today, and he didn't think so, then reversed himself, saying six years maximum, but it could be less. The problem with that is the same situation with the schools, where they may have to turn money back. Six years is such a short period of time for a capital facility that they're just not likely to do anything but create a lot of paperwork and sending checks back and forth and they'd collect so little, he thinks they are better off... it's worked for the roads because they are constantly doing road work, but this can't be used for renovation and upgrades. It's got to be used for a new facility. Selectman Maddox believed it was for increased capacity, so if they put an addition on to a building, they'd still be covered. Chairman Jasper said yes, that was true, but it would have to be physical bricks and mortar. For what they are going to collect in six years, he just didn't think it was going to work for that type of thing. The schools are going to be turning back money, so doing this probably doesn't make any sense. Selectman Maddox said, relative to the library, the fee that you can charge is based upon what you've expended over X amount of years they do the study for, so they've put very little money into the library, so every house that is built has to contribute \$124. Since they haven't done anything but build a police station, it would be difficult for the Fire Department to be able to justify that, so they may get 100 bucks a house. Chairman Jasper didn't know if commercial development had a formula that would allow for that, because everything has been driven by residences. The roadway they pay by site, and some commercial, depending on what it is, has paid a recreation contribution. Chairman Jasper said when you look at the history of the Fire Department, it hasn't been expanded since 1981. Selectman Maddox said they spent no money, so they can only charge the difference.. it's a formula that Mayberry does, but if the library is getting only \$124, he didn't see getting much more for the Fire Department. If they combined it together with the Police Station, maybe there might be some monies extracted.

Chief Murray said he was thinking about future design cost fees, or architectural fees and things like that, knowing what they have ahead of them in years to come. Chairman Jasper said the problem is it's little money, but the Planning Board could look at it. Selectman Maddox asked where they would come up with the money to do the study because Mayberry charges around \$12,000. Unless they are doing it in conjunction with the roads and everything else, maybe when they do an update, he can bring that up as something they might want to look at, but to do it as stand alone, they will pay a lot of money and probably just barely recoup those costs.

Chairman Jasper said it was a good idea and he applauded the Chief for pursuing that but, at the end of the day, it's not worth it. Selectman Maddox said maybe he can meet with the Chief and talk to Mr. Mayberry to ask what he has done in other towns, find out what it would cost and then make a decision. Before the Board sends the Chief down the road of negativity, maybe talking (with Mr. Mayberry) because putting in hydrants may count, before they say no. Selectman Robinson said if the Fire Chief chooses to pursue it, he'd encourage him to do so and let the Board know what he finds out. Chairman Jasper didn't think this should involved legal counsel. Looking at what other towns do would be the only helpful thing, but that six years limitation makes it pretty impractical.

#### **Capital Reserve for Protective Clothing and Equipment**

Chief Murray said they are coming up on 10 years of protective equipment that needs to be replaced. He asked the Board to consider establishing a capital reserve fund for protective clothing and equipment, such as SCBA's, in order to begin collecting money to have a replacement plan every 10 years for gear. They did not get the Assistance to Firefighters' grant for the tanker, but the other part of the grant was for protective clothing and a washing extractor and dryer, and they are still in the running for that. If that comes through, that was \$135,000 project, which would benefit the town. He still thinks it is important to consider going to a capital reserve account.

Selectman Maddox said the Chief should come in with some numbers, adding that he hoped they weren't going to replace the SCBA's every 10 years. Whatever the factors are, he should come in with those numbers, much like the Police Department did with the guns, the vests, etc. It's much easier to budget this over a period of years and makes a lot more sense than trying to drag that \$150,000 out of them. Mr. Malizia said it's also a warrant that the voters can make a decision on. It's a separate item and not like they are tucking it in the budget. The voters have a say. Selectman Robinson said he absolutely supported that; it's a prudent way to go, for the voters and for the Chief, who said he'd bring this up during the budget season.

#### **Hiring a Fire Department Mechanic**

Chief Murray said earlier, Deputy Carter alluded to the high cost of vehicle maintenance and what they pay for personnel to work part-time and maintain the vehicles. Most of the maintenance required is anything that is not beyond their scope and certification; they are not certified mechanics, and they are not allowed to work on any of the safety systems, such as the brakes. He asked the Board to consider, at some point, looking into hiring a full-time mechanic for the Fire Department. In a lot of ways there could be some cost savings to that. Certainly, it would help to continue a preventative maintenance program that is a little more consistent, and something to look for in the long run.

Selectman Maddox said they heard the same speech from the Road Agent. He wondered if both needs could be combined, and they could hire a mechanic that would be able to deal with both departments. They could work out how to break that out, budget-wise, and be able to utilize the Highway garage that could lift anything but a bladder, be able to take care of their

needs and understand those vehicles, whatever; they'd have to work out how the sharing works. If there was a guy there training in all that equipment, he could serve both departments. That's probably a win-win for both the Fire Department and the Highway Department. Selectman Robinson said he alluded to that during the discussion of the vehicles and how prudent it would be to have a mechanic on the payroll within the town of Hudson and they could do a snapshot of what it would cost for an in-house mechanic versus what was paid outside. In the discussions he's had with the two Deputies, to do what is suggested would be extremely prudent, in the long run, for the taxpayers. While there is salary and benefits involved, by the time they get done paying out what they pay for the folks to work on the trucks outside the town of Hudson, they are talking hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years, so it's an opportunity for great savings, if they do that.

Chairman Jasper cautioned not to come to that conclusion, necessarily, because they spent \$98,000 outside but a lot of that was the engine and ladder truck. They don't know how much of that was labor and how much was parts. They probably aren't going to save anything on parts. He agreed with Selectman Maddox. First of all, that station doesn't have a proper bay to work on the trucks. It's something to look at, if they look at another station, they should look at, but Kevin's got two mechanics now; he wants to go to four. The Board could direct him to give at least 20 hours a week to the Fire Department. That still gives him 20 more hours than he had, and he might not necessarily need all those hours. He can still have some of the in-house people do some of the more mundane things. They are not going to go to warrant for two mechanics this year; it isn't going to happen. They shouldn't just be playing a game, here. If they go for a mechanic, it's going to be one mechanic and they will direct that it will be half for the Fire Department and half for Highway.

Selectman Robinson said while he appreciates the Chairman's comments, he doesn't appreciate him assuming that he did not agree with Selectman Maddox. He, also, thinks Selectman Maddox's suggestion was prudent in his suggestion of a combined mechanic. He believes there is concern by both the Fire Chief and Mr. Burns regarding someone qualified to work for both departments, and both department heads could work on that together to see if that is a viable option. Chairman Jasper said he has suggested that twice to the Chief, that he get together with the Road Agent. At that time, trash was a pressing issue for the Road Agent, consuming all of his time. He didn't know if a meeting has transpired, or late. Chief Murray said no, just because of that reason. He didn't mean to put the Road Agent on the spot, but he'd have that discussion to see if it would even be feasible. One of the conflicts they might get into is, obviously, the Road Agent has now issues in the wintertime that he has to deal with, and the Fire Department have emergency vehicles that need to be turned around quickly. Chairman Jasper said the Road Agent only has two mechanics now and, worst case, he can pretend he only has two mechanics then. If the Fire Department has a breakdown the same time the Road Agent does, the snow can wait over a fire truck waiting, and that can be the directive of the Board. Selectman Maddox said he'd go the other way. (Talking over each other.) Chairman Jasper said they aren't going to have the whole fleet go down. They have lots and lots of snowplows, but only a few fire trucks. With two mechanics dedicated to the Highway Department, they can work this out. They shouldn't be making a big deal out of this. They've made enough things big deals tonight, without killing this one, too. If they say look, this is what we're going to do, and this is what they are going to do. End of discussion. Selectman Maddox said a decree. Chairman Jasper said by the Board, not by him. Chief Murray said that's all he has for this evening.

#### **D. Sewer Utility**

Chairman Jasper suggested deferring all of the other public items tonight to another time, and that Town Administrator Steve Malizia can fit them in, as appropriate. Mr. Malizia said the Engineer was unable to be present tonight, but Howard was present, who could speak to the Sewer Utility, so the Board can have an idea of what projects the Sewer Utility is looking at.

Sewer Utility Vice-Chairman Howard Dilworth was recognized, saying he saw on the board where the Sewer Utility was going to be discussed, as part of the rotation through departments, so he came to the meeting. Had he not seen it on the bulletin board, he probably wouldn't be here. He didn't know who else knew about this, but asked, on behalf of the Committee, if they could have a little more advance notice through the Committee, which would be appreciated. Relative to, "what are we looking to do for the next fiscal year?," they are pretty much going to stay the course, as they have for a number of years. They have some amount of piping they will replace. They seem to do a street or two every year. They will be looking, through the budget, having previously established the warrant article, but with all of the commotion over Nashua's lack of letting Hudson know what was going on at the treatment plant, they plum forgot to put money into a Vactor truck, so they probably need to look at putting a double amount this year, which would be \$100,000 instead of \$50,000. He's not sure what the cost of a Vactor truck is, but it's probably between \$150,000 and \$200,000. Probably for March 2009, unless something seriously happens, they will probably be looking to replace the Vactor truck. Like Selectman Nadeau, he is not a fan of lease-purchase. The intent is to have enough money available in the reserve fund to buy it outright. He didn't know what the town's side of the thing is because this is a shared piece of equipment between Sewer and Drains, so the taxpayers pay for part of it and the sewer users pay for the rest. The Sewer Utility is looking to pay for their part of it in cash.

A warrant article they need to do is, again, the changing of the purpose of the capital reserve fund for the Nashua Wastewater Treatment Plant. It is extremely unfortunate they had an individual in town this year, who having been so caught up in the Green Meadow thing, thought that anything the town was doing in the way of trying to improve or expand its existing capacity was a front for Green Meadow. They've had that reserve fund for quite some time and they just need to do a better job of explaining to people that the reason they are looking to purchase extra capacity is because Nashua may not be expanding the wastewater portion of their plant, and Hudson may need to buy extra capacity. The way the reserve fund is structured, it does not give Hudson that option, so they will be looking to have a warrant article to expand the purpose of the reserve fund this year. Hopefully, they can do a better job selling it.

Finally, he thanked Selectman Massey, who will be the Sewer Utility liaison and will be attending meetings because they've missed not having a Selectman present. Selectman Massey said it's unfortunate that the individual made charges about the purpose of that warrant article. Documentation showed that the earliest they had been talking about changing the purpose of that warrant article was in September 2003, which predated Green Meadow by at least two years. The individual was invited to the Sewer Utility meeting to discuss the issue, but they chose not to attend, which was upsetting to the committee, having gone to the effort of demonstrating the purpose of the article. Yet, the damage in the newspapers had been done as to why it was there, and it is an important warrant article and the Board should support putting it back on the warrant this year.

- E. Engineering Department (deferred)
- F. Water Utility (deferred)
- G. BOS/Administration (deferred)

5. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN (deferred)

6. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to enter nonpublic Session under 91-A:3 II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee, carried 4-1 by roll call vote. Selectman Maddox voted in opposition.

Nonpublic Session was entered into at 10:45 p.m., thus concluding the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken in open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. Open session was entered into at 10:59 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to hire Glen Brandish as Firefighter EMT-I in the Fire Department, Probation Step at an hourly rate of \$14.16, in accordance with the IAFF Local 3154 contract, effective September 16, 2007, as recommended by the Fire Chief, carried 4-1.

Selectman Maddox voted in opposition, saying he did so because the person did not meet the requirements. Chairman Jasper said no one has felt it necessary or prudent to negotiate an interim step, and it is within the Fire Chief's purview to waive the job requirement. This is a financially responsible action and, by the end of the probationary period, the individual will have met the requirements.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to adjourn at 11:00 p.m. carried 5-0.

Recorded by HGTV and transcribed by Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shawn N. Jasper, Chairman

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Benjamin J. Nadeau, Vice-Chairman

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Kenneth J. Massey, Selectman

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Richard J. Maddox, Selectman

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Douglas K. Robinson, Selectman