

HUDSON, NH, BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the Workshop Meeting of November 1, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Jasper the meeting of November 1, 2011 at 7:01 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Selectman Maddox.
3. ATTENDANCE – Shawn Jasper, Roger Coutu (arrived at 7:15 p.m.), Rick Maddox, Ben Nadeau, and Ted Luszey

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to enter nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:2 (a) strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining, carried 4-0 by roll call.

Chairman Jasper stated that we will be entering into a brief, hopefully Nonpublic Session. This will not end the televised portion of our meeting. We will be coming back and continuing the public televised session of the meeting. Any votes taken during Nonpublic will be announced as we re-enter. At this time, any member of the public is asked to leave the room. We are in Nonpublic at 7:03 p.m. We are back at 7:30 p.m. To clarify the record, once we went into Nonpublic, we discovered that we were really in Nonpublic under the wrong section of the Right to Know Law. We immediately came back out of Nonpublic into public session and did not go back on television because it was so quick. Made a new motion to re-enter Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (d) consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property. We are not back.

For the record, Chairman Jasper said during Nonpublic Selectman Coutu did arrive.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Fire Apparatus Replacement

Chairman Jasper indicated that the Fire Chief spoke with me this afternoon about the fire apparatus replacement. I'm sure as you can all appreciate, he is very busy and he didn't want to cancel for sure at the time he spoke to me he said he was ready to go but he wasn't sure if he was going to be able to actually get here with everything that was going on and a few last minute things that he wanted to do. We're going to put off the Fire Department apparatus replacement until another time. We will move into budget review wrap up. Although perhaps the Board would like to deal with one of the most pressing items in town right now which is rescheduling Trick or Treat.

Selectman Nadeau said yes and Selectman Luszey seconded.

Without objection, Chairman Jasper said we'll deal with postponed Trick or Treating. Most other communities have dealt with them and they are Saturday and Sunday the 5th or the 6th. The only problem going to the 6th is we have to remember that the clock is falling back and we'd have to do an hourly in clear time.

For that reason Mr. Chairman, Selectman Maddox moved that we change it Saturday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Is that our usual hours? Chairman Jasper believed it was 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Selectman Coutu said 6 to 8 is correct.

Mr. Malizia wanted to point out two things. I believe the Turkey raffle is Saturday. I'm not sure what time that starts. I think it's a little earlier than normal. Also the Broncos are doing a comedy thing also. So I point out the turkey raffle. It's a very popular event. Selectman Nadeau has gone to that multiple times yes. Mr. Malizia indicated it was on Saturday night and it's going to be starting at 5 p.m. or 6 p.m. It's point out.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to hold Trick or Treat on Saturday, November 5th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Selectman Nadeau thought Sunday would probably be a better day. I think Sunday if we did it at 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. would be a better time even though it's getting a little darker earlier. I think that will probably the way I'd like to go is Sunday afternoon.

Chairman Jasper asked if Selectman Nadeau was offering that as an amendment. Selectman Nadeau said yes.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to hold Trick or Treat on Sunday, November 6th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., carried 5-0.

B. Budget Review Wrap Up

Chairman Jasper said they're being advised and directed by our able Finance Director.

Ms. Carpentier said a motion needed to be made to decrease cable. There are multiple lines as recommended by the Cable Committee. To decrease from \$371,613 to \$297,291, a decrease of \$74,322.

For the record before we have a motion made, Chairman Jasper said the Board is going to place in the budget a 4 percent franchise fee. We had in the budget a 5 percent franchise fee. After discussions this evening, we're changing that number. On the budget, that difference will be on the line of capital reserve.

Ms. Carpentier said most of it. As I understand, there have been some other line item changes. In Town Offices, page 19 – 5,000 series starts the Memo.

Chairman Jasper wanted to go to the specific lines that you are recommending.

Mr. O'Keefe wanted to discuss them first. Since I made the change and just handed them to Ms. Carpentier. Really there's only 3 line items that changed. The capital reserve being the bottom line one. We dropped down the salaries part time based on feedback, particularly from Selectman Maddox that he felt that line was higher than we needed. We pulled out some items off of that. I've dropped that line down to \$16,962. As a result, the FICA also drops, which is the line after that – 1298. We left everything else as is. As a result of those decreases and a decrease in the revenue, that brings the capital reserve line item down to \$67,331. All that adds up to the number that the Finance Director gave you of \$297,291.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to amend the cable budget lines 102 from \$26,202 to \$16,962; line 108 from \$2,004 to \$1,298; and line 450 from \$131,457 to \$67,331 for a new total of \$297,291, carried 4-1. Selectman Maddox in opposition.

Ms. Carpentier handed them a hand out. On page 10 are the revenues – the summary package. It would be account number 4745. I believe the Committee would like to decrease it the same \$74,322.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to decrease line item 4745 from \$371,613 to \$297,291, a decrease of \$74,322.

Selectman Maddox, again, will vote in opposition because this does in fact raise the franchise fees and I think this is not the time to be doing that.

Vote: Motion carries 4-1 Selectman Maddox in opposition.

Selectman Maddox would like to entertain to the Board that we increase the Selectmen's contingency fund with the existing \$50,000 to \$100,000. The justification is that...

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to increase the Selectmen's contingency fund from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Selectman Maddox said the \$50,000 I went back and looked. It's been there for about 10 to 12 years. Sometimes we hit it, sometimes we don't. There are a number of things that are on the horizon especially where we are cutting this budget to last year's number. I think that we need to have some flexibility to be able to deal with the generator at the fire station just blew. I think that the \$50,000 doesn't go as far as it used to. We might need some extra money for legal if things are coming true with the Green Meadow situation. Any number of reasons. I think that we need to have some money in there. It's tough at the end of the year to say we're going rob from the departments because we've pretty much squeezed them as hard as we can. I'm just saying that I think it is in our best prudent interest to increase that line item for just what it's there for – contingencies.

Chairman Jasper said he'd speak to that. I don't disagree with you and I will support the motion. I'm not sure of the level and it may have been \$50,000 right from its creation. I think that was created in 1984 or possibly 1985. Because of controversy on the Board, it was jokingly referred to by John Lawrence as the John Lawrence slush fund. Mr. Bednar disliked it so much. This Board and previous boards have been very careful about not spending money out of there unless there was a real need. We know we're under funded this year in fuel and we have started our plowing season awfully early. There are certainly issues coming up. I think it probably would be prudent. If it wasn't \$50,000 in 1984, it has been \$50,000 for better than 20 years anyhow. I think it's always been \$50,000. Any further discussion?

Selectman Nadeau didn't know what we've been running at for the last few years. We're looking at a roof over at Lion's Hall. We could be doing a roof at one of the other fire stations. I don't know if \$75,000 is the right number but I think \$100,000, I haven't remembered a year that we've hit \$50,000 in a long time. I think \$75,000 might be the right number.

If it's a roof, Selectman Maddox said we put it in the budget. Again, we can't predict. We can chew threw money. Again where we've squeezed the budgets down to where we're not hiring police officers to keep the budget within its line. We're not hiring people to stay within our line items. Again, it won't take anything but a generator going or whatever it may be. We would not spend this money unless it was a contingency type of item. It's not meant to fill out the budget. It's purely meant and if we turn back \$100,000, great for us. I certainly don't want to be trying to find a department to take the money from if we need to find it because of something that we can't predict tonight.

Vote: Motion carried 4-1. Selectman Nadeau in opposition.

Chairman Jasper indicated that we've talked about possible funding of a vacancy that is not funded. I don't know if the Board wants to entertain that at this time or not. I don't want to call the Chief up here if there's no interest in doing that. We talked about really only in passing during the budget.

Selectman Coutu indicated that they had some discussion relative to how much money we would save and probably fund the position for half a year. Do you want to pursue that discussion? Now's the time to do it.

Selectman Maddox asked where KC was and the magic \$5.19. You're just talking to the operating expense, KC said the operating expense is \$5.18. The whole tax rate with the town wide paving is \$5.36. \$5.18 is where we are right now for tax 10. Selectman Maddox asked that the Police Chief give us a justification to bring an officer in at the second half of the fiscal year and see where it goes.

Chief Lavoie said it was problematic for me in the sense that the justification of it is a lot of it would have to be in nonpublic because of the types of problems that we're having. For me to speak in tune as to the issues that we're currently facing that we're seeing a rise in would then tip my hat as to the types of investigations that we're currently conducting. I'm kind of in a quandary here that we're seeing significant problems with narcotics. I think everyone has been familiar with some of the recent arrests that we've been making. There's also been an increase in some motorcycle gang activity, which I really can't get into.

Those are the issues that we're facing and more staffing would allow me to hopefully be able to have more eyes out there and allow me to do different things in order to investigate these types of crimes.

Selectman Coutu would then give consideration to what he just presented to us. Though I'm sure some of us knew what was going on. I would think that at this point we should defer to the end of the budget discussion and see where we stand. Chairman Jasper thought that was where we are at. I'm trying to figure out what section of RSA 91-A we would go into to discuss this. I don't there's anything that gives us the latitude to go in to discuss what you're suggesting. I understand. Chief Lavoie didn't know how the 91-A applies to the Board of Selectmen but under 91-A, I'm not required to make public any information regarding police investigations. So in that part, I don't know how it merges with when you're dealing with public meetings. That's the problem. Chairman Jasper said we don't really have the ability under 91-A to go in. They get that kind of information unless there's something going on. I think you've given enough information to the Board to understand where you're coming from on that.

Selectman Coutu had a couple of questions. First of all relative to the Library budget. We have no control over the Library budget. Mr. Malizia indicated that the Library Trustees are elected to run the library. I believe based on whatever the appropriation comes through the Budget Committee process, through the deliberative session process, through the town meeting process in the end is what controls the library budget. I'm sure you could do whatever you want and it could be pretty much undone as I understand it. Again, it goes to the Budget Committee after it goes from the Library Trustees. Selectman Maddox indicated that Chairman Jasper could certainly give guidance. You could give guidance to our liaison to the Budget Committee.

Selectman Coutu was concerned about them putting in a 3 percent raise, for example, for part timers. I didn't hear much justification other than they're certainly underpaid. So am I but that's life. There wasn't much justification given for a 3 percent raise for part timers. I don't know what it equates to. It's probably not significant. Its principle at this point for me. If the Board wants to discuss that, fine. I'm more concerned that we had agreed generally that we wanted to hold the tax rate. That was the goal that you had set from the outset. The tax rate for the 2012 year is \$5.18 is what you just told me KC. Chairman Jasper indicated that was correct. That includes the library budget. Selectman Coutu understood that \$5.18 for the operating. We are right now...KC indicated \$5.36 with the town wide paving. Selectman Maddox indicated that was a warrant article. Selectman Coutu asked where are we without the warrant article because I don't think the voters are going to approve the warrant article. KC said \$5.18.

Selectman Coutu said he could sit here and offer to make some cuts. I'm generally satisfied. We'll let the voters decide whether or not they want to have town wide paving. They need to understand, like the raises in the School Department, you vote yes, your taxes are going to go up. That's something you're requesting us to do. We're saying we presented a budget. We're going to present a budget to the Budget Committee. We've held our line at \$5.18 and if they were to approve this, we did what we set out to do. It's two years in a row we don't raise taxes on the town side. To sit here and suggest that we make further cuts to try to get it down to \$5.17 might be viewed as very petty at this point. I'm satisfied. We set a goal; we achieved the goal.

Selectman Maddox was wondering if we added – KC it's going to come down to you because I don't have my book. The vacant position in the Police Department for 6 months would probably be around \$40,000. KC indicated almost \$42,000. Selectman Maddox asked if that would keep us within that \$5.18. Chairman Jasper said that would move us up a penny.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to increase line item 5630-101 and benefits with roll ups for half a year to fill the vacant position in the Police Department, an increase of \$42,000.

Selectman Maddox indicated that Chairman Jasper appointed him to be the liaison to the Police Department. I have annoyed them as much as I have annoyed everybody that's been my liaison. I've been there regularly. I've heard the stories that Chief can't tell you. I've shared some of those with members of this Board. We're where we are. I think that position has been there. We're talking about hiring

somebody in January of 2013. I think that needs to be put in the budget and see where it goes. If other bodies decide to take it out, so be it.

Selectman Luszey's only question is we go after a number of grants for different types of programs for DWI support to try to control that. Is there anything available that you could apply for to help offset this cost?

Chief Lavoie said they have. For the last two years, we've put in for the cops more grant and we were denied both times. We're on a waiting list.

Selectman Nadeau had a question for the Chief. When we've done grants for the Fire Department, we've offered up our match to be raised up at a higher percentage. If they say it's a 20 percent match, we've offered a 30 percent or a 40 percent match just so that we could have a better rate of achieving these grants. Is that something we can do with the cops grant? Chief Lavoie indicated the submittal for the cops grant has already come and gone. The way that one works, it is in a percentage match. It's paid for the first 2 to 3 years and then you pay for subsequent years. It's carried out a little differently than the way the Fire Department is. There's no matching funds for the first few years. That's why we were working hard to try and get those. We thought it's a great savings for the community to be able to have an officer paid for essentially up to 3 years. Again, our only requirement is that we keep that person hired. You can't let him go. We just have not been successful. We're on a waiting list.

Selectman Coutu's concern Mr. Chairman is though we're going to commit, if we were to vote for this, we're committing to hiring a police officer for half a year but going into the next fiscal year's budget when we do the budget, we're going to have an additional full position that we're going to have to add unless we cut it back if we are in dire straits. I could support it if I felt I could get the votes to make a cut somewhere else to not raise the tax rate. The Board is going to do what the Board is going to do by majority. I don't want to go above \$5.18. This puts us at the \$5.19. If I could get support for further reductions to get us down to \$5.18 or below, then I would support it. As it stands if we felt that this was a priority, I would rather defer the motion until we make a cut to be able to pay for it. If we're going to do it, what's the cost if we went a full time employee for a full year? KC said a little less than \$84,000.

Chief Lavoie wanted to make sure that I'm clear on this too with what we're talking about. I currently have a vacant position. I believe that this discussion is about the unfunded position. A position that we had and is then unfunded. The way I would ask the Board to allow me should it go through would be it's easier for me to train two people at the same time. I currently have a vacancy that's been vacant all year thus far. I would like to try and take that cost or the balance of it and instead of saying okay wait until January of 2013 do like what we did the last time and I not fill that currently vacancy I have. Hold it over a little bit longer and bring them both in at the same time and splitting the baby as Selectman Maddox likes to say and bring them in October because I'll have that cost of the other vacancy. That savings there. That way there I'm getting all my training done at the same time. It's saving me money; it's saving me time.

Selectman Luszey indicated that they'd still have the same problem. It's just delayed.

Chairman Luszey said the Chief would bring the person in and would be 9 months instead of 6 months because the funded position would not be filled until 3 months. So it balances it out. It's still a net increase of \$42,000. Anything further?

Selectman Luszey had a comment on this. I'm kind of where Selectman Coutu is and that is I want to support this but I'm having a hard time supporting it if we know we're going to increase the rate. This is an essential service to the safety and welfare of the population. It baffles me how non essential services, and I know I'll take some heat on this from the library folks, that they continue to spend money that we could use to pay for this type of service for buildings that are not needed and programs that are nice to have and yet we can't do anything about that. I'm wondering if we could hold off on this vote to the deliberative session to see if we can get the voters at the deliberative session to help us understand the need for this versus the need for maintaining and fitting up a conference room at the old library. That's a double whammy. The library is selling services to our school district that impacts the tax rate. It doesn't impact "the town tax

rate” but it impacts the taxpayer’s tax rate. I think we need to somehow educate the voters on all of that so that they have the necessary information to make a better decision on where we should be spending the tax money.

Selectman Maddox said that Selectman Luszey is the liaison to the Budget Committee. I think you just had your opening statement. I agree. I think Mr. Chairman that we need to submit a budget. Waiting to put it at deliberative session is not the way to go. I’ve never been a fan of trying to do these things at the deliberative session. If we as the Board feel it’s justified, we put it in our budget. If we don’t, we don’t. To try to do it that day I think – we have a job to do and it’s to submit a budget.

Chairman Jasper wanted to make a couple of statements. I don’t think it is in the public interest to be pitting one town agency against another. I think the best that we can do for everyone is to simply make the case for or against specific items and not to try to pit one service against another. I do have a problem with that. The other I just have a problem with is if the Board believes that this is an important item yet is afraid to raise that tax rate back to where it was in the current year we’re in because remember inadvertently the tax rate down a penny. A penny doesn’t really amount to anything in of itself. That being said, I find it a little strange that we would find an increase of \$50,000 because we might need it more important than \$42,000 that we agree we need. I would hate to see us sit here and wring our hands over a penny and say we can’t afford it after having added \$.50. I would feel that if the Board feels strongly about this, we reconsider the \$50,000 increase and put that money towards the position of the police officer for half a year.

Motion by Selectman Luszey to reconsider the \$50,000 increase and put that money towards the position of the police officer for half a year.

Selectman Coutu indicated that we have a motion on the floor. If we ask the maker of the motion to withdraw the motion presently. Chairman Jasper won’t ask the maker to do that. The maker has the ability to do that. I would accept an amendment to the motion that would actually decrease the contingency fund. Pick the number. If you want to go back to \$50,000 or you want to bring it to \$60,000. When you’re talking \$2,000 here, we’re playing on the margins. What would your amendment be?

Selectman Luszey’s amendment would bring the contingent fund back to where it was and apply it towards this position.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to amend the motion by bringing the contingency fund back to \$50,000 and in payroll for patrol with the roll ups, we would be adding the \$42,000 which would result in a net decrease of \$8,000, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to increase line item 5630-101 and benefits with roll ups for half a year to fill the vacant position in the Police Department, an increase of \$42,000.

Vote: main Motion as amended, carried 5-0.

Chairman Jasper indicated that they all know where we’re going with contracts. We know what’s going on there. These numbers are not terribly out of whack. They will become more out of whack. My only recommendation here would be that we simply add \$1,000 to each of these positions.

Selectman Maddox asked for more information.

Chairman Jasper indicated that this is the differential. Last year, of course, we went down the list and we did a lot of changes. Our disparities many years ago and I think Selectman Nadeau was here. I don’t know if you were when we set the 10 percent differential we felt was appropriate between the first in command and the second. Currently the Town Administrator is the only person who actually his position has maintained the 10 percent between the Chiefs and himself. Mr. Malizia said frankly we never got to the 10 percent on the other ones. Mr. Malizia said that was a parameter that they Board did look at. You never did achieve it. You got closer with the last go around but you never were there.

If we are successful with contracts, Chairman Jasper indicated that things will be moving in the other direction. As I said, we all know where we are going with contracts. I'm merely suggesting that to maintain the differential at some level, I have to be careful what I say,...Selectman Maddox said \$5,000 is what you're saying. Chairman Jasper indicated that there's 9 people who are affected here. You could not apply it to all of them. You could apply it to all of them. Whatever the Board felt. I think we ought to take a look at that and see if we wish to do anything with what's coming up. We don't have to do anything. I'm just making the suggestion for a starting point for discussion. There's one person where there's no comparison is the Recreation Director. So the total number of people here is a total of 9. What I'm actually suggesting is \$9,000 plus the roll ups, which would be not significant. Is there any discussion on the idea or do you just want to move forward? Just wanted to make sure that we had a discussion on it or at least a consideration of it if not a discussion. Seeing no hands going up, we will move on.

Chairman Jasper asked if there was anything further that we have to wrap up the budget.

Mr. Malizia said we have the health care numbers in the default budget. We did the revenue. KC said she didn't have any bring back items.

Selectman Maddox asked for help with the town wide paving warrant article. I think that while a good idea, I think we need to have some more structure into it saying that we're going to add \$50,000 to what we have \$500,000 to something for some amount of time. I think we need to give the voters some more parameters than that. The warrant article as I was remembering it was we were adding \$500,000 a year for ever to whatever we have in the budget today.

Chairman Jasper said the warrant article doesn't say that. The warrant article says what it has to say – to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500,000 for town wide paving. We can put a narrative in there that will estimated to accomplish X number of miles of road. The town has the ability to put in specific roads. We can certainly do a lot of narrative anything else. It's up to the Board. Right now it's a simple warrant article of \$500,000 for town wide paving.

Selectman Maddox asked if it was for one year. Mr. Malizia said to raise and appropriate its \$500,000.

The way Selectman Maddox understood it Mr. Chairman, maybe I'm confused.

Chairman Jasper wanted to clarify what he said that would raise the base of the budget \$500,000. It would give the Board of Selectmen the ability to then say all right from here on out without affecting the tax rate, we would have \$790,000 available per year. That doesn't mean a board has to do that. This is a onetime but it adds to the base. Any time you add a warrant article, it adds to the base of next year's budget and then you can continue at that level without affecting the tax rate. However every Board of Selectmen has the ability to do whatever they want. I can't say its forever because it's not. The next Board of Selectmen could take this \$500,000 and add it to personnel and we could be back to \$290,000 of paving. Or they could take some of it and move it into paving and some of it someplace else. This is one time guaranteed \$500,000 additional for paving. Beyond that, it's entirely up to the next Board of Selectmen.

That makes Selectman Maddox more comfortable. Again I had people ask me about what. Again, I think that as long as it's a one time – and I understand its raising the budget, but the following year we could cut the budget half a million dollars if we so felt. Chairman Jasper said they could yes. All Selectman Maddox is trying to get at is it wasn't in perpetuity. Although you're raising the base, you could say that it is there. If we're explaining to the people though, that's all I'm getting at.

For instance, Chairman Jasper said the default the next year will be reduced by \$500,000. This would not be into the default calculation because it's not an ongoing obligation. It's not like hiring a person. It's not like bonded debt. This is one time. When we do the default calculation the next year, it will be out of there. If the next year we put it into the budget in paving, it would then be in the default because it was part of the previous year's budget. It takes two years to get a warrant article like this into the default.

In the process of the narrative, Selectman Coutu asked if we would explain to the voters how that would impact their taxes. Chairman Jasper said it will say on the warrant article that this will affect the taxes by \$.17. Mr. Malizia said we don't do that on any warrant article so I'm not sure that it ever says that. It does on the warrant when they get to the voting booth, the little lever does not say that at all. It just says it's in addition to. Selectman Maddox said it will cost less than \$.01. I thought that we've had that...Mr. Malizia said that's on a voter's guide. Chairman Jasper apologized. You're right. The voter's guide does that.

Mr. Malizia indicated what the warrant article would say is this is in addition to the operating budget Article X,Y,Z, number 10, or whatever it is so people would know. If they vote for this, they're paying for something over and above the regular budget. It does not give them in the voter's booth any kind of calculation of what it would be. I'm not aware that you could write a narrative in that warrant article. There are strict legal descriptions you have to do. I'm not sure how wordy or verbose you could get.

Selectman Coutu said that people have to understand that if this goes to a warrant article and they vote for it, it's going to increase our tax rate from \$5.18 assuming the operating budget is approved to \$5.35.

Chairman Jasper indicated that the flip side to that is we know and have known for years that we should be putting \$1 million a year. This warrant article and all reality should be ¾ of a million dollars to get us where we are. We decided that wasn't reasonable at this time. I would tend to agree with you. If I had to bet on it, I would bet that it would fail. I personally want to make sure that the voters have the opportunity to say yes we understand our roads are falling apart and that it's worth the \$.17 because I'm tired of losing hub caps, front ends, and everything else. It's not to that point, but it will get to that point. You can only fall ¾ of a million dollars behind every year for so many years before the roads are rubble. That's just the reality.

Mr. Malizia indicated that future boards could also advance the same article year after year to see if the people want to do it every year as opposed to taking it in or out of a default which would really create havoc with your process. You'd take a half a million dollars out some year, you're not going to get a budget to put it in I should say. Future boards can do that too.

Selectman Maddox said as long as we've flushed it out, we're good at this point.

5. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Nadeau – The first one is I'd like to thank everybody who helped at the Fright Night. We had a lot of volunteers and local businesses that made Fright Night a very big success.

The other one is I have not been able to check my e-mail or have internet access for about 3 days now. I'm wondering if this Board has had any discussions or talked to the Road Agent about opening the Landfill for brush. Mr. Malizia said it's on the web page for the residents out there. The Landfill will be open this Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for yard waste – brush, leaves, trees. Selectman Coutu said that nobody has cable; nobody has internet. Chairman Jasper said hopefully that will be in the local paper. Selectman Nadeau didn't know how long we plan on doing it for. If it's this Saturday and next Saturday...

Mr. Malizia stated what Kevin Burns intends to do is do it week by week to see how much he gets. In other words if he gets an overwhelming response, he would schedule the week after and then the week after. We have to have somebody there because people are bringing other stuff too other than the leaves and brush. Selectman Nadeau said right. It has to be very well advertised that it's only for brush and leaves.

If Chief Lavoie may interrupt, to follow along with what you're saying, one of the things that we just started working on late this morning with the IT Director is if anyone is able to pick up on this broadcast if they were to go to Facebook and become friends of the Hudson Police Department, people that do have cell phones that have the data package, we are putting updates on that as to what's going on within the community. We can get the brush stuff on Facebook so those that still do not have a computer to access their internet; it is coming through cell phones. If you connect to that page and become a friend of the Hudson Police Department, we can post things such as this on that. When there's a critical update,

something like brush and leaves will be picked up at the dump, they can get information that way. We're trying to improve that.

Chairman Jasper thanked Selectman Nadeau for indulging the Chief.

Selectman Nadeau has been driving around the town as much as you guys have too. I'd like to thank Highway, Police and Fire Departments for doing such a good job in trying to get the town opened up and back in operation as fast as possible. That's it.

Selectman Luszey – If I may Mr. Chairman, you were a little quick on going to other remarks. I would like to bring up the reconsideration of the IT conversion of the intern consulting position to a part time position. Chairman Jasper said he may however, I would say I don't think I was a little quick. I think you were a little slow. Selectman Luszey indicated that that may be true. I am slow this evening. The reason I'd like to do if I may. Chairman Jasper said Selectman Luszey may make any motion that you would like. When we talked about this, Selectman Luszey said they kind of glossed over a lot of things on what this person or people do. One of the things I failed to make a good argument for is updating the websites. The Town web site is updated daily with all kinds of stuff. That falls on the IT Director and her 2 folks that do that in addition to keeping those systems running. This past week was another example of where they worked extra ordinary hours not only to get systems back up because of failed generators but making sure the web sites were updated appropriately with information that the folks in town would know what's going on like school cancellations, trick or treat, road closures, and things like that. I would like to make a motion that we approve the warrant article.

Chairman Jasper indicated that we all know. Selectman Luszey indicated that I'm asking for reconsideration. Selectman Coutu said he can't ask for reconsideration as he was not on the prevailing side. He'd have to be on the prevailing side. Chairman Jasper indicated that Selectman Coutu is right. Frankly even if I were to overrule him unless one of the three who were on the prevailing side was inclined to change the vote, it would be a fruitless discussion. I think you've made your point and you're asking if one of them would be willing to make that motion to reconsider on submitting a warrant article. Anything else? Selectman Luszey said no. That's it for tonight.

Selectman Maddox – For many there was not only no power on Sunday but no water or very reduced pressure. I did talk to the Town Engineer and today by happen stance; there was a meeting with Pennichuck about something else. They're going to get us a written report as to what didn't go. I guess some of the computers told some other computers not to do something. The generators went on but the pump shut off. Again, I'm only hearing hearsay. It's something that we want to correct. Again, I've asked them to get us a written report so that we know as the Water Commissioners what went on for both fire protection and for domestic water. That is in process.

Chairman Jasper thanked Selectman Maddox for that. That also happened in the last storm that we had last month. That's a problem with the same tank being up at Whip Poor Will. It's something that certainly needs to be corrected.

At the same time, Selectman Maddox asked Pennichuck to take a look at security. Again, I'm sure that that's going to be the next thing with Homeland Security is water supply. If we're going to have to do some sort of upgrades to the computer network in that setup to look at security as well to know who's in those buildings and whatever.

I (Selectman Maddox) second Selectman Nadeau. Again, I drove around. I had my scanner on. People were going nonstop. We didn't have enough vehicles with people but they got a lot of stuff done. To those people that tried to call me. A power line went through the cable on Greeley Street and phones are out. So I guess I didn't get the joy of getting some of those phone calls. Everybody in town is doing everything they possibly can. I know that the Fire Chief is in contact multiple times with PSNH trying to get as much done as possible. It's just a function of we may be selectmen. We do not control PSNH. I think that from what the Chief has told me, the response they have a tent city set up down at Sam's Club. Again, there's 25 crews and dedicated to Hudson alone. There are a number of concerns. If you drive down Beechwood and

even Wason Road the primary is out in multiple locations even with all the trimming that they did. There are a lot of areas of town that are going to be in darkness unfortunately for a while. I know it's hard to preach patience, but it's a function of we're trying to get as much information as we can through Facebook now and the web sites. Help your neighbors. If you have elderly in the neighborhood, maybe knock on their doors and make sure that they're okay and not just trick or treating but also going to see that those people that may not look for help at least get a knock on the door. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Jasper – I'm not going to make any comments directed at the public because I doubt that there's too much public watching us tonight. The comments that I would be making would be directed at those who can't watch it. I'm about a mile and a half from the Comcast center and we don't have our cable. Didn't lose our internet from Fairpoint even though we have no power. At least we have that. To you guys, I had a wonderful phone call today from an irate woman who by the time I got done with her she was convinced that I worked for Public Service. It's baffling to me that people don't understand that when we have as much snow wet and heavy as we did and the leaves are still on the trees that we're going to have devastation out there. That's what we had. I'm sure you'll probably get phone calls from people if you haven't already.

Selectman Coutu – I just wanted to let you know that the Finance Director just brought my attention – well we knew it anyway – that there is no school tomorrow obviously. The high school will be open. I can only presume that it's certainly not open for school. It's open because the electricity is running so it's available for people who might need shelter, shower or some food. I don't know what they're going to use for food, but I know that in light of the fact that they haven't had electricity for the past 3 or 4 days that they are removing all the food from the cafeteria. That I've been assured of today. I just wanted to let you know that there is no school tomorrow. It's conceivable there may not be any school the following day. We certainly know that the high school is open for anyone who could use it. The Superintendent as soon as he can get the food that's necessary to run the cafeteria, we'll open the high school. If he can get it tomorrow, I'm sure it will be open the following day.

As you know Mr. Chairman we've been in touch as Chairman, the Fire Chief, and I'm sure the Police Chief has been keeping you abreast of what's going on. The Fire Chief has been in. We meet physically once a day. We communicate throughout the day as he does with you. I asked the Fire Chief and I would hope that Selectman Maddox would ask the Police Chief and Selectman Luszey would ask the Highway Director to come in once this settles down that the citizens of Hudson get a good overview of what it took to get us through this devastating time. Selectman Maddox I'm not as lucky as you. I own a business. I'm readily available to people. I've been screamed at, yelled at, and complimented. It's gone the full gambit for the past couple of days. All I can say Mr. Chairman as in most crises situations, people failed to see the global crisis. They only see what's going on in their backyard. Everybody wants their electricity turned on the next day. Everybody wants everything to be fine the next day. There's a global impact and there's a lot of people affected. This is something far worse that we would ever thought was going to happen a couple of days before Halloween and it involved snow no less. It wasn't even an ice storm. It was a snow storm.

The thing is that from my perspective and we're charged with the responsibility of managing this municipality, I don't think there's a one of us – the 5 of us have not been in contact with one another but I haven't heard anybody say anything negative about how our town has responded – police, fire and our public works personnel have done an outstanding job. I know that in terms of the power company, which usually gets the brunt of the complaints in a situation like this, there are so many towns without power and only so many people that can get out there. Right now we are very fortunate community that we have put together a group of people that are going to around – they started today trimming the trees off the wires. PSNH has set up at Sam's Club. They hopefully will have 15 units responding every day until they get this situation resolved. There's a lot of trees. A lot of wires with branches and trees on them. They can't fix those wires until they get the trees off. The other problem they're confronted with is an awful lot of homes have had their wires removed from the homes. Those all have to be reattached before they can rewire a neighborhood. I know they're going to be out there responding to those needs.

Kudos to our town and I think the citizens will get a full report from our department heads as soon as this crisis is over. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

6. ADJOURNMENT

If there is nothing else, Chairman Jasper indicated that we shall stand adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Recorded by HGTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Shawn Jasper, Chairman

Richard J. Maddox, Selectman

Benjamin J. Nadeau, Selectman

Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

Ted Luszey, Selectman