

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the November 5, 2019 Workshop Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Morin for the meeting of November 5, 2019 at 7:05 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Leo Bernard.
3. ATTENDANCE
Board of Selectmen: David Morin, Kara Roy, Roger Coutu and Normand Martin
Absent: Marilyn McGrath
Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director
4. DISCUSSION
 - a) Recommendation to Appoint Treasurer

Chairman Morin recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

As you are all well aware, Steve Malizia indicated we all received a notice from the current Treasurer giving her notice. Her last day will be the 25th of November. Subsequently we put out advertisements in the HLN, our web page, Facebook, HCTV. We attracted three candidates but I believe two were from Nashua. I'm not sure what they thought but they're not residents of Hudson so they're disqualified. We do have one candidate Rachel Burnell who's with us tonight for you to interview. The Finance Director, myself, and the Town Account met with her last week and spoke to her and had a conversation about the responsibilities and the duties. She's here tonight to meet you and if you'd like, you can appoint her tonight.

Chairman Morin invited Rachel up. Start off just telling us a little bit about yourself.

My name is Rachel Burnell. I've been a resident of the town my entire life. I came across the posting on the town website and I've had years of relevant experience post college in fund accounting, and administrative work, and currently working at Fidelity which allows me flexibility with my schedule to accommodate the hours that you need. Did you guys have any questions for me?

Selectman Coutu said first of all before I talk to you Rachel, Mr. Malizia and KC were you satisfied after you had the interview with Rachel. Mr. Malizia and Ms. Carpentier said yes. Selectman Coutu told Rachel just so we put everything out on the table, you are related to Karen Burnell correct our former Treasurer? You are her daughter-in-law. Ms. Burnell said yes. Selectman Coutu commented if you're half as good as her, you'll doing real well. Just half as good you'll be doing real well. I've heard some favorable things about you. Do you have children? Ms. Burnell said no. Selectman Coutu said I'm sure your mother-in-law gave you a general overview of what's involved as well as having had an opportunity to speak to our Finance Director who is always there for guidance and familiarization. It's a new environment for you. Based on everything you've heard, you feel very comfortable that you'd be able to do the job. Rachel said yes. Selectman Coutu commented you're a numbers person obviously. Okay. Good for you. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Roy asked are you still employed with Fidelity. Rachel Burnell said yes. Selectman Roy noted okay because it just says 2017 to 2019 so I didn't know if you meant to present. Ms. Burnell said yes that would be a typo. Selectman Roy said that's really all I had.

Chairman Morin asked if there was anyone else. Seeing none.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Roy, to approve the appointment of Rachel Burnell as the Treasurer effective November 25, 2019 until March 10, 2020 election as recommended by the Town Administrator and the Finance Director, carried 4-0.

b) 2019 Tax Rate

Chairman Morin recognized Finance Director Kathy Carpentier.

Good evening. Kathy Carpentier thanked the Board for seeing me tonight. This item is a little late. It trickled down from the State budget being a little late, then the Department of Revenue being a little late, so we just got notice on Friday which is why this was late to your agenda. I appreciate you putting it on tonight's agenda.

Kathy Carpentier explained I'm before you as we do annually to set the 2019 tax rate. It is your responsibility to decide how much unassigned fund balance you choose to use to offset the tax rate. You have budgeted \$600,000 to use as you have in the past. If you were to use the \$600,000 from the unassigned fund balance, it would be a tax rate of \$20.17. The unassigned fund balance is \$6,515,872. The tax rate is a \$.07 increase. Primarily \$.01 for the town side and \$.06 for the school side. The school lost some Medicaid distribution from federal funding which is primarily their \$.06 increase. The tax rate is pretty level but it is up \$.07. It is up to the Board to decide if they choose to use the \$600,000 to support the rate of \$20.17.

Selectman Martin said let's say we don't what happens to the number. We don't use that \$600,000. Kathy Carpentier indicated it would go up \$.20. Selectman Martin reiterated \$20.30, correct? Ms. Carpentier said \$20.37.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Martin, to authorize the use of \$600,000 for the town's \$6,515,872 unassigned balance in support of the tax rate of approximately \$20.17 per thousand as recommended by the Finance Director, carried 4-0.

c) Attendance at the Master Plan Visioning Sessions - Selectman Roy

Chairman Morin asked Selectman Roy would you like to defer this for now. Selectman Roy said yes I would. I'd like to get some more information about the issue.

Motion by Selectman Roy, seconded by Selectman Martin, to defer until the next meeting, carried 4-0.

5. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman Roy, to enter Nonpublic Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee, carried 4-0 by roll call.

Chairman Morin entered Nonpublic Session at 7:08 p.m., thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public is asked to leave the room.

Chairman Morin entered open session at 8:59 p.m.

Motion to hire

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:01 p.m. by selectman Martin, seconded by selectman Coutu, carried 4-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, transcriptionist.

David S. Morin, Chairman

Kara Roy, Vice-Chairman

Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

Norman G. Martin, Selectman