

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the December 10, 2019 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

By Chairman Morin for the meeting of December 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Led by Deputy Fire Chief James Paquette.

3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: David Morin, Kara Roy, Roger Coutu, Marilyn McGrath and Normand Martin

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant; Police Chief William Avery; Fire Chief, Rob Buxton, Deputy Fire Chief, James Paquette, Director of Public Works, Jess Forrence; Chief Assessor, Jim Michaud; Tax Collector/Town Clerk, Patti Barry; Town Moderator, Paul Inderbitzen; Cpt. Dave Bianchi; Master Patrol Officer, Jason Downey; Police Comfort Dog, Haven

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Morin asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board on any issue which the Board has control of at this time. Seeing none.

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

A. Appointments

- 1) Conservation Commission - (3 vacancies - 2 member terms to expire 12/31/19; 1 alternate term to expire 12/31/19)

Ken Dickinson (incumbent member)
Elliott Veloso (incumbent member)
Paula Hubert (incumbent alternate)

Chairman Morin stated that we have all incumbent members.

Selectman Coutu made a motion to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Paula Hubert as incumbent alternate member to the Conservation Commission with a term to expire 12/31/22.

Chairman Roy asked the question "if we reduce the number of members weren't we going to let this term expire?" Mr. Malizia explained that this appointment would be as an alternate to a 5 member commission, not a 7 member commission as petitioned by voters.

Selectman Martin seconded the motion, carried 5-0.

Selectman Coutu made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to suspend the rules and nominate and reappoint Elliott Veloso and Ken Dickinson as incumbent members to the Conservation Commission each with a term to expire 12/31/22.

Selectman Coutu said I wanted to acknowledge that all three of the incumbents are volunteers and they have represented us faithfully and well. I find it an honor to reappoint all three of these members.

Selectman McGrath said I'm happy to vote for these three of these members because they've done the Town well, they haven't caused any issues and they know what their duties are.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

- 2) Planning Board - (3 vacancies - 2 member terms to expire 12/31/19; 1 alternate term to expire 12/31/19)

Ed van der Veer (incumbent member)
Jordan Ulery (incumbent member)

Selectman Coutu made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to suspend the rules and nominate and reappoint Ed van der Veer as an incumbent member to the Planning Board with a term to expire 12/31/22, carried 5-0.

Selectman Coutu made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martin, to suspend the rules and nominate and reappoint Jordan Ulery as an incumbent member to the Planning Board with a term to expire 12/31/22.

Chairman Morin asked if there was any discussion. Selectman McGrath said she will make a comment. She said she will not support this nomination. She went on to say Mr. Ulery, as some of the other members have done, have neglected to collect a cap fee for a major development on 102 and accepted offsite contributions, which were necessitated by the development itself. And I don't feel I can support this individual because of that and for his lack of understanding and appreciation for the zoning ordinances that the voters have adopted, so therefore, I can't support this nomination. Thank you.

Vote: Motion carried 4-1 with Selectman McGrath in opposition.

- 3) Lower Merrimack River Advisory Committee - (1 vacancy for a three (3) year term)
Nomination of Hudson resident, George Russell

Chairman Morin read the nomination of Hudson resident, George Russell, to be on the Lower Merrimack River Advisory Committee.

Chairman Coutu asked Mr. Malizia, this comes from the Lower Merrimack Advisory Committee. They have preapproved and submitted for our consideration his appointment? Mr. Malizia said this gentleman applied for our consideration of the New Hampshire DES. We, this Board, nominates. They would appoint if this Board submits that nomination. There are two seats from Hudson, on this Board currently occupied. This one is vacant.

Mr. Coutu stated that it's been vacant for some time now. I appreciate the fact that Mr. Russell, I wish he was here, I appreciate the fact that Mr. Russell submitted an application, was he contacted at any point about coming in?

Chairman Morin said he contacted me and talked to me and gave me the application. Selectman Coutu asked did you have the opportunity to talk to him. Chairman Morin we talked about it a little bit. What he wanted to do and what it was about and he had the knowledge about it and he was looking forward to doing it. Selectman Coutu said well, they're hard to find, volunteers to serve on these extended commissions and committees outside of our direct municipal control, so I, I am reluctant to do this but,

I will move to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Hudson resident, George Russell to serve on the Lower Merrimack River Advisory Committee. Selectman McGrath seconded for purposes of discussion.

Chairman Morin reiterated Motion on the floor by Selectman Coutu, Seconded by Selectman McGrath.

Selectman McGrath said I would prefer that we defer this nomination because I'd like to be able to interview the person that is going to either get my vote or not get my vote dependent on the interview. I just don't think that it's appropriate to appoint someone that we haven't met that we don't know what their motivation is and what their credentials are.

Selectman Roy asked was there any discussion about him appearing before us when you spoke to him?

Chairman Morin, no because at the time I thought they just needed three signatures from us. Mr. Malizia can talk about that.

Mr. Malizia said this Board doesn't appoint. This Board nominates. That may not make a difference, I'm just making a point that your motion, you do not appoint, you nominate, DES makes the appointments. But if you'd like the gentleman to come in that's certainly we can do, but in the end, he had submitted a form to I believe you, and I'm the one that said jeez, I think that you should nominate him.

Chairman Martin asked it's strictly a nomination from us so his work is going to be done with the DES and he's just a resident of our town? Mr. Malizia said that this is correct.

Chairman Coutu said he would like to amend his motion from nominate and appoint to nominate. Mr. Malizia said that's really what you're doing is nominating, not appointing. Selectman McGrath stated that she wants to withdraw her second because she does want to interview the person.

Selectman Morin said we have a question on the floor to defer, anybody else want to defer? Selectman McGrath said I'll second that motion, to defer. There was discussion as to which motion was on the floor. Seeing no further discussion a vote was taken.

Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Roy to nominate Hudson resident, George Russell, to the Lower Merrimack River Advisory Board, carried 4-1 with Selectman McGrath in opposition.

6. Consent Items

Chairman Morin asked does any Board member wish to remove any item for separate consideration.

Seeing None.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to approve consent items A, B, C, D, E and F as noted or appropriate.

Vote: 5-0

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Veteran Tax Credits - Map 216, Lot 014, Sub 046 - 18 Oblate Drive; Map 247, Lot 135 - 16 Blueberry Lane; Map 118, lot 013, sub 001, 8A Lenny Lane; Map Map 247, Lot 075, Sub 002 - 9 Lilac Lane; Map 156, Lot 006, Sub 007 - 15 Cricketfield Lane; Map 184, Lot 027, Sub 023 - 16 Cobblestone Drive; Map 184, Lot 027, Sub 001 - 5 Cobblestone Drive; Map 111, Lot 023 - 141 Robinson Road; Map 176, Lot 015 - 13 Burnham Road; Map 203, Lot 027 - 6 Hickory Street
- 2) All Veterans Tax Credits - Map 246 Lot 50 - 5 Birdie Lane; Map 156, Lot 005, Sub 048 - 45 Weymouth Court; Map 248, Lot 015 - 5 Williams Drive; Map 191, Lot 114, Sub 004 - 37 Roosevelt Ave.
- 3) Disabled Veterans Tax Credits- Map 203, Lot 027 - 6 Hickory Street; Map 190, Lot 054 - 12 Porter Ave; Map 143, Lot 005 - 23 Hazelwood Road
- 4) Solar Exemptions - Map 211, Lot 063 - 48 Burns Hill Road
- 5) 2019 Tax Abatement Map- Map 168, Lot 33 - 6 Washington Drive, w/ recommendation to approve
- 6) 2019 Tax Abatement Map - Map 198, Lot 15 - 95 Lowell Road, w/ recommendation to approve
- 7) 2019 Tax Abatement Map- Map 190, Lot 138 - 33 Riverside Drive, w/ recommendation to approve

B. Water/Sewer Items - None

C. Licenses, Permits and Policies

- 1) Hawker/Peddler/Itinerant Vendor's License - B & B Catering
- 2) Recommendation to Readopt IRS Section 125 Flexible Benefits Plan
- 3) Raffle Permit - Hudson Republican GOP Committee

D. Donations

- 1) \$1,000.00 Walmart Facility #1785 donated to Hudson Police Department

E. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the November 26, 2019 Meeting

F. Calendar

- 12/11 7:00 Planning Board - Buxton Meeting Room
12/12 7:00 Zoning Board of Adjustment - Buxton Meeting Room
12/12 7:00 Budget Committee - BOS Meeting Room
12/16 7:00 Citizen's Traffic Advisory Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
12/17 7:00 Budget Committee - BOS Meeting Room
12/17 7:00 Municipal Utility - BOS Meeting Room
12/18 6:00 Library Trustees - Hills Memorial Library
12/19 7:00 Budget Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
12/19 7:00 Benson Park Committee - HCTV
12/23 7:00 Sustainability - CANCELLED
12/25 Christmas -Town Hall Closed

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on November 26, 2019

- 1) Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Martin, to approve the Town Administrator's request to buy back eighty (80) hours of his vacation time, carried 5-0.
- 2) Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman McGrath to approve the Tentative Agreement with the Hudson Police Employees Association for a successor contract, carried 5-0.
- 3) Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to forward Warrant Article U for the Hudson Police Employees Association contract to the FY2021 Warrant, carried 5-0
- 4) Motion by Selectman Roy, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to approve the Tentative Agreement with the Hudson Public Works Union, AFSCME Local 1801 for a successor contract, carried 5-0.

- 5) Motion by Selectman Roy, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to forward Warrant Article V for the Hudson Public Works Union, AFSCME Local 1801 contract to the FY 2021 Warrant, carried 5-0.
- 6) Motion to adjourn at 11:03 p.m. by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Martin, carried 5-0.

B. Sewer Items

- 1) Sewer Abatement - S-UTL-20-06 - 157-05; 15 Falcon Drive, w/recommendation to approve
- 2) Sewer Abatement - S-UTL-20-07 -157-058-000; 26 Robin Drive, w/recommendation to approve
- 3) Sewer Abatement - S-UTL-20-08 -147-001-012; 27 Shoreline Drive, w/recommendation to approve
- 4) Sewer Abatement - S-UTL-20-09 -140-035-000; 6 Manny Court, w/recommendation to approve

Mr. Malizia said that this was deferred from the last meeting. I spoke to the Sewer Utility Clerk she was unable to make it this evening but I got information from her regarding late submission of meter cards. If you read the policy of the Sewer Utility, page two and page three, it articulates that folks have up to 30 days after the bill to submit. These 4 applications were well within the 30 days, so it is contemplated and it was approved by the Sewer Utility.

Selectman Martin said I took a hard look at this, I do agree, I do now support these four abatements, however I think it's prudent of me to say they really should look at this policy again because if you have the meter cards due on 10/10, your bill doesn't come out until 10/25 and then you got to have an application within 30 days, I think somewhere along the policy should be updated and the card could be submitted with the application. So, I support the abatements but I think they really need to revisit their process and policy in that office.

Chairman Morin asked if there was any further discussion. Seeing none. Mr. Martin went on to say that he'd like to make a motion to have that policy looked at so that it aligns with the practice. Selectman Coutu said it does. Selectman Martin did not agree. After some discussion it was decided that the policy does align. It was then asked that Mr. Malizia speak with the Sewer Utilities department to confirm they're following the procedure.

Motion made by Selectman Roy, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to approve Sewer Utility Abatements S-UTL-20-06, S-UTL-20-07, S-UTL-20-08 and S-UTL-20-09 as recommended by the Municipal Utility Committee, carried 5-0.

B. School District Warrant Article 5 Discussion

Chairman Morin recognized Mr. Malizia who reminded the Board at your last meeting you reviewed all of the available School District warrant articles with the exception of Article 5 which you wanted to solicit an opinion from the Town's Attorney, as did the Budget Committee. That opinion has been forwarded to the Budget Committee and you all have a copy here of the validity of the Warrant Article. It's a valid warrant article. The Town Attorney said it is in proper form. So at this point in time I believe Selectman Martin needs direction from the Board as to what the Board's consensus is for him to vote as a Budget Committee member. This was the outstanding item. He also pointed out that Superintendent Russell offered to come to a future Board meeting to explain any of the School Warrant Articles to the Board. You also received correspondence that came today through his office regarding kindergarten. There's been questions about the default budget and this correspondence was received today, just so you have all the pieces that relate to the school.

Selectman Coutu went on to explain to the people at home watching, what the discussion is. He went on to read School District Warrant Article 5 in its entirety. He then went on to ask Mr. Malizia, based on this year's net assessment do you know what the amount would be if Article 5 was currently in practice? Mr. Malizia said the amount would be approximately One million, fifty-thousand dollars. Selectman Coutu went on to say, so if this passes, they could conceivably retain in excess of one million dollars, which next year's budget is higher than this year, and the assessment also goes up each year so they would be able to retain in excess of one million dollars rather than return it to us to put in an unassigned fund balance or to use to reduce the tax rate. Mr. Malizia stated that it actually flows through and reduces their portion of the tax rate. We don't retain it as any fund balance.

Selectman Coutu went on stating in the letter from our attorney, and we asked for clarification in which the Town Administrator sought, this is a legitimate warrant article, which I'm not denying that, we have that assessment from him, there are a lot of vagaries in the warrant article that can't be directly or immediately interpreted to mean anything specific. He speaks directly about what constitutes an emergency. In reading through the attorney's letter, by definition, I get that the attorney is telling us that they can declare an emergency, because there's no real defined definition for the word emergency, go ahead and spend the money and then wait for an opinion later from the Department of Education. They can circumvent the Budget Committee, if you read this carefully and Kara, I'm sure you read it. They can go directly to the Commissioner of Education.

Selectman Roy said I would also point out that the attorney points out it would have to be a true emergency for them to do that. Which would acquire an over expenditure without prior approval from the Budget Committee. It would only require approval by the Education Commission after the over expenditure would be extraordinarily rare. That's what Mr. Lefevre says in his letter. Mr. Coutu asked if that sounds definitive as a lawyer. Selectman Roy said what he's saying is that his interpretation of the RSA is probably about as definitive as it's going to get. Because it's an RSA. Mr. Coutu went on to say in light of what I read and in light of the amount of money that's involved here, their budget goes up considerably every year and the voters have approved it and now I guess that's not enough they would like to retain over a million dollars of any surplus they might have. Last year they kept \$800,000 and spent it. Non-emergency items from what I can see for the most part. A roof repair, I don't know that any roofs were leaking I'm sure they fixed those right away when they start leaking but they did a couple of minor roof repairs. I will not be supporting Warrant Article 5 on the basis of the information I have and I don't need to hear from Mr. Russell either.

Chairman Morin asked if there was any further discussion.

Selectman McGrath said that she too, will not vote support Warrant Article 5. I think that the amount is excessive, it's raising taxes unnecessarily, and keeping that money in abeyance so that they can use it at a whim and they can define an emergency just like I can define an emergency for myself that someone else may disagree with. I've done some additional review. Based on Selectman Coutu's comments at the last meeting and you commented how you could support full day kindergarten but that you, I'm paraphrasing, but that you thought that the school should be more concerned with educational projects or programs than what they prioritize, which seems to me to be sports and entertainment. So I did some research the last couple of days and did a Google search for educational ranking of Alvirne High School in the state of New Hampshire. So I've got the results of that. It was a 2019 high school rankings for the state of New Hampshire by US News and World Report. The student-teacher ratio was 14-1, enrollment is 1,267 students for grades 9-12 and there has been an annual decline in the enrollment by approximately 20% over the last several years, yet their budget continues to climb and they're looking to add programs and sporting events. So the rankings, I'll back into the rankings. Out of 94 high schools in the state of New Hampshire, Alvirne doesn't rank within the top ten, nor the top the top twenty, nor the top 30, but they rank at 47, out of 94 high schools. Selectman McGrath went on to read the rankings of the top 10 ranked high schools in the state. She went on to say that Milford, which is ranked at 46 is ahead of Alvirne. I think that people such as myself would appreciate our tax dollars going towards educational programs that are going to benefit the students and benefit that population as opposed to whatever they higher echelon of the school department deems as important. Such as all of the, I had a report that I don't have with me, but the number of programs like soccer and baseball and the only they don't have is water polo. There's a whole range of sports programs of as opposed to hiring teachers and paying them at a good salary, properly educating, giving these students an edge to get into the workforce and to get into good colleges, whether or not they want to go to college or they want to go on to a technical program. We're 47th, out of 94 high schools in the state of New Hampshire. An ranking nationally for high school they're 7,599 on the national list. I think it's unfortunate, I think that the tax payers are being taken advantage of and I think that the priorities for this school department and this school are out of whack. So I can't support this warrant article and I will not.

Selectman Roy said I'd be curious about a couple things. One is if where we were over the last 5 years in ranking. So, is it on an upswing or if it's on a down swing. I'd also point out that student enrollment tends to be sinking so it's in the decline now, so it will eventually start to rise again as the population changes. I however will support this warrant article. It is after all money that's allocated to them. I trust these people to take their obligations seriously, to protect and have the term I know is a bona fide need, whether that's an emergency or non-emergency. I don't see them kind of on a whim making something an emergency. So I will be supporting this warrant article. That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Morin recognized Selectman Martin for his comments. I as representative to the budget committee, I have heartburn supporting this so I'm not going to support it. Here's my reasoning. I agree with everything Selectman McGrath stated about money coming back to the tax payers and being important for programing. Yes, even though having sports encourages team work, I think that sports is one sided. Especially where you show up for a basketball try out and there's only one spot available for a ten man roster. So why have a tryout. Just pick a kid so there's no fairness in it in my opinion. And the main reason for me for this is to, in the letter from the attorney, it says, for two purposes. Reducing the tax rate and or emergencies. Then it goes on to talk about over expenditures. So now, I'm understanding that you can overextend your budget and then use this money to cover your over expenditure. That's what I'm interpreting out of this. Whether or not it's true, I won't sit here and say it's true, but that's what I interpret of it. I won't support it. And the biggest heartburn of it all is someone who doesn't even live in our community has the authority to spend our money on an emergency basis. I cannot support it for that reason. Thank you.

Chairman Morin stated Selectman Roy, I understand where you're coming from and I got to tell you. I've dealt with them before. I've had meetings with the Superintendent and we had discussion this year in reference to the \$800,000 and look where that went. Where that could have come back. I also the year before had a discussion with him in reference to when we had the issues with plowing and things to that effect and the discussion we have never panned out. So I understand what you're saying that you would hope they would be responsible and do that right thing, you know what I mean, but I got to tell you, past history, I don't see it happening either. I really don't. And I would hope you're absolutely right and we're all wrong. It scares me, seeing their past. He asked for any further discussion.

Selectman Martin said I got my consensus. Consensus of the Board regarding School District Warrant Article 5; Selectman Roy- yes, Select Martin-no, Selectman Coutu-no, Selectman McGrath-no, Chairman Morin-no.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Donation Acceptance for the Hudson Police Department Comfort Dog, Haven

Chairman Morin recognized Captain Bianchi and Officer Downey and Haven

Sgt. Bianchi said we come before you to accept the donations that we've received so far to be used towards the needs of the comfort dog, Haven in the amount of \$1,715.46. Officer Downey can explain a little more what might the use of that funding should be.

Officer Downey said thank you very much Board of Selectman. The reason I want to talk about it, is this is based on a donation acceptance. It is not part of the police budget. But I definitely believe it is an ideal program for the police department and the community. With that being said for the most part America's Pets has reached out to cover the cost of the food for her career as well as Love Your Dog Spa Boutique at 2 Burnham Road they're going to cover the cost of her grooming for her career. But veterinarian costs of her checkups and occasional incidentals, she is only nine months. She didn't get her second run in today, so that's why we had to go outside and get ready so now we can calmly sit and stay for a few minutes. I've had her for the last two and a half weeks and then fully. I cannot talk about how well it has been received at the school and some of the stuff already with the interaction with students, staff and kind of everyone always having a big smile on their face. So basically what it would cover is veterinary costs, the disposable bags when they go the bathroom, it's all costs, snacks, you know every once in a while she'll outgrow this vest but I need to get her a new vest. There's just more, different things that you don't really think about. There is bedding, toys, she is a lab so she goes through some toys really quickly at times, so we're trying to establish that. But as of right now we sent out a bunch of letters to the Town and businesses in Town, talking about our program. So far the Captain talked about, there was roughly \$1715.46. I would like to personally thank these companies right now and I know there's probably gonna be more coming in. This is to date what we have. Digital Credit Union donated \$200, Granite Subaru donated \$1000, Sullivan Tire donated \$100, Citizens Bank donated \$120, Enterprise Bank donated \$250 and then at Old Homes Day there were miscellaneous donations. People would drop donations. We got \$45.46 from Old Homes Day. I just want to personally thank those businesses for their generous donations for what I believe will be an unbelievable program.

Selectman Coutu asked Officer Downey to explain to our citizens the difference between a dog like Sully had and the services that this dog is going to provide. He's not a dog we're going to call out in the middle of the night to go

chase the bad guys. After you're finished with that, could you please let the citizens know what is their best avenue to be able to send you donations? I had a couple of people ask me where would they send a donation. I told them to send them to the Police Department to your attention.

Officer Downey went on to explain, obviously this is completely different from a typical canine program. The typical police canine program is more apprehension, drug sniffing, finding lost kids sometimes, and finding burglars and just plain apprehension and drug work. She on the other hand for the most part, it's kind of funny to say this, she's trained to do nothing. Pretty much lay there and actually be petted. She is to ease the anxiety and bridge a gap. So if we do have a critical incident, even involving police officers. At Sandy Hook they said between the firemen and police when they brought a comfort dog in, the room lifted a little bit. It doesn't change or take away the pain but it does help process, open up, and maybe feel a little bit better. This will bridge a gap too, a study was done. A child that was nonverbal because of a traumatic incident would not open to police officers, detectives, anybody and then when they brought a comfort dog in, spilled his guts to the dog and were able to get a conviction out of it. So she's more to bridge a gap in critical incidences. As well as sometimes we might use her for maybe a death notification maybe if there are young kids in the home. Maybe kind of help to ease that if possible if we can. She's more of bridging that gap. We haven't worked on it with court yet, but I know in the west coast part of the prosecutor's office will have dogs like this that will help some of these victims be able to get out of their anxiety and feel comfortable. Usually the dog will lay on their legs or feet while they testify. So there's a lot of different things we can use her for. That's the kind of difference. Where the others are great for apprehension, drug work, which are great for patrol, this is kind of more the touchy feely and we're here to help. And people can send their donations to 1 Constitution Drive. And if they want to put in their memo "comfort dog" because it will be put into the line item so we can actually designate it to the comfort dog.

Chairman Morin asked anybody have any questions. Seeing none.

Selectman Roy made a motion seconded by Selectman McGrath, to accept donations in the total amount of \$1,715.46 as donated from businesses in the community.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

B. Upcoming New Hampshire Primary Discussion with Town Moderator

Chairman Morin recognized Town Moderator Paul Inderbitzen along with Town Clerk Patti Barry and Chief Avery. Chairman Morin went on to say we have all three of you here because you all play a big part in the upcoming election.

Mr. Inderbitzen started by stating that we finally have a primary date. It's really too late to change the location for the primary. I think we need to institute a traffic plan. The thing about the primary that's good at the Community Center is that you come in, you get your ballot and you leave. It's not like a four page ballot we'll have in November probably with both sides where people are taking a lot of time. You've got governor, state reps, whatever the federal will be this year and all the county stuff. So there's going to be a bigger ballot. So people are in the voting booth for a lot more time. But the primary is in and out. It's a quick turnover. So I don't think we'll have the backup that we'll have in November. With a good traffic plan we'll have a quick turnover. Hopefully we won't have bad weather. Our turnouts over the last presidential primaries; in '08 it was 8576 showing up. That was a 57% turnout. The presidential primary of 2012, which was in January, was 5,027 that was 35.9%. I'm not really sure what was so uninteresting about that one. But then in '16 it was 8860. So I'm expecting around 9,000 as a primary turnout. We have 18,800 or so registered voters as of now. Same day registration will back up a little bit but we'll try to make sure we have enough people to do that. So I think the primary will be fine at the Community Center as long as we have good traffic control for the people coming in and going out. November is a different story. Like I said, it is a longer ballot, people take more time in the voting booths and we have 160 marked parking spaces at the Community Center. Selectman Martin and I met a while ago to look at some of the sheets that you have in terms of the square footage of the different locations in town that the Fire Department provided back in 2016. Even though Memorial is slightly smaller in their gym, and whether we can even use their gym is the question. I don't know if they have covers for it or not. It's one level. They have 260 lined parking spaces plus some around the building that we'd utilize for staff. They are if you looked, in different places. We'd have to do a little visit to see how we would coordinate the traffic flow inside the building as well as outside. I think the outside, there's one access in and out. Thorning Road goes out to Melendy then to 111. There's not all these different things coming in like at the Community Center. I think a site visit would be good with members of the Board, everybody involved, Police, Highway Department, Supervisor of the Checklist, to kind of get a feel what it would

be like. I'd even include the Women's Club because they provide refreshments and dinner for us, so they would have to know if they have access to things. So, if that's the route you want to go, we have some time, I don't think they set next years schedule until like February or March. But I suggest we get started. If we're going to have a walkthrough I can contact the Superintendent and just say can we schedule a time after school or on a holiday. Maybe in January, an after school time, when the kids are gone and we can take our time and say what about this, what about that. If that's what the Board wants to do. I don't know of any other location that would work.

Chairman Morin asked if there were questions.

Selectman Martin said I wouldn't go to Alvirne High School because getting up to that gym is going to be the toughest. You got to walk 3000 miles just to get to the gym. There's no wheelchair. Memorial School, I've studied this site plan til the day is long and this is the best spot to have the November election. It has good traffic flow in and traffic flows out the other way. And then you got parking right at the back door for people who are running the polls and then you have three big parking lots that you can use to make this happen. That would be my recommendation and be more than glad to walk through the school and this process with the Moderator.

Selectman Roy asked would your intent be that once we change it its just changed, we don't go back. The Moderator said, no. This would be for the high volume elections every four years. We don't have even in a regular state election every two years, 8300, and 7200 as you go back. We do get a fair amount at the State general election but it's not really as crazy as when we do the presidential. We had about 12,000 last time. That's a lot of extra. Especially where voting booths can be tied up for a while. I'm still looking to get some more because I'm not compliant with State regulations. The State primaries are in September every two years. Hardly anyone goes. Why would we want to hold it someplace like Memorial or another place? Or even two places, when only 2500 are showing up for a State primary. Every four years I think it's something we could consider unless we find or somebody builds something that we can use.

The Moderator went on to say I think we'll do after the holidays. I'll coordinate with Mr. Forrence and the Chief and we'll do some walkthroughs.

Selectman Coutu was recognized by the Chair as having a question. He said has anybody contacted the schools to discuss this with them? Because the logistics of them closing it down.

The Moderator said if they're setting their schedule for the next year, if they schedule that as a workshop day and then just the Memorial teachers would go to another facility for their workshop. If that's something they're willing to do. Remember, they don't have to agree to that either.

Selectman Coutu said the only other facility in Town that I can think of, is it feasible to have it at the Kiwanis Hall? If that were available. There was some discussion as to the square footage and parking at the Kiwanis Hall. It was determined that the Kiwanis Hall is a smaller facility and has less parking. Selectman Coutu said that if we ever went to two, I'd want this to be put on the table. As you know we have a new pastor at Saint Kathryn. Father Michael and I had a discussion. We went out to lunch and we talked about potentially using Saint Kathryn as a second if we ever went to that. Because it seems every year the number of voters is increasing a little but the registrations are increasing. We're up to like 18,000 now. We were at 12,000 back when I first ran. So that number considerably increases each year. The younger people getting to be 18 are registering. But Saint Kathryn said that they would certainly be willing to entertain the idea of allowing us to use their downstairs hall. There's plenty of parking there at Saint Kathryn, it is handicapped accessible. So that's available for consideration. Mr. Inderbitzen this is the big one coming up. You do an outstanding job. I wish you the best of luck with the election. You know that you'll have the full cooperation of the Board. We work for you on those days.

Moderator Inderbitzen said, well, my staff, they make it easy. My only worry is that if there's a snow storm on the 10th like there was one year. Jess remembers, The Clerk and I and Administrator and the janitor, all were putting up booths and we didn't know what we were doing. Because they just know how to do it and they get it done in two hours. And that's the other part of the logistics if we use Memorial. We'd have to transfer everything over there. They couldn't set up until the afternoon. See this is an impact on the DPW. And then they would have to be back in the morning to pick up and get the stuff out of there because the next day would be a school day. So, it's one of the logistics things you have to think about. And in two hours, they're good. They really do a great job in a very short period of time.

Chief Avery said my only concern for the primary this year is we're going to continue with our traffic plan that the Public Works Director, myself, the Fire Department have all agreed with. That seems to work. I'm going to go against you Paul but I do expect heavy, heavy traffic during this primary. I know they're going to be in and out of the booths quickly, I've seen it for the last ten years, that I was a captain and running that operation. Every year it gets busier and busier. People are going to have to bear with us. We have several officers, several members of the Public Works Department and the Fire Department and we try to all work together to get the cars in and out as fast as possible. We know traffic backs up all the way to Lowell Road and down Lowell Road. We will work with the public and get you in as quickly as possible but we're not going to not set up our same traffic plan for the primary. We're going to continue as we have in the past. It will be a one way road coming down **Lion's Hall** to the Community Center and one out exiting Lions Avenue onto Hurley Street and then out of the neighborhoods. If need be there will be an officer at Second Street and Ferry Street getting them completely out of the neighborhood and on their way. In our beginning phases Jay Twardowsky, my captains, myself, Jess Forrence, we'll work together and get this thing ironed out prior to the primary.

Moderator Inderbitzen said it won't be easy. I know that, but we didn't have an option, because we didn't know when it would be, so we couldn't approach anyone to change anything.

Town Clerk Pattie Barry asked, I'm just curious, would there be a difference of the in and out. So they come in from? Chief Avery interjected saying, the good part about the way we have it is, Adelaide Street is so long that very rarely does it extend all the way back to Dairy Queen. Although it does. I think that's a better option Pattie. The Town Clerk said. I obviously don't see it because I'm there so early but is it blocked from the other side of Adelaide? Chief Avery stated, we have an officer at Adelaide and Central Street that will radio up to us if it's blocked all the way down to Central and then Central down to Lowell Road. So we keep in communication with an officer down there. And yes, it does happen.

Selectman McGrath said and it did happen. Because I got stuck in it. I tried to loop around because I come up from the south end of Town, all the way up Lowell Road, but I looped around so that I got onto Ferry Street and came in the back way because the other was just completely blocked. So I sat in traffic there. Moderator Inderbitzen said I don't think the primary was quite as bad. Selectman McGrath said. It's heavy traffic for those events and I got stuck in it. Chief Avery said, I think Memorial School is more cost effective to the Town. We spent a large amount of money on the presidential and the previous primaries in overtime and forcing officers in and Mr. Forrence forcing his guys in to help us with traffic. So I do think we'll be able to reduce our staffing there during the day and it seems to be an easy traffic pattern as Selectman Martin mentioned.

The Chairman recognized Selectman McGrath who said I like the idea of Memorial. We used to have the Deliberative Sessions there years ago and that always seemed to work out well, although they were spread out over the entire day, late into the evening. But there was adequate space and adequate parking space there. Saint Kathryn might be a good alternate choice, however I think that people would be complaining that they had to drive down to the south end of Town and there's really only one way in and one way out. If you're coming through Town down Lowell Road and you get onto Dracut, that's pretty much your only option to get into Saint Kathryn.

Selectman Coutu wanted to clarify that he wasn't suggesting that we use Saint Kathryn as *the* voting place if we ever have to go to two districts. Moderator Inderbitzen said if the Board wants to pursue that issue, the Town would have to vote on it at Town Meeting. And once they do then the Board would have to establish the two places and the districts who goes to which place. I've heard most towns they send a registered letter for tax purposes to all those homes saying this is where you go to vote. Then there's lots of options.

Selectman McGrath said, can I just continue? So Paul, for the primary, actually all of the elections that we're going to be utilizing the community center, we need to address people that have disabilities and it hasn't worked well the last couple of times. People come in. I know I used this example before but a little nun came in. She was about this high it took her forever. She checked in and then walked over. And I offered to let her have a booth so she could sit, and she didn't want to. But she had to walk all the way up to the back of the room. To put a ballot in. And then walk all the way back out to the parking lot. And, I was concerned for her safety because she looked like she was ready to collapse. And other people complained about having to walk all the way to the back of the room to deposit their ballot. So I think that we really need to take a look at doing something a little different for people with disabilities. Moderator Inderbitzen said, well that's just, if I'm going to expand the number of check ins, all the

way, wall to wall, there's really. If we're going to reduce that, it's going to make it harder for people to check in. I already double up on those tables. So there's 18 check ins. There's separate books so we double the number of people we're using to try and get the lines through. But it's tough. But if they go to a booth in the back and then back out the front their walking right through the building anyway. The Town Clerk said, if we end up putting the machines back up the front, now we can't have that many check in tables and the lines are going to back up. So it's kind of a catch twenty two. Selectman McGrath went on to say, but we did have a lot of complaints the last couple of elections. Moderator Inderbitzen interjected to say, we're going to have the observers and challengers, but those are all legal positions that parties appoint and they send them in and they ask me, how many stations you got? And I say, eight, with two at each one. One time they sent in one for every station. It was brutal. There was just too many people. But we have to deal with that. So Memorial might be a little easier in that respect. The Town Clerk said, just keep in mind, my only concern with Memorial is, there's great parking, I'm more concerned with the foot traffic once inside the building. The lobby is really small and I'm just concerned of people getting jammed in there. So it's something we really need to look at when we go for a walk through. Moderator Inderbitzen said his idea was to have registration down the hall, away from the gym, so you register and then you go in with you, how we gonna work that, because they're given a card so they can go in any time. People will be going in the front but they'll be going out the back door. Now, there's a corridor that goes to the outer parking lot from there. So that's a good one for people maybe come in. But that's logistics, that I'm kind of working on now, how would we lay that out. But like I said, it's the Board that will have to ask the School Board, I'll be doing some contacting myself, but it's really your decision as to where we hold the election. And if you need to ask for some consideration, just remember, be nice.

Chairman Morin said, well we got you here, did you make any progress on the snowstorms and being able to call of an election? Moderator Inderbitzen said, ah, yes, there is a new law, that if there is a weather advisory, doesn't have to be a warning, if there's a weather advisory, I can postpone an election. Two weeks is the time period, it has to be two weeks. I have to consult with police, fire, as well as the Board. We can do that up to twenty-four hours before. So we can make that decision on our own. We don't have to worry about it. All we have to do is notify the secretary. So, yes, we have the authority to do that. Selectman Coutu asked does it include the presidential primary. The Moderator said no state elections would not be counted it's only town elections. The March.

Chairman Morin asked if there was anything else. When seeing no other comments or questions he thanked everyone for attending and speaking tonight.

- C. Town Clerk/Tax Collectors Request to Close the Clerks/Tax Collectors Offices and Sewer Utility Office early on 12/24/19.

Chairman Morin recognized Patti Barry, Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

Chairman Morin said we're going to change to change the order of business. We have a request from the Town Clerks Office that they will be closing early on Christmas Eve, 12/24/19 at 1:00 PM. Ms. Barry stated that's also the Sewer Department. Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions.

Selectman Coutu made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to allow the Town Clerk to close the Town Clerks Office at 1:00 PM on 12/24/19 as per her memo dated 12/10/19.

Vote: carried 5-0

- D. Bid Recommendation - Fire Department Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

Chairman Morin recognized Fire Chief Rob Buxton.

Chief Buxton said Good evening Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. We're here tonight to have discussion with you in regarding the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus that will be funded through the AFG Grant. In October, this last fall, you accepted the Grant in the total of \$255,245 dollars. So, we went out to bid. We received

one bid, and we also took the opportunity to bid out some additional safety equipment we're proposing to purchase this evening out of the Capital Reserve Fund. So tonight we're looking to purchase 36 self-contained breathing apparatus, 36 additional bottles, 11 face pieces which are the face pieces that attach to the breathing apparatus, 11 individual self-contained thermal imaging cameras, 3 pack tracking units which are utilized in locating down firefighters in a smoke filled environment, integrated SEM System which is a computerized system that will monitor consumption rates of air value in the cylinder it will afford us the opportunity to do emergency evacuation through the system so it would give an individual alert on the unit itself along with par checking which is a message we'd send out to check that firefighters are okay while in the structure. They'd be able to acknowledge that back along with 3 rip packs. A rip pack is utilized if we have a down firefighter in a structure. It has a one hour cylinder that is attached to it with a specific equipment that gets housed with it to go in and rescue the downed firefighter. So we're looking to award that bid this evening to Industrial Protection Services out of Salem, Mass, and utilized some funds out of the Capital Reserve. I know the Finance Director offered an opinion on top of my memo, with a motion to remove the money from the Capital Reserve and the Grant that was supportive. The Capital Reserve Fund is for fire equipment, capital reserve fund which has a Board of Selectmen agents to expend. There is a balance of \$78,705 dollars in there right now and we're looking to remove \$65,876 dollars from that fund to accomplish all this.

Selectman Martin made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to award the bid for self-contained breathing apparatus to Industrial Protection Services in the amount of \$248,616 and to authorize Chief Buxton to buy additional safety items from this vendor in the amount of \$43,786 with \$226,526 to be reimbursed from the FY18 Assistance to Firefighters Grant and \$65,876 to be reimbursed from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund as recommended by the Fire Chief and Finance Director.

Selectman Coutu had a question. In the bid information on the front page on the cover it said the project was advertised in two newspapers and Town website. How much of a response did you get from the two newspapers and the Town website? Chief Buxton said so we put out for Scott Breathing Apparatus, so there's two opportunities. We received one of the two companies that bid. Selectman Coutu asked, one of the two companies bid as a result of what? Chief Buxton said, we did direct mailings on top of that. So I'm not exactly sure if they pulled it from the newspaper or the direct mailing or the website. I can't answer that question. So I'm required to post in the newspaper, we also do it on our website and there is an option for me to do a direct mailing to bidders that we know would have interest. Selectman Coutu asked what forces you to advertise where? Chief Buxton said, the Town Code. The Town Code requires me to put it in a circulation and we utilized the two documents that ran there.

Chairman Coutu asked if there were any further questions. Selectman McGrath asked, you talk about these cylinders for a down firefighter. Has that ever happened? Chief asked have we ever had a downed firefighter. We had a couple of incidents and they were self-rescues. We've never had an incident where we've actually had a trapped firefighter that we've had to go in a pull out. Usually it's a self-rescue that would initiate the mayday, we would put the process in place and most times there is a self-rescue that takes place. We've been very fortunate. Selectman McGrath agreed that this was good news. But that, when you talked about that, it just raised that question for me. The other thing that I wanted to ask you, and it's probably not really related to this, but I just heard a report for a different fire department, and I forget where the location was but their starting to have their firefighters wear helmets that are bullet proof. Have you heard of that? Chief Buxton said he has not seen that yet. Selectman McGrath stated because of some of the conditions they go into. I'm not sure that that would be necessary for Hudson but you never know. But it's something that you might want to take a look at.

Chairman Morin asked, are the thermal imagers for the mask or are they individual hand held ones? Chief Buxton replied they're handheld ones. I can pass around a picture so you can take a look if you want. Besides Selectman Morin, obviously Selectman Coutu you have seen the thermal imaging camera over at the burn building. We suited him up and sent him into the burning building. He saw the thermal imaging camera when we purchased our last round imaging cameras probably five years ago now. This is an individual camera that will attach to the breathing apparatus and the individual firefighter will have that. We're buying eleven of them which is the full-time staff that is on duty 8A-8A.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

E. Conservation Commission Warrant Article Petition

Chairman Morin recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

The Town Administrator explained that we've received a petition warrant, it's a valid petition from the citizen. It has the valid number of signatures. What it's seeking to do is increase the number on the conservation commission from its current five members to seven members. If you recall this Board deliberated a change in the number of members during its budget deliberations and decided not to fill out a warrant article. This has now been petitioned by the citizenry. It must be forwarded to the Warrant. However, you have the opportunity to either recommend or not recommend which is really what you're doing this evening.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any comments or questions.

Selectman McGrath said I'm not going to support this. I know it has to go on the ballot but the comments that were made when they came in asking us to put it on the Warrant stand. I think that their priorities have been not where they should be and until I see a change in the way that they handle residents that look for wetland special exceptions or any kind of activity that the Conservation Commission has to make a recommendation to Planning and/or Zoning, I'm not in favor of increasing the size. So, until I see a change in how they handle their meetings and how they handle requests that come before them. We have one applicant that came in for a wetland special exception that they needed to comment on and they dragged it out for at least two or three meetings and the man finally got disgusted and walked away. And I've had that conversation since the last meeting and got that validated again. So I'm not in favor of this.

Chairman Morin asked if there was anyone else with questions.

Selectman Coutu said I also will not be supporting this. It's difficult to get seven people. Then the quorum would be four, I believe, they have a hard time sometimes to get three people for a quorum which then need now for a meeting. So I'm definitely not going to support it for that reason. There aren't enough volunteers for the Boards and Committees that we have now. To increase a Board or Committee just doesn't make sense. Though I appreciate some of the work that is going on with the Conservation Commission, I think that we have a couple of problem areas as eluded to by Selectman McGrath and until we see those problems and those areas resolved, I'm certainly not going to support anything that will increase the number of members to the Board.

Selectman Roy was recognized by the Chairman. Selectman Roy said, I will support this. The Town over the last couple of elections has by a significant margin, has supported the efforts of the Conservation Commission. They have some goals that I believe are worthwhile to the quality of life issues in the community. I think that those folks on the Board can meet that burden of getting a quorum at every meeting and I think that we should give them the opportunity to do that. So I will be supporting it.

Chairman Morin asked if there was anything else. He then said the Conservation Commission Chairman is here. Oh, you would not like to comment, okay, never mind. Is there a motion one way or the other?

Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Coutu to not recommend the petition warrant article to increase the number of membership on the Conservation Commission from five members to seven members. Selectman McGrath asked for a roll call vote. The Executive Assistant read off the roll. Selectman Martin - aye, Selectman Coutu - aye, Selectman Roy - nay, Selectman McGrath - aye, Chairman Morin - nay.

Vote Motion Carried 3-2.

F. Revenues and Expenditures

Chairman Morin recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia

Mr. Malizia explained that we're five months through the year, 42%, I looked at the expenditure. I didn't see anything that caused concern at this point in time. We're at the cusp of winter. We've already had our first taste but at this

point in time other than encumbering trash contracts, legal, other commitments I don't see any major issues with the expenditures. The revenue continues to track pretty well. As you recall we bumped up the automobile registrations and we're slightly ahead of that. Interest is a little bit behind but that's okay because that's not always a straight line and the ambulance is one month behind but if we had that one month in we'd be at about 44%. So we seem to be in decent shape, so far, five months through the year.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions. There were none.

9. REMARKS BY SCHOOL BOARD

There was no member of the School Board present tonight.

10. REMARKS BY TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Malizia said, just a few things. The Liberty Field work has been done. The contractor was out, he's done all their field work. We expect the report to come in either this week or next week. That is the assessor of that field. So we expect to get those results. I talked to the Town Engineer and the Recreation Director so that's where that's at.

Just another quick reminder. The Police are having a swearing in promotion ceremony on Tuesday at 3:00 PM at the Community Center.

The Budget Committee meeting that was scheduled for next Thursday, which would be the wrap up, collective bargaining and default budget has been moved to Tuesday the 17th. Just to keep everybody apprised to that. I think so far the budgets have gone fairly well. Selectman Martin has represented us and Finance Director Kathy Carpentier and departments. We have one more night of departments and then we will have the collective bargaining. So I don't anticipate any issues but again it's going well so far.

I will add, I wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season, A Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukah.

11. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman McGrath - Selectman McGrath said I don't have any comments tonight other than to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and all the best wishes for health and prosperity in the new year.

Selectman Roy - Selectman Roy wished everyone a Happy Holiday season. Don't drink and drive. There are plenty of options out there to avoid that, to include not drinking. Happy Holidays to everybody. That's all I have.

Selectman Martin - Selectman Martin said I have in front of me Warrant Article M to hire two truck driver/labors. He went on to read Warrant Article M in its entirety. Once finished reading Mr. Malizia said if I might add if you recall we forwarded this warrant article already. It was not designated that money was going to be coming from the General Fund and the Sewer Fund. The Budget Committee had asked that we make sure we cross that T and dot that I. So Selectman Martin is brining that forward to just take a revote on this language.

Selectman Martin made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to move Article M to the Warrant. Vote carried 5-0

Selectman Martin went on to update the Board. Last evening at the Budget Committee meeting we had the IT Departments presentation and I can't remember exactly who asked the question about the software, was it Mr. Trost? Several people asked about the money that was taken out of the budget for the software. Obviously it was a significant amount that we took out. We took out \$112,000 and the answer came that the Board of Selectmen took it out, from the IT Director, and they asked me why the Board took the money out. I said well I can't speak for the Board I can speak for myself and I spoke for myself. The reason I voted to take the money out was there was no plan presented to the Board of Selectmen of what kind of software or what the software was that they're going to purchase. And I didn't think that \$112,000 was an adequate amount of money to purchase the new software. Being that it's not only going to be a software for all the town departments, you're going to have your software for assessing. And there may be a software out there that doesn't do all the Town departments. It may be several different

software's that connect the departments. So I didn't think \$112,000 in my opinion was going to cut that. And then I asked the question of the IT Director about the \$50,000 that is her current fiscal year budget for the consultant, to help get a consultant to rate the software's and recommend this one, that one, what's good about it and all that stuff. And the words from her where she was thinking about using that to purchase, if I'm not mistaken, to purchase the software, instead of using it for a consultant. I didn't think it was an appropriate place for me to say anything its more appropriate for me to say it here. That's not the purpose and intent of the money. I think the money should not be used for that purpose. I think it should be used for a consultant. Because quite frankly, those software's are really hard to I don't know anything about computer software, but I know I just went through a big upgrade at my work. Always says it's going to be faster and better, well I could cook pancakes by the time I get my answer from the software we have. So, I think that this Board needs to not allow that \$50,000 to go and purchase any software. It needs to go to a consultant.

Chairman Morin said, I was also at that meeting and I was pretty much taken aback by that comment myself. I fully understand that she came to us and said that I need a consultant to assist in getting this software and now she's going to use the money to purchase software. So either that tells me two things. Either she doesn't have enough money with what she asked us for like you were just saying and she needs to take that extra money to purchase the software or now, she's just going to go and get something. And my problem is I don't even know if we've talked to department heads or anything. It sounds like she has some sort of plan in her mind but has anybody been spoke to see what they want from the software and what the software involves?

Chairman Morin recognized Selectman Roy. Selectman Roy who then recognized Mr. Malizia. Mr. Malizia said we're a long way away from doing anything with software. I think what I heard, because I was sitting there too, was more along the lines of yes, I will use, working with consultants, if there's any money left that money may have to go towards the software. I did not and will not sign a PO that just takes \$50,000 and buys software. We are not there. We have a lot of ground work to do. Which is my expectation, which I'm sure is your expectation. We are not taking the \$50,000 and doing anything with it. We have a lot of work to map out if and when we need to replace the financial package and whatever other packages we're looking at. That is not going to happen in a week, in a month, we'd be lucky if we even get the architecture all set for the end of this year. It just takes time. But my understanding, what I thought I heard was that we may have to use some of that down the road. We're not going to buy a package without going through all of the departments and all of the needs that we have, which a consultant would be able to facilitate. Selectman Martin went on to say I think that we as a Board, a consultant is the best way to go because if you take somebody off of staff to start working this software, it's an undertaking. Like I said I'm not a computer nut, but trying to pick up software for what's going to work for this town, is going to be very hard and I think a consultant, which is what the money should be used for, a consultant to do it. And I think that's where we need to go as a Board.

Chairman Morin asked where are we at? Have we moved forward at all? Mr. Malizia said I'm not aware that we've hired a consultant but as you're well aware you've signed a purchase order to take an evaluation of where we're at, so I'd like to get that resolved first.

Chairman Martin said, I want to thank the Town Administrator and Kathy Carpentier for being there and facilitating the answers for the Budget Committee. To get any information from any department, whether it's School or Town, they have to make a motion and they've been doing that and the responsiveness of both the Schools and then Town, right on. I mean with KC we get it the next meeting, which is really good and we discuss it. That process has been going good for us. It's been going good for everybody. They were receptive to putting in the \$40,000 for the Transfer Station. Mr. Malizia said actually for the study for the engineering work that needs to happen before we can put in either retaining walls, more enclosure, direct a pattern, they had a very good discussion about that. The Budget Committee in the end did make a motion to put the \$40,000 into Public Works budget.

Selectman Martin said, lastly I'd like to wish the entire town, this Board, our staff, a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Selectman Coutu - Thank you Selectman Martin, that was nice of you to say. Ho Ho Ho. A couple of things Mr. Chairman. This Saturday through the offices of the local VFW, we will be doing the Wreaths Across America and those of us who can make it this Saturday, will be at the Hills Cemetery, which is next to Alvirne Chapel. It is the purpose of Wreaths Across America to reach every veterans grave and place a wreath and we will be doing so in the Town of Hudson with the exception of two catholic cemeteries because the priest who has supervision authority, I wish I had known it earlier, I would have gotten ahold of the Bishop and see if we can change that. But we will still

reach out to him at some point, the pastor, and the diocese and see if we can get the catholic cemeteries covered as well. So that's number one.

Number two, the other thing I want to mention Mr. Chairman is that, this is the time of the year that it's a happy time for a lot of families but it's a sad time for some families as well. We have elderly people, we have lonely veterans, we have unwed mothers with children and they all have some sort of need. We've all reached out in some way or another to try to assist year in, year out. We help fund the Thanksgiving dinner for anyone that needs a Thanksgiving dinner. We do what we can to reach out to them. The Food Pantry gives full course meals on a weekly, bi-monthly basis for anyone in need of food. There's also clothing. The Fire Department, Police Department reach out to the community to do what they can for people in need. And there are other organizations in our community that do so much to reach out. However there's always a few people who for whatever reason, slip through the cracks every year. There are people such as the story I told such as an oil truck driver coming to my house to tell me that there was a senior citizen living at the north end of town who cried when she got her oil bill because it represented two or three months of her social security check. She was going to have to cut her pills in half and eat more crackers and less food. And despite our efforts to help, she did not want any assistance because she managed all these years, she'll get through another winter. Those are the little things that touch your heart. And I and I'm sure all of my peers on this Board, don't want to see anyone be in need or go in need especially at Christmastime. So I'm pleading to my fellow citizens. If you know of any family, anyone, who might be slipping through the cracks, for any reason, whatever, pride, shyness, doesn't want anyone to know their business, reach out to anyone of us on the Board of Selectmen and I implore you, my fellow members, that you get in touch with me or Chairman Morin and we will do everything we can to make sure that family or that person is serviced this Christmastime. I have friends in this community that have reached out to me and suggested to me that if there was anything else they could do to help our Town citizens, their fellow citizens, and some of them are business people who don't live in town, but they've reached out, they want to do more. So I felt that his was the one way that we could possibly pay back just by getting some sort of an identification. We have the wherewithal of how to be in touch with these people and how to service them and assist them. It will do my heart great even if we just catch one that we lost along the way because we can adopt that family and take care of them this Christmas. So please let your local Select Person know of that person in need and Selectman Morin and I will do our best to reach out to the person or persons in need and assist them during the holiday season. With that said, I want to extend to my fellow Board members, our municipal staff, department heads, several of which are hear in the building, and to you my fellow citizens, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And I would be remiss because we're not going to be meeting before the first of the year and we have some thousands of dollars' worth of white shirts, I had to throw that out there. We sit her twice a month and we talk about you and your departments and money and various other things and projects and emergency needs, but I want you to know privately or publicly, we respect the work you do for our community. We all think very, very highly of each and every one of you and your contributions to our community. This is a tough time of the year for public service, public works, highway, even assessors going out in the snow, with boots up to their knees if you have to. Conservation people, seeing the Conservation Commission chairman is here, you're out there still doing forestry and what you need to do. Whether you're a paid public employee or a volunteer for our town, this Board truly appreciates everything that you do. So you along with everyone else, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Selectman Morin - I just have a few things to touch on. Wreaths Across America, on Friday the trucks will be arriving. They will be escorted by our Police and Fire Department to the VFW where they'll be unloaded for the ceremony on Saturday. We'd ask that anyone that would like to volunteer to place the wreaths on the veterans graves in the Towns cemeteries please be at the Alvirne Chapel, Hills Cemetery at noon time for the opening ceremony and then we will be placing the wreaths at the cemeteries in town other than the two catholic cemeteries.

I'd like to thank the Lion's Club. Santa's arrival went very well. There was a good amount of people. Elf Martin was there trying to cut in on Santa. I want to thank everyone that came.

I want to thank the highway department and the police department during the snowstorm. We had our usual Kimball Hill fiasco. At one point there was 15-20 cars involved in motor vehicle accidents. During the storm the police had to shut down Kimball Hill Road twice. We had a hard time getting the state out there. So a Town plow went out and salted and got the vehicles out there. We appreciate that very much. I know Chief Avery has been working on that. He's also contacted our State Representatives to get that squared away.

As you'd said also, the distribution for the Food Pantry is this Saturday. I know members of the Fire Department and Police Department will be participating in that and they're going to be spread pretty thin because they're going to be participating in the Wreaths Across America and we appreciate all the work that they're doing. I also want to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everybody. I won't go, because you pretty much said it, but I appreciate very much all you guys do. If it wasn't for you, this would be a lot harder than it is.

12. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman Roy, to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted; Under RSA 91-B:2 II (b) to hire any person of a public employee and RSA 91-A:3 II (c) matters which, if discussed in public would likely affect adversely the reputation other than a member of the public body itself unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

Chairman Morin asked for a roll call. The Executive Assistant Read the Roll. Motion carried, 5-0.

Chairman Morin entered Nonpublic Session at 8:40 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 10:09 p.m.

Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to approve the hiring of Mike Rotast as Deputy Assessor within the Assessing Department at a rate of \$29.02 per hour, in accordance with Step 2 of that position classification within the Hudson Police, Fire and Town Supervisors Association Contract. Vote 5-0, carried.

Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to approve the recommended Grade Adjustment of the Deputy Assessor position. Vote 5-0, carried.

Selectman Coutu made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to promote Jeremy Faulkner to the position of Street Foreman at Grade XVI, Step 7 at \$33.59 per hour in accordance with the Hudson Public Works Local 1801 contract. Vote 5-0, carried.

Selectman Martin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Coutu to hire David Hotham for the position of Inspector in the Fire Department at the contracted salary of \$24.07 per hour (step 1). This assignment will be a non-exempt position in accordance with the Hudson Support Staff Union, AFSCME Local 1801, as recommended by Fire Chief. Vote 5-0, carried.

Selectman Martin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Coutu to hire Rick Foye for the position of Inspector in the Fire Department at the contracted salary of \$24.07 per hour (step 1). This assignment will be a non-exempt position in accordance with the Hudson Support Staff Union, AFSCME Local 1801, as recommended by Fire Chief. Vote 5-0, carried.

Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to approve the Finance Directors request to buy back eighty (80) hours of her vacation time. Vote 5-0, carried.

Selectman Martin made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to approve the Fire Chief's request to buy back one hundred (100) hours of his vacation time.
Vote 5-0, carried.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:14 p.m. by Selectman Coutu , seconded by Selectman Martin , carried 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant.

David S. Morin, Chairman

Kara Roy, Vice-Chairman

Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

Marilyn E. McGrath, Selectman

Norman G. Martin, Selectman