

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the October 23, 2018 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Coutu the meeting of October 23, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Selectman Routsis.
3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Roger Coutu, David Morin, Marilyn McGrath, Angela Routsis, Normand Martin

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Donna Graham, Executive Assistant; Jess Forrence, Public Works Director; Elvis Dhima, Town Engineer; Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director; Police Captain Bill Avery

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Coutu asked does anyone in the audience wish to address the Board on any issue which the Board has control of at this time. If so, please step forward and state your name and address. Seeing none.

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

A. Interviews

- 1) Planning Board - (2 vacancies - 1 member term to expire 12/31/19; 1 alternate term to expire 12/31/18)

Michael Drouin - 6 Coll Street.

Chairman Coutu noted on your application you've applied for Planning Board and Recreation. Right now we're interviewing for the vacancy on the Planning Board. Could you tell us if you would please a little bit about your background and why you've applied to be on the Planning Board?

Michael Drouin explained my background with the boards I've been on the Conservation Commission for almost a year now. I've learned how meetings are held, basic rules concerning property, town ordinances, and I feel the Planning Board is like Conservation Commission with a different set of rules concerning people's property. Experience otherwise is not much. I'm really doing this to learn and better myself.

Chairman Coutu indicated you just made a statement that you feel that the Planning Board is somewhat like the Conservation Commission. Can you tell me what the correlation is from your perspective? From my perspective, Mr. Drouin stated when people come to us for wetland exceptions we go over their plans, and we go to the site and look at the procedures, and we determine whether or not to grant the exception. From watching Planning Board meetings, I see a lot of similar things.

Selectman Morin asked you're running for State office, correct? Mr. Drouin said yes. Selectman Morin noted you have Monday night Conservation, Planning is on Wednesdays, and Rec. is Wednesday. That's a lot of time. Is there one of these committees you would rather have over the other one? Michael Drouin indicated I'd rather have Planning. Right now I'm pretty much a stay at home dad while I work up my muscles from my surgery. I'm in the process of college application and joining the Reserves. I feel I have the time and that's why I applied. Selectman Morin indicated you just said you were applying for college and the Reserves. That's going to take a lot of time too. Are you going to be able to get all that, the State, and the two committees? Mr. Drouin said yes.

Selectman McGrath asked have you attended any of the Planning Board meetings. Michael Drouin said I have not. Selectman McGrath asked have you watched them on TV. Mr. Drouin said yes. Selectman McGrath said you're familiar with what they do and the detail that they go into. Are you familiar with the codes, site plan regulations, zoning codes? Mr. Drouin indicated I've gone through them because I was looking to have an addition at my house. I just have the basic knowledge. I can't recite them. Selectman McGrath stated I wouldn't expect you to but it's a busy position and it's an important position. I served on that Board for a good many years. It takes a lot of dedication, a lot of time, and a lot of review of what you're looking at and what's expected of the applicant, what they're going to provide to the town. I'm concerned that you haven't attended any meetings to get a real understanding of what takes place there and what would be expected of you as a resident.

Selectman McGrath noted you also have checked off on your application the IT Selectman Coutu that he had checked off. That's just an area of expertise. It's not a committee that he's applying for but you are applying for the Recreation Committee. Michael Drouin said I saw there wasn't a vacancy but when I was at the counter I thought maybe there's a vacancy so I checked the box. Maybe if I don't get this there was a second.

From my perspective, Selectman McGrath said I would much rather have you spend more time getting acquainted with the Planning Board and what would be required of you. If you're willing to serve on the Recreation Committee, I think that that might be a good starting off point for you. That's my opinion. Thank you.

Chairman Coutu asked are there any other questions or comments. Thank you Mr. Drouin.

2) Recreation Committee - (0 vacancies)

Michael Drouin

3) Sustainability Committee - (4 vacancies - 2 member terms to expire 4/30/19; 1 alternate term to expire 4/30/20; 1 alternate term to expire 4/30/21)

Caitlin Chiquelin

Chairman Coutu did not see Caitlin Chiquelin in the audience. She did not notify you whether or not she was going to be here. Donna Graham indicated she said she was going to be here. We'll defer.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman Coutu asked does any Board member wish to remove any item for separate consideration. Seeing none.

Motion by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman Martin, to approve consent items A, B, C, D, E and F as noted or appropriate, carried 5-0.

A. Assessing Items

- 1) 2018 Tax Abatements - Map 191, Lot 82 - 7 Alpha Street; Map 168, Lot 129 - 15 Windham Road; Map 190, Lot 14 - 32 Cross Street, w/recommendation to approve
- 2) 2018 Supplemental Tax Bill - Map 178, Lot 13-42 - 7 Loop Road, w/recommendation to approve
- 3) 2018 Supplemental Tax Bill - PILOT Agreement - Map 109, Lot 10 - 300 Derry Road, w/recommendation to approve
- 4) 2018 Tax Abatement - Map 156, Lot 63-2 - 102 Elmwood Drive, w/recommendation to approve
- 5) 2018 Tax Abatement - Map 175, Lot 75 - 159 Ferry Street, w/recommendation to approve

- B. Water/Sewer Items - None
- C. Licenses & Permits & Policies
 - 1) Raffle Permit - GFWC Hudson Junior Women's Club
 - 2) Raffle Permit - GFWC Hudson Junior Woman's Club
- D. Donations - None
- E. Acceptance of Minutes
 - 1) Minutes of the October 9, 2018 Meeting
- F. Calendar
 - 10/24 7:00 Benson Landscape Cte - BOS Meeting Room
 - 10/24 7:00 Planning Bd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
 - 10/25 3:00 Trustees of Trust Fund - Buxton CD Meeting Room
 - 10/25 7:00 Zoning Bd of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room
 - 11/01 6:30 Recreation Cte - BOS Meeting Room
 - 11/01 7:00 Benson Park Cte - HCTV
 - 11/05 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
 - 11/06 ELECTION DAY
 - 11/07 7:00 Budget Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on October 9, 2018
 - 1) Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to hire Benjamin Savage for the position of Firefighter/EMT in the Fire Department at the contracted starting salary of \$16.11 per hour (step 1) effective October 28, 2018. This assignment will be a non-exempt position in accordance with the International Association of Firefighters Local #3154 as per the union contract, carried 5-0.
 - 2) Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Martin, to hire Jess Forrence as the Director of Public Works with an annual salary of \$100,000. After six month's probationary period and subject to review, increase to an annual salary of \$103,787. Effective October 9, 2018, carried 3-2. Selectmen Morin and Routsis in opposition.
 - 3) Motion to adjourn at 10:29 p.m. by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, carried 5-0.
- B. Fiscal Year 2020 Budget

Chairman Coutu stated we're now going to wrap up the Selectmen's portion of the budget. The only thing we'll have to do beyond this would be if and when the contracts are ratified by the unions we'll review them at that time. Steve Malizia said correct. Each contract will come in and we'll forward it to the warrant as you see appropriate. Chairman Coutu said the main body of the budget is what we're dealing with. I'll recognize our Finance Director Kathy Carpentier.

Kathy Carpentier indicated I handed out two documents this evening. One is a four page document on the default budget. The Town Administrator and I start with last year's approved operating budget, take out any one-time items, add in any contractual items to come up with the default budget. We've done that for the general fund, the water fund, and the sewer fund. The general fund currently is a default of \$26,359,994 which is a different to the proposed Fiscal 2020 budget of \$519,825. Some time tonight, you need to make a motion individually to forward the general fund default budget, the water fund default budget, and the

sewer fund default budget to the warrant. We can go through each sheet if you'd like to or if you have any questions, Steve or I would be happy to entertain them.

On the default budget for the general fund, Selectman Martin asked the recurring item from prior year 349548 was that the fully amounted allotment to us so we have to carry it every year. Kathy Carpentier stated yes. So gross appropriation is a 75 percent revenue in the revenue line item but this is the full cost of four firefighters that was previously approved by the voters.

Chairman Coutu asked if there were any further questions before we proceed. Do you want to first review the tax rate last year vis a vis where we are right now or what we came in at and where we're at right now.

Kathy Carpentier stated there's a ten page document in front of you. These are documents you've seen in the past. The top page is a summary of the roll up. AS of this evening, you have \$5.56 for the general fund operating budget tax rate which is \$.02 more than the current tax rate. This budget was delivered to your \$.02 less than the current budget. With all the warrant articles that have been forwarded to the warrant if they were all to pass at this current point, the tax rate for the town would be \$6.03. On the last couple of pages if you needed to are all the changes that you made. It looks like a lot but most of them were the transfers that you did last night.

Chairman Coutu indicated I had tasked you and the Town Administrator with a project. It had been my intent this year as it has been in every year to try level fund the budget as best we could and you came back with a recommendation. One that I would have proposed myself had you not discovered it but it's obvious to the eye that when you're reviewing the numbers this is where to go. Would you address that please how we can balance this budget with an action we can take this evening?

Kathy Carpentier explained we didn't see any things in the appropriations part of the budget so we looked at the revenues. We left revenues flat mostly because we just increased them in August if we saw a need to. However if you look at general fund 473, it's on the bottom of page 7, interest on investments - last year we had \$69,000 as an actual. We have \$120,000 budget for this year and \$120,000 for Fiscal 2020. However, we're at a run rate of achieving that by three times. Right now we have \$112,000 already through the month of September so with three month's actuals, I made a recommendation to add \$70,000 to that which would knock \$.02 off the tax rate and put you at flat. I also think that you can go further if you needed to - \$140,000 - \$150,000 if you wanted to make other changes within the budget.

Steve Malizia said we have the room to take that interest so that's what we're recommending. You had \$70,000 more to the interest line.

Chairman Coutu said it was based on the other document which we'll be discussing later. Ms. Carpentier stated it will be an increase of about \$141,000. It would be \$261,000 would be the new budget for interest on investments. At the current run rate, we're going to probably exceed \$400,000. It's not a guarantee but with revenues come August before we set the tax rate, as you recall I came before you and you can adjust revenues up or down based on our recommendations. We are trending to hit way over \$200,000.

Chairman Coutu asked if the motion were to increase the revenue line to \$261,000 based on action we may be taking later, this should keep us at a flat line. Ms. Carpentier agreed.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Martin, to increase Account #4703 interest on investments from \$120,000 to \$261,000.

Selectman McGrath stated it benefits the taxpayers by keeping it at a flat line. There won't be an increase for the town's portion of the budget. That's not saying that the school portion won't increase but the town's portion will not. It will stay the same.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to approve the General Fund Default Budget in the amount of \$26,359,994, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Morin, to approve the Sewer Fund Default Budget in the amount of \$1,650,262, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to approve the Water Fund Default Budget in the amount of \$4,000,791, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to forward the Sewer Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,769,204 to the warrant, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to forward the Water Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$3,880,823 to the warrant, carried 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request to Advertise for a Public Works Supervisor

Chairman Coutu recognized Public Works Director Jess Forrence. Good evening Jess. Welcome Sir.

Jess Forrence stated I come before the Board tonight to ask permission to advertise for my old position which is the Public Works Supervisor. This was vacated by a well-deserved promotion and looking to fill it just to keep the same number of bodies through the next year. As it states in here with the job description, this is a full-time position working primarily directly under me looking for experience for the water, sewer drain side of things, snow plowing, supervising. If I do get permission, it will be advertised in the Hudson/Litchfield News, the Telegraph, Facebook pages, wherever we can reach out to.

Chairman Coutu noted it will be properly posted in house. Mr. Forrence said yes it will be properly posted in house. Chairman Coutu asked if there were any question from the Board.

Selectman Routsis asked where you had done the position before, did you go through this and see if there were any edits or additions that needed to be made. Jess Forrence stated Steve and I sat and went through it. Mr. Malizia said they made sure they put Public Works, took out Highway and made sure we did all that.

Motion by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to authorize the Public Works Director to post for the position of Public Works Supervisor, carried 5-0.

B. Public Hearing - Street Acceptance - Rolling Woods Drive and York Road Extension

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima.

Good evening Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. About three years ago the Planning Board approved multi-lot subdivisions off Bockes Road. The first one is Rolling Woods and the second is York Road Extension off of York Road. The work has been completed to town standards. Public Works, Fire Department, Police Department, myself, and the Planning Board have approve all the necessary documentations, as built, the 10 percent for the two-year bond. I'm here in front of you tonight to ask you to take ownership of this road as intended at time of approval.

Chairman Coutu noticed when reviewing the packet that all of the signatories were there for approval. This will go to a public hearing. We'll hold it right now unless there's any questions from any member of the Board.

Chairman Coutu opened the public hearing at 7:24 p.m. Is there anyone in the audience who wishes to speak on this item? Seeing none, I'll close the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman Morin, to accept York Road Extension and Rolling Woods Drive as town roads, carried 5-0.

C. Sale of Tax Deeded Property - 5 Riverview Street

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia stated at your meeting back on August 28th, you approved the sale of town owned tax deeded property located at 5 Riverview Street. This is very narrow. I think 25 x 100 lot. You authorized the sale by sealed bid. An invitation to bid was mailed to four abutters of the property - the two next to it and two across the street from it. Advertised in the HLN, on HCTV, and the town's web page. Two sealed bids were received opened by the Town Clerk. You can see the results of the bids. I believe bid one was in the amount of \$1,500. Bid two was in the amount of \$787. I recommend you accept the bid for \$1,500 to Peter and Kathleen Beauchemin of 3 Riverview Street one of the abutters.

Chairman Coutu asked if there were any questions of the Town Administrator.

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to sell town owned tax deeded property located at 5 Riverview Street, Map 190, Lot 094, to the high bidders, Peter and Kathleen Beauchemin of 3 Riverview Street, Hudson, NH for \$1,500.

Selectman McGrath pointed out that this is just a little sliver of land and it's not a lot. When I say a lot, I mean a lot of record that someone could build on. Chairman Coutu thanked Selectman McGrath for pointing that out.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

D. Dedicating Saturday, November 24, 2018, as "Small Business Saturday"

Chairman Coutu explained the next item on the agenda is a request that was mailed into our office from the shop small group. Every year for a few years now this organization has recommended that municipalities across the country dedicate a Saturday for small businesses. In essence what it is is it affords small business an opportunity to take advantage of the shop small organization's wish that people recognize local businesses within their community. I read through this and a lot of this is apropos to the Town of Hudson. Small businesses employ 47.5 percent of employees in the private sector in the United States. I think that might be true. Well we have large industrial complexes but some of them are still small businesses. Ninety percent of consumers in the United States say small business Saturday has had a positive impact on their community. Eighty-nine percent of consumers who are aware of small business Saturday say the day encourages them to shop small all year long and 73 percent of consumers who reportedly shop small at independently owned retailers and restaurants on small business Saturday did so with friends or family.

Chairman Coutu noted there are a lot of reasons to support small business. Small businesses within our community contribute greatly to our community. I could take you to event after event that are planned in various restaurants and various small businesses as well as organized by the local Chamber of Commerce. The biggest one of course would be the Christmas banquet where they raise a considerable amount of money year in year out for our local food pantry - of great benefit to our community. One of the restaurants in town all of the tips are pooled for charity on one or two occasions a year. It's those kinds of things that go on with any community that go unnoticed and unrewarded. With that in mind, there's going to be a motion to declare November 24, 2018 as Small Business Saturday and I encourage when we sign this proclamation we're doing so hoping that you the citizens of the Town of Hudson will take advantage of shopping small and frequenting our local businesses and I hope that you would do so.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to declare November 24, 2018 as Small Business Saturday, carried 5-0.

E. 2019 Scheduled Holidays

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia stated this is a routine action that the Board takes. This is per Personnel Policies and I believe in the majority of the union contracts. The one exception is the Public Works contract where they have four floating holidays. Essentially these holidays are articulated in the Personnel Policies and/or labor contracts. Traditionally most of them are federal holidays.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to adopt the 2019 scheduled holidays, carried 5-0.

F. 2019 Meeting Schedule for the Board of Selectmen

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia said this takes into account any elections. I believe there's only one in March. I believe this is the Monday before that election. Other than that, this is a pretty tight calendar. Chairman Coutu said I went through the calendar and I found no flaws whatsoever.

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman Morin, to approve the 2019 meeting schedule for the Board of Selectmen, carried 5-0.

9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman McGrath - I don't have anything this evening.

Selectman Routsis - I do not have anything this evening.

Selectman Martin - I wanted to take a minute to thank our Finance Director, our Town Administrator, and our Executive Assistant Donna for coming out and being with us during the budget deliberations. Well prepared documents and any after action requests, you were very prompt in returning them to us as they do when they're in front of the Budget Committee as well. Thank you to the three of you for all that hard work. Also thank you for looking further for where we could save and come down \$.02. Kudos to you guys for doing all the legwork and making us aware of it. Thank you again. That's all I have.

Selectman Morin - I'd like to add to Selectman Martin's that the department heads came in \$.02 underneath last year's budget and that took a lot of work to do that. They also deserve a big thank you along with you three. We appreciate it. Thank you.

The other thing Selectman Morin wanted to say is thank you. We have a big assistant in our midst that saw a gentleman on the side of the road last week with his foot stuck in a pipe. Selectman Routsis stopped and assisted him with a bunch of other volunteers and got his foot out of the pipe. I believe the Fire Department was in route to actually pull him out of the pipe and they did it. Good job. Selectman Routsis stated I got there after but thank you.

Selectman Morin stated lately in the town there's a lot of people that say they want to make Hudson a better place and we want to work together but I'll tell you what, some of the negativity that has been out there lately and I'm going to address I believe it's the Hudson, NH residents Facebook page. It's not a very good thing for the town. I fully understand people have the right to voice their opinions and stuff but the problem is there's a lot of information out there that is not correct, or gets to just before being correct, or it's just thrown out there to stir the pot. I want to talk about a couple of things.

First of all, I'm going to take the property that used to be the Fuller property on Lowell and Central. A local contract has purchased that and assumes that word got out all kinds of stuff. There's going to be an apartment complex thrown in there and all kinds of stuff which got the people going. As of this point, he has not made a decision whatsoever of what's going in there.

The second thing is that for a long time now Merrill Park has a chain across the entrance due to the fact that we had vandalism and things to that nature and even illegal operations going in there. When the Public Works Department replaced it recently, there was a whole huge thing on that how we're trying to keep

people out of the park and stuff. People need to take the time to get educated before they start making comments.

Highway land is another one talking about Hudson Boulevard. We have people coming out there and making statements that it's prime conservation land and things to that nature. I want to stress, again, the town does not own that property. The State does. Whether a highway goes in there, we will then have part of it but if a highway doesn't go in there, the State has already taken it off of their list. The bondholders are going to want their money back and the State is going to possibly get rid of that land. What people need to understand is they're going to sell it. At this point, this town cannot afford to buy all that land for conservation land. Where that land comes off some very primary roads in town is going to give easy access to a contractor to come in and build developments in there. It comes off Musquash, Bush Hill, Speare Road, and all those roads which is going to make it very easy for a contractor to do the work. Again that is not conservation land. It is land right now that is wooded and it can be used for walking but it is not conservation land. That's how it is being put out right now.

The last thing that was in the newspaper last week was that the Board of Selectmen rubber stamped everything that was presented in the budget. Well that is definitely not true considering that the department heads, the Town Administrator, and the Finance Director came forward with \$.02 under last year's budget. So we certainly had nothing we could cut. They already did it for us. Again comments like that without having the full information really cause problems and make it hard for the people. They make it hard for us. They make it hard for our department heads who are trying really hard to get this done. I would just like to ask everybody before you make a comment get the facts before you put it out there. Thank you.

Selectman Martin commented I was taken aback by the comment from the Fox where he was sitting at home with two paws switching channels between the School Board and the Board of Selectmen and then I read we rubber stamp. I will tell you that I have this big black budget book right here in front of me Mr. Lathrop. I know you're watching. I know your paws are on the table curiously watching us. I had six hours at home on a Friday night. I got it and was up until 1 in the morning studying it. I couldn't find one penny to cut from this budget. I am very, very, very saddened at the way you write your column and I think you really need to come around and be in the meeting setting instead of watching it with your two paws on the remote at home. It's really saddening that this is happening with the local newspaper. I take big exception that I rubber stamped being that I was on the Budget Committee. You want me to rubber stamp something, I don't think that's what I was elected to do and I will never do it. If you want, I can bring you the budget book Friday night to the football game and you can review it and tell me where you would cut. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Selectman McGrath commented I don't read the Facebook site that you referred to and I don't read the HLN. I gave up on that circular that I refer to it as a long time ago. It's unfortunate because I know the previous owners would never have done what's been done to that paper. It's supposed to be for the Town of Hudson. It's supposed to be for the residents and it's supposed to be positive and it is anything but. I don't read it. It goes in the trash and I know a lot of other people don't read it either for the same reasons. As far as Facebook, that's just complete nonsense. I don't look at that either. I'm on Facebook for my family that's out in the Midwest to see the family pictures. Nothing more, nothing less. They can say whatever they want. I don't read and don't care.

Selectman Coutu - First of all I want to echo the remarks made by Selectman Morin and Selectman Martin relative to our staff, department heads, our Town Administrator, and the Finance Director who put together the final product once they get the input from the department heads did an outstanding job in presenting a budget that maintains the integrity of what we had said in the past is that we wanted to keep the tax line as close to balanced as possible. The effort that they put into presenting the budget, and the editing that goes on, and I'm sure there are push and shoves every now and then back and forth to get to where we want to get to and it gets there. I applaud you. I'm very impressed. This was one of the easiest budget years for the Board of Selectmen than we've had in a long time. Call I what you wish, call it rubber stamping, it doesn't matter. Everybody is going to put their spin on it. We have a fiduciary responsibility and that responsibility lends support to those who are going to administer the affairs of this town in the future and the future leaders of our town. We make it a lot easier for them if we can control the budget this year and for whatever amount of years that any one of us or collectively all of us are willing to serve on this Board.

Thank you. Please let your department heads know that it's obvious that the members of the Board of Selectmen were very pleased with their budget presentations this year and they held to the letter of the law. I'm very pleased with the budget. It was one of the few years I've had to do an awful lot of work.

As for the comments made by Selectman Morin relative to publications, and the like, and Facebook, Chairman Coutu said I, too, noticed I did a lot of research today on Facebook and a lot of people who are writing and reading into the Facebook articles and they're writing in saying that they're getting fed up with the amount of misinformation that's being put out there. It's not you. It's not me. It's not any of us that are writing these comments. It becomes obvious to people after a while that it's misinformation. It's exaggerated. There are people who just enjoy in their own little way putting down this town. They are doing more of a disservice to our town and making it less inviting to have people come in. When a person is shopping around for a town, they come in and they look at the aesthetics of the town. They look at the convenience to local highway access to get in and out of town if they need to go to Boston, if they need to go to Manchester, or wherever they want to go. They look at the school system. Now with media the way it is, they go to Facebook. They look up the word "Hudson" and they look to see what groups are listed with the word "Hudson" in it and they start reading into it. They see that there's discord and disharmony in the town. A lot of misinformation and it's not welcoming.

Chairman Coutu stated what's welcoming is when you come off the Sagamore Bridge and you look at what the Highway Department did for this town when they put up that welcome sign. It's beautiful. It represents the fall atmosphere that's in the air with the corn stocks hanging on each side, the colorful mums around it, well mowed and well maintained. Kudos to the Highway Department.

Chairman Coutu mentioned that this Saturday evening Selectman Morin, Selectman Martin, and I attended the firefighters annual awards banquet also the memorial service at the Firefighters Memorial right here on Central Street. The banquet was held at White Birch last Saturday evening. The food was very good. It was a gala atmosphere. It was their annual awards banquet. The White Birch and their staff did an outstanding job. A lot of firefighters were recognized for the years of years and other things. What was a surprise to a lot of us was that the firefighter of the year was presented to Fire Chief Robert Buxton. Not often do you see the CEO of an organization - and that's technically what he is the Chief Executive Officer of the firefighters because of his position as Fire Chief - is voted by his underlings to receive the award. I congratulate the Fire Chief.

While on the subject of the Fire Department, Chairman Coutu stated an e-mail was sent out to all of us and I'm going not taking a liberty. This is from a friend of mine. Selectman Morin spoke to the author of the letter, verified its authenticity, and with the exception of not disclosing that person's name or anything that might point the finger towards the author of the letter, I am going to read the letter because I think it should be in our public records and the author of the letter has given Selectman Morin for us to disclose the contents of the letter. I'm going to quote now:

"An open letter to Fire Chief Robert Buxton and Hudson's Board of Selectmen

I have loved Hudson ever since we moved here in 1975.

Then on August 1st my life was forever changed. My life companion of over 50 years passed away unexpectedly. Our town's wonderful team of first responders delivered him to the hospital that fateful night, as they had several times before, but despite heroic efforts this was the time he would leave us forever. After many years of medical difficulties, his heart was just worn out. His passing left me alone in our home of 34 years in desperate need of repairs and maintenance that he had been unable to do because of years of declining health.

For this reason, the past several years, Jim Paquette (Yes, HFD's own Captain James Paquette) has been plowing our driveway since my life companion could no longer safely run the snow blower or shovel the walk because of his heart condition and other limiting factors. When Jim heard of his passing, he couldn't do enough to help me get through this most difficult time. He took it upon himself on his own time to catalog an array of projects that needed to be completed around my home and solutions on how we could get them done. Beyond his unending moral support, he arranged for dumpsters to be delivered, gathered together a

volunteer crew of his fellow firefighters to come to the house and work all one day to empty and demolish a falling down shed, clear overgrown brush around the house and yard with an excavator, take down a rotted portion of the deck and arranged for all scrap metal to be removed. I can never thank Jim and our first responders enough for all they have done for me. They are an amazing crew. And now the plan is for them and/or others to come back one more day to continue the revitalization.

I want to recognize them all for their kindness and very hard work that day starting with Jim Paquette and his brothers, Greg Rich, Dave Cormier, Jim Lappin, Al Winsor, Toby Provencal, Adam Frederick, Zack Whitney, Brian Clarenbach, Mike Mallen and last but certainly not least Tom Sullivan. It was a mad house that day, but so much got done. How can I ever repay their generosity and for giving up a precious day off to help with this project?

At first I felt overwhelmed by all that lay before me when my companion passed and then Jim Paquette appeared on the scene with his fantastic crew. Suddenly I didn't feel so alone. I could go on and on praising all they did and list many other things they accomplished that day and I could go on and on about Jim who has been there for me to lean on whenever I needed guidance with something. He always has an answer. He's my unsung hero, a gentleman who is also one heck of a contractor to boot! He has and continues to do so many things to help me deal with all that needs to be done around this house. He and his fellow firemen are all heroes to me and I say a prayer for each and every one of them whenever I see the ambulance or fire truck go by my house on a call. These folks and all their fellow brothers and sisters dedicate their lives for our benefit every day and I'm honored that they chose to help me in my time of need. We are all so lucky to have them to protect us and I thank them one and all for their support and Jim for his friendship.

I love Hudson!"

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion 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; (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee; (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, 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; (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community; and (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with any body or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph, carried 5-0 by roll call.

Chairman Coutu entered nonpublic session at 8:00 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 Coutu entered open session at 9:09 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to hire Anyssa Sevigny for the position of Full-Time Telecommunication Technician in the Police Department at the contracted starting salary of \$18.94 per hour (step 1) in accordance with the Hudson Police Employee Association contract effective November 4, 2018, carried 5-0.

Motion by Routsis, seconded by Selectman Martin, to allow Patti Barry to buy out 120 hours of vacation time, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman Morin, to award the bid for Real Estate Services for the sale of tax deeded property located at 70 Rangers Drive to DiBernardo Real Estate, Lisa DiBernardo, agent, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to increase the General Fund Operating Budget by \$27,500 which represents an additional three (3) percent increase to department heads, carried 4-1. Selectman Coutu in opposition.

Motion by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman Martin, to forward the General Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$26,907,319 to the warrant, carried 5-0.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:16 p.m. by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Martin, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Executive Assistant.

Roger E. Coutu, Chairman

David S. Morin, Vice-Chairman

Marilyn E. McGrath, Selectman

Angela Routsis, Selectman

Normand G. Martin, Selectman