

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the January 24, 2017 Meeting

6:30 PM - Tour of renovations at Central Fire Station with regular meeting following

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Luszey the meeting of January 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Selectman Coutu.

3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Ted Luszey, Marilyn McGrath, Roger Coutu, Pat Nichols, Angela Routsis

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Donna Graham, Executive Assistant; Kevin Burns, Road Agent

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Luszey asked does anyone in the audience wish to address the Board on any issue which the Board has control of at this time.

Linda Kipnes - 23 Nathaniel Drive. I'm Chairman of the Sustainability Committee.

Debbie Putnam - 59 Rangers Drive. I'm the Communications Officer.

Linda Kipnes stated you probably remember last spring we had a contest and we had the kids come - the winners of the contest. We had our member Lisza Elliot had these posters made of the three winners from that contest and we would like to present them to you. Hopefully they will be on display somewhere in this building. Maybe in this room or maybe upstairs in the lobby, or I don't know if they would fit where our banners used to be or maybe in the hall. We have more copies of these which we will be taking around to events where we do outreach and we will be taking one down to PMA because all these kids were from PMA. We're hoping to have them in different places around town.

Chairman Luszey asked would you be okay with shortening those on the bottom where the white is because we did place one in front of the desk. Ms. Kipnes said they are taller than the desk. Chairman Luszey asked if you're okay we could trim those and at least get those two here and then the other one that's got a notebook, we'll get up on a wall somewhere if that's okay. Linda Kipnes said it would be nice if one could be upstairs in the lobby somewhere where people would see it or maybe rotate them around through the building. I think the kids were very proud of their work and we are thrilled that the kids are doing it. We are starting our new contest for this year so we are hoping to have some sort of display for what the kids are doing.

Selectman Nichols thought it came out beautifully. Good job. Thank you.

Linda Kipnes noted yes Lisza did a wonderful job. I don't know where she got these but they really came out beautifully. The kids will be pleased with it.

Chairman Luszey said we will make sure they are displayed within the building.

Debbie Putnam indicated the concept or theme for this year's project is "gardening". It's going to be for Kindergarten right up through fifth grade. I don't know - I remember many years ago when you were a little kid and you had your Dixie cup and you little piece of soil and your seed in it.

5. NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

a) Conservation Commission - (5 vacancies - 2 member terms to expire 12/31/19; 1 alternate term to expire 12/31/17; 1 alternate term to expire 12/31/18; 1 alternate term to expire 12/31/19)

Elliott Veloso

Chairman Luszey stated Mr. Veloso we actually appointed to the Planning Board and has since expressed interest in being appointed as an alternate to the Conservation Commission. I'm open.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Elliott Veloso as a member to the Conservation Commission with a term to expire 12/31/19, carried 5-0.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman Luszey asked does any Board member wish to remove any item for separate consideration at this time.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to approve consent items A, B, C, D, E and F as noted or appropriate with one addition. Benson Committee is meeting at 7 p.m. at HCTV on the 26th of January, carried 5-0.

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Current Use Lien Release - Map 110, Lot 57 - 20 Senter Farm Road, w/recommendation to approve
- 2) 2016 Supplemental Bill - Map 178, Lot 4 - 6 A-B Catalpa Drive, w/recommendation to approve
- 3) 2017 Supplemental Bill - Map 174, Lot 119 - 76 Highland Street, w/recommendation to approve
- 4) Veteran's Tax Credit - Map 184, Lot 032, Sub 015 - 15 Tiffany Circle; Map 184, Lot 32, Sub 071 - 64 Brody Lane; Map 175, Lot 155, Sub 005 - 56 Adelaide Street; w/recommendation to grant
- 5) Current Use Lien Release - Map 231, Lots 53; 53-1; 53-2; 53-3; 53-4; 53-5; 53-6 - #12, 15, 30, 36 & 48 Orchard Park Lane; Map 232, Lots 10; 11; 12; 13; 14; 15 - #23, 29, 35 & 41 Orchard Park Lane; Map 225, Lots 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 - #52, 56, 60, 57, 53 & 47 Orchard Park Lane, w/recommendation to approve

B. Water/Sewer Items

- 1) Sewer Abatement - S-UTL-17-15 - 53 Bear Path Lane, w/recommendation to approve
- 2) Water Abatement - W-UTL-16-05 - 10 Meadowlark Drive, w/recommendation to approve

C. Licenses & Permits - None

D. Donations - None

E. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the January 10, 2017 meeting

F. Calendar

- 01/25 7:00 Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 01/26 7:00 Benson Park Cte - HCTV
- 01/26 7:30 Zoning Brd of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 02/02 6:30 Recreation Cte - BOS Meeting Room
- 02/04 9:00 Town Deliberative Session - Community Center
- 02/07 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
- 02/08 7:00 Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 02/09 7:30 Zoning Brd of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 02/13 7:00 Conservation Cmsn - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 02/14 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
- 02/15 7:00 Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 02/16 7:00 Benson Park Cte - HCTV Meeting Room
- 02/20 TOWN HALL CLOSED - PRESIDENTS DAY
- 02/21 7:00 Cable Utility Cte - HCTV Ctr.
- 02/21 7:00 Municipal Utility Cte - BOS Meeting Room
- 02/22 7:00 Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 02/23 7:30 Zoning Brd of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 02/27 7:00 Sustainability Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 02/28 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on January 10, 2017

- 1) *Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to deny the Step 2 Grievance filed by the Hudson Police Employees Association for the Misapplication of Flex Pay, carried 4-0-1. Selectman Routsis abstained.*
- 2) *Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to deny the Step 2 Grievance filed by the Hudson Police Employees Association for the Unlawful Denial of Educational Incentive Payment, carried 4-0-1. Selectman Routsis abstained.*

- 3) *Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to hire Jeffrey Ogiba for the position of Firefighter/AEMT in the Fire Department at the contracted starting salary of \$19.36 per hour (step 1) effective February 5, 2017. 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.*
- 4) *Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to promote Firefighter Kevin Blinn to the position of Lieutenant/Medic, a non-exempt position, in accordance with IAFF Local 3154, Step 1, with an hourly rate of \$25.96 effective January 29, 2017, as recommended by the Fire Chief, carried 5-0.*
- 5) *Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to promote Firefighter Dennis Haerick to the position of Lieutenant/AEMT, a non-exempt position, in accordance with IAFF Local 3154, Step 1, with an hourly rate of \$24.75 effective January 29, 2017 as recommended by the Fire Chief, carried 5-0.*
- 6) *Motion by Selectman Coutu to promote Jeffrey Sands to the position of Lieutenant/Medic, a non-exempt position, in accordance with IAFF Local 3154, Step 1, with an hourly rate of \$25.96 effective January 29, 2017, failed - lack of seconder.*
- 7) *Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to promote Todd Berube to the position of Lieutenant/Medic, a non-exempt position, in accordance with IAFF Local 3154, Step 1, with an hourly rate of \$25.96 effective January 29, 2017 as recommended by the Fire Chief, carried 4-0-1. Selectman Coutu abstained.*
- 8) *Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to authorize the Fire Department to work with Attorney LeFevre regarding the code enforcement case located at 108 Derry Street, Map 156, Lot 059-000, carried 5-0.*
- 9) *Motion to adjourn at 11:11 p.m. by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman McGrath, carried 5-0.*

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Highway Department - 2001 Truck Frame Problems

Chairman Luszey recognized Road Agent Kevin Burns.

Good evening. Kevin Burns said I'm not here tonight looking for any board action. I just want to brief you on a problem that we have developing. We have 11 large dump trucks/plow trucks the ones everyone is seeing the last day or so driving around their neighborhoods. Of the 11, the 4 oldest we have are 2001. They are developing cracks in the frames. I think there's pictures attached you might have received. Three of them will not pass State inspection next go around. I looked at repairs and no one touched them. You can't weld them. There's not enough left to weld so we're going to have to have them re-railed. I went out and got a couple of prices. Ultimately I estimate the cost is going to be about \$43,000 per truck. It's 37 percent of our fleet. To replace these trucks would be about \$1 million. To reframe them would be about \$174,000. I'm told by everyone in the business that we could expect to get another 10 years out of these trucks. They're in good shape. They're strong just they have frame problems. I've always tried to run the Highway Department like a business and if this was my business, I would choose the option of reframing over replacing.

Steve Malizia noted that the other trucks don't have the same problem. This is limited to the four 2001s. Correct? Mr. Burns said yes so far.

Selectman Coutu had two questions. One I know you'll have the answer and the other I don't know. When is the inspection go round due on these vehicles? Mr. Burns said March. We have until April 1st.

Selectman Coutu asked do you have the mileage on these vehicles. Kevin Burns said I do not. I'm sorry. Selectman Coutu asked you're comfortable that we would get sufficient life out of it to make it worth redoing the frames on these vehicles. Kevin Burns said I am. These trucks were made back when trucks were trucks - I hate to say that. This was before they started filling them all up with emission stuff. You can still open the hood and work on them. Nowadays the newer ones you wheel the computer over to the truck before you wheel the tool cart. These are strong. They probably plow better than the newer ones. Yeah I'm pretty confident we'll get another 10 years out of them.

Chairman Luszey asked have you done any (inaudible) or drive train work on these - major stuff like replacing pistons, cylinders, and things like that? Kevin Burns said no. We've had no engine problems. We've had wear items - clutches, brakes, and things like that. We have a problem with oil pans, fuel tanks rot out. They run in the worse environment you could possibly run a truck in. No engine problems, no transmission problems, no rear end problems. They're good trucks other than the frames are rusting due to corrosion and starting to crack. It's not for lack of maintenance. These trucks are washed every time they go out. If you recall, I sent you a picture last year of the stand the guys made to

wash them out. It's the first thing they're all going to get done tomorrow is they're going to line up and take a bath. We try to keep after them but when you run things a quarter of a century, things do break. I know where I have funding that I have targeted for one of them. If the winter cooperates, hopefully I'll have the funding for two of them in this fiscal year. If I run short, you'll see me in here looking for some assistance or a transfer of some funds.

Selectman Coutu asked would that be prior to the end of March. Mr. Burns indicated no. It would take too long to do right now. If I sent one of them up to get re-railed, I wouldn't see it back for a month and I need them. Come March, they'll be taken off the road and one will go up in April. As soon as that one comes back, we'll send the other one up. I hope to do one in July with the new budget. The fourth one I would do either the following spring if money is available or I would budget to do it the following fiscal year. I'm hoping to get at least three maybe four of them done with existing funds robbing Peter to pay Paul. If I have a mild winter, I have money. If I don't, I'll be back. Selectman Coutu said we can also see where we stand.

Steve Malizia stated I've already kind of took a look. Legal is doing pretty well. The gas and diesel contingency that's still there. We have our own selectmen's contingency. If he got in a jam, we have some room.

Selectman Coutu said for me it's worth the investment rather than having to go out and buy another truck next year a quarter of a million dollars. We'd have to buy one every year for the next three years to catch up.

Kevin Burns indicated I did a cost analysis. It comes out to about \$358 a month for these repairs to use the trucks for the next 10 years. You can't even get a truck for \$358 a day. I think it's a good investment.

Selectman Nichols said I'd like to say you're always fiscally responsible. I appreciate that and for what you do for the town. You're always watching your costs. Thank you very much.

Selectman Routsis asked is there a spray or anything that can be put on them to prolong how long they - I don't want to say rust next time. Mr. Burns said we do. We spray them in the summer. We take one at a time and we seal them. The problem with these is these came with dual rail frames. In other words, the frame is sort of like a square c. To strengthen it, they pressed another frame into it. There was that little gap in between the two frames. They tried to make it waterproof but I guess it's pretty common especially for our use. You get the salt and the salt water gets in there. There's no way to get it out. It kind of rusts from the inside out. You have the corrosion material in the middle of a sandwich. That's where we're having these problems from.

- B. Acceptance of the Highway Safety Project Grant "Hudson E-Ticket Equipment" Grant in the amount of \$4,500

Chairman Luszey recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia noted I told the Police Department I would speak to this. If you recall this Board approved them applying for a grant specifically it was the e-citation system for the cruisers where we would get a grant for the actual equipment. We got a donation to do the installation. Right now what you're looking to do is accept this grant so that they can then procure the items and get moving on the installation. Again this is something that you approved that I'm applying for back in November. They've now been awarded it so you need to accept the \$4,500 grant or not.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to accept the "Hudson E-Ticket Equipment" project award through the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency which the State will fund \$4,500 and the Town will fund up to, but not exceed \$3,075 being paid for with Digital Federal Credit Union donation check, carried 5-0.

- C. Board of Selectmen's Position on School's Budget and Union Contracts

Chairman Luszey stated the reason this is in front of us is during the last Deliberative Session, I voted on behalf of the Board and I was asked whether or not I was voting on behalf of this Board and if we took an actual vote on it or if I was voting on behalf of myself. I made a statement that evening that I believe I was voting on behalf of this Board to the best of my abilities based on conversations we had. We actually never did take a vote on how we would like the Budget Committee members to vote on these articles. I am asking that we do this tonight so that when we are at the Town Deliberative Session if there is a revote on any of them that the Selectmen's representative will vote according to our wishes. Any questions or comments?

Steve Malizia had a quick question. This was at the Public Hearing of the Budget Committee. It wasn't at a Deliberative Session. This would be at the school's Deliberative Session which will be held the weekend after the town. So it will be the 11th. Just so people out there don't get confused that we didn't already have a Deliberative Session. This will be at the school's Deliberative Session.

Selectman Coutu had a couple of questions. When I read this, we don't typically vote on these things except that we have our representative who represents us. We don't know what they're bringing up any given week. We don't really sit down and discuss school matter. My question is is it going to appear how the Board of Selectmen voted on these or is it just so the School Committee will know that he's truly representing our wishes? Mr. Malizia said correct.

Selectman Coutu's second question is and you alluded to it yourself during discussion relative to some of these warrant articles, I know that you were asked I believe - I don't think it was at Deliberative Session. I think it was at one of the meetings when they were taking a poll on the warrant articles why you were voting against some of the warrant articles that had to do with raises. Based on what I heard you say, I have to say that I am proud that you took your position because I would have said the exact same thing. We set a standard for our municipal employees in terms of bargaining what we would maximize a pay raise level at. It's not what they want and it's not necessarily what the community can afford. It's what we think, what we think the community can afford at best. I believe and I wish you would bring us up to date on each one of these that consists a pay raise to those that exceed that wish. We had said would be our maximum which I thought was 2 percent. All of them exceed the 2 percent. Based on that and then we're all going to vote as a Board, you might want but I don't know if we need to roll call all of them but I'm urging the Board to do as the Chairman did and as I will do. I will vote no on any pay raise that exceeds 2 percent. I think that town employees should be - I know the School Board will do what the School Board will do but I think we're being unfair to our own employees if we're going to agree that raises should have been higher than 2 percent for other people in the municipality. I feel very strong about that and that will be my position this evening.

Selectman McGrath agreed. I think that that's what Selectman Coutu has just talked about, I think it's unreasonable to exceed the budget that's the norm for all of the other departments. I can't support that and don't think that I should.

Selectman Nichols was in agreement. I can't support it either.

Selectman Routsis noted I was there when you voted on them. I agreed with everything that you said and I stand behind what you voted on for each one of them.

Chairman Luszey thought just by consensus for those, I think we're okay. The only one that I would ask clarification is the operating budget. I'll tell you why I voted no on that. Within it includes another head count for an IT Systems Analyst - full time. Their reasoning is that they plan on replacing their system that does all of their financial systems - accounting, payroll, and what not. For me, my argument was that is a temporary position. They should be basically contracting that work out. It's a short lived experience and my experience in this town is that when you bring on a person full time, we never let them go. With that, I said I cannot support the operating budget because it's increasing head count. In the administrative section, - don't hold me to the numbers - I'm going off the top of my head now - I want to say by four heads when our student population is decreasing. To me the operating budget is a little bit out of whack.

Selectman Coutu asked to remind me of what the argument was in terms of why you voted no on the budget. Thank you for doing that. I remember the discussion very clearly. As I recall, their IT Director if that's what his title is from my perspective in having listened to his presentation and his attempt to justify the need for the position. 1) He was wishy washy at best and I felt he did not justify it, and 2) he had no real response to the argument that you presented. I thought you presented a good alternative was to go out and seek a temp. to come in and do this - an expert obviously in the field. There are specialists out there that would come in and do that. They didn't want to listen to that. 3) The SAU administrative staff is larger today even though there is a significant drop in the head count than it was when we had Litchfield in the system as well. We had more people working in administration today than when we had a larger SAU population and that included the Town of Litchfield. If they could have accomplished this by eliminating an administrative position because I think they're top heavy there and just filter the money in. Obviously you'd know they created a new position but they're replacing one with one so it wouldn't increase the count. As a result of that refresher course you just gave me, I will agree with your position not to support the budget.

Selectman McGrath stated that includes me as well.

Selectman Routsis stated I already let you know I agree with everything you said that night.

Chairman Luszey said we really don't need to go over any more. The votes are what they are. Their Deliberative Session is the second Saturday, February 11th, at the Community Center. Just for the viewing folks out there. The public hearing we had 3 non I guess I would say elected or paid employees at the meeting - 3. I hope our Deliberative Sessions are better attended.

9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman McGrath - I just have a couple of things and someone may have intended to mention this but where I'm first I'll mention it and then anyone else can jump in. We all received an e-mail from Patti Barry concerning the Department of Motor Vehicles. I'm going to read what's been written because I think it's important for everybody that's watching this whether it's one person or 100 people. If it doesn't affect you, it might affect someone in your family or a friend and they should be notified of this so that they don't end up getting into a dilemma. With that being said:

"The NH Department of Safety, Division of Motor Vehicles, is announcing that a new computer system called "Vision" will be implemented in the month of February. As a result, there will be an interruption of motor vehicle registration processing statewide. Town and City Clerk's offices along with the DMV offices will be unable to process new or renewal registrations over the Presidents' Day holiday weekend beginning Friday, February

17, 2017, and will be resuming transactions on Wednesday, February 22, 2017. Throughout this process, the Hudson Town Clerk's Office will be open for other transactions not related to vehicle registrations during our normal schedule hours of operations. If you have a new registration, a temporary plate, or your registration renewal is due during the month of February please make sure you are aware of the processing interruption. Please feel free to visit the DMV website at www.nh.gov/dmv for updates concerning that implementation."

The other thing Selectman McGrath wanted to mention was - and again someone else maybe planning to bring this up as well but again where I'm first I'll jump in. I read a posting on Facebook the other day about Benson Park and some of the benches being damaged. A couple of them were thrown in to a pond. I'm not quite sure exactly what happened. I consider...

Chairman Luszey interrupted saying I actually have some information I can shed. They weren't thrown in. I spoke with Kevin. What apparently is happening the benches that were on the pond were brought out? Apparently kids were going down there and skating and they would move the benches out there to sit while they were skating and then leave them there so that when the ice melted they'd sink in. There is no malicious intent to vandalize but we may need to address those benches that can be easily moved around because they are moved around all year long from where they are supposed to be. I did hear about the posting on Facebook and I don't want folks to get the wrong impression that there's vandalism occurring.

Selectman McGrath stated that's why I was bringing it up and also just to question whether or not if there is vandalism to benches or any part of the park particularly the 9/11 Memorial whether or not that damage would be covered by town insurance. I understand based on this posting - let me just preface my remarks by saying this. I'm on Facebook solely for family members that live out in the Midwest so I can get to see family pictures that I don't normally see. Because I'm on it, I get to see a bunch of other things. I don't comment politically, religiously, or anything else. I'm just there for family. When I read that, it was disturbing. I just want to make sure if there is any kind of damage to those benches that people paid quite a bit of money for to honor their family members that somehow it is covered. I don't know if it's covered under our insurance or if they would have to foot the bill. That's all that I have tonight Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Selectman Nichols - I had a meeting with the Library and they said they got their 3D printer that was paid for by the Friends of the Library. I went over to look at it today. It's quite the thing. They only do little things. One day they did a cookie cutter. They had a little castle. Once they get the hang of running it themselves, they're going to have an upgrade and show everybody else how to use it. I also have one other thing.

Chairman Luszey said just on that the message that should go back to them is that if they're going to open this up to the public, the public needs to be paying for the filament cost because that is not...Selectman Nichols didn't know how they'll work that. I haven't gotten into that but I will.

Selectman Nichols stated my last one. I hope everyone can hear me.

"To all town voters. I will take this opportunity to wish you all a very special thank you from one grateful Selectwoman who had the pleasure of serving you for the past three years. Due to illness, I will not be able to run for this position at this time. I love serving the Town of Hudson voters to the best of my ability and I wish I was able to continue. You will all hold a special place in my heart and I will do the best I can in my limited ability in the future. As a member of the Board of Selectmen and Town of Hudson resident, please expect my love and hope for a wonderful future. Please read all you can about the new candidates and ask questions at the Town Candidate's Night if you are unsure. This is an important part of the future of your town and you can control this. Choosing a compatible and honest replacement that will keep you interests in mind is of significant importance. Please vote carefully. Love and hearts - Pat Nichols, Selectman"

Selectman McGrath asked to jump in before you go on to everyone else. I knew about this earlier today. To say that I'm saddened is beyond words. Selectman Nichols has been a friend and I think a wonderful addition to this Board. She's tried exceedingly hard to do the right thing and has always strived to do what was in the best interest of the voters that she was elected to serve. I think she's done an extraordinary job. She's been ethical. She's been kind and I'm going to miss her terribly on this Board. Thank you Pat.

Chairman Luszey thanked Pat for your service and I do wish you well and best travels.

Selectman Nichols noted I'll still be here until March. I'm not leaving. I'll be here to March to aggravate as much as I possibly can.

Selectman Routsis - I want to start with I've only known you Selectman Nichols for a short period of time. I've enjoyed the time that we've spent here together and the conversations that we've had and I do wish you the best in whatever you end up doing after this. I have nothing else really to say because Selectman McGrath spoke about most of the things that were coming up. I do just wish that anyone that's available on February 4th to come to our Deliberative Session is there to ask any questions that they have. This is one of the times that your voice counts the most.

Selectman Coutu - To say that I'm taken aback is at its very least. Selectman Nichols - Pat - it's been a lot of fun. It's been quite the ride. I can't express any better or any clearer than what Selectman McGrath stated about you that no one could ever question your ethics and certainly your dedication and your commitment. I truly believe though we didn't always agree that you voted conscientiously and for what you thought was in the best interests of this community. That's primarily why we all serve. We may not always be on the same page sort to speak in terms of how we feel is the best that we can do for the citizens but the ultimate intent is always the same in terms of how we all feel. We want the very best for the Town of Hudson. You've served us honorably. You've served us well. Pat on a personal note, you were there for me during my worst of times and you were there for Doris. We will always remember that. I hope you will keep in touch. I'm still after Doris to give you a call so you guys can go out and have coffee together and enjoy each other. I brought it up again last week. I apologize for not bringing a piece of her birthday cake in. I should have and there's some on the counter. You're welcome to stop by and have some. You won't be able to talk to Doris apparently. Your voice is terrible. Congratulations on your service. I wish you and Don the very best. Don won't be able to yell any more about what we do or maybe he'll continue to yell at what we do. I know he's politically inclined and he's opinionated like most of us are who love politics. I thank you for your service and I hope you won't be a stranger to any of us.

Selectman Coutu wanted to remind the potential candidates that the papers become available tomorrow. If you're intending on running for any elected office and there are quite a few both on the school and the town side, you go to the Clerk's Office and you make your intent known what you are running for and you sign the documents necessary to get your name on the ballot. You can do so until Friday, February 3rd. So you have a week and a half to do so. Young people, older people, it doesn't matter. If you would like to serve your government or you feel that you can contribute to your government, please run for public office. Diversity is a good thing and I hope that if you're sincerely interested you will put your name on the ballot. I remind everybody again as Selectman Routsis mentioned, Deliberative Session is February 4th on a Saturday. I believe it starts at 9 a.m. It is your last opportunity before items go to the ballot to make motions, to add, or take money from the budgets. The town will be February 4th. The school will be the following week the 11th. You have a voice and a say in what the final budget will look like. You may make a motion and it may be defeated. You make a motion and it might pass. There may be other motions made that could affect or impact the budget and you should take part in that. It's as important as Election Day.

Selectman Coutu noted I was going to talk about Benson's but enough was said. I feel for those people who spent \$850 to buy a bench commemorating a loved one or in memory of a family member who passed on to have them destroyed. I don't know what further information you had but when I was apprised of the posting on Facebook, I guess somehow or another my name got attached to it. It said "Benson Park/Roger Coutu" and then it goes on and it gives the story. I was told that several benches were vandalized - that legs were broken aside from the one or two that were thrown in the pond that they went in to get. Have you heard anything about...?

Chairman Luszey spoke with Kevin just before the meeting and he did not indicate any broken items.

Selectman Coutu said this came from a Friends of Benson member who said they do all the benches and some were vandalized. Maybe, maybe not. It might have been just an exaggeration on the fact that a couple were in the pond and they dove in to get them. I want to thank Joe Undercofler and Dick Empey for diving in the pond as it was stated to get the benches and retrieve them. Those have been repaired or whatever damage, they just washed them off and they're in good shape. Thank you.

Selectman Luszey - I only have a few items. One is this evening we did a tour of the Central Fire Station to review the renovations that have taken place. I can tell you I think the money was well spent. We will get quite a few more years out of the Lenny Smith Station. When better weather comes, I know the Chief is planning on holding a public open house to allow the public access to see the changes. It's quite dramatic. One of the things - first time the building has seen insulation. It was quite a transformation.

Chairman Luszey announced tomorrow there's a hearing up in Concord on utility pole assessments. It's quite a controversial Bill that's being heard. The Town Administrator Steve will be speaking on our behalf. We did send a letter. Just for the folks out there so they kind of understand what's going on, the Bill basically is to take the assessing ability for the utility poles out of local control and move it to State control. Basically create a unified assessment for all utility poles in the State which would be set by DRA. The last e-mail that I saw from our Assistant Assessor was about...Steve Malizia explained it indicated a \$73 million value decrease which would then raise our rate by I think 60 cents. The average person is \$163 a year tax increase without doing anything else. Basically what it's doing is it's shifting the valuation or reducing the valuation of the public utilities. Not just poles but it's all their property and it would shift that valuation and that cost has to be borne by someone and it's all the other taxpayers. What it basically does is take away, in our opinion, the fair and equitable taxation of their property in our community specific. That's what the Bill is about. Chairman Luszey stated if you have an interest in your tax rate and tax bill, I would urge everyone that is listening to contact their State Representative and tell them they are opposed to this particular Bill - House Bill 324.

Selectman McGrath added Donna sent it out to me an e-mail to all of the Reps. requesting that they attend that hearing and offer testimony in opposition to that Bill.

Chairman Luszey stated I've actually spoken to a number of them personally to let them know that we are in opposition. I also asked Donna to send a note out to all of the Budget Committee and ask them if they could get the Chairman or someone from the Budget Committee up there on Hudson's behalf given their role in this town.

Steve Malizia stated obviously I will be speaking on behalf of the town but, again, they can certainly reach out to the Representatives and certainly when speaking to citizens they can hopefully inform them of this particular Bill.

Chairman Luszey indicated the last item I got is Zoning workshop. When we had the candidates for the Zoning Board in here, one of the things we heard that evening was testimony from a business developer with some concerns that he has around the Zoning Board. One of the things the takeaways that I said I would do as follow up and that is have a workshop with the Zoning Board, the Board of Selectmen, and our Town Attorney to try and outline what the roles and responsibilities of Zoning are, where their limits are, and stuff like that. So everybody is clear what training is available and all that. One of the things that I want to make sure is that we are a business friendly community and do not have a perceived reputation of being hostile or non-business friendly. We personally as a community cannot afford that. Whatever we can do to make it appear that we are doing what we can to make sure that we are welcoming businesses into our community, I think we owe it to the community. I'll open it up for conversation, thoughts on where folks are with that. If we do it, it would either have to be next month or we should probably wait until April.

Selectman Coutu agreed. I agree that we should have a joint session. I thought all of that went away. I'm hearing it more and more every week that it seems like we're heading back into this creating an unfriendly environment. I don't quite see it that way but there are some people that feel that way and I've made some notes and I'm prepared to have an open dialog with both the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment in terms of what's been presented to me and I also would welcome obviously having the Fire Chief in because I think there are still a few issues upstairs that need to be resolved relative to applications and the way some people have perceived that office to be, how it's being run. The criticism is not as severe as it had been in the past, however, there are people that have expressed some concerns about certain things that take place and I'd like to have an open and frank discussion about it and see if we can resolve those issues. Though they're minor, they're issues. What might be irrelevant to me might be very important to them as a consumer because they're consumers when they walk in there whether it's a major plan to construct, or develop, or getting a permit to have an electrician come out and wire their pool. They're all important matters when it affects you individually so I respect that.

In terms of the Town's reputation, Selectman Coutu said we had had that reputation for quite a while that we were very unfriendly. To the town, there have been several changes in some of the rules and regulations which I thought I saw as something very positive. I've seen a different tone at both the Planning Board level and the ZBA level. I know a lot of the members personally. I know no one is out to hurt the town. They're making decisions based on - it's like a court proceeding - based on evidence that's presented to them. There have been some concerned there expressed to me. One particular person is threatening to sue the town if he hasn't already sued because he feels that he's being denied unjustly something that he feels he can rightly do. I kind of support his position based on all the information I've acquired. Again I don't sit on those boards. I don't think these people deliberately set out to harm anybody. I think they're there to make sure that the flavor of the town is not depreciated any more than it already is. I don't see that happening. I also think we need to have a little more code enforcement in the town. I see a lot of violations day in and day out. I know he has a large workload himself. A lot of catching up do to as a result of lack of code enforcement in the immediate past. I look forward to it and I think that after the election we'd be the first workshop after the election would be a good time to do it.

Selectman McGrath thought your initial comment about having a meeting with the Zoning Board of Adjustment and our Town Attorney to outline what it is that they can do, what's appropriate for them to do, what questions are appropriate for them, and also what this Board should or should not be doing. I think that meeting should be limited to just the Zoning Board of Adjustment and our Town Attorney having. A conversation about whether or not this community is business friendly or not and whether or not you want to have a conversation with the Planning Board that too is appropriate however I think it should be separate. I think it should be completely separate. One of the things that I would urge all of you to do is read the Annual Report that's written by the Chairperson of both of those boards to see exactly what has transpired over the last year and you could even go back further if you wanted to. Particularly the last year to see how many applications have been denied, how many applications have been approved, and acted upon. I think that you're going to be really surprised at what you're going to find. That complaint has been around since the beginning of any kind of rules that have been adopted or regulations that have been adopted by the townspeople. The townspeople are the ones that adopt the zoning ordinance and whether or not they want zoning in their districts, or what districts they buy a home in, or have a business in. The Zoning Board - and I've had the privilege of sitting on both. I think that the Zoning Board certainly acts appropriately. They're a quasi-judicial board. They're professional. I don't think - I know that you and I have had this conversation but I don't think that the questions that they ask are inappropriate or unacceptable. I've sat through meetings with our attorney based on different cases that have come before us and he's advised them well. I think it's certainly fine to have a couple of meetings but I think that they should be separate. I think that the Zoning Board it's more stringent. The regulations that they are guided by are far more stringent than what the Planning Board - the Planning Board can waive some of their rules and the Zoning Board cannot.

Just one more thing. Selectman McGrath thought that the members that we have on both boards are excellent. It's easy to criticize people but their donating their time, their energy, their effort to try and do a good job for the town that

they live in and that they pay their taxes. They live here and they work here - some of them work here. I wouldn't throw stones at glasses if I were certain individuals.

Chairman Luszey didn't think anybody signs up for those boards knowing they don't want to do a good job. I'm hearing after the election in April.

Selectman Coutu asked Selectman McGrath - "You didn't threaten me, right?" Selectman McGrath said no why would you even think that? Selectman Coutu stated this viewer is following us making commentary and he said she just threatened you. I don't take it that way. You weren't even talking to me. You were talking in general. Selectman McGrath said in the first place, I don't threaten anyone.

Chairman Luszey commented in the second place, no cell phones during the meeting. Selectman McGrath agreed.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Nichols, 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; 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 Luszey entered Nonpublic Session at 7:59 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 Luszey entered open session at 8:24 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to approve the Employment Agreement between the Town of Hudson and Town Administrator Steve Malizia effective July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2022, carried 5-0.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Routsis, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

Ted Luszey, Chairman

Marilyn E. McGrath, Vice-Chairman

Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

Pat Nichols, Selectman

Angela Routsis, Selectman