

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the October 18, 2016 Budget Review Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Luszey the meeting of October 18, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Selectman Nichols.

Chairman Luszey asked everyone to remain standing. A moment of silence for Bernie Manor who passed away last week. Thank you.

3. ATTENDANCE

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

Absent: Marilyn McGrath

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Donna Graham, Executive Assistant; Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director; Kevin Burns, Road Agent; Patty Barry, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Paul Inderbitzen, Moderator; Lisa Nute, IT Director; Fire Chief Rob Buxton

4. BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Chairman Luszey indicated tonight is all budget related. If the Board would please give me a little leeway on the order tonight. Would you be okay with having the Moderator Mr. Inderbitzen present first since he has to go to work this evening? The Board agreed.

Steve Malizia noted it's hard to believe we're here again. It goes by quicker every year. What you have in front of you is this year the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. Back in August you set a parameter of department heads to submit budgets with zero percent increase with important or necessary items separate for the Board's consideration along with any warrant articles. What you have in front of you is a budget that's been prepared by all the department heads, gone through the Finance Director and in essence this budget as it stands right now for the operating portion would equal a tax rate of \$6.30 which would be \$.03 decrease over this year's tax rate. I think everybody met the parameter that the Board was looking for. As you go through, you'll see the various departments and what they've come in. In essence, I think we're starting at a pretty good place. We're \$.03 lower from the tax rate perspective. That takes into account revenue, some increase in our value. As you know, property values have been going up lately. There's I believe a \$25 million increase to the property base. We're over \$2.6 billion for property but bottom line it looks like we're starting at a pretty decent place. That also accounts for pension costs, health insurance. We have an estimate in there for that right now and all the departments.

Chairman Luszey thanked everyone for all the time and effort they've put into this. We'll start with the Town Moderator and that will be cost center 5041.

Moderator (5041)

Thank you Mr. Chairman and I thank you for the other department heads that are here letting me move ahead. Chairman Luszey said if I may after you finish up here, just a brief discussion about the action report that captain Avery put out for the follow up from the election just to give everybody a heads up on how it went and how we're going forward. Paul Inderbitzen noted I didn't have that stuff with me today. I didn't know we were going to talk about that. Chairman Luszey said I'm trying to kill two birds with one stone. It is coming up real quick.

Paul Inderbitzen said FY18 budget of course is the low point on the cycle. Remember voting and elections are a four year cycle with every four year the big Presidential Election and every two years you have the State election and Primary. Since we just in that budget year now the big one, FY18 of course drops down to one meeting - the Town elections in March of '18. The numbers are a lot lower but of course as you know it's a cyclical thing. I really can't show any savings or anything. I am making one request that we increase the poll workers hourly rate from \$7.25 to \$9.00. It's not a big number for FY18. It's like \$500. I've been looking around and I found that other towns are paying more than we. Not that you can go work in another town but paying a little bit more. Pelham pays a flat rate but they only work a half day. I found out our Rec. Department pays its summer counselors \$9.50 an hour. I just thought that some of these people work a long, long day and sometimes the salary is less than \$100 after you take out FICA and everything else. I looked at the case of 8 hours at \$7.25 with the other 6 hours of time and half and it comes out to about the same. I said well wouldn't it be easier rather than try to go to overtime just to create \$9.00 an hour would be a reasonable approach. I think there used to be before I came on as Moderator a higher hourly rate but I could never find out where that was.

Selectman Coutu said it's appropriate, I will make a motion. Do you know how many people are involved Kathy? Steve Malizia said it's in the budget already. Mr. Inderbitzen said I budgeted that amount. Selectman Coutu asked does that include the \$9. Mr. Inderbitzen said yes that's calculated at that.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to approve the Moderator's recommendation for poll workers to be paid at a rate of \$9.00 per hour which is identified in line item 5041-102-0000.

Selectman Coutu asked to speak to my motion Mr. Chairman. I agree with Mr. Inderbitzen. We are all there every election. Some of these people work tirelessly granted it's only one day. To think that we pay them \$7.25 an hour for these people to sit there hour after hour. They work as a team and I think that it's a small reward but one that's been well earned and deserved. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0.

Paul Inderbitzen said the other item is you notice in the operating materials for a while I've been trying to replace some of the old voting booths. Some of them are getting pretty sorry state. We had them all up for the Primary to try out our new layout which worked very well I think. However the company that we purchased them from went out of business. The owner retired and didn't sell out to anybody. I won't have any more replacements in until I can find somebody who has a similar type of voting booth to go. So that will take a little time to do that but they feel the need at this point for this fiscal year to add any more at this point as we try to replace some of the old ones.

Chairman Luszey asked are there any questions from the Board. Seeing none. If it's okay with you, I'd like to bring Captain Avery up and he can kind of go over his report and tell us what worked and what changes he foresees to hopefully make things run smoothly in November.

Good evening. Captain Avery said overall the pre-planning for the Primary went very, very well. We did not see a real rush of people coming in to vote as we know the numbers were very low that day. However, Jay Twardosky in the Highway Department did a great job as far as traffic goes. The signs, the barricades, the no parking in certain areas, parking in certain areas, everything was well marked. There was some confusion that newer people coming to the polls but overall it went very smoothly. We had probably a quarter of the staff at Lions Hall that we are expecting to use but we are going to use at the Presidential Election. Some recommendations came in through the Board of Selectmen to have an officer at the intersection of Second Street and Ferry Street. An officer will be there with a police car with lights going to assist traffic and exiting. I know some people got lost leaving the Community Center. So we're going to erect some detour signs getting them to the intersection of Second Street and Ferry Street. That was one concern that we heard several times. The other change you will see is the Hudson Police crime scene vehicle will be at the intersection of Raymond and Central Street with lights that will light up that intersection. We will have two officers there getting people up Raymond Street and proceeding towards Lions Hall. If the cue backs up to Central Street which ultimately will push traffic down Lowell Road, the officers will be instructed to push the traffic easterly down Central Street to either Vinton Street or Burnham Road. There will be signs if people get lost. By all means they can always contact the Hudson Police and directions will be given to them. Those are some of the changes.

Captain Avery indicated we are talking about putting an illuminated sign on Lowell Road at the intersection of Roosevelt. So vehicular traffic coming northbound on Lowell during rush hour traffic will be able to detour and take Roosevelt. It turns into Bay Street and then a left on Melendy Road which hopefully will free up some traffic from Lowell Road and keep that traffic flowing smoothly. Other than that, it was very well planned out and, again, Jay Twardosky the Supervisor for DPW did an outstanding job with our parking lot. Myself and Paul have already discussed his employees on where they're supposed to park so hopefully we have that ironed out come the voting Election Day.

Chairman Luszey asked is there any questions from the Board because I know you all got the report from the Captain.

Selectman Coutu said the only concern and it affects more Jay because he was doing mostly the parking area. The biggest concern that was expressed to me was that people who are handicapped having to go out the back doors have a much longer walk back to their vehicle. It was suggested that perhaps we ought to reserve 2 or 3 parking spaces on each side of the doors, the exit doors, strictly for handicapped. Regardless, they're still going to have to walk down to the entrance door. I don't see where it creates a problem but I want to put it on the table because I've heard it time and again and when I tell people well what difference of either that a long walk going in or you have a long walk going out. Its six one way half a dozen the other. The recommendation that I've heard from several people is well maybe you should have both sides exclusively handicapped along the building. That's an awful lot of parking spaces. I think that would be putting way too many parking for handicapped then we would need at any given hour.

Paul Inderbitzen said I did hear that from people especially going to the left. If you go out the garage entrance, there is a drop off there which gave some people with walkers and stuff some trouble. My intent I'm going to have an Assistant Moderator standing where the ballot boxes are and they're going to be told to direct anybody who appears unsteady or with a walker or a wheelchair to go out that side door where it's pretty level. My suggestion to the Board was at that time that maybe we should have some handicapped spaces closer on the side of the building as opposed to right up front. I don't know how that would work with the traffic flow at all. Again they are going to have to walk.

We had some moderators walking people through the polling place which you're really not supposed to do. Unless you have a ballot, you're not supposed to be behind the bar to get out to the front door instead of going out but they could be in the parking lot going out. I'm not sure what the best way to handle since we decided that the one way in, one way out is best for this election. I think for Town Election we can make some adjustments to the internal but I think for this one we have to have all that space and have everybody directed out. I'm not really sure what the best approach to it. I'm not a traffic layout kind of person.

Captain Avery thought what he said it's absolutely true that you're going to walk in long distance or you're going to walk out a long distance. If anybody is handicapped, we will be there. We will make sure that the handicapped people get into that building. We will make sure they are in close proximity to that building. One of the changes I failed to mention is when people come into Lions Hall on the Adelaide side of the building, we're going to try to fill up the other side of the building first which will allow traffic to keep flowing in. When those spots are filled and across the street are filled, then we're going to obviously push the parking over to the Adelaide side of the building. People should not be afraid to go behind the building. There will be police officers directing you. Some people hesitate about going around the building for whatever reason. We have ensured there's lights there and there will be police officers there escorting you around or waiving you through.

Selectman Coutu thought that was a good idea. I like filling the other side first.

Chairman Luszey asked if there were any other questions or concerns by the Board. Thank you very much.

Highway (5515, 5551 to 5556)

Chairman Luszey recognized Road Agent Kevin Burns.

Good evening. Here we sit again. Kevin Burns said my budget I'm maintaining the same level of service. I am level funded in my materials and supplies. My salaries are down around \$50,000 mainly because I have a less experienced work force due to some retirements - quite a few retirements.

Chairman Luszey asked if there were questions from the Board.

Selectman Coutu wanted to note for the record that I went through your numbers very carefully. Overall you're down approximately \$49,754. We asked everybody to stay level funded and he came in .0125 below this year's budget. Great job. I know that a lot of it is as a result of the turnover of staff, a lot of the senior people who were at a higher pay scale have left. Overall considering everything that your department does, I can't compliment you enough for your budget.

Selectman Coutu said we have discussed at some point earlier in the year Mr. Burns allocating a part time person and I thought you were going to put this person on full year for the purpose of having a body to identify for Benson Park and then you would use that person at other times of the year doing whatever in the garage or whatever. Is that still part of the plan? Is it reflected in this budget at all? Kevin Burns said no. I wasn't sure what direction to go with this. I heard there was some talk of a warrant article or an advisory warrant article about a fee for Benson's, eventual staff for Benson's. I wasn't sure which direction to go. Right now we're maintaining Benson's at an adequate level. I guess I would directions if you wanted me to increase staff for that purpose.

Selectman Coutu said you just stated that you feel that with the staff you have you are adequately providing a service to Benson Park. I certainly haven't heard any complaints otherwise. Do you feel you can get by one more budget year without having to put an additional person on? Kevin Burns said yes as long as we're not tasked with any additional duties. For example if the Board instructed me you want someone in there full time, then I would have to add staff. If you're happy for now for another year with the same level of service that we're giving the people, we can maintain that for another year. If you want us to do more, we will need more.

Chairman Luszey indicated given that you've taken over the park management and we've got other parks like the one that's over here on the river. We really don't maintain that to the same level. (Merrill) If you were to have this person full time could you then bring that park up to the same level as Benson? Mr. Burns said one additional person is not going to do that. Chairman Luszey thought that will be a discussion for next year then how we do that.

Selectman Coutu thought that wasn't a bad idea. I think we ought to take a look at that park and see if we can do something constructive over there.

Chairman Luszey noted it's vandalized all the time. You've been over there taking care of vandalism. Kevin Burns said my experience over there is we go in, rebuild it, the neighbors don't really want it, and it's just a difficult location. It's hidden away. The neighbors aren't thrilled with the location. It's just been difficult.

Chairman Luszey asked any other questions regarding any of the...all set. Thank you.

Solid Waste (5970)

As you will recall, Kevin Burns noted we just signed a five year extension and with that Pinard has rolled back some pricing which has allowed us to level fund it. Same level of service.

Chairman Luszey said that is with also the decrease in what we get for recycling. There was a slight change in that. Kevin Burns said there is going to now be depending on the market there could be tipping fees for recycling but they've also rolled back our disposal fees to \$65 for our trash. It kind of worked out as a wash.

Chairman Luszey asked if anybody had any comments. Thank you.

Benson (5063, 5563)

Chairman Luszey recognized Chairman Jim Barnes.

Good evening. Jim Barnes noted 5063 the request there is for all those line items is exactly the same as the current fiscal year. There is no change there. On page 27 there are a few minor changes. Benson Park operations overtime line item and the supporting payroll taxes and State retirement. Those have changed slightly. That reflects a labor step 6 versus a labor step 4. So that had not changed for a couple of years since we first put this into the budget. That's the explanation for that change. For small equipment, maintenance, and purchase, there's been a little bit of an adjustment there but basically the total for those two line items is largely unchanged. Electricity we dropped the budget request by a couple of hundred dollars to reflect what we spent last year. The line item for the current fiscal year is probably going to be a little high. We rolled that back a little bit. The rest of the line items are the same. Just one comment on the portable toilets is we're having a change in the vendor. In the current year there will be a little bit higher expense but it shouldn't be a big change so we'll just adjust with the rest of our budget. We just left that line item alone for the moment until we have some more experience with the new vendor.

Chairman Luszey asked it will be in this budget cycle that the water and sewer utilities get put in. Mr. Barnes' understanding is that that will be at the end of next year. So it will be the next fiscal year. Chairman Luszey said it will happen in this fiscal year versus in July.

Kevin Burns noted it will happen in the spring of next year or the fall of next year - calendar year. Steve Malizia explained spring of '17 or fall of '17 which puts us either in Fiscal '17 or Fiscal '18. Mr. Burns said if we have a winter like last winter, we'll probably get in there in the spring and do it. If we have a long, difficult winter, we'll probably put it off.

Chairman Luszey said there's nothing reflected here that shows anything of that being put in and used anywhere. Mr. Burns said the funding is all in the warrant article that was passed last year. Chairman Luszey stated to put it in but for the use of it like I would expect having electricity to the different buildings, the electricity amount would go up and water would go up. Mr. Barnes said the electricity mostly would be for the elephant barn but we are already supplying electricity through a temporary connection to that elephant barn. I don't expect that that would change much. Chairman Luszey thought they would be going to the office building. Jim Barnes said the office building does have some electricity in it but we're not doing a lot of improvements there that will require large usage. Chairman Luszey said the answer is we're really not expanding any usage on this one. We're just bringing it to that stub point.

Selectman Coutu asked isn't the elephant barn going to be metered separately. Steve Malizia said presumably I would assume the Friends of Benson Park...Selectman Coutu said the Friends of Benson are going to pay the electricity that goes in there. We might see a decrease on our side.

Chairman Luszey's only point is that there's no monies there for any incidentals that might given we're doing it but since...Mr. Malizia noted it's in the warrant that's encumbered.

Selectman Coutu said if he doesn't start until next fall, we'll encumber it. I have a question relative to capital reserve funding. On page 25 there was a capital reserve fund apparently established in the 2015 budget - \$1,600. Do you remember what that's for? Jim Barnes said no I don't recall what that was for. Selectman Coutu asked is that money still standing. Kathy Carpentier explained there is a capital reserve fund for Benson's land and renovation that's been around since like 1998. So that \$1,600 would have went there.

On page 27 the \$7,400 the bottom line item. Selectman Coutu said there's a capital reserve fund same year. Ms. Carpentier said there was \$9,000 that went into that capital reserve fund. Selectman Coutu asked is that a separate one or did it all roll into one. Mr. Carpentier said there is only one that I'm aware of. Jim Barnes believed these line items were the monies that were leftover at the end of the fiscal year and the Benson Park Committee committed those to the train station project as part of that expense. Mr. Carpentier said \$9,000 went into the capital reserve fund which was established back in 1999 which was one of the funding sources for the relocation of the train station. Selectman Coutu asked is there any money left in that account. Ms. Carpentier said yes. As of August 31st about \$72,000. Selectman Coutu asked can we use it for anything at Benson Park like if we had to replace the office

building roof could we use it for that. Is that a legitimate...Ms. Carpentier indicated the purpose of this capital reserve fund is for purchasing and renovating a parcel of land. I would believe not to your answer. Selectman Coutu noted we own Benson Park what are we going to purchase. Steve Malizia said that's what we used to purchase it in the first place. Selectman Coutu asked should we dissolve that fund then. I don't see us buying any more land. Chairman Luszey said if we were ever to go and renovate the Haselton Barn. You say no but that's what it would be used for. Kathy Carpentier said or if you were to pave some more, that would be renovating land. Selectman Coutu said it's either or. Mr. Carpentier repeated its purchase and renovate a parcel. Mr. Malizia said we've already purchased it so that's out of the table. What does renovate cover is the question. Ms. Carpentier said you did purchase it. Selectman Coutu asked the original \$180,000 was in that line item that we used to purchase the land. Ms. Carpentier said there was. Selectman Coutu asked for a legal opinion. Mr. Malizia said what does "renovate" mean in this context. Kathy Carpentier said or go the opposite way and come up with what you want to use it for and ask that that falls under this purpose. Selectman Coutu said I'm concerned with is if the corner gives out on the Haselton Barn, we're looking at a very expensive project. Ms. Carpentier wasn't quite sure whether or not.

Selectman Nichols said there is \$98,000 to be spent for the sewer and water, etc. Kathy Carpentier noted Selectman McGrath had asked for cost history for Benson Park. She wanted the Road Agent and I to work on it. I had put it into your budget here. I believe Selectman Nichols is talking about is right after page 29. I threw it in memo in my breakdown. In the FY17 actual column, there's a \$98,000. It has not been spent yet but it has been appropriated and raised.

Selectman Nichols wanted to know is how long is that money good for. Is that good just for one year or is it good for 2? Kathy Carpentier said they usually like to say one year after it was raised. So it was raised this year so as long as you got it done by the end of '18. There has been instances where they hold it over one additional year. I do believe based on what the Road Agent said unless it storms for 12 months, it will probably be done in FY17 or '18.

Selectman Routsis commented I'm new to this so everybody excuse my questions. For the Benson Park Committee meals and towns, page 25. In '14, '15 and '16 it was relatively inexpensive. In '17 it went up by a couple hundred and 18. What is that for? What does that cover? Jim Barnes said what we're using that for is when we have volunteer work days and cleanup days in the park. We have one of those once a month in the warmer weather. That is available to use for helping to pay for those lunches. The small expenditures in the past few years, the budget has been about \$600 for a while. These actual expenditures are what was spent. Most of the time we have volunteers that are providing the food, the water, and everything for the volunteer workers but there have been some cases where we've had to buy some things - paper goods. We've had to spend money on getting pizzas for the cleanup the month before last. It's just there in case we need it, in case we don't have enough volunteers providing the food and the water for the workers.

Chairman Luszey had one question and it's on page 28. It's the miscellaneous building repairs. I'm taking the word "buildings" to mean all of the structures that you see throughout Benson Park. The A-frame - and I've brought to this Board a number of times the roof is literally falling off it. \$1,000 would not be enough to repair or replace that. Is \$1,000 enough to maintain all of the structures with the exclusion of the Haselton Barn?

Jim Barnes said what we're looking at are things like what we just recently done with the gorilla cage. We've done some repainting, sanding, and scraping, and repainting. Those are the kinds of small repairs. If there was some way for the A-frame to get up there and do some small patches or put those sections of asphalt shingles back up, it would not cover redoing that roof but there might be a way we could do some small repairs to that. That's all that would do.

Chairman Luszey asked do you think that amount of money is enough to do that type of work as the years go on. As the years go on, Mr. Barnes thought we're going to have to be looking at some additional investment in those buildings. There are going to be some things that we're going to have to take care of.

Chairman Luszey asked if anybody had any comments. Then I guess we're good.

Steve Malizia stated under Tab L which you got tonight, I did have that advisory warrant article prepared. It was very short and sweet and it related to a Benson Park fee. You have the option of either discussing it now or later but I just wanted to point out that you had asked me for an advisory article. It's pretty short and sweet. I did run it by the attorney. It would pass legal muster but you're certainly welcome to edit it, add language but basically as I understood it, you were trying to get a pulse of the voters. That's a pretty simple way to get the pulse.

Selectman Coutu questioned you've discussed this with our attorney. Mr. Malizia said yes. Selectman Coutu stated the voters vote yes. The Board at that point all they're doing is trying to get a pulse. Mr. Malizia said that's my understanding. Selectman Coutu said then the Board will do what the Board will do. Steve Malizia said if you did do a fee for example, you'd have to have the requisite two public hearings and have all of that. Selectman Coutu asked but we don't have to go back to the voters. We don't even have to go to the voters. We're doing this just to see what the pulse is of the local residents. Mr. Malizia agreed. That's the only ones you can really check. Even if

they said no, Selectman Coutu said we could still do it. Mr. Malizia said you are correct. Selectman Coutu asked why have this warrant article. Mr. Malizia said it's up to you but this is what the Board I think asked for at the last meeting. Selectman Coutu stated we might say no. Collectively we might agree that we don't want to use a fee at this time and the next Board of Selectmen might decide they want to have a user fee regardless. I'm just trying not to overload the ballot with warrant articles. This has no real purpose other than just getting a pulse.

Chairman Luszey said true. So we can make a motion now to remove it or we can...

Selectman Coutu asked Jim's opinion. You heard what we just said. The warrant article strictly says "Shall the Town of Hudson vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to establish user fees for Benson Park. This article is advisory only". Do you think we should go that route? Should we have this warrant article? Would you think your committee would like to know the pulse of the town? Jim Barnes said speaking for myself and not speaking for the committee, speaking for myself I would like to hear the voice of the voters - the residents in town. I know there are a lot of people who use this park very frequently. I think they have a strong interest in what happens at that park.

Chairman Luszey said this warrant article came about because of this very conversation. The Benson Committee was looking for direction from this Board. We couldn't as a Board come to a yes or a no on whether or not we wanted to do this. This was my suggestion that we ask the voters what they want either yes or no. Either we go to the votes and ask them how they feel about it or we don't have to and yet we owe the Benson Committee a direction, a guidance on either they chase this walk or not.

Selectman Coutu asked how many people are going to show up to vote. 3,000 people are going to show up to vote? It's the same ones every year. I think it's a waste of time. It's all right. If you feel it's necessary. Chairman Luszey didn't think it's necessary. What's necessary is we definitively give the Benson Committee either a yes we want to do user fees or no don't spend any time on it we're not interested in doing it.

Selectman Nichols still liked the idea of asking our town people. Granted there are 3,000 maybe if we're lucky that will vote but those 3,000 are the ones who vote for every single thing we have in town. I respect their vote. Whatever they want, that's how I feel. So I don't have a hard time with seeing that on the ballot.

Selectman Routsis thought it's a good thing to put on the ballot because we don't want to waste Benson's time researching, putting people out there, counting cars, or counting people if it's something that when it comes time for us to make a decision that we're going to get a lot of feedback no don't do this. We're doing our due diligence and seeing if I hate to say it the majority of people in town that vote for things. Say yes it's something we'd be interested in.

Selectman Coutu said so it wins by 10 votes Mr. Chairman. What do we do? Or it loses by 10 votes? Chairman Luszey said again since this is advisory only, we cannot hold any future board. Selectman Coutu noted that's what I'm saying. If it's advisory only, why don't we just get off our collective butts and make a decision and get it done and over with and not bother the voters with another ballot question. Chairman Luszey said I'd be 100 percent behind you. On this one warrant article we will come back to a wrap up to have the final discussion so we don't take up everybody's time here tonight. Selectman Coutu said I hope so. I'll be better prepared to speak on it. Chairman Luszey urged everyone to bring - I believe we have the attorney's opinion on how we charge and what we can't charge correct? Steve Malizia said we received an opinion. Chairman Luszey indicated we should have that in front of us when we discuss this warrant article because I think it would help us make that decision. Thank you.

Kathy Carpentier had one comment to your question about miscellaneous building repairs. If there was to be some issues, I do believe that the capital reserve fund for town buildings and repairs at the discretion of the Board because it's for the purpose of repairing or replacing major structural components or systems for town buildings. So it would be up to this Board what did you say some roof or corner was...Selectman Coutu said the corner of the Haselton Barn for example. That's a couple hundred thousand dollar project. Ms. Carpentier was just saying at least establish a place where we've started funding.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector (5030 & Warrant Article D)

Chairman Luszey recognized Town Clerk/Tax Collector Patti Barry.

Thank you. Patti Barry said I don't have anything new to offer tonight. The operating budget is the same every year with some minor adjustments between individual line items. I just wanted to point out on the worksheet, it looks like my operating budget is down a little but that extra \$300 is put into the IT section to cover our printer cartridges. Other than that, I'm not asking for any additional funds this year.

Chairman Luszey said I asked I think at our last meeting - I don't remember if it was a meeting or in your office about getting the automobile registration breakdown. I think everybody got a copy of that. That was interesting reading. What I glimpsed out of that was a slight combination of increase in automobiles and a lot of new vehicle registrations this year. What I gleaned out of that is what we're seeing for revenues out of that this year, we will start seeing a

slight decrease year over year now. So let's not bank on all those dollars. Any other comments or questions from the Board?

Selectman Routsis had a quick question on the lodging on page 6. Prior to FY16, prior to FY17 it was always zero. What changed? Patti Barry said that's the actuals. That is for money budgeted for the Town Clerk and Tax Collector conferences that are in the fall. I typically wait every year to see what the agenda is. The last few years I've just been doing a day trip up so I'm not staying overnight but I have to keep that in the budget.

Selectman Coutu wanted to reiterate because the Town Clerk/Tax Collector agreed that we would be ill advised - and I'm making a statement but I'm asking your opinion so it's clear to the voters that we would take that line item relative to revenue for registrations any higher than what it presently is. If anything, we might want to take a close look at and maybe decrease it a little. We've been almost spot on revenues. Steve Malizia said we've been very careful to be underneath the number that she actually has because of that reason. We're very conservative that way. Selectman Coutu said we'll rely on your recommendation you and the Town Administrator relative to that line. Thank you.

Steve Malizia pointed out that there is a warrant article here number D for a salary increase for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector. As you are well aware, there was an article on the warrant last did not succeed. Last you had a specific salary number. I can't remember the number but I think you were asking for more money to get into a salary. This one I compared it at 2 percent. I'm trying to get something. I hope we get somewhere. That was the intent of this. You are certainly free to change it but I would be remiss if we didn't try to do something.

Selectman Coutu said our Town Clerk/Tax Collector - follow her around on any given day. You'll see why we recommend that she be treated no differently or the position should be treated no differently than we treat any other positions within our municipality. It is done by warrant article because she holds an elected position. However, I feel very strongly and I will be voting for the warrant article to grant an increase. The workload has increased significantly. The income has increase significantly. The availability of the Town Clerk's office is much better than what it had been in previous years. She has a well trained staff who go above and beyond. I hear it all the time how people go in there and how well they're treated. Your staff goes a long way to make you look good but you do it yourself as well. You do an outstanding job. To deny the Clerk's position...Steve Malizia said it's slightly less than \$1,100 in actual salary. So it's about \$1,307. Selectman Coutu said it was an \$1,100 increase in her salary for the amount of work that she and her staff do. I'm concerned again with compression within her own division. If they keep denying her an increase but the other employees get them because contracts pass, there will be some compression there. Kudos to you while we have you here to tell you what an outstanding job you do and your staff as well.

Chairman Luszey totally agreed.

Selectman Nichols said the same thing. I couldn't follow her around because she moves too fast. Always smiling. Always smiling. Her crew - every single girl and gentlemen that work in that office are top notch. They really go above and beyond. I think that she does a wonderful job and I will be voting for this increase too. It's not enough but it's better than nothing. I'd like to see her get more but that's neither here nor there.

Selectman Routsis said I'm in favor for it as well. I looked at the numbers and you went I think it was a good seven years or so without an increase and then you receive a very, very minimal increase for a couple of years. I go along with what everyone else said. You do so much. I don't see you in here all the time but even at our elections, you're there until 1, 2, 3 in the morning making sure it's all done. You never say anything bad about it. You're always happy. You're always cheerful so it's definitely something that I'll vote for for you. I think anyone else that's watching should as well.

Patti Barry said even right now with absentee ballots coming out the ears.

Selectman Coutu noted she has not asked for this. The Town Administrator has been consistent in wanting to see that the position is treated as fairly as we do all other positions. We've had this discussion. You would never ask for a raise. You don't self-promote the warrant articles that are for you. Other politicians would but you're not really a politician. It's the way the position has been set up. It's an elected position. No one would run dare run against you. They couldn't beat you because you do an outstanding job. This is your discretion to propose it. You've done it year in year out with the support of this Board and I'm sure she might tell you privately but I'll tell you publicly. Thank you for recognizing what we should be doing. Steve Malizia said this is what we should be doing.

Kathy Carpentier asked a procedural question. Are we forwarding these to the warrant now or are we going to wait. Chairman Luszey said we normally do it at the end. We'll go through them. I think we have to make a motion for each one. Selectman Coutu noted especially where Selectman McGrath is not here. Ms. Carpentier said you could do it now so you didn't have to revisit it. Mr. Malizia said it's nice if Selectman McGrath was here to get a unanimous vote I think it's better.

Information Technology (5330, 5X77's)

Chairman Luszey recognized IT Director Lisa Nute.

Good evening. For those watching that don't know me, I'm Lisa Nute the IT Director and this is Vin Guarino. One of my two IT Specialists. In 5330, I just wanted to call your attention first of all to the bottom line - the operating part of the budget is down slightly - half a percent though the individual line items may have swung quite drastically in some areas. The main thing in this budget here that has changed or based on our current business and trends is the core piece of equipment I mentioned in a previous workshop that we are looking to replace. It was originally - there are a couple pieces to it. It was first purchased in 2009 so it's already 7 years old. A second one at the Police department was acquired by grant in 2010. Then this Board allowed me to add some additional storage in 2012 and May. So it is five years old this coming May. The equipment we're looking to replace this with is very flexible. It's based specifically on what we're currently doing today and what our trends have been. With that additional storage, we have not had a problem with space being a problem but the equipment itself and the software is like I said 7 will be 8 years old by the time this FY18 rolls into place. The problem with that is that the firmware is no longer supported and we could potentially have some real problems if we need some bug fixes without the support. As I was saying the replacement we're looking at for a budgetary figure is very flexible. It is efficient where it takes unused space and it will reshink it versus what we currently have today. It dynamically scales storage as it's needed. The equipment can grow with us. I put a budgeted figure in here to get us just what we need for today and some years out. Down the road, we don't have to go and replace this whole thing again. We just add storage as the business requires it and as our capacity requires. It also works with our current arrays so what we could do more seamlessly is to put one in place here at Town Hall. It will work with what we currently have there at the Police Department and then we transition and replace that one next. There's also a slight trade in value if our current vendor won the bid again. So that is also reflected in this cost.

Lisa Nute said the other thing that's modified slightly is my training account. We're finding today more and more of our technology training is a lot times there are on line things or free webinars and things that Vin, or John, and I have been able to do. That's come down slightly but I did add a subscription to train all of our personnel and security which is one of our biggest challenges today and continues to be. Are there any questions on that account before we move onto any other department?

Selectman Coutu went down to 5330 almost mid page #2 publications and subscriptions. What is we're buying for \$10,500? Lisa Nute explained when I say subscriptions its software subscriptions. So that's all our antivirus for every system. There's a subscription for that. This is to expand our bandwidth that I mentioned in the Board of Selectmen Workshop at some point and we have some changes coming to some fire software and at some point we're going to be capping more and more with our bandwidth so this would allow me to expand that so that was an increase this year of \$1,800. This is also our domain name. Our hudsonnh.gov is a subscription that I pay every year. Our vendor that we use for our website and everything like that is what we're considering subscriptions.

Selectman Coutu asked to move up one to 5330-208 IT telephone. The Budget Committee is going to ask you why did it go down from 2017 from \$74,360 to \$4,900 in this Fiscal '18 request. Lisa Nute noted this is what I was referring to initially where I said some line items are wildly up or down. So this was where the phone replacement was budget last year. I have needed to if you slide down to 411 Selectman Coutu, you will see that that one is wildly up by 407 percent because that is where this new core equipment is. So it didn't quite fit into 208 so I basically just moved the money around so that it more appropriately fits the line items. Selectman Coutu said it was a good explanation. I appreciate it. I'm all set for now Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Routsis asked what are damage settlements. Lisa Nute said there was a couple years where we had some major storms particularly in the spring. We had some major damage in the Highway Department and elsewhere where there's a deductible to pay before insurance. I did put in for insurance. They didn't cover everything and in the course I had to pick up the deductible. This is for things that isn't covered under insurance or to cover the deductible.

Selectman Coutu asked would these be like the alarms on the poles. Ms. Nute said I haven't seen damage there but the telephone system was what was affected at Highway and things like that.

Selectman Routsis said if it shorted it out type of things like that. Lisa Nute stated we have updated since we've been in this building. I've put shielded cable and things where we've made some improvements. Any time we've had some major disasters, we've gotten much better with finding those problems and correcting them so they don't reoccur.

Chairman Luszey asked if there were any other comments or questions. So this covers all IT for all departments, correct? Ms. Nute said except for a very small portion of things. If you look at the next page, these are actually duplicated sheets within each budget. So in other words, this is the Town Clerk/Tax Collectors budget that we're looking at now just for IT page. This is just the things like printer cartridges. I have the managers of each department help to oversee that and make sure that they can keep track of if I'm suddenly spending a lot of money in their

cartridges, they can help control that a little better than if it was just all in my department and they have no clue about what's going on. So this kind of helps in that regard. Steve Malizia said mostly consumables like she said. She purchases it but it goes to our department for a charge.

Chairman Luszey said actually where I was looking at is on top of page 5. It has maintenance for the Munismart, Finance, Welfare, building permits, yadda, yadda, yadda. What I don't see though is all of the police applications, fire applications, DPW stuff. Lisa Nute asked if you will allow me then to just go through the next pages. You'll see that those things assessing, etc. How about if we go through each one first Mr. Chairman and then if you have questions as we get there, that might help answer your question now I think. You're right I have picked up Munismart since every department uses that. It's not tied to just one. I take on that whole thing. I'll take on several things like that but as you know, I came from the Police Department and their budget was totally separate with IT. So we kind of left it that way. Then I've slowly added fire kind of to resemble the same kind of thing since that's also the biggest.

Chairman Luszey thought a couple years ago what we gravitated to was to put all IT spending in your cost center so that we don't have to go searching for it so that we look across and we can say to run this business called "the Town of Hudson", our IT bill is. Lisa Nute said we have the capability of running a report like that. So it's easy to see that in a single page and I could forward that to you if you would like to look at it that way from now on. It also helps us to see exactly where the spending is occurring and kind of get a better sense of how the departments are using it.

Kathy Carpentier said for each major function like police has 5677. So she's in control of it but yet Chief Lavoie is overseeing it. Fire has 5777. Again it's her budget but the Fire Chief is overseeing it. So they're all in this section right here if you tripped through all of the departments. It's under dual control I guess. Ms. Nute said I'll make recommendations to them but they will also be department heads that come to me and say hey this is what I saw on another department or this is where we could really use some additional technology and this is why. We'll work together in that regard. It's just another way of doing it. When we first became with IT under one umbrella, we had this discussion with the Board of Selectmen and decided that this might be a better way to do it where they can help control some of that spending when it's their own people that I don't have supervisory over. It's just another way of doing it. I could take all the money into mine and do it that way too.

In 5777, Lisa Nute indicated that one is what Patti talked about being up \$300 just because we can never catch up to her printing cartridges. We're always short. The more business she does in there, the more she does print. There are not a lot of opportunities to avoid paper and do paperless in her office.

Selectman Routsis asked about the printer cartridges. Are those for the smaller printers behind their counters or are those for the larger ones that we lease? Lisa Nute said no. The copiers are all rolled under me. The State owns the printers most of those in there but we have to provide the consumables.

Kathy Carpentier said the copiers are in different departments but the one up there by the Town Hall was in my department. Police has some. Fire has some. Rec. has some. Page 9 is 5177 which is the Town Admin. IT piece. Lisa Nute said it was level there and that is simply their consumables as we talked about.

Page 11 is 5377 - Finance. Ms. Carpentier noted its level funded. Lisa Nute said again level funded. That is just KC's department not counting water. We do tap into the water budget doing bills and things like that. They help with that.

Page 13 is Assessing - 5477. Chairman Luszey asked what page is all these software subscriptions that you asked before. I'm seeing a duplicate and I don't know because on page 4 5330 you've got all your software subscriptions yet you've got another software subscriptions in this one. Ms. Nute said I do take them out of 5330. Anybody who's got like 10 or more PCs is how I broke that up. The Police Department has quite a few systems. I have taken that whole chunk of anti-virus and they have helped with the cost of that. I can pull them all back in there but I don't have the money duplicated. Chairman Luszey noted it's not a lot of money on this particular page but when you do that on this one here are you saying you debit 5330, line item 215 that \$400 so that when I look at that 105, that's included. Ms. Nute said it's not included in 5330. Chairman Luszey asked do I add another \$400 to the 105 and now it's 109.

Selectman Coutu noted she's not double dipping. Chairman Luszey said it's not double dipping and that's the whole start of my conversation is when I look at the IT Department, it's not a full reckoning of the entire cost to run the Town of Hudson. You have to go through a lot of these items like publication subscriptions go through and get every single one of them and adding them to that to find out what we're really paying for these software subscriptions.

Kathy Carpentier said that is true. There was two ways of thinking about this. Do you want to know how much it costs to run the Fire Department or do you want to know how much it costs - so if you stripped out all its IT from the Fire Department, then you don't really have a true cost of running the Fire Department. Chairman Luszey said I got that and the answer is yes to both of those. This sheet here should show the total gross number and then if I was to look at 215, I would see Fire, Police, Highway, Town Admin. in their little sub costs too but on this one sheet

because the IT Department is responsible for it all, I should be able to see one big number. Ms. Carpentier said it's not in the book today but it's a two second report that can be run. Chairman Luszey said I would be interested in that. Ms. Carpentier noted it's easy enough to do. So you'd like to see the whole IT budget rolled up in one number. Chairman Luszey said yes in one sheet. If we had these on a disk, I could have done that.

5477 - Assessing. Lisa Nute advised this one includes the software maintenance for Patriot Property which is unique to just the Assessing Department which is why I don't have that in there. Selectman Routsis asked is that separate from the property tax part of Munismart? Ms. Nute said yes. Again that is level funded.

Lisa Nute said Highway always just had cartridges in their IT section but over the last couple of years, I started having him be responsible for his new replacement PCs just like we have fire and just like we have police doing because he's getting more and more.

Page 17, 5277 - level funded. Lisa Nute said that was also just replacement PCs and consumable cartridges. This is also the OCE maintenance on the large...Chairman Luszey asked why is his replacement PCs more expensive than the Highway Department PCs? Ms. Nute indicated they're all supposed to be...Steve Malizia said they're getting two. This is one. Chairman Luszey said no. Highway has 850 and these are 950. Ms. Nute indicated that was a type on mine. I usually try to keep it like gasoline - consistent throughout the departments and I missed that one. Thank you. Chairman Luszey asked what's the right number. Ms. Nute said it's 950.

Page 19, 5677 - IT Police. Kathy Carpentier said its level funded at \$85,000. Lisa Nute said this is where Police has quite a few unique pieces of software and maintenance and also a good portion of our PCs. So they also have cruiser laptops and hopefully of Toughbooks or tablets. So those are reflected in here. We also have a couple of replacement printers that are on a regular rotation cycle. I have one in here and maintenance on their police systems - crucial police systems.

Page 21, 5777 - IT Fire. Kathy Carpentier noted it's level funded - \$38,077. Lisa Nute said what is unique to Fire in software maintenance is the fire IMC. Police had the Police IMC.

Chairman Luszey asked to go back to page 20 for a second line 269 - software maintenance. You have a number of and what I've seen though a number of them is one year contracts for service. For the crash data retrieval, it's a one year. Do they have multi-year? Ms. Nute said in the IT budget, it's kind of hard to keep track of it but I've been able to do that in 5330 for things because there is a cheaper rate if you can do the three years. The crash one I don't think so but I will look to see if that is one that we could. Chairman Luszey thought you'd want to do that for any of them that can have multi-year at lesser rates. Ms. Nute asked can we do that though with default budget.

Kathy Carpentier said well it depends what you're referring to. If you had an opportunity to save significant money if she paid for three years up front. So I had to...Chairman Luszey said it's not necessarily a front. It's either contracted or a front. Mr. Carpentier noted this one actually had to pay it up front so part of one year and put the other two in a prepaid account for next year. The only problem is is you run into multiple year appropriations and if you get into default budgets and things and to be cut out like the crash software. I have no idea but it might be something that is cheap and the IT Director decides to go. You do see the one right below it the excess on the reporting system is one of a five year lease. So he is definitely doing that when he has the opportunity.

Selectman Coutu asked is it 990 or 950. This one says 990. Its 950 correct? Lisa Nute said yes and 950 is an average cost. So some systems will be way less. Mr. Malizia said depending on how robust you have to. Ms. Nute said the Town Engineer is using AutoCAD. That's just an average cost.

Kathy Carpenter went on to page 23, IT Recreation - level funded.

Chairman Luszey had a question on page 20. On the ruggedized laptops have you gone out recently for competitive bidding on that price? That's been that number for 5, 6 years now. Lisa Nute said yes. Actually we did change the equipment because of that. Where they are now using a tablet more kind of a thing, they can pull the whole tablet out but it would come in a little cheaper than the Panasonic. So we're actually doing something slightly different because of that cost. Chairman Luszey said we will be seeing savings in future years because of that. Ms. Nute thought especially since the antenna is being purchased with that you don't have to replace the antenna down the road I'm thinking so that should be a savings once we get the whole fleet redone because the antenna had to change with it.

Selectman Routsis said I may have missed it because we went over so much. I apologize. For page 14, 5477 new computers and since it's budgeted in your budget but they seem to be the only one that it's not budget to them. It's Assessing. Again this is my first time so sorry. Lisa Nute noted Assessing is in mine, Town Clerk I believe, Steve's office Town Administration is in mine. Anybody who just has 1, 2. I take the sewer. Finance is in mine. Yes pretty much Town Hall is in mine. It's the smaller. I just lumped together in 5330. It's the biggest departments that get pretty much separated.

Chairman Luszey had an off the wall question. I'm not sure because I didn't see it. For permitting and land use stuff, they use system but I didn't see that anywhere. When I go through the planning cost center, I don't see any of that. Where is that cost of IT captured? Lisa Nute asked so you're talking about Code Enforcement and Inspectional Services software is part of the Munismart modules. All of that is interfaced together - the property taxes, the building permits, the code enforcement. They take a receipt at any of those counters. It's all being interfaced together because we're using the same vendor for all of that. Cash receipting, accounts payable, accounts receivable is all working together in my budget. Chairman Luszey asked if a department wants to radically change the way they do business, they would come to you with a request and you would put that in your budget to say like they want to strip that out of Munismart. They don't want to use Munismart anymore. They want to use a whole different application that is more cloud based and all that to give their employees better access to data out in the field. Would you put that in your budget or would that be in the cost center budget? Ms. Nute said if it's unique to them, I would put that directly in their budget. Any other questions?

Kathy Carpentier said from an administrative standpoint what's good about Munismart is the interconnectivity like if you said permitting if they do permitting, it goes right to cash receipting which goes right to the revenue report and general ledger. Chairman Luszey said anything that we do in the future should do that also. Ms. Carpentier said I don't know we should. You're right. With Munismart I don't know her challenges because it was designed to them.

Vin Guarino explained Munismart is one big package with all these modules. We also mentioned AssessPro from Patriot Property and it does work with our tax module but there is an interface that was built specifically for that. We have Invoice Cloud that was specifically built for Munismart if we had another application, they would have to write an interface that would be specifically built to it.

Chairman Luszey asked I'm just asking a question on where monies would be if a department wants to do something different in their business processes that affect the IT system. We're not going to have a design conversation tonight. That's all I'm asking. Any other questions from the Board?

Comment. Selectman Luszey said Mrs. Nute between you and Mr. Guarino and Mr. Beike, I want to applaud you as much as I would the Town Clerk. One of the things I've noticed in the past couple of years and specifically this year because you've been keeping us abreast of what's going on in terms of security. We've all seen if the national election certainly hasn't brought it out nothing else will how easy it is to access whatever, whenever, by whomever and you have always gone above board and I know I speak for both Vin Guarino who's with you and Mr. Beike who is a subordinate to you and there's an equal with Vin in maintaining our IT Department. I'm impressed. You've done an outstanding job. We got burnt once two years ago. I hope it was a lesson well learned for everybody. You had all three of you countless nights that you were staying up to try and figure it all out. It certainly was an eye opener to everybody that at any given time, any given day we're as vulnerable as the next guy. If they can get into the CIA files, the Town of Hudson - not that they're that interested. KC makes them very boring. It's just that I appreciate and I'm sure the Board does appreciates what goes into operating such a complex department for a layman like myself it's a learning process every day. I've learned so much more in the past 9 years. I've received a college education thanks to you people. Thank you for all the work that you do. It doesn't go unnoticed nor unappreciated. Please let John know. Vin's here. He hears me but please let John know that we appreciate what you do.

Lisa Nute told Selectman Coutu we appreciate you saying so too and recognizing that. I feel very fortunate to have Vin and John with me and definitely without their expertise, I couldn't do this alone. Thank you. Selectman Coutu thought we've also shown your department a little more support than we have this past year. It's our way of saying thank you.

Just to recap, Chairman Luszey said on page 16 we had to plus that by 200 to capture the right cost of those PCs. I just wanted to make sure. Do you want to push right through or do you want a small break here? We'll push through. We'll move onto Fire, Zoning, and Zoning Board of Adjustment and I'll recognize Fire Chief Buxton.

Fire, Zoning & Zoning Board of Adjustment (5710 - 5770, 5581 - 5583 & Warrant Article I, J, & K)

Good evening Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. Chief Buxton noted with me this evening I have Erika LaRiviere who is the Executive Coordinator for the Fire Department. This is her first rodeo going through the budget, putting the budget together with us this year. She's here in a learning capacity. She's been with the department just about six months now. So she's coming to the end of her probationary time and we're happy to have her on board. Good evening. I'd like to take a minute to thank the members of the Board for the opportunity to present the FY18 budget. I'd be remiss if I didn't take a minute and thank staff for all their input on the budget preparations this evening. The goals for the '18 budget are very similar to the ones that you saw over the '17 process - provide cost effective and efficient services to the Town of Hudson accomplishing this through preparing our personnel, enforcing a consist community risk reduction program, and protecting the community through efficient delivery of emergency services and maintaining our facility's infrastructure. This year's budget operationally we're down \$17,000, approximately 2.2 percent and our payroll and benefits is up 3.9 which is allotted for through the contracts that were passed last year at the ballot box. We also bring forward this evening three warrant articles. One is a bond warrant

article for the construction of the new south end fire station. One is for replacement ambulance and one is for replacement pumper. Would you like me to go through each section of the budget or how would you like to...

Selectman Routsis said I'm on page 2 so for publications, admin. publications 5710, what is that for. IT was for their software. Chief Buxton said this was for our trade journals across the board. Prior to NFPA credentialing to get into the on line NFPA stuff, that used to actually be budgeted in three different areas. That is one of the efficiencies that you picked up when you merged the building in the Fire Prevention Department. Across the board, that all came underneath one area.

Towing. Selectman Routsis asked does each department get their own like when you tow people. Chief Buxton said we operate several different sizes to the fleet and we carry a towing line in our budget to encompass mechanical breakdowns. That would be from the large fleet down to our service vehicle. Would you like me to go through each section Mr. Chairman, or do you want to go straight to questions, or where would you like to go? Chairman Luszey thought we'll just go through the sections and if the Board members have questions in each section.

Selectman Coutu told Chief one of the things that jumps out on that page is 122 insurance benefits. We've been going from a budget of 169 this year to 412 and I know the Budget Committee will ask you about that. Chief Buxton said that flows the pendulum swings from one side to the other as you on board and off board employees whether they take flex payment or they take health insurance from the town. I would say as we brought younger staff on board, they're capturing more of the town's insurance. That's why that has gone up. Kathy Carpentier said right above it you can see a \$14,000 decrease in the flex cash benefits and you're never going to have the same. So those people change to and took insurance. If you lose some people who have single insurance and you get family member insurance people, it can be a huge...

Selectman Coutu said when I look at what we've hired, we've hired young kids. Steve Malizia pointed out this is administration. These aren't the kids. Chief Buxton said this is specific to the administration. So this would be the Executive Coordinator, myself, the Admin. Aide, the two Deputy Fire Chiefs in that area. Steve Malizia said for example if you had someone previous who didn't have the insurance and now someone does, that cost is reflected here. Selectman Coutu said I want to stay on that if I might. I'm not getting it. It's you and the two Deputy Fire Chiefs...Chief Buxton mentioned the Executive Coordinator. Selectman Coutu said you and the two Deputy Fire Chiefs certainly are the same...Chief Buxton said the Executive Coordinator came on board and that was a full family plan. Prior to that, it was a flex pay. We also had one of the two Deputy Fire Chiefs I believe had an insurance adjustment also. If you'll note, one of the two Deputy Chiefs if you look underneath the flex payment is at \$5,000 where the other Deputy Fire Chief is at \$10,000. If you remember correctly during contract negotiations the last time around, you made an adjustment so that that number never creeps back up on the flex side. So as you work through that over the next several years, you see the insurance go up but the flex payment continues to come down.

Selectman Coutu noted a family plan is \$21,357 for one year. Chief Buxton said that would be correct. Selectman Coutu said it's not just akin to your department. It's throughout. I think it's outrageous. Kathy Carpentier said that's technically 80 percent of the cost because the employee is picking up 20 percent. Chairman Luszey said that's no longer the Cadillac plan. Selectman Coutu stated I certainly can't fault anybody for that. It's just that's what it is I guess. While I'm on the subject if I might Mr. Chairman, I'm going to make one observation. I think we need to start asking some of our employees or all of our employees in contract negotiations to pick up a little more of the insurance costs. This is costing the taxpayers an awful lot of money. Private companies don't pay that for insurance for the most part. Chairman Luszey noted that's what contract negotiations are all about.

If you recall, Steve Malizia said we are putting in the high deductible plan which is actually a lower overall cost plan but it's not in here yet. Selectman Coutu said here's an example of insurance going up from 169 to 412. It's not going to help us. Mr. Malizia stated it depends on the employee and what the elections are. That is correct.

Kathy Carpentier thought as we go through you'll see we have realized savings like in Kevin's area for one where he lost a lot of family senioreed people and thought he had a lot of young singles. Selectman Coutu asked would it be difficult to give year to year what we paid total insurance visa vie the new year. Ms. Carpentier said that would not be difficult. That would be easy to do however I just want to caution that in the Fiscal '18 budget they've been looking at, there's no increase in these line items - in anybody's line items. I have a placeholder. I anticipated 11 percent increase but it's not rolled into every department, every line item at this point. The rates are supposed to be coming in some time in October which is around this time frame. So '18 is an anomaly at this point. Selectman Coutu said we anticipate an increase so everyone's budget will go up accordingly. Ms. Carpentier agreed but in the overall budget, I've accounted for a placeholder. So fire might go up. I put in \$199,000. Selectman Coutu said the bottom line won't move. Mr. Malizia indicated it would just get disbursed into the budgets. Selectman Coutu said unless we're lucky and it comes in at 6 percent or 7 percent. I know wishful thinking. Ms. Carpentier heard it possibly could be 11 percent. Selectman Coutu noted the school went up 10 so yes it could be 11. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Kathy Carpentier took that as an action item. Chairman Luszey asked do you want that report. We certainly can't compare. If you looked at '15 and '16, '17 is not over. We're really not going to get a number for this year so we're

going to get '15, '16. I would rather look at '16 and '17 at the end of Fiscal Year '17. Chairman Luszey said there's no action item at this point. Ms. Carpentier said some of the initiatives that the Board has taken in the contracts haven't even been implemented. They don't start until January of '18. So some of the things that you've already taken haven't been impacted these numbers yet. No action.

On page 3, Chairman Luszey noted gasoline. That's a pretty hefty decrease when we're starting to see prices rise. Do we still have...Steve Malizia stated we've put it in at \$2.50 for everybody which is greater than we're at now but still...Chairman Luszey asked if we still have that account. Mr. Malizia said no. Kathy Carpentier said we haven't reviewed that yet. When we get down to the 5900, we took that \$25,000 and just put it in contingency. We didn't call it "gas contingency" anymore. Mr. Malizia thought the bottom line I think we obviously are paying far less than the pump retail. The taxes were in the \$1.70 - \$1.80 range. Kevin who spearheads that part of the effort recommended that we all use \$2.50 per gallon which is what everybody has for gas and diesel.

Chief Buxton moved on to section 5715 of the budget is the building maintenance section of the budget and that can be found on 8. This section of the budget is down 5 percent operationally. This covers all the maintenance for the facilities across the board. It also has your utilities - heating, oil, natural gas, electricity built in there. We continue to maintain our facilities consistently each year with our preventative maintenance program of our furnaces, septic systems, water pumps, etc.

Page 12, 5720 - fire communications. Chief Buxton explained fire communications covers the operation of the dispatch center and the Fire Department. That comes in flat but budgeted. We run three transmission sites and five receiver sites in the town. We're fully licensed through the FCC. That takes care of our communications and gives us approximately 95 percent coverage town wide on a polvo radio which is important to us obviously when we're operating the fire on an emergency scene.

Page 15, 5730 - fire suppression. Chief Buxton said 5730 fire suppression - this is the largest center of the cost center of the Fire Department budget. This area covers the salary for full time, part time staff, fleet maintenance, equipment and training. Operationally we are down three percent. Payroll we were up 4 percent.

Selectman Coutu wanted to make sure are the employees identified in here. Ms. Carpentier said yes on page 21 and 22. Dealing strictly positions and not people in light of the action that was taken by the Board of Selectmen the other evening is that all reflected on this page? Chief Buxton said it is. The adjustments have been made. Overall just on that line item, Selectman Coutu said we went from \$1,998,000 to \$2,070,000 in full time salaries. Part time is that the call firefighters. Chief Buxton said that is correct. Selectman Coutu said we won't go there. I promised you I wouldn't.

Overtime Chief. Selectman Coutu noticed that in Fiscal '16 those are actuals. Kathy Carpentier said correct. Selectman Coutu said you budgeted \$379,269 this year and you're keeping it level funded for next year. Of course the budget year began July 1st and here we are October so we only have a quarter of the year accounted for. Are you running level with that 379 request at this time? Chief Buxton said yes. We're actually running good on our overtime budget this year. You have to remember last year we had 7 different openings within the Fire Department. So it was overtime. The overtime pendulum swung up and down. Salaries lines came in a little less but the overtime went up. So that was an offset. Selectman Coutu asked you feel comfortable with that 379 number. I noticed you didn't ask for an increase next year. Chief Buxton said we have made adjustment for the contractual obligations for the overtime rate within the budget and we're still within the lines so we feel comfortable with that.

Selectman Routsis questioned on page 3 for your gasoline that we went over quickly. What's the difference in the vehicles because you have diesel again under your suppression. So what does 5710 cover? Chief Buxton said 5710 would be the administrative staff. The two Deputies are gassed out of that section. The fleet being the ambulances, the forest units, the large fleet, the fire pumps, the ladder trucks all come out of the diesel line.

Page 23, 5740 - Fire Inspectional Services. Chief Buxton noted this is the Inspectional Services budget. This covers both your fire prevention and building portions of the budget operationally. I believe this shows a 3 percent increase but that 3 percent increase is due to contractual obligations for a uniform allowance increase to the Fire Prevention Officer which was in the last contract.

Selectman Coutu asked for an explanation on the uniforms. Steve Malizia said we bumped up the uniform allowance so it bumped up his budget a couple of hundred bucks. Chief Buxton said you're going from 14...Selectman Coutu asked if everyone go an allowance. Chief Buxton said yes but in the last contract the Fire Prevention Officer was granted a little bit larger of a uniform allowance in the Supervisor's contract. It went from 450 to 600. It was for boot cost. We're budgeting about \$125 per pair of boots because he's out in the field.

If I might Mr. Chairman, Selectman Coutu said I know I brought this up before and I want to bring it up again. We still have two members of this staff - the Fire Prevention Officer and the Fire Inspector who are full-fledged firefighters and it is my understanding and I'm sure that it still is that should there be a major configuration in the municipality these two gentlemen are available and their first priority would be to go to the fire. Chief Buxton said yes. They are

cross trained as both firefighters and EMTs. Their collateral per say is to support the Operational Division when needed. Selectman Coutu supported that 100 percent.

Chairman Luszey asked about the part time position Inspector that you're not planning to replace that. Steve Malizia said we are. We don't know who it is yet. Chief Buxton said we haven't filled that yet.

Page 26, 5747 - Zoning. Chief Buxton explained 5747 and 5748 Zoning and Zoning Board of Adjustment. There's a new area within the budget. Last year we merged the Zoning and Code Enforcement section in the budget. We diligently reviewed our practices to make sure that postage and supplies and paper are being bought underneath one area. One area of the budget that we saw an increase in was postage. So under Administration you saw a little bit of an increase but that's because everything is being pushed through that one area of the budget. The ZBA we did increase their budget for public notices and that was to reflect current spending.

Chief Buxton said 5747-252 \$20,000 just to answer the questions. That is the mosquito program that we contract out every year. That is the larvacide testing and those result come through. So that is how much that contract costs. They are a very good company to deal with. They're very diligent about the work that they do.

Selectman Coutu noticed the Zoning Administrator is one of those people who selected a lower insurance which resulted in a \$6,000 saving on that line item. Chief Buxton said he's a two person plan versus a family plan. Kathy Carpentier said it's not that he picked. Selectman Coutu said I understand. I raised a family. I worked for a municipality. I had good insurance but I paid 25 percent. Ms. Carpentier said he wasn't eligible for a family plan.

Page 29, Kathy Carpentier believed Chief had already gone over the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Chief Buxton said the Zoning Board of Adjustment you'll see an increase to newspaper ads and that's for public notice requirements for the Zoning Board of Adjustment. That reflects actual spending last year.

5750 - Fire Ambulance, page 31. Chief Buxton indicated this section of the budget covers the operational costs of the emergency medical services - ambulance, licensing, training, equipment, oxygen, those sorts of things.

Page 35, 5765 - Fire Alarm. Chief Buxton said 5765 the fire alarm shows an 18 percent decrease and basically we can do that because of the maintenance we've been doing on the fire alarm system. That represents maintenance of 350 master boxes in town, 56.4 miles of fire alarm cable which represents 9 fire alarm circuits. So that system is maintained by inside staff. We purchased approximately one mile of cable per year.

5770, page 37 is Fire Emergency Management. Chief Buxton noted this is the emergency management section of the budget.

Selectman Routsis asked about line 301 for paper for plans because you have printing for plans but now you're not accounting for paper. Is that because of our new contract for the copiers? Chief Buxton said no. That's because we're actually moving towards electronic formatting and disk storage of our plans.

Selectman Coutu asked why does Emergency Management have a meals line item. Chief Buxton said basically if we have an activation of the EOC, that line is utilized to feed staff and is the emergency operation section.

Selectman Routsis asked about 303 for your office supplies or is that just rolled into somewhere else's office supplies. Chief Buxton said we rolled them into administrative.

Steve Malizia indicated we already covered IT under the IT section. We just put it here because we wanted to make sure we didn't miss it anywhere but we already covered it.

Selectman Coutu went back to basically what you were saying. We have a page here reflective of what the IT cost is for the Fire Department. Is that number the bottom line \$38,077? Is that reflective in his bottom line or IT's bottom line? Kathy Carpentier said his bottom line. As far as the State is concerned, there's a line called "fire". This would roll up under fire. If you stripped it out of here and gave it to the IT, there's a Finance IT budget that would be grossly inflated. So it's leaving the cost where purpose is and the purpose in this case is fire. There is a different management where you pull it all out and put it under IT but we have the major IT projects under the major functions. Selectman Coutu asked that report you requested Mr. Chairman will give us an overview of the total cost strictly IT for the whole town? Steve Malizia said yes you could have a spreadsheet. Chairman Luszey said it should show it broken out by department underneath that which gives us that gross number.

Selectman Coutu commented that report will be valuable.

Kathy Carpentier asked do you want it broken down to like one more layer down or how far am I going down? Chairman Luszey said I'll sit with you because there's like 3 or 4 major lines like software subscriptions, hardware, and...Ms. Carpentier said so you would like it down to commodity. That's fine. I can do all. I understand what you want. Thank you.

Selectman Routsis wanted to make sure the computers are 950. Line 411 says 990. That's what it was right? Selectman Coutu stated they fluctuate. Ms. Carpentier said there is no consistency in the budget but there will be in the future. They are average prices. I have double monitors. The person beside me might not have a double monitor.

Kathy Carpentier believed we're done the departments for the Fire but the Fire Department has three warrant articles.

Before we go there, Selectman Coutu asked Chief Buxton bottom line 18 versus 17. You said it's going to be done. Chief Buxton said operationally we're down \$17,000 overall and then the payroll and benefits is up 3.9 which is contractual obligations.

Kathy Carpentier asked to make one note that we haven't touched on either and I know it's a hot point. NH Retirement rates have been rolled in. It's a bi-annual year so the rates went up significantly and those numbers are all rolled in here also. So when he says salary, its salary and benefits are up three point something percent, it also includes a 9.4 percent increase to the NH retirement rates where the Chief or the Town has no control over.

With that said, Chairman Luszey said it sounds like we had somewhere in the order of a 20 percent increase in costs - insurance and retirement yet we've kept the overall budget flat. Is that a fair assessment? Ms. Carpentier said that is directionally a fair assessment. With the \$25 million of anticipated valuation increase so yes. You've had about a \$200,000 anticipated increase for insurance and about a \$200,000 actual increase for pensions. Chairman Luszey's point is the work that you folks done with the budget, we've got increases that are outside of our control yet we're managing that within...Steve Malizia said with those increases our tax rate is three cents less than it was this year.

Warrant Article I - construction of the new fire station. Chief Buxton explained Warrant Article I is the bond article for the construction of the new fire station on Lowell Road \$2.9 million. It requests a sum of approximately \$79,405 for bond insurance, general obligations and notes for 17/18. The station would be replacing the current location at 88 Burns Hill Road which was built in 1981. In 2001, that station opened on a 24 hour basis and since that time we've had no major upgrades to the facility. This facility would be proposed on Lowell Road at 204 Lowell Road, would be a two-bay station, approximately 7,000 square feet, and incorporate a new firematic support system and be on full utility. So when I say that, I mean water, gas, sewer available right on that site. We increase our service capability in the south end of town by approximately the 300 parcels of property in that district and improve services with that move also.

Selectman Coutu asked in that warrant article Chief I noticed that it says at the end "and further raise and appropriate the sum of \$79,405 for the purpose of paying 2017/2018 bond insurance cost and interest on said general obligation bonds or notes". Does that \$79,000 going to be repetitive every year? Chief Buxton said just the first year. Steve Malizia explained there is an issuance cost from the bond bank or depending if you go to the bond market so you pay a one-time fee.

Selectman Coutu told Chief you know how I feel. I wholeheartedly support the construction of a new fire station on Lowell Road. I will do everything within my power this year to convince the voters that this is the right direction for our town. It's about Hudson. It's not about our pocketbooks. Obviously the budget is but this is to me critical to reach those that we serviced the most the quickest. The people we serve the most are the people in the vicinity of Lowell Road. That's not to say that the outer environs from Lowell Road are going to be served in less time. I think that you've done the numbers. You've done the perimeters around both fire stations - the existing fire station and the one that we're recommending be constructed and no one is going to suffer. As a matter of fact, I think a significantly larger number of people are going to be serviced much quicker than they presently are. I've been noticing of late, and when I mean of late I mean since the beginning of summer, the flow of fire and ambulance apparatus up and down Lowell Road in the vicinity of my employment which is located on Lowell Road. I've watched intently at the intersection with the Sagamore Bridge which is in my immediate view if I'm outside and also through the lights at Wal-Mart. I am not totally ignorant of what takes place prior to arriving there which would be say from Mission Point down to the Sagamore Bridge. The flow is exceptional. They get through that traffic. The major argument against the fire station and it's been iterated here several times by one member of the Board of Selectmen is that it's going to significantly impact the flow of traffic. Might I remind people that is the most illogical argument that can be presented because when they come from Wason Road to say Wal-Mart, they are still coming down Lowell Road. At some point they have to get onto Lowell Road to get there. It has not significantly impacted the traffic.

Selectman Coutu said people have not been calling -certainly haven't been calling my house and I get a lot of calls about a lot of nonsense. That is not nonsense traffic. I don't know if you've been following - I know you haven't been participating as I do. What's been posted on Facebook of late in terms of traffic on Lowell Road, and the study, and the arguments I made against the study, I would say based on what I'm reading the majority of the people agree with me that it's a waste of money to study Lowell Road but this Board decided obviously to go in that direction. If

you read the comments, yes people are concerned about traffic on Lowell Road. An emergency vehicle is an emergency vehicle. People pull over for the most part and they're going to go down Lowell Road. What part of that don't people understand? We are housed in a building at Burns Hill that has outlived its usefulness. It is discriminatory in nature. We have a building that does not provide for male/female participation in the building. We need to correct that. We are in a building that is using a septic system and a well. There is no way of expanding it. We're too close to free flowing water and we're buried in the confines of that corner. The building needs a significant overhaul which is ridiculous to spend \$1 to \$2.25 million when for \$2.9 million we can have a brand new facility. We already have not necessarily state of the art but we have some pretty damn good equipment if I might say so myself that's going to be housed there. We're going to be able to control the lights on Lowell Road to get our emergency vehicles up and down that road on an as needed basis. It's not like they're going up and down the road 50 times a day. There are days they may never the station. I doubt it but maybe on a quiet Sunday. They're out there. There are motor vehicle accidents every day they have to respond to. We're going to promote this fire station and it's from my perspective anyway this is the year. It's do or die. We're going to do a good marketing campaign, and I'm going to participate with you, and we're going to get this done I hope.

Chief Buxton said I appreciate that. Thank you.

Chairman Luszey commented I don't really have anything else to say because I think you've said it all. I'm in the same camp with one exception. I would like the Town Administrator, the Fire Chief, and the Finance Director to take a look at the possibility of how we could possibly finance this as a line item. We need to have the conversation about how we use monies from sales of property for this and other projects. We've got a pretty healthy fund balance on how we might use some of that and then how much would we raise through straight appropriations as a one-shot deal. Very similar to how the school financed \$500,000 field replacement. That way there it would be a simple majority versus a super majority and not a bond. When we do our wrap up, take a look at that and see.

Chief Buxton asked so you would like to see a finance package put together that does not include a bond.

Chairman Luszey agreed. Just something we can have a discussion on and see if it's even possible.

Selectman Coutu warned the Board if we don't get a field built.

Chairman Luszey stated you heard what I said. Other projects. I understand we have multiple needs in this town and we need to figure out how to do that. I do understand a field is one of them.

Selectman Coutu asked how much money do we have in...Kathy Carpentier said 6.4 but you just used 600 of it. Steve Malizia noted a little bit less and \$6 million. So this is half of it. Selectman Coutu was willing to look at an alternative package so that we don't have to go to 60 percent and we did get 57...Mr. Malizia noted we were shy about 132 votes. Selectman Coutu said a majority of the people wanted to do it. I think it's worth exploring an alternate way of doing it because we feel very strongly that this is the right thing to do for our community. It's not enhancing or enriching the Fire Chief or the members of the Board of Selectmen. This is an immediate need at the south end of town and I wish we had this item. It's we need this item and that's what we need to convince the voters. Okay I'm there.

Chairman Luszey said we're not reviewing the Recreation Department but I think if they come forward with that package that includes that need addressed also so that we know what that total may look like. You know what days are recommending for...Selectman Coutu said we're going to come in with the first phase of the...Steve Malizia stated we'd like to build a field. We've got a lot of the money. We need another amount. Chairman Luszey said that's what I'm saying. You know what that is so when you do this, we've got this pots of money. Mr. Malizia said that pales in comparison to do this by quite a lot. Chairman Luszey noted to Selectman Coutu's point, how do we do those without bankrupting the voter. Mr. Malizia asked define bankrupt to the voter. Chairman Luszey said increasing the tax rate. Regardless, Selectman Coutu said if we come in with an alternate funding plan, the purpose of that is to lessen the impact on the voter so we're not going to bankrupt anybody. Chairman Luszey stated wrong choice of words. It's not bankrupt but what the point is address both items so that we can have a healthy conversation on how we do it. Selectman Coutu said the sale of municipal property is still ongoing and we still have some relatively big parcels to sell.

Selectman Coutu asked are you in awe of the Chairman or. Steve Malizia said not. I'm always concerned when we take our surplus down to a certain number because there is no other financing. Chairman Luszey said I understand it and that's what I'm saying. You guys know where that best point cut off is so that we don't jeopardize the bond rating of the town and all that and stuff. That's why I'm asking for you folks to do that and come back to us and not let us just blindly take those funds and put them her or there. Mr. Malizia said we advise you as to what would be in the best interest.

Kathy Carpentier asked on 11/1 you have a budget workshop if necessary. Is that when you're looking or...? Steve Malizia commented we'll see how the rest of the budget goes and see what progress they make. Chairman Luszey was hoping to do it on the 27th. That's when I would like to have it so we're done.

Warrant Article J. Chief Buxton stated Warrant Article J represents a replacement ambulance for the Fire Department. For those of you that have been on the Board for a couple of days, this is a cycle that we go through and every 8 years an ambulance moves in and out of our stock. This year we're looking to raise and appropriate \$200,000. You've actually put them money away for this purchase already in the capital reserve account so next year when you make the deposit into the capital reserve account, you'll have the money to paid for this cash on hand and not raise any tax dollars to do that replacement.

Selectman Coutu said we put the same amount every year in this capital reserve fund. Steve Malizia stated last year you put 100 in. This year planning to put another 100 in.

Selectman Coutu noted we've said it in the past Chief that the cost of equipment is going up. Have we been putting the same amount in every year? Last year Steve Malizia stated was the first year you went from 60 to 100. So you bumped it because of the anticipated increase. You weren't putting enough in before. Selectman Coutu asked are we best served to continue to do this now - continue the 100,000. That would be fiscally responsible going into - when is the next turnover 2 years? Chief Buxton said 3 years after this one. Basically the way the cycle goes now is you have 2 years to save for an ambulance. That third year is for capital equipment being defibrillators, stair chairs, stretchers. A stretcher is \$20,000. It's an expensive piece of equipment. That's why we upped that.

Selectman Routsis asked what do we do with the old ambulance. Chief Buxton said it's traded in.

Chief Buxton noted the final warrant article would be a replacement fire pumper. I need to make two edits to this warrant article. The actual cost is being reduced to \$508,000 which would mean the total requirement to come out of unassigned fund balance would be \$308,000. I apologize for the tardiness on that. That came in today. I will send Kathy a fresh copy of this in the morning so it can be substituted in.

Basically what Chief Buxton said we were looking to do in '97 and '98 you purchased two commercial type fire apparatus under Chief Carpentino. They were meant to last approximately 15 years. They're coming up on 20 years of serviceable life now. With the change in our call volume and the way we're operating, we're actually recommending that we trade both of them in and put the value towards the purchase of one replacement pumper at \$508,000. The pump would be located out of the Robinson Road Fire Station. That would provide us three front line fire pumpers. One at Central Station, one at the Burns Hill Station; and one at Robinson Road. The reduction of pump did not affect the ISO rating because when you purchased the tanker truck in '11, you put a larger pump on that truck to provide water supply and that was a change in the fleet back then and this is coming full circle to help you in the future. That's the payback in the future.

On the bottom of my recommendation for the warrant article, Chief Buxton asked the Board to consider lease purchasing of this vehicle very similarly as you do with the Highway Department for Kevin's large fleet. You lease purchase the 10-wheel dump trucks. A lease purchase payment for this truck would come in at \$60,000. Currently right now you're placing \$50,000 into the capital reserve accounts for large fleet. We have come in at \$17,000 underneath on our operating budget. I would make the recommendation to you this evening that you consider taking some of the savings in the operating budget and the money you're putting into the capital reserve and put it into a lease purchase payment and putting the lease purchase payment into the operating budget in the 5730 line.

Based on what Selectman Coutu was reading, and if I'm reading it wrong you tell me, you're expecting and I would think that you're talking the 2018 budget because that's what we're discussing and unassigned fund balance of \$350,000 plus dollars. Chief Buxton said to borrow from unassigned fund balance. Steve Malizia said well you're not borrowing, you're paying for it. You're taking it out of unassigned fund balance. You're appropriating out of that fund balance. Chief Buxton noted it's just under \$6 million currently. Selectman Coutu said you already want to drain 350 off the top of that. Mr. Malizia said 308 not but yes that's correct. Ms. Carpentier said we wouldn't have to do that if we entertained b...Chief Buxton said if we leased purchased it.

If you recall, Steve Malizia said the 10-wheel dump trucks we've replaced those through that very same program. Selectman Coutu noted we don't have the numbers on the lease except what he just told us. This I understand but there's nothing else that explains the lease. Chief Buxton explained the estimated lease payment came in today at \$60,000. Selectman Coutu asked what is the down payment if anything. What is the net cost of the ambulance after we do the trade ins? Chief Buxton said you're on the fire pumper. I don't have the interest rate. You would actually estimate that out through the bidding process when you formalize this. You're looking at \$508,000 for the purchase of the truck itself. Selectman Coutu asked and the lease would be how many years at \$60,000. Chief Buxton said 10 which is half of the serviceable life. Selectman Coutu stated it would be \$600,000 plus interest. Chief Buxton noted that would be in total. Sixty would include the interest. Steve Malizia indicated \$600,000 approximately is what he's saying. That's before any trade in and that's with interest. Chief Buxton noted and formal bidding process. That's an estimated payment. Mr. Malizia said that's how we leveraged the 10-wheel dump trucks and I thought the grader. Chief Buxton said last year you did the street sweeper the same way.

Selectman Coutu asked how many companies make pumpers. Chief Buxton said there's half a dozen major fire apparatus companies. This company that we've been talking with is actually based out of NH. It's an HME dealer who is out of Lakes Region area and would supply the chassis and then the body will be potentially be built depending on where the bidding process comes out. We've been working with Alexis who built the squad truck to try to get the estimated dollars together.

Selectman Coutu said I find it difficult to understand when we go through a bid process why we are prematurely talking to companies and what they would offer us. Doesn't that kind of mask the whole thing? We shouldn't be talking to these companies. We should be talking to a consultant instead and have him act as an intermediary. Chief Buxton explained when we put out our bids, they are RFPs and are generic in nature. We don't steer it towards one vendor or another. We don't require specialty parts. IT talks about things in generic. It's a very generic bid process. To get a direct estimate on the costing of a vehicle, there's no true consultant per say without going to a factory to find out how much it costs to build a construction of the truck. The last company we worked with, we had a good relationship with them building the squad vehicle. It came in on budget. So we went back to them and asked them to estimate out for us and then they would have to go through a competitive bidding process with everybody else to - Pierce came, E1, Alexis, all those four guys. There are several vendors in the area.

Selectman Coutu asked where would this vehicle be housed. Chief Buxton said station 1 which is Robinson Road. Selectman Coutu said Robinson Road the building itself I know we did some repairs about three years ago. We fixed some of the cracks and we did some of that exterior wall. How is everything holding up over there on Robinson Road? Chief Buxton said good. The Robinson Road station we had repointed I think was four years ago and sealed this year in the budget for that building is new windows. The heating system has been kept up to date and upgraded as it needed to. The facility is sound bones so we continue to put money into it to keep it up to date. Selectman Coutu asked about its kitchen area. Chief Buxton said that is on the older side. That will be one of the things that we roll into our operating budget as things move forward and monies allow. Selectman Coutu asked if there was a training room there. Chief Buxton said yes. They have a room upstairs. Selectman Coutu asked if they had a chemical wash area. Chief Buxton indicated we have one extractor which is the washer machine for washing protective clothing. We don't have one in each facility. We have one which is located at the Central station. So if we have a structural fire and the guys need to have their protective clothing needs to be laundered, we actually have a policy in place and a procedure on how it gets washed. They drop it off and get laundered. It gets cleaned and dried here in one area where it's contained and then it gets returned to them. Selectman Coutu asked if we build a fire station on Lowell Road. Chief Buxton said that will be within that budget underneath a new facility but those are \$50,000 for that piece of equipment alone for the washer itself because of how its drained, and it's filtered, and the speed at which it rotates, and the liquids that it's using.

Chairman Luszey asked if there were any comments from the Board. In terms of financing this thing, what's the Board's pleasure? Do you want to look further at doing the lease purchase like everything else?

Selectman Coutu thought we ought to look at - we've had good luck with that approach with Kevin. The biggest piece of equipment he bought. I think it was that grader. I think that was prior to or on or about when I became a member of the Board of Selectmen. When I looked at it, I thought it was the most reasonable approach and I think that looking at a lease agreement is much more reasonable than trying to come up with taking \$350,000 out of unassigned fund balance. We're talking like there's millions of dollars in there. There are but you start draining a little here a little there. The lease agreement even though we're going to pay a little more in the long run, I think it would be more palatable for the voters and less of an impact over the ten year period and then it goes away or unless another...Chief Buxton said you would have a consistent spending habit though like the Highway Department. Steve Malizia said you'd segway into the loader, the sweeper. Chief Buxton commented it's consistent. Selectman Coutu stated they're spending it and they don't realize that there's money going into the bank to protect against the major purchase and this would be one. Let's look into the lease agreement and do what you have to do to get us the numbers and then we can rewrite - well we wouldn't have to go to a warrant article. It will be one less warrant article. We're going to have to come up with the first year's lease payment at \$60,000.

Kathy Carpentier believed the Chief said stop funding the capital reserve fund by 50 so it's only a \$10,000...Steve Malizia said it's allocated over there and then took the 17 that he saved in his budget already. Chief Buxton said it becomes a wash on the bottom line. Chairman Luszey said it's a non tax rate impact at that point for that first year. Ms. Carpentier said as presented, it is a \$10,000 tax impact. It's less than a penny but his impact he gave back 17 so this would be 10 out of the 17 but it is a 10,000 impact to what you received in your books. That's it for fire.

Selectman Coutu wanted to thank the Chief as I'm sure all the members would. I know that Selectman Nichols and I went to the Hudson Fire Department awards night banquet that you held last week. I want to thank you for that invitation. It gave me an opportunity. You asked me if I would speak on behalf of the Board and I hope I represented them well. I know that Selectman Nichols and I sat together and we saw the camaraderie in the room. We saw I'll say frankly as someone who has been immersed in some of the controversy in previous years in the Fire Department, it's come a long way. You and I commented about the camaraderie and people that we wouldn't expect sitting together or talking together are. The atmosphere has changed. The banquet was fantastic. It was great to see people putting pins on those who were promoted even though I wasn't for the promotions. I know some of these

people personally. They're great firefighters. They will be great leaders within the Fire Department. My objection was the financial impact on the voter. I don't regret my vote. I don't think I've shied away from it but it was a great affair. The tone was very, very positive. I want to thank you again for the invite, for the outstanding job. It's come a long way from being held at a school, or across the street at the old library, to a nice facility. I thought it was nice to see that our first responders had an opportunity to have a gala for themselves. You provided that opportunity for them. It was classy and I truly enjoyed it. I don't know if you want to say anything Pat but I had a good time.

Selectman Nichols commented it was just the same like you said. They were teasing each other but it was like a family. They treated each other like brothers and sisters and whatever. It was more of a family feel for the group that you had there. It was just a wonderful evening. Food was excellent by the way. It was outstanding.

Chief Buxton said I appreciate both of you that attended. I would encourage next year anybody that didn't have the opportunity to attend to try to attend. It is a very good evening for the department to come together and talk about the things that we have achieved over the last year. We are very fortunate to have the staff that we have on board. With the influx of the younger members, there tends to be some of that jovial joking. There seems to be a little more alive which is excellent to see. You kind of leave your rank at the door when you walk in there that night because you never know who the next joke may be which is good. It is goodness. It is an opportunity for us to thank them and for them to come together and appreciate each other. I do appreciate it.

Selectman Coutu noted the pictures were great. He gave us a good history of what took place in the past year provided a move for joviality. Chief Buxton said we talk about and one of the things that we're very proud of is we give out service awards. We remember those members that have served with us on the active operational side and serve in a different role today. From the onset, Harry Chesnulevich - 60 years of service to the community. He still comes to the fire house every day. As I explained that night, his role has changed and he now finds himself in the mentoring role and meeting with the younger generation and teaching them every day. Dave Morin - 35 years of service. Mickey Rudolph - 35 years of service. We have some very long-term talented people that as their roles change, they still continue to contribute and that's important for us to continue to grow.

Selectman Coutu apologized even though I made a note to attend the Memorial on Sunday morning. I thought of it yesterday. I don't know why I completely - I told you I was going to be there. I planned on being there and I've attended some in the past. I truly wanted to be there this week. I apologize for not being there. It's a day of remembrance of all the firefighters that serve not just in Hudson but around the country.

Just before we adjourn, Chairman Luszey asked do you want to give a little update on how the update to Central Fire. Just a little update on the station renovation. Chief Buxton said we actually are on schedule and as I expressed to my liaison today, we're actually skimming along under budget at this point in time. We've had some asbestos removal that crept up that we found underneath double layers of carpeting and those types of things but we've handled that within the budget. We did receive that donation from the Lions Club which will help out with appliances but we continue to move forward and next week we actually will start transitioning into some of the renovated spaces for the dormitories and move onto the second phase of the renovation upstairs which is to remove the old kitchen and the dormitories on the front half of the building. One door has been raised in the main station over the last two days. They continually move across - new windows going in so it's an exciting time over there and we're doing well. Again I can't say enough about the flexibility of the employees that every day they come in and move something around and keep the progress moving.

Selectman Coutu went in shortly before most of the people went into Bernie Major's wake. I just want to say that Bernie was to me a mentor, a good friend. I met Bernie before I became a Selectman. Heard me talking politics one day and he jumped in and we've been friends ever since. Kathy and I - Bernie's wife had a great conversation. We had a great opportunity being there with just the family. I met his son. They will be providing you a nice picture of Bernie for the Town Report. Kathy is a very strong person. Always was always will be. Her and my wife Doris will both give me hell but she was always Bernie's wife just as Doris is Roger's wife. They like to have their own identity and there was all the times that I would kid Bernie by walking into Gary Webster's office and Bernie had already claimed a desk and a comfortable chair. He's say "what do you want now?" I'd say do you think Kathy would mind if we asked you to this or that? Here's a man who committed so much time to the benefit of our community. There's a man who was truly all about Hudson. It wasn't about him. He undertook projects that he felt would enhance the value and the quality of life for our town and for its people. Much of the work he did, he did so unselfishly. Some he got paid for but he was never paid what he was really worth but he always whether it was the new library, the senior center. He was involved with the committee at Alvirne High School about building a community arts center. He was so looking forward to the construction of a new fire station. He wanted to do the Clerk of the Works job there to make sure our interests were protected there. I will miss this man. I dearly, dearly loved this man as much as I love Kathy. I will miss all of those nonsensical e-mails he would send me that he thought were funny and I trivialized every time I saw him. He was just an outstanding community person and they are few and far between. I am so glad that the Chamber of Commerce nominated and named him Citizen of the Year a couple of years ago. We lost a true dedicated, loving, caring public servant in Bernie Manor. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to say that before we adjourn.

Chairman Luszey added to that by saying he was a hell of a body man. He put cars together.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:34 p.m. by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Routsis, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

Ted Luszey, Chairman

Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

Pat Nichols, Selectman

Angela Routsis, Selectman