

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the November 24, 2015 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Coutu the meeting of November 24, 2015 at 7:15 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Selectman McGrath.
3. ATTENDANCE

For the record, Chairman Coutu noted Chairman Maddox is absent this evening. The remainder of the members of the Board are present. Selectman Maddox's Mother passed away this week quite unexpectedly. We spent some time with him yesterday. I was on the phone with him today and had a conversation with his wife. Rick was very close to his Mom. He called me this evening again. He's doing relatively well considering the circumstances. He felt that he needed some time. I assented to serve as Chairman this evening so that he could have the time. If all of you in thought or prayer please remember Rick and his family and his Mom. I didn't know the woman personally but I feel like I've known this woman for a long, long time because Rick and I have had many, many conversations about him and his Mom. I know Marilyn a lot of things about your Dad. I'm sure you could say there are a lot of funny stories and I could tell a few myself. You don't really know these people but you really get to know them by virtue of conversations you have with their siblings or their immediate relatives. Our hearts and prayers go out to the Maddox family.

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

Absent: Rick Maddox

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Donna Graham, Executive Assistant; Police Chief Jason Lavoie

4. PUBLIC INPUT

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

Jim Barnes, 3 McKinney Drive. I'm Chairman of the Benson Park Committee.

Stephanie Pappaconstantinou, 9B Charles Street, Nashua, NH.

Jim Barnes wasn't sure if everyone knows so let me give a little background and why we're here. About a week ago a posting was made to Facebook by Stephanie about an event in Benson Park that she wanted to host which was a meet Santa. She wanted to be able to take photos of children with Santa and accept donations for a charity. We'll be using it as a fundraiser within the park. It immediately caught some attention of a couple of the committee members. I generally don't look at Facebook so I was kind of late to the story. It did raise a couple of issues. Number one, the issue with the restrictions of the deed in the park. We can't raise money in the park for things that don't have anything to do with the park. There is some restrictions and constraints placed on the town and anybody who wants to use the park. So that was one issue. The other issue is that when this went out to Facebook, it started to become a little viral and the number of people that were expressing interest in attending was accelerating to a size that had not been expected. It did not meet the other constraint which is we have some rules and regulations about having large groups within the park. They need to be registered in advance with the Recreation Department and so that did not meet the guidelines that we have set for using the park.

Mr. Barnes has been in touch with Stephanie and talked about a few things. At this point, she is still interested in continuing with the event if possible and meet the regulations and the restrictions that we have for events like this in the park, namely any donations would go to the Friends of Benson Park and we would go through all of the forms and whatever we needed to do to register the event. That's why we're here. We're looking for support from the Board of Selectmen to allow us to continue. The event is scheduled for December 6th. That was the original date so we'd like to see if we could continue this on. It seems to me that given these constraints, given these restrictions if we meet them all that this would be a good event for the park.

Chairman Coutu noted inasmuch as I'm the one they're labeling as Scrooge and the bad guy in all of this which doesn't bother me at all. I have an obligation serving the public and I will continue to protect the integrity of the town. I know for a fact with regard to Stephanie's endeavor, conversations I've had with several people including your Aunt who wrote me personally and we've communicated back and forth. Come to find out she knows who I am and I have a vague recollection of her. I owned a business in Dracut and she's from Dracut. First of all how this came to my attention was a member of the Benson Park Committee came to me and approached me and said I don't think this is legal. I said I don't even know what you're talking about. Stephanie when I say I researched it, I researched it thoroughly. I went as far back as I could without being a friend of yours on Facebook whatever the limitations are on Facebook for what you can look into without being an actual friend. I did discover that you did do this in the past and I believe you had just a very small group. You used one of the benches to take photos with

the children and there's one posted. So I became familiar and realized that well there might be some legitimacy to what you were attempting to do but it didn't go through the vetting process. That's what I was trying to assure. I made a statement this evening privately with the Board when we were behind closed doors not related to our Attorney/Client but to other matters particularly this. I remember what started all of this was a young girl who put in an application to go and collect funds in front of Sam's Club and low and behold she was collecting funds for a vacation to Disneyland and not for a charity. At that point, this Board said that we were going to vet every single person who tries to collect money in the Town of Hudson to assure that our citizens are protected. Basically that was the message I was trying to get out there but apparently because it's Christmas and because Santa Claus is involved, I'm the Grinch who's trying to steal Christmas. I'm not trying to do that. I recognize what you're trying to do and I think in my communications with you it was that a member of the Friends of Benson reached out to me and said they would be more than willing to coordinate with you. Apparently you've touched base. You said that you would. The proper meetings would be held. I'm a happy camper. We've put this to bed. I hope it's a tremendous success if this Board gives consent for you to do this. I wish you the best of luck. If I offended you in any way, I publicly apologize to you. I hope you're not just saying no but it was not intended to offend. Your Aunt got it. Several other people got it. Primarily the residents of Hudson got it. Maybe I should have gone directly to Mr. Barnes. I was incensed by the fact that no permits were secured and I understand full well. A couple of people mentioned that you don't know the process. How are they supposed to know you're supposed to get permits for these things? We assume because we try to do things right here in Hudson that every town has the same kind of rules. Apparently they don't or people are generally not aware and I understand that. I'm going to let the other members of the Board speak and then we'll get to a consensus on whether or not to approve it. You have my wholehearted support if we allow this. I wish you the best of luck Stephanie.

Selectman McGrath said I need to know a little bit more. How is this different than the tradition meet Santa Claus? I don't know if they're still doing it but I know for a number of years we had at the Common and then they went to the Community Center where it was all children to meet Santa Claus and have snacks. How is this different and what exactly are you going to accomplish with this? I'm having a hard time understanding. I certainly understand the concept of Santa. I have nieces and nephews and I was a child myself once. I understand all of that. I just need to know what exactly is going to happen here and how this is different than what the town traditionally does.

Jim Barnes said I can't speak to what the town traditionally does since I have never participated in those events. I'll let Stephanie speak to what she's planning to do but it's mainly to take photos of children with Santa as Santa comes and greets the children. If the parents are interested in donating for the services of the photography, that the monies would be collected for the Friends of Benson Park.

Selectman McGrath assumed that first of all there would be a cost to you involved for taking the photographs and printing them. Stephanie commented I e-mail them or I give them all of the rights to the photos once I take them. I post them at the event page and people can look around at them or save them from there. I can get their e-mail addresses and I send them high resolution photos so that they can just print themselves. It's more than one picture. It's a few pictures. Selectman McGrath thought you're going to have to speak up a little louder. First of all it's not going to be picked up on. Stephanie said it was more than one photo. They get a few photos. The children don't know that Santa will be there. They think it's a regular day at the playground even though it's cold. The parents know and they take their kids to the park and they're all playing. Santa just comes walking down the beginning of the Benson strip towards the playground and the kids all see Santa. Santa greets them all and hangs out for a minute and just passes out a couple of candy canes. If they want their pictures taken, they give me a donation of around \$10 and they get their picture with Santa.

Selectman McGrath asked if it was limited to \$10 or can it be more. Stephanie said they can donate more if they choose to or less. I've gotten \$5. Some people who were at the park before didn't know about the event and I just let them take the pictures with Santa for no cost because they were there and they thought it would be nice for their kids. Selectman McGrath asked what if someone can't afford to pay anything. Stephanie said I wouldn't turn away someone for not having enough money but if they show up thinking that they can get a free photo, that's different. They're allowed to bring their cameras as well. Selectman McGrath said I'm having some difficulty here because it sounds to me like there is a charge for it but yet it's not clear exactly what the charge is and if they know nothing about it but they're at the park with their children and all of a sudden Santa Claus comes along everyone else is getting their pictures taken and they're not able to contribute anything, they should be allowed to access that. I'm just having a hard time with this. Again I understand what Christmas is all about. I understand the excitement for kids and you want them to have that excitement and that joy but I also don't want them taken advantage of.

Selectman Luszy said I do see a distinction. There is an event that is held that is promoted by the Recreation Department here in town. It's funded by the Recreation Department. The people that utilize the Recreation Department that have their children there are notified and they can go get a snack and Santa shows up and all that and there's no charge. What I'm hearing here the distinction is this is a fundraiser event that the monies will be going to the Friends of Benson Park. It's being organized as a fundraiser. Now given the nature of Benson Park, that would not stop anyone from showing up. They may choose or choose not to partake in the event just like we allow people to go there and take senior pictures, wedding pictures, and all that and there's no expectation

I don't think on people that are strolling into Benson's to say I want to take a picture with the bride and groom. To me there is that distinction and I would support this because the money is going to support the Friends of Benson and the park.

Selectman McGrath said that part of it hasn't been made clear to me.

Chairman Coutu asked Stephanie this part wasn't clear and I was going to get to it but I wanted other people to have an opportunity. Do you take any portion of the funds to offset any of your expenses? Stephanie said none at all. Chairman Coutu said if you were to get \$1,000, \$1,000 would go to the Friends of Benson. Stephanie said yes. Selectman Coutu got the impression that it was the net proceeds not that I read that but a lot of people will give net proceeds which means we take off our administrative costs which is not their time but the film if you had to pay Santa and the way I read it, he volunteers so there's no cost there. The candy canes that's an expense. It's your time and posting. Let's say you took \$2 off every \$10, that's called an administrative cost. In this case you want to donate everything that you get. Would it not make more sense to add some clarity to it that you have a fixed price? The minimal donation would be \$5 to have your picture taken with Santa. I go in with my children and I'm going to Benson Park. My kids are kids. They see Santa Claus their eyes light up - ooh Santa, ooh Santa. Some of them as they closer go I don't want to see him. From afar its fine and a lot of kids want to go and they want to sit on his lap and tell him what they want for Christmas. They're not aware that pictures are being taken unless you start posing them and say sit still Johnny. Look at the camera and smile. Would it make more sense, and you've been doing it so you know better than I, if you had a set fee 2 pictures for \$10 or 2 pictures for \$5 all of the proceeds are to benefit Friends of Benson and those who are just sitting on the lap and not paying are not getting a picture taken. I don't think the kids are aware. I think the families say this is a fundraiser. We charge whatever it is - \$5, \$10 and if 100 people show up and its \$5 you just raise \$500. The Friends of Benson are the main fundraisers for the red barn they're trying to restore so that they can make it into a museum. They have other fundraisers. They don't raise \$500. That would be a lot of money in one day for them. Your generosity would be more than welcome. Would it make more sense for you to do that? Do you think you would get negative publicity if you set a fee? Stephanie said no. I think that would make more sense definitely.

Chairman Coutu thought it would make more sense then it's a clear, distinct fundraiser. If I go to a fundraiser - we have one coming up for the Chamber of Commerce. It's \$25 per person. I know what I'm paying up front. I know that that pays for my dinner and I also know that they have a table with a lot of like the penny sale that St. Kathryn's and other churches you go and you buy chances to win whatever prizes. It's a set amount. I know I'm going there for a fundraiser but if I were bringing my kids, they wouldn't know what they're going there for. They're just there to eat. Well they're going there to Santa Claus. If the parents to choose to have a professional picture, which you are a professional photographer and have an opportunity to have you make that professional picture available for them to be able to download and print themselves or they could call your studio and order from you privately professional framed or however photos of their kids, that's fine with me. That has nothing to do with Benson Park. That's outside of Benson Park. If it makes sense to you, I would suggest that perhaps - would that clarify it for you?

Selectman McGrath said it would but what you just stated raised another question in my mind. You have your own studio. Stephanie indicated I don't have my own studio.

From what Selectman Nichols understood you've done this before at the park. Stephanie said yes I have. Selectman Nichols asked what charity did you give this money to. You were raising this money for charity it says. Stephanie said the first event a few close friends came and a couple of family members. It went to the National Domestic Violence Hotline. At the time it meant something to me and that's originally why I started everything. The second year it went to Erin's Law. I'm not sure if you've heard of that.

Selectman Nichols said the only part I have a hard time with is the conflict between the town, our youth group, and Benson because it's so close. The parade, the Santa, and the lighting of the tree, and that whole bit and kids going to the hall to greet Santa to have the snacks, to have the face painting, to play the little games and whatever, it's very close to that. I find that a conflict. I wouldn't want it to interfere with the town.

Chairman Coutu asked is not the town the day after Thanksgiving and yours is a week from Sunday. The town will be this Friday; hers is planned for a week from Sunday. Selectman Nichols said it's kind of close. Chairman Coutu said Christmas is here.

Selectman Luszy noted it's after the town so the town has first dibs.

Selectman Nichols said I get nervous about this. As long as your money is going, all of it, it's going to the Friends of Benson Park because the town bought the park. The upkeep of it pretty much the cost comes from here. I just want to make sure that that money is taken care of for the Friends of Benson Park. I know they're trying to do a museum, and a concession, and a gift shop, and all this kind of thing. I know they can use the money. I want to make sure that that money goes there. There's a lot of great charities out there but we have to think of our own too.

Selectman McGrath commented when you do this at Benson Park it would be during the daytime because they're going to be at the playground. Is there a set time that you would be there? Stephanie said I had the event set for 2 p.m. I could move it earlier. Selectman McGrath said it doesn't matter to me what time it is because I won't be there. I'm a little big to be sitting on Santa's lap. I think that might allay any concerns that Selectman Nichols has with conflicting with the town's event and this because this would only be for a couple of hours and it would be during the daytime. Based on the suggestion that you had about a set fee and that it's clear about what money is going to be collected and where it's going to go, then I'm okay with this.

Chairman Coutu said the set fee, the \$5, if some parent pulls you aside privately and to you it feels like it's a legitimate hardship case and you want to take a picture, we can't prohibit you from doing that. That's fine too because we do have needy people in town. We've been doing what we can. I'll take about it in my remarks at the end of the meeting what's going on at the food bank and how many people have stepped forward. It's amazing. I'm so proud of our community what they've done this year. It doesn't mean that if somebody has a legitimate need and they address that to you private, you know from your own life experiences - and I'm aware of some of them. There's a lot of things you wouldn't share with a lot of people. In this case to go to somebody and say look I don't have any money to hardly buy them any gifts. Any possibility you can take a picture? You would be the Grinch to get it off my back. Obviously you would do that and you would post it and say give me your e-mail address I'll send it to you. That's a decision that you have to make.

In terms of the monies, Chairman Coutu said going to the Friends of Benson, the Friends of Benson are going to be there I'm sure. I'm sure that some of them are going to want to volunteer to help her with crowd control assuming she has the crowd. People say they might go but that doesn't mean they're going to show up. I've gone to events where 200 people said they were going to go and 35 showed up. I was one of the 35 and I only went because I felt bad. I wanted to help the charity and I said wow I expected a huge crowd. I'm glad that we're on the same page in terms of maintaining the integrity of the park, and how the funds are generated, and hopefully this sets a catalyst for the future events for yourself. You might want to think about the Easter Bunny or what not. I'm sure the Friends of Benson are always looking for new ways of collecting revenues. There's opportunities. Photographers are a great idea. You could be a good source for them as well. It's a good reference point for your business whatever you're trying to develop business wise. I know you're a single mom trying to raise your kids. I'm proud of you for doing that. I wish you a very Merry Christmas. I think that we're all on the same page. In the future if you ever want to do anything with the park, you have the contacts now. It's all been set up for you and I appreciate you taking my advice on line to reach out to them. I appreciate you getting a hold of me and letting me know that you're willing to work with her. I'm happy.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to allow Stephanie Pappaconstantinou to take pictures at Benson Park for the purpose of raising funds for the Friends of Benson.

Selectman McGrath asked if we were going to clarify in the motion that it's for a set fee and that any fee collected will be donated to Benson Park

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to allow Stephanie Pappaconstantinou to take pictures at Benson Park for the purpose of raising funds for the Friends of Benson for a fee of \$5 per family with the proceeds going to the Friends of Benson Park, carried 4-0.

5. NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

A. Appointment

- 1) Sustainability Committee - (2 vacancies - 1 alternate term to expire 4/30/2016; 1 alternate term to expire 4/30/2017)

L. Cheryl Freed - 4 Greenfield Drive.

Chairman Coutu asked Cheryl why don't you tell us a little about yourself and why you'd like to come back to the Sustainability Committee. Cheryl Freed knows that there have been some changes made to the committee and I've been watching the progress made. I thought it would be a good time to come back in an alternate position and see how I can make a contribution.

Chairman Coutu asked you're seeking an alternate position as opposed to a permanent position and how long did you serve. Ms. Freed said correct. I served 4 ½ year 5 years something like that. Chairman Coutu commented you were in essence their publicist and handled all the publicity as well as being an active member of the Board. Ms. Freed was hoping to resurrect my column. Chairman Coutu said it was a great column. I miss it tremendously. She wrote a column in the Hudson/Litchfield News about recycling, about energy conservation, and of course now we've changed the focus to incorporate the word "sustainability" and hopefully they will gear most of our efforts on sustainability with recycling still in mind. I don't want to abandon - I still think we can get a

solid 30 percent maybe even higher but I'd like to see us get there. Cheryl left the committee to the best of my knowledge for personal reasons - family matters and she had always said she might want to come back some day and here she is. If anybody has any questions.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint L. Cheryl Freed as an alternate to the Sustainability Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2017, carried 4-0.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman Coutu referred to a Tag Day Sale application from the Salvation Army which came in at the last minute because they were waiting for approval from the Wal-Mart Corporation. It came in and the Salvation Army as you know are the bell ringers and we certainly wanted to agree to expedite this. We will add this request to Solicit Funds under Consent Items that would become D. 3. if there's no objection. Is there any item that any person of the Board would like to have removed for separate consideration?

Under F. Calendar, Selectman Nichols noted on 12/16 Senior Affairs I think they're cancelling that and won't have a meeting until January. Chairman Coutu said it is cancelled. I watched the meeting. He did cancel the meeting. The Senior Affairs on 12/16 has been cancelled. He did say it was cancelled.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to approve consent items A, B, C, D, E and F as noted or appropriate, carried 4-0.

A. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the October 15, 2015 meeting

B. Assessing Items

- 1) Disabled Exemption/2015 Tax Abatement - Map 138, Lot 027, 259 Webster Street

C. Donations - None

D. Licenses & Permits

- 1) Raffle Permit - Hudson Youth Baseball
- 2) Brox Industries - Night Trucking Permit
- 3) Request to Solicit Funds - The Salvation Army

E. Water/Sewer Items - None

F. Calendar

11/25 7:00 Planning Board - Buxton CD Meeting Room
11/26 THANKSGIVING - TOWN HALL CLOSED
11/27 FLOATING HOLIDAY -TOWN HALL CLOSED
12/01 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
12/01 7:00 Budget Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
12/02 7:00 Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
12/03 6:30 Recreation Cte - Oakwood Meeting Room
12/03 7:00 Benson Park Cte - HCTV Center
12/03 7:00 Budget Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
12/08 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
12/09 7:00 Budget Cte - BOS Meeting Room
12/09 7:00 Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
12/10 3:00 Trustees of the Trust Fund - Buxton CD Meeting Room
12/10 7:30 Zoning Board of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room
12/14 7:00 Conservation Cmsn - BOS Meeting Room
12/14 7:00 Budget Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
12/15 7:00 Cable Utility Cte - HCTV Center
12/16 5:00 Municipal Utility Cte - BOS Meeting Room
12/16 7:00 Senior Affairs Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
12/17 7:00 Benson Park Cte - BOS Meeting Room
12/21 7:00 Budget Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
12/22 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
12/23 7:00 Planning Board - Buxton CD Meeting Room
12/25 CHRISTMAS - TOWN HALL CLOSED

12/28 7:00 Budget Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
12/28 7:00 Sustainability Cte - BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on November 10, 2015

- 1) *Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to extend Fire Department Dispatcher John Collins' probationary period for another month until December 24, 2015, carried 5-0.*
- 2) *Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to promote Lieutenant James Paquette to the position of Captain, a non-exempt position, in accordance with the Police, Fire and Town Hall Supervisors Contract, Step 1, with an hourly rate of \$33.5714 effective November 29, 2015 as recommended by the Fire Chief, carried 5-0.*
- 3) *Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to promote Firefighter Eric Lambert to the position of Lieutenant, a non-exempt position, in accordance with IAFF Local 3154, Step 1, with an hourly rate of \$24.26 effective November 29, 2015 as recommended by the Fire Chief, carried 5-0.*
- 4) *Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to authorize the Fire Chief to utilize the Firefighter hiring list established in August 2015 and hire Erik Smith for the position of Firefighter/AEMT in the Fire Department at the contracted starting salary rate of \$18.98 per hour (Step 1) effective on or about December 6, 2015. This assignment will be a non-exempt position in accordance with the International Association of Firefighters Local 3154 Contract, carried 5-0.*
- 5) *Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to schedule a hearing within 30 workdays for a Step 2 Grievance, carried 5-0.*
- 6) *Motion to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Luszey, carried 5-0.*

B. Public Hearing - Solar Exemption

Chairman Coutu noted prior to this meeting we had non-public with our attorney and went over some of this with us. I defer now to our Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia said this has been publicized. If the Board wishes to adopt a solar exemption, you are required to have two public hearings. I believe they have to be 7 days but not more than 10 days apart. This would be the first of those hearings where you would hear a comment or input from the public. It has been advertised and I see there's public here so I would expect that you might get some comments at the hearing.

Chairman Coutu opened the public hearing at 7:52 p.m. Is there anyone in the audience who wishes to speak on this item? I would like to ask if there's more than one speaker based on our rules now, there's a limitation. We don't want to hear the same thing repeated over and over again. Be succinct, direct, and to the point. Give your name and address for the record please.

Craig and Debra Putnam, 59 Rangers Drive. I wish to speak in support of the RSA proposal that I believe Selectman Luszey is going to be bringing forward. As solar owners, we obviously have a vested interest in this but we're very keen to promote solar and renewable energy and see this as a good way of doing that. It's in the interest of the town we believe to do this and its good public policy.

Debra Putnam sees it as important to the town in regards to enabling potential economic growth in the future. We started here in '86. A couple of years after we moved in I remember serious concerns about brown outs and I had an infant and a toddler at that time and I was a little worried about this. The situation with the energy in the Northeast though we don't hear about brown outs any more, it's still a serious concern. I see that the more individuals/residents who take the leap and make the investment, it's a very long-term investment. There's many years got past before you see any shall we say breakeven point. We feel as husband and wife and long-time residents in Hudson that this is a commitment that more residents should be making not just for eventual benefit to us financially but more important to the town, and the infrastructure, and the economic situation within the Northeast, and the viability and strength of the grid in the Northeast.

Linda Kipnes - 23 Nathaniel Drive.

Lisza Elliott - 6 Alvirne Drive.

Linda Kipnes said as Chairman of the Sustainability Committee, the Sustainability Committee is very much in favor of this. We would like to encourage people in town to look into solar. We will be having an information session on December 9th to provide information about residential solar systems. We are hoping that people in town will start adopting them and we would like for this tax exemption to reassure people that they can break even the way they think they will with their systems.

Chairman Coutu mentioned there's going to be an information meeting. Exactly where will that be? Ms. Kipnes said it will be at Rodgers Library in the Community Room starting at 6:30 on Wednesday, December 9th. We will have information about installing roof mount and on ground mount. We'll have some information about leasing versus buying and lots of time for questions. We hope people will come and learn some more about solar and know that you can save money and generate power for yourself.

As Chairman Coutu understood it, didn't you just recently have such a meeting? I was at the library for another meeting. Didn't you have a Sustainability...Ms. Kipnes said we had a session called "Button Up NH" which talked about ways to save energy in your home now - insulation and doing things in your home. This one that we're having on December 9th will be focused entirely on solar installation. Chairman Coutu was at the library as you know. I was at another meeting in another room. You had a good crowd. I was impressed. Ms. Kipnes agreed. We're hoping also to get a good crowd for this one. There are solar installations in town and this is a good way to find out about it without the sales pitch of somebody trying to sell you something but just providing information about the different options for the physical installation and also ways of paying for it.

Lisza Elliott mentioned that I think it might have gotten voted down earlier this year because the public wasn't provided with enough information, it's confusing. A lot of people go into the polls saying I'm going to vote no, no, no. There's different mindsets but I think getting the information out there and making the public aware that this is a good thing for everybody. If you want to sell your house and you have solar panels on it, your house is not going to be taxed any higher because of this improvement you're making to it because everybody looks an improvement to their home is definitely going to bring you into a higher tax bracket. I think this making the public aware that this potentially has nothing to do with the value of your home; it should be in your pocket type of value and savings. I think that's what we need to make the public aware of pretty much. Unfortunately people go to the polls with their mind set. They're going to vote straight across the table no, or the wording is confusing and I always find the wording in these RSAs confusing as it is anyways. The bottom line is that if a family or a homeowner in the Town of Hudson decides to go solar, then their assessed value of their house is not going to be affected by it bottom line.

Chairman Coutu thanked Ms. Elliott. I appreciate your time. Mr. Michaud do you want to speak on this. We have your Memorandum. The Assistant Assessor provided us with a document relative to solar exemptions and what has been historically - he noted was that we haven't taxed up to this point.

Jim Michaud said that was correct. My role here is I'm Switzerland. I'm neither for nor against. I'll implement what the policy is that the Board of Selectmen implement. The trend has been from the 99 communities that have adopted this the more recent ones have been to fully exempt 100 percent of the installation. So the installation, the cost, so it's a true tax neutral. That's a lot cleaner than some of the earlier ones that were exempt say the first \$5,000 or \$10,000 worth of value. You're much better off exempting the whole of it. That accomplishes the goal I think of what folks are looking for which is to have it as a property tax neutral proposition. I did update slightly the Memo. I had put in "residential". The Statute doesn't say residential. The Statute says property. It's not in Hudson but Stoneyfield Yogurt in Londonderry, they have an extensive solar installation. Here I can think of one commercial property maybe two that have it and I think one was doing it on spec anyways because they were testing out the concrete foundation pad. This would apply to both industrial/commercial/residential. You may want to put a cap on it in case with end up with a solar farm somewhere even though people are saying the Statute does not apply to a solar farm. There might be some thought process to putting a very high cap on this to exempt the first \$100,000. I'm not sure of the right number. You could achieve what you're looking for which is an exemption for improvements for solar energy system but at the same time do you or do you not want to exempt say an industrial building in the Sagamore Park putting across a \$40,000 square foot building on their roof all these solar arrays. Maybe we do. Maybe we do want to exempt all that. That's just some things to consider. I'm not for or against. I just think of things that you might want to consider. That's it.

Jim Michaud said I can speak to permits just briefly. With the assistance of the Fire Chief in the Munismart building permit system module, I did a sort from 2001 to 2015. There's 76 permits for solar. Thirteen were issued prior to 2014. We're talking about 83 percent of the solar permits have come in in the '14 and '15 year. We see it just driving around. That gives some input into that. Ninety-nine communities in the State out of 235, so about 42 percent of the State's communities have adopted this. We wouldn't be the first at all.

Chairman Coutu closed the public hearing at 8:03 p.m. We will be holding a second public hearing December 8th and hopefully bring this to a conclusion one way or another. Does anybody wish to state anything at this time or do you want to move on?

Selectman Luszey said if you read the RSA and you get into - what I try to do is think about what the intent of what the legislature was trying to do. That is to promote ultimate use of energy. Get off fossil fuels. If you think about what they're trying to do, we don't tax for high efficient argon filled windows. We don't assess that as a separate line item. We don't assess new boilers that are 98 or plus percent efficiency. I think that's the intent of what this RSA is all about is if you're making your house more energy efficient, you shouldn't be penalized for it. This isn't a tax credit. It is keeping the cost of energy out of the assessing equation. I think that is an appropriate thing to do.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing - Street Acceptance - Nellie Court

Chairman Coutu deferred to the Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

As a way of introduction, Steve Malizia said the Planning Board is recommending that the Board of Selectmen accept Nellie Court as a public street. For those of you who are unfamiliar, it is approximately in the area of the McDonald's/Hannaford Plaza on the right hand side of the road. I believe it's a six unit subdivision. It has met all the criteria - the Town Engineer, the Road Agent, and Fire and Police Chiefs are recommending the acceptance of the street. That's key because all street acceptances have to happen before December 1st. If you accept this street, we will be responsible for the maintenance from here on out. Maintenance includes plowing and sanding. I put that to your attention. It's required though that you hold a public hearing to accept that as a public street.

Chairman Coutu opened the public hearing at 8:05 p.m. Does anyone in the audience wish to speak on this item? Seeing that there is no one wishing to speak, I will close the public hearing at 8:05 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to accept Nellie Court as a Town street, as recommended by the Planning Board and Town staff, with a two year maintenance bond.

Chairman Coutu asked isn't the bond specified in the document. Steve Malizia believed it was \$19,384.42 in case anything needs to be repaired or correct. Chairman Coutu thought that should be more than enough money I would think for the two years.

Selectman McGrath asked to make an amendment to the motion. Add the wording "as outlined in the October 29, 2015 Notice of Decision of the Planning Board so that it clearly states what the requirements are. The two year maintenance surety is in the form of a Hampton-style letter of credit and the amount.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to accept Nellie Court as a Town street, as recommended by the Planning Board and Town staff, with a two year maintenance bond as outlined in the October 29, 2015 Notice of Decision of the Planning Board, carried 4-0.

B. Police Department - discuss upcoming Primary and Presidential Election

Chairman Coutu said we had asked the Police Department to come in and discuss with us their plans relative to how we're going to handle the potential problems during the Presidential Election year with traffic as it approaches to and leaves from our voting place. I introduce our Police Chief Jason Lavoie. Chief welcome.

Thank you Sir and in case I forget, Chief Lavoie wished the Board as well as the community a safe Thanksgiving and hopefully an enjoyable one as well. I thought I'd prepare an action plan for the Board of Selectmen to get some consideration and peruse well in advance of the upcoming elections that will be taking place to help with any decisions that the Board would like to see out there. I would also like to thank the Fire Chief, Kevin Burns, and Mr. Malizia who all participated with and conversations regarding this action plan. In years past to give a little bit of the history as to what's occurred, in a typical town vote - and I'm using the years 2008 and 2012 because that also coincided with some Presidential Elections that took place. For the town votes we had an average of 2,400 hundred people voting in both those years. I've documented the primary elections and the numbers that showed up there. The Presidential Elections brought us just a little over 12,400 voters. What we experienced especially in 2008 was a lot of traffic tie ups, etc. in the Lyons Avenue area. There was a considerable traffic jam. Traffic was backed up down Lowell, Central Streets and trying to get people in and out of there created some public safety issues, etc.

Chief Lavoie said what we're trying to do here with this action plan is to lay out a map or a blue print so that our town staff can start dealing with this in advance of it as well as make the public aware of some changes that the Board may choose to implement as far as how the traffic goes. Basically it's following the same traffic patterns that we've implemented during the 2008 and 2012 Presidential Elections. Some of the extra stuff that's in this

report is because I just wanted to prepare one report so that we have it as town staff so that we can refer back to it and say okay what are the ideas that we had and reference those things so that we can also plan and be prepared for these elections. Now the Presidential Election does bring in roughly 4,000 to as many as 7,000 more voters but I still think it's worth when we have the Presidential Election implementing some of the driving habits in the Primary Election so that people get in the habit of it. They start to see it and when the Presidential comes hopefully we won't have traffic situations that are as bad. You can see the different headings such as staffing equipment, communications, some traffic details, and posts. In the back third are some maps. I didn't want to do any PowerPoint slides for the community at this point because I wanted to have Board's approval before we put up anything, was implemented and start notifying the general public as to what the road map around the Lyons Ave. area will be. Obviously if the Board chooses to do this and use the map that's towards the back, then obviously that's the slide that could be utilized. I don't know if the Board has any questions or thoughts.

Selectman McGrath asked the Chairman a question. We had discussed with Paul Inderbitzen when he was in here a while ago about the potential of using a second site for the Presidential Election based on the volume that we had in the past. We haven't made a decision about that have we? Chairman Coutu said no we have not. Selectman McGrath didn't know if you were aware of that and how that would fit into - I can see doing this for the Primary and getting ready but there's the potential for a second location for voting in the Presidential. Hopefully it's going to be a huge turnout but we need to be ready for that. I don't know if you considered that at all.

Chief Lavoie said I was asked by the Chairman to put something together in advance to also be ahead of the game and that's customarily what we would do. There were talks about that as being one solution but not knowing when that's going to happen because my understanding is we still don't even know when the Presidential Election is going to be. The dates haven't been selected yet. When that does happen, how does that impact the schools? Are the schools going to close and take the day off now and adjust their school calendar for the upcoming year? Those are the questions that I don't know.

Selectman McGrath asked aren't the elections typically the second..Chairman Coutu said the elections are the second Tuesday of November. It's cast in stone. It's the Primary is either the first Tuesday or second Tuesday in February as I understand it right now. It looks like Gardner is going to declare the first Tuesday but nothing, again. It's the general election we're talking about. That's when the big voter turnout is. Selectman McGrath said doing this for the Primary - I read all of the information so I think and I remember how you had it set it up for the last Presidential Election when I came through to vote. I'm fine with this. I think that this is a good thing to utilize.

Chief Lavoie said my intent wasn't to have any kind of a motion placed or seeking to do this. I'm just putting this out there as information for the Board to utilize in your decision making as to how you want to proceed to let you know that the town departments are prepared and we'll just be following your guidance as to what you want to do.

Selectman McGrath said the only thing I could think of that might have an effect on this for the Primary is weather. If we have a winter like we did last year and the Primary is going to be in February, that could have a real impact on this. I liked the way that it was set up the last time. I thought it was well organized. You drove in and you drove out. There wasn't the conflicting movements and people no knowing where to park and where to go. I thought it was really well done.

Chairman Coutu asked this is not proposed for the Primary. It's just for the General Election. Chief Lavoie said no. The thought was to include it for the Primary. Chairman Coutu threw one thing out there. It's something that Paul and I and Rick have discussed in the past is that we get people accustomed to a pattern and then we change the pattern. We have three elections next year. We have the Primary in February. We have the municipal election in March. We have the General Election in November. So if we have them go one way in February, a different way in March, and then we're going to go back to the old one it's going to be a massive confusion. If we're going to do this and we had said once we do it we should implement it every single election and keep that pattern going so people know when I go about I'm coming in easterly, I'm going out westerly or however that works out.

Chief Lavoie agreed. I would suggest making the changes for us internally as far as our staffing goes. That part there is what I mean by different. I would certainly agree. Keeping the pattern the same way doing the same thing every time builds a habit. I totally agree.

Chairman Coutu said this year and in future years you need to budget. That's something that hasn't been taken into consideration. Four years ago when we did this, I remember you did put some staff down there and they weren't in your budget and we were able to get money. There was enough vacancies and what not that you could cover it. It should be a budgeted item. If we're going to maintain this pattern, you have to link up with Paul and get the dates of elections and make sure we have - on a municipal election, I don't think you'll need more than two officers at best. One getting them in and one getting them out and we're done with it. That's fine. The Presidential Election you were there part of the day. You knew what it was like. It was a mass of people but we were able to control it. I was quite impressed.

Selectman Luszey said we actually by default did decide on the two locations yes or no because the budget that's going through review/deliberation right now is for the Presidential and it does not have enough funding for two locations. So by default, we made that decision. I would suggest that if there needs to be funding for extra police coverage for the Presidential that I be allowed to make a motion at the Budget Committee to increase whatever that number is in the Moderator's budget to show up just for the Presidential.

Chairman Coutu asked Chief Lavoie if you could figure out what the funding will be not for the January or the March elections because those will only require a couple of police officers. I'm sure we could find the funding there. For the General Election and then whatever it's going to be for the next March election. There's municipal elections every year. So there will be two elections the following year. Whatever you think that increase is going to be for a whole day of manpower. If you could get back to Selectman Luszey with that number. You don't have to call me. Get a hold of Selectman Luszey directly because he's our Budget Committee representative and you'll have to make a motion to that affect.

Steve Malizia said perhaps you could do it Tuesday when the Police Department comes in to do their budget. Next Tuesday would be an opportune time. They're coming into the Budget Committee next Tuesday so it would be an opportune time to have that.

Chairman Coutu said we need to make a motion here to authorize the Chief to raise...Steve Malizia said I can't imagine it's going to be more than a few hundred to a thousand dollars. Selectman Luszey thought it should be in the Moderator's budget. Mr. Malizia said you would be correct. There's a detail or some number in there but it shouldn't be an over long number. Chairman Coutu noted the Moderator would then pay out of his budget the police detail so it's clearly identified. I agree. It gives it more visibility. Selectman Luszey said I'll work with the Chief and we'll do that.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to give authority for Selectman Luszey or Chief Lavoie to develop the number to recommend to the Budget Committee for police detail for the election.

Selectman Nichols wanted to say a great presentation. To read it, I could understand it even and I thought that was pretty good. I liked the idea of just using our community center rather the one building because the way its set up it worked well the last time. It will work well this time. It might be a little crowded but with the extra officers it will move fairly smoothly. People will be aware of it by then. They'll have seen the plans and know where they can park, where they have to go, etc. I'm not too worried about that. As far as the money goes, wouldn't that come under next year's budget?

Selectman Luszey indicated that's the budget we're working on. That's why we would need to add it.

Selectman Nichols said right. It would have to be added there for the extra police. I understand that. Okay. That I would like to see happen because you're definitely going to need them and I can't go out there and direct traffic. I'm not going to. I think that would be all right. I like the set up and I like this presentation like I said. You tell us exactly what you want, what you need, what you have to have and the one building I still think we can manage with using our one building. I don't know if we have to go into another or not at this point. You might know when you see what happens in February and then you make the decision then I think.

Chairman Coutu noted I was there four years ago. It was a mess. It was the same thing we're doing. We're repeating it except that was our first test. It worked relatively well but we were packed with people inside. It was unmanageable at times.

Selectman McGrath said and outside. There was a very long line outside the building.

Selectman Nichols commented well then maybe come February you're definitely going to see. Chairman Coutu said no not February next November. February is a primary year. If it's snowing, 4,000 people will show up at best. Selectman Nichols said we make the provisions of maybe having that discussion and having another place ready. In the General Election, Chairman Coutu said it will give us a good opportunity whoever is sitting on the Board at that time to review what took place and how to best approach it and make a decision at that time whether or not we go with two buildings for voting just for the Presidential Election whether it's Alvirne High School and the Community Center, or one in the south end and one in the north end, whatever. If deemed appropriate, I'm sure we could find something.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0.

Steve Malizia asked the Board do you want to accept his report. I bring up the question because I don't want to see him have to come back here.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to accept the Police Chief's Action Plan presented at the 11/24/15 Board of Selectmen's meeting, carried 4-0.

9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman McGrath - I don't really have anything. I'll just wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and safe holiday travel.

Selectman Nichols - Pretty much the same thing. I don't have really a whole lot to talk about either and I wish everyone a very, very Happy Thanksgiving. Don't eat too much but enjoy.

Selectman Luszey - Thank you Mr. Chairman I do have a few items. As you know we are in the budget deliberation process and we've reviewed the straw vote on the warrant articles that we presented last night. I asked all those that were opposing each warrant article to basically tell me why they opposed them so that we could take action. I'll just go over quickly.

(Selectman Luszey) Warrant Article D - the questions were on the raises for the Tax Collector. The percentage was a question. The second was the frequency. They don't support an annual raise since that position did receive a raise last year.

(Selectman Luszey) Warrant Article E - this is the part-time IT position. There were three oppositions. One was opposed to losing the internships and would actually like to see more internships offered. I take that back. There were three that basically said that same item. The fourth would like to see a full time position created and not a part time.

(Selectman Luszey) Warrant Article G - basically there were two and they said it wasn't appropriate at this time and same as the above the frequencies and things like that. This was the police officer adding a head count.

Chairman Coutu asked what was the vote on that one. Mr. Malizia said two opposed. Everyone else was in favor.

Selectman Luszey said Warrant Article H which was capital reserve for the replacements of the infrastructure for water utility stuff. There was one against that and they basically would like more information and I'm not sure what information we can provide them more of.

(Selectman Luszey) Warrant Article I - this was the communication. This again was the capital reserve fund for a three parter - the communications, the fields, and maintenance for town buildings. Two opposed. One would like to see more information around the communication plan. I tend to agree even though we don't have a plan we do have a strategy which I think we can talk to. The other one was they don't agree with the fields. I'm not sure how to address that.

Chairman Coutu noted I spoke to that person today.

Selectman Luszey said they also would like more detail justification for it. I said we would see what we could do there.

The last one was M. Selectman Luszey said I was for the lining of the culvert. They want more information on it. Again not sure what we can do there. Other than that, I hope everyone enjoys their Thanksgiving and time with their family. Thank you.

Selectman Nichols had one little question. On all these you've just given us 2, or 3, or 1. How many votes do you get total? If one is two no's, how many are for? Steve Malizia believed at the time of the vote there was 7. At some point there was actually 8 because Mr. Barnes showed up later for the meeting. So it depended. It could either be 7 or 8. When you're talking 1 or 2, that's off a total of either 7 or 8. Selectman Nichols stated that's what I wanted to know because some of them say 2 were opposed but the majority was in favor of these.

Selectman Luszey said I only brought back the no's because if the other ones that are in favor.

Chairman Coutu believed the fire station was unanimous. Selectman Luszey said it was. There were no questions during the straw vote and there were no questions for the Chief when he presented.

Selectman Coutu - I just wanted to say that one of the things that I noticed this year is that some of us privately and/or publicly have reached out to our community to assist especially this year with our food bank because there's just so many people in this town it's hard to believe but there are that are in dire need. I see it every day. I can't get over the overwhelming number of people this year their generosity is remarkable and I think you're noticing it in your own charity. For me it's quite visible because I have a lot of friends who have responded and I see it almost on a daily basis the past two weeks people coming in and buying huge baskets or pallet loads of

groceries and I'm sure it's going on in Market Basket and other stores as well. They're telling me they're bringing it to the food bank. Today alone C&M Machine Dan, Paul, and George Vallamere made a challenge to their employees. They run a machine shop down the street and they said look whatever you donate we will match in food, clothing. They didn't expect - they have I believe 91 or 92 employees on staff right now. They figure if everybody brings in a can. They brought in over \$1,000 worth of groceries and clothing. They were so impressed with it. They came down and they spent \$1,000 today of food. That was two huge pallets of flatbeds of food that they were bringing. They made arrangements to bring to St. John's and they're going to throw in even more because they were so impressed with their employees. I said well that will teach you to challenge your employees. They loved doing it. They're only one of many people. My employer for example gave \$1,000 to the food bank this year. They helped them out. It's a shameless plug I guess but I'm grateful to Sam's Club for doing that because they didn't have to. They haven't done it in the past. The countless number of volunteers that are at the Hudson Fish & Game that have been there all week. This year is going to be the best year overall.

Chairman Coutu thought Karen Knox and their daughter who run it have got to be - I know they're excited. I see on Facebook how excited they are. The number of people that are calling to want to volunteer. The number of people at Sam's Club that I realized I didn't know where they worked when I went in the past. They came up to me and said are you going to be there again this year. I said that's right too you worked the Hudson Fish & Game. There's two or three people at Sam's Club and people that I bump into in the streets are you going to be over at...I said well I'd rather be at the Legion having my morning toast with the town employees but I guess I'll be down there tomorrow at the Hudson Fish & Game. There are numbers of people there peeling potatoes, making the French stuffing, cutting up the pies, getting everything ready. Tomorrow is going to be an even bigger day because that's the eve of. There will be a lot of potato peelers there. I hope former Selectman Nadeau shows up again this year. I saw Ben not too long ago. He may not be able to be there. I know he's having a hard time getting around.

Chairman Coutu was so impressed with the overwhelming generosity of the numbers of people that are stepping forward this year. I hope we can do the same thing for Christmas. Selectman Luszey I pointed out to him that we have a Hudson resident who is serving his second tour of duty in Afghanistan. In light of what's going on around the world, all of these kids because I know he's nervous so all of these kids have got to be nervous. I asked Selectman Luszey if there was anything he could do to cheer them up during Christmas time. Thank you Selectman Luszey. They got a beautiful package going out not just to him but enough for him to be able to provide for his platoon. I'm very grateful for that and the countless number of people who assist you. I saw the pictures in the paper of the people putting the packages together for our servicemen and women overseas. It's a great contribution.

Chairman Coutu said to one and all thank you so much for everything you do for our community along with my fellow Board members, I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving. Please don't drink to excess and God speed. Mr. Malizia on behalf of the staff, would like to say a few words about Thanksgiving.

Steve Malizia said Happy Thanksgiving to everybody. I just wanted to say a word of appreciation to our emergency personnel who do work the holiday - fire, police, and when called upon our Highway Department. Just to let everybody know Town Hall is closed for Thursday and Friday but those folks are still here. If you see them or have a moment, just say thank you. I think they do a great job.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to enter Nonpublic Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:2 I. (a) Strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining; and RSA 91-A:3 II. (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee, carried 4-0 by roll call.

Chairman Coutu entered Nonpublic Session at 8:36 p.m., thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public is asked to leave the room.

Chairman Coutu entered open session at 8:58 p.m.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to authorize the Fire Chief to hire Bruce Buttrick for the position of Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcement Officer, effective January 3, 2016. This assignment will be an exempt position and in accordance with the Police, Fire and Town Supervisors Association Contract, with an annual salary of \$70,499 (Step 1), as recommended by the Fire Chief, carried 4-0.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Nichols, carried 4-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Roger E. Coutu, Chairman

Pat Nichols, Selectman

Marilyn McGrath, Selectman

Ted Luszey, Selectman