

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the March 9, 2015 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Coutu the meeting of March 9, 2015 at 7:02 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Sergeant Mike Gosselin.

Chairman Coutu noted that Selectman Nadeau has advised that he will be a little late. He is the only Selectman not present.

3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Roger Coutu, Ben Nadeau, Rick Maddox, Pat Nichols, Nancy Brucker

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Donna Graham, Executive Assistant; Fire Chief Rob Buxton; Police Chief Jason Lavoie; Kevin Burns, Road Agent; Lisa Nute, IT Director; Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director; Len Lathrop, Chairman of Trustees of the Trust Fund; Jim Battis; Ken Dickinson

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Coutu asked if anyone in the audience wish to address the Board on any issue which the Board has control of. Seeing none.

5. NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

- a) Recognition of Sergeant Michael Gosselin - 20 years of service

Chairman Coutu called Sergeant Michael Gosselin to the front of the room. This is a pleasure for me. You're a great guy and I really have a lot of respect for you and everything you've done for the Town of Hudson.

"Sergeant Michael Gosselin began his Law Enforcement career with the Hudson Police Department on the 13th of March 1995. Upon graduation from the New Hampshire 107th Police Academy in November 1995, Sergeant Gosselin was assigned to the Patrol Division. He spent many summers patrolling as a member of the Department's Motorcycle Unit.

In July 1999 he was transferred to the Criminal Investigation Division. In January 2002, Sergeant Gosselin returned to the Patrol Division as a Master Patrol Officer and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on March 1, 2009.

Sergeant Gosselin is a member of the Hudson Police Department Honor Guard. He is a supervisor on the Department's Crime Scene Unit. He spent many years volunteering for the New Hampshire Special Olympics. He was instrumental in starting the military care package program, sending care packages to Military personnel stationed overseas.

Sergeant Gosselin served in the United States Army from 1980 to 1983. He was a Military Police Officer in Bremerhaven, Germany where he met his lovely wife Christine and holds a Criminal Justice Degree from Hesser College. Mike and Christine have two children, Jason and Lisa, who both reside in Washington State.

Sergeant Gosselin is dedicated to his job and has certainly been an asset to the Hudson Police Department."

Chairman Coutu stated we're presenting you with this "Certificate of Appreciation from the Town of Hudson Board of Selectmen. Michael Gosselin with the Hudson Police Department in recognition of 20 years of dedicated service." Sergeant it is my pleasure to present this to you as well as a small token of our appreciation. I wish it could be a lot more but you know how tight the budgets are here in Hudson.

- b) Recognition of Dave Cayot's promotion from Master Patrol Officer to Sergeant

Chairman Coutu said I also want to at this time recognize David Cayot. Dave couldn't be here. Dave took on a new responsibility. He is the lead in the CALEA team. The CALEA team and I and the Town Administrator will be leaving I believe on March 18th to have the review that was given to this police department assessed by the CALEA Board in Reno, Nevada. We go out there with a contingent. Dave took over the reins of the supervisor of the team in house at the police department. He took on an awesome responsibility. I speak on behalf of the Chief and other members of the police department when I say that Dave did a commendable job in a short period of time. I believe that we're going to be successful and I think we're going to be recertified and an awful lot is owed to not just Dave but to the entire police department for your cooperation for working well with the CALEA assessing team. They were very, very impressed not just with the policies and standards which we uphold in the police department, they were impressed with each and every single police officer they came in contact with in our town. That speaks volumes, volumes for our police department and for the public service that you render our community. I know I feel safer in my home and in my streets because of you. I know there are many in attendance here this evening and I can't tell you enough how much we as a board, we as a Board of Selectmen who govern this town appreciate that you keep us out of the limelight by doing your job to near perfection - to near perfection.

Chairman Coutu said in David's case, David was recently promoted from Master Patrol Officer to Sergeant. Dave I dealt with professionally when we had a break in at our store. That was my first real contact. He had been by the store a few times but this was my first time that I came in contact with him on a professional level. I was not Selectman Coutu. I was a businessman who had been broken into and a lot of damage caused in my business. This police officer as did others who responded acted in true professionalism. I don't think I was treated any differently than anybody else would because I serve on the Board of Selectmen. That's what I respect about our police officers. When we're out there, we're all citizens and they treat us as such and they do so in a professional manner. We the Board are presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to David Cayot of the Hudson Police Department in recognition of his promotion from Master Patrol Officer to Sergeant. I'm sure that when we go out to Reno, I'll rib him about not being here but I know he's doing some family time you told me Chief. I can certainly appreciate and respect that. He snubbed me and he'll never hear the end of it. Chief I'd like to give this to you to present to him in appreciation and congratulations. Thank you Sir.

Chairman Coutu noted this is one of the largest contingents I've seen representing our police department and I'm glad that you came in recognition of two fine and outstanding police officers. There's some of you and one in particular who's sitting in the audience who know that I want nothing but success for all of you. The opportunity is there. Take advantage of all the training that's made available to you and continue to do your job with the excellence that you've displayed since we really got involved in the CALEA assessment. Again I want to extend on behalf of the Board of Selectmen my sincere appreciation for all that you do. I'll open the floor to anybody on the Board who wishes to make a comment at this time.

Selectman Maddox said as you all know, I'm the one that likes to kick the tires and see the operations. It was a beautiful Saturday night and I was riding with Sergeant Gosselin. It had been a fairly quiet night until there was a very significant incident. The professionalism and the attention to detail, the follow through that I saw, I was impressed with. Again kudos to the whole department but to the guy that has the operations into the night shift, he did a great job. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Coutu commented you must have Mike because he's bragged about it quite a bit since that incident.

Selectman Nadeau said I've had quite a few incidents with Mr. Gosselin and also with Mr. Cayot. They were both very, very professional as well as the rest of the department. I'd just like to thank them all while they're here.

Selectman Brucker wanted to say that I do feel very safe in Hudson because I do know the police force out there is doing a great job. They're very careful. We had an incident next door to our house where there were screaming teenagers who were chasing each other around and we didn't know what happening. It sounded very serious. They came and they settled things down. They were very good at getting to the bottom of things. That's been my personal experience and I've always thought very highly of our police force.

Selectman Nichols wanted to say thank you very much to all of you for everything you've done for this town. I'm happy here. I feel safe here. I feel my family is safe. I think you do a great job. You haven't given me a ticket yet so I think that's good. Thank you all very, very, very much. I'm so proud of you all. I really am. Thank you so much.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman Coutu asked does any member of the Board wish to remove any item for separate consideration.

Selectman Maddox had a question on 6. A. 2. It says the timber tax due is \$1,160 times there's four names. It says the total tax due is \$1,160. Donna Graham indicated they are all owners of the property. Chairman Coutu indicated they are separate entities and separate properties. That's the assessed value of the timber tax. It says total tax is it this times four? Ms. Graham said no. All four of them are the sole owners of the property.

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

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Veteran Tax Credit - Map 230, Lot 022, Sub 004 - 47 James Way, w/recommendation to approve
- 2) Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed/Timber Tax Warrants, w/recommendation to approve

B. Water/Sewer Items

C. Licenses & Permits

- 1) Request to Solicit Funds - Girl Scouts - Hudson & Pelham
- 2) Request to Solicit Funds - Bikers Against Child Abuse
- 3) License to Purchase Scrap Metals - Granite State Salvage Co., Inc.

D. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the January 6, 2015 Meeting
- 2) Minutes of the January 13, 2015 Meeting
- 3) Minutes of the January 16, 2015 Bond Public Hearing Meeting

E. Calendar

3/10 TOWN ELECTION - VOTE
3/11 7:00 Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
3/12 3:00 Trustees of the Trust Fund - Buxton CD Meeting Room
3/12 7:30 Zoning Brd of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room
3/17 7:00 Cable Utility Cte - HCTV Ctr.
3/18 5:00 Municipal Utility Cte - BOS Meeting Room
3/19 7:00 Benson Park Cte - BOS Meeting Room - CANCELLED
3/19 7:00 Budget Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
3/23 7:00 Sustainability Cte - BOS Meeting Room
3/24 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
3/25 7:00 Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
3/25 7:30 Senior Affairs Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
3/26 7:30 Zoning Brd of Adjustment - CD Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on February 24, 2015

- 1) *Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to hire Louis Pilat as an HCTV Camera Operator and classified as a "Regular Special Shift Employee" at \$11 per hour, carried 4-0.*
- 2) *Chairman Coutu declared the meeting adjourned at 11:17 p.m.*

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing - Acceptance of an Exotic Aquatic Plant Control Grant from NHDES in the amount of \$12,038

Chairman Coutu recognized Ken Dickinson, Chairman of the Conservation Commission. I noticed that he has the past Chairman Jim Battis with him.

Ken Dickinson indicated that I have limited knowledge of the aquatic grant. I'll defer most of the presentation to Jim. From what I understand is that we in the past have gotten a 60/40 grant for a number of years. This year there's been a reduction due to the competition I believe of the other lakes and the State that needed to be addressed. So we're down to 25 percent.

Chairman Coutu was glad Mr. Dickinson brought that up because I thought that that number was reduced. Jim if you would.

Jim Battis said you are correct. Amy Smagula who is the DES Supervisor for the grant program noted that there were about four things that came together to require this reduction to 25 percent from the 40 percent. I've gone over the budget. As you'll recall in 2013, we presented to you the Board of Selectmen a budget for a 5 year or 8 year period. I've gone over that budget relative to what we've expended in previous years and where we stand right now. It turns out that as a net process we're in good stead even with the 25 percent reduction. That comes from the fact that we did very little dash operations last year. We had budgeted about \$12,000 for dash operations and our actual expenditures last year were \$800. Because that's the fiscal year – the problem is the grant comes in the calendar year but the way it works out is that that money for us carries over and will help to compensate for the reduced funds from the State. It looks to me we're actually in pretty good stead right now for this year and even next year assuming it stays at the 25 percent level and we only have a treatment at Ottarnic Pond next fiscal year. Our one issue is the cash flow. Once we get the money back from the State, the budget looks fine but we still have to come up with the money but luckily we can use funds from the conservation fund to handle the cash flow and then the money is reimbursed to the conservation budget at the end of the calendar year when the grant is rebated.

Chairman Coutu asked is that the process that you worked out with Ms. Carpentier our Finance Director to resolve the issues with the flow of money in and out of this account. Jim Battis said it has been in the past. We also have additional possible funding sources that as we look at this, there is a pond reclamation capital reserve fund of \$10,000 which we had initially budgeted and planned to use in this process. At this point, we have not come before the Board and asked to access those funds. Those funds are there. We also have...

Chairman Coutu asked when you say the funds are there Mr. Battis you mean they're there for us to apply for. Mr. Battis stated that's correct. It's a capital reserve fund. The Conservation Commission would need to ask the Board to authorize the expenditure of those funds. We also have three pond donation funds for Hudson ponds – Robinson Pond and Ottarnic Pond which amount to about \$4,000 which might possibly used to alleviate any shortfalls that we see.

Chairman Coutu asked so what you're saying is that even though we're receiving less money, we'll still be able to get the job done with the funds that are being allocated for this project. Assuming that there are no unexpected expenses, Mr. Battis said that is correct. We have as you know in part of this package we have the contracts for the work. Chairman Coutu asked you're saying the focus is going to be what this year Ottarnic. Jim Battis said it turns out that they've also recommended a final treatment, reduced treatment at Robinson Pond. I don't know if you recall when I talked to you in December down at the south end and also because the relative dryness they couldn't get very far up into the north end. Both ponds will be treated. Chairman Coutu commented it would be the outer reaches of Robinson north and south. Mr. Battis explained that both ponds will be treated and then in the next fiscal year the fall of this year – when I say fall I mean after June 30th, they will be doing DASH operations to clean everything up. Hopefully that will be Robinson Pond's last treatment for some number of years.

Chairman Coutu said in this process now let's talk about Robinson Pond because you said it could conceivably be a last treatment for some years. What is the process? Is there an annual process somebody goes in and looks at the pond to ascertain its cleanliness? Jim Battis indicated Amy Smagula will still come down, do the evaluations on an annual basis. She will also be locating areas for the DASH operators to do their work if there needs to be DASH cleanup. She will be down on an annual basis looking at the pond. Chairman Coutu asked she does that for the DES. There's no charge for us for that service. Mr. Battis affirmed no charge to us. We may continue. The funding for the DASH operations is like \$12,000 for herbicide treatments except for this year is typically about \$25,000 at Robinson Pond and \$28,000. It's a big reduction in the level of work that's done.

Chairman Coutu had one quick question. My memory ceased up on me when I was reviewing this at home. The fee that they're charging us, that hasn't changed at all right the people who the actual work? Those fees remain the same as last year there was no increase? Mr. Battis said it was a little hard to tell because I would say generally yes. The problem is that the area of coverage specified by Amy is different for the herbicide. Chairman Coutu understood but the hourly rate. Mr. Battis believed the hourly rate stayed the same. It's a different company. The State chose a different company to do it. I think to keep the rate constant. The other company came in a little higher.

Ken Dickinson believed we're going to have that new company also make a presentation at our next meeting or the one after. So we'll get an opportunity to learn a little bit more about their operations and hopefully the idea is to stay on top of it and hopefully we spend less and less each year to resolve this problem. Chairman Coutu said it's a good move to have them come in and familiarize yourself with the people that are going to be going into our ponds, what their expectations are and what our expectations are. I'm sure they're being guided by Environmental Services Division for that reason.

Selectman Maddox asked is AB Aquatics the same as Aqualogic. James Battis said no it's a different company. That's what I said. The State decided to go with a different contractor. It was bid. Selectman Maddox said we don't need this then because it's saying that there's \$21,000. That's why again I was trying to follow along here and it got a little rough. Mr. Chairman I think that – we go through this mish mash every time. I would hope that the Finance Director and the Conservation Committee can come up with a spreadsheet that kind of details this over the last couple of years and going forward. Again you make a great presentation but because they cross multiple years, it is just getting confusing I guess is the nice simplified business term. We're going to pay the additional 15 percent but you're saying that that's going to be covered because we're not spending as much. Mr. Battis indicated we did not spend as much last calendar year but in this fiscal year. So we have in our budget – the funding for the DASH operations because we did less, we didn't pay as much last fall so that money can be applied to the herbicide operation which occurs before June 30th. So yes it took me several months of looking at spreadsheets to get these numbers to make sense.

Chairman Coutu commented I see KC smiling. I know this has been a project for you for the past couple of years. It's because the projects start prior to the end of the fiscal year and it doesn't finish until after the fiscal year. The funds weren't flowing in until the next year.

Selectman Maddox agreed. Mr. Chairman we're going to have some changeover. I just wanted to make sure that we don't have to make them go through this whole thing. It gets confusing especially when the State is going to reduce the amount of aid. We still have to pay the same amount but they're only going to pay 25 percent instead of 40 percent. That's fine this year but I just want to make sure we've got some history to be able to show what we've spent so that again the budget season will be starting soon.

As Chairman Coutu understood it, KC you can comment if you wish but it looked like a conundrum there for a while and you were able to filter out. Would it be too much work to get a 2 or 3 year spreadsheet on all of this herbicide. Kathy Carpenter believed Mr. Battis is the one who did it last year and about a year or so ago, we agreed to it. We could freshen up that spreadsheet again. Jim Battis indicated I was actually working on that today.

Chairman Coutu declared the public hearing open at 7:31 p.m. Does anyone wish to speak on the contract for herbicide treatment at the ponds that we safeguard here in the town? Seeing none, I'll close the public hearing at 7:32 p.m. Is there any more comments or questions from the Board?

Selectman Brucker said being the liaison to the Commission we came from a very bad place a few summers ago where Robinson was really badly assaulted by the invasive species. I think that this new herbicide clipper has really done a great job

with it. I think that as long as we stay on top of it, it's going to continue to be in good shape. I just want to thank the Commission for taking care of that.

Chairman Coutu thought Selectman Brucker did a commendable job representing the Board at the meetings. I think you've been to your last one I think. I want to commend you and thank you for your bringing back information to us that you felt was relevant that we should know about and thank you for your service on the Conservation Commission. Selectman Brucker said you're welcome especially about the rabbits.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to accept a \$12,038 grant award from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for the invasive species control project at Robinson Pond and Ottarnic Pond, carried 5-0.

B. Highway Department Budget Transfers

Chairman Coutu said for those who are listening, especially some of the candidates for Selectman this year who have criticized us. I'm a little upset about it but I'm going to say something about it – who have criticized us repeatedly in this campaign that we are not transparent about the transfer of monies. I can tell you first hand that never once in the 8 years – and I'm finishing my 8th year serving on this Board has any money been transferred from one account to another that the documents were not made public or they were not discussed here. We are very transparent about the transfer of money and the reason why we have the Road Agent here is because 1) we want him to provide us – I had asked him to come in. I sent him an e-mail asking him to come in and give us a synopsis of what transpired this winter, how it's affected his budget and obviously there's going to be a shortfall. We all know what kind of a winter it was. We're going to talk about the potential transfer and where the funds are coming from. This is nothing new. We're not doing it because candidates have been critical of us saying that we're not transparent about transferring money. We're always very transparent about moving money around and I'm sure that the Town Administrator and the Finance Director could certainly attest to that and those documents are readily available on line or in our office if you come and ask for them. We talk about them at Selectmen's meetings. With those welcoming remarks, I open the discussion to Road Agent Kevin Burns.

Kevin Burns noted it's been a heck of a winter. It's probably a good thing Sergeant Gosselin walked out with his certificate. I might have had to ask him for it back. We've had over 101 inches of snow this year. Most of it came in the 5 or 6 weeks stretch from late January right through February. We did have that big snow storm right before Thanksgiving that knocked out power for most of us for 3 or 4 days. Most of my winter related accounts are depleted actually probably more than depleted. Salt, sand, diesel fuel, gasoline, equipment maintenance, and outside hire to plow the schools they are all completely emptied and I have worked with Kathy Carpentier and Steve to look at where we could find funds in other departments to allow us to continue to operate for the rest of the fiscal year. I figure I'm going to need about \$100,000 to get through the remainder of the fiscal year just to continue operating. We've got a lot of spring cleanup we're going to need to do with all that sand that we've spent over is now on the roads. I think we're going to have an enormous pothole season. We have a lot of work to do just picking everything back up and putting the fleet back together. We've had a lot of breakdowns that depleted the equipment maintenance account as well.

For the record, Chairman Coutu said you estimate that your overtime budget is in desire straights for approximately \$20,000. You need approximately \$20,000 to replenish salt. You're going to need approximately \$10,000 to cover gas. You're going to need approximately \$10,000 to cover diesel and you're going to need approximately \$40,000 for large equipment and I would think that that was for repairs to damages to some of the equipment that we've had. So this totals \$100,000. What this document which was presented to us by the Town Administrator and the Finance Director recommends that we transfer \$15,000 from the Town Poor services; \$10,000 for legal collective bargaining because our attorney fees weren't as high this year as they had been in the past. We only had one contract to negotiate and the Town Poor I was looking at. We'll do our report later. There will be sufficient funds to be able to transfer \$15,000. We're going to take \$50,000 out of the contingency account and the storm water contingency was something that we thought we may have to come to spend before we put it in there in the event that the federal government mandated that we do something has not and we don't anticipate will be expended by June 30th. So there's \$25,000 there. So that transfer will equals \$100,000 which is what was requested by the Road Agent. Is there anyone who wishes to comment at this time?

Selectman Nadeau said this is very transparent the way that we do it here. On the School Board side they'll give you an account number followed by an account number. You won't know where it's going or where it's going to and from. So to see this transfer of paperwork as we always have in the past is very transparent. So for those of them that are telling us that we're not transparent, it's right here in black and white for you. Unlike you have to go look and dig on the other side of the fence to find out where everything is going. I think this is a very good worksheet and I think I might just take that along with me if I go over to the over side and show him how to do it.

Selectman Nichols thanked Kevin for you and your men for all you've done. I see no problem with signing over this money to you. I know the work you've done. I see the streets. I see the potholes that you're going to have to deal with some of them. I've hit those. I've seen the sand that you're going to have to pick up. I've seen the work that you and your men have done on this town. I will have no problem assigning over whatever you need. I think he deserves it.

Selectman Maddox said they kind of hit the low hanging fruit here. I just hope that they will look at some of the other departments and I mean gasoline has been down. Is there monies left over in other departments that we might be able to...because you've wiped out the Selectmen's contingency if anything else happens in the next three months. It would be nice to have some idea of what could be available Sir. That's my only comment. I think we should be proactive in that area.

Chairman Coutu thought what will help us in the financial report that we have, you'll see that revenues are up considerably so that's a big plus too.

Steve Malizia asked to make another – even in my report here I also stated that we're going to look at it from another department perspective. We did have an opportunity to sit down with police and fire departments to make sure that they are in decent shape. We will be able to look at all of the departments to figure out and get some kind of idea of what we would have left at the end of the year. We expect to some more money. This isn't certainly the end of it. This is something that we need to do immediately because again he's already in the hole but we need to make sure that he's able to continue his operation. I believe I referred to it in my meeting that we'll be sitting down looking at the remainder of the year with all of the departments to determine what other opportunities might be available for savings for money. So we're very cognizant of it. If I could remind everybody, this is the second year of a default budget. So it's been very difficult. As you are all well aware, at the beginning of the year we tried to transfer money so we could operate the senior center and some of your other activities that the Board felt was important. So we had a tough winter. Again he's the one that's come forward. At this point in time, everybody else looks like they're going to hit their numbers or be a little bit lower.

Steve Malizia noted the other opportunity we may want to consider is maybe asking the school to chip in some money for the school maintenance. It's \$25,000. I think we spent over 40 plowing over there. I think it's something that this Board should consider. That's far more than normal. Again it goes to his budget deficit. He has to pay for it. He's been paying for it. They put this Board's permission and we can send a request over to see. I throw that out there because we've talked about it.

Selectman Nadeau indicated that was one of the things that I was getting ready to bring up. I'd like to request a letter sent from this Board to the School Board requesting a minimum of \$25,000 to offset the plowing for the schools. If Mr. Burns thinks that's not enough, I will be willing to up my motion.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to request a letter be sent from the Board of Selectmen to the School Board requesting a minimum of \$25,000 to offset the plowing for the schools.

Chairman Coutu supported the motion reluctantly because it's coming out of the same pocket. It's coming from the taxpayer – six one way half a dozen the other. On principle, on principle, I will support your motion.

Selectman Brucker indicated it is coming from the taxpayer but also the School Department would be looking for something in their budget to find some of the money whereas we have to look in our budget for all 25 right now.

Considering the severity of the winter, Chairman Coutu thought they should feel a little bit of the pinch. On principle I support the motion.

Selectman Nadeau wanted to remind the Board that their budget is \$50 million. Chairman Coutu noted I know. If we're going to struggle to look for money, we should make them struggle a little too although \$25,000 isn't a big bite. Selectman Nadeau indicated I'm willing to go 50.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Coutu asked if there was any further discussion on the proposed transfers Selectman Maddox your point is well taken. The Town Administrator has assured us that he will be meeting with all of the departments and we're going to have a pretty good status as to any depletion of funds or any surplus of funds and where we may find some revenue in the event between now and June 30th. God forbid some major catastrophe requires a lot of overtime. On any given day, fire and police, public service something could happen that could tie up a lot of overtime. Another snow day. It's all over. Didn't you read the motion last week banning snow in Hudson? Mother Nature is going to be arrested.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to transfer funds to the Highway Department budget as identified by the Finance Director, Town Administrator, and Road Agent in a document dated March 5, 2015 to cover the excessive winter expenses incurred, carried 5-0.

Kevin Burns asked to thank my guys. They did an incredible job this winter. I don't think a lot of the people realize that there is no second shift. It's not like they work 12 hours and then the next group comes in and works 12 hours. They come in at the first snowflake and they stay until it's cleaned up. A lot of times it's in excess of 24 hours. The amount of time that you could drive to Orlando, these guys have been driving around in a snow storm in a dump truck all by themselves. No relief. No second shift guys to give them a break. They did an incredible job this year. Not one complaint. They all showed up every single storm. I don't know another community that could say that. My guys never not answer the phone. I don't care if they've

worked 24 hours. I need them back 3 hours later. If I can them, they come in. We have a really, really good group out there and they're very dedicated to the town and to me. I just want to thank them because they did a heck of a job this winter.

Chairman Coutu told Kevin of course we've had an exchange of e-mails. You've kept us all abreast of what was going on. Some of us if not all of us at one point or another complimented you and your crew for an outstanding job. I happened to have a conversation with the Town Administrator recently. It might have been within the past week if not a week and a half ago. He said to me that he picked himself up out of his office for a change and went down to the barn which is something that he doesn't regularly do. When he shows up, everybody goes oh no what the hell happened. He wanted to go down and shake hands with the men. I guess you went down mid morning and went out and wanted to say thank you to the staff. We can't tell you enough. It's their job. I've heard it from people say well that's what they get paid to do and they got overtime. Yes they did but the work product is far and superior to what I've seen in surrounding towns and continues to be year, after year, after year. Fortunately the good thing about getting a lot of snow, it's hard to knock mailboxes over because now they're all buried and you can't find them and you can't get the plow to it. I don't think we're going to get too many complaints in that area. There have been a couple. The biggest problem has been this year because of the amount of snow and because of the difficulty in managing that much snow; there have been vehicle breakdowns and some accidents. That happens. I've seen some reports from other municipalities. You ought to talk to the City Manager of Lowell. Granted it's a big city but the damage is out of control in the City because of this storm. So your men, yes, deserve the applause that we've given them. Thank you sometimes isn't enough. Knowing that we care and we noticed I think is meaningful to them and they recognize that. Again Kevin to you and your crew thank you so much. I know you're out there many, many hours and you just get straight salary. You don't get any more now than you do with a 40 hour week yet you're putting in 60-70. Selectman Nadeau reminds me of that all the time. It's greatly appreciated. Your leadership means a lot.

C. Revenues and Expenditures

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia said that was the big area that we were concerned about immediately is the Highway Department. We've taken a look at the rest of it. We are about 2/3rds of the way through the year which is 67 percent. Again we're going to take a look at where we are for all the departments to get a feel. It looks like we're in pretty good stead. Again my big concern was the Highway Department because of the burdensome winter and it's been a burden to fire and police but their budgets are managing fairly well. You touched on Town Poor. It's in reasonably decent shape. I would say that the revenues are slightly up from the motor vehicle side of things and even interest is looking positive. Ambulance is looking very well too. I think things are going pretty decent. Obviously that extra revenue doesn't really help us with our budget but it's at least an indicator that things are improving and if we get some extra surplus in our budget, it will certainly make the fire station a lot more palatable to people and certainly assist in next year. Again I think we're looking at pretty decent shape. The biggest concern is we all shared was the Highway Department specifically some of his street accounts. In general other than that, I think we're in reasonably decent shape.

Chairman Coutu asked if there were any comments on the revenue and expenditure report. Seeing none. I thank you both for providing us with this information. KC thank you.

9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Nadeau - Well it's been a pleasure working with all the department heads over the last 20 years. Some of it being on the Budget Committee. Some of it being on the Board of Selectmen. I'd like to thank them all for their help in getting me there. That's all I have this evening.

Selectman Brucker - Yes well it was a difficult decision for me to make to step down. I really enjoyed and felt honored to be able to be on the Selectmen's Board and to work with all of you. I've enjoyed all of my liaison assignments and feel pretty friendly feelings towards all the people on those boards. I feel that we have a very strong group of employees in every department and they are well lead by the department heads and it's just been a real pleasure for me to work with them and I appreciate it.

With that said and having both of you speak back to back, Chairman Coutu thought it was happenstance more than anything. I want to say a couple of words about your service on the Board. Ben I came to know you 8 years ago. We became very good friends. You went above and beyond in every single one of my campaigns. You were very helpful. We had a lot of great times together. I'm going to miss seeing you here. My wife told me that if I was going to say anything tonight and I'd be remiss if I didn't to both you and Mrs. Brucker in extending my personal appreciation for all that you've done for me. The parties being thrown out of - the blimp. There are so many stories we could tell. Yes ladies and gentlemen he threw me out of blimp because they needed to release some of the weight and the little guy got throw out. The big guy stayed in. The eating together. I tease Ben about his eating. I never went to a function where I didn't keep up with them. I ate as much as he did. It's just that my metabolism is a lot different than Ben's. I know you're going through some medical situations that hopefully will be rectified. I think three of us - the youngest and the two oldest I think have been through out of the 4 of us, I won't even tell you age Pat because I know you're somewhere about Ben's age. Ben there's been so many good times. I think about walking down on Memorial Day the parade and I think about going over to the shop and talking with you and dad. I know that

there is a sincere commitment to want to serve the public. We may not have always agreed. We may not have always agreed on the approach and how we govern but the end product is the result of hard work by having put together working hard on budgets, taking very seriously the concerns of the public, and taking an interest in our public employees and how they serve us.

Chairman Mrs. Brucker though it's short lived it's only been 3 years. I applaud you for putting your name on the ballot. An unknown who came out of the woodwork, worked very, very hard and got elected to this Board. I took a liking to you from day one. I told you I would mentor, and work with you, and help you. I took you around the building to meet people and we've had a relatively good working relationship. Our political philosophies may differ a little. You being a Democrat and my being a Republican but I have the utmost respect and always respected your approach and your vociferous manner in which you defended our town employees and I respect that. When I was down and out, you and Will were there for me. You were up hanging up signs in that campaign. I have many good and sad memories about campaigns because this time of the year for me is a very trying time because of Zach Tompkins. It comes back to me time and again. I thought about it. I reflected on it this weekend. I think that was the campaign that if not it was the year after because I had so many injuries and operations that you and will went out of your way. Not only did you go out and put signs up for me, you meticulously went back and picked them all up and delivered them back to me. I remember meeting with you in front of Valentino's Restaurant and picked up the signs. I'm so appreciative and to both of you, you deserve the plaudits of all of the citizens of the town.

Chairman Coutu noted this year we have a field of candidates - 6 people. They have difficult shoes to fill. I thank both of you and you should be very proud of your public service.

Selectman Maddox - You do this to me all the time Mr. Chairman. A number of items. I will try to whiz through them. Number one, there has been some rumblings about the amount that we're going to pay for the bond - 10 years versus 20 years. I believe it has always been this Board's opinion that we were going to go with the 10 year but we haven't got it approved yet. So we really can't do much but I think that has been the intent. The \$28 was based on the 10 year bond. For those that are concerned about paying way too much in interest, I know that it is my opinion that we should go with a 10 year bond. I believe it was the Board's consensus but until we have approval, we can't make a motion to something we don't have.

Chairman Coutu had a question of Selectman Maddox. Let's assume the voters approve the building of the new fire station. We know we have the monies set aside to refurbish the Lenny Smith Fire Station. So it's not an impact. It's going to have zero impact on the tax rate. The money is there. If the voters say yes, that money will be used not to exceed \$900,000 to refurbish. Assuming that the voters agree that we should build a new fire station, which I'm 100 percent in support of and will be voting for and we went with the 10 year bond and we asked everybody pay up now the full amount how much would each and every single homeowner have to pay in total over 10 years? Selectman Maddox said \$282. Chairman Coutu noted \$28 a year, \$2 a month is what it's going to cost for us to have a brand new state of the art fire station on Lowell Road. You and I have discussed that this weekend. I talked to you at some point during the week about I don't think there was enough emphasis on the total cost. All of this stuff that you're reading and forgive me Len in the Thumbs Down about how much this is going to cost the taxpayers and how much in interest. First of all, as you said Selectman Maddox it's a little premature to throw out numbers when we don't even know whether or not the votes are going to approve it. I would like to think as you would that they are going to approve it. \$282 is the total cost over 10 years for every single taxpayer - \$2 a month. That's all it's going to cost us. Thank you Selectman Maddox.

Selectman Maddox said next thing. I know there was some questions about how much each ballot item was going to cost. For those that opened up their HLN, there is an insert that we had put in and because we worked ahead a little bit, we decided to put in that information. The Town Administrator pulled all that together and it does say on the sample ballot and show you the tax impact. So for those that want to do that calculation, it is there.

Next item on Selectman Maddox's list is I was lucky enough to go to candidate's night. I have a few observations. I'm not going to mention by name but there were a number of interesting statements made and some incendiary but we'll just cover them as we do. There is one candidate that wanted to put public employees at a private nursing home. I just don't understand the logic of that and when I did the math, it's about \$300,000. I don't know how this person was going to justify that to the voters. A comment about empty industrial parks. I don't know of any empty industrial parks. There are some places that have are certainly not as full as they would like to be but that is a function of the market. The space may not be big enough. Maybe the rents too high. Any number of things but government should not be getting into making sure that industrial parks are full. Our job should be to make sure that we have a low tax rate, reasonable water and sewer rates, and a quality fire, police, and highway department. Beyond that, I think that again is the business that needs to be taking care of that.

Chairman Coutu noted we've extended ourselves in that area as you pointed out to me by we redo the roadways in there. Selectman Maddox said the Town Administrator we've had 4 companies in the last month or so that have..Mr. Malizia said 4 or 5 coming for the ERZ designation which we provided to them. Chairman Coutu noted the designation provides them additional funding to help them with a tax reduction.

Selectman Maddox said the next thing we kind of covered was the transfers. We do them at a meeting. We don't do them very often because we try to stay within our budgets. We don't want to be transferring money around the budget. It is a rare occasion but when we do it, it's done on camera. At the very end of the fiscal year, Chairman Coutu said there may be some requests that come in. They are public proclamations of what their needs are and we look to see if funds are available and we

announce the amount of money and where it's coming from. Selectman Maddox said yes and again I think that maybe it's just trying to grasp onto something that shows what we're not doing or whatever. There was a comment made about people having to do a 91A request. Well I asked the Town Administrator and we've had four in the last 12 months. Two of those came from lawyers that weren't going to come down and ask. They just sent a letter under the RSA 91-A. If you come into the Town of Hudson and want some information whether it be a department head, the Town Administrator, or whoever, we're going to try to provide that information. Just again where that comment came from but again I know that Steve bends over backwards to try to get people the information they need. If they want 250 pages, we're certainly we have the right to and we probably need to charge them. If they come in and ask for 10 pages, we're just going to give it to them. Again a comment that made it appear like we were doing something that whatever. We have tried to be as transparent as possible. Sometimes it's impossible. We deal with personnel issues property taxes and all kinds of things that by RSA, HIPPA laws, and any number of things we cannot talk about. Again I guess until you sit in the chair, you just don't know all of the wonderful things that go on.

Selectman Maddox noted to the Chairman that you and I talk. I've talked to all of you at various times about various issues. Before I go off and try to tilt at windmills, most time I try to see if there's a consensus to join me on the venture. As long as I only talk to one of you at a time, that is legal. To be able to talk to you and find out your input, I might change where I'm headed in a different direction. Again perfectly legal and good business and good government. If we had to wait and sit here and wait until everything was put before us, we're going to be up until 4 a.m. trying to get through the end of the meeting.

Selectman Nadeau noted you will be up until 4 a.m.

Selectman Maddox asked where is all of this coming from. Ladies and gentlemen as the Chairman has pointed out, we are losing two members. Two seats opening up without incumbents has been probably almost 10 or 11 years since that has last happened. Ladies and gentlemen this is an important election. We have via phone call to the Chairman have arranged to have candidate's night right after this meeting. Ladies and gentlemen you need to watch this. Forty percent of this Board is going to change and you need to know who's going to be sitting in your stead representing you. If you have any questions, hopefully they will be across the street and ask them the questions. You need to be comfortable because these people are representing you for the next 3 years. I think it's important that, again, you are comfortable with who you're going to vote for.

Last the fire station. Selectman Maddox said again kudos to those that put that together. I think that answered hopefully a lot of the questions. I know there was a question about traffic. Ladies and gentlemen since a lot of the incidents are on Lowell Road, the Fire Department is coming out onto Lowell Road. So it's not like putting the station here is going to cause tremendous backups of traffic. They have amazing devices. It's called red lights and sirens and that air horn. If you're not moving out of the way, they will move you out of the way. This is just a non-issue. That station will have lights that are being paid for by someone else to be able to get out. I'm hoping again that people will really take a look at what was provided. I asked the Chief and he graciously assigned somebody paperwork duty at Burns Hill if you're on the cusp. If you're not quite sure, please by all means stop by the station. Somebody will take you through and show you the facility. If you're just not sure, please we need your help but we want you to be comfortable with your decision. I know there was a question about the response time and the Chief I've tortured him enough he finally got it for me. We're going to pick up - what I asked him to do is to take last year all of the calls for the Burns Hill District - District 4 and he mapped out where they were. Unfortunately on this drawing it's really, really small but we're going to pick up another 100 calls that will now be within that magic 4 minute response time. No one falls out of it. That has been covered. If you have any questions, I will be there. I'm sure the Chief will be there on and off. Come and ask us. I will say this that I did check with the Chief and the Thumbs was correct. Salem is building a public safety complex for well over \$20 million. We are doing this the Hudson way. We have found a way to hopefully reuse plans. The land that we own and refurbish Lenny Smith taking care of two fire stations for less than half of what came in several years ago. Mr. Chairman I hope that the citizens have seen our hard work. We've hopefully presented this enough. I know there were comments we didn't do enough. I don't know what else we could have done. If you have questions, please I'll be there the one with the white hair. Come over and ask me and I hope that I can get your vote. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Coutu noted further deferring this as one candidate suggested - there were two. I liked his other suggestion but the first one deferring this could conceivably increase the costs significantly. The other comment maybe we should cut the size of the Board of Selectmen down to 3. I'll entertain a motion to consider the election for Selectmen null and void tomorrow and we'll be down to 3 and save the taxpayers a lot of money. I guess nobody is going to make that motion

Selectman Nichols - I just wanted to wish the best of luck to Ben for his foray into the school area I hope that he will make it. We're going to miss you here. We really are. I'm going to miss you sitting there and telling me where I'm wrong. That's okay. I'd like that where someone says I think you're wrong there and it makes me maybe think and change my mind or maybe not. I like that and we're going to miss you very much.

Of course for my Nancy and my friend. Selectman Nichols said I feel so badly about you leaving. I always felt that two women were good. Who knows what will happen tomorrow. That's a biggie. I'm hoping people will get out and vote tomorrow because if you don't vote and use your right, somebody else is going to vote for you. They're going to take your spot because whatever they decide is what you have to put up with if you haven't gone to vote. It's as simple as that. If you vote, you have the right to say well I want this, I want that. If you haven't voted and other people have, you have to go by what they decide. It might not be what you want. So please, please it's going to be a beautiful day. The sun is going to be shining but a little wet. That's okay come out. It will be melting snow. Please come out and vote. We really, really, really need you. Thank you so much to our two fellows that are leaving. My heart's broken.

Selectman Coutu - I just want you to know Lenny. I don't get the HLN quite often. This week was another week I didn't get the HLN. I don't know what's going on. This is an ongoing thing. I read it on line but my wife likes to have it in front of here. She doesn't know how to turn on a computer. Len Lathrop indicated we have paid to have one delivered. Chairman Coutu said I know you pay for every home and I want you to get your money's worth. Mr. Lathrop indicated that I'll call the Postmaster again tomorrow.

Selectman Coutu said we had a very constructive one of the best Recreation Department meeting that we've had in a long time. We're going to have a workshop because everybody wanted to serve on the committee. We decided that we're going to have a workshop. Chairman Iannaco will be chairing the workshop as he should. We're going to establish some priorities and look at various areas of town that we think we can work with the Highway Department. We're going to make some recommendations by the Recreation Committee and they're going to bring it before the Board of Selectmen. I want to remind everyone that on this Friday, March 13th, at the Community Center at 6:45 Big Hero 6 will be the movie that's being shown. I would hope that for the price of admission which I don't have here...Steve Malizia indicated it was free. Chairman Coutu noted you'll get 2 tickets upon arrival and the two tickets are for a bag of popcorn and a drink. You'll be able to see the movie Hero 6. On Friday, March 27th, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Community Center, 5th and 6th grade dance. They've been very, very successful. It's a good night for the kids to get out.

Chairman Coutu I want to remind everybody that there's a new cell phone policy. We've adopted the cell phone policy that's ongoing in the school system. There have been inappropriate pictures taken in some of the bathrooms. It's been decided that to avoid this in the future for the - it's always a shame. One or two kids go off and do stupid things and everybody feels that they're getting punished for it. In order to avoid having inappropriate pictures and having them sent all over the internet and the School Department or us having to deal with this issue, phones will be collected at the door. They will be collected and assigned to an area where they will be secured. A phone will be made available to any child who feels that there's a need or an emergency for them to get a hold of a parent or guardian. Other than that, the policy is there will be no phones.

Chairman Coutu noted they're having a snowman building contest. I really don't have the dates on it. You might want to go on the Recreation webpage and get all the information. Some of these snowmen are very, very, very creative. It's amazing. I'm sure Lenny and his staff will be taking pictures when they do this. I want to remind everybody the registration for the summer program will take place on June 19th at the Community Center from 3 to 8. Birth certificates must be presented at registration for children ages 6 through 7. Again if you want to go to the Facebook Recreation Department page, you will have all of the fees which were approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Again Chairman Coutu expressed his sincere gratitude to both of you for serving. I, too, will miss you both. God bless you both. I wish you much success in the election tomorrow Selectman Nadeau for School Committee. Selectman Brucker maybe Doris and I will go up to the camp this summer and spend the day and take you and Will out to eat as a way of expressing our gratitude. I'm going to miss you as well. Please keep in touch. Ben I know you will. You'll have a lot to say I'm sure. You asked for recognition and you have it.

Selectman Nadeau indicated one thing that we forgot to mention is the police blood drive is coming up. You do see it on the scroll every day. It's the 24th. It's at the Community Center and there's a very, very urgent need for blood. So if you're available on the 24th, please go to the police blood drive. It's always a good time there. There's great food from a lot of the Hudson vendors. It's definitely a good time.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to enter Nonpublic Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted; and (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee, carried 5-0 by roll call.

Chairman Coutu declared the Nonpublic Session is being entered at 8:27 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 declared that Open Session was being entered into at 8:50 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to extend the Probationary period of Firefighter Kim Sara Hiffler until May 19, 2015, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to authorize the Fire Chief to hire Ian Canavan for the position of Firefighter AEMT in the Fire Department at a starting salary rate of \$17.08 per hour (step 1) effective Sunday, April 5, 2015. This assignment will be a non-exempt position in accordance with the International Association of Firefighters Local #3154 Contract, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to authorize the Fire Chief to extend Zoning Administrator Kevin Desmond's probationary period until June 28, 2015, for a total of 9 months, carried 4-0-1. Selectman Nadeau abstained.

Motion by Selectman Brucker, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to authorize the Police Chief to terminate Rebecca Twardosky as a Telecommunication Technician (Dispatcher) at the Police Department effective March 10, 2015, carried 5-0.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Brucker, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Roger E. Coutu, Chairman

Ben Nadeau, Selectman

Richard J. Maddox, Selectman

Nancy Brucker, Selectman

Pat Nichols, Selectman