

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the February 10, 2015 Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Attorney-Client Session, pursuant to RSA 91-A:2 I

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Coutu the meeting of February 10, 2015 at 7:02 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Selectman Maddox.
3. ATTENDANCE
Board of Selectmen: Roger Coutu, Ben Nadeau, Rick Maddox, Pat Nichols
Absent: Nancy Brucker
Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Donna Graham, Executive Assistant; Elvis Dhima, Town Engineer; Dave Yates, Recreation Director; Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director
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.

My name is Randy Brownrigg. I live at 2 Little Hales Lane. I have a concern. The gentleman who stands out by Walmart and he sometimes stands out over by Market Basket. It's a concern. If he wants to hold his signs up and ask for donations, I'm fine with that but when he's walking out in the middle of the road and causing problems with traffic and safety issues, that's a problem. He as an example would be over at Walmart. He would walk out probably 50 to 65 feet into the road holding his signs out. Him holding the sign out is fine but when he's walking that far out into traffic, that's going to cause a problem especially in this weather. You have high snow banks. The roads are slippery. I don't wish anyone to hit this young man. If that happens, who's responsible and is there a way that he can sign a petition that if he's going to be out there that the town is not held liable or the people is not held liable if this person is to get hit.

Chairman Coutu thought that in light of the meeting we just had with our attorneys in nonpublic session that someone might be tempted to ask did you and I have a conversation about this all? Randy Brownrigg said never. Chairman Coutu said I share your concerns Mr. Brownrigg. Anybody else want to say anything on it before I absolutely blow up - not at you?

Selectman Nadeau said I took my Prozac.

Chairman Coutu noted this is gnawing at me. Gnawing at me.

Selectman Maddox indicated we talked about it. I think I called him will work and you were going to follow up with the Police Chief and see what we could do. It is unfortunately an entanglement that we are about to talk about with free speech and the ACLU. Again I think we need to sit down and do this in a calm and studied manner with legal and police.

Chairman Coutu said of course we're going to be discussing this very shortly. Mr. Brownrigg didn't mean to bring up a sore thumb if this is what it is. It's a concern for the residents in the town. Chairman Coutu agreed. We as a Board agree with you. Mr. Brownrigg didn't have a problem with him holding the sign up; it's just where he's standing. Chairman Coutu indicated we've been sued and we're going to lose. We can't stop him except if a good citizen like you and other citizens would stop with a camera and take pictures of him out in the road and call the Police Department to provide them that evidence, that's called "disturbing the peace" or "endangering the public" by going out in the street like that. We agree with you. I think our hands are tied. These people get the ACLU on their side and we lose. So what we need to do now is we need to get people to number one as Selectman Maddox said in nonpublic, stop giving money to these people and number two - especially the guy down at Walmart. He was offered a job and he refused it saying he couldn't do it because of his back. My position is he is scamming the public. You're going to hold up a sign that says that you're going to work and you have two kids. You're going to work for money. You'll take a job for money to support the two kids whatever. He has two signs. He interchanges them. People are stopping and offering him a job and he's not going to take the job. To me, that's a scam. That is a scam. I don't understand why we can stop a magazine salesman at night from selling magazines and trying to scam the public. We can enforce that ordinance but we can't stop that scam. He's a miniature Bernie Madoff is what he is. Bernie dealt in millions and as I said in nonpublic, he's doing it at a \$1 at a time. I don't mind helping poor people.

Chairman Coutu stated I do my fair share of helping people in need as do a lot of us. We've been blessed and we've been given opportunities that other people have not. I understand that. When you say you're going to work for money and you have two children and you're refusing to take jobs that are offered to you, that is a scam. The likes of this gentleman was panhandling in Nashua says on a good day I make \$300. Where is the IRS? Why can they get all this money? Are they a nonprofit organization? Do they have some sort of a under the bridge nonprofit or something that they can collect money and not pay taxes? You and I work for a living. Whatever we earn we have to account for it and we have to pay taxes. This gentleman does not have to pay taxes and as far as I'm concerned, he's scamming the public. I sympathize with you. I wish there was something we could do. We had two police officers pull someone over for doing the exact same thing in the center

of town and we're going to concede tonight that we're going to lose this lawsuit and we're going to pay out \$37,500 as a result of telling a panhandler you're violating the Town Ordinance by not securing a permit to solicit. We're told by our attorneys if we pursue this we're going to lose the case. We cannot win it. It's going to cost us thousands of dollars to fight the ACLU. Now the only way we can stop this guy is for people to take evidentiary matter which would be a photograph or a video of this guy walking out into the street prohibiting cars from passing or having to go around him, then we would have legitimate grounds to go over there and arrest him.

Randy Brownrigg asked you can't make him get a permit for standing out there. Chairman Coutu said no we cannot. If you owned a wagon and were going to go around to sell food around town, you can't do it in town without a permit from us. You can't solicit in front of Walmart, or Demoulas, or Sam's Club without a permit from us but these people can. They can go anywhere because that falls under the Right of Free Speech to hold a sign up and beg for money. Mr. Brownrigg just wanted to let the Board know my concerns. The blood pressure has been going. Chairman Coutu thought it was all over when the lawyers walked out but apparently...Mr. Brownrigg indicated we all can see this gentleman out there. That's where the two places that he hangs out. It's just a concern. Now that I know...Chairman Coutu indicated if he needs housing and food, I'm more than willing to get that for him. It's not about housing and food. It's about tax free money. You've seen him on his cell phone. You've seen him with his shiny metal briefcase. I have an old raggedy leather briefcase. He has a nice shiny silver briefcase. He's got a nice cell phone. He's got his Dunkin Donuts coffee.

Chairman Coutu said I welcome people to come into public input. I appreciate that.

5. NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS - None

6. CONSENT ITEMS

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

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

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Tax Deferral Application - Map 175, Lots 057 and 059, Lakeside Ave. and 13 Iris Path, w/recommendation to approve
- 2) Veterans Tax Credit - Map 211, Lot 002 - 6 St. Francis Place, w/recommendation to remove credit
- 3) 2014 Tax Abatement - Map 156, Lot 8-12 - 26 Amanda Drive, w/recommendation to approve
- 4) 2014 Supplemental Tax Bill - Map 191, Lot 84 - 3 Alpha Street, w/recommendation to approve
- 5) Veteran Tax Credits - Map 156, Lot 006, Sub 030 - 4 Cricketfield Lane; Map 156, Lot 006, Sub 030 - 4 Cricketfield Lane; Map 151, Lot 019 - 47A Barretts Hill Road; Map 148, Lot 040, Sub 004 - 7 Baltusrol Drive; Map 254, Lot 004 - 135 Dracut Road; Map 216, Lot 014, Sub 090 - 41 Reflection Drive, w/recommendation to approve

B. Water/Sewer Items - None

C. Licenses & Permits - None

D. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the November 25, 2014 Meeting
- 2) Minutes of the December 9, 2014 Meeting
- 3) Minutes of the January 31, 2015 Meeting

E. Calendar

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| 2/11 | 7:00 | Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room - CANCELLED |
| 2/16 | | PRESIDENT'S DAY - TOWN HALL CLOSED |
| 2/17 | 7:00 | Cable Utility Cte - HCTV Ctr. |
| 2/18 | 5:00 | Municipal Utility Cte - BOS Meeting Room |
| 2/18 | 7:30 | Senior Affairs Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room |
| 2/19 | 7:00 | Benson Park Cte - HCTV Meeting Room - CANCELLED |
| 2/19 | 7:00 | Budget Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room - CANCELLED |
| 2/23 | 7:00 | Sustainability Cte - BOS Meeting Room |
| 2/24 | 7:00 | Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room |
| 2/25 | 7:00 | Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room |
| 2/26 | 7:30 | Trustees of the Trust Fund - Buxton CD Meeting Room |
| 2/26 | 7:30 | Zoning Brd of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room |

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on February 3, 2015

- 1) *Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to authorize the Fire Chief to hire John Collins for the position of Dispatcher in the Fire Department at a starting salary rate of \$15.51 per hour (step 1) effective Monday, February 9, 2015. This assignment will be a non-exempt position in accordance with the International Association of Firefighters Local #3154 Contract, carried 4-0.*
- 2) *Motion by Selectman Brucker, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to authorize the Fire Chief to hire Justin Tracy for the position of Firefighter/EMT in the Fire Department at a starting salary rate of \$15.18 per hour (step 1) effective Monday, February 9, 2015. This assignment will be a non-exempt position in accordance with the International Association of Firefighters Local #3154 Contract, carried 4-0.*
- 3) *Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Brucker to pay Gary Webster 127.49 hours of earned time, carried 4-0.*
- 4) *Chairman Coutu adjourned the meeting at 11:25 p.m.*

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Jeffrey Pendleton (ACLU) v. Town of Hudson - Settlement Agreement

Chairman Coutu deferred to Town Administrator Steve Malizia. Steve Malizia deferred to Selectman Maddox.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nichols to approve the proposed settlement in the Jeffery Pendleton vs. Town of Hudson lawsuit and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the settlement agreement.

Selectman Maddox noted sometimes we have to do things that we do not like doing. This is one of those cases where the volume of the opposition is greater than our ability to sustain a legal position. It is better to settle with our insurance company's money and move on. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Nichols seconded what Selectman Maddox said. I think it's something that we have to do. I'm not happy with it either. I'm not happy at all. It has to be done and to get it off our books. That's all I have to say.

Selectman Nadeau agreed with the two previous Selectmen that just spoke. I feel that what we're doing is definitely wrong but it's been what we've been advised to do. If we proceed any further, it's going to cost the Town a lot of money. Unfortunately it's something that we have to do. It's our insurance carrier's money. I'm going to go along with this as much as I don't want to.

Chairman Coutu indicated you all know that I respect you. We all sat at the same meeting. You know how I feel about this and what my sentiments are. I'm going to vote on principle. I'm going to vote no for the settlement because I don't believe that the ACLU can just shuffle a couple of papers around and get \$28,000. I think that there's some good lawyers out there that could fight this and could win this. We're conceding to the ACLU and they're going to run rampant in Hudson, Nashua and every other town they can as they have been in Lowell, and Worcester, and everywhere else in the Massachusetts, and New York area. To have this guy violate a Town Ordinance and the ACLU pick up \$28,000, another lawyer \$2,000, and the gentleman who I feel was illegally soliciting funds to get \$7,350 goes totally against my principals. I will not, I will not support this and I'm glad you made a motion that the Town Administrator sign the document because I would have refused to sign it on behalf of the town.

Vote: Motion carried 3-1. Selectman Coutu in opposition.

B. Annual Tax Map Update - 2014/2015 tax years

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia indicated Mr. Michaud would have normally presented this. Unfortunately he was absent today due to illness. He is under the weather with the flu. What the request is is to enter into a contract with NRPC in the amount of \$3,990 for the purpose of updating the town's tax assessing maps. It's a task we undertake on a routine basis. There's money collected through the Planning Board to do this task so it's coming from a Planning Board fee type of account that they collect money for. Basically it's updating our tax maps to reflect the accuracy for subdivisions and other activities that have occurred. It is my understanding that if we engage NRPC for this task this year, that subsequent years they will then perform the task as part of their annual dues to the town. So you would actually be getting some very recognizable value from that contract.

Chairman Coutu said I knew there was something I forgot to do at the Town Meeting and that was to remove the \$19,000 out of the budget. That would have almost a penny on the tax rate.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to enter into a contract with Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) in the amount of \$3,990 for the purpose of updating the Town's Assessing Maps. Said funds will come from the Planning Board Tax Map Update Fund which was approved at the Planning Board's meeting of 1/15/2014.

Selectman Nichols indicated I pretty much read the whole thing. It doesn't sound like a whole lot of money. You do have to update those maps. I'm fairly new to this so I don't know if this is a good thing or not. Chairman Coutu indicated you made the motion. Selectman Nichols said I know I did because I liked what I read. You're making me nervous now.

Chairman Coutu stated this is another question of voting on principle.

Selectman Maddox said sometimes you have to be brinkley and sometimes you have to be ugly. Mr. Chairman this is something that I know the town needs to get done. We're not going to put on the ballot to hire a GIS Clerk. This for \$4,000 continues the work that needs to be done to keep our GIS relatively currently. I think over the years they will mess in the parcels as we get them - the flyovers and all of that. The Town of Hudson is getting for \$4,000 this year and is part of the due fees going forward something that we're just not ready to put into the town's operating budget which is at least part time person if not a full time person to manage our GIS. As much as it's another one of those things that excites your blood pressure, it is a value if you look at long term. Thank you.

Chairman Coutu said I will be voting against this one and I'll tell you why. For several years we've been giving NRPC \$19,000 and we've received little or nothing for the \$19,000. They want to give us great value as the Town Administrator said for the fees. Take the \$4,000 out of the \$19,000 that we've been paying them every year and call it a wash. I think that would show good faith on their part. I will not support this motion. I think it's not a waste of money, I think it's a great idea. I think they should be footing the bill because we give them \$19,000 and all I read is about the bridge coming over from Nashua to Tyngsboro and a couple of other odd things that they're working on like a train for Nashua. I don't see anything for Hudson. I think we're not getting good value for the \$19,000 and I don't think we need to be doing business with them in the first place. So I will not be supporting the motion.

Vote: Motion carried 3-1. Selectman Coutu in opposition.

C. Water Line Extension - 300 Webster Street-Autumn Circle

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Engineer Elvis Dhima.

Good evening Mr. Chairman. I believe your mood got better as we got to this item. Elvis Dhima noted recently the Planning Board approved a town lot subdivision along 300 Webster Road. It's proposed 10 new lots plus one existing. In talking with the Fire Department, they agreed that water was necessary in this subdivision. With the existing municipality water being close by they decided to pursue connecting to the municipality water. What they're proposing is about 1,000 linear feet along Webster Street and another 1,100 feet alongside the subdivision. This will be at no cost to the town. Once the construction has been completed, tested and everything, we'll take ownership of this main. That's pretty much it. We have worked with our legal team to tweak the water line agreement to what the contributions are going to be and pretty much the bonds and everything else that goes with it. We're on the same page as the developer on this one. MUC already approved it. What you have in front of you is pretty much the agreement for signatures.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to approve and sign the proposed water line extension agreement for Autumn Circle Subdivision.

Selectman Nadeau asked if we would be putting any hydrants in with this. Elvis Dhima said yes. Selectman Nadeau asked how many hydrants would be going in. Mr. Dhima commented one at the end and one at entrance. There will be at least two. I believe that language is in the agreement. Selectman Nadeau said it was in the agreement I just wanted to make sure.

Selectman Nichols asked is there a cost for these hydrants. Mr. Dhima said yes but the developer is going to pay for it. Once we take ownership of it, we're going to maintain it and everything that goes with it like painting and all that. As far as the installation, the initial capital investment will be on the developers.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0.

D. Petition for Highway Layout and Alteration of Existing Highway - Portion of Ridge Avenue

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia indicated you've received a petition for the highway layout and alteration of existing highway on Ridge Ave. which is basically between the Dairy Queen if you go down Ferry Street and the property on the other side of the street. Both properties are owned by the same parties. It's basically a correction as my understanding of the road bed. There is no paving work but because you are altering something which affects these property owners obviously on a town road, it needs to get sent to a public hearing. So what we're recommending is to accept the petition and to schedule a public hearing on the petition

for March 24th. We need to give a 30 day notice to the property owners and we have all the documentation that we need to schedule the hearing. We will then effectuate all of the notification and this will be back for a hearing on March 24th.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to accept the Petition for Highway Layout and Alteration of Existing Highway for Ridge Avenue from Lynn C. White and Ann M. White and to schedule a public hearing on the petition for March 24, 2015.

Selectman Maddox believed Attorney Westgate is here. All I'm trying to do Mr. Chairman is alteration Area A. There's no legend on this that I'm seeing on this page that I have. The dotted is going to offset by the dots but what about the cross hatching? Has Kevin Burns looked at this? Chairman Coutu didn't know. Wait until the public hearing. Selectman Maddox indicated if you want to wait until the public hearing that's fine. Chairman Coutu said it was just a petition to go to a public hearing and then we can iron out and ask all these questions. I thought you guys hashed this all out at the Planning Board. Selectman Maddox said at the Planning Board level said this needs to get done. We had no drawings no nothing. Chairman Coutu said I could have drawn this just from the Planning Board meeting. One side of the street is compensating for the other correct? Steve Malizia said that's my understanding.

Chairman Coutu asked Selectman Maddox did you go to the Planning Board meeting. I watched the Planning Board meeting. There had to be some conversation one side of the road for the other. This is just strictly asking for a hearing. We can ask Mr. Burns to give testimony. Go ahead Selectman Maddox. You don't fold that easily.

Selectman Maddox thought you need to have a legend on here to tell us what - you have little dots, and big dots, and cross hatched. What do those mean for the 24th? It will be a lot nicer on all of us.

Selectman Nadeau asked if it was already done.

Attorney Brad Westgate thanked the Chairman and members of the Board. Good evening. My name is Brad Westgate. I'm a lawyer with Winner and Bennett in Nashua. I represent the Whites, the applicants, and owners of the Dairy Queen. The shift of the road is as the Chairman noted on the left side if you're looking at the plan that area of land - alteration area (AA 723 square feet) would be removed from the Ridge Ave. right of way and in its place the alteration area being 893 square feet would be added. The petition that we drafted tells the text of what Mr. Maddox had requested. The purposes of each of the areas. We'll make that clear at the public hearing obviously Mr. Chairman. There's a little bit of pavement that's already of Ridge Avenue on alteration area B on the right hand side on the easterly side. What this would do is really center the pavement into the more appropriate layout of the right of way. We'll make that all very clear at the hearing. This notion was contemplated at the public meetings before the Planning Board. We didn't finalize the plans until we submitted them with this petition. They're obviously very small areas being shifted.

Chairman Coutu asked and of equal proportion I would believe. Attorney Westgate said there's a little more going to the town than being taken from the town if you will. Chairman Coutu said that was good because we need to straighten that thing out if we ever get around to it. Is this work actually going to be done if this is petitioned or we're just going to be a land swap for now and it would be up to the Highway Department to do it later? Attorney Westgate said no work has to actually be done. Chairman Coutu knows it never has to be done but I would think that on - well of course that's a matter for the town. On the basis of discussions of that intersection, I think it would be nice to do it.

Attorney Westgate indicated what this does is it gives the Town a little more room on the right side if you will to think about that in the future if that's ever necessary. Chairman Coutu said the purpose of it is to make the adjustments on the lot that they are presently on that they're renovating for the clearance that they need. Attorney Westgate said what happened was - I don't want to make too long a story of it tonight - when this was surveyed for purposes of the Planning Board site plan process, it was determined that Ridge Ave. wasn't where everybody thought it was and it was really shifted more to the east - the pavement was shifted more to the east than you would think if it was centered in the right of way itself. This now shifts the right of way to center the pavement and it takes out of the right of way some of the stub ends of 6 or 7 parking spaces at the Dairy Queen. Again Selectman Maddox's point is well taken. We'll make this very clear at the public hearing.

Being a landscape guy, Selectman Nadeau wondered if this X over here is the retaining wall that they just built. Attorney Westgate said it is the location of the retaining wall. I didn't know if it's been reconfigured or not but it is the location of the retaining wall yes.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0.

- F. Request to use the Community Center for Police Department's Semi-Annual Blood Drives

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia stated in order to get on the Red Cross schedule, they schedule these well in advance. This is obviously to use the Community Center for a police blood drive on March 22, 2016 and September 20, 2016. The Police Department wishes to begin their marketing or advertising and get on the schedule. Quite simply put, they're just looking for you to approve the request.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to approve the Hudson Police Department's request to use the Community Center on March 22, 2016 and September 20, 2016, carried 4-0.

Chairman Coutu wanted to thank Jamie Iskra. She does an awesome job. I think that every year the numbers keep increasing. Getting this notification out early is a big help to her so that she and the team and other police officers who do this will have ample time to be able to suck the blood out of us.

Steve Malizia believed they have one on the 25th of March just to put a plug in for them at the Community Center.

G. NRPC - Energy Facilities Advisory Committee

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia said we've been extended an invitation to appoint someone from the town to be on the NRPC Energy Facilities Advisory Committee. As we're well aware, there is a proposed Tennessee gas pipeline extension that will be traversing through the southern part of the State I believe through quite a few of the communities that NRPC represents. They've afforded the Town of Hudson an opportunity to appoint a person to this committee. As they do all the communities in NRPC if you don't want to appoint somebody, they'll appoint someone for us which will be one of their Commissioners. You have the opportunity to appoint.

Chairman Coutu noticed that they have an interim Executive Director. I'd like that job. Selectman Maddox thought it was pretty much in the bag. Chairman Coutu said I'd love the job because I'll make sure we get our \$19,000 back plus.

Motion by Selectman Maddox to appoint Roger Coutu as the Town of Hudson's representative to the NRPC Energy Facilities Advisory Committee.

Chairman Coutu said let's get serious because I will not take it. I don't support the organization. I'm not going to...Selectman Maddox said here's your chance to put your stamp on them. Chairman Coutu said how do you say no about conserving energy. Selectman Maddox noted this is about the gas pipeline. Chairman Coutu stated the gas pipeline is a done deal let's face it. Do you want read my e-mails between me and the Governor not that she's for it because she never sent me her position. She told me she was but I never got it. She reassured me yesterday morning that she would and I still don't have it but we got a lot of text back and forth on it. How often are they going to meet?

Steve Malizia wasn't quite certain. I do know that the Town Engineer did say that he would volunteer his service if that's what the Board desires. Chairman Coutu asked what are you appointing me for when the Town Engineer should be the one that gets appointed to do that. Selectman Maddox noted he's just going to sit there. You're going to give them the hell they so richly deserve. Chairman Coutu didn't know enough about the pipeline neither does NRPC. Selectman Nadeau said they're going to inform you about it so that you'll have an informed decision. Chairman Coutu said I'm not going to have a voting power on whether or not it's approved. I'm just one of thousands of citizens that may or may not be affected. One of 13 people on the board. What authority did those 13 members have other than sit down and have coffee and chit chat about a pipeline. Selectman Maddox indicated you're going to fix that. Chairman Coutu said it's another bureaucracy that's being established here. It's a waste of people's time and money. The best voice is the people's voice and that voice that's going to be heard at different areas that they're going to hold public hearings. They're holding them all over Massachusetts. They've already announced today I saw there's one in Dracut. There's one in Methuen. I think there's 2 or 3 I saw in the Lowell Sun today that they're holding meeting. They're having one here at the White Birch. Londonderry. They're going to have meetings all over the place and spend big money and buy coffee and smooze and say it's going to be good for the economy, good for your tax base. I'm going to be one of 13 people that's going to say oh well what a nice thing. Why don't you make a motion to appoint Elvis Dhima the Town Engineer because he's been communicating with me about the pipeline with us? I believe you all get information about the pipeline. We're being inundated with information about the pipeline.

Selectman Nadeau indicated he's communicating with you because I don't any information.

Chairman Coutu thought my reward for him for being so involved in the pipeline is to appoint the Town Engineer.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to appoint Elvis Dhima, Town Engineer, as the Town of Hudson's representative to the NRPC Energy Facilities Advisory Committee.

Chairman Coutu indicated good move on both of your parts. Mr. Dhima has volunteered to do it. Anyone who volunteers gets it as far as I'm concerned. I think he will represent us well.

Selectman Maddox said if we're going to follow your logic to this ultimate conclusion, why would we spend the money that we've paid Mr. Dhima to go to a meeting that means nothing. At least sending one of us it's only \$8 a day. I just think sending the Town Engineer is...Steve Malizia indicated he's exempt. Selectman Maddox said we're still paying him a lot more than \$8 a day. If you feel it has no meaning, then let him appoint somebody and why even bother going through the exercise. I will vote no on this matter.

Vote: Motion carried 3-1. Selectman Maddox in opposition.

E. Senior Center Update - Able Network

Chairman Coutu recognized Recreation Director Dave Yates. You have a one sentence letter from Mr. Yates as well as an Able flyer.

Dave Yates indicated that Lori Bowen is here with me. She probably can explain more than I can. The Selectmen had directed us to look into the Able program. We're here to give you an update where we're at as far as volunteers at the senior center. We did give you a pamphlet that talks about what they're about. We just wanted to give you a timeline where we are and see what the Board's pleasure is if we want to continue with Able or go with our volunteer system. Do you have any questions before we let Lori speak?

Selectman Maddox asked is there someone presently from Able Network working at the senior center. Lori Bowen said no. Selectman Maddox said there has not been yet. Ms. Bowen said no. Selectman Maddox was clearing up that misconception that has floated about us.

Selectman Nichols stated I was told by one woman that she was.

Lori Bowen asked to clear up the air on this.

Chairman Coutu was told the same thing. Selectman Nichols said I was told that she was getting paid. I listened to your meeting and you said that you were also going to get someone from Able and sign them up to clean. That has to come through the Board of Selectmen. I'm sorry.

Dave Yates indicated we haven't gone there yet.

Selectman Nichols said when I asked if she was making more than \$8 a day, she said yes she was. So she's getting paid besides. Able Network does pay whoever they pick or whoever they sign up. That has to come through the Board of Selectmen and it has to come all that paperwork has to come through here. It made me nervous when I was told not to worry I'm Able Network so I can do what I want now. Sorry but that's what I was told.

Chairman Coutu asked Lori Bowen for an explanation please.

Lori Bowen thanked the Chairman. One I apologize for all the confusion with Able. They are pardon my language very aggressive. I will clear the air about who we are speaking of. She is an employee of Able but she does not have a position with the Hudson senior center. If I can kind of clarify the two of them. They are completely separate. The Able program has a Senior Community Service Employment Program which there is a member of our Hudson senior center has applied for this program. She has been accepted as a member or a participant because they're not employees - a participant of this program. Should this Board select to go through with Able, they would like to place her with our program. They again were very aggressive. I'll use that word again in giving her permission to start accumulating hours that she volunteer at the center and then accumulating those hours so that when this Board approved it, they could then backtrack to the first date that she was officially made a participant of the program. Again I apologize. They're very aggressive in their nature.

Chairman Coutu stated I am more confused now than I was before you started this. It appears to me that she's working at the senior center and getting paid. Lori Bowen stated no. Chairman Coutu indicated that's what you just said. When you start talking about they're going to backtrack. Does the backtracking mean she's going to get paid retroactive the hours that she's accumulated? Ms. Bowen said only if this Board approves her...Chairman Coutu said exactly. So she's getting paid if we were to assume that she's going to get approved. She's going to get paid for all these hours that she's volunteering. Ms. Bowen said no not until you approve it. Chairman Coutu said if we approve it, she's going to get paid retroactively to day one.

Lori Bowen asked the Chairman to clarify. Chairman Coutu said that was a yes or a no answer. Ms. Bowen didn't know the answer to that. Chairman Coutu apologized. I thought you did. Ms. Bowen said I can answer in that we have been accepted into the Able Network program to become a participant site. We have not accepted anything. We have not partaken in anything. I have filled out an application to be considered as a participant site and then I have also started the paperwork if you chose to finish it this evening. I do have copies of that paperwork. Nothing has been signed. There has no documents forwarded. There has been nothing legally signed. I have not signed anything. Mr. Yates has not signed anything. This Board has not signed anything. As far as the Town of Hudson is concerned, we are not officially a part of the Able Network. We have just filled out an application to be considered which is what I was asked by this Board and by the Senior Affairs Committee. The Senior Affairs Committee has not approved this endeavor either. So I do want to clarify that they do not have their blessing on this before coming before you this evening.

Lori Bowen indicated Mr. Yates and I are here this evening to explain the Able Network and then we can clarify that they are one very pushy and very aggressive and have someone in mind place at the senior center. Whether you are comfortable

with that person or not, obviously we understand that they have not been hired by the Board of Selectmen. We have not done the hiring. Able Network has done the hiring. One of the things that Mr. Yates and I are not extremely comfortable with this situation is we do not feel like we have control over the situation once we accept the program into the building. It's an open ended discussion. It's an open ended job a certain amount of hours that we have to require. I can explain all of that after.

Chairman Coutu understood the Able Network, and I know they're aggressive, and I know why they're aggressive. There's nothing negative about that.

Selectman Nichols indicated you had sent in the paperwork for the Able Network. That should have come - maybe I'm wrong - but that should have come from the Town because it's a town building. The town would be responsible if something happened we'd be responsible if she got hurt or whatever. Am I wrong on that? I thought that's what you had said and the town should have put in for the Able Network rather than I guess you said you did it? Lori Bowen said just the application. Selectman Nichols said but the application...Lori said it is not the binding contract. It's just an application to be considered for the site...Selectman Nichols argued and said they accepted you and they sent it to you.

Chairman Coutu said we're arguing now. Let me just clear the air about something. I just asked the Town Administrator because I had made it clear initially that any communication with Able should involve the Town Administrator. The Town Administrator has assured me that we have no obligation nor do we have a contract that we were looking into Able and in order to look into Able, you look into an application process so that you can get information. We didn't sign any contracts. The Town Administrator was aware of what they were doing and it's before the Board now. I think Mr. Bowen said this hasn't been approved by or even recommended by the Senior Affairs Committee. It's not up to them either. It's up to the Board because it's an obligation that we take on not a financial obligation a supervisory obligation. Lori knowing how Able operates - in this case it would be Lori and Mr. Yates - will have to give reports to Able. They're going to be coming in and questioning them and asking them about the person's work habits. They're going to be pressuring about is the town ever going to consider to make this a position. I know what they do. They're trying to get a big bang out of their buck. From my perspective, Able provides us an opportunity to get a big bang for very little buck just a little bit of supervision. In this particular case, it would probably be somebody home grown that meets the criteria that is qualified to do the job. We can get a person, make them part time employees, they get a little stipend, we get a great amount of service. There's more detail I know.

Selectman Maddox guessed again we looked at this years ago. I think the premise is great but this person that Able sent to us, they just put somebody in our building and they started working for you? Chairman Coutu said no. This person is a Hudson resident. A member of the senior center and has been volunteering. Could they do that? Yes. An example Selectman Maddox we are in dire straits to have somebody do - what did we have at one time? We had an alternate clerical position on an as needed basis in Town Hall. We could apply to Able for that. They would recommend an individual. We could talk to them but Able is going to say this is the person. You could talk to them and you say I'm not comfortable with that and then you can argue with Able. They may or may not get you another person. That person would come in and Able...Steve Malizia indicated if you agreed to have them come in. Chairman Coutu said if we agreed to have them come in, Able would send them in. They would be trained. They're going to go away a couple of times to do some classes to teach them how to write a resume, how to approach an interview. They go through all of those. They may even give them additional clerical skills and send them to a school to learn how to take dictation or whatever. There's a stipend that they pay them. All they ask of us is that if we're going to make this a permanent part time position that we would consider that person before anybody else. They're footing the bill and it could go up to - I don't know if they've changed their rules - but it could go up to 2 to 3 years that they continue to pay. Ms. Bowen noted it's up to 5 years. Chairman Coutu said up to 5 years so they've extended it. So they're really desperate to spend the money that they have.

Another thing that Selectman Nichols mentioned and Chairman Coutu didn't blame Lori. I think I had a conversation with Lori about this. Mrs. Nichols said well I understand and you and I had this conversation. I understand that you applied for other positions. I think that it's quite the reverse. I think that Able said to them are there other things that you can do that you can find jobs for we can get more people. I said to Lori hey if we can get a free custodian, we can get a free food service worker in the building to help with the Meals on Wheels in the afternoon, and we can get somebody to come in and do clerical work - so if you had two assistants plus a maintenance person and a food worker, we'd have a hell of a program for the amount of money that we're dishing out. We'd be able to provide more services. It would give Lori more of an ability to do the administrative work rather than making coffee, running around with a broom cleaning. I know what you do. You do everything. I think it's a great opportunity. They're aggressive. The reason why Able is aggressive is they have money to spend and they don't have enough positions or enough people interested to want to participate. I think we should participate. I think this Board tonight should hear, and I'm going to give both of you ample opportunity, what they have to say about the program, how you feel about the program. If you're reluctant to do it, I'm not going to get into something that you don't want to be involved in. We'll make a decision and whether we go full Board with this thing. Maybe we'll try one or two jobs and go for a few more later.

Dave Yates said back on January 6th I did send the Board an e-mail letting you know that this person was a volunteer. To this point, she has volunteering just like other seniors have been volunteering to help Lori. That was an e-mail. I did send to this Board letting you that. Since then, she applied through Able and that's only if she is approved through this Board. She is willing to participate strictly as a volunteer even if tonight or in the future the Board doesn't want to go through Able. Just to clarify that, she is volunteering now and will continue to volunteer.

Chairman Coutu understood how she got into the system. She realized what the criteria was. The criteria to be an Able employee - I don't know if we have it here, it should be on this flyer. You have to be 55 years of age or over. This person does. Live within federal low income guidelines which she does. She lives in the housing here in Hudson. We only have one unit. Ben you go up there and you work with our senior population. I have many friends there. I had to qualify that. You are willing to improve your job skills and learn new ones. That is the basic criteria. We do not have many people. I'm sure there are in the Town of Hudson that live within the federal low income guidelines. Do you have that number for a family of one and a family of two? There's numbers that are associated with that. I read it because a family of four is up to like \$40,000 now which is the highest it's ever been. I've got to think that it's somewhere around if you're low income guideline is somewhere for a family of two is like \$23,000.

Steve Malizia thought it was \$12,000 for one; \$22,000 or \$25,000 for two. It's multiples of that number because we use it for the ambulance.

Selectman Maddox noted Mr. Chairman you're doing a great job of sales. I understand Mr. Yates has got some. Mr. Chairman why don't we just invite these people in and get it from the horse's mouth so that we can number one get all the facts so that everybody hears it and number two, to put down our guidelines where we want to go. They just can't send people and say go to Hudson. There needs to be a process. Before we go round and round, I think that Able needs to come in and give us the spiel.

Steve Malizia suggested that in any step that you take you have to determine if you have a need. Right now I think these folks along with the Senior Affairs Committee are trying to determine what our needs are. This is a brand new organization that we're running. We're starting it almost from the ground up. There's a heck of a lot of enthusiasm. There's a lot of people that want to participate. Before we go running down the track, we really should evaluate what do we need? Once we evaluate what we need, what's the best way to get the resources to fill that need? As I understand from communicating with these folks, they have been working with the Senior Affairs Committee to determine what are our needs? As Chairman Coutu said, down the road it would be great to get a custodian. It would be great to get a food service person. I think you probably want to evaluate what you need if I'm not mistaken. One of the ways, and I thought one of the reasons you appointed a Senior Affairs Committee, is to help provide that input. So before you come in and get somebody - trust me these people are hard sell. I've talked to them. They're a very hard sell.

Selectman Nadeau indicated they've been in here before. Mr. Malizia said we had one instance where prior to Ms. Bowen a few years ago, former Selectman Massey worked with this organization. I can't remember if they brought a candidate's name in but they wanted to place somebody in here to be an Able Network senior type person when you were still at the Community Center. It was rejected because I think the person wasn't qualified. Whatever the case may be, the Board didn't pursue it. In any evaluation, you really should determine your needs. Again my concern is this was probably a worthwhile organization. I'm not knocking it but do we need it? What do we need from them? I think that comes before if we go that way putting somebody in here. We may be able to satisfy the need with volunteers. I don't know that. We don't know that. Again I'm not trying to not save money but I think these folks are still working with the Senior Affairs Committee which to me would be a step. Then they get to that step, they say we think there's a need for clerical help. We think there's a need for food service help or whatever the case. We think Able Network would be a great way to satisfy that need. I'm just trying to be careful that we don't put the cart before the horse as I understand the process. I think they would agree just based on the conversations we've had. My concern is the next thing we'll have four people under Ms. Bowen's direction and she's not sure if she needs them yet. Again until we evaluate that and you've come back with that. I think that's the first step in my opinion.

Chairman Coutu noted the reason why this is before us is because there were rumors circulating that the person was hired. That they were applying for other jobs. I know that I had been communicating with Mrs. Bowen and I was assured that that wasn't the case. They were willing to come here. With all of that said, Lori why don't you give us a little bit of an overview and what you think.

Lori Bowen started with the beginning. When I spoke to Able for the first time and they came out and did a quick site visit to drop off paperwork and see the center, it's someone that's lives locally so she heard a lot about it and wanted to come see it. Part of application process was to write down any potential jobs that we would ever have available. So I believe that's why I mentioned at the Senior Affairs Committee we'd discuss with them about potential custodian. I'm very excited about the program. I'm not going to lie. I think it's great and that was one of the needs that could be fulfilled. It's custodian; it could be clerical; it could be anything we wanted it. After they came out to the site and - again like Mr. Malizia said, they are very aggressive. Like I've said, they're very aggressive. They had someone in mind that they wanted to speak to already. That was done the same timeframe that they were at the site and which I think is also why there was some confusion going forward.

From what Lori Bowen understand with Able Network is we have to provide 16 hours a week of volunteer because it's called a volunteer program, so we have to call it volunteer hours. We have to provide a minimum of 16 hours a week volunteer tasking - tasks, jobs for someone to perform. It's a very open ended position at the moment sort to speak unless we say no this is definitely what we want. As part of the application process, I left it very open ended. They did leave me with the host agency training site agreement which I did not sign but I had filled out and I also have copies if anyone would like to see it as do I with the training site application. The language is pretty basic and everything. As far as tasking an individual, it can be general. It doesn't have to be specific. So we would need to come up with some sort of a job description that this person would have to create because then they have to go back and have goals and like Selectman Coutu said, they have to go back and take

classes for what they're particularly in. So if they're coming in to do custodial work, then therefore have to go out and have classes in hazard care or in maintenance. If they're coming in for office work, then they have to go out and have computer work or computer classes. That type of thing. So it's very specific as to the type of job that we're looking for.

After speaking with them and speaking with Mr. Yates, Lori Bowen indicated we have sort of determined that this might be a little bit more than we can bite off at the moment. Sixteen is almost half of my pay week. I technically only work 29 ½ hours. Sixteen hours is a lot to task someone. I know the original reason for looking into this was that I was a little overwhelmed that the comment had been made that I was overwhelmed or that I was busy. I think Mr. Yates and I both agree that that's a good thing. We don't want me sitting around, stretched out, twiddling my thumbs, having the ability to go play cards or anything. I love my job and I love that it's busy. There are moments where it's not quite as busy as others and there are days where I'm spinning around. I think that's with any job. As far as having 16 hours worth of tasks to provide a specific person every week, I think that's a lot. I'll defer to Mr. Yates because I think he'll explain it better.

Dave Yates indicated at this time we do have a volunteer that helps with the trips and does a great job - Lucille Boucher who has been doing it prior to this. She's doing a great job. I asked Lori are you overwhelmed? She said no I'm busy. The number of hours this person is willing to volunteer she said would be more than enough to help her now. Just answer phones, greeting people if Lori is busy doing other tasks. At this point, she thinks that the volunteer base that she has - and she's got a gentleman that grabs the trash every day as he's leaving and drops it in the dumpster. This person is going to help with the phones. She thinks the volunteer base that she has right now is sufficient. Now we'll come back to the Senior Affairs Committee and evaluate as we go maybe two years from now or even six months from now we may say hey it's really getting really, really busy. Let's look at Able again or let's look at a bigger volunteer base. Lori told me that she felt that a number of people and everybody is willing to help. With the number of people that are helping, she thought that was more than sufficient without getting too clustered and too much at this point. Our recommendation would be to use our volunteer base right now and then maybe down the road we'll look at this organization and see if we have the need.

Chairman Coutu asked have you ever taken into consideration that we had expected that the person who would serve in Lori's capacity would be researching and writing grants. That's very time consuming and there's a lot of research that goes into that. Once you've written one or two, it comes pretty natural. She doesn't have the time to do that right now. Don't you think that this would afford her an opportunity to start researching for what's out there? How do you research a grant? You go online. You type in federal government, senior facilities grant, senior this grant. You make a few calls to other senior centers. Oh yeah there's this grant coming up for a bus. There's a grant coming up if you want to build a recreation facility for seniors. There's a lot of money out there. It's a matter of finding it. I'm thinking in terms of relieving Lori to be able to do some of that research because I know you love your job but writing grants is not something that you have to do and sit and stay at 29 straight after 29 hours you're going to work. It's a relief to get away, close your door, and start typing a little and then coming out and getting back to it later. I just would like us to pursue as many grants as we possibly can. I was looking at the Able Network because one we don't even have a budget for the senior center. If our budget passes this year, it will be a lot easier on all of us especially the senior center. We'll finally have it on the books and it's a line item in our budget. I'm afraid of what's going to happen if we don't have the budget this year. There's going to be cuts. Where are they going to be - everything is going to be on the table because we're going to have to cut \$450,000.

Chairman Coutu thought it was an opportunity for us to get somebody in because I'm concerned about is there anybody in the center right now who could do the trips if Lucille should be incapacitated god forbid for any amount of time? So there's nobody there to understudy that and having that Able person gives you the time to start looking into grant research. I could write a task. Understudying Lucille is going to take 3 or 4 months of trips. So that keeps her busy. That's several hours. The things that you do administratively - answering the phones, greeting people, registering them. She knows how to do the registration process - getting them their cards and things like that, tours of the center. There's plenty to task a person to relieve yourself of some of the things. It's basically some of your job description given down to her. If you don't think there's a need now as Mr. Malizia said, I mean you have to really analyze is there a need? Is it too early to start doing - you have to evaluate that too. Is it too early to start doing grant writing? I think grant writing should be a full time job for somebody because we could get a lot of money for the whole town and not just for the senior center.

Like Mr. Malizia said, Chairman Coutu said maybe a little more thought needs to go into it. I don't know how aggressive - Able wants you to do it yesterday. You're going to have to tell them that they're going to have to lay back and perhaps Selectman Maddox is correct. Maybe you ought to ask him to get a hold of whoever - is it more than one person that you're dealing with or just one? Lori Bowen stated I'm dealing with the representative for Hillsborough County and her administrative assistant. So two people. Chairman Coutu asked to have her get a hold of Mr. Malizia or Donna to get on the agenda, we appreciate having a half hour of her time to explain it to the Board. As Selectman Nichols said and I believe the Administrator will guide you in that direction that we, the Town, has to sign that contract. Steve Malizia noted they're very well aware of that. There's no disputing that. Chairman Coutu indicated we as a Board would want to know what we're signing. Of course we'll want to read it. It will be in our packet if it ever comes before us. Once they've qualified a candidate for a particular position whether it's an administrative aide to you or whatever you come up with as a title - administrative aide would be a good one or a custodian - a candidate is selected. We would like to know from what pool and how they advertise for the position and two we would like to see the candidate so that we can make a final decision. Obviously we would want a lot of input from either you or Mr. Yates on that particular candidate. Yes you feel they can do it or no they're trying to shove this person down my throat. With due respect to what Mr. Malizia said if you feel it's necessary to have more discussion with the Senior Affairs Committee, then that's the way to pursue it and then see what they come back with.

Selectman Nadeau said if this person doesn't work out in 30 days can we just say see you later or do we have to give them a set amount of time to work out the problems? Chairman Coutu said they're entitled to counseling through the Able Network. You have to delineate what the problems are and Able will try to work with that person to correct the deficiency and their work habits. You can't just terminate them unless you've caught them stealing for something. That's fragrant but if its work related, they're never on time. They've had these problems. They know what it's like. They try to teach them you've got to get there. You have to be there. You're supposed to be there at 8 every day. You have to be there at 8 every day. After a period of time, there's only so much counseling and Able would terminate them. Selectman Nadeau wanted to know how much we had to endure before we got rid of the person. Chairman Coutu commented call me if that ever happens. I'll show you how to force people out. There's a right way and a wrong way of doing it. It can be done.

Chairman Coutu asked is there anything else you want to add Lori or Mr. Yates. I'm satisfied. We'll try to get Able here and hear what they have to say. In the meantime, we'll wait for some sort of a report from the Senior Affairs Committee. I'll try not to interfere. I'll sit and listen to their discussions and then we'll see what they recommend. Ultimately the choice is between you and Mr. Yates. If they're saying no, no, no and you're thinking yes, yes, yes and you can articulate why, then come before us and then we'll help you as much as we possibly can. Thank you very much. I appreciate your time.

F. Revenues and Expenditures

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia noted we are 58 percent of the year, i.e. we're through January. Notwithstanding the latest snow fall numbers, obviously that's putting a strain on our budget. We don't have numbers yet for that. We have encumbered all of our salt and all of our sand. We're at 49 percent of our overtime that's through the end of January which is not unreasonable for a heavy winter like that. Kevin has basically encumbered his gas, his diesel, his salt, and his sand. He still has money remaining on those accounts so depending on what happens with the rest of this winter but he's encumbered it and he's at 49 percent of his overtime. I looked specifically at the streets. The rest of the budget, Town Pool is 50 percent; Legal is under 50 percent. We seem to be very reasonable in those cost centers. We have not spent any contingency I believe. From a revenue perspective not that it makes a big difference but we're at 61.7 percent of the automobiles which was bumped up from the original number. That's all I've got to say about that. Basically we're just trying to hold the fort for this winter. At some point in time, it's got to stop. I am aware, Kevin's aware we're looking to do paperwork to hopefully get some relief for the last week of January. There will be paperwork hopefully submitted to get monies to come back to the Town for that January blizzard we had. It's something that's happened in the past. Again we'll try it again in the future. I believe there's a group of communities that are putting together the application.

Selectman Nichols indicated the only thing that bothers me is this hydrant rental. I don't understand that. Could somebody explain? Steve Malizia said many years ago when the water company was separate - in other words there was a private entity, they charged the Town of Hudson to have hydrants. In other words, there was a series of hydrants in town. Should we have to open a hydrant to put out a fire, it was available to the Town of Hudson. There was a charge for that. There was a fee charged to the Town of Hudson. When the Town of Hudson took over the water utility to keep the ratepayers whole and the taxpayers whole, there was certain transactions that were kept in place. One of them was a hydrant rental because we were paying - we the Town were paying it to the water company. It was a water company revenue to keep the water rates at their - I think they reduced the rate 10 percent. There needed to be some sort of hydrant rental income from the town. In exchange, the town would get a payment in lieu of taxes because the water company was paying property taxes to the town. They're trying to keep the books balanced. Some number of years ago, I'm not sure which Board member did it, during the budget process, hydrant rental charge used to be \$600,000. I believe the property taxes were \$400,000 rounding the numbers off. To kind of keep some of that to a minimum, we got rid of the property tax and reduced the hydrant rental to \$200,000. Not everybody who has a hydrant is on water. So it's a charge to the town to have hydrants for fire protection purposes. I'm not sure if that's a simple explanation but that is the explanation. If you look back, I have documents in my office that go back to the '50s and '60s that show the hydrant rental charge that's been in place. In order to keep our books balanced so that the water users didn't suffer nor the taxpayer suffer, that's why those transactions were still there. I don't know if that makes a lot of sense but it is a public fire protection for the town. It isn't necessarily on water.

Chairman Coutu replied we got a hydrant; we don't have water. Steve Malizia indicated it was there to protect the resources of the Town. Selectman Nichols thanked Mr. Malizia. Selectman Nadeau indicated that would be Mr. Dilworth that did that for you when we were on the Budget Committee. Needless to say, Mr. Malizia said we still pay that charge. Again there's a revenue to the Water Utility.

Chairman Coutu asked if there was anything else on revenues and expenditures. Selectman Maddox noted we're right on track. Chairman Coutu stated right on track except for having the final numbers of the winter storm. Steve Malizia said obviously he does a very good job in managing his budget. His guys have been working real hard. I know that people's tempers are getting frayed out there. We can't control it. We're doing the best we can. We're trying to keep the snow off the streets. We opened schools today. A lot of communities around us didn't. I know they're busting and quite frankly if you drive on our roads and our Executive Secretary will attest being a resident of Nashua, they don't even plow half of their roads. I think our guys have done a yeoman's effort but, again, the resources are straining.

9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Maddox - Thank you. A couple of things that I have here in front of me. I asked the Town Administrator and he graciously did get last year's warrant articles for the school and the town. Mr. Chairman the School Board does in my opinion a better job inasmuch as they give their explanations of what their warrant articles are. I think this is something we should start doing. Why have we got this on the warrant. The articles are approved by the Department of Revenue were not exactly flowery informative. They are structured as to how the warrant article needs to be worded. I think we need to utilize some of this paper and be able to say why we're doing a particular item Sir. Is this something that we'd like the Town Administrator and I will sit down and see if we can move this forward?

Chairman Coutu has no problem with it. Consensus. Selectman Nadeau had no problem with it.

Steve Malizia asked to help out. If you look at the school's warrants, these are sample ballots. This gets put in the HLN so there are 10,000 copies of this that go out. If you look at the school's document one of the reasons why they can afford to put all this flowery language on is because if you look at the page, it's one large sheet of paper that gets folded in half. They have a very short warrant who typically have a short warrant. We traditionally don't. So for us to put it on, we'd have to put another page which costs more money to produce and to mail. This year we're fortunate to have the back page available. So I've already started to write them. Selectman Maddox indicated he's a mind reader. Again Mr. Chairman we should do the ones that we feel makes the most sense.

Next thing Mr. Chairman Selectman Maddox noted in our packet we got a letter from the Acting Commissioner of the DOT in regards to...at least he knows we exist. It appears that I've seen a little improvement at least. I've seen the plow moving rather than just sitting. Again I think that the letter as much as it is painful to write and to repeatedly write, it may have made a difference Mr. Chairman. Steve Malizia indicated Mr. Clement is no longer there. He's been gone since October. Chairman Coutu asked how long did he last four months. Mr. Malizia said no about a year. He went to the university system. Chairman Coutu read the letter and I thought it was from him and then I just noticed that my good friend, my great friend Mr. Brillhart is the Acting Commissioner. Selectman Maddox indicated when he saw it was your name that came on that letter that's why. Chairman Coutu stated he responded quickly. He said oh my god I better write to my good friend Roger. Selectman Nadeau didn't think that was the case. Mr. Malizia said Mr. Clement is I believe with the university system now.

Chairman Coutu asked what is it about this that you want us to...Selectman Maddox wanted to say first off we have written the letter. We're trying to make things better. He is willing to sit down with us. I think that again when things calm down...Mr. Malizia indicated they have offered to call and I've penned it for the end of the week. If we don't hear from them by the end of the week next week, we'll call them. Chairman Coutu understood that things have improved. Selectman Nadeau said things have improved greatly. Chairman Coutu asked Selectman Nadeau about that and you told me that the guy was sitting down having coffee and you drove by and you scared the living crap out of him and he took off with his truck and went and plowed your driveway and everything else that needed plowing. I'm only kidding about that. Selectman Nadeau said we have a new orange State truck that has been doing Kimball Hill Road. During the big storms we have the subcontractor that was the problem from before as his backup. Kimball Hill Road has been down to black pavement relatively fast, well sanded, well salted. Chairman Coutu knew they were putting sand and salt. I was assured that was being done over there because of the hill. Selectman Nadeau noted we've had less accidents during the big storms. I happened to travel up Kimball Hill Road a lot more in the last couple of storms going up towards Sullivan Road and then going the opposite way down to 111. Even the intersection at 111 and Hamblett Drive, that has been much better maintained in the last two storms.

Chairman Coutu knows there's greater visibility on River Road and Dracut Road, again, which is their responsibility. Lowell Road immediately after a couple of storms I went out on Lowell Road and it was right after the storm. The plows were going and crisscrossing so it piles up when they make the turn. I was pleasantly surprised with this storm how well they've responded. Selectman Nadeau said I've been watching them very, very closely. Chairman Coutu noted you have time to do that now. I appreciate that you are the watch dog for the Town of Hudson when it comes to plowing and State affairs.

While on snow plowing, Selectman Maddox asked if the Town Administrator managed to get a hold of the School Department and talk about plowing. Steve Malizia indicated I did get in touch with Mr. Lane. He's going to get back to me this week. Chairman Coutu asked doesn't he know if we have plows or doesn't have plows. Mr. Malizia believed we have plows. Chairman Coutu said he couldn't answer you right away. Mr. Malizia assumed he was getting for his Deliberative Session. I did ask. I sent him a rather lengthy letter. Selectman Maddox noted we got an e-mail from the Road Agent that said that some of his trucks are down. I'm just trying to push this little elephant uphill. I think that again...Chairman Coutu commented sooner rather than later.

The last item Selectman Maddox had is the snow continues. It is frustrating. People somehow or another believe that Mr. Burns can make the snow go away. Calling up Mr. Burns and yelling at him is not the way you get things done. Ask Kevin he'll bend over backwards for you. Again I understand that the bankings are too high and your mailbox is now in a different zip code but they're doing the best they can. Calling up and being less than kind to the people that have probably worked 18 hours straight is not conducive to getting what you end up wanting. Folks I understand. I believe Selectman Nadeau is the liaison. I'm sure he'd be willing to take some of the overflow calls to that department as we do with our departments. I just think if

you're going to call them up, ask them. Explain your condition but again they're human beings working long, hard hours for us. You get a lot more with a kind word than the "f" word. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Nichols - I attended the School Deliberative Session. They had a good crowd there. I felt bad for our town. We didn't have that many people. I hope they are watching it on our community television because both the Deliberative Sessions have been up a lot. I just want people to understand what we're looking for, what we need. This town needs a lot. I just felt bad that the Town Deliberative Session didn't have that many people. I look at the school and there was a sea of people there. Maybe they were teachers, I don't know but there was a good crowd. I felt kind of bad for the Town. I'm hoping that people will watch it on TV.

Selectman Nichols congratulated Kevin Burns and his crew. They have done a fantastic job. I know his equipment is starting to show wear. I think his men are starting to show wear. They're exhausted because of the hours and the snow we've had which we haven't had. We have more than we had in '78. I think we've had more now than we've had then. This is the first time in my memory that I can remember them shutting down the MBTA in Boston. I don't think they've ever, ever, ever done that before. So that lets you know how much snow there is and how hard our men work. You go out there and those streets are beautiful. Granted the snow banks are high but he can't perform miracles. God bless him he doesn't have a magic wand. I'm sure he'd like one. Him and his crew have done a phenomenal job. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Nadeau - Just so you know, today they were pushing back the snow banks on the corners of the major roads and intersections. They've been keeping up on the sidewalks. They've been working extra hours to try to keep the sidewalks open to keep the schools open. As you heard today, we had a 90 minute delay. That wasn't because of our roads. It was because the bus company asked for the 90 minute delay to get their equipment ready for today. Our roads were ready. Kevin's guys were out at 3 o'clock this morning. I've been out throughout the storms - midnight, 2, 3, 4 o'clock in the morning talking to the guys. Everybody is doing the best they can. They are getting tired of the snow but they said that's their job and their doing it. They're keeping everything open as wide as they can. I have a 7 ½ foot plow and I cannot get through half the streets in Nashua with my plow. That shows you that these guys now some of the streets that I'm talking about are just like the ones behind T-Bones and Belnap Road area. Same size streets. I can drive up and down those all day long. The same streets in Nashua I can't. It shows you that our guys are putting the effort in and they're doing a great job. Again if you have a problem, please call us but don't yell at us. If you yell at us, you're not going to get anywhere. If you're nice about it, we can talk and work things out. It might be a day or two before we get to your problem but we really need to - there's other more important things like getting our fire hydrants dug out and stuff like that. Like I said, they've been working on that today. That's all I have this evening.

Chairman Coutu said I'm not going to dwell on it but I'm going to express my support for what all of you said about the situation in town. Ours is no different than anybody else. Our Road Agent Kevin Burns certainly is not Mr. Nature and not even related to Mother Nature. She will do what she has to do. I'm very disappointed in some of the people in our town. For the most part, the people that I've spoken to have been very patient. They understand the situation. It's out of our control. We're doing the best we can. Never in all of the years have I heard a criticism about our roads in the winter time. As a matter of fact quite to the contrary. We talk about it every year. People will say I know when I'm in Hudson. Well Hudson is not immune to having an awful lot of snow and having it all over the place. There's only so much room.

Chairman Coutu indicated what upsets me is two things. One you eluded to Selectman Maddox. If the School Department in fact has four plow trucks and they're not using them, shame on them, shame on them and they need to be responsive and appreciative that we the Town of Hudson is plowing their sidewalks and their parking areas at the schools. The very least they should do is put the trucks out and hand Mr. Burns the keys and say here help yourself. We should be able to help. Number two, I'm disappointed at the people who call the Highway Department and start yelling at whoever answers the phones and they want to talk to Mr. Burns. We don't have that big a blow torch to clear out all the snow in front of any one individual's house. The other thing that upset me in the e-mail that I saw today was that police had to be called because one of our drivers was being threatened. NO employee of ours should be subjected to that. It was an unprovoked and an uncalled for attack on this person. I'm glad he didn't get out of the truck and punch the guy in the mouth because I think I would have done it especially after tonight's meeting with the lawyers about ACLU. It's not the proper way to handle it nor is it right to be threatening one of the employees because maybe he might have plowed a little more snow after you shoveled out your driveway. We've been doing it all weekend and I laugh every time the guy goes by and he just waives at me. It is what it is. I've been doing this since I was a kid. I'm 71 going on 72. I know what it's like to shovel and have snow thrown back. They can't just pick the plow up and leave it in the middle of the road because maybe you'd be able to get out but you ain't going to go too far because you're going to have all these big piles going down the road. It upsets me to think that people would resort to those kinds of things.

Chairman Coutu wanted to thank Mr. Burns publicly and all of his people who have been working long hours. I know that he has taken the time and the patience to try to make sure that they do get breaks so that they can sleep 4, 5 hours to get them back out there. Like us, he realizes that keeping them out much too long is not good for their safety nor the public safety. I appreciate that.

Selectman Coutu - Chairman Coutu said that though I won't be there, Selectman Nadeau said he would be there on February 19th. There's going to be a ceremony promotion and an awards ceremony at the Police Department. I just want to take the time to even though I can't be there because I will be in Connecticut for my employer for 3 days, I want to congratulate Sgt. David Cayot on his promotion to Sergeant. It was a great pleasure for me to sign the papers to promote him. I've know Dave

for a while now and when my wife first met him as a Patrolman, she made it a point to tell me. She showed me his business card and she said here's a real class act that's going to somewhere in a police department. If it's not Hudson, it will be somewhere else. He's made Sergeant. Congratulations Dave and thanks for all the work you've done working with your department so that we will have a very success trip in the accreditation of CALEA. Dave took over the reins and has done an outstanding job. Matter of fact he's been commended by the CALEA assessment team for the work that he's done.

Chairman Coutu indicated this Sunday Mal's Pals and you can check this out on their Facebook page, Mal's Pals is going to hold their Cool Runnings. It's this Sunday at 1 p.m. at Benson Park. I don't know where people are going to park and how they're going to get the hills ready with all the snow but Jeremy Griffith and I have been corresponding and he insists that he's going to do is Sunday. I hope we don't get all the snow Saturday and Sunday that they're predicting so that we can get this done and over with. I know that several people have built their cardboard sleds. I will be there God willing. I will be going as one of the judges as I did last year. The money we're going to raise is going to be for two things and it's going to be used to provide hopefully a scholarship in Mallory Gray's name, the person to whom the gazebo is being dedicated. We're going to use some of the money to put some planters around the gazebo so it looks decorative. We will be doing that with consult with Mr. Burns so that the planters don't get in the way of the lawnmowers how maintain the grass in that area. So you build a sled only using cardboard, duct tape, paint, or any adhesive. Matter of fact we had a couple of kids last year who just threw a piece of cardboard down and slid down the hill. There's going to be prizes for the most creative and the best theme but you can throw a piece of cardboard down and get down the bottom of the hill faster than anyone else, you could win the faster. There are usually 3 trophies which there will be 3 trophies for each of those categories. Benson Park this Sunday, February 15th. Everything will begin at 1 p.m. We ask that you get there a little earlier so you can set up your sled so that we can judge them before the race because after the race some of them fall to pieces.

Selectman Coutu wanted to make not of the fact that this Saturday I will be at Hudson Cable Television and I'm going to be hosting two candidates' debates. One for the School Committee and one for the Board of Selectmen. On the School Committee side, Selectman Nadeau who's a candidate for School Committee just told me this evening that he will be working all day Valentine's Day so that he can earn some money and buy his wife a dozen roses and some nice chocolates. However, the other two candidates will be there. Selectman Nadeau I will tell you now as I will all of the other candidates if you wish for me to read a prepared statement, please get it to me before Saturday morning. So two of the School Committee candidates will be there. That would be Cheryl Cummings and Margaret Huard. On the Selectmen side, I've invited all of the candidates. Ted Luszey who is a candidate told me that he will be in Florida on vacation. I extended to him the opportunity to provide me with prepared text. I think he knows how to use a computer. He can send me an e-mail with an attachment and I will read it while we're on the air. Randy Brownrigg, Richard Khan, and Marilyn McGrath have all responded and will be there. I have heard nothing from Jared Stevens and I've heard nothing from Norman Martin. I would like to hear from you. I've sent you e-mails between now and Saturday. The debates will begin at 9 a.m. I will be doing the Selectmen first and the School Committee after. I'm asking all of the candidates for Selectmen to be there at 8:30 and the candidates for School Committee to be there at 10. So you have a half an hour and we can go over the rules of the discussion and debate. I'm opening up to the general public. Anyone who wishes to see Hudson cable center and to see the televised debate and participate in the audience, I may even turn to any one of you who might have a question of all of the candidates and give you an opportunity to ask a question. Please stop down at the Hudson community television center which is located beneath the Hudson senior center.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to enter Nonpublic Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee

For the record, Selectman Maddox indicated I will be abstaining from the one vote that we do have.

Vote: Motion carried 3-0-1 by roll call. Selectman Maddox abstained.

Chairman Coutu indicated we'll be entering Nonpublic Session at 8:40 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 8:50 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to hire Cheryl Hebert for the position of full time Senior Accounting Clerk at a starting rate of \$16.04 per hour (step 1) in accordance with the Hudson Support Staff Contract with an anticipated start date of February 17, 2015, carried 3-0.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:51 p.m. by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Nichols, carried 3-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Roger E. Coutu, Chairman

Ben Nadeau, Selectman

Richard J. Maddox, Selectman

Pat Nichols, Selectman