

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes of the August 5, 2014 Workshop Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Coutu the meeting of August 5, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Len Lathrop.
3. ATTENDANCE  
Board of Selectmen: Roger Coutu, Ben Nadeau, Rick Maddox, Pat Nichols, Nancy Brucker  
Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Kevin Burns, Road Agent; Laurie Stevens, Town Engineer
4. OLD BUSINESS
  - A) Repeal of Town Ordinance #089-6; elimination of two stops signs in the Sagamore Industrial Park and the addition of a new stop sign at the intersection of Hampshire Drive and Wentworth Drive

Chairman Coutu asked the Town Administrator Steve Malizia to speak on this.

Steve Malizia stated you have had the required two public hearings. We just had one on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July and the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July. That was for public comment. At this point in time should you wish to adopt this amendment to the ordinance, you'd need to take that vote this evening. That's why it's on this agenda. The first two meetings was a public hearing to allow the public an opportunity to comment. After that period, it is now up to you whether you wish to move these, approve these.

Chairman Coutu said if you recall that the last time that we discussed this matter, there were several concerns raised as a result of communications that we had received and Selectman Maddox I believe that it was at your suggestion and it was unanimously voted to defer this item until this evening. So I will give you first opportunity Sir.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Selectman Maddox noted, again, this is a case of trying to look at keeping traffic off of Lowell Road. With the very good news that businesses are moving into and expanding in the Sagamore Industrial Park what used to be a ghost town may be very, very busy. So we're looking to kind of adapt the roadway network in there to be able to facilitate the influx of many more vehicles. We had the Highway Safety Committee look at it, a number of Town staff, we published it in the paper but, again, there's always that wrinkle somewhere. There was a couple of people that have contacted us. A couple of them are in the audience. They did not get the notification for whatever reason. We deferred it Mr. Chairman in the spirit of being able to be accommodating to all. I would hope that the Board would allow the people that have come here tonight to give us their input Sir.

Chairman Coutu asked if anyone wished to put any input at this time or would rather - I will entertain listening to people who may want to comment on this without objection. If there's objection, just say so otherwise we'll let them speak. If you have anything you want to say prior to that, I'll open the floor to any of you.

Selectman Nadeau deferred. I have a few questions.

Chairman Coutu asked does anyone here in the public want to speak on this matter, please step forward and state your name and address for the record.

Karen Tuthill, 17 Friars Drive. My home address is 123 Hollis Road in Amherst. Chairman Coutu asked what is 17 Friars Drive. What is that relationship - that address? Ms. Tuthill indicated that's our business. Chairman Coutu inquired if she was the owner of a property at that address. Ms. Tuthill said yes. We were not notified of any of this goings on. We just happened to see all the stuff going on across from us - clearing the land, and pulling everything up, and then one day I realized that the stop sign at Friars Drive was gone that had been there off and on for the last 15 years. We built our building 15 years ago. I go out to Executive Drive and I noticed that there's no stop signs. Of course we've been stopping there for 15 years so we continue to stop there because there was never a stop sign at CM Screw but when I talked to Kevin, or John, or Rick told me that Vic finally allowed you to put a stop sign there now that there's nobody in the building. So they used to run through that parking lot all the time and just come right up to Executive Drive. So now there's no stop sign at Executive Drive. When I go home, I proceed that way. I go to Wentworth and now there's no stop sign at Wentworth and you have to stop coming down from Hampshire. I'm thinking okay what's going to happen now if the traffic doesn't have to stop and that's a straight road. It's a main road. It's an intersection. So you should be stopping at that intersection. Well people now are, when I come to work in the morning, I have to stop and I always did anyway even though because I was taking a right. People are just plowing through. They don't even care. They're not observing that stop sign because a) they're not used to it and b) if there's

a stop sign here, there should be a stop sign here. I don't understand the rhyme or reason as to why there's a stop sign on this side, why isn't there one here when there really should be a stop sign here. That's Wentworth and Hampshire.

At Executive, Ms. Tuthill indicated that has now become a speedway. I spoke to one of my tenants. He owns EBCO Butterworth - Bob Travis and he would have been here tonight but he had something else. He has also observed that the traffic has gotten faster coming out of there. Our concern is that now we're going to have 850 give or take 100 or 200 new people coming to be at Comcast right adjacent to us and it's going to become more of a raceway because it is now. Now that there's no stop sign there, people aren't slowing down. They're actually speeding up. So when I spoke to Rick, he had suggested that I speak to the Police Department so I did. I called them. They came down. Since then, they've had officers out there in the morning observing. The stopped my father as he was coming to work and he stopped at the stop sign. He stopped and then coasted through and they stopped him. It's not those people; it's the people that are speeding on that road. I even had an issue with my tenants who have probably 20 or 30 trucks with them speeding through my industrial park. I put a stop to that because it's not a raceway. What my fear is it's a raceway now. It's going to get worse when there are all those people coming out of Comcast. If you really believe that they're all going to go to Route 3, I don't know what to say because they're not all going to go to Route 3. There are people that live in Litchfield, Londonderry. Lowell Road is going to be a disaster. It's already a disaster if you don't get out of there by 4 o'clock. It's going to be a problem if they don't have to stop, I'm afraid something is going to happen. I was almost t-boned twice in the last 2 weeks on that road. It concerns all of us. It's a huge safety hazard. When I spoke to Kevin about the stop sign that's missing at Friars, he said well I don't think there's an ordinance there. I don't know what he ever found out but there was a stop sign there a few weeks ago and now it's gone. I don't know if Abathar took it down. I don't know if the Town took it down. When I spoke to Rick, I don't know if it was you that I spoke to that said that there was never a stop sign there. It was there. I've been in that park for 15 years. I drive in and out of there every day. I don't think I was imagining there was a stop sign there.

Ms. Tuthill said I'm very concerned about the reduction of stop signs and the way that the Highway Department has decided to situate other stop signs when I guess there's no rhyme or reason to any of us as to why there's a stop sign. Why the stop signs were removed number one and why there's a stop sign at Hampshire Drive when that's a full thorough way that goes out to Flagstone when there should be one at the intersection where you would automatically stop. Why would you not stop there? There's not even a yield sign there. There's a sign that says Route 3. That must have cost the taxpayers, the Town, a lot of money to put all those signs up. That wasn't cheap either. There needs to be some kind of traffic control and there's no control here. People can just fly through as they wish. I guess I'm looking to you to look at it again. If you lived in the park, you're new at the park, but we've lived in that park. I was on Flagstone for 20 years. I lived in that park for 35 years and this is going to be a fiasco. It's already turning out that way. So that's our concern. My tenants feel the same way. My employees feel the same way. In and out of there all day long. I don't believe with all due respect, none of you live in that park. We live in that park. I've had problems with the back of my parking lot with people racing through there too. Now this is a full thorough way. Now it's paved so even better because it's nice and soft. So they go flying up and down that road. I'm confused as to what the method was as to remove stop signs and put stop signs in places where you would think that there wouldn't be a stop sign. That's my grip.

Chairman Coutu stated before you leave, I'll make a couple comments. I'm not going to dispute anything that you said. I'm not there every day. I'm in and out of the park. Whether there's validity to what you said or not, I don't know. You're there. You make observations and I appreciate it. Stop sign is there and it's not there. If you've been there for 15 years, you would know where they were and when they disappeared. How they disappeared is of concern but there must have been some rhyme or reason. I will say this. None of us sitting here even though the citizens expect us to be all knowledgeable. We are not the great wizards of Oz. We're not all knowing. We think we are but we're not. We rely on people who work for us to make those decisions. I know that in the course of coming to this conclusion, we have a public Safety Committee. The Committee is comprised of, and you can help me here Steve, the Road Agent, the Police Chief, our Town Planner...

Steve Malizia noted the Fire Chief is there. I think a member of the Planning Board.

Chairman Coutu said we rely on our Town employees...Selectman Nadeau indicated the Town Engineer. Chairman Coutu said in terms of traffic study, you can't get more key people than that assemblage of people. There's been a concern, and I know it's been a concern of mine and they're not reacting to anything I said because I've never relayed this to them, there's been a concern of mine relative to that Industrial Park. I know Selectman Maddox shares the same concern and we may all do. We may all share the same concern. We want to do two things. One - we want to make the park attractive because the streets have been neglected for a long time. Kevin and his crew did an outstanding job, the work that they've already done in there in making better roads. They've upgraded the roads. They've repaved some of the roads. Whether it's my street, your street, or John Doe's street, once you repave a road sometimes it does become a race track. The purpose of that was beautification because we want to make the park attractive. A lot of buildings are beginning to sell. There's a lot of interest and a lot of vacant buildings. We're aware of that and we're being kept apprised of that by our Town Planner.

Chairman Coutu noted the second and probably most critical thing in any community which involves infrastructure in total is traffic flow. We want to get people in and out of that park as best we can, as safely as we can, and we want to have it in such a way that we're controlling the flow of traffic. I think that was the foresight in the minds of those who served on the public Safety Committee. How could we get the traffic to flow and go in one direction? Try to get them instead of coming out on the north end of the park, get them to come at the south end and get them as close to the Sagamore Bridge as possible. Granted not everybody goes south but a large majority do and most of the trucks that are leaving the park are heading back to the highway because they either picked up their load or they've dumped their load. What have I done as an individual Selectman? Selectman Maddox's company has just moved into the park. So he's there frequently now. Have I been there frequently? No. Of late, yes. Why? Because of concerns you've expressed to me in an e-mail. I believe you've expressed verbally and in an e-mail to Selectman Maddox. I believe that you may have had a conversation with Selectman Nadeau and I don't know about the two ladies whether you've...

Karen Tuthill said I've sent e-mails. Pat responded to me.

Chairman Coutu stated as a result of that e-mail, just you, no one else in the park sent me any e-mails. You were the only one. I went to the park. I purposely went to the park at various times of the day and I didn't go and drive through the park. I went and parked my car. I parked my car in front of CM Machine. I know Dan very well. I know the whole family. I went and I parked further up Hampshire - I did Executive Drive almost every intersection down at the end which would be the east end coming down from the Nashua Telegraph which that is Executive right? Ms. Tuthill said yes. Chairman Coutu went on to say Hampshire and Wentworth. I went and I watched. One morning - and I was not at peak traffic times. Peak traffic times are like 7 to 8 and 4 to 5. Ms. Tuthill said between 6 and 9 and 3 and 7 is usually. Chairman Coutu reiterated I was not there at peak traffic times but I was watching the flow of traffic. I saw what your father got stopped for. It's called a rolling stop. It's not a stop. It's called the California roll. You come up and you just keep rolling because you don't see anybody and you go. Well the sign says stop. They weren't picking on your father obviously.

Karen Tuthill indicated he's been stopped a few times there.

Chairman Coutu indicated it's a habit that he got into and it's like you're into. You're in a habit of stopping at that intersection. You're going to continue to stop. Eventually you'll break the habit and there are people that are going through where there are stop signs and eventually if we send like Rick suggested when I spoke with him is look we need to have law enforcement down there. If we have to put the speed sign up to - you know have Kevin he can determine the flow of traffic. The highest rate of speed and at the same time it flashes a warning you're doing 45. I was a former police officer. I'm not an expert on radars. One of the things that we learned in the academy are estimating rates of speed. There are various ways of doing it. Eyesight is one of them. You watch so many cars for so long. You get accustomed to knowing if a car flashes by your eyes and in split second it's doing X miles an hour. I can say that all the time I was there I would estimate that the highest speed I saw was 45. Forty-five I thought was excessive because he was shooting straight down the road. I'm thinking where are the stop signs? This guy is not going to stop. There was one car. Again, I was never there at peak times. We were going to take into consideration your remarks. I'm sure we will but you have to understand that in the final analysis, we are not the experts. We depend on our Road Agent, our Fire Chief, and our Police Chief. I apologize.

Chairman Coutu didn't think we have a method or there's nothing in the ordinances that say that we have to notify everybody in a park if we're going to put up a stop sign except that we post that we're going to have public hearings. You don't live in town. I don't know if the Hudson/Litchfield News gets delivered to your place of business. If it does, I would doubt you probably even have time to read it. That's the method we use. That's what most municipalities use. Maybe we should have done something more but we've never done it before and it's an expense to do all these mailings and things like that as well as changing signs around. If he's taking signs down, then he's putting them someplace else. The cost is the labor to remove the sign. We must have a stockpile of stop signs and posts. So we do have a stockpile. Does anyone else have any comments? I'm done.

Selectman Maddox had a couple of things. I did speak to Ms. Tuthill. Karen Tuthill indicated it wasn't a good day. Selectman Maddox asked the Highway Department to put out the speeds and counter strips. Mr. Burns did that for us. There's a few people that are a little lead foot but very minimal. It's probably the same person from the looks of the time. We also asked the Police Department to go down and do some enforcement. They went down and they did issue two citations for 45 and 47 in a 30 mph zone. We had speed limit signs which haven't probably been there in a long time. The officers issued 23 warnings for speeding in two shifts. People knowing that the police are actually down there. So that has fallen off. I am sure we can put the speed trailer down there Mr. Chairman. Again, I think that when the Planning Board was looking at Comcast and the amount of traffic that is going to be coming through that park, we were looking to take them off of Lowell Road and to put them onto roads that are pretty wide and get them to the highway as quick as possible. I think they told us like 85 percent of their traffic is going to go to the Highway. That's what we were trying to accomplish. I think that if we were to have maybe a slow curve ahead on Wentworth as it makes that turn. As far as Hampshire Drive, there's a stop sign there because that made the most sense. We want, again, people to go to Flagstone. That's where we want them to go to again keep them off of Lowell

Road. I would ask that you keep us apprised if there is further problems. I think we're going to ask the various departments to keep more of a presence down there and see where it takes us.

Selectman Brucker said in other situations I've seen signs that say "new stop sign ahead be aware". They warn people that there's going to be a new place to stop. I don't know if we have those but those might be helpful to.

Karen Tuthill stated there's one there. There's one on Hampshire Drive. It's in a place where there's trees. You don't really see it and then thing you know you're at the stop sign. I mean I know it's there. I look for that kind of stuff. I will stop but I was coming to work the other morning and this guy just blew right through it. They're used to going through it. I guess I don't understand why a stop sign would go there when this is the intersection so why not put a stop sign. If you're going to put one here, why not put one here too. Can you imagine what's going to happen when these people go this way - go out to the road this way and these people are still coming and there's no stop sign. There's no yield, there's nothing. You've got to stop here on Hampshire but no stop here coming this way going towards the nursing home. These people are going to come flying out and what happens if these people coming from Comcast take a left onto Hampshire Drive and these people on Hampshire Drive are just going straight. There's no stop sign there. They're going to come flying through and they're going to get rear ended. I can foresee a disaster. We take about the expense of mailings and all that other stuff and then with I spoke to Rick, I said well how much are things going to cost when somebody gets hurt? Somebody gets rear ended, or t-boned, or whatever? What the cost of that?

Karen Tuthill's other concern is to us getting out of Friars, there's no stop sign there. There's no stop sign coming out of Presstek. If all that traffic is going to be coming down out of Comcast, we're never going to get out of Friars. So how are we ever going to get out if there's not even like a blinking light, or something that's going to allow us to go out? So now we're stuck and everybody from Comcast is leaving. What happens to all the businesses I have - 6 tenants and they have trucks. We have trucks coming in and out of our docks all day long and their docks. Then we have their driveways now opened up across from our driveway. So now we're going to have all of this. Rick had said well we can put a stop sign there. Kevin said we can put a stop sign there. Well our people know to stop. What I'm concerned about is it becomes habitual that they don't stop because there isn't a stop sign. Our people have been there for 15 years in that location so they know to stop. You'd kind of be an idiot not to stop when you go out to a main road. My concern is all these people coming out now how are we going to get out? How is everybody on Flagstone going to get out if there's no stop sign even coming out of where Presstek is or which is now going to be Comcast. They're all going to be flowing out and then how are we ever going to get out of our park is the question. Has anybody addressed that?

Chairman Coutu said that's coming.

To that issue, Selectman Maddox said the Traffic Safety Committee has a thing before us to put a stop sign on Friars Drive. I think that probably when you built the thing 15 years ago, someone put up a stop sign but it has never gone through the process, good or bad, that it has to go through to make it into the Town Code. So we're going to be doing that next.

Karen Tuthill asked what happens with the traffic. We're stopping at Friars. Now we have Executive. All this traffic is flowing out of Comcast. How long do you think it's going to take for us to get out if you have 850 cars you told me - is it all at one time? Is it in different shifts? How is it...?

To answer that question, Selectman Maddox said they are going to be working two shifts and they're going to stagger their hours. The starting times, and don't hold me to exact numbers, but I think it's like starting at 6:15 in the morning. Twenty percent of them come in. They do stagger their hours in on both shifts and out on both shifts. I don't know if Selectman Brucker you remember the exact numbers but they are going to be - and those 900 aren't going to be until 2016 at this rate. Chairman Coutu noted it's like 6:15, 2:15, and 10:15. I think they're going to be staggered that way and it's going to be off peak hours. Selectman Maddox said right but a third of them are going to come in.

Cathy Dumais, 47B Barretts Hill Road, Hudson. My sister-in-law does work at Comcast and she did tell me that they were going to be staggered hours. She didn't know exactly what the staggered hours were but she did indicate that they're going to be staggered hours. Again, I don't know what the hours were. She just said they were staggered. There's going to be a lot of people. My concern is I would like to see some indication of maybe having a flashing yellow light to tell people to kind of a warning that there's an intersection or something coming so that people coming down Executive and people flying through Wentworth to Executive, they kind of slow down when they see a flashing yellow or something. Where there's a stop sign at Hampshire, again, I sometimes leave work and I go down to the end of Wentworth and I take a left, again, there's somebody coming this way on that stop. If I didn't stop and just continued left and this person is coming this way, who has the right of way? If this guy hits me, he didn't have a stop sign. So he's not at fault either and I'm not at fault because I didn't have a stop sign. That's kind of a little weird to me.

Selectman Maddox thought some caution signs are probably in order Mr. Chairman. Again, there's a lot of roads in Hudson that you turn at an intersection and then there's another road. It's just the way the cows walked.

Karen Tuthill said I know but we're specifically talking about this.

Selectman Maddox indicated that Hampshire Drive was never a roadway to Lowell Road. It's a very short road if you would. The people that are going to try to take that left, we're trying to make them go all the way down to Flagstaff and get out that way.

Karen Tuthill noted what's interesting though I've been in that park since 1980 and now that Hampshire has opened up, that road has become very busy. People know that they can come down there and they know that they can get into the park that way. So there is a lot more traffic coming down there now than there was before. Now they know it's open. So they do that. I'm not trying to be picky uny about it but the safety of the park - people in the park walk in that park. I don't know when Atrium is moving if they're ever going to move. They were supposed to move two years ago. Their cars are on the side of the road. They don't even look when they're crossing the road. They're walking with their cell phones and they're not even - and they're crossing. You could hit anybody. The way the traffic has been going as fast as they've been going if you were to come and sit there between 6 and now, which I know you don't have the time to do, but between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. and then 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., you would see quite a bit of traffic that doesn't adhere to the speed, to the signs, to any of it. Most of us do.

Chairman Coutu said please understand that the Industrial Park isn't unique. I could take you to my street which is a 30 mph zone and it should be 20 and they're doing 55 and 60. We have a lot of little kids in my neighborhood. You're not telling us anything that we don't realize can happen anywhere. I'm sure it's happening - I was up at 111 today. I went to that industrial park to see the flow of traffic. It's not a conglomerate like that is. There's individual little parks. One off of Wall Street. One off of another street. One off of another street. So I looked and realized it isn't as complex as this one is. I can understand that the way it's designed, we haven't changed the design. We're trying to change the flow of traffic and I'm sure the Safety Committee is concerned. They may tweak it a little later. God forbid we don't want an accident in the Industrial Park any more than we want to see an accident in front of Haffner's and Market Basket. We have a lot of them over there. Selectman Nadeau eluded to that a couple of meetings ago. It is what it is. We have a congestion of traffic at that section of the south end of town because of the Sagamore Bridge being a gateway to our community. Without the Sagamore Bridge, industry might not even be there because you'd have nowhere to get - trucks are not going to come through off of 111 from 93 to come all the way down Lowell Road the way it is now with two-way coming into three way. It just didn't make sense. We have the luxury of the Sagamore Bridge and now we're addressing the problem of traffic getting in and out around Haffner's and Market Basket. We have some money and our Town Planner is working with other people, the business community, Haffner's, Market Basket, and the health care center. We're going to redesign that intersection hopefully to make it a smoother transition. I think that given a test, which is give it some time. Even your Dad knows there was a stop sign and he rolled through it. People are going to do what people want to do. I'm not picking on your father but you threw it out there and I appreciate your integrity which gives me belief that you are a credible witness. You threw your father under the bus. The point is this, even your father did it. Other people who are accustomed to going through those intersections are going to go through those intersections until they learn or come close to getting hit.

Chairman Coutu noted that we all drive down the road. We all try to be safe but there's always that aha moment where you catch your breath and you say my god a split second that car would have hit me or I was stupid in a split second I would have hit them. I've done that. You know you have these brain cramps and you're thinking about something else. We're trying to solve a problem that exists which is flow of traffic. The change is going to take some getting used to. I appreciate what you've said. I appreciate and we're going to try to address the Friars Drive problem. That's the next thing on the agenda. That was brought before us. That is not to say that we are not going to continue to monitor what's going on down there. Selectman Maddox has been adamant about it. I don't disagree. I think we would all agree that until we get to see how the flow is going to be, we will have police enforcement. We may put down the speed trailer to monitor the speed. We may throw a couple of line across the road to have a more accurate count of cars and flow of traffic. Mr. Burns shares the same concerns we have. No one is trying to make it difficult. We're trying to resolve what we think is a problem. I think it's going to take some getting used to. It should be obvious to you that we think that we're going to support this. I certainly will only because I want to give it a chance. You have an opportunity and I gave you our schedule. It's the same every month - first, second, and fourth Tuesday of every month we meet. We have at the beginning of every meetings except a workshop, we allow people to come before us and tell us if there's a problem that we can address. This is something we can address. We can work with Mr. Burns and I know Mr. Burns will if he thinks there's a problem down there, he will go down there and address it. You have the opportunity to come in here at any time and when I call for the public to speak which is right after the Pledge of Allegiance and I introduce who's here in our town staff and members of the Board, you can come up and say look this isn't working. I don't want you to come at every meeting and say this isn't working.

Karen Tuthill said I won't come at every meeting.

Chairman Coutu wants Ms. Tuthill to do what we're trying to do. I sympathize with you. I would not have gone down there. Selectman Maddox would not have gone down there and I know that Selectman Nadeau called me and told me that he had gone through the park a couple of times. It's not that we don't care. It's that we want to make it work and we have to try something.

Karen Tuthill indicated we'd like to make it work too. We just want to be heard because we live there. We're there 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. five days a week and sometimes even on the weekends. A lot of us are there on the weekends.

Chairman Coutu noted that you're a slave driver is that what you're telling us. Ms. Tuthill said no but my tenants are concerned too. We were empty for quite a while and the park is starting to become revitalized. I'm happy that I'm full. I am completely fuddled that people are calling me looking for space. I don't have any space to give them. It's a good place to be. At the same token, you want your tenants and people in the park to feel safe and feel like they can get out to the road, and when you get off to the roads having to wait for all these cars to come by. We know to stop at the end at Friars Drive. I was bugging the Town for years to put a stop sign at CM Screw. I know Vic very well. One day one of his accounting persons came - I stopped at that stop sign. She comes flying out in her brand new BMW, didn't even stop, and I had stopped. I was proceeding and she almost got me. I followed her. Chairman Coutu commented that Vic pays that well - she's driving a BMW. Ms. Tuthill said his prices are high trust me. She went flying through. I followed her and I said what were you - and she said well I have stop sign. Okay but you're going out into a main road. You're coming out of a parking lot. Why would you not stop and you have people like that.

Chairman Coutu understood but I would like to believe they're in the minority. Not everybody drives like your dad. There is a minority.

Unidentified female speaker thought that the thing is the new people that are going to be coming into the park. All the old timers - I've been working there forever not just at Nu-Tech but in another business. I think all the people that have worked there for years, and years, and years know the schedule and know how it works. I think it's all those new people that are going to be coming into Comcast. I think those are the ones that I think I'm most worried about is because I think they're the ones who are going to be just flying.

Chairman Coutu wanted them to know that I worked very closely with the Regional Manager of Comcast. When we announced the grand opening, it was a well kept secret. We worked closely with the Governor's office. One of the conversations we had prior to the ribbon cutting, he and I went into a corner and we talked about the flow of traffic. I wanted to know how he felt he could address if he at full build out he went to 800 employees. Two hundred was the initial. Next year they hope to add another 200 at capacity. Again, that number is going to depend on how the offices are configured. There's cubicles but they want to give some people some breathing room. So how many they can put in there, who knows. Running 3 shifts, that's an awful lot of people. It's not 800 or 600 coming in at once. He addressed the staggered shifts. The staggered shifts was to get everybody in the park 2 hours just before peak, have them out 2 hours before the night traffic, and then you have the 3<sup>rd</sup> shift if you're going to go with a third shift, which little impact because it's at 10:15 - little to no impact. They're going to be operating weekends which will be even less impact. Some of you do work weekends. I'll grant you that. I've seen Vic go to the park on weekends and so does Dan Velamere, and George. I've seen them in there on weekends. I've been down to the park to meet Vic, and George, and them on weekends. Give it a shot but I'd say you have a right and an obligation if you feel it's necessary for the public safety in the park to come back before us. I hope I don't see you then I'll know things are going well and people are starting to learn the flow. I think that if you give it a shot, people will adjust. It's going to take a while. They will adjust and we're going to address the problem of Friars and a stop sign and I'm sure - Kevin is sitting here.

Karen Tuthill said she heard a rumor that the Flagstone stop sign was going to be eliminated too.

Chairman Coutu asked Kevin Burns to speak on this. Kevin Burns said no not true.

In closing, Karen Tuthill thought that a stop sign really does need to be at the driveway that's adjacent to ours for Comcast. As we know if there's no stop sign as we saw with CM Screw, they're not going to stop going out of that driveway. They're just not.

Chairman Coutu noted that things can be modified. We'll ask Mr. Burns to take a look at it.

Karen Tuthill indicated there's nobody there right now. My building is still shaking.

Selectman Maddox believed it was on the site plan. I think there is a stop sign required as they come to the end of that driveway. I will follow up with the Town Engineer and just make sure. The police will be there all week. So tell your Dad.

Karen Tuthill inquired are they going to also be at Wentworth and Hampshire because that's a problem. Chairman Coutu indicated that they're going to be all over the park. I can assure you. I'm sure they're watching now. I will be going in and out of the park continuously. I will be there this Friday for a ribbon cutting but I'll be in and out of the park

monitoring. I'm not a traffic cop. I can't tell people what to do. I couldn't pull your father over. I have no jurisdiction. So he can roll through. Thank you. I appreciate you coming in.

Selectman Nadeau stated just so you know, I've been in and out of that park for about 20 years going into multiple businesses. I've done the same thing that your father did when I used to go to Presstech. I went through there a couple of times today going to a couple of different businesses doing some stuff. I did find one car that was pretty unreasonable in the speed but that was at like 2 o'clock in the afternoon. They're not used to seeing stop signs there because I certainly wasn't used to seeing speed limit signs in the park. I go to Atrium to go do stuff over there. It wasn't unusual when I started seeing the traffic on both sides of the road. Do we need to limit parking on one side or the other? We might down the road. It's something that we might need to look at. I think some striping down there would be a good thing. It's something that I think we need to look at and again enforcement. Knowing that the speed limit is 30 now. I used to go through there at 40 - 45. It wasn't unusual because there was nobody in the park when I used to go through there. Now it's very congested when I go through there. It is a learning curve for most people. As myself, it was a learning curve after they repaved it. When I went in the other day and went through there, I was going 40 not even realizing it because it was 4:30 in the afternoon and there was nothing around me. It was also new pavement. Again, it's a learning curve for most people. I'm sure with enforcement, the signage, we'll look at some striping, stop sign ahead signs, just good things to think about.

Karen Tuthill stated even a yield or anything to show.

Selectman Nadeau stated we'll keep all that in mind and we'll move forward.

*Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to adopt the amendment to Chapter 317, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of Hudson, Section 317-30 "Schedule III, Stop Intersections" by repealing the stop sign on Executive Drive, east side, at the intersection of Wentworth Drive, and by repealing the stop sign on Executive Drive, west side, at the intersection of Wentworth Drive, carried 5-0.*

*Motion by Selectman Brucker, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to adopt the amendment to Chapter 317, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Code of Hudson, Section 317-30 "Schedule III, Stop Intersections" by adding a stop sign on Hampshire Drive, west side, at the intersection of Wentworth Drive, carried 5-0.*

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Proposed Ordinance Amendment, Chapter 317-30 Stop Signs; install a stop sign on Friars Drive, west bound, at the intersection of Executive Drive

Chairman Coutu asked the Town Administrator Steve Malizia speak on this.

Steve Malizia stated in order to accomplish this, you need to have two public hearings. So should you wish to do this, you need to forward this to public hearings on August 12 and August 26 at which point the public can come in and make comments. If somebody wanted to come back in, August 12<sup>th</sup> and August 26<sup>th</sup> which will be the next two Board meetings.

Chairman Coutu asked Kevin Burns to come forward and speak on this. I would imagine that this is something that based on a communication, the Highway Safety Committee has also looked at this situation.

Kevin Burns stated yes. It was approved unanimously by the Highway Department. A prime example of how the process worked, Karen called me. I agreed with her that there should be a stop sign at that location. My bad that I didn't pick it up when we reviewed the park but there's an awful lot of intersections in town to try to keep track of. Once I got done speaking with her, I got the Highway Safety Committee to review, and recommend it, and we are now recommending it to you to have that stop sign installed - an ordinance to support it.

Chairman Coutu asked for further questions or comments. If not, then we'll have this scheduled for public hearings on August 12<sup>th</sup> and August 26<sup>th</sup>. Thank you Mr. Burns. I appreciate your input.

*Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to schedule public hearings on August 12, 2014 and August 26, 2014 to amend the Vehicles and Traffic Section 317-30 of the Town Code to install a new stop sign on Friars Drive, west bound, at the intersection of Executive Drive as recommended by the Highway Safety Committee, carried 5-0.*

Selectman Nadeau asked to make sure that we have town staff follow up to check the plan for CM Screw or whatever the vacant building is that was discussed tonight to see if there is supposed to be a stop sign that's on their plan. If so, that we have that implemented immediately.

Chairman Coutu noted that Selectman Maddox is on our Planning Board. I'm sure he said he was going to follow up on it. We will.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) NHMA 2015-2016 Legislative Policy

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia speak on this.

Steve Malizia indicated back on July 8<sup>th</sup> exactly what this document that basically is the NH Municipal Association's 2015/2016 legislative policy. In essence, there are various subcommittees that put this together. Basically it's the NH Municipal Association looking to see what the wishes of the Town and member communities are looking to do or support going forward into the legislative process. Basically the NH Municipal Association is the town and city's voice when it comes to the legislature. As I think I explained before, there are various policy questions that have been articulated that they will either advocate for or I guess in some cases against. I believe most of these are positive proposals. So what they've given you an opportunity to do is take a look at it as a board, decide if there's something in particular you want to either oppose. I guess if you agree, you would just agree and you don't really need to do anything else. They've also given an opportunity if you want to submit as a board floor proposals. That floor proposal would be something that's not here that you think you want them to at least run up the flag pole to see what the other member communities want to do. Just because you submit something, doesn't mean necessarily that they'll support it. They do give you an opportunity to have some sort of discussion if you have a particular item that you think is worthy of them bringing up for discussion. I believe their conference is in September - mid September. In general I've attended on your behalf. If you've articulated a yes or a no vote on something specifically, I'll make sure I vote that way. Other than that, it's basically you go, you listen, and most of the stuff is Aye, people support it. Unless they're specifically recommending in opposition, then you would oppose it. In essence, it's an opportunity on a biennial basis. We do it before each legislative session for you to do. Again, I've given it to you. I think July 8<sup>th</sup> so you've had some time to take a look at it hopefully. If you have any questions, I'm not the subject matter expert but I can try to help you.

Chairman Coutu had said that I would like to see that we ask the legislature to approve the same type of legislation they did relative to the water and sewer on separate ballots. I'd like to see the Library on a separate ballot. So whatever language they used for that would be basically the same language except that we would substitute instead of sewer and water utilities, municipal libraries. I feel very strongly. This is not to put down the library. I feel very strongly and I felt very strongly for 8 years. The citizens of this town need to know what we spend on the municipal portion of the budget. That budget which we have control. We have no control over the school budget. We have no control over water and sewer. That's something that if I had my druthers, the general populous wouldn't be allowed to vote on. We'd have separate sewer and water districts. I think the users should decide how that money is spent. Joe Doe down the street is just going to vote no for something that might be beneficial to the water utility but this person doesn't use water and they can vote no and it affects the operation. I'm a strong advocate of water and sewer districts. Whether that kind of legislation could be written, I think that would be a new one in the State of New Hampshire. I feel very strongly that if we're not going to be able to control the purse strings, then it should not be in our budget. I feel very strongly that the Library's budget should appear as a separate article so that the people can see exactly what that budget is. Our budget is approximately \$29 million with water and sewer. Take out the water and sewer now, you're down to 23. Take out the Library, we're now down to 22. So we don't have this \$29 - \$30 million budget that we control. We always got blamed for it although we've held water and sewer quite well over the years.

Steve Malizia stated there's been no rate increase for either one.

Chairman Coutu stated the Library has done relatively well with their budget the past couple of years. In the past couple of years they have. They haven't had a significant increase.

Selectman Nadeau stated I've said the same thing that you have Mr. Chairman over the years after serving on the Budget Committee. It should be a separate warrant article. Over the years we've talked about water and sewer being separate. It's now separate. Good or bad like you've said, people voted on the water and sewer this year that probably didn't have any idea what they were voting on. It wasn't a good thing that those items failed because that impacted our roadway paving. It impacted where we put water and sewer lines. We were able to do less than we were anticipating doing. It did have a negative impact and it had a negative impact on how we were going to pave and what we were going to do. It kind of tied up some of our scheduling. We had money in there for Melendy Road. We had to not do another project so that we could get Melendy Road which was worse than the other project done. That was a negative impact. Will people see it? Probably not. Just so they know, Melendy Road is being paved the week of the 18<sup>th</sup>. That's all I have to say about the Library. I think it's something that should be put forward and I think that I'd like to see it just the same way as the water and sewer are.



Selectman Maddox was making a face for was several years they went from like \$700,000 to the million that they're at now. We have it stabilized it at \$1 million but it used to be \$700,000. With that said, I think that we expended all of our capital on getting contracts. I think that the separate warrant article for water and for sewer, we talked about it but we didn't give it the effort that we did to the contracts. I think it's an education for our voters - no more, no less. Hopefully we can put it back on and see if we can make this work. It does make sense if you're a taxpayer looking at the taxes, jumps because Nashua sewer treatment plant is going to need  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a million dollars for whatever - a digester or whatever piece of equipment. That's just going to spike in one year and then throw off the budget for the town budget if you would the following year. It is a real confusing if you would problem. It's just one that we need to do a better job of educating.

Chairman Coutu noted that people have to understand that in sewer we own 12 percent of the system. Whatever cost on capital improvements, we own 12 percent of those capital improvements. Correct? Steve Malizia said correct. We're 12.58 percent owners. Generally speaking, we have the reserve fund so it's not an impact to the rate users. Chairman Coutu agreed unless there was some catastrophic event we could deplete that fund very quickly.

Selectman Brucker was wondering what other towns do with their library budget. Chairman Coutu indicated we all do the same thing because there's no legislation to put it out separately. They're all in the same bind that we're in. Why somebody didn't think of this - they thought about sewer and water but they didn't think about libraries. It's something that has bugged me for years. I know that the strongest advocate was former Selectman Luszey. He wanted us to do something to make it a budget to stand on its own. I strongly advocate that that's the right way to do it in light of what the legislator did with sewer and water. I was a little upset with the outcome of sewer and water. As Selectman Maddox said, we were so busy letting the voters know that we felt very strongly about our employees and the pay raise that it overshadowed some of the work we could have done with being advocates for water and sewer. I'm sure we will rectify that this year. We're all in the same boat to answer your question. It's just that no one brought it forward I guess. I just feel I'm not bashful when it comes to proposing legislation. I've done it in the past. It was successful I believe and I don't know where it ended up in the house. I'm proposing that we do it again this time.

Selectman Brucker found it a little scary to keep separating things out. People couldn't chose to just vote for one thing and not for anything else and suddenly you've got the school department, or the library, or whatever is separate languishing because they decided well we're just going to support one thing this year. It's like they supported the contracts this past year but they didn't support the operating budget. I just find that to me a little scary.

To support Chairman Coutu's argument, I think that it would be more palatable if we took an additional \$1 million out of the budget that we had no control over. Selectman Brucker said for us yes but what happens to the library if nobody...Chairman Coutu said that's what the voters have to decide. Are we spending too much on the library, or are we spending too little, or whatever their budget is proposed? If the library budget comes in at a 10 percent increase - just make this assumption - we agree that we're going to allow the town because we know that utilities keep going up. That's my argument every year. Utilities keep going up and whatever. We know that there's going to be an additional 2 percent increase in our cost of operation just on insurance, utilities, and those things that we have no control over. We decide to go up 2 percent. They decide to go up 10 percent. We can advise them not to do it. They can tell us to go fly a kite and they put it in the budget, we're going to advocate to pass the budget because we want our portion passed. Because it's all lumped in, we're not too happy with the 10 percent increase but we have to eat it. It comes back and it comes back on our shoulders. Well you wanted us to pass this budget. How come it went up that much? When it's a \$1 million and it's only a 10 percent increase, you're talking about \$100,000. Is that significant? In today's day and age, yes. It's \$.04 on the tax rate. It's the way I look at it. I think that they're getting \$1 million now. Knowing what I know about the library, I know that there are a lot of people utilizing the services. They're making due with what they have and they have a surplus every year. They find ways to spend that surplus. I think they could...Selectman Brucker noted that they turned it back this year. Chairman Coutu said they turned some of it back. After they spend some, they turn some in. Everybody does it. We do it. They do it. The School Department does it. I'm not hiding that. If we have \$200,000 and we think we need \$50,000 to put in air conditioning, we spend it. We'll put \$150,000 in the general fund. If there are things that can eat up the \$200,000, we think that our needs are not wants, we fund them. The library does the same thing and so does the school. They have more than enough to operate the library. I just think the voters need to see that they have to be more accountable for how they present their budget. I think if it was isolated and presented as a separate entity, the voters will see wow they spend \$1 million whatever last year and this year they're spending \$1,100,000. Why did they go up \$100,000? Let the Library Board of Trustees respond to that. They may very well cut their budget. Who knows. I doubt it but who knows. I understand where you're coming from but I was upset about the water and sewer being separated. I thought for sure we'd go down the defeat but I blame us. We were so busy. The battle was getting our employees pay raises because some of them were going on their 5<sup>th</sup> year. We felt that was unjust so we spent all of our time doing that. Like I said, it overshadowed water and sewer.

Selectman Nichols worried about when we have the warrant articles, people don't read them all. They really, really don't. They'll scan something but they'll mark a no, no, no. Isn't there a way we could put at the beginning this warrant article will not affect your tax rate and then post the thing rather than have it at the end. Chairman Coutu indicated we'd have to talk to our attorneys as a legislative mandate on the language and how it is written. The

attorneys have to approve the language and it goes before...Steve Malizia indicated the Department of Revenue Administration has a key piece. So they're pretty much written in compliance with applicable statute of rules. Selectman Nichols indicated that a lot of people don't read that part. They don't get that far down. Chairman Coutu noted they see a dollar amount and they say that's going to cost us that and it says it doesn't affect your tax rate because it's either in capital reserve. Selectman Nichols said they don't read that part and that's what bothers me terribly.

Selectman Nadeau thought we're trying to be more transparent and it's really our job as the Board of Selectmen to push the warrant articles. A lot of times the warrant articles fall to the wayside. I'm a big proponent of capital reserve funds and being very up front telling people that I'm buying this ambulance and we're using all the money from our capital reserve fund to buy it. It's not costing us anything cuz we're putting \$25,000 in so it's going out as a wash. A lot of people ask me those questions. It's something that we need to do a better job as Selectmen, School Board members, Library Trustees, Water and Sewer Commissioners to tell everybody what the pros and cons are. Maybe we need to start limiting how many things we put on the warrant article and say this is what we're going to limit it to 5 and this is the reason so that we can sell those 5 items on the warrant article to make it a little easier. I think trying to make things more transparent by taking \$1 million out of our budget is - we have no control over that \$1 million. So people say you gave out 3 and 4 percent raises to the Library employees, we did not but it's in our budget so people don't understand that it wasn't us that did it. Who's to blame? The Board of Selectmen because it's in our budget. I think it make things more transparent, I think this is a very good idea. I hope that this goes forward.

Steve Malizia believed on floor proposals they're asking for something that's approved by a majority vote of the governing body. I wrote you a motion.

Chairman Coutu asked if anybody had any further discussion on that particular item because we have quite a few here this evening.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Nichols, NHMA will support legislation to allow municipal library budgets to appear as a separate warrant article, carried 4-1. Selectman Brucker opposed.

Chairman Coutu commented on #6 on page 2 where they start with #6, see if the NHMA will support legislation amending RSA 39:3 to require that in towns with an official ballot referendum Town Meeting -that's us right? Steve Malizia said yes. Chairman Coutu further read, "Petitioned warrant articles must be signed by not less than 2 percent of registered voters but in no case fewer than 10 voters or more than 150 voters." We allow 25 right now. Because we have a 14,000 registered voting population, would increase that to - as I read this - 280 signatures but the maximum would be 150 so every one of our citizen petitions would have to be signed by 150 people as I read this. Selectman Nadeau indicated that's a great idea. Chairman Coutu asked you're supporting that? Selectman Nadeau said yeah. Chairman Coutu asked to elaborate why you support this. I'm kind of on the fence on it. I'm a strong advocate of letting citizens come forward and putting whatever they want in a ballot and discuss it like the 10 foot fence and they got it. I want to hear both sides cuz I'm wavering on that one.

Selectman Nadeau said a lot of the years, and I can't remember some of them off the top of my head, there was a lot of nuisance ones put in...Steve Malizia stated parking meters at Benson's. Selectman Nadeau said perfect - parking meters at Benson's. Thank you for bringing that one up to my attention. I think having that many signatures will make the person go out and sell it and when they don't even show up to Town Meeting but they had the 25 signatures if they have 280, somebody had to think about signing that petition. I think that this is a pretty worthwhile piece of legislation to put in. It will stop a lot of the nuisance or cut down. I can't say it will stop. It will cut down on some of the nuisance ones that come in. The 10 foot fence probably had 500 - 600 signatures so you wouldn't have stopped that one. Things come up and parking meters is perfect. They had the minimum signatures that they needed and that's where we went. I think this is a very good piece of legislation that I think we should send forward with a...

Chairman Coutu told Mr. Malizia I was here when you said the parking meters - the yeah went...Steve Malizia said it was the only one I could think of that was recent. Chairman Coutu told Selectman Nadeau that we correct. I can see why it was - I would certainly want to support that now. I was wavering but I wasn't thinking about the nuisance and how it affects this. Were there any that any of you had any - there were several that were related to land use. I don't know about what this one meant - modifying the adoption revision and amendment of municipal charters. That would be #17 to see if the NHMA would support legislation similar to House Bill 379 in 2008 that modifies the adoption, revision and amendment of municipal charters. Does that mean that would allow the voters to amend the charter? I don't know what the legislative intent in 2008 was. Anybody know anything about that one? We don't have to elaborate on these things. What's this business about to see if the legislation to reconcile RSA - this is #15 - 669, RSA 42:3 regarding when certain town officials may be sworn in. Don't you have to be sworn in right now on a certain time? You can't hold office unless you're sworn in and those commissions that need to be sworn in can't vote until they're sworn in.

Steve Malizia sensed that RSA 669 maybe in conflict with RSA 42:3. In other words, I think 669 is land use. It might be Planning Board. I'm not sure. There may be some sort of discrepancy like one says one thing and the other says

the other. They should be the same. That's how I would read that just based on where it says reconcile those two RSAs. I'm not saying specifically Planning Board. I'm just saying what do those RSAs say.

Chairman Coutu thought what should be important to us because it affects our budget is I don't know if you read it on page 11, #15 - the NH Retirement System. That's one we can't overlook. Those costs have escalated year in year out. Correct me Mr. Malizia if I'm not correct. This does affect our budget. I'm talking about retirement in general. What we contribute into the retirement system affects us financially. When I looked at a, b, c, d - support, oppose, support, support, I'm wondering if it's all of these one shot yes or no or is it or, or, or, or. Are they suggesting that this is all inclusive a, b, c, d? It's a little confusing. They're talking about strengthening the solvency of the NH RS. The only way we're going to strengthen the solvency is increase the amount we put into it or raise the age. They're talking about the restoration of the State's - 35 percent of employer cost for police, teachers, and firefighters in the current defined benefit plan and any successor plan. Well what is their contribution now? Steve Malizia noted zero. Chairman Coutu asked where is that 35 percent going to come from? Cities and towns. We're going to pay for it. Steve Malizia indicated it already does. Years ago when police, fire, and teachers were brought under the umbrella of the State pension system, the deal was - and this was years ago - the State to sweeten that pot said we'll put in 35 percent of the contribution. The town will put in piece and the members will put in a piece. If you recall 3 or 4 years ago, the State said guess what our piece is - they went to 30, then they went to 25, then they went to zero. So basically what this I believe is saying is you made your commitment. You need to get back to your 35.

Selectman Brucker asked isn't that why we voted to put the lottery in the liquor stores and...

Chairman Coutu said no lottery is for education. The liquor store is for profit revenue generation. If we didn't have that, we'd definite have a sales tax or something.

Selectman Maddox said pigs will fly when it goes back to 35 percent.

Chairman Coutu asked do we support it or don't we? Selectman Maddox said we support it. Chairman Coutu wanted Mr. Malizia to go there with a message. A lot of these he'll know. I don't know how you vote. Whatever makes sense. Mr. Malizia said you listen to the arguments. Chairman Coutu indicated if it's generic and affects us, fine. If it doesn't affect us whether you keep silent or not, no one is going to fault you. There are certain things that affect us financially and I'm concerned that we want to have voice in this. If he hears our opposition or support for anything, he knows how to articulate this Town's position. I don't want him to just go there and nod his head. I want him to go there and speak on our behalf.

Follow up Mr. Chairman. Selectman Maddox thought that is an excellent question for the candidates for the House of Representatives. I think they really need to stand up and say that this should be back to a percentage that the Town...Chairman Coutu asked do you want to co-host a debate with me? We'll ask them these questions. Selectman Maddox indicated we have a brand new cable facility. I think it would be great to utilize that because, again, these people go to Concord and do mystical things. Here's one of them that if they're \$150 million short as I understand they are right now some number, what will be next that will be ours to adopt? Again, we need to be proactive and I think that one of the things that will do that is asking the candidates that will go to Concord what their positions are.

Selectman Brucker asked can we change that 35 percent and ask for something maybe that's more reasonable. Chairman Coutu said we can ask to have it amended. I think 35 percent is more than reasonable because that was their original commitment. Again, it became an unfunded mandate by trickling it back down to the cities and towns and it's not fair. The State should find a way to raise the money and come up with 35 percent. I'd be happy with 5 percent at this point. I'd be happy with 1 percent. They're funding zero right now and I think they have an obligation. They impose these laws and then they throw the bill at us.

Selectman Maddox thought to flatten out this, I think some of it is our own fault as the town's. The State should probably have to pay 35 percent of the base or some reasonable number. I think that retirement bonuses and all of the things that kind of happen have skewed that number. I think that, again, fairness across the board Mr. Chairman. If it is 35 percent of base salary or something, it's better than nothing. I think we're shooting for the moon and I'd be happy to...Chairman Coutu said they're shooting for the moon. I mean we could ask the Town Administrator to make a recommendation that 35 percent might be more palatable or 25 percent might be more palatable. I support the 35 percent and I'm not going to budget. I'm telling you right straight up right now. They funded it. They came up with the formula and all of a sudden they got in trouble and they said let cities and towns pay for it and we're getting out of this one. They saved how many millions? Quite a few. The burden should be on them and not on us. Its taxpayer money no matter how you look at it. It's a lot less impact on the local voters that the cost will be shared proportionately throughout the State. Let the rich communities pay for it. We're not a rich community.

Selectman Brucker asked isn't there one that's recommended policy action that - downshifting of State costs and State revenue structure. It's on page 11, #13. To see if NHMA will oppose legislation which will downshift State costs or State program responsibilities either directly or indirectly to municipalities and counties resulting in increased municipal and/or county expenditures. Chairman Coutu said his answer is yes. Selectman Brucker said to oppose

this. Chairman Coutu thought we ought to oppose that one vehemently. That's what they do. That's the game they play. They trickle it down to us and now we need to tell them we're not going to take it anymore. We need to speak as one voice. That's the purpose of NHMA is try to speak as one voice.

In essence, Steve Malizia said they are a municipal lobbying group intended to act upon the majority of their member's behalf. Maybe not everybody agrees with everything but the consensus or the majority basically is what they're trying to support. As you recall years back, there was some revenue sharing that used to happen that we no longer get. I think some of the BPT - business profits tax. It would help reduce some of our tax rate. If you recall several years back, they froze the meals and rooms tax at a certain number. Not a percent. The number. The number you got is the number you kept getting even though the State increased the percentage from 9 to 9 ½ or some number like that. We didn't share in that. I think the Highway Block Grant is another example of where they at least at some point semi froze the number. Through the years, the numbers that communities came to depend on were frozen even though they may or may not have received more revenue. Presumably when they raised the rate, they received more money but I don't know that. I don't audit their books. In essence what they're doing is or what they've done is committed to things and then downshifted the costs. It's kind of that simple. NHMA is trying to oppose any further degradation of anything we're receiving and in some cases trying to get it back to where it was five years ago or some number of years ago. I think that's what they're trying to do. If you don't ask, you're never going to get it.

Chairman Coutu said I'm not going to pick on anybody but I'm going to pick on somebody right now. Mr. Lathrop have you had an opportunity to read this? Mr. Lathrop responded, "No Sir". Chairman Coutu asked Mr. Lathrop is here and he is an elected representative on the Trustee of the Trust Funds. On page 13, #24 - management of trust funds. I'll read it to you and you tell me whether you would support this or disagree with it. "To see if the NHMA will support amendments to RSA 292-B:2 to include funds held by a town or other municipality under RSA 31:19, RSA 202-A:23, or a fund created by a town or other municipality under RSA 31:19-A to be included in those institutional funds subject to the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act. Did you understand that because I can give it to you to read?"

Len Lathrop responded that the Prudent Man Rule and the Prudent Investor Rule are general investment policies. They tell you to be caution. They tell you to look out for your investments. They really don't tell you what to do. Based on what you've just read to me and the recent adopting of House Bill 297, a lot of these things are mute. 297 is going to allow in the March elections for the Trustees of the Trust Funds to bring a warrant article to the voters that says that the income from your investments now can be used to pay for wealth management tools and as your Trustees, we are planning to do that. The Town of Hudson probably has had more experience with that than most town because we for years have been using operational capital from the sewer accounts to pay for wealth management. We've increased the rate of return of those sewer funds quite dramatically verse what standard investment instruments would allow. Recently this last selection, even with the default budget, you granted us \$15,000 to take a lot more of the trust funds and the capital reserve funds into wealth management. Just last month the July 31<sup>st</sup>, we moved all the Town's investment money from one investment broker back to another broker because their rate of return of investment was four times more because now we have the ability to pay for that wealth management. With Mackensen, we were projecting a 3.1 percent return on investment. Now with People's United Bank even after paying the management fee and because of our size, they gave us a 25 percent break on the rate. We're hoping to get 5.5 to 6 percent on these investments. The risk is bigger. We're out there on the edge using this money but we've got to be better than getting you .002 percent of what we were getting when we were banking with the traditional banking vehicles.

Len Lathrop indicated that we're very excited about the People's situation because we as the Town will be buying bonds and funds. So as an individual bond or fund gets risky, or looks shaky, or the interest rate goes up and the bond market when the interest rate goes up is guaranteed to fall, we can diversify out of those faster and never lose the principle amount that we bought that from. A bond always has that value. When we were with the other company, we were a percentage holder of a big municipal fund. So there was no manipulation. You were in this big fund - now again when we went there, we were doing better than what we were with the conventional instruments. Now we're very excited that when we come around to March that we can really report to you a better return on investment. We're only one month in and our first meeting with the wealth management team from People's bank is on August 14<sup>th</sup> if I remember correctly. I don't have all my notes. At that point, they'll be talking to us about structuring and what we're going to buy. As we have said to you in the past as your three Trustees, we feel that our job is to hire the best wealth manager that we can find for the best return on the investment. We're not going to tell a wealth manager who's doing this day in and day out to buy Caterpillar over John Deere. We're going to say invest our money the best that you can.

Chairman Coutu remembered - Len Lathrop approximately two years ago you and I had a conversation about diversification of funds and the investment. You talk about the return at 0009. I know that you and other members of the Trustees went out and did a lot of leg work to get us where we were at 3 percent. Had you not done the leg work, that money would have sat in limbo and we would have collected 1 percent or less than 1 percent.

Len Lathrop said some of the government investment bankers that we deal with have said there are towns that just sit there and have their money invested in traditional savings accounts and are getting .002 right now on that money. Our fiduciary responsibility is to make the best decisions for you and that's why the citizens elect us. We try to do that. The return should be better. I know that you struggle with your budget on your revenue side - that there's no more revenue income from your government banking not your investment banking. We only cover the investment banking.

Chairman Coutu noted the Administrator reminds us every report. Mr. Lathrop stated we remind your Financial Director that there's ways around that. Chairman Coutu said that \$15,000 investment obviously is going to pay off. It's what you said, and we took you at your word, and it's going to come to fruition. Mr. Lathrop stated as far as that recommendation from the NHMA, again, the State Representatives have gone through so many twists and turns this year just getting 297 passed. It took 7 times for 297 to get passed just to allow a little flexibility and how Trustees can manage the money. I doubt that the legislative people will even read that one. Chairman Coutu asked if this were proposed...Mr. Lathrop indicated it would make no difference to how we do our operations here in Hudson. Chairman Coutu said it would not affect us one way or the other. It's not a position that you take a strong stand for or against. If things were to stay the same, we're golden with 297 you said. Any further questions or comments?

Selectman Nadeau had a couple on page 5. The first one - counting of ballots. I strongly support being able to open up the absentee ballots at whatever time - Legislation pending - SB 271 to see if the NHMA will support legislation to eliminate the requirement that absentee ballots cannot be opened prior to 1 p.m. I've been working the polls now for probably on and off 10 years. This has been a huge pain in the ass when you can't open up the absentee ballots until 1 p.m. When you have 2,500 ballots to open up and you start at 1 o'clock and you get hit at 3 to 6 with people coming in, those absentee ballots are on hold because you have machines jamming, you have questions, you've got people asking you questions. If we could open up these absentee ballots and say they put a stop time to when you can receive them, which I think there is a limit once the post office delivers or something, that's the end of your absentee ballots for the day or something. I definitely, definitely support this because it's been a big problem with us over the years even being 14,000 registered voters or whatever we have. When you've got huge amounts of absentee ballots - I mean a Town Election, not usually a problem. We're done by 2:30 - 3:00. When you start getting into the federal elections, the State elections, you really start getting into a lot of time. I think this is something that we should definitely support. Mr. Inderbitzen would be very, very, very supportive and so would our Town Clerk. If we do them at 9 o'clock in the morning and our mail comes at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, then we...Chairman Coutu said that's all we'll have to count in the afternoon are those that come in at 3. Good point Selectman Nadeau.

Chairman Coutu asked if there was a consensus on that. The Board agreed.

Selectman Nadeau noted the one above that with the blue lights on fire department vehicles, if you can't see our fire trucks in Hudson, you probably shouldn't be driving on the roadways. They have yellow lights flashing; red lights flashing. I think a blue light would just be another distraction with those lights. I would not support Article 13. Chairman Coutu agreed. I think what this in essence doing is allowing Fire Department emergency vehicles or even our own municipal emergency vehicles other than police. They have blue lights included on the flash bar in the rear window I believe. I think blue lights are way too confusing, opens the door for other things to confuse the motorists, and I think red lights people associate with fire. Blue they associate with police. Leave well enough alone in my opinion. I agree Selectman Nadeau. What are you laughing for Selectman Maddox? Do you want to take your blue lights off your car now?

Selectman Maddox said no. I was going to say that you've got to go to Ottawa or Ontario. The plow trucks have blue lights.

Selectman Nadeau asked if there was a consensus on not supporting this one. The Board said they opposed.

Selectman Nichols question #15 the swearing in town offices. I don't understand that one. I need an explanation from someone. Thank you. Chairman Coutu thought we just discussed that one. I think what it amounts to is that there are elected officials and there are boards and commissions. Now are they town officers or are they not town officers? I think there are two conflicting pieces of legislation. One is RSA 669 and RSA 42:3 there's conflicting. What they're trying to do is reconciling means they're going to take the language from both of those and make them consistent so that there's a same rule for everybody to be sworn in. As Selectman Nadeau said, there may be a piece of the legislation that says for example that the Planning Board members can be sworn in within two weeks but everybody else has to be sworn in within one week of election. For us for example and I think the language that they're looking for pertains to how we're sworn in. You cannot sit at this table and serve as a Selectman until you're sworn in. You have from Election Day to the next meeting which is generally the second Tuesday of the month. So you have two weeks to be sworn in but you cannot sit here and vote unless you're sworn in. So there's conflicting rules regarding when people get sworn in. They're trying to bring it to conform...

Steve Malizia assumed they're trying to reconcile the two different RSAs presumably.

Selectman Nichols thanked them for the explanation.

Chairman Coutu indicated it happens sometimes. They pass a law and then they pass another law that conflicts with that law. Now they have two laws on the books and they say well that law says I can do it. They're trying to fix that.

Selectman Brucker had a question about #24 on page 7 Town Clerk. If this were passed, it would allow us to appoint or elect a Town Clerk. I don't understand why that person is always elected by the citizens. Our Tax Collector was elected. Why is that? Chairman Coutu indicated legislation governed that. Selectman noted well I know but what's the reason behind it? Why don't we just appoint? Chairman Coutu asked this question approximately the second year I was in the Town of Woodstock, I questioned why the Town Clerk and Tax Collector were elected. I think I was told that back in the day - Selectman Jasper would have the answer to this I'm sure because he's a historian. Back in the day a lot of municipalities were like little hamlets. It was a popularity contest who was going to be the Town Clerk and Tax Collector. So they would rather the citizens wanted to have a say in who that would be as opposed to the Board of Selectmen appointing one of their friends to collect taxes. So it became an elected position and it stayed that way. I believe its state wide. There's a Statute governing the election of the Town Clerk and the Tax Collector. I don't like to micromanage but I'd like to think that the voters would have enough confidence in us to appoint our municipal department heads as well as our Town Clerk and Tax Collector. I've said that about the Treasurer's position. That came up. We should appoint it. The flaw in the whole thing is the situation that we're in. I'm going to say it.

Chairman Coutu stated that Patti Barry is our Town Clerk and Tax Collector and who would want to replace her? I couldn't find a better person to appoint except you Selectman Nadeau when you ran against her. She's done an outstanding job. The morale in that office is fantastic. She's been innovative and creative in terms of introducing more hours, the boat registration, and things like that. Yes she's like everybody else. She's faulted along the way and she's learned by those mistakes and she's been very receptive to learning by those mistakes. Land acquisition was one. It was a learning process because it's not something that we like to do nor do we want to do. We don't want to be in the real estate business but dammit, you're not going to pay your taxes for 5 or 6 years. We're have to take action. At some point, we have to protect the rest of the taxpayers and it was a whole new venue somewhat for her. She learned by that. When you have a person of her caliber serving, you say well there's a little bit of hypocrisy I think in saying well I don't want to force her out because she's doing such a great job even though I kind of like the idea that we appoint who runs our departments. I would certainly would say that on this particular one on the basis of her being our Town Clerk and Tax Collector, I would not support that legislation.

Selectman Brucker thought she's wonderful. I would want to keep her. What I was concerned with before was that we could never get a raise for her. We couldn't do anything for her because she's elected. Personally I think it would be better if she were a part of...Chairman Coutu thought the way around that - I'll let you speak Selectman Maddox. Maybe you have a better idea than what I'm going to propose.

Selectman Maddox thought Selectman Brucker's reason is the reason why this should be supported. We realize the value and the professionalism of the person doing that job. What is to stop a super pack coming in and supporting another candidate that may not be anywhere near as good? Again I think that because the Board of Selectmen sees this operation regularly, why wouldn't we appoint that person who's done an excellent job. Chairman Coutu got confused with the term "legislative body". I see your point. I was going to suggest that in terms of what we could propose is legislation that would allow that position to be treated similarly to all other non union personnel which would be like our Police Chief, Fire Chief, Town Administrator, and that they be treated accordingly so that we have the option of putting the budget a raise for them or we have the option of putting it to warrant article. The Budget Committee likes everything on warrant articles to put it out separately. I feel that we've been entrusted with the management of this government. It's our responsibility. We have a fiduciary responsibility yes. We also have a responsibility to make sure that our municipality is running smoothly and abided by all of the governance, and statutes, and laws, and the articles, and that it is financially stable and that people are getting along and working well together. We have all of that. I think that we should decide what the reward should be and when it should be. Every time we turn it over to the voters, they say those people are making too much money we're not going to pay them. The point is that some of these people are not making what their counterparts are making out there and we could lose some quality people. To me, it's a way of saying thank you for a job well done you've earned this. I know I'm going to get chastised from people saying well they don't earn it. We're not giving them a gift. We're recognizing the value of the product that we are getting. We can (inaudible) as a legislative body in this municipality about how this town is being managed by the Administrator on down to all of our department heads.

Chairman Coutu told Selectman Maddox maybe you're right. Maybe we should support that but I'm torn. What's the consensus? Selectman Brucker supported it. Selectman Nichols supported it.

Selectman Nadeau thought it's elected for a reason. Again, it's just one of those things that it's not broken don't fix it. If the Board wants to - I'm not opposed to leaving it the way it is. Chairman Coutu indicated it gives us the opportunity to either elect or appoint. We could pass a municipal ordinance we're going to elect it.

Steve Malizia stated actually the legislative body of the voters have to let you do it. Selectman Nadeau stated the way it is is fine. I don't support it. Selectman Nichols supported it.

Selectman Nadeau asked about the general administration page at the end #20 - maintenance and policing of State owned property. I didn't find any backup material for that in our packet. Chairman Coutu stated, "to see if the NHMA will take no position on the collection of the statewide property tax". Steve Malizia stated it will allow us to get money back if we have to police state land for illegal activity. Selectman Nadeau was all for that. Steve Malizia said so reimbursement, compensation. They're supporting that. The Board agreed to support it. Chairman Coutu indicated that this legislation was in affect at one time and they took it off the books. When the kids were fined, minors, possession of alcohol - the fine - the Statute was approximately \$200. The municipality got a share based on percentage of estimate to cost arrest them. They said \$200. It's about \$60 or 30 percent, so the municipalities got 30 percent. The courts fined them and they had to send the Town the percentage. So we paid for overtime for a police officer, you have to appear in court, you have to factor that all in the time it took to chase them down and arrest them. Yeah, I'm supporting that. We'll get some of our money back. Selectman Nadeau supported it too.

Chairman Coutu reaffirmed that Steve Malizia will be representing us. Mr. Malizia said unless somebody else wants to, it's generally been me.

#### B) Soliciting Funds

Chairman Coutu recognized the Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia said it's my understanding the Board wanted to discuss perhaps putting some parameters on your soliciting funds. As you're well aware, folks have to be on the NH Charitable Organization List. I believe there was conversation and the Board wanted to discuss it at this workshop whether you want to put a mileage, or miles, or distance parameter. For example if somebody is more than 50 miles from Hudson do you want to allow them to be able to solicit in Hudson even if they are on the list. For example if I'm an organization that's in New York, do you want to allow my organization to solicit at Sam's Club. I think that's the intent of what you wanted to discuss. To that affect, I just put the law that talks about the soliciting funds just the Statute that grants you the permitting in your hands. Attorney Buckley gave us something a few years ago when he was Town Counsel. I quite simply put a copy of the form with have. Basically when you get this in your packet each week, you look to see are they on the NH Charitable Organization List or are they exempt. They could be the school, certain federal government agencies, the Town.

Chairman Coutu had a question because I am a little bit confused relative to your having to - what is the responsibility that we gave you? Do you research to see whether or not that they're on NH? Steve Malizia indicated we go on the list. Chairman Coutu asked why aren't they providing us that document. I thought that was their responsibility and not ours. They had to provide it with their application. They have a copy of their 501-3 C. They have a copy of it. Why aren't they providing us a copy of it? If they want to use our municipality to raise funds, they should abide by what I thought were the rules that they were going to provide. Mr. Malizia said sometimes they do but to be frank, the NH Department of Justice, has a web page that they keep updated that lists alphabetically everybody on that list that's a charitable organization. Quite simply put, I have it bookmarked. Donna has it bookmarked. We go in, boop, it takes a minute. If you were to go on it, you could either search it I believe by putting in a key word but quite frankly, they're all alphabetical and they're on the list. The Department of Justice State of New Hampshire updates it. I'm not researching anything beyond that list. I'm not going out of my way to do anything else.

Chairman Coutu knows there's going to be discussion. I personally went out of my way to research and item. I did it specifically only because I knew this particular organization one was publicly criticized before this Board. I've done a lot of research. I've watched this organization. This organization is in Northfield, MA. Rick you probably know better than most of us how far is Northfield from here? Selectman Brucker stated over 2 hours. Chairman Coutu said if it takes an hour and a half to get to Springfield, we're almost there. So we're looking at 90 to 100 miles. You'll remember this especially you Selectman Maddox and Selectman Nadeau there was some disparaging remarks made about this organization and there was nobody here to defend them.

Chairman Coutu went and talked to a professor who is an instructor at the Redemption Christian Academy. The Redemption Christian Academy does outstanding work and there was a connotation that they're feeding prostitutes and drug addicts. This is a school. Our children here in Hudson if they meet the criteria is any town has to meet a certain criteria are eligible to attend the Redemption Christian Academy. I asked the profession to give me as much information as he could and I will leave it upstairs in the general read so you can see. I'm not advocating this. I'm not promoting this. I'm not here to sponsor them. I'm here to make a solid argument that there may be organizations well what would seem out of reach and here they are coming into Hudson and they're collecting money. There's validity to what they do because it's an open enrollment. It's a one or a two year post graduate program. Granted it has some religious focus. I don't think there's anything wrong with people having a little religion in their life. I think that to exclude organizations we'll do the exact same thing I said would happen and I'm going to use this as an example. The Town of Tyngsboro opened up a beautiful park on the waterside and excluded anybody but town residents from

using it. How nice would it have been for us to spend all this money and all this time at Benson Park and say oh really. We're just going to let the Town of Hudson residents use the park. We're not selfish that way. That's open. Of course we have to open it to every resident of the State by Deed. It's in our deed. We would have anyway. To start excluding people - if they're on the NH Charitable Trust says to us that they're registered with the State, we know there's oversight. If they're registered, there is oversight by the State. They're responsible to make sure that these are legitimate charities that are collecting funds. We have charities that are based here in Hudson that collect in other municipalities. I don't want to start a war of words with other municipalities saying well if they're not going to let other people go collect in Hudson, we're not going to let Hudson people come collect here. We've had a lot of upstart charities in this town that have raised an awful lot of money both in town and out of town. Weed them out. We had one that we weeded out. It looked like they were trying to raise money to go on vacation or Florida. A girl from Tewksbury. We put a stop to it. That's when we lowered the boom and said hey you're not in the charitable trust recorded. We're not going to allow you to collect funds.

Chairman Coutu's employer allows people to solicit. My immediate supervisor is the one who's responsible for monitoring who can and when they can. I asked him specifically do you make sure that they've received permission from the Town of Hudson. How do you know whether or not they're out there soliciting without our consent? They have to bring it to him before he would authorize them to do any solicitation in front of that business. I would hope that Market Basket and all the others do the same. I don't know. I would hope that they do but we vet them. We're trying to vet them. Where do you want this conversation to go? I just stated my opinion.

Selectman Brucker thought it makes sense for instance in that situation where people in Hudson could go and be enrolled in their program. I think that if some things like...Chairman Coutu stated Girl Scouts in Tyngsboro. The Drum and Bugle Corps. in Nashua. Selectman Brucker said that's different. They're on the State list. I guess there shouldn't be any limit then. As long as they're on the State list.

As Selectman Maddox looked at this in our packet, the libertarian piece of me came out. I don't know why we're involved in this at all. Do we do this at the police department so they know who's authorized? Is anybody following up on this? Maybe your employer is but I think this is another one of those cases where all we're doing is keeping people honest. I think that people see Sam's or Market Basket as a great place to collect money. Word gets out and they try to get in there. Again, who's following up on this? I think this is another one of those things that we're going through all these hoops to what end? Maybe your employer today is doing that but if that guy left would he continue? Again, I just don't see our police department going down saying do you have your tag approval. Chairman Coutu noted or they don't post their permit to do it. Who's to say you and I could down next week and fry some hamburgers.

Again Selectman Maddox thought this is another one of these things and it's kind of a waste. I think the only thing I had concern with that facility was they were coming back regularly. I think they saw that they had a circuit that this was a good place. They are 90 miles away. I did look on navigation and they are 90 miles away. They're driving 90 miles to come here to collect because obviously a good revenue generator. Chairman Coutu said people have a choice to give or not to give. Selectman Maddox said that's why I'm saying the libertarian just says if they're on the list...I do think Mr. Chairman then just say the staff if they're on the list put it on the agenda and hopefully there's no issues.

#### C) Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Parameters

Chairman Coutu deferred to the Town Administrator Steve Malizia because he's the one that oversees the collection of the material for budgets.

Steve Malizia stated I'll make my remarks brief but as you recall, this is about the time of year every year that the Board discusses what sort of parameters you want to give the department heads. Obviously we're not quite there yet but they will be soon into the budget season and the Board traditionally dictates or gives them some sort of parameter to work with. In the past before last year, it was basically a level funded budget exclusive of labor and benefits. Those things are a bit more variable with any exceptions to be separate delineated for Board discussion. Last year the Board approved I believe a 2 percent or up to 2 percent for their operating costs recognizing that after 3, 4, and 5 years of level funded budgets, it was difficult to maintain or hold the line on utilities or other items such as that. The Board allowed, again, up to 2 percent increase on operating type budget expenses with critical needs highlighted. For example if something couldn't fit in that 2 percent, it was a critical need, highlight that separately for the Board's discussion. That's been the discussion that's been the parameter. As we are all aware, this is now the second year of a default budget. The voters are not approving whatever we're putting in front of them even with water and sewer separated in the past year. They still didn't approve it. Albeit it was close but they still didn't approve it. This is on the agenda for a workshop to discuss what kind of parameters the Board would like to deliberate and the direction the Board would like to give to the department heads. I know there's a lot of paper. For some of the new folks, I just wanted to make sure that you saw some of the history of what the conversations have been. I've tried to give you at least some statistics. I realize it's kind of small but trying to get a few years on this so you get an idea of where we've been, what the property value has done, what the appropriations have been. I've tried to highlight in my tenure or at least since we've been an SB2 town, we've had 3 default budgets. The last two being back to back. You can see,



again, this year's tax rate which will be set in October is only an estimate based on what we believe the parameters, what's passed, and what not. So you have some sort of idea and also get an idea what the CPIU which is the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers has been.

Again Steve Malizia stated just in the goal of trying to give you some numbers so that you can at least begin to articulate where you think you want to go with the budget. I know we heard comment tonight, limit the number of warrant articles which is worthy but you're already up to 3 when you have the water, sewer and the town operating budget. That's before anything else happens. Town ballots by their nature tend to have a few more warrant articles on them then perhaps a school ballot would have. Hence people go into a voting booth and even though our numbers are much lower, they look at a multi-page document and say I can't afford all this. We are somewhat constrained a lot of times in the language that you're able to use. There's a certain prescribed way of writing these things. We didn't invent it here but we have to live with it. It has to be Department of Revenue approved and that sort of thing. You can't stray too far off of the acceptable language. It is what it is. Perhaps this year we may consider putting in the operating budget at the top recognizing that it's more of a priority. Last year the labor contracts were a priority. They were at the top of the ballot. Things like that may work. Maybe people get tired as they go further down the ballot. Again, that's for discussion down the road. What you're looking at now what you're trying to articulate now is as our departments move forward and try to put their budgets together, what do you want to see? What kind of parameter do you want to see? What direction do you want to give them? I think that's brief.

Chairman Coutu had two things on the revenue side that I want to make sure are done this year. One we gave directive and the other one we did not but I'd like to see it. We told the Recreation Director and the last conversation I had with him I saw him and the summer Director. We talked about the numbers this year. According to him, they're quite high. We want to see the numbers because that was a directive and how much money he took in as a result. We're going to look at trying to level fund this whole thing - the cost for the program but we want to cover the cost. So we're going to look at that number so we want to see that. That's a small budget. I want to do the same thing with the Council on Aging. It's not a tremendous revenue generator. She has presently 300 members, \$10 apiece, it's \$3,000. It's not a lot but I want to look at that because that is not in our budget. We're funding that on a shoe string. We're pulling monies here and there to fund this thing.

Chairman Coutu stated people are going to have to realize that next year if we don't get our budget, it's going to be even tighter. Something is going to have to give. There are going to be consequences next year. We've got to look at that. I don't know what the consensus is. You've had plenty of reading material. I went through it. A lot of is quite boring. He gave you the pages that related to conversations we had relative to what the parameters would for a few years anyway. We pretty much held to 2 percent. We may have a differing opinion. I thought about this over the weekend and thought maybe we should just let the department heads be creative and come in with a budget and see what they come in and what they present us and tell us what are your needs and where did you come up with this number, and how does it differ from last year and why. If there are needs, articulate those separately so that we know they're in there or throw out the 2 percent again or some percentage that we can come to a consensus on. Where does everybody want to go on this?

Selectman Nadeau said I just put a creative spin on it whether we should just let the department heads go out. I think they know what our...Chairman Coutu said they know we're tight wads and we know that we want them to have the funds to operate the budget but we don't want any luxuries in the budget. That was my thinking this week when I read through this saying you know we put restrictions so they might as well just flat line the whole thing and say the hell with it, I'm giving up 2 percent how am I going to figure that out. I'm saying come in with a budget. Tell me what your needs are and realistically and if we get sucked in for the lack of a better term, then we're going to go out and sell it. That's my argument. If we don't like it, we're going to tell them no we're taking that out.

Selectman Nadeau thought that would give us a better idea of their needs. If I give you a 2 percent budget increase and...Chairman Coutu noted and I'll inflate my budget by 2 percent. Selectman Nadeau said maybe I need just the same amount as I had last year but by the way I need new doors and new windows on this building. I think they know what we are expecting and what we've expected. I don't think they're going to go running off the reservation and try buying 10 new vehicles. I think we should just allow them to come in with their budgets and explain to us why their budget is up 7 percent and then we can make the decisions of hey that's a little excessive cut this cut that. Chairman Coutu indicated we'll cut it down 14 percent just to teach them a lesson. Selectman Nadeau didn't think I'd go to that extreme but I think we should allow them to - we've been restricting them for quite a few years now. They've gotten creative to figure out ways to get around the loops. Chairman Coutu said provide the services that people have become accustomed to. Selectman Nadeau thought we should let them do their job and see what they come in with. I've always been hey 3 percent, 2 percent that's it. I'm thinking that if they bring me a presented budget that's reasonable that I can bring forward to the voters, I think that's what we need to do.

Selectman Nichols was thinking on the same line. I think departments they know pretty much how you want things to run, how you want to keep the costs down. If you let them figure out their own budget maybe it will still be a decent one that's not over and above and it's got to be something that we can all look at and say all right that sound

reasonable. Do you absolutely need this? If you don't need it, get rid of it. If you absolutely need it, put it on the list. That's my thoughts and I'm only new.

Chairman Coutu trusts that our department heads wouldn't throw in any luxury items. I think they know.

Steve Malizia asked to maybe help you a little bit if this is the direction. I'm just saying that speaking to the department heads, I'd probably say something like department heads to submit a need base budget which would basically articulate you need to justify what that need is. Chairman Coutu stated I have this much salary, this is my salary line. I have this much benefits, that's my benefits. I need this much to repair equipment. Quite frankly, Steve Malizia stated the salary benefits if I may just real quickly, they don't control that unless you tell them cut 10 people. The people are what the people are based on the contracts you've passed, the benefits that we provide. It's a simple mathematical formula. They don't even do that part of it quite frankly. The Finance Department, myself, we'll do that part. I just want to make that clear for anybody who didn't understand that. Unless you give a direction that says get rid of 10 of these, 2 of those, 5 of those, that budget is based on what they've got now.

Selectman Brucker said I like this approach because it could be that there's one department that really has some needs more so than another department. They won't be held to that 2 percent if we tell them all it's going to be 2 percent. I could imagine that there are some departments that might need more than the next one if they can support it. It doesn't have to be the same for everybody.

Selectman Maddox noted you're talking about a \$.17 increase on the tax rate if I did my math at 2 percent. I think that if nothing else, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. We're on our second year of a default budget. I think we need to understand that people are not willing to spend more money until we articulate a reason therefore. I would like to see us go with a total increase of 1 percent and the department heads come in flat and justify above that. Mr. Chairman I think that I would rather see us, again, we have an increase in our mind of 1 percent. We're telling the department heads to come in at zero and articulate where they want to go above that. We will then decide if that is going to be part of our 1 percent. I would rather see us put more items on the warrant article. I'm going to kind of go against our limiting the number of things on the warrant article. I think we need to get a budget that is palatable and we haven't been able to do that at 2 percent. So why are we going to keep doing it hoping that it's going to get better? Let's put some of the things that we would have put in our budget as warrant article items. I can't think of anything right off the top of my head but we're going to have to put new air conditioning in the fire department. If we had put that article as a warrant article rather than trying to put it into the budget. Again, I just see us running up against the default budget again. I don't see how we're going to get past that. Telling them 2 percent historically if you look through this document, that becomes 2.4, or 2.6.

Steve Malizia mentioned that again warrant articles are included. Chairman Coutu said a warrant articles are impacted in these numbers. Don't think that that is our budget increase. When you saw that big jump, we had \$500,000 the voters added on for paving - \$.04 per 25,000. That was a huge chunk. We put it on a separate warrant article but the voters agreed to do it. Selectman Maddox thought that's what I just said Mr. Chairman. Chairman Coutu knows but you contradict yourself. You prefaced your remarks by saying, and correct me if I'm wrong, you preface your remark by saying that we think by doing the same thing year in and year out we're going to get different results. We're not. The thing that we've done year in and year out is we set a certain percentage and you're saying instead of 2 let's make it 1. Let's do it that way. We're saying let them be more creative. Let them come in and tell us what their needs are. Selectman Maddox said and we're all going to agree that it's a wonderful thing and we're going to be at 3 ½ percent. I'm going to be the one person saying no. I can see that. Again, I think that all of us are thinking that these are good things to do. No one is going to dispute that on this board but there's only finite number of dollars.

Selectman Nadeau said then maybe we do decide to pick things off and put them onto warrant articles. Maybe limiting it was wrong or saying to limit it was wrong. Chairman Coutu stated it depends on capital needs. We're not going to put frivolous little things on a warrant article. I would have to be a major expenditure to be able to do that.

Selectman Nadeau thought what would be like a major expenditure and what you're thinking of is if we needed to put new doors and windows and a roof on the police station and we know that. That's a major capital improvement and its \$68,000 to do that. We put it on the warrant and tell the voters hey listen this is a priority thing. If we put it in the budget and it fails, then we're not going to get that done. I think when we this year put these capital reserve funds if we sell off some of our land and we can get hot on doing that, put some money into those capital reserve funds, we won't have to run into this problem.

Chairman Coutu said also because I don't want the general public out there to think that we don't have the where with all that if the police department - I'll use your hypothetical - the roof started leaking, there's nothing in the budget to fix that. There's no mandate, no money. We're going to fix it. We're going to find the money. We have reserved funds that we can use for an emergency purpose. I don't want people to think that well how are they going to fix it if there's no money. Selectman Nadeau thought proper planning ahead...Chairman Coutu agreed. That's why having capital reserve funds which you Ben the strongest advocate on this Board and we have to prove this year, we need to start

replenishing them and put some money in there. Selectman Nadeau thought just letting them bring us in their budgets they know what we want and we want zero. If they give us their needs and we find them, then I need more money in these line items because gas is going up, fuel is going up, then we're going to find these things out. I think they should be the ones bringing us the budget. I've always been a big proponent of capping it at 2 percent or 3 percent. Let them be creative. I think they know where the voters are and what they're going to do. Hopefully they come up with some new creative ideas and see where it goes. We might spend 3 weeks budgets. We don't know that. Let's let the department heads be a little creative this year and see where it goes.

Chairman Coutu knows where you stand. You're firm at the 1 percent. Selectman Nadeau said he's firm at zero. Selectman Maddox said department heads zero and then this Board has up to 1 percent that we would take of their things that they told us above and beyond that we felt we were supporting. They're going to come in flat. Chairman Coutu noted you would not want to see the overall budget increase no more than 1 percent. Selectman Maddox stated department heads come in at zero and then we decide of our 1 percent whatever that dollar is where we're going to put it. Chairman Coutu asked how are we going to know where we're going to put it if they don't come in and articulate what their needs are. Steve Malizia said that they'd have their needs separate correct? Selectman Maddox said they'd come in with a flat budget and say I need to spend \$50,000 on...

Chairman Coutu indicated it's the same thing we did last year except we were at 2 percent last year. Isolate a need outside of their budget and articulate that if we were going to approve it. The training in the Fire Department was an example we decided to fund. Where are with that? Weren't we going to fund the rest of the training for the Fire Department? Steve Malizia said we moved all those monies. I don't know where exactly it is but we put the money. There was a motion at a recent meeting that we move more money into that.

Selectman Brucker said the citizens must understand that we've been living with a default budget for 2 or 3 years? Steve Malizia noted this year is the second year in a row of default budgets. Selectman Brucker stated we're trying to go up something. Chairman Coutu said we opened the senior center this year with no money because the voters didn't give us any and they'll keep doing it. Selectman Brucker indicated that they're seeing that everything is going up and we have to pay those bills. I would think they'd expect that there will be something. Not that it's going to be some huge amount.

Chairman Coutu asked bottom line you agree with Selectman Nadeau and I? Selectman Brucker said yeah. Selectman Nichols agreed. Chairman Coutu said we'll have them come in with a budget. We're not asking them to be creative if they feel they can level fund their budget, that would be recommended. If they have needs, they can articulate it. If they need 5 percent for whatever reason more, they better justify it because we may cut it down 10. Steve Malizia stated again a need base budget which implies that you're justifying that need. Okay. It's a consensus.

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Maddox - Thank you Mr. Chairman. I guess I want to say that the process works. It's not always a pretty and smooth routine but somebody wasn't happy with what we were doing in the Industrial Park and they came in and gave us their input. I think that, again, we rely on the in house staff but we're still answerable to the people that circle our names on the ballots. It was good to see that we at least waited, got some input. I think that there's a balance there and hopefully it will work out to everybody's benefit.

Next item Mr. Chairman, Selectman Maddox said you and I met in regards to Zach field. It is still moving. It is still moving glacially but it is moving. Hopefully by our next meeting we'll have some better progress to report. It is just fascinating when you get into getting free money how costly it is.

While we're on that subject, Chairman Coutu said we didn't just meet. We met with...first of all let me say thank you. You took the initiative to put this thing together. We met with the engineering firm that was presently overseeing the project and kudos to you for pulling all of the parties together. It was great that you people could accommodate me at 5 o'clock in the evening and you took the time to get all of this done. Thank you so much. It was eye opening. The roles were reversed. I was the good cop. You were the bad cop. I think the message was loud and clear. I said to Mr. Lathrop today that I think the message that they ought to - obviously we got them to agree that I say we couldn't proceed without a firm plan and a cost analysis so that we can go to the Foundation and say look our recommendation is. Back off or let's go full throttle. We'll see if we need the Mayor of Nashua if we need some more money, we can work that. Without you and your leadership on this, I would have no direction where to go. It was an eye opener and I thank you for your expertise and for taking the time to pull all the parties together.

Selectman Maddox had one other item. It kind of goes in with our Fiscal 2016 budget parameters. When the Fire Department we looked at the salaries. We went out to 6 towns. Donna gave it to me and I thought I had it and I lost it. What I would like to do Mr. Chairman is task the Town Administrator to go to those 6 towns and - do you remember who they were Steve? They were similar in basic...Steve Malizia said it's like Londonderry, Merrimack, Pelham. It's sort of our geographic area - not Nashua, not Manchester. Selectman Maddox said for the purposes of seeing where our non union personnel sit compared to those other communities. This is the kind of thing I think that should be a

warrant article but we can articulate it. It's not we believe it is not we really think they should get. We can show that the other 6 towns much like we did with the contracts for the firefighters, this is what they are paying the Fire Chief, the Town Administrator, whatever and see where Hudson sits. I think that, again, we need facts rather than feelings. This would give us that ability to at least say to people of those 6 towns Hudson is at the bottom or we are in the middle. We don't know. I think that this is the kind of information that we should be gathering Sir.

Chairman Coutu indicated that those numbers are readily available. I see them on line. Selectman Maddox said we need to put them on one piece of paper. I'm asking the Board for their consensus to have him do that. Steve Malizia indicated that NHMA no longer publishes on an annual basis their survey. I think the last one they did was 2012. So it's not something that's as readily available. Chairman Coutu thought they were doing it bi-annually because there wasn't one for 2013. What made me look into it was the comparison between Hudson, Massachusetts, and Hudson, New Hampshire, for your position he gets a car and another \$30,000 more than you. Steve Malizia thought it's more than \$30,000. Chairman Coutu stated the town is half the size. Steve Malizia said it's not as readily available as it used to be or as it had been. They just don't publish it. It doesn't mean we can't try to get it. I'm just saying it's not...Selectman Nadeau said maybe they have and just don't publish it.

Chairman Coutu asked if we were looking for comparable municipalities. Steve Malizia stated well we know the towns. Selectman Maddox said we picked the 6 and they were, again, similar in size located here and not out in Keene. Steve Malizia said like Merrimack, Londonderry, Pelham. It was towns of approximately our size. Selectman Maddox thought Goffstown, Milford I think. Chairman Coutu said it's got to be on their websites what they pay their...Steve Malizia said no not readily. It is not. If you can find it because people get all mixed in, no. Trust me it's not easy to devine.

Selectman Maddox was just throwing it out there Mr. Chairman as part of our parameters.

Chairman Coutu asked if everybody agreed. The Board agreed.

Selectman Nichols - I have nothing to report tonight. Thank you.

Selectman Nadeau - I have a couple of things. The Highway Department is doing their usual summer maintenance cutting back the brush on the sides of the roads, clearing out, putting up stop signs, taking stop signs down. One of the things that you'll see getting done in the next week or two is we're getting to the start of school. Tomorrow night they'll be striping the roads the yellow center stripes. They'll be doing some paving on Melendy Road the week of the 18<sup>th</sup>. So that will all be taken care of. People have been getting very concerned that we're getting close to school time and Melendy Road not being operable. So be aware that the week of the 18<sup>th</sup> there will be some traffic delays in that area.

Over the weekend, Selectman Nadeau was watching Channel 9 news and I became very alarmed over the blue/green algae at Ottarnic Pond. I don't know who notified Channel 9 that there was blue/green algae in the pond whether the State does that automatically or how they got to that determination and who they told in the Town of Hudson. When I see something that alarming on Channel 9 news and don't know that that's what's going on in Hudson, there's a lot of residents that are affected by using that boat launch, that use that as their dog goes and gets a drink out of it because they live right on the edge of it. It wasn't on our website until today or yesterday. Steve Malizia indicated either yesterday or today when I was notified. Selectman Nadeau didn't know who did the testing. Steve Malizia presumed the State of New Hampshire. Selectman Nadeau asked if we had asked them to come down to test. Was there a reason that our Health Officer...Steve Malizia said no.

Laurie Stevens noted its periodic testing that they do.

Selectman Nadeau asked did they notify you of their results on when? Laurie Stevens said I was a little surprised too. Actually I found out from our consulting engineer which was nice of him to tell me but I would have liked to have found out myself. So I looked into the matter and Amy Smagula from DES sent an e-mail on Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. This is the first I think the Town knew about it. That went to some members of the Conservation Commission but it did not go to me, or Mr. Webster, or anyone here at the table. I called this woman and she's on vacation.

Chairman Coutu didn't mean to interrupt you but let me just say this one more time. This Town - some people in this Town were notified on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Laurie Stevens said on July 31<sup>st</sup> there's an e-mail here and there's some members of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Battis is on here. Chairman Coutu asked if they said what date they did the testing - as a result of tests done on such and such a date. Ms. Stevens said yes. I just did surveys of the ponds today. So it was on that day that they knew. Maps of my findings are attached but they weren't attached to how I got this e-mail because the e-mail didn't come directly to me. So then she goes through the two different ponds. So number one I would think myself, or Steve, or someone else should be alerted not just a Commission. I would think a Town employee should be notified so I did have a problem with that. How the paper found out it about it, they mention Carson and she's from DES. I'm pretty sure the paper heard about it from a member at DES - an employee

at DES. I talked to that employee today too. I said to her what's going on? The e-mail says something and then we saw the warning.

Selectman Nadeau found this extremely alarming. When we get E-Coli tests back from - we do our own for Robinson Pond through the Rec. Director. He notifies us right away. When he's coming back from Concord with the test results, he listen the results are this. It goes right up on our Town website and bang not concerning to me. When I saw this on Channel 9, I jumped out of bed because I do go fishing down there. I do take my son down there. If I would have went down there and saw a sign posted on the 31<sup>st</sup> let alone finding out about it on Channel 9 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> of August.

Chairman Coutu asked Selectman Nadeau if he's seen the pond. You would have know when you got there. It is slimy. Selectman Nadeau knows what it is. I'm very familiar with it. I've noticed it at Robinson in years past. Chairman Coutu didn't know if Selectman Nadeau went down to see Ottarnic? I did. Selectman Nadeau indicated the next morning I was there at 6 o'clock. I was looking for the sign myself. I went into the trailer park and didn't find anything there which I thought was rather alarming for those residents because they go out and do their stuff. In the morning some of them do go over with the dog. If the State is the one that sent that e-mail, I'd like them to add the Town Administrator, the Town Engineer, and the Health Officer to that list. I would even say the Fire Chief and Police Chief because if it comes in on the weekend, they could at least notify Lisa or somebody to put it onto our website immediately. I think this was very, very dangerous and I'm glad to find out that it was even earlier than I was alarmed to find out. That's all I have this evening.

Selectman Brucker - I really have nothing to report except I want to apologize to anyone who e-mailed me. I've been having trouble with the Town e-mail and found out today that it's something that the IT Department needs to take care of. I will be getting back to anybody who has e-mailed me and is looking for a return e-mail.

Selectman Nadeau indicated I'm also in the same boat.

Selectman Brucker didn't know - I'm on the Conservation Commission but there maybe something in my mailbox about that and I'm sorry. I apologize for that too. I had no meetings and nothing to report.

Selectman Coutu - I want to concur with Selectman Brucker. For those of you watching, you'll see that my laptop is here. I had extreme amount of difficulty opening up my Town web page. I played around with the computer. Not that I'm a genius by any sense of the imagination. I must have pressed some button right. I got to some 32 or 33 e-mails pertaining to the Town. I was able to respond to them all on Sunday. Yesterday I went back in and the whole thing froze. I had maybe another dozen that I received between Sunday and the day yesterday. A lot of them are things that I'm trying to work on. Youth baseball I don't want them to think I've forgot. Like you if anybody didn't get a response, it's not because - and Selectman Nadeau also told me that he was having the same difficulty. In my case, we were able to solve it and it wasn't the Town's fault. Some of it was mine. I understand what had happened. As a result of that, they discovered other things and they're going to working on them. It might be something that affects you.

Chairman Coutu wanted to relay - you may or may not have some of this. Did any of you receive an e-mail from a confused resident? Selectman Nadeau said I got a letter addressed to...Chairman Coutu stated relative to Good Will and Stop N Shop. Steve Malizia said Selectman Nadeau got it, I got it, you got it. I believe I copied I believe everybody. Chairman Coutu indicated the point is this. It's an unsigned letter. This was a letter that was mailed to me. It's an unsigned letter and it's telling us that - I take exception to what was said. Many of the Wason Street residents - there's no way of documenting this. Why I'm reading it is because I want to point something out. They're very upset about the possibility of a Good Will center moving into Stop N Shop location. Now libertarians would love this. "Nothing says welcome to Hudson like a huge Wal-Mart and Good Will to welcome visitors and potential residents." They go on to say that they pay taxes, and we want good schools for our children, and I wish Hudson would realize what it takes to better our town.

Chairman Coutu indicated one of the things that it takes to better our town is a healthy business community. We can't dictate the types of businesses we want to come into our town. We can't write legislation to exclude Wal-Mart, or Walgreens, or K-Mart, or whatever and nor should we. The Stop N Shop property is a unique situation. The land is owned by the original developer and the building was built and is owned by Stop N Shop. Stop N Shop has the right to sell their property. They sold that building to Good Will with good faith. I've watched the operation. I went up and looked at the operation. I don't know if any of you have gone up and looked at the building they have in Amherst almost identical to Stop N Shop only maybe 1/4<sup>th</sup> the size. This is going to be probably their largest retail center. Very clean, very good looking building, nice property and it's an opportunity for people to buy second hand and in a lot of cases, brand new clothing that people have donated to Good Will for whatever reason. I know. I've received a gift and never wore it. My wife would say do you want me to donate it. I said yeah just get rid of it. The tags are still on it. I think she just did 4 dresses that still had tags on them. She never wore them. I won't say who bought them because they'll be made but it's better than - it affords people an opportunity to buy clothing at a reasonable price. I take exception 1) because it was not signed and 2) to suggest that we should dictate who can open a business. I have

enough problems in this town dealing with some of the decisions that are made that affect our businesses and the negative and they should have gone the other way. I'll get into that.

Chairman Coutu said I received another one - I don't know if you received an e-mail relative to mistakes that we made that we might want to fix. I hope that a lot of this has to do with Executive Drive and Hampshire Drive. I think that I would hope that this individual - he did sign his e-mail. I know who he is. I've had a lot of conversations with him in the past about various things that we are going to resolve those issues tonight. These are just e-mails that came to me at the last minute and there's quite a few more that I haven't heard response to. I think we resolved the issues on Hampshire Drive.

For me, Chairman Coutu indicated the silliest read of the week. I had to bring this up. It's in the Hudson/Litchfield News. God bless Len Lathrop. The silliest read of the week. I love this stuff. I tell him you ought to get rid of this column because it's nonsense especially now it's all about who likes Obama and who doesn't like Obama. I like the local flavor better. That was the intent of the column. This writer is upset at the Hudson/Litchfield News for not covering the Market Basket story. They suggest in the article, they suggest in the article that perhaps Arthur S. must have paid off HLN not to cover the story. I mean is that why Len Lathrop is driving a new Mercedes? Did he pay them off? Len Lathrop doesn't know Arthur S. any more than I do except that I know the family well. I mean this is nonsense but I had to bring it up. It's a silly read and I thought it was funny. I said I'm going to copy that.

Relative to ordinances, Chairman Coutu said he was concerned about the signature issue but I'll live with it. There's an ordinance that I think that you and I Selectman Nadeau ought to probably put our names to relative to a decision that we both agreed we thought was wrong and wrong to business relative to the sign and the existing sign only because he owns 3 separate lots. He's paying taxes on 3 separate lots. He's an outstanding business man. Pays his taxes, keeps his property very nice. It's right on Lowell Road. Because his business is in a separate lot in the middle tucked in between, he's not allowed to attach his business name on a sign that he owns and pays good money for on Lowell Road. I thought that was abhorrent that they did not allow him to do that. I think that they should have allowed them. They should have given him the exception. We need to be more friendly to our businesses. We've been advocating that for so long. This was a simple request. The size is 2 ½ feet by a foot and a half. That's all he wanted on his own sign and it was just because it was lit and it was just going to have his business name on it. That was it. A simple thing to pass but they didn't pass it.

Selectman Nadeau was going to stop the Chairman about the Good Will letter. I did receive that letter. You and me received them as Chairman and Vice Chairman. The rest of you guys did get CC'd on that letter. When I talk to people and when I received these letters, this letter to me does nothing for me. It doesn't change anything that I've thought about because what residents on Wason Road? Number one the letter wasn't even mailed from Hudson, New Hampshire. The postmark was Massachusetts. Maybe the person works in Massachusetts. I don't know. They didn't put their name on it. I don't know who wrote it. It might have been somebody from Massachusetts that sent it up to us cuz they don't like Good Will. I don't know. If I have a name that I can talk to and respond back to them, I can't respond to that letter. The people on Wason Road had an opportunity to go before the Planning Board when it was on the agenda. When we talked about it, they have the opportunity to come in here during public input and tell us I oppose this and maybe you could have your Board discuss it and go forward to the Planning Board with a negative vote from the Board of Selectmen. Nobody came in and asked us that. Nobody came in and told us that. To get this letter after all the stuffs done just doesn't do anything. I'd like to know who sends me a letter.

The other thing Selectman Nadeau forgot to bring up is Old Home Days is next weekend. One of the things that's not happening this year in Hudson is there will be no Pumpkinfest. One of the things I did last year during Pumpkinfest is I did a food drive for the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry. I did a fill the truck food drive. Very, very successful. I intended on doing it again this year. I was saddened to hear that there'd be no Pumpkinfest because over the years Logan, Bailey, and the people in Hudson have become accustomed to a nice fall fair in Hudson and it was always very reasonable. People know that I will be doing a food drive - canned foods at Old Home Days. There will be a truck in the front to fill. I'm not sure exactly which truck we'll have yet but we'll have a truck to fill. All the food will go to the Hudson food pantry for Hudson residents. So if anybody brings anything down, they'll see me or somebody there. I have to take a little time off on Saturday to do a couple things. I will be there most of the weekend. If people want to bring gift cards so that we can use them at Christmas time, feel free to bring down the gift cards. We'll secure those at the Hills House. There's a lot of things that we're in need of - toiletries, paper towels and that type of stuff. It's not just canned goods that we give out over there. If people want to donate and bring it to Old Home Days or if they'd like to get a hold of me, I can arrange for me to get it from them during that time. Thank you.

Chairman Coutu noted that Old Home Days are August 14, 15, 16, and 17 of next week. It starts Thursday night from 5 to 11. I will be there Thursday, Friday, Saturday and I will be there also on Sunday but I'm judging the voice. I know you agreed to do the chili. I am declining to do the chili because I'll be doing the Voice. There's an opening for a judge. The chili contest on Sunday - get a hold of Lisa Nute.

## 8. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Brucker, 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 (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant, carried 5-0 by roll call.

Chairman Coutu indicated that Nonpublic Session is being entered into at 9:44 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 opened the regular session at 11:35 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to terminate Town Engineer Laurie Stevens effective August 6, 2014, carried 5-0.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 11:36 p.m. by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger E. Coutu, Chairman

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Benjamin J. Nadeau, Selectman

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Richard J. Maddox, Selectman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Brucker, Selectman

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Pat Nichols, Selectman