

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the April 22, 2014 Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Attorney-Client Session, pursuant to RSA 91-A:2 I
(not open to the public)

7:00 p.m.

(or immediately following Attorney-Client Session)
Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Coutu the meeting of April 22, 2014 at 7:28 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Selectman Brucker.

3. ATTENDANCE

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

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Donna Graham, Executive Assistant; Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director; Lt. Kevin DiNapoli; Laurie Stevens, Town Engineer; Jim Michaud, Assistant Assessor

4. PUBLIC INPUT

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

Leo Bernard - 3 Bungalow Ave. Just here to give you an update on the Earth Day cleanup that we did on Old Derry Road and Greeley Street. It went very well. We have signs out there. I'm leaving them out there for a week so they know we cleaned the road over in that area. It went very well. All the bags were picked up by Highway on Monday and went very well. We had a lot of turnouts, had a lot of people. Planet Aide a group of them came and helped out. It was a great turnout with a very good cleanup. I just thought I'd let you guys know. I don't have the total numbers yet. As soon as we get them, we'll pass them on to you so you'll know.

Chairman Coutu indicated one of the concerns that was expressed at one of your meetings Leo was that in one of the areas you were going to do - you were off 111 cleaning. Mr. Bernard stated no we were off of 102. We did Old Derry Road all the way to the...Chairman Coutu asked did you have to have assistance with the police and if so, was it successful. Mr. Bernard stated we didn't have to have any assistance by the police because we were far enough in. We didn't start 102. We started inwards and we started I think more where Mrs. Charbonneau's driveway was starting that way. Everything went well. I kept driving up and down just to make sure everything was okay and cleared. We have the signs we had made and put them out saying this road was cleaned by the Hudson Recycling Committee.

Chairman Coutu asked how many volunteers approximately did you have. Mr. Bernard said we had a big group. I don't know the exact number. Everybody signed in. We're doing the count. Like I said, I'll have the numbers for you as soon as I can. Just thought I'd let you know everything went well. We did do the two streets - Greeley Street and Old Derry all the way up from the speedway on. It was a great turnout. A lot of people showed up like I said. Chairman Coutu said be sure to thank everyone who volunteered. We really appreciate it. Their next one is going to be off 111 I believe. Mr. Bernard didn't know when the next one is. We have a group that's talking about it. I'll make sure I have it put on the agenda before I come in and let you know. Chairman Coutu thanked Leo. I appreciate it.

5. NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

a) Resignation of Pat Nichols as a member from the Benson Park Committee

Chairman Coutu indicated that we've received a letter of resignation from Selectman Patricia Nichols who as a private citizen was a member of the Benson Park Committee. Because she is serving on the Board of Selectmen, she will no longer be able to serve in that capacity on the Committee.

Motion by Selectman Brucker, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to accept Pat Nichols resignation as a member from the Benson Park Committee with the Board's thanks and appreciation, carried 5-0.

b) Interviews

1) Benson Park Committee - (2 vacancies, 1 member term to expire 4/30/2016; 1 alternate to expire 4/30/2016)

Shawn Jasper (incumbent alternate)

Chairman Coutu indicated I had spoken with Shawn Jasper who indicated to me that he was interested in a position on the Benson Park Committee. He was going to be somewhere this evening and I told him that I don't think we need to familiarize

ourselves with him unless there is objection. I would entertain a motion to suspend the rules for that nomination. I'm not going to make it. If there's no objection, I will. If there is an objection, I will not nominate him.

Selectman Nadeau said there's been a few other people that have had interest in that. I'd just like to post the position as we normally would. Chairman Coutu noted I have no indication that anybody is interested. We have no applications. Selectman Nadeau said we just got the resignation tonight. It wouldn't have been put out there. Chairman Coutu asked what is the wish of the Board advertise for the position or go ahead with this nomination. I will accede to the majority of the Board.

Selectman Nichols said to go ahead if there's other people that are interested. They should have a fair shot at it.

Selectman Brucker agreed with that.

Chairman Coutu indicated we will advertise for the position.

- 2) Recreation Committee - (1 vacancy, 1 member term to expire 4/30/16)

Joanne McGovern

Chairman Coutu asked if Joanne McGovern was here. She's not here. She indicated that she would be here right? We will move on.

Selectman Nadeau had one quick question. Going back to Benson's. Is Shawn an Alternate now? Steve Malizia said yes. Ms. Graham said he'd like to move up to a member. There's a member and an alternate position available right now. Selectman Nadeau said I would move him up to the member seat seeing that he's already an alternate.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Shawn Jasper as a member of the Benson Park Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2016, carried 5-0.

- 3) Recycling/Energy Committee - (3 vacancies, 1 member term to expire 4/30/17; 1 alternate term to expire 4/30/2015; 1 alternate term to expire 4/30/2016)

Debra Putnam - 59 Rangers Drive

Chairman Coutu asked Ms. Putnam could you tell us why you applied for that position and how you can contribute on that committee.

Debra Putnam indicated we moved into Hudson in 1986. So I've been a resident for many years but until January 2nd of this year I was not only raising my family, I was working full time but I retired. So now I have time to contribute back to the community of which I've been a member for so many years. During our time in Hudson, we did spend four years in Ireland. My husband was with Digital Equipment Corporation at that time. We happened to have a little bungalow that we lived in for those four years right on the seashore. I as an American organized the shore cleanup crews once a year. It was very well receptive. I had to wait two years of residency being there in the community for two years because it's a very small community. Basically one convenience store, a school, and not even a gas pump. It was very well received and as most of the homes either looked out on this inlet or were right on the inlet, they seemed to all enjoy the result of their hard work.

Now coming into Ms. Putnam's time where I have the free time say we say to do things. I was involved in the cleanup committee's work last fall when we did Windham Road and Speare Road. Of course living on Rangers Drive, Windham Road is a frequently traveled road for our family members but it is also a terrible spot for trash. Specific - liquor bottles and beer cans. I'd like to help out in whatever way I can.

Selectman Maddox asked did you work on the cleanup this weekend. Ms. Putnam said yes. Selectman Maddox asked how much recycling material was in all of the trash that you picked up. Ms. Putnam said the vast majority was recyclables. For instance, my husband and I went out after the 2 hour formal cleanup and we worked on Windham Road up Barretts Hill a little bit. We had 5 bags of recyclables and 1 bag of garbage. I should caveat that in that the recyclable bags that were nicely printed and color coded blue so crews knew which bag contained what were quite small compared to the garbage bags. The garbage bags were traditional big black bags with the cross hatch type fibers in it so they would not burst. Still unfortunately for the police there is a lot evident of me that there's a lot of under aged drinking in this town. They just dump the bottles right out the windows.

Chairman Coutu said trust me, a lot of adults do that. Ms. Putnam said that's even worse though then. Why don't they take it home and put it in their recycling bins. Chairman Coutu stated you should come to my store at night and walk by around the back. It's all adults throwing their beer cans, whiskey bottles, and wine bottles on the ground and there's a dumpster right there and they throw them on the ground. Those are adults not kids. I wouldn't blame the younger population. There's certainly a number of them but litter is strewn by a lot of people for whatever reason.

Selectman Maddox had a follow up question. Since your enthusiasm is quite apparent, what do you see us needing to do to get those numbers? They were going well and it seems like all of a sudden our recycling numbers are starting to drop back. Ms. Putnam didn't feel comfortable sharing my thoughts at this time. I think I need to learn more from the committee that's already established. Obviously they've tried different things over the years. The usual thing is I think Cheryl Freed does excellent articles in the HLN. I think it goes back to what you've said is that it's like whether people care about the environment or don't care about the environment, sometimes it's very hard to convert the people that don't care about the environment to caring about the environment. I'm not sure I have all the answers except that I will have the time to perhaps meet with apartment complex. If they have condo association meetings, I could go to those meetings and try to talk to those memberships as their own condo members get together. I was surprised that we only reached a 30 percent recycling level. On the street I live on, it looks like we've got 95 percent recycling. When I've asked about this in the past, there's "certain complexes" that were not perhaps as compliant as individual other areas. I'd love to toss around ideas. If it's of the matter of maybe having people that are available during the normal work day when I'm available but many others are not. Most families I feel today - I see it in all different aspects of life, they don't have as many free hours to donate to their community, to their schools.

Chairman Coutu thought one of the things that you ought to consider, I think education is the key. I think producing a television program on recycling would be an excellent way to promote recycling in the Town of Hudson. We need to reach out to our community.

Selectman Nichols asked you're looking for the member term and not the alternate right. Ms. Putnam said right. I know it's the fourth Monday of each month and I still work 2 weeks a year but I think there's no conflict there. The only other thing I thought of is you're right - education. Perhaps thinking of ways of making it clear to families how easy it is to recycle. I just got two inexpensive flip top trash cans that you have in your kitchens. I put two in my half bath right next to the kitchen. I'm not going out through that freezing cold in the middle of the winter putting that one bottle out into the recycling bin which is not something I'm going to want to do in the middle of the winter. I'm just putting it into the bin and twice a week you go dump the bin on your way out into the garage anyway.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Debra Putnam as a member of the Recycling/Energy Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2017, carried 5-0.

Chairman Coutu told Leo you've got a firecracker there. Keep that fuse lit Leo.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

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

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

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Excavation Tax Warrant - Map 141, Lot 001; Map 150, Lot 013; Map 122, Lot 002, w/recommendation to approve
- 2) Residence in Industrial or Commercial Zones - Map 198, Lot 17; Map 198, Lot 26; Map 204, Lot 3; Map 210, Lot 8; Map 234, Lot 31; Map 234, Lot 42; Map 204, Lot 1, w/recommendation to approve
- 3) Elderly Exemptions - Map 178, Lot 013, Sub 115; Map 183, Lot 056; Map 165, Lot 141, Sub 224; Map 216, Lot 014, Sub 053; Map 178, Lot 013, Sub 002; Map 216, Lot 014, Sub 096; Map 198, Lot 076; w/recommendation to approve
- 4) Disabled Exemption - Map 178, Lot 013, Sub 069, w/recommendation to approve
- 5) Veteran Tax Credits - Map 211, Lot 033; Map 182, Lot 056, Lot 002; Map 148, Lot 040, Sub 026; Map 175, Lot 009; w/recommendation to approve
- 6) Blind Exemption - Map 165, Lot 141, Sub 135, w/recommendation to approve

B. Water/Sewer Items - NONE

C. Licenses & Permits

- 1) Request to Solicit Funds - Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US
- 2) Raffle Permit - St. Kathryn Church

D. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the 3/25/2014 meeting
- 2) Minutes of the 4/1/2014 meeting

E. Calendar

- 4/23 7:00 Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room - CANCELLED
- 4/24 3:00 Trustees of Trust Fund - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 4/24 7:30 Zoning Brd of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 4/28 7:00 Recycling/Energy Cte - BOS Meeting Room
- 5/01 6:30 Recreation Cte - BOS Meeting Room
- 5/01 7:00 Benson Park Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 5/06 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
- 5/08 7:00 Budget Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 5/08 7:30 Zoning Brd of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 5/12 7:00 Conservation Cmsn - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 5/13 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
- 5/14 7:00 Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 5/15 7:00 Benson Park Cte - BOS Meeting Room
- 5/20 7:00 Cable Utility Cte - BOS Meeting Room
- 5/21 5:00 Municipal Utility Cte - BOS Meeting Room
- 5/21 7:00 Senior Affairs Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 5/22 3:00 Trustees of Trust Fund - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 5/22 7:30 Zoning Brd of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 5/26 7:00 Recycling/Energy Cte - BOS Meeting Room
- 5/27 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
- 5/28 7:00 Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Fiscal Year 2015 Default Budget

Chairman Coutu said what I would like to do is obviously I'm going to introduce the Town Administrator but I think that after we hear what he has to say, we have a decision to make. It has been proposed by the Budget Committee and some of us have talked about it. I know that I spoke about it very favorably election night as a matter of fact that maybe we ought to consider going back to the voters with a revised budget. In the interim, we need to make that decision. In the interim, the Finance Director and if you want to step up Ms. Carpentier because you're going to be involved in this discussion I'm sure and the Town Administrator worked together with the department heads and came in with a revised operating budget - not necessarily a revised but a line item amendments to offset some of the impact that the default budget has put us to. For the record, we as a result of the vote of the taxpayers by a vote of a margin of 59 votes, our budget was defeated and as a result of that, we are going to operate with a little over \$500,000 less than what we requested. In those funds, we requested monies to operate fully for a full year the senior center. That money is no longer in the budget. There are other areas that we had asked for monies or we anticipated having monies and was one of them the HVAC?

Steve Malizia indicated we're taking care of that this year. Chairman Coutu said we had a new air conditioner because the heating and air system at the Fire Department is caput and needed to be replaced. We're going to try to take care of that in this year's budget with some surplus money. These are just a couple of items that were in the budget by the voters by a margin of only 59 votes did not provide for us. So we have a choice. One - we go back to the voters with a revised budget or two - we make some sacrifices in this upcoming budget and move some money around to try to fund the things that we feel that we have set as priorities and if we don't elect to go to the ballot with a new budget, then the decision has to be made by this Board whether we approve the suggested line item transfers by the Town Administrator and the Finance Director or we further amend that. With that Mr. Malizia.

Not to belabor anything as you're well aware, Steve Malizia stated you've looked at this back in March - March 25th specifically where you're presented with the document you have in front of you. So nothing has changed from this document. It is the same document that you were presented before. The challenge is the budget that was passed is \$500,000 less than the budget that was requested and approved by the Board, the Budget Committee, and the Deliberative Session. When the department heads got together, the Finance Director and myself, we tried to look at what we thought were the Board's priorities based on actions you took during the budget process and we tried to accomplish some of those tasks. Some of those tasks include the operation of the new senior center. That money was in the requested budget but would not be in the default budget. As you're aware, some of the fit up equipment are being generously donated by the Hudson Council on Aging so they've reduced some of the number that we would have needed to raise which I think started at about \$120,000. Now we're just looking to make up I think it's somewhere \$60,000 I believe and we talked about other things such as the Trustees of the Trust Funds. They wanted to use a new investment firm that will yield a much higher interest rate. We talked about such things as the legal aide in the Police Department. Some of the IT work that we need to make sure we can still do video conferencing with the Police Department as well as value defense. That's some funds we raise legally to protect the Town's commercial industrial value base. In exchange, we had items that were given back to us in the default budget. For example, the salary for an Assistant Town Administrator which you had cut out of the budget, certainly money for the Town Poor which the Town has reduced because of the need or the lack of, removing the skate park for example from service to save some money. Those items were in the default budget. Hence about \$206,000 is being transferred from items we don't need to items that we had

thought the Board had identified as a priority. Again, this was talked about at the last meeting on March 25th. So what you have in front of you is a recommendation to make transfers to do the things we - department heads - believe are priorities. Each department also will have to look at their own budget because there are some cuts to their budgets. For example, the police was down \$110,000 out of a \$7 million budget and they'll have to make some adjustments as the year goes on. Some of those adjustments may be not filling vacancies for a period of time and things of that nature. You have a pretty voluminous document in front of you that most of you have seen before. We're trying to initiate the conversation as to what direction the Board would like to go in. Again, the Finance Director is here so if there are any questions, we can try to answer them for you.

Selectman Nadeau said one of the things with being short \$500,000, a lot of things that are getting put off are maintenance type issues. It's just bringing us further and further into the hole with some of the stuff that we're putting off. Lucky enough we're able to do the heating and ventilation this year. You can't predict how bad the winters are going to be, or flooding, or anything else. I just find it very hard. One of the things we're cutting out of here is crossing guards. I think that's a safety issue. I think that's a problem. It's bad enough trying to get out onto 102 with the school buses. I think it's going to cause traffic tie ups and a lot of problems. This is one of the things that the Police Chief offered to give up. It's not one of the better things that I would have given up. It's going to be very, very hard and people are going to find out the hard way of what the consequences were for not passing the budget. It's definitely a safety issue with the crossing guards. I think that the money for the skate park is fine. We move some money around in the Rec. Department. I just think that's one of the biggest things that stands out right now in my mind.

For the record, Chairman Coutu indicated the recommendation that was made and the transfer and reallocation - this was something that the Police Chief I believe offered but I don't think that that was part of...Selectman Nadeau stated I'm showing zero on my sheet.

Steve Malizia clarified by stating there were things that were offered. Some of those things were identified as priorities of the Board at some point because at some point, you took a proactive approach to putting them into the budget. The first page or the second page - the actual transfers - some of those items don't specifically belong to the Police Department, the Fire Department. They're Board priorities. In each department, the Finance Director can jump in, for example the Fire Department is going to have a budget cut. We're not going to send somebody to paramedic school. We may not replace some of the turnout gear. We still have turnout gear we just may not replace some of it. The HVAC which he wouldn't be able to do, we've pulled into this year because we've managed to find some pockets of money from salary savings or what not that we can do that. What the Police Chief is articulated is he has \$110,000 shortfall based on the default budget that passed versus what he asked for. He's not going to fill a dispatch position if I'm correct. That's his plan at this point in time and he's looking at the crossing guards. I don't know if he's going to do all the crossing guards, some of the crossing guards if he does it at all. He may develop some vacancies in his department. He may get some favorability there. That was his idea of what he was going to do.

Selectman Nadeau said I see it in here as a zero so I'm assuming that that's...Steve Malizia stated that's in his specific - the stuff we're talking about here on the top page were priorities of the Board of Selectmen. Hence that's why those were highlighted there. This isn't everything that's going to be affected in the budget. Other budgets are going to be affected but these were priorities at least as articulated to us that were important to the Board.

Chairman Coutu shared the same concern you had Selectman Nadeau especially relative to the school crossing guards. In my discussion with the Police Chief relative to that offer from him, look we all have to contribute something to try to help offset the shortfall due to the default budget. He said basically the same thing that you said in your opening remarks is there are unintended consequences when people make decisions to not support a budget that we've vetted, that the Budget Committee vetted, and we articulated there's a need for this kind of money to operate our municipality any by 59 votes, we lost. The Chief said look there's unintended consequences and if we don't make those consequences visible, people won't feel the impact. He also felt there was somewhat of a safety net in the crossing guard issue and that the School Department might pick it up if he had to contribute some money to help us offset our shortfall in order to meet the priorities that we establish. Certainly operating the senior center has to be a priority. We didn't spend all that money to open that building to leave it vacant and shudder it for the year. There are other things that we identified as priorities. I assume that this document that I've had since our initial discussions pretty much would be the end product of all of this. This is a document that I've been working from since the original recommendation was made. I appreciate where you're coming from Selectman Nadeau but I don't think that in the priorities we are going to eliminate crossing guards. Of course that's the Police Chief's decision whether or not he wants to eliminate the crossing guards. I would advise that if he were to do that, he certainly would come before us so that we don't feel the brunt of it from the voters. We should have that discussion with him.

Selectman Maddox thought there's actually two questions here Mr. Chairman. Inasmuch is it the Board's intent to go back to the voters? I think that's a decision that's really in the agenda. How the monies get reallocated I think is something we have to look closer at. I'm sorry if the senior center is only going to be open two days because of the consequences but people I don't think ever thought that the crossing guards keeping their kids safe was up for being whacked because we went to default budget. I don't think that was an item that anybody even thought about. I think that that is a tactic or a decision that needs a lot more vetting. Maybe there's some, I don't disagree. They could probably use the traffic light that's there but simply saying we're going to eliminate them is something that would be non-beneficial all the way around Sir.

To your comment, Chairman Coutu didn't disagree that the voters certainly didn't understand or know what the consequences would be. Keeping the crossing guards and him saying well I won't hire one police officer, or the Fire Department say we won't hire a firefighter, or the Town Clerk saying I'll eliminate one of my girls so people will have to wait in line longer. There are unintended consequences. It's for us to vet out what we think the priority is and go ahead and fund them on the basis of how they arrived - I know what the formula was but how they arrive at what the priorities now. If some of us or the majority of us don't agree with some of the priorities, these are pretty much what we articulated were priorities, we'll eliminate them.

Looking back at the Fire Department, Selectman Brucker said there are a couple of large decreases. For one, Inspectional Services what's in that \$151,000 that's being decreased. If you recall last year somewhere in the year, Steve Malizia stated the Board made a conscious decision to take money from Planning/Zoning/Building and put it into Fire Inspection line item. That's where the new organization sits. Because we're under a default budget, that all gets reversed just because it was not part of the original budget. If you look on page 2, we've taken that into account. That's what the bottom four numbers represent. As part of the original conversation, we just said we just need to make those adjustments. It's being adjusted because it went back to the original departments it was transferred from. So that answers I hope that question.

Selectman Brucker indicated suppression looks like its pretty big there - \$82,000. Steve Malizia said if you take the 151 back out of it, I believe it's down to like \$36,000. I'm not trying to sneeze at that but that's not...Selectman Brucker said it's not as bad as it looks. Mr. Malizia stated he still has a deficit of \$36,000 after the transfer of Inspectional Services money back into this account. Again, he talked about no doing a paramedic training this year. That was a key thing. Deferring and delaying tentatively and again we talked about the HVAC. So we've got that covered this year. We helped resolve some of his problem by pulling that into this fiscal year by taking money we had in some salary saving accounts and I forget the other couple of accounts. Kathy Carpentier stated supply type things and some of the Town Engineer opening spot.

Steve Malizia noted we sat in a room as a group collectively and went through all of these things and said okay who's got what, who has money that they could throw into the kitty so to speak, and what's that going to do to you, and then you need to articulate after that is all done what you still can or can't do. Mostly what you can't do because that's what we're trying to determine. This is the second year in a row of a default budget. We are not running fat, dumb and happy. We are running lean as we speak.

Selectman Brucker asked if something was in the contract, I believe the new training for the paramedics. Chairman Coutu said that was in our budget. Selectman Brucker thought it was in the budget. If it was in a contract, Kathy Carpentier explained that would be protected because the contract passed.

Selectman Nadeau said another one of the big unintended consequences is we're taking \$75,000 out of paving. Steve Malizia said yes that is on the schedule. Selectman Nadeau said I've been getting more phone calls this year about our roads and how bad they are. Again, we're taking \$75,000 just so the voters know out of paving to cover the shortfall. Again, we're now going to fall behind in our roadway repairs and paving because of the default budget. Chairman Coutu thought \$75,000 does what four feet. Selectman Nadeau stated it fixes a lot of holes. Again, Chairman Coutu said there are unintended consequences. I think that reverting back to what Selectman Maddox said, I think we need to make a decision whether or not we want to pare down the budget that we presented to the voters and come up with a new budget and go back to the voters at a special election. We need to decide whether or not we want to go that route before we decide if we're not going to go that route, then we have to do our due diligence to what was presented to us by the department heads and the Town Administrator and the Finance Director. I would like to entertain discussion on what your opinion or how you feel about going to the polls for a special election with a brand new budget. Anyone can start the discussion.

Selectman Nichols asked how much would it cost to have a new election. Chairman Coutu said approximately it was estimated at approximately \$3,000 plus your standing on your feet from 7 a.m. to about 10 - 10:30 p.m. working inside. It will go pretty fast but it would cost approximately \$3,000 which is not in this year's budget. We'd have to find that \$3,000. Any comments or questions?

Steve Malizia said you'd have to go back to a Deliberative Session. In other words, you'd have to go back through a public hearing. You'd have to go back through the Budget Committee, a public hearing with the Budget Committee, a Deliberative Session, and then a voting session. So those are all required to go back to the voters. Chairman Coutu indicated just like we would for a normal presentation. We go through the whole process. When we have these session at the Deliberative Session, we advertise those. There's a fee associated with that. The election is \$3,000 but there are other costs that we will incur as well.

Selectman Brucker asked have we ever had a special election. Chairman Coutu said not since I've been here. Ben have you heard of a special election. Steve Malizia noted this is our third default budget. This is the second one in a row. We had one a couple of years ago and in every case - I can't speak for this year but the previous two - we did not have a special meeting for this purpose. We have not gone back to the voters to say hey you voted no how about this number. We have not done that for this. Selectman Nadeau said not since we've been in the SB2...Chairman Coutu said not since the old town meeting form of government there was when there was 85 people representing the town whatever that number was.

Selectman Nichols asked what do we do with people who are - they'd probably be very upset if we ran another election and they had said no the first time. What are the consequences we run at the second time? Chairman Coutu asked the

consequences to whom. Selectman Nichols said to the voters. If they've said no, they got very upset another time when they had said no so I don't know what would happen. Just so there's an understating about the budget, Chairman Coutu noted we are not bound by line items within the budget. We're bound by the last number that appears in the budget. Our budget is \$29 million and change. There are certain things we can't do. We can't create new positions. Only the voters can create new positions. We can't build buildings and buy things that are of any magnitude. The voters are the only ones that have the right to do that by warrant articles. We can transfer monies within departments to offset certain expenses. The voters said no if you want to look at it from that terminology to us funding the senior center for a whole year. The budget only reflects that we have because we don't have the budget that we proposed. We have last year's budget. Last year's budget only funded the operation for half a year but because it was already in the default budget, we can transfer money in and keep it operating all year. It's where are we going to find the money to do this. Do we look at they did - the Town Administrator and the Finance Director with the department heads - look at departments and see what could you sacrifice in order for us to raise an additional \$61,000 for the senior center. Mr. Malizia stated we're looking to move \$206,000 in the default budget.

Chairman Coutu indicated people may have voted no the first time may change their mind and want to vote yes. People who voted yes might want to change their mind and vote no. Everybody might get upset and go to the polls and say how dare they and we all suffer the consequences of that verbally and in the ballot or people might be sympathetic and say you know what let's give them the money to operate. It's a chance we take but we have to make the decision. We are either going to have a special election or we are not going to have a special election. If we're not going to have a special election, we need to vet the numbers that were presented to us and come up with an adjusted operating budget but the bottom line will remain the same but we're going to transfer monies around to accommodate those areas we feel are priorities. Further comments or questions?

On the subject matter Mr. Chairman, Selectman Maddox is of the belief that we were told no. I don't particularly wish to hear it again. We didn't sell it enough. The moon and the stars aligned, whatever it may be, I think the chances of us getting a positive vote is going to be even harder. Those people that came out and supported I don't think are going to come back Sir. I think it's going to be more of a negative vote coming in to say I told you no the first time. I think it is counterproductive. They told us what we had to work with and our challenge is now to make that happen. Chairman Coutu didn't disagree. Any further comments or questions? What is the wish of the Board? How many people would like us to go to a special election please raise your hand. I would assume that all of you would raise your hand if I said we are going to vet the numbers that were presented to us and operate the Town with that money is that correct? Selectman Nadeau said yup and just make the people aware. Chairman Coutu noted we will not have a special election.

If you want to make a formal presentation so everybody has comprehension as to what is being proposed, Chairman Coutu indicated then we can discuss openly and specifically if we agree with the priorities and where the funds are coming from. We need to know not just that we're funding what we had originally identified as a priority, what the consequence of a transfer might be. In other words, \$75,000 comes out of paving. That's \$75,000 less the Highway Department will have for that. If you would Ms. Carpentier.

Kathy Carpentier stated the department heads, Town Administrator, and I got together and reviewed what we deemed to be necessary transfers to fill the initiatives that the Board had put forward or some of the initiatives. The general fund was \$507,000 less. We had identified \$206,000 that we needed to transfer around in the budget in order to hit the top priorities as we deemed. Starting at the top of the list - the senior center facility - we refunded \$22,370 and jumping down to the senior center operating expense of \$38,956, that's a little over \$61,000. They previously had asked for \$123,000. Because of donations, the Senior Services Coordinator and the Rec. Director had said that that's what they needed to operate for the full year. We as a group decided that that was an initiative that this Board wanted funded.

Selectman Maddox asked is that funding for 5 days a week. Chairman Coutu said no it's based on 3 days a week I believe. Ms. Carpentier didn't know that answer. Mr. Malizia presumed if it was originally for 5 days a week and we took out equipment that was donated, this would be 5 days a week. I don't presume anything other than that because I'm assuming in the original budget that was the intention unless the original budget..now that you mention it Selectman Maddox, Chairman Coutu indicated I had a conversation now with Mrs. Bowen last week. I think that the plan was to open it 5 days a week. She was going to split up into 5 days her hours and then they were going to seek some volunteers to assist. Selectman Maddox thought this is one of the unintended consequences. Before I go and jettison crossing guards, I'm going to go back to the 3 days a week at the senior center. It's still open. It's still functioning but it's not 5 days a week. I think those are the kinds of decisions that we're going to get into the minutia.

Chairman Coutu didn't disagree. I'm all for that. I think it should be a 3 day a week operation. She's a part time employee. I don't think she's going to have the ability to operate this on 5 days. What is she going to operate 6 hours four days and 5 ½ another. If they're going to have volunteers, we're going to have all kinds of people with keys locking the place up. I think that this budget is - obviously the amount of money on the senior operating expense is an estimate because we don't know what the actuals are going to be on utilities. So they're estimating that. The senior center facility, that was for - is the salary line in that? Ms. Carpentier said it is. Chairman Coutu stated the salary line for the remainder of the year plus she was provided everything she would need for her office. I saw it. It was pretty well full. Ms. Carpentier said telephone, communications, newspaper ads, subscriptions, film developing, professional services that would be like the clinics I guess. That type of thing. It's to run her operation is what was left in it.

Chairman Coutu agree with Selectman Maddox that if we can control the air temperature in the building 5 days a week at a minimum, that's going to save on air conditioning rather than have it opened 5 days, we'd have it closed 4 days and we'd be able to control the amount of air conditioning we're using by raising the temperature a little plus wear and tear. That's something for consideration. I certainly support the idea. That's an unintended consequence. I think someone has to suffer as a result of this and it should be every department and not just the Highway Department, not just Police and Fire. We have to spread the pain a little bit. That's what it is its pain. It's tough for a department head to come in and say I guess I'll have to give this up when they really don't want to but they feel they have to make a contribution.

Selectman Maddox asked is that going to be an open question then at this point. Chairman Coutu believed it would be an open question once we have a full explanation. I'm glad you brought it up under that line item.

Kathy Carpentier said the next one we decided was an initiative worth funding is the Trustees of the Trust Fund came to the Deliberative Session and made a plea to add \$15,000 to the budget to support an investment management company in order to increase the investments that they're able to make. We thought that that was an initiative this Board would want funded. Considering he said we could probably more than double our return and it would be a lot more returned in \$15,000, Chairman Coutu indicated it's well worth the investment.

The next initiative we funded Kathy Carpentier mentioned was the value defense. We put \$25,000 in a legal line based on a recommendation from the Assistant Assessor and approved by this Board to defend our values. Chairman Coutu said we can look at that one.

Ms. Carpentier indicated the next one is IT switches pervasive and security. The IT Director identified \$53,000 that she needed to do that. Primarily most of it being for the security system at the police station. Chairman Coutu thought our priority was in house bookings rather than having to transport them to the court house. Is that the whole package \$53,000 for all of that? I know the switches were part of it. Kathy Carpentier said yes. I believe those were the two priorities that it was the security system for the police station and to the courts. Chairman Coutu indicated the security system is outdated. That was his explanation.

Selectman Maddox thought one of the things we need to be looking at in this year's budget is where are there monies. Could we do that security portion in this year's budget with monies from somewhere to have a list of things that if we could buy we would buy out of this year's budget? Chairman Coutu asked can we get through this explanation and we'll tackle that. That will be my next topic then right after this explanation. Thank you for bringing it up.

Kathy Carpentier indicated the Board also authorized the Police Chief to hire a part time legal aide so we funded that position. She is on board. The next one I already covered. The last one is storm water contingency. The prior Town Engineer had said that this is an unknown but it is something we should fund so we decided it was an initiative worth funding. Those were the top priorities that we as a group decided that we thought were the Board's priorities. Chairman Coutu asked to clarify something. The Board didn't think it was an initiative worth funding. It was an initiative we had to fund. I don't think it's worth it at all. Ms. Carpentier apologized for the wrong word choice. I stand corrected.

The next section on the page, Kathy Carpentier said some of them you use the word "consequences" really aren't consequences but some of them are. There was \$808 we kind of needed to round out our \$206,000 we took from cemeteries. The Assistant Town Administrator - \$83,618. This position has been open and vacant for many years. It keeps getting put back because of the default so that was not really a consequence. We took \$20,000 out of Town Poor. We had done that in the budgeting process because we have other funds we could tap if we needed to, a donation, some Trustee monies, and we'd been spending less than what was needed. Collective bargaining unit - we now know that we will only have one unit negotiating next year. So we felt that there were some legal funds available there. Assessing Capital Reserve Fund - the Assistant Assessor said that we didn't need to fund that because we already had the funds if the Board decides to do a revaluation. The town wide paving was offered up of \$75,000. I think he did say it was like 3 feet. That is a consequence however we had \$790,000 in there. So \$75,000 is being decreased. The next two - Robinson Pond. The Rec. Director said we wouldn't put an attendant at the gate. The skate park - the Board closed the skate park so we gave up that money. Again I'll just reiterate the next four are just transfers to put the plan in place to reorganize the Land Use and Inspectional Services Division. There's no net impact in those four line items. We needed to do it in order to get it back to where it needs to be. I'll reiterate what the Town Administrator said. The letters attached to this from the department heads are kind of like management tools of what they're going to do to manage to what they're left with. He has not zeroed out the crossing guards but that could be his intention based on his Memo.

With regard to Selectman Maddox's offer, Chairman Coutu asked do you want to refresh our memories. Selectman Maddox said yes. As we all know, we try to squeeze every nickel and try to fit within our budget. There are people that leave us, there are positions left vacant for some amount of time. Any numbers of reasons where there is money. I think we need to comb through the budget and try to find some of those and possibly buy those IT switches this year, the security system at the Police Department. Any number of things that we could do this year to lessen the impact next year. I'm just offering up that I think we need to do an even more investigative I guess word I will use to see if there are monies left in some other accounts that we don't spend the money this year on X so that we're able to take care of some of these items that are pressing for next year's budget.

Kathy Carpentier stated the Fire Chief had done that with the HVAC. He was able to curb some of his spending, take a little bit from the open Town Engineer spot to do the HVAC. The Town Administrator and I usually sit at this time - the beginning of May - to exactly do that and see where the monies are as long as it stops snowing. We definitely have a deficit in Kevin's world and try to identify some funds that are available to do what you're saying. That's on our task list to do in the very near future.

Selectman Maddox asked to follow up. At the last meeting or the meeting before, we bought 3 new cruisers at X amount of dollars and we then allocated monies for their new fit up because they're different type of vehicles. I think the whole thing came to like \$85,000 and we budget \$120,000. In my simple math, there's \$30,000 sitting in the Police Department that isn't going to be used for cruisers. Why not buy that security system and take care of that this year.

Kathy Carpentier would agree with that but I do know that the Police Chief was here a meeting or two ago to fill the Executive Secretary position and he needs some overlap money for that. So I do know that him and his command staff went through their budget. I don't know that that 30 hasn't already been taken for somewhere else. That's the type of things Steve and I would get with the department heads and say hey we see \$30,000 here and he'd tell us where else it was going to be. I agree with the car one. There seems to be excess there however he may have spent it somewhere else.

Chairman Coutu wanted to ask from a practical point of view would we be best to defer our decisions on what you're proposing to mid May once we get a handle on where we are at the end of April. Ms. Carpentier stated yes. On the other hand, Steve Malizia said if you're looking at these items, you can't encumber some of this stuff. You're going to spend it next year. I can't encumber somebody's salary this year. So we can find all the money we want, it's not going to happen. It must be this. Chairman Coutu asked why can't we buy it. Like Selectman Maddox said, why can't we get a purchase order for the switches and the security system in June? Mr. Malizia indicated that's a tangible, physical item. We can do that but I can't do that for value defense because quite honestly I don't know what the heck I'm going to spend. I can't do it for the Trustees. As far as I know, I can't pay this year for that. But yes if it's a physical hardware, that's the one thing that's clear on that. Chairman Coutu indicated it's the only thing that's clear on that. Ms. Carpentier said that is a good suggestion. Steve and I can take it as an action item. Mr. Malizia said don't forget we're on fumes this year because we're on a default budget too. Chairman Coutu understood that. We may end up with a dollar. I understand that because there are going to be some shortfalls. Ms. Carpentier indicated we also could tap into the accrued time capital reserve fund if we need to also which we've never done before. Chairman Coutu stated I would not go that route.

Selectman Maddox believed we only spent - correct me if I'm wrong - \$6,000 out of our contingency. Ms. Carpentier thought closer to 2 but yes. Selectman Maddox said there are monies Mr. Chairman. I think that like any household budget, you got to maneuver stuff around. I think that we need to have a better handle. I think your idea of deferring this downstream, I think the department heads really have to come in and sell us on what modifications they want to make to their budgets. I'm sure that the Police Chief has heard a number of us say that the crossing guard is something that if he can get the School Department to pay for it I guess but I'm not in favor or wiping out that line item which is what we're seeing in the budgets we're seeing tonight.

Kathy Carpentier agreed. The urgency was more I think to decide whether you were going to have a vote or note and you've done that. Technically this does not need to be done until closer to July 1st. Chairman Coutu indicated if we deferred this to the workshop in June, I don't know how quickly you get your numbers at the end of May. How quickly can you...Mr. Malizia stated you'd have 3 out of 4 weeks. That would be pretty close. Ms. Carpentier asked is that what you're targeting the workshop in June? Chairman Coutu said do the workshop in June would you have the end of month May computed. We'll know what our expenses are for June. We'll have a pretty good handle on how much surplus we'll have. Ms. Carpentier indicated its June 3rd. You might not have it in your agenda package but we can get it to you Monday.

Selectman Brucker asked so then we'd have a month to purchase things out of whatever. Mr. Malizia said correct. Selectman Brucker asked if that was enough time. Chairman Coutu indicated the only thing we could really purchase would be the IT switches because it's a tangible item. We can get a PO for it and have it encumbered before the 30th of June. Kathy Carpentier said as long as the PO is cut and approved by the Board, then that's all we need. We didn't really need to get the stuff in. We just needed to make the commitment to create the liability. As long as that is done prior to June 30th, we're good. Chairman Coutu noted other than that, that's the only thing on there that we could really encumber money from.

Selectman Maddox said we are going to hire a - and again I'm not sure for the storm water contingency - we're going to hire an engineering firm to do that? Steve Malizia said we put money in for consulting purposes to help us understand. Selectman Maddox said we could cut a PO for the consulting services for storm water contingency. Chairman Coutu didn't know when it's going to be done. Selectman Maddox said he thought it was going to be done next year and he wanted 50. Chairman Coutu said thought. Thinking and knowing are two different things. Selectman Maddox said we're going to have to do some things for this storm water. The federal government isn't going to go away. Chairman Coutu didn't think we've identified an engineering firm that's going to do the study. Ms. Carpentier said that is what you'd have to do is have a PO cut to a vendor and create a contract with that vendor. Selectman Maddox said the Town Engineer might be able to shed some light.

Chairman Coutu asked the Town Engineer to come forward. This is different than Pepperell. We have our people come forward and go on camera. Laurie Stevens indicated I've been on camera in Pepperell too. Chairman Coutu was pleased to have Ms. Stevens on board. I hope all has gone well for you up to date. I saw you on television attending the Conservation Commission meeting. You seem to handle yourself well. You may proceed. Laurie Stevens indicated it's been an exciting three weeks. The new regulations for the storm water were set to be out this year but they've been postponed. So they will

affect us in the next fiscal year but closer to the end of the next fiscal year. So the new regulations are what we're going to have to do to comply with the storm water are coming out. We will need the services of a consulting engineer and a call with EPA and DES about a week ago shed light on the fact that no as planned, they were going to be out this year but it's not going as planned so we won't have to adhere to those. They won't be out until next year - the beginning of calendar 2015. Selectman Maddox said still within the fiscal year by 6 months. At that time, Laurie Stevens said we'll know what we're going to be required to have to do and that's still in the mix. Chairman Coutu thought they're going to require you to do it within a 6 month period. They're going to have to give all the municipalities sufficient time to get their action plan together. Ms. Stevens said action plan and you may have to begin sampling right away.

Chairman Coutu appreciated that input. I still don't think we're going to need to spend the \$25,000 in next fiscal year's budget but we'll see. We'll certainly have some money there for that.

Selectman Brucker was wondering do engineering firms work like legal firms. Can you put them on a retainer? Laurie Stevens stated it was my understanding you have to pay for the services in the year for which you incurred them. I don't think you can prepay.

Steve Malizia said it sounds like you want us to come back in June to see what opportunities we could take advantage of possibly in this year's budget to accomplish some of these tasks and then at that point in time, you'd have a better handle on what you need to carry forward and transfer into the next year. Given the fact that you're not going forward with another election, you have the luxury of some time to be able to do that because this does not go into effect until July 1st. If I'm correct, that's the direction we're taking. Chairman Coutu indicated that's what I would like to do. I certainly appreciate the fact that you may not have your - it's not budget to actuals any more it's fictitious to real? I'll never let that die. Steve Malizia said we would have a better handle on what we have left in appropriations. Chairman Coutu noted you won't have that document available for us by the time our packets are ready as long as we have hard copies for the meeting and then we can sit and discuss it. In the interim Selectman Maddox would you want me to have the department heads that are going to be most affected by the transfer come in or shall we identify department heads to come in? We're going to have to make the decision at that meeting. We can't wait another 2 or 3 weeks and wait until the very last minute because if we're going to find that there is money for the switches and what not, she'd going to have to go out and get a bid and get a PO put together for that. She may have a regular vendor but...Mr. Malizia said you'd like to have the resources of department heads here at that meeting. So we'll just direct them to do that. Chairman Coutu asked do we need every department head in here. We don't. If you're concerned about the Police Chief, would you like me to ask the Chief of Police to come in here? Selectman Maddox would like to see something from the department heads Mr. Chairman saying what they believe will be surplus in their departments at June 30th and then we can go from there. Chairman Coutu was talking about the prospect of having some cuts within their budget next year to help accommodate some funding for this year, i.e. the crossing guards. I said maybe we should talk to the department heads. Selectman Maddox thought we should Mr. Chairman. I think that, again, we are the ones that make the decision I guess. I think that if we can find monies - I know there's not a lot of money anywhere but just our contingency alone. We do have that money.

Chairman Coutu was saying is if he says that cutting the crossing guards is he needs to do that in order to have the monies he needs to run his department and he cuts the crossing guards, we can't fund that with this year's money. Selectman Maddox said that is true. Again any monies that we can spend this year to lessen the amount of money that we need to fill that gap next year I think is prudent. Last year I believe Steve \$206,000. Chairman Coutu heard where you're coming from. The impact wouldn't be as great but the only thing we can fund are the switches. Selectman Maddox said we could buy sand Mr. Chairman. Mr. Malizia said there may be something else depending on...Selectman Maddox noted we could buy salt and sand that isn't going to go bad. We know he's going to use. Again, I think we've got to be as creative as we can be. Chairman Coutu stated I wasn't even thinking about that. Good point. Kathy Carpentier said having nothing to do with the transfer of funds, they could buy something that they planned on buying next year. Selectman Maddox said right and that lessens the amount of money that we...Chairman Coutu said it would lessen the impact and we can say \$12,000 for the crossing guards tell them not to touch that put crossing guards out there. That would be our decision. I'd rather do that than feel the brunt of the anger from citizens calling all of us. I understand that. Selectman Maddox said I am not going to vote for that maneuver. Again I think that is not something that anyone that went into the voting booth is saying if I don't vote for their budget...I just don't see that as being fair I guess.

Chairman Coutu indicated we have the workshop will be on this matter. No need to have the department heads in. I think we can make the decisions on the basis of what the funds are available to us. Hopefully we'll have enough money to severely lessen the impact that this could have.

Kathy Carpentier stated we just have to also remember that at the last time I spoke with the Road Agent, he indicated like \$100,000 shortfall. So even though we haven't touched the contingency, that might have to be the match to offset a bad winter. Chairman Coutu knew that the Town Administrator and you have apprised me of the fact that there may not be any money left over this year because we've already committed the money for the HVAC. That we've identified as surplus. How much more beyond that, who knows. Even if its \$10,000, let's find a way buy \$10,000 worth of sand and salt or whatever.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Donation - Acceptance of a donated HP A6 Vision Laptop valued at \$400.00 from Sam's Club

Chairman Coutu to recognize Police Lieutenant Kevin DiNapoli.

Good evening. Lieutenant DiNapoli said I'm here on behalf of the Chief Lavoie respectfully requesting permission to accept a donation from Sam's Club Manager Steve Flaherty is offering up the laptop that you spoke of that we're hoping to use at the Police Department. Chairman Coutu asked if it was a used laptop but it's in good working condition I assume. Lt. DiNapoli said correct.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to accept a donated HP A6 Vision Laptop valued at \$400 from Sam's Club with the Board's thanks and appreciation, carried 5-0.

B. Public Hearing - Pole License Amendments

Chairman Coutu recognized Assistant Assessor Jim Michaud. Welcome Jim.

Jim Michaud stated currently we have pole licenses that we issue to PSNH and Fairpoint that own the poles within the Town of Hudson. We have an amendment currently in the police license that calls for them to call real estate taxes on property that they occupy. What we don't have is we don't have any effective way getting from them who else is on the pole, who else is using the right of way, who their subtenants are. This amendment will allow us to gain knowledge of who those subtenants are and they'll be required to give us a list of those of those that are on there today and then going into the future, there's a provision in here that says by February 15th of each year they need to give us a list of all the subtenants that have been added. This will allow us to make sure that we are assessing them fairly and equitably everybody that's in the right of way.

Chairman Coutu asked if there were any questions. Seeing none, I'll open the public hearing at 8:39 p.m. Does anyone in the audience wish to speak on this item step forward and state your name and address. Seeing none. I'll close the hearing at 8:40 p.m. Mr. Michaud we've had this discussion not too long ago about this all relevant to the lawsuits with almost every municipality in the State is being sued by people who have poles out there - all the utility companies. This will in effect - I'm asking - would this solve a lot of that confusion over their being over assessed because they're not the only users. If we had a pole that's being assessed and PSNH is paying for that pole but there are three other vendors on that pole if this ordinance passes are we not only going to identify them but assess them their fair share of the use of that pole thus reducing PSNH's costs?

Jim Michaud indicated two parts. This will do nothing in terms of looking backwards on current lawsuits that we're in from 2011 forward. In terms of how it sets us up for the future, Attorney Hodes' opine and he's done this in the Town of Hooksett, the Town of Windham has also done this. It sets us up in a better light to make sure that we are proactively taking steps to make sure that we know who's out there. Now are we going to assess the subtenants directly? I don't know the answer to that. I don't know that Jay Hodes knows the answer to that yet. We have a pole license. It's with PSNH. If they tell us who else is out there and that property is taxable, then we will go after that. To give you an example, the telecommunication line itself is not taxable but electric line is. I have a feeling that what we have out there on the poles is more of your fiber optic companies. I've heard that from other communities that went through this of getting these lists - their fiber optic companies. So that fiber optic line, we can't pick up itself but we can pick up that additional user in the right of way.

Chairman Coutu asked does not PSNH or whoever is the licensee for the pole charged for use of that pole or for other companies to be on that pole? Don't they have to get a permit to be on it and pay a fee to be on it? Jim Michaud stated there is an attachment fee process that the order of the pole and the tenant that wants to come on the pole have to go through and I believe that is regulated by the Public Utility Commission. They don't pay us a fee to be on the pole. We don't own the pole. We'll certainly get a better idea of what their income stream is by having this data. We can't get this from Fairpoint. We've asked. In the course of discovery, they said thanks, no thanks, no answer. They're not giving it to us. This will encourage them to give it to us.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to approve the amendment to the Town of Hudson municipal pole license agreement to add the provisions of RSA 72:23 I (b), providing for payment of properly assessed real and personal property taxes on Town owned property used by or under the license agreements and/or pole licenses issued to public utilities and entities servicing the Town of Hudson as recommended by the Town Attorney and the Assistant Assessor.

Selectman Maddox had a question. What is this going to cost to do and what is going to be the anticipated revenue? Jim Michaud stated a) this doesn't cost us anything beyond - we'll do a recording of the amended pole license at the Registry. We will go forward and send by certified mail to the seven entities that we've identified that use the right of way and we'll send them a copy of the pole license as amended. Revenue - revenue is what we do when we go through the budget process. How much do we need to raise to run the Town. Tax base is what the Assessing office does so I don't know what impact this is

going to have on the tax base overall. It's probably not going to be terribly significant. What it is going to give us is better credibility and better accuracy in what we are assessing currently.

Selectman Maddox asked to rephrase my question if I may Mr. Chairman. Are we going to spend as a town through your time, legal that's already in process to be able to increase our revenue through the assessment of \$100? I'm just trying to see if this is a worthwhile investment in time and money. I just don't see it in what I've read.

Jim Michaud said what we want to know is we want to know not just for purposes of this lawsuit that we're currently in from 2011 forward but also for 2015, at this point 2015 tax year going forward who is in that right of way. Our job in the Assessing office is to discover property that is or is not escaping taxation, and who owns it, and what it is. I can't give you a cross benefit analysis of something that I don't know the answer to.

Chairman Coutu thought what was important that you said Jim is that this is proactive. We are being sued and so are many other municipalities. One of the arguments that the PSNH is using or whoever has the right of way on the poles, they're using is that they're being unfairly assessed because there are many users on the pole and we can't identify those users. Several communities decided that this would be a proactive way of articulating - the methodology we're using is proactive in that we're going to answer their question and say yup you're right, you do have all these users on the poles. This is who they are and what they are. The courts are eventually going to ask that question because that's their line of defense right now in the court system trying to get us. If they win, we're going to lose revenue. What we need to do is be proactive and show the courts that okay we don't know who the users are. It really wasn't our responsibility but we'll go out and do it and figure it out and here they are. Now it's up to PSNH or whoever to make their argument to the Utility Commission to allow them to charge more money and then our assessment on their property is going to be based on as you said what our bottom line is in the budget and how much revenue we have to raise if we have to raise taxes, it's apportioned across the board. The utilities also go up. When our tax rate goes up, it affects them as well, right? Jim Michaud said right. Chairman Coutu said it generates increased revenue. Our tax rate is going up this year and that's going to be apportioned to them. So what that revenue is, I don't know. There will be an increase in revenue.

Chairman Coutu stated this is incidental to raising revenue. It's more a proactive step to solve some of the arguments they're bringing up in litigation is that there's all these users on the poles. They're your poles. You should know who they are but they don't apparently. Those who can give us the information, refuse to give us any information such as Fairpoint. It's not going to generate revenue. I don't think the time that's involved in this, we've had this public hearing. Jim prepared the notice for the newspaper. How much more time are you going to put into this other than sending out letters getting information on whose on the poles?

Jim Michaud stated it is information that we're going to take some hours to process. We're going to want to make sure that we have a good accounting, a good database. That information is going to flow into us. When we turn to the valuation end to Skip Sansoucy and say all right how does this change what we're doing going forward.

Chairman Coutu said so it will be in our database and will be useful for future years. Mr. Michaud indicated absolutely. The converse of this is if we say we don't want to know who's out there. We don't want to assess everyone that's out there. That doesn't sell well. When we go to court, that's going to sell inverse. That's going to be against our interest. City of Concord - I went up to the Supreme Court hearing on this. They were asked what proactive measures did you take. Well we asked the utility. What other measures did you take? Could you have amended your pole license? I said well I guess we could have. They didn't. If it wasn't Concord, it would be us. We're learning from that case.

Selectman Brucker asked if the owner of the poles didn't pay the taxes, is there any way you could go after the other user? Chairman Coutu said no. Mr. Michaud stated you can only go after those that we billed.

Selectman Nichols asked what you seem to be doing isn't it kind of like covering yourself or the Town so that the later...Chairman Coutu said I wouldn't use that term. It's a proactive method. Selectman Nichols said yes to protect the Town from being sued for things that you don't need to be used for. Jim Michaud agreed. It puts us in a better position. Selectman Nichols said that was my thought.

Steve Malizia stated you could still be sued. Now at least we would have at least data and evidence. Selectman Nichols indicated but you're covered pretty much.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

C. Request for Additional Sewer Allocation - Altronics Manufacturing, 12 Executive Drive; Map 216, Lot 008

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Engineer Laurie Stevens.

Thank you. Laurie Stevens indicated we've sent a Memo request for additional capacity of 210 gallons per day sewer allocation. Altronics Manufacturing underwent an annual site inspection with CLD Consulting Engineers which lead to a discovery that the industry's water usage has exceeded the permitted amount due to the increase in employees. Altronics has submitted the IDA permit modification application which was reviewed by CLD for additional flows and CLD commented that

based on the number of employees, including current and anticipated future employees, additional allocation would be required. The estimated average daily flow needed for the industry has been calculated at 750 gallons per day. They were permitted for 540, so it's a 210 gallons per day additional allocation.

Chairman Coutu asked the fee for that would be the \$2,789. They agreed to pay that? Ms. Stevens said yes.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to approve the request from Altronics Manufacturing for an additional 210 gallons of flow allocation per day, carried 5-0.

D. Library Park Lights

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Engineer Laurie Stevens.

Laurie Stevens stated we're requesting approval to draw additional funds from the Route 102 and Route 111 Corridor Accounts to cover the increase construction costs associated with Library Park projects. Out here in the Memo it describes what's needed and on the second page, we sort of gave an itemized cost summary to see how we came up with the numbers. Basically it comes down to an additional \$16,646 is needed to fund our 20 percent of the contract costs.

Chairman Coutu asked did they explain why the costs went above their estimate by \$83,000. Laurie Stevens said I went through that with them. The construction costs went up from March 2013 to March 2014. I pulled out the big ticket items for your review so not the smaller ones. The traffic signal cost itself went up about \$17,000. When you fine tune the design, you get a little closer to get ready and go out for final plans. You can get a little better estimates. A portable message board - we wanted included in the contract. It was \$3,600. Detectable warning device is another \$3,000. Some of the other costs were add alternates in 2013. We had a couple of add alternates. One was for Chase Street and Derry Street sidewalk ramps. Chase Street was dropped from the project. The Derry Street sidewalk ramps were still included in the project but the price went up and it went from being ineligible to eligible. Now that it was eligible, we're considering adding it on to the project and then we need 20 percent of those monies. Although Chase Street was dropped, the battery backup was a second add alternate that was added to the project. It was recommend by DOT in their design review and because they recommended it and it became eligible, that was also added to the project. The increase in construction costs and having the two add alternates in the project increased the project by the \$8,320.

Chairman Coutu didn't wish to disparage your profession but I never understand why projects that involve engineering firms never come in under budget. They're always over budget and they always need more money. Their method of figuring out what things are going to cost stinks.

Selectman Maddox indicated your rant wasn't long enough Sir. Chairman Coutu said I know. I could go on with the train station but let's stick with this one. Selectman Maddox said the CIP just met - riveting. Riveting. The funny thing was is this project was one of the last ones we saw when we did this like 5 or 6 years ago. This estimated cost to do this project was \$125,000. Just fascinating how taking federal money isn't worth taking federal money. We could have done this project. Kevin and his crew could have done this for the \$125,000 but because we thought we were getting free money, it has taken forever to do and obviously it's a little higher in price. They're not done yet Mr. Chairman. The lights aren't installed.

Just for the federal reporting requirements, Laurie Stevens stated it's 10 to 15 hours a week of paperwork when construction and engineering comes in. It is a lot. I agree with you. It is kind of like a cut off item and the Town Administrator and I were talking about it. If it's over \$1 million, that federal money is probably a really good thing. If projects are under \$1 million, you end up spending a lot of money on the overhead and stuff that's required.

Selectman Maddox stated we've told the citizens that this is going to get done. Ladies and gentlemen, keep waiting but not with bated breath because this is an engineered project. Thank you Mr. Chairman for my allowance to rant from your chair. Chairman Coutu indicated we'll be here for two more years Selectman Maddox so we'll watch very carefully what federal monies are available for projects and say no especially if we can do it ourselves. I'm sick of the strings that are attached. It's only 20 percent and then it's so much. Now they're looking for an additional \$16,000. Next year they're going to say oh by the way that little push thing for the crosswalk, that went up. That's another \$20,000. That's going to cost you too.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to request the withdrawal of addition funds for the Library Park Lights project from the following accounts: Route 111 corridor account #2070-086 in the amount of \$8,323 and Route 102 corridor account #2070-091 in the amount of \$8,323. Said funds represent the Town's 20 percent share (\$16,646) out of \$83,230 which the balance is funded by NH-DOT, carried 5-0.

E. Musquash Conservation Area Trail Name

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia indicated I don't have much to say about this other than it appears that the Hudson Conservation Commission is recommending to the Board of Selectmen that they accept the name "Turkey Trot Trail" for the recently completed trail in the Musquash conservation area. You'll see attached a map and I believe this trail is articulated in red. It's ready to be accepted.

It has been vetted and approved through the Fire Department so if there should happen to be a 911 emergency, they have it mapped.

Chairman Coutu noticed that in the presentation here this evening in the document Mr. Battis is quick to point out that Mr. Ralph Alio suggested the name. I'd say he's just passing the blame. I watched the meeting when that was proposed and that's as good of a name as anything else if we're trying to keep the flavor of our community. Turkey Trot Trail is going to serve us well I guess.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to approve the name of "Turkey Trot Trail" for a recently completed trail in the Musquash Conservation area. Said name was approved by the Fire Prevention Officer Steve Dube, carried 5-0.

F. Recommendation - Property & Liability and Workers Compensation Insurance Proposals

Chairman Coutu recognized Finance Director Kathy Carpentier.

Thank you. Kathy Carpentier indicated the Town Administrator and I have gone out and got proposals from the two primary carriers that do pooled insurance and tried to get cost comparisons. We found ourselves with prices increasing that we needed to do a little due diligence. We ruled out going to a commercial land because commercial insurance doesn't have caps. So in the pooled world we are capped at different levels for different items and its one insurance rider versus multi insurance policies. We had received quotes from Primex and Healthtrust. Healthtrust is the branch that's now doing property and liability. They used to be Local Government Center. They used to be PLT. So when I say Healthtrust, that is the branch that is currently doing the property liability insurance.

Ms. Carpentier stated that right now Primex has been our carrier for worker's comp. for well over 25 years. They might have been under a different name but they've been our carrier and we haven't changed. Healthtrust or Local Government Center as it used to be called had been our property and liability for 25 - 30 years. So we felt that it was time to go out, look and see if we could get any bundling discounts as we suspected were out there. We asked for quotes. Healthtrust came back and said they were unable to give us a worker's comp. quote. Primex came back and gave us a quote. We did comparisons based on the base on with a before bundling. Any way that we looked at the numbers, it seemed best that Primex was the better proposal. At this point, we're here to ask - and I don't know if the Town Administrator has anything to add. I do know that Primex came in and did a cultural assessment to see what kind of business we run. We've been a client of theirs for many years so they're aware of how we run our business. To give you some financial impact, currently we're over budget by \$40,000 in our insurance lines. By changing to Primex for our property and liability for Fiscal 2015, we will be under spent by \$10,000. An additional \$11,000 is available if the Joint Loss Safety Committee team is going to start looking at some safety policies and that type of thing, we'd be able to save another \$11,000. Hopefully I didn't go too fast.

Steve Malizia indicated I had the attorney review the coverage amounts and the language of the contracts to make sure it was basically the same thing. Their review indicates that it is. What we're looking to do is in essence move our property liability coverage from Healthtrust to Primex which is already our worker's comp. provider. By doing so, we'll get a lower price on that insurance alone and then we'll also get bundling discounts for the two. As the Finance Director said, we'll save money given that we have a pretty lengthy experience with Primex as a carrier for worker's comp., we're confident that they will take very good care of us and insure all of our risks which include all of our vehicles, our physical property, our liability, all of those things that you would expect. The reason why it makes sense to stick with a pool of insurers is the Finance Director said there are caps on that articulated in the law. If we were to go outside and buy insurance from Hartford, Travelers, or somebody else that you might have heard of, those caps aren't in place. For example if you had a liability where say someone got injured doing something, there's a cap right now under the pool of insurance. When you get outside, there might not be any cap. There isn't a cap. So a jury or some sort of judge could award somebody \$1 million. Right now I think the caps are 250 for each liability. From our perspective, it seems to make sense to stay in the pool risk carrier. Again, I vetted that with the attorney too.

Chairman Coutu's question was of all the insurance companies that provide these types of insurance we only got 2 people to bid? Mr. Malizia stated there's only 2 insurance companies that provide pooled insurance - Healthtrust which used to be NHMA, Local Government Center, and Primex. That's the universe we deal with. That's it. That is it for us. Chairman Coutu asked we can't go out - why do we have to buy pooled insurance? Mr. Malizia stated because you limit your ultimate liability for claims. For example we've had an incident in the Police Department a few years ago that had we been with a regular insurer, we would not be capped at 250. That claim could have paid \$1 million which we be reflective in our rates going forward. We're capped. Pooled insurance the way its set up statutorily caps our liability. If we were to go out into the open market to any insurance company as you do at home or your personal businesses, there is no cap on the liability. I don't know if that answers the question. Chairman Coutu said no. If someone wants to sue us for \$1 million, you're saying they can't sue for more than \$250,000? Steve Malizia stated they won't get more than \$250,000. That's what I'm saying. That's what the insurance company - that's the pool of insurance.

Chairman Coutu indicated I have a \$1 million liability. I was told that they can sue you for \$20 million and get it if they can get a jury to award it. Mr. Malizia thought perhaps on your private insurance but in the pool of insurance statutorily, there's a limit on it. Chairman Coutu stated the legislature is writing legislation to control what people can do with the citizens. I thought this was a live free or die State. Chairman Coutu thought other insurance companies should be allowed to bid. If you're saying this

is all we've got to work with. Mr. Malizia did not believe based on our analysis and our discussions with our attorneys and the insurance pool companies that you will get that result. Chairman Coutu stated these are the only two insurance pool companies in the whole State? Mr. Malizia stated that is correct.

On page 3, Selectman Maddox asked is that ours. Kathy Carpentier said that is our quote that we received from the now company Healthtrust. Selectman Maddox asked could you tell me what fire truck replacement is and we've got 6 of them. Ms. Carpentier said it is for our fire trucks. If were to have a catastrophic incident like a 9/11 incident and all of our trucks were ruined, we'd get full value at replacement value. Selectman Maddox asked what would be the 40 rescue squads. Ms. Carpentier indicated those are the people. Those are not only firefighters but those of our fire force. Selectman Maddox said it says firefighters on the line above it. It says we have 10 of them. Ms. Carpentier indicated these are all of our people. That's what all those people - firefighters. We have more than 10 firefighters. Selectman Maddox said that's why I was just trying to figure out how that all works. You're saying that's correct. Ms. Carpentier noted rescue squads are people who can do the fire engine and the ambulance.

Chairman Coutu noted police officers have much greater value than firefighters based on insurance. Steve Malizia indicated they cost more because they have guns. The liability could be greater. The premium is higher for cops. Chairman Coutu said the liability is capped so what difference does it make. No one sues for \$250,000. I guess in this case that's all they can sue for which is a good thing. Mr. Malizia indicated you could have 10 people sue you for \$250,000 though.

Kathy Carpentier noted what's driving this cost up high is our experience modification factor which is 1.29 percent here and for Primex its 88 I believe. That's the big difference in what's driving the price. They looked at the same claims...Mr. Malizia said they have all the claims data for the last 5 years. Ms. Carpentier said they rated us differently. Primex decided we were less of a risk. Mr. Malizia said we have an active safety committee which meets on a quarterly basis. I did a cultural assessment with the Primex representative as requested. They know our business and they know how we operate here. They're confident. That's why they've given us a quote that is better than we were currently getting from Healthtrust.

Motion by Selectman Brucker, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to accept the proposal for Property and Liability Insurance from Primex at a net contribution of \$229,087 as outlined in their memo dated April 9, 2014 and continue Workers Compensation insurance with Primex at a net contribution of \$191,830 as outlined in their memo dated April 15, 2014 for fiscal year 2015 as recommended by the Town Administrator and the Finance Director, carried 5-0.

G. Sale of Tax Deeded Property - 4 Bridle Bridge Road

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

As you recall, Steve Malizia said the Board authorized that the 90 day notice be sent to the former property owner of this property articulating that the Town would be putting the property up for sale unless the former owner notified us within 30 days of that notice that they were ready and able to pay and then made payment within 15 days. As you recall I think in the conversation about Derry Street which was another property we took at a similar time, when we sent out the notice, we sent it certified return receipt. The former owner of this property, 4 Bridle Bridge, did not sign for that paperwork. So we could not guarantee in a court that they actually received it. We started the process for another 30 day notification by sending it priority mail which we have proof of delivery. So now that 30 days ended on April 15. In essence, there was no communication back to the Town from the former owner that said I want to buy the property or I want to redeem the property and I'm ready, willing, and able. If you recall, I asked a question earlier. There's been no communication through our attorney or to us. If that's the case, I'm recommending that we start the process of soliciting real estate bids to sell this property. As you're well aware, we can either sell it by sealed bid, public auction, or real estate. Given that this is a commercial industrial type of property on a main corridor, we owe it to ourselves to explore at least the realtor market and see what a realtor would be able to do. We could certainly go out there and stick a sign up that said public auction but I think a realtor might do a better job of marketing the property and hopefully attracting multiple bids. That's what we're doing here tonight.

Mr. Malizia said we did the same thing. I had an realtor open house for lack of a better word at Derry Street. I had a couple of realtors come in and pick up the package. I expect to get some bids on that in the very near future. I think the deadline is May 6th. We would go through a process. I would presume that these would be commercial brokers and not your typical residential broker. So the goal is to get all of our money back and at this point in time, we're into this for \$97,000 or \$100,000 with all the fees, fines, and everything else. So our goal is to get our money back. Chairman Coutu indicated we're not interested in going - we want to have a real estate agent sell this. Again, Mr. Malizia said you have that option. You can certainly do that but one of the reasons we changed the Town Code was to hopefully get a better price or protect the taxpayers.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to authorize the Town Administrator to solicit bids from real estate professionals to sell tax deeded property located at 4 Bridle Bridge Road.

Steve Malizia indicated those would come back to you obviously. That's not something I would award. We'd solicit the bids. You'd have a package and you'd be able to chose who you felt had the best package.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Maddox - As I said, we did our first CIP and of course there is always that excitement of every 5 years looking at all the money that we should be spending. Some members were less than flattering about the Board of Selectmen's selling of how we should be spending money on infrastructure. I invited any number of them to run for the Board of Selectmen. Again, they're just frustrated. I think as probably some of our department heads are is there's just not money to do the things that we would like to do. Again, we are living within the realities of a default budget so we are going to have to continue to limp along and make repairs, make adjustments that we need to do. We will produce a document that will come to this Board that will basically say that we should expend X amount of dollars. Until such time as there's real monies Mr. Chairman and at some point hopefully we will put a warrant article on the ballot that says from any number of sources we put money aside into a capital reserve fund for this type of thing, a bond issue, or however we're going to do it, it is going to be a challenge to be able to come up with taxpayers willing to expend the money to do these projects. We are doing it. It is a function of we need to do it to be able to continue to collect the fees. We will have a document to this Board later in the year. That Sir is all I have.

Chairman Coutu asked what is it specifically that they're moaning about. We had all we could do to get the voters to approve enough money for us to be able to get on track on our road paving. That's only \$500,000 a year and then our contracts on top of that. I think our people are our most important product. I understand that we need to do something with our infrastructure. We're bursting at the seams here. We have a Fire Department that's falling apart. It's not falling apart but its less than desirable than what other towns have. It's old, it's antiquated, and it needs to be replaced. We can put all of this stuff on the ballot but what are the chances of it passing? I agree with you. If they can do a better job than us, then run for the Board of Selectmen and you convince the voters to spend all this money. Until people are willing to realize that we do need infrastructure improvement, our hands are tied. We don't make those decisions we just propose them. If they don't agree to it, that's it. Thank you Selectman Maddox.

Selectman Nichols - The Cable Utility Committee did not meet but they will be meeting March 29th at 5:30. The location is to be determined. They didn't have anything this month.

Also, Selectman Nichols indicated Joe Undercofler had a community recognition night tonight. We couldn't go of course because we were here but for his work with the Scouts. I just wanted to let people know. He comes from a wonderful family and I really am very proud of him.

Selectman Nichols stated Lisa Nute from IT Department sent a monthly report. I don't know if everyone got one or not. It was very good. She had updated some items. Her Hudson website makes the A list. There was an online training session this month hosted by the NH Municipal Association on how to make municipal websites better for the public. This was open to all communities and two members from Hudson attended. To their delight, a picture of Hudson site came up during the hour long class as one of the instructor's slides. Hudson government was one of at least less than 15 communities in New Hampshire who's website made the A list. That was kind of impression.

The HCTV Access and Senior Center during the first quarter of the year made visits and began to coordinate the technology installations with Mike O'Keefe. It's currently in place of the phone systems fiber optic network and access control systems. Thanks to the donations by the Hudson Senior Council on Aging, equipment has been ordered for other technologies needed for the Activity Coordinator's office and other areas of the center.

Chairman Coutu asked if that was a lengthy letter. Selectman Nichols indicated it's just different things she's done. Do you want me to read it or do you want me to...Chairman Coutu asked to have her send us a copy please. I don't mean to cut you short but that looks like its 3 pages long.

From what Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director, said Selectman Nichols stated she wanted to let us know that the Town of Hudson has been a victim of fraud. I didn't know if you knew this. I just wanted to let people know that and she has a handle on that. The bank notified them right away so they were able to stop the payments and whatever. So far so good.

Selectman Brucker - I'm very happy to be back. I've been away for a while. It's good to be back in the saddle again. I wanted to say that it was disappointing to see that our operating budget did not pass. I hope that citizens will realize that we're trying very hard. The department heads put together really good budgets that are building on other things that they've done in the past in terms of infrastructure, planning, and organizing their departments. I hope we're not being penny wise and pound foolish with some of these decisions that have been made at the ballot box. You hate to not maintain something that you've been taking care of and in future years have to do a huge repair and scrambling around for the money at that time. I just hope the votes will understand what the consequences are of not passing what I considered a modest budget. We're going to have to work hard at it. Thank you.

Selectman Nadeau - I have a couple things. Selectman Nichols just touched on the Grange tonight. They also had an award for a police officer and a fire officer. Eric Lambert was the Firefighter who got the award and Officer Connolly was the Police Officer that got the award. There's a couple others that I don't know of. There was a couple of other community awards and when I find those out, I'll let you know.

Selectman Nadeau indicated the Benson's Committee did a site walk through the other day at the park to figure out what we needed to do for our spring cleanups with the volunteers. We walked around the park and saw some of the winter damage. It wasn't as bad as I was expecting it. The Highway Department fixed the wash out so that we could get our trash picked up in the park. The trash cans are back out in the park.

The Easter egg hunt went very well over at the park on Friday night. I was not there but I did hear from a lot of the people that were there. The parking lot is all striped and it was overflowing as usual all weekend long with people there which is good.

The Dog Park Committee is becoming very active there. A subcommittee of the Benson's Committee. They've been putting a lot of stuff on their Hudson Dog Park Facebook page which has been very informative and people are starting to catch onto the rules a little more.

Selectman Nadeau was approached today by the Bass fishing group that did the Bass fishing there last year. They're looking forward to doing it June 7th. We'd like to get the word out to the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scout troops in town that we'd like to see them come to the fishing tournament. It was very well run by this group last year and I expect nothing but the best this year with them. They'll be going to the Benson's Committee with the date and everything. The Benson's Committee had already said last year that if they wanted to do it again that we'd be very, very delighted to have them. That was some great news today for that.

Relative to that, Chairman Coutu said last year these people provided food and beverages and every single kid that was there got a fishing pole. Selectman Nadeau said they got a prize. Chairman Coutu said they were giving out fishing poles. Selectman Nadeau indicated they gave out probably 40 or 50 fishing poles. Chairman Coutu noted they left the park spotless from what I understand. Selectman Nadeau stated yes they left it cleaner than when they got there which was great. They had a jar out front if anybody wanted to donate money and they donated that money because it had to be donated to the Benson's Committee. They also donated 4 fishing tackle box and pole set ups that they have up at the store that when people come in and they don't have a pole and the kids want to go fishing, they let them use it. Like I said when he approached me today and gave me the date of June 7th, the formality is they have to go before the Benson's Committee.

Selectman Nadeau said another thing that's going into the park which will be on the next agenda is a gazebo. It will be going in on the other side of the pond. The little peninsula. I think that's going to be a real nice added attraction down there.

Mal's Pals came before the Benson's Committee and told us that they have the money for their structure. They're buying it from the same people that we bought our playground equipment from with an engineered stamped plan. We are unfortunately going to have to do a community build like we've done with other projects in town. They're going to supply the supervisor and we are going to have to supply the labor and manpower to assemble the structure. We'll be taking care of the food and all that through the Benson Committee for the volunteers. It's going to be a select group of volunteers - tradesmen that have volunteered their time for us. They're looking to do that either late June or early August I believe. They're going to start getting some of the site work done now when they have some time. Chairman Coutu indicated they have to pour the foundation. I think I already got them a contractor that's willing to provide all the labor. A cement contractor is willing to provide all the labor and all they have to do is drop the forms and have the cement brought in. I was told that perhaps there was a company in Nashua willing to donate the cement or certainly reduce the price. Selectman Nadeau said yes. That was all great news. Chairman Coutu said it is great news. We've been waiting a long time to get that thing up and built. That combined with the fishing derby, just two more things that enhance the beauty of the park. It's very inviting for all ages and now we'll have the senior center there. We'll have the seniors and it will be a nice place for them to walk and stroll around the park.

Selectman Nadeau stated one of the other things that was talked about at the Benson Park Committee meeting which I thought was pretty neat is Alvirne has a group of students that are going to work with the seniors. They're going to map out where all our benches are in the park and they're going to map out so that if you wanted to go in and walk 1.1 miles, here's your benches at this point, this point, and this point. They'll have that on line and there will be some brochures available at the senior center. I think that's a great project. They're going to be working on that. I think it's at the end of the year or the beginning of next school year that they're going to be doing it. It's going to get the special needs and the Alvirne community with the seniors to work together.

Chairman Coutu thought that's unique. They're going to tell you how many miles or feet from this bench to the next. Selectman Nadeau said if you're trying to do a physical therapy program by walking 500 feet - I thought about you. I think that's going to be great. They'll put the gazebo in, the big structures in so that if there's seating around those structures you'll be able to see where they are. I can't wait to see that.

Selectman Brucker asked if the gazebo and Mal's Pals structure is that one in the same thing. Selectman Nadeau said no. That's two separate things. The Mal's Pals gazebo is going in the amphitheater and the other donated gazebo that we receive is going to go in the little peninsula by the pond. Chairman Coutu thought the other one is six times larger. The Mal's Pals will be about six times larger. I'm hoping to have band concerts and things like that. People can sit on that grassy area. Selectman Nadeau stated this one will be more for people to sit back, fishing. Selectman Nadeau said the grandparents go with the kids and they actually have a place on the shade on that side of the pond other than the shade tree. The stuff is all starting to bud out at the park. The trees are starting to leaf out. It was really a neat walk. There was a couple clusters of Daffodils. There's a new adopt-a-spot that's being done. He was working on it last year and this year. They're going to be

putting a picnic table and that's going to be overlooking the pond. Bob Merrill is doing that with his family. Very, very nice added new little attraction to the park.

Selectman Nadeau said the RFP for the shoe roof is going out this week so that we can get that all weathered and watertight and try to preserve that.

Selectman Coutu - I have just a couple of things. Selectman Nadeau and I as the Town Administrator went to the last comedy night. It wasn't as well attended as others. I think it was because it was during the Lenten season. It could be a reason why a lot of people didn't go. Again, you missed a good time. We had a good time. I wasn't going to go but I was persuaded by Selectman Nadeau to go. I went and I truly enjoyed myself.

I took a tour of the senior center. I had already been in the cable facility. Mrs. Bowen was good enough to accommodate me on a tour of the senior center. It's a lot smaller than I thought it would be. It's very tastefully done. I'm amazed at how much the Council on Aging has purchased and donated to the senior center - the whole kitchen, Laurie's office and all her technical support equipment, the pool table, and there's so much more. There's going to be so many things that people can do there - reading areas, bright open and sunny reading areas. The cement was poured I believe Friday for the walkways. We'll get the last coating on the hot top and hopefully all the landscaping will be done and we'll be in good stead for the grand opening on May 31st.

So I don't get inundated with phone calls and a million people ask me, yes we are closing our store. It will be closed sometime during the month of May. If you're coming in and you're seeing walls are bare and things are happening, it's because we are closing the business. My wife is going to retire permanently. I will hopefully find something to do or she'll drive me crazy at the house. I'll get out and find something to do. We are closing our business. It's not an ad for the business because we're closing it.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to enter Nonpublic Session pursuant to: RSA 91-A:3 II (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 Nonpublic Session is being entered at 9:31 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. Open session is being entered at 9:50 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Brucker, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HGTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Roger E. Coutu, Chairman

Benjamin Nadeau, Selectman

Richard J. Maddox, Selectman

Nancy Brucker, Selectman

Pat Nichols, Selectman