

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Maddox the meeting of December 3, 2013 at 7:03 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Brad Seabury.
3. ATTENDANCE
Board of Selectmen: Rick Maddox, Nancy Brucker, Roger Coutu, Ted Luszey, Ben Nadeau
Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Patrick Colburn, Town Engineer
4. PUBLIC INPUT

Brad Seabury

Good evening lady and gentlemen. I'm here tonight to speak about the appointments for the Zoning Board of Adjustment. I am aware that there are times when other citizens of the Town can come in and volunteer to be on the Board. Tonight you have 3 vacancies on the Board and 3 members of the Board who currently sit in those positions as I understand it have applied for reappointment. I am here to speak extremely in favor of reappointing those three members. I came here expecting a larger list of people who were coming and I noticed we some interest that the only other person on your list for that Board has to be one of the finest, most qualified citizens of the Town which gives me a problem with some of the things I had originally intended to say. I also noticed that Mr. Brackett has also put himself in for the Planning Board and there are 3 vacancies there. I will leave that up to you.

Speaking for the people who are on the Board now, they have all demonstrated their dedication to the zoning issues before the town, a commitment that is very strong. As an example on one of the site walks that we had this year, there were only 4 members of the Board who showed up on a rainy Saturday morning for a damp walk in the woods. Those four members were myself and these same 3 members who are seeking reappointment. I think that demonstrates their kind of commitment. They have all regularly participated in the training sessions that are available to us. They regularly demonstrated the meetings that they have studied the documentation that's available. Their questions indicate that they have viewed the properties that are before us and that they have a concern with respect to fairness to the applicants and to the Town of Hudson. I am strongly in favor that all 3 of the people who are seeking re-appointment be re-appointed. If there are any questions, I'd be glad to address them.

Selectman Coutu indicated as (inaudible) an endorsement, he does it every year. He's very supportive of his group. I wish more Chairmen would come in and do the same. It speaks well of his membership. I regularly watch the meetings and he doesn't always vote with the rest but he's very supportive of their opinions. I think this is a great endorsement.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Nominations and Appointments - Interviews

- 1) Benson's Committee - (4 vacancies, 3 member terms to expire 4/30/17; 1 alternate term to expire 4/30/2017)

Ralph Alio (incumbent alternate) - I've been on the Board now for a couple of years. I've been volunteering at the park pretty much from the beginning on the Benson Committee. I'm also on the Landscaping Subcommittee and I've been on Benson's Budget Subcommittee also.

Selectman Coutu - Ralph what I spoke previously about watching the meetings, I watch all of them. I noticed you're pretty laid back and quiet at the meetings. You've obviously been there for a while now you're comfortable with that Board and the accomplishments. I know you do a lot of volunteer work at the Park. Thank you Sir.

Selectman Brucker asked how long have you been on the Benson Committee. Mr. Alio indicated a couple of years now. I don't remember exactly how many years maybe two or three.

Ann K. Desrosiers (incumbent member) - Good evening, I'm Ann Desrosiers, 97 Pelham Road. I started as an Alternate on the Benson Committee. I think it was 2010 and 2011 I was appointed on the Board. Chairman Maddox asked do you do a lot of the photography for them. Ms. Desrosiers said yes I assist.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Ralph Alio as a member to the Benson Park Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2017, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Brucker, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Ann K. Desrosiers as a member to the Benson Park Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2017, carried 5-0.

2) Building Board of Appeals - (2 vacancies, 2 terms to expire 4/30/17)

Mark Leach (incumbent member) - absent

Michael A. Pitre (incumbent member) - Good evening everybody. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Mike Pitre and I live at 10 Jone Ave. in the south end of town. It will be 18 years next month. I'm here this evening hopefully to get re-appointed back to the ZBA, my current role, and Building Board of Appeals. I've served on both Committees for over 10 years now even though the Building Board of Appeals hasn't met; we are very active at the ZBA. The cases in the ZBA have changed lately. They're not so much set back type requests. They're building type stuff - more home occupation or AOU type requests as of late. I want to note that I was happy to see Mr. Brackett listed on the agenda tonight. He was kind of a mentor to me when I first started on the ZBA. It's good to see his name back out again. Speaking of mentors, Mr. Brad Seabury has been a mentor for many excellent years. Thank you.

Chairman Maddox asked are you going to have better attendance at NRPC if we're still members. Mr. Pitre said I will effort that. Chairman Maddox stated every time we have a meeting, I see your placard there. It's a great time.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Michael A. Pitre as a member to the Building Board of Appeals with a term to expire 4/30/2017, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Michael A. Pitre as a member to the Zoning Board with a term to expire 12/31/2016, carried 5-0.

3) Cable Committee - (1 vacancy, 1 term to expire 4/30/2017)

Stewart Kroner (incumbent member) - I'm Stu Kroner. I'm up for reappointment on the Cable Committee.

Chairman Maddox asked how long have you been on. Mr. Kroner indicated 5 years about.

Selectman Coutu stated having been the Selectman Liaison to the Cable Committee for quite some time, I got to know Stu and he is one of the members who volunteer an awful lot of times out there with the cameras and in the studio producing some of the programs that we have. I highly recommend that we appoint Stu to the Cable Committee.

Chairman Maddox asked Mr. Kroner what he thought about the new facility. Stewart Kroner said I like it. I can't wait to see it finished. Chairman Maddox was hearing March.

Motion by Selectman Brucker, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Stewart Kroner as a member to the Cable Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2017, carried 5-0.

4) Conservation Commission - (7 vacancies, 3 member terms to expire 12/31/16; 1 member term to expire 12/31/14; 1 alternate term to expire 12/31/14; 1 alternate to expire 12/31/15; 1 alternate to expire 12/31/16)

James Battis (incumbent member) - Good evening. As your agenda notes, I'm an incumbent member already. I'm actually the Chairman of the Conservation Commission. I've been on it for over 20 years and would like to continue serving on the Commission.

Selectman Coutu stated sometime in the previous budget year the Board of Selectmen had asked that the Conservation Commission do due diligence to the public lands that we own. I know that you undertook that project. How is that going? Mr. Battis said pretty well. We actually with the help of volunteers like Ralph Alio, and Joe Undercofler, Sandra Rumbaugh, we've done significant trail work. Joe Undercofler is creating signs for the Musquash property, better directions when you're on the trails. We just completed a stewardship inspection. The grant requires an annual stewardship inspection. We just turned in the report which I forwarded to Mr. Malizia for the Board. We're looking at possibly upgrading the parking lots. I've spoken to Mr. Burns about doing some work on the parking areas at both the Town Forrest and Musquash and he was saying probably early next spring. I know he went out and took a look at them. I don't know if he has any suggestions or not. It's going fine.

Selectman Coutu understood that Mr. Burns is going to be grading those areas at Musquash and the Town Forrest and as far as the Town Forrest itself, any additional plans for creating new trails? Mr. Battis said Ken Dickinson who's another member of the Commission has organized, designed and laid out some trails which over the past year there's been a couple days of working on trails out there. Maybe three days. We expect to continue that. NRPC has actually developed a trail map which we'll be putting up for Musquash and then once we get the trails completed and

upgraded at the Town Forrest, we'll ask them to produce a similar trail map which will go at the kiosk. We'll try to build a kiosk at the Town Forrest. We're upgrading the kiosk at Musquash and put trail maps so people can go there and see what's available to them for hiking.

Selectman Brucker wanted to say that Mr. Battis is doing a very good job as Chairman and really keeping us on top of all of our responsibilities. I think he's served very well for the Town.

Ken Dickinson (incumbent member) - Ken Dickinson, 12 St. Anthony Drive. I've been on the Board for 13 years and looking to continue work that we're doing.

Selectman Brucker stated that Ken is always up for a site walk. He's always organizing interesting expeditions for us on the town land. I just think he's doing an excellent job.

Again, Chairman Maddox said if people are watching for television land, these people are all known to the Board. I think it's important that they come in every 3 years and show their faces so people know who they are and where they go. Again the work that they do, we see regularly at all the various meetings and our liaisons keep us informed. So thank you Sir.

Pat Dubay (incumbent member) - Patricia Dubay, 9 Elaine Street. I've been learning a lot from Mr. Battis and Mr. Dickinson the last 3 years on the Conservation Commission. I hope to be reappointed to continue whatever I can do for the Conservation Commission itself.

Chairman Maddox asked if you could give us the highlights on SWEP. Ms. Dubay said it's a Society of Women and Environmental Engineering. Its environmental professionals in the Massachusetts area. They do volunteer work also but they do coordinate sort of an organization that work in events for women environmental professionals. Chairman Maddox stated it's just an acronym I didn't recognize. Thank you.

Selectman Brucker wanted to say that Patricia's input has always been very helpful when we're discussing different issues. She's been a great Vice-Chairman. I know she's always very helpful at the meetings.

Motion by Selectman Brucker, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint James Battis, Ken Dickinson, and Patricia as members of the Conservation Commission with terms to expire 12/31/2016.

Just so everybody knows, Chairman Maddox stated there are a couple of positions still open for alternates for this Commission. I know that there's some people that are still interested out there. If they can get their paperwork in, we'd love to see them.

- 5) Municipal Utility Committee - (1 vacancy, 1 member term to expire 4/30/16)

- 6) Planning Board - (3 vacancies, 2 member terms to expire 12/31/16; 1 alternate term to expire 12/31/16)

Charles Brackett (will be at 12/10 mtg) (absent)

Glen Della-Monica (incumbent member) - Good evening. Glen Della-Monica a Hudson resident. Interested in how the Town does its planning and enjoying being on the Planning Board quite a bit, giving my input, seeing how things are run, and giving a little different slant sometimes to how things might go. I'm a transplant from California where at one time I was a Captain with the California State Police. When I left that, I became the Building Manager of the Supreme Court building. I've got quite a bit of experience with how buildings run, how buildings are planned, and real property administrator and facilities management administrator through Building and Recent Managers Institute. I have a keen interest in what's going on with the Planning Board.

Selectman Coutu commented and said if you learned nothing else from the State Police, he certainly learned a lot about truck movements and rotations around properties. I appreciate that input. You do give a lot of color to the Board. Having taking accident reports from people who actually ran through at the DMV, Mr. Della-Monica said I know all about this sort of thing.

Ed van der Veen (incumbent member) - Ed van der Veen, 9 Newton Street. I've been on the Planning Board first as an alternate and now as the Secretary. I believe this is my third time coming up here to ask for my position. This time I'd like to ask for it back once again. I enjoy working with the Planning Board and helping guide the development of the Town of Hudson trying to find that balance between property rights, the laws of the State, and the Town, and the environment safety and all those kinds of things. I'd like to continue doing that.

Chairman Maddox thought it was interesting to see on your application you have a Masters in Economics which people tell us that this won't have any impact. I'm hoping you're kicking in a little more. I guess the Chair wants to say as the Selectmen's rep. to the Planning Board that both of these gentlemen are a true asset to the Community. They have, again, this is where I think it's interesting that we have alternates that come up and learn what goes on before they get thrust into it as an actual member. I think that it served both the Town and the members a great service to be able to kind of watch for a while before you have to be sitting there making the tough decisions not knowing all of the background. Again, I think that the program we have with the alternates, some of these boards and committees is absolutely a great idea.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Glen Della-Monica and Ed van der Veen as members to the Planning Board with a term to expire 12/31/2016, carried 5-0.

7) Recreation Committee - (2 vacancies, 2 member terms to expire 4/30/17)

Keith Bowen (incumbent member) - Hi my name is Keith Bowen, 24 Cottonwood Drive, Hudson. I have put my name in for 3 of the Boards - Senior Affairs Committee, Hudson Recreation Committee, and the Benson Park Committee. I've been involved with the Rec. Department since 1992 when I started as a summer councilor taking 3 years off when I moved to Nashua after I got married because that's where I lived. Immediately when I moved back to town, I came back and joined the board again. I would like to continue working with the Recreation Department because I've enjoyed my experiences there and I enjoy giving back to the community as much as possible.

As far as Senior Affairs Committee knowing that the new senior center comes under the auspices of the Rec. Department as well as my position within the schools, Mr. Bowen thought I would be able to be an intricate part of the team and involving seniors within the community to benefit the whole community as far as kids are concerned and aging adults recreation as well.

The Benson's Committee, Mr. Bowen stated I was on the original committee that was formed probably 13 years ago back in the 2000/2001 time frame. I just thought that that would be something interesting to get back involved with again.

Selectman Brucker asked other than the senior committee is there anything in particular you're interested in in recreation or is there an area of interest there. Keith Bowen stated I like getting involved in anything that has to do with promoting activities for kids or anything that involves getting people involved with their community.

Selectman Coutu told Keith I know you were somewhat reluctant in reapplying and now I see you've applied for 3 committees. Considering the fact that you are a definite candidate if not the next potential Principal of a school, you're going to have the time to do all of these things. Mr. Bowen said that's why I was reluctant. I had thought twice about it based on the fact that that is a potential. With that not being a guarantee, I threw my hat in the ring for the things that I'm interested in. As your liaison to the Recreation Committee, Selectman Coutu has come to know Keith and Lori quite well. Even tried to bail them out of a scam vacation that they weren't on. He's not just a listener. He's a participant in the recreational affairs with this town. He has an interest. He's a part time Recreation Director. He is totally involved in the recreational programs even putting his life out on the line sometimes playing basketball with some of the guys from rec. I appreciate his service on the Recreation Committee and I highly recommend that he be reappointed to the Recreation Committee.

Selectman Luszey indicated I'm familiar with Mr. Bowen's work but one of the things he said or mentioned and that is getting the seniors involved with the youth in our community. Can you speak a little bit about how you might go about and what that might look like. Keith Bowen thought it would be interesting to get seniors coming into the schools on a volunteer basis. There's a lot of seniors out there that may be retired educators that may want to get back in to do a little bit of reading with the kids from time to time or just help out within the school environment to whatever capacity that they're interested in. It's obviously something that would have to be proposed within the school district but I think it's something that would be welcomed.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Keith Bowen as a member to the Benson Park Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2017, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Keith Bowen as a member to the Recreation Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2017, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Keith Bowen as a member to the Senior Affairs Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2016.

Selectman Coutu would like to hold this one in abeyance because I think I would like to see other candidates and because his wife is going to be managing the senior affairs, I'm not comfortable at this time.

Chairman Maddox asked where does the Board want to go.

Selectman Brucker asked about the alternate position. Chairman Maddox didn't think it had anything to do with the position.

Given what Selectman Coutu said, Keith Bowen understood. I really didn't think about that ahead of time. I would completely understand that observation.

Selectman Luszey withdrew his motion and will come back later.

Selectman Brucker said I like his idea of having the seniors working in the schools. Chairman Maddox indicated that's through recreation. Mr. Bowen said it can still work the same way.

- 8) Recycling-Energy Committee - (5 vacancies, 1 member term to expire 4/30/14; 2 member terms to expire 4/30/17; 1 alternate term to expire 4/30/2015; 1 alternate term to expire 4/30/16)

L. Cheryl Freed (incumbent member) - Cheryl Freed, 4 Greenfield Drive. I am here to reapply to the newly formed Recycling/Energy Committee. I've been on the Recycling Committee for 3 years now.

Chairman Maddox asked are you the person that writes the articles. Ms. Freed said yes. Selectman Nadeau noted the informative articles that are in the HLN.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint L. Cheryl Freed as a member to the Recycling-Energy Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2017, carried 5-0.

- 9) Senior Affairs Committee - (3 vacancies, 1 member term to expire 4/30/15; 1 member term to expire 4/30/16; 1 alternate term to expire 4/30/16)
- 10) Zoning Board of Adjustment - (3 vacancies, 1 member term to expire 12/31/16; 2 alternate terms to expire 12/31/16)

Charles Brackett (will be at 12/10 mtg) (absent)

Maryellen Davis (incumbent alternate) - Good evening Mr. Chair and Board members. My name is Maryellen Davis, 14 Nathaniel Drive in Hudson. I'm here to reapply to the Zoning Board of Adjustment as an alternate member. I've been a member for about 10 years. I did take a year off in between but I found that I missed those walks with Mr. Seabury. Nothing like being in the woods with that guy. So I came back. When I did come back, I came back as an alternate. I've served on a number of different capacities. While I was on the Board, I was Vice Chair for the time being, Clerk, and now I'm Clerk again. So when you leave and you come back, that's what happens you're punished.

Chairman Maddox asked if Ms. Davis found it beneficial to step away for a year. Ms. David said yes I did. I think that as you all know I'm a very colorful person. I'm never lost for words. I think I took the time to take a step back and just be focused and I think I came back energized. It was good. It was a good break. I did miss it though.

Gerald Dearborn (incumbent alternate) - My name is Gary Dearborn. I live at 136 Highland Street in Hudson. I'm perhaps a junior member of this Zoning Board of Adjustment tonight. I've been on the Board 3 years at the urging of the Chairman. He's the one that suggested I should try this out 3 years ago. In the 3 years, I've attended every one of the monthly meetings. I've taken advantage of all the training sessions that have been made available in Manchester and also in Derry. I am very interested and I am retired so I have the opportunity to do some onsite inspections of all the parcels that we would be meeting on that particular meeting night.

Selectman Coutu said I'm glad he's come out of his shell because he's doing an outstanding job with his questions and his comments. He's obviously learned a lot. Mr. Dearborn said I have a good instructor. A good Chairman of the Board.

Chairman Maddox stated it occasionally works when I put my arm around somebody and say hey how would you like to. Mr. Dearborn was on what the original seniors. Mr. Dearborn served on the Board of Assessors many years ago in Hudson when Dick Ethier was the Assessor. I've also been a Trustee of the Trust Funds for a short period of time. I've also been the financial advisor and treasurer of the Hudson Seniors or 3 years. I've gone from one position to another.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Maryellen Davis as an alternate to the Zoning Board with a term to expire 12/31/2016, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Gerald Dearborn as an alternate to the Zoning Board with a term to expire 12/31/2016, carried 5-0.

Chairman Maddox thanked everyone. Again, I know this is an inconvenience to come out but I think, again, it's nice for us to see some people we've never seen before and for the citizens to see you as you come up every 3 years. Thank you very much. There are still some positions available. There will be something scrolling on our cable outlining and we still have a couple of people that will be coming in at our meeting next week. I believe Mr. Brackett will be in.

Before everybody leaves, Selectman Coutu wanted to let all of you know that we appreciate the fact that you serve at no cost to the taxpayers. This is all volunteer on each of your parts and it is truly appreciated. Thank you.

Chairman Maddox stated without them, the Town does not run. No matter how many employees we have, without people filling those chairs at the various boards and commissions, Hudson screeches to a halt.

B. Request to Hire One Winter Intern

Chairman Maddox to recognize Town Engineer Patrick Colburn.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. Ryan Houle has been a summer intern in the Engineering Department for two consecutive summers. He communicated to me 3 weeks ago that he was available for a few weeks, specifically the week of December 15th, January 5th, and January 12th over this winter break. We have a series of ongoing projects and a couple of new projects that we've identified in the water utility that we could use Ryan's help on. I reviewed the temporary salary budget line item in my department and funds for this temporary position are available.

Motion Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to hire Ryan Houle as a winter intern at a rate of \$12.50 per hour during the weeks of December 15, 2013, January 5, 2014, and January 12, 2014.

Chairman Maddox noted we're getting an intern to do a lot of this engineering. We're spreading our Engineer a little thin. This will assist him in getting some water projects done that we need done.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

C. Approve Agreement between the Town of Hudson and Weston & Sampson Engineers

Chairman Maddox recognized Town Engineer Patrick Colburn.

Patrick Colburn indicated this is in regards to the asbestos project out at the Zach's field site on Industrial Drive. You folks will recall from the last meeting that you voted to accept additional subgrant monies from the CRDC in Concord. To date, we have been working with several organization, the EPA specifically, who's the grantor. Then we have the subgrantees - REDC has been the primary funding source to date the Regional Economic Development Commission. When they started the project, they contracted with Weston & Sampson to complete the design engineering and permitting required for the asbestos project. As well, Weston & Sampson and their assigned, ALG Environmental has provided the construction oversight to date. Now that REDC is phasing out of the project because their funding is concluding and CRDC is ramping up to finish the job, somebody needs to pick up oversight engineering consultant Weston & Sampson. CRDC operates differently than REDC does and they've asked that the Town contract Weston & Sampson directly. They're not willing to contract Weston & Sampson like REDC has to date. So this agreement before you tonight is between the Town and Weston & Sampson for the completion of the project. It's for a fixed not to exceed sum of \$26,000 and that covers the various items to include construction engineering and oversight, and then all of the closeout procedures required by DES and the EPA for this project. The funds for this work were part of our request to the CRDC. So the funds are covered in the subgrant that you accepted a week ago. It's just a matter of the Town working with Weston & Sampson versus the REDC contracted directly with them.

Chairman Maddox's question to you is you're saying that this is going to complete the contract and I understood that there was an additional \$116,000 that maybe coming in from another source. Mr. Colburn said that is available. That money is available however this agreement with Weston & Sampson will be for all of the remaining construction engineering oversight and close out procedures engineering related. So this contract will be it for Weston & Sampson. The money that you're referring to is as I mentioned at the last meeting, the City of Nashua has discussed with us their ability to provide subgrant monies as they are subgrantees of the EPA for Brownfield monies as well. The money that we received from CRDC is close to enough. What it doesn't do is it doesn't pay the general conditions that we have had while we search for additional monies with our current site contractor for the rental of the site fence, the job trailer, and things of that sort. Our current budget doesn't provide for any contingency money. So what I told you I would do last week is now that we're starting this project tomorrow to finish the work, we're going to seek those funds from the City. There is \$116,000 available. We don't anticipate needing anywhere near that sum of money to finish the job. We will seek monies and ensure that we have enough to complete the project. However, that is unrelated and inconsequential to this agreement with Weston & Sampson.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to approve the Agreement between the Town of Hudson and Weston & Sampson Engineers for the purpose of engineering services for asbestos removal at Zach's Field not to exceed \$26,000, carried 5-0.

D. Budget Committee Deliberations for FY2015

Chairman Maddox recognized Selectman Luszey.

Selectman Luszey mentioned that it's been a great last few weeks. Last night was the final night of the overall budget deliberation. At the conclusion of the meeting just prior to a motion to adjourn, I requested a second straw vote to be taken on all the warrant articles because Warrant Article A which is our operating budget was not approved or recommended. At the second vote, it was 7 no's and 2 yes's which lead to a lengthy discussion with the members of the Board lead by me asking them exactly what is it going to take to have a budget moved to the warrant as recommended. After a colorful discussion, a motion was made to bring the general budget down to \$1 less than default. The amount that was approved to go forward last night was \$23,329,645 or roughly \$629,803,000 less than what we proposed.

With that being said, Selectman Luszey said we have a couple strategies I guess we can talk about. The Finance Director, I believe everybody has a copy of basically a spreadsheet that details what I just described. On the last page, it has all of the requests and amounts that we added to the operating budget over default or this year's budget for those items that this Board felt that were important to put into the operating budget. We can either go through that and prioritize what we feel should go forward and present that back to the Budget Committee or I can take a message back to the Budget Committee and request that they do a line item cut of where they want to see that amount monies come from. I'm opening it up for discussion to the Board now.

Selectman Brucker was a little concerned about having them do the cutting. I think that we could do our own first and then send it to them so that..Chairman Maddox agrees. I think there's a couple of items that we could defer it. We have to make tough decisions but if they expect us to take \$629,000 out, I think they should have some heat to go with that. To simply say cut it, they need to show us where they think cuts that I think are going to be difficult to perform.

Selectman Nadeau thought we went through this budget and did a pretty good job going through it. I think there was a few cuts that we can make. Some of them might be a little more painful that people want to do but if that's where the Budget Committee wants to go, I think they're going to have to give us some guidance on what they want to cut out at \$629,000 also.

Chairman Maddox said one place is, again, the revolving fund for the senior activities. We have a warrant article to set up that fund that we put \$100,000 into the budget even though there is offsetting revenues. Steve help me when I get in trouble. Because we gross appropriate our budgets, we must show that we are going to spend that money even though we have an offsetting revenue. Right there if we took those monies that we put in for the revolving account and set up the revolving account with no dollars in it and then allow the existing organization to continue the trips until July 1st say and then we'd start putting money into that fund that is now set up and take it over. Rather than putting \$100,000 in from the taxpayers even though it is offset, correct? Steve Malizia said you'd have to presume that the revolving fund would pass the ballot. If it does pass the ballot, you can move that.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, that we cut \$100,000 from the senior activities account line item 5835.

Selectman Coutu said we've had this discussion. We're not going to deny the seniors their trips. We had a discussion today about my not comprehending why if it's offset by revenues do we have to raise and appropriate but we go through this every year. If it's an expense, it's raised and appropriated. It may be offset by revenues but it's not reflected in the final budget number. What's reflected is what we need to raise and appropriate. There's no guarantee that the revenue will show up to offset it. There is a revenue line to offset it. With that in mind and knowing conscientiously that we're taking this action knowing full well that the seniors will not be denied these trips - in the worst case scenario even if it doesn't pass, the revolving fund doesn't pass on the March ballot, Lucille Boucher has volunteer to continue to do the trips. Lori is going to continue to be an understudy to have a full grasp on how this is organized and run. If the voters deny the opportunity for a revolving fund, I don't see why they would because it's not going to cost them any money. We're setting up a revolving account for the senior trips. No harm done here and we can take \$100,000 off the top. I'd like to set that aside and get at least \$100,000 - a cut that makes sense at this point.

Selectman Luszey said I actually fully agree with Selectman Coutu. There is really no impact to the senior programming if we cut this. Even should the warrant fail, we have had some discussion with the Council on Aging and I'm sure that if it should fail, we could continue to work with them to provide the mechanism to allow the seniors to continue to do the trips.

Chairman Maddox always thought that this was going to be a cleaner method anyway rather than put the \$100,000 in and rotating it. I understand offsetting revenues but this is actually in my mind a lot cleaner to be able to just...Selectman Luszey said at some point in time, we will need to figure out how to do this. There's no guarantee that the Council on Aging will continue going forward. They have expressed an interest in continuing but as our programming takes off, I believe there'll be more interests in wanting to work through the senior center programming versus the Council on Aging. I think eventually this issue will have to be addressed. It may not be addressed in this particular budget cycle but it will have to be address.

Chairman Maddox stated the other thing that solves this is if it does take off and they spend \$130,000, we would have probably been in some amount even though there's offsetting revenue. Steve Malizia indicated if you have the revolving fund, it would resolve a lot of problems as far as this goes. That's really the key this year. If that passes, next year it will be a lot simpler to budget any of that.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Selectman Coutu asked to go to the IT projects. I will yield to Selectman Luszey so I can hear what the final recommendation is going to be and what your take is on it.

Selectman Luszey said the \$136,000 that we put in there was to complete out the fiber loop, upgrade the analog, cameras to digital, and the switches in next year's budget and deplete the current capital reserve fund doing half of the segment this year. With that being said and we've talked a little bit about Mr. Chair, I think that with the amount of revenues that the Cable Utility comes in, we might be able to use some monies from that to do that to offset some of this so that it's not coming all from the tax rate. That's kind of where I'm at. It's important enough that we go forward with it. I'm not sure if you folks have been following what's going on in the courts but the courts are making a major push to go to e-courts where a lot of the issues that are dealing with forms are going to be completed on line. You won't have to go to court. There's going to be, I think, in the very near future a request from the State for us to discontinue their portion of the T1 connection to us that virtual connection to us and we will be required to do the connection for SPOTS, the DMV, and all that. For us not to complete these technology projects I think will put us further behind. Just as a side bar note if you have been keeping up with the number of transactions and how people are paying for goods and services, this past week the mobile app overtook the PC purchases. Which means as I've been telling you like when my daughter's registration came up and she said Dad how come there's no app for it, those are the people that we need to be planning for and putting the foundation in to support. It's not longer us.

Chairman Maddox had a question of the Town Administrator. We have \$86,124 in a capital reserve fund. Why don't we break that out as we have in the past to say that money is a separate warrant article? It doesn't go to the budget right? There's a specific purpose for it. Steve Malizia wasn't following what you're asking. Chairman Maddox was trying to say why does the \$136 show up in our budget when the money is already there. We have released...Steve Malizia said the revenue was offsetting on the revenue side. All the Budget Committee looked at was the gross appropriation. They're not talking tax rate. They're not talking offsetting revenue. They looked at a number and said cut it by \$629,803. Regardless of what offsetting revenue was there, there's over \$300,000 of offsetting revenue against these items. That wasn't taken into consideration I assume. Selectman Luszey would make that assumption also. Mr. Malizia said what we've done is gross appropriation which is the law which is required and when you do gross appropriation, you put the appropriation on this side to its expenditure and if you have revenue, that comes on this side. When you calculate a tax rate, that's already factored in. I'm assuming that's not what the Budget Committee did. They took a number and said take this number away. They didn't take any consideration as to the tax rate implications of that or the fact that over \$300,000 of this has a revenue against it. They simply looked at a gross appropriation number and said make it \$629,000 lower.

Selectman Luszey indicated they were focused on the default number. Mr. Malizia said they gave you no direction. This is just a representation of the types of items or some of the items that cause you to be greater than the default budget. You could go into other parts of the budget and cut paving if you wanted to. You could go in and do all kinds of things if you wanted, if you so chose to. This is not the hit list of things to do or not to do. This is just a representation to show you why you ended up \$629,000 approximately greater than the default budget. A lot of these items you did consciously vote on to do and you decided that that was a priority. Now you may be deciding it's not a priority but you've been given no direction, no input. You got basically a bottom line that said cut this and then that's it. That's it. Strategically, you may want to sit there and figure out what does that mean.

Chairman Maddox said that's where the Board is trying to go. I think we saw a couple of items that we may be able to reduce this and then hand it back to the Budget Committee through our liaison to say here is the offsetting revenue. I think that is a correct statement. Yeah we're up \$629,000 but \$300,000 was offsetting. Unfortunately, Steve Malizia said the voter doesn't see that because that's not the way you express your budget. So when a voter goes into a booth, all they see is one number that's greater than another number by \$600,000 and presumably if they're not informed, they would make a judgment on that number and vote how they feel appropriate. That's the dilemma we face. It's just that simple. I didn't write the laws. I don't write the gross budgeting laws but that's the constraints that we have. At this point in time, that's the Budget Committee's budget. It's their budget. That's the budget that unchanged will go to the Deliberative Session to the votes in February. It's their budget at this point in time.

Selectman Coutu thought they had a wrap up night. Mr. Malizia was sure they do. In the end, the operating budget is now theirs.

Selectman Luszey stated it comes back to us at some point because right now if it goes...Mr. Malizia asked why does it come back to you. Selectman Luszey indicated because we can either recommend or not recommend. Right now it's recommended by us at the higher rate. Steve Malizia said one would presume that at the Deliberative Session when you reconvene after the meeting, you either recommend or not recommend that budget going into the voting booth. As you recall, we have a meeting at the end of the Deliberative Session. So depending on what changes if any are made at the Deliberative Session, the Board would take that final vote, this Board takes a final vote or traditionally has, and the Budget Committee takes a vote on that warrant and if appropriate.

Selectman Luszey thought maybe I'm missing a step because right now today what this Board recommended was the amount that included the \$629,000. When these print for the Town Meeting pamphlet, it will have on it recommended by the Board of Selectmen the lower number. Selectman Coutu said no. Unless we vote otherwise, Selectman Luszey indicated. Steve Malizia said you are correct. You would have to revote but that's not a requirement of the Budget Committee to bring it back to you. That's something you can do on your own if you chose to. It's not a requirement for them to bring it back to you. This isn't a back and forth deal.

Selectman Coutu indicated this is a question I asked this afternoon. I thought I had a clear cut answer and I'm not sure now that I have. We presented a budget to the Budget Committee and they turned around and said - now I'm going to get into the Budget Committee in a moment. I'm fuming right now because of their action. I'll get into that. I'm not one to mince words with anybody and I'm not going to mince words with them either. Their action was irresponsible. Plainly put, their action was irresponsible. They don't go and vet a budget like we do. I'll get into some of the remarks later. Mr. Chairman we presented a budget. There was \$629,802 more than what they recommended on the basis of meeting with our department heads and vetting their requests and other recommendations that came to us. I understood that our budget will go on the ballot and their budget will go on the ballot. Is that not true? The only budget that will show up on the ballot is their budget and the...Chairman Maddox said recommended by us and them. Steve Malizia stated at the end of the day, the operating budget is the Budget Committee's budget. It's their number. The number they end up at. Let me qualify that. That's through the Deliberative Session. For example, right now the number that we're dealing with is their number. We will go to the Deliberative Session with their number. Unless they change it, that's the number that's going to the Deliberative Session. At the Deliberative Session, the vote is in session and can make amendments, can add, can change that budget.

Selectman Luszey indicated I've got that but there's a step that allows the Board of Selectmen - if the Budget Committee changes the number, we have an opportunity to either vote to recommend or not recommend. Right now today, what's printed on that paper that goes to Town Meeting would be recommended by the Board of Selectmen, recommended by the Budget Committee and it would be \$629,802 less than what we actually voted for. So that needs to change. I believe we had the opportunity to do that. Mr. Malizia was not aware that it was the Budget Committee's responsibility. The Board would have to take that action on your own. What will get printed, what will get published is an MS7. It's a State form. On the MS7, there's a column that says Board of Selectmen recommended. It comes to a bottom line. There's also a column for Budget Committee recommended, which can be and in this case will be different. That's a piece of it. If you'd like to in the end vote on this and say we don't recommend the Budget Committee number, we'll have to put that on the agenda and you'll vote not to recommend that number.

Chairman Maddox was hopeful we will find a compromise that everybody can live with. I'm optimistic tonight.

Selectman Luszey said I listened to one member of the Budget Committee say that it was obvious by statements that were made that the budget is padded. Anyone who would make that statement is either - I'm going to drop that. When someone makes a statement like that, one of the things that I know factually is they know nothing about budgeting. You own a company, you have 10 employees, and you pay them each \$50,000 a year and you operate from a strict budget. At the beginning of the year when you're doing that budget, you budget 10 employees at \$50,000 a piece, plus FICA, plus whatever other benefits you give them. That's your budget line for salaries. Then you have your operating budget. During the period of that year, midyear, one employee resigns and you decide not to refill that position. We just gained a \$25,000 surplus plus the FICA and benefits that you budgeted. You didn't pad the budget. It's a happenstance of someone leaving employment and it takes a while to either refill the position, so that salary line is either building up a surplus. It is not called "padding". It's called true budgeting. Line item budgeting. That's number one.

Number two, Selectman Coutu said for another member of the Board to question overtime expense - and I can understand why people get a little upset about overtime expense. The five of us sit here and we try our best each and every meeting and with each and every Board and Commission that we attend to do our best to serve the public interests. Some people might not agree with some of the decisions we make, but we have a lot of information before us before we make these decisions and we make them on the basis in the final analysis. I know when I go home at the end of the day as I'm sure the rest of you do, I feel very comfortable with the way I voted. I might have been on the losing side; I might have been on the winning side. I feel very comfortable about what I did. I say to that person

who questioned the overtime account that if we have a fire for example at a home and it just so happens to be in the midst of shift change, would he rather we not spend the overtime and keep the people there or should we send them home and let the house burn while we wait for the next crew to come in? That's not how it operates. Would they rather that if we have a crisis situation in town that requires that we add additional police officers for the safety of an entire neighborhood that we not call them in because we just don't have the overtime. So we'll just let whoever it is shoot up that section of town because we don't have the manpower to cover it because we couldn't pull in extra detail to continue patrolling our streets and manpower. We don't waste overtime money. Overtime money as you know and I have sat here now for 6 years going on 7, we have questioned year after year what they could do in order to save money on overtime. We vet that line item very carefully in each of those budgets.

Selectman Coutu doesn't see any padding. I challenge both of those persons on the Budget Committee to show me 1) where the budget is padded, and 2) where the overtime is waste of money - \$600,000 being cut from our budget represents layoffs. Is that their wish? I'm asking them Mr. Chairman. Is that their wish? Do they want us to just let people go? Should we now reverse our decision on Robinson Road and close that fire station and put that section of town back in the position where it was 10 years ago? To just throw out there we're just going to cut the budget and we're going to bring it to \$1 below the default budget of last year without giving us any guidance whatsoever. I'm not looking for guidance. I'm looking for waste. You show me in that budget that we presented to them where we fail our citizens. That's the purpose of a budget. We have an obligation to provide services to our community. Some of those costs of those services go up each and every year. The only thing we have no direct control over, obviously we're not going to have control over the budget any more if we're going to have a vigilante group, just haphazardly saying cut \$629,000 from the budget. We don't care where you cut it from. The only thing we don't have control over are pay raises. The voters decide whether or not our employees deserve a pay raise. I wish we had control of that as well because I don't like seeing employees going 6, 7 years without a pay raise. Some of these people are out there day in and day out. They don't know when they get up in the morning whether they're going to come home at the end of the day. God willing they all will. I'm upset Mr. Chairman. I don't know what we could do. I think it would be irrational of us to try to come up with \$600,000 worth of cuts. I would appeal to the Budget Committee and the Chairman of the Budget Committee to reconsider their action if for no other reason than to come back with exactly where they feel we should cut. You tell us where we padded the budget. You tell us where there's excessive overtime. You tell us which employees we should lay off and I'll be happy with that. At least I'll have something that they've mulled over and they talked about. I watched every Budget Committee meeting except the one Monday night when you called me Mr. Chairman - last night as a matter of fact. I wasn't watching because I was working the store and I plan on watching it sometime this week when it's rebroadcasted probably tomorrow.

Selectman Coutu said I didn't see any real deliberation on any one item except for overtime and it really wasn't a deliberation. It was a continuous asking a question and he kept getting the answer and still didn't understand it. The other one saying the budget was padded and didn't understand what he was talking about. I don't even think he knows what town he lives in. Mr. Chairman if I had thought for one moment that that Committee actually did the vetting that we did and came back with a genuine dislike for an item that they feel was a waste of taxpayer money, I would certainly listen to that. They're giving us nothing. They're just coming back and saying cut \$629,000. It doesn't make sense to me. It's all I got to say at this time. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Maddox asked Selectman Luszey how much money was cut from the police budget last night. Selectman Luszey said none. The only motion to cut money was in the Cemetery Trustees fund and they wanted to take out 600 some odd dollars. Chairman Maddox stated that's why I guess I'm having a difficult time. I'm not to the point of Selectman Coutu but I'm trying to find that happy medium is that a \$7 million budget which is the police budget, they found nothing yet in the Cemetery Trustees \$1,200, they wanted to cut 600 and yet their own membership couldn't make a decision. It tied 5 to 5. Yes while I think they have the obligation to look at our budget, I think they need to look at our budget. Tell us where we are padding, where we are in excess. Again, if Mother Nature cooperates and all of our snow storms are Monday through Friday, we can keep down overtime. If you want the streets plowed on a Saturday and Sunday, we unfortunately have to pay some overtime. It's just the nature of the beast. If people could schedule their fires, their medical emergencies, car accidents, etc., we could do a better job. We are a service business and unfortunately, they don't line up where everybody would like them to be. I think we've cut out \$100,000. I do think we ought to take a look at the "ring of light" the fiber optic and see if we can fund that in a different mechanism through the excesses from cable. Again, that is technology. They are going to tie into that right Selectman Luszey? I could see how we could justify using those dollars to offset that work. Maybe that's something you could bring back to us and say where we could save some money there Selectman Luszey.

On that, Selectman Luszey said they will tie into it but they'll tie into it for the purpose of telephone. The cable center will actually purchase their own bandwidth because the amount of bandwidth they'll consume because of the streaming that they do for the audio/visual video that they stream out. I'm not opposed with that but I think what I'd like to do is to make a motion to only have the \$100,000 cut from the senior activities because it doesn't affect anything but then make the motion that the remaining monies we request the Budget Committee to come back and articulate line item by line item where they want to request those cuts.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Coutu, that the Board of Selectmen request the Budget Committee to come back and articulate line item by line item where they want to request those cuts.

To speak to my motion, Selectman Luszey said after listening to Mr. Coutu speak and having sat through the budget deliberations where there really was no conversation about the budget in detail, and having the Budget Committee cut our proposed budget to the default for the sake of putting it at the default level based on their belief that is what the voters are requesting and that is what the voters will pass. Unfortunately whether the voters pass it or fail it, it is or will be the budget because it will be the default. They're not really allowing the voters a say on what level of services they would like to fund. More importantly, they are not articulating back to us where they believe the spending is in excess. I believe they need to articulate that back to us and to the community.

Selectman Coutu was in support of the motion because of what Selectman Luszey said as well as to be consistent with what I said which was I felt that they did not do due diligence to the budget at all. We are elected to represent the people. One of our tasks is to go through the budget process. It's not an easy thing to do. It's very time consuming. What we do is a little more detailed than what - there's a lot of detail involved and I would expect that the Budget Committee would have done the same. This year I was disgusted by the fact that they did not deliberate at all on any one particular department or item. They let department heads come in, make their presentation, how do you do, thank you very much, good bye. They never questioned anything. Department head, after department head, after department head unlike here when we're vetting, we would go line by line if we have to. I'm sure you can remember. You served on the Board when I said we'll stay here until 3 a.m., we'll get this thing done and we got it done a little quicker than 3 a.m.

The point is, Selectman Coutu said I've been in town long enough and watched enough budget deliberations both held here at the Board of Selectmen's meeting and at the Budget Committee. I never saw an action taken like it was last night without having done the vetting process of the budget at all. It was just throw out a number, tell them to cut the budget, we don't care where. I'm interested in knowing where they want to cut it. Honestly, they don't have to respond to our request. They can just turn around and say that's our budget. We don't have to answer to you. That's fine too if that's the way want to operate. Maybe the citizens will come to realize that maybe it's time we do away with the Budget Committee if this is the way they approach budgeting. This was not what they were elected to do. They could have just come up with a number the first night and kept the department heads at home and just say cut the budget to \$1 below default. We don't have to go through this budget. That's our charge to you. Apparently they played games with all of our department heads and just made an arbitrary decision last night to just cut a number not giving us any justification whatsoever or any - not just justification but any idea of exactly what it was within the budget that they weren't happy with. With that, I will support the motion. Thank you.

Selectman Brucker's question is according to your motion, they're going to cut where they want to. Is that correct? Selectman Luszey said my motion is I'm asking them to articulate by line item where they want to see the cuts. By doing so, that would be telling us where they believe we are spending too much for that service what item. Selectman Brucker asked will it come back to us to change. Will we be stuck with it if we disagree? Selectman Luszey stated we're stuck with this right now. In the end, Steve Malizia said it's their budget that gets advanced. Having said that, whatever budget passes during the course of a year, you have the latitude as the Board of Selectmen to transfer money and to move money to areas you feel would be more or less important. If you want to take something from an area to put it to an area, you have that latitude within your budget purview.

Chairman Maddox said we have bottom lines. With that case, I think that while I share some of the sentiments stated, I think that we need to - I'm having a tough time making the leap to vote for this motion. I think we need to ask the Budget Committee to help the selectmen and us help them. What didn't we provide you? What didn't you get for information that made you make this decision? I'm just trying to say if we want to go on the warpath with the Budget Committee, then nobody wins here. I think we need to find that middle ground to say what do you need for information and conversely tell us where you think their cuts should be made. We're striking that line in the sand that I think we're just going to set ourselves up for more trouble than it's worth. I think that there's probably some give and take here. I think this was a 12 o'clock decision that they just simply said cut it by \$1. Maybe there's some compromise on both sides of this. I'm having a tough time reaching that "I" statement.

If you recall if you were to review the first budget Deliberative Session, Selectman Luszey said the first thing we did is we took a straw poll vote of all the warrants. The majority of them failed. Upon that, I requested at that point in time what the Budget Committee needed from this Board. Their response was they needed to go through the budget and the response we got was a \$1 below default response last night. The original motion was a \$954,825 cut, which would equate to basically all of the overtime. That was modified to \$629,803. It ended up to the \$1 below default. That was their process and approach to get to this. Chairman Maddox stated our "Ws" and "Cs" is looking like a real brainstorm. Do we ask them what we need to do to provide them more information? How do we get this?

Chairman Maddox didn't disagree with Selectman Coutu. There is some understanding issues. If we just say we're going to do this, are we just cutting off our dialog?

Selectman Luszey indicated I can help you. Last night I walked away with a couple action items. I asked them specifically what is it you need. They would like to know the number of kilowatts and the cost that we paid over the last 3 years and broken out in terms of facilities, and highway, and street lights because their believe is they did not

see a significant savings in the electricity lines throughout the entire budget year over year, and the rates by the way because we just renegotiated the rates. The other item them wanted was the fiber loop justification. I've already requested that information. Other than that, I'm not sure what other information they would like to see.

Again, Chairman Maddox was trying to find that - it disturbs me greatly to sit up here sometimes and now is one of them. I'm just as much on your bus as you are. I think we have an obligation to the people that work for us that we support as citizens to not get into a lobbying exercise with another elected board. What do they need for information to facilitate getting them to understand that whether we like it or not, the EPA is going to come down at some point and say we need to do X. So we put money in there. You can't just bury our head in the sand and say it's not going to happen. At some point, it's going to happen. Maybe they just didn't get that. Value defense. Do we put that money in there or surrender some of the revenue that we would lose by not defending those cases? There's a number of things in here that I think just didn't get seen the way they should have.

Selectman Coutu told Chairman Maddox you're starting to sound more like me in terms of kind of mellow out and calm down. We're on television Mr. Chairman. I like to be demonstrative. This is the Town budget. Steve Malizia indicated it's also on line. You can go look at it. Selectman Coutu said our department heads are asked to prepare a budget for each of their departments, each of the committees, each of the commissions, present us a budget consisting of what their needs are for the year. Each one of the tabs as you've seen me flipping represents a department, a commission, a committee, and other agencies within our government. Am I going to sit here and tell you that I read every single page in this book? No I did not. We gave our department heads a charge Mr. Chairman and that charge was to try to come in with a budget not to exceed more than 2 percent of their previous year's budget because we recognize that costs increase over the year. We know that in IT for example when we're renewing our subscriptions for various programs, there are increases each and every single year. We know that in order for us to be in compliance with State, federal regulators relative to public safety and police and fire, the cost escalate year in and year out in terms of what their needs are in order for us to be compliant. We didn't read every single page Mr. Chairman. What we did do is we went through the budget and we asked the department heads to tell us where their additional expenses or what major changes were within their budgets. In those areas, we went into that budget line item and we discussed it to the point where we were either satisfied or we were going to make cuts.

Selectman Coutu understands and appreciate your not wanting to go to war with them but they declared war last night Mr. Chairman. It's not a war. We're asking them to come to their senses and tell us what did we do wrong? Where did we make a \$629,000 mistake? You tell me. Where did I make a \$629,000 mistake? If you can show me where I made a \$629,000 mistake, I will resign my position and allow any member of the Budget Committee to apply and come serve here and go through what we go through day in and day out for \$8 a day. We have a responsibility to the taxpayers of this town. That is to provide a service that they've become accustomed to. We made a change which I thought was for the better in rubbish removal and you heard the outcry. You don't hear it any more until it's tried and tested; people are going to complain because like my wife, they don't like change. Honey we can get the same phone for \$45. Verizon works. We're paying \$129 and I don't want to change. We did our due diligence to this budget. I want to know and the only way we're going to do it is make a formal request. Where did we make a \$629,000 mistake? I think that's a reasonable request. Let them point out to us. They picked out the number now show me.

Chairman Maddox indicated you'd adjust that to \$529,000 because we did just take \$100,000 out. Selectman Coutu indicated we took \$100,000 out because there was an alternate. Because they didn't vet the budget, they didn't know that that \$100,000 was offset by \$100,000 worth of revenue. They wouldn't know because they never opened the book. If they did, I didn't see it. I didn't see it. They didn't do due diligence. It's not a question of trying to play a game of compromise and plan around. Tell me where I made my mistake? That's a reflection on this Board in what we did. Are we that stupid? I can understand a couple thousand maybe we might have overlooked but \$629,000. I'd have been bankrupt a long time ago. I'm close to it now but I would have been bankrupt a long time ago. I've survived for 8 years going on 9.

Chairman Maddox asked to read back the motion. Steve Malizia said have the Budget Committee identify the budget items that they want to reduce to make up the, at this point, \$529,803.

Vote: Motion carried 3-2. Selectman Nadeau and Selectman Brucker in opposition.

5. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Luszey - I think I've said enough tonight.

Selectman Coutu - First I want to put something to bed. I'm going to give this to our Town Administrator. I would like if you would Steve make a copy of both of these for everyone's box to review. This is the City of Lowell's ordinance on solicitation, panhandling. This is a much thicker packet. This is from the City of Worcester. They also have one. Theirs went to court. It's very interesting to read. It was upheld by the State courts. It would be interesting to read the Judge's decision and how he arrived at that decision. The reason for this is obviously - I'm going to go through this and vet it and change everything as it would apply to the Town of Hudson. Obviously we're not going to have the City of Lowell or City of Worcester. They're talking about their downtown Historical District. We need to discuss what area

in particular we're interested in. If we can delineate that, maybe that's what we'll put the prohibition. If you want, we have City Councilor Lorrey provided me both of these. If you could get a copy to all of us and copies for you. There's no need to bring it to the attorney until we do the ordinance. We come up with some sort of language and then we can send it off and return to see it at that point unless you have another recommendation. Steve Malizia said the only recommendation I was going to make would be to involve the attorney at some point. Selectman Coutu indicated not at this time. I just wanted to make sure there's support for it.

Selectman Coutu asked are we in a discussion in particular Selectman Luszey relative to employees having a review at the end of their probationary period. Selectman Luszey indicated yes. Selectman Coutu asked do we do this in nonpublic or can we just...it was Steve Malizia's understanding that the department would speak to the liaison for the department and let me know if the employee was passing or not passing their probation and the Board would simply inform the rest of the Board that that was to be the case. Chairman Maddox thought it was on the action item list. Steve Malizia stated we have individuals as they come up. That was my understanding of how that was to work. Selectman Coutu just wanted to bring to your attention that I have received, and I've read it, an evaluation of the Appraisal Technician we hired and she's doing very well. There would be no need to take any action.

The last thing, and Selectman Coutu thought that you may be touching on this Selectman Maddox, is that this past Thanksgiving evening the Town was the recipient of much traffic and a lot of visitors at Wal-Mart. I was on the phone with you and with two or three other people Thanksgiving evening for 2 or 3 hours relative to the amount of people who showed up at Wal-Mart in Hudson being the closest to all of Middlesex region, northern Middlesex County, probably the closest because Massachusetts could not open on Thanksgiving day. It was the only store open. So they were flocking up here. As a result of the large number of people who were showing up, there was no parking left in the parking lot. People were parking on Lowell Road. They were parking up on the grassy knowles. They were parking at DCU. They were parking at Friend Lumber. They were parking at Sam's Club. People were running between traffic. I think when you called me Mr. Chairman you said that when you reached my neighborhood just before Rena - from the bridge to the lights it took you how long? Chairman Maddox said half an hour. Selectman Coutu indicated in that quarter mile distance. People were not moving. The traffic was at a complete standstill. I said to you in the phone conversation, tell them to call in the State Police because we had exhausted all of our people. Call in the State Police, call in the Sheriff's Office - we will charge Wal-Mart for the services. They did have detailed people that they had asked for. It was not enough to cover that we nor they expected the crowd that they got. So in the end, I said to the Chairman at the very least, I would like to have a meeting between you and I because we're the liaison for both public service agencies - police and fire, Wal-Mart officials, and the Fire and Police Chiefs so that we can discuss what's going to happen next year.

Selectman Coutu wanted to say that everything was under control. I had asked you to make sure that the Fire Department was there for the amount of people that were in the store. Apparently they had to close the doors at one point and stop people from getting in the store. If anything had happened, there could have been some serious problems over there. Public safety was at risk. They weren't opening cash registers for large purchase items for 2 hours after they were in the store. Captain Avery told them you're going to open some registered to get these people out of here. We need to flow traffic. They finally responded slow as it was. One of the things that I found very heartening was that I had received a couple of phone calls. I know our Fire Department was there and were doing an outstanding job at the door. All of our public servants considering what they were up against did an outstanding job. No complaints whatsoever. Quite to the contrary. I received calls about Officer Kew and Sergeant Dion how professional they were. Even one person was watching another person who was getting a ticket and the guy said to Officer Kew after having a conversation, I understand you have to do your job. I was monitoring what was going on. All of the time that it was going on and I could hear Sergeant Dion and Officer Kew and I relayed this to the Chief who was going to mention it at roll call tomorrow to both of them how impressed I was with the way they were handling the situation. We're sorry if people like you who live in town trying to come in town from the southern end from Massachusetts that evening had a very difficult time getting through. People complain about Lowell Road at this end trying to come from 2 lanes to 1 when you have 3 lanes and they're all being blocked because people didn't care where they were parking it's even tougher. Public safety agencies did an outstanding job. I know that you were monitoring the activity as was I. We do have a formal after action report. I would like to make sure that each of the Selectmen have a cop of this in their box so that they have a...this is well detailed and there's some recommendations in here which I think that we'll follow through with the Fire and Police Departments. I want to thank our public servants for doing an outstanding job and apologize for those who had a difficult time that evening. We'll make sure that doesn't happen again. It was a lesson well learned.

Selectman Coutu stated I usually do it every single year. It escaped my mind at the last meeting that Hanukkah and Thanksgiving started at the same time. We have members of the Jewish community in our town and I want to wish them all a Happy Hanukkah.

Selectman Brucker - I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving. I certainly appreciate the Highway Department's work at decorating our center there. It looks absolutely beautiful. The holidays are sometimes difficult times for some people to sort of be sensitive to that. Just if you could help out in any way for those who need it. Happy Hanukkah as well. Thank you.

Selectman Nadeau - On Thanksgiving I donate a few hours in the morning to go down to the Fish & Game where we ended up the night before also. It's definitely a well oiled machine to see the amount of food that they put out and all those that they help. I did not break anything this year just so you know Selectman Coutu. I also on Thanksgiving went to an accident on 111. There was a car accident that involved an elderly couple and they hit a telephone pole. They had an ambulance from Robinson Road there within a minute and a half on 111 working on the patient. It goes to show that when Robinson Road is staffed even with 2 EMTs, that could be a big lifesaving thing for the north end of Hudson. I'd like to thank all the fire and policemen at the accident for doing a great job in getting everything cleaned up and 111 opened as fast as we could on Thanksgiving because there was a lot of traffic. Also to the Hudson CB Patrol who was out there directing traffic so that the officers could do their report and help out and do their things. That's all I have this evening.

Selectman Maddox - I have just a couple of things. Those of you that drive in the south end of town and came up Sherburne Road, you see a nice reflective chevron. I figure at the rate the State works, they're notify us that it shouldn't be there in about 5 years. Steve Malizia said they already did. We had to move it slightly. Kevin was directed to move it by the State DOT Superintendent. Kudos to the Highway Department and their people for just getting it done and not taking years to have a meeting about it. Selectman Luszey indicated that was the Safety Committee that did that. Steve Malizia indicated it was the Board that directed that the Highway Department do it so we did it.

To the Wal-Mart and again, Chairman Maddox said as things change and now that Thanksgiving is a shopping day, we just didn't anticipate the amount of traffic. I was coming back from Massachusetts and came up River Road to Lowell Road. It was just absolutely amazing. I think I was there at like 6:30 and it was just plugged. The driveway into Wal-Mart they were parked on the grass going up into the facility and both lanes in and both lanes out were filled. Again, you're right. To the people that gave up their holiday to work inside of Wal-Mart be it the Fire Department making sure that the occupancy was not exceeded or if there was a medical emergency, we had people on site because to get an ambulance in there would have been an adventure. I think the only thing we probably need to do is look at down on Lowell Road - people just coming in off the bridge. There was a line of traffic that just couldn't make the turn into the parking lot because it was filled. Again, I think a meeting with Wal-Mart and just explain that this can't happen and work out the logistics. We learn from our mistakes. That's where I hope we're going to go.

Finally, I voted for them motion in regards to the budget because Selectman Coutu is a good speaker but also I read that the motion says is we're asking them to explain what we did wrong. I think that if you look up the monies that is here, one of the items is \$9,500 for paramedic training. I'm sorry but my hair color belies the fact that I am getting older and my diet belies the fact that I'm probably going to need them at some point. We as Selectmen look at the big picture trying to realize that we're fixing some of the contracts. Hopefully we will hit some of those approved this year and be able to continue to increase the amount of paramedics at our Fire Department for that day when many of us will probably need them. That is forward thinking. Yes we could stay at where we are but that does not benefit our community. Again I voted for this cuz I felt that what you articulated was probably a little higher than I would have gone but I think that the basic motion is setting the tone of saying tell us where. I think we did go through the budgets and again, we went back to a lot of those wills and made decisions just to articulate a dollar figure to cut. They need to come back to us and explain where.

Speaking of traffic, Selectman Brucker wanted to remind everybody that we're on winter parking and everybody should keep their...I was expecting Selectman Nadeau to say something.

6. NONPUBLIC SESSION - None

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Brucker, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HGTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Richard J. Maddox, Chairman

Nancy Brucker, Selectman

Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

Benjamin Nadeau, Selectman

Ted Luszey, Selectman