

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes of the October 24, 2013 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Maddox the meeting of October 24, 2013 at 7:05 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Selectman Brucker.
3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Rick Maddox, Nancy Brucker, Ben Nadeau, Roger Coutu, Ted Luszey

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Donna Graham, Executive Assistant; Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director; Mike O'Keefe, Chairman Cable Cte.; Dave Yates, Recreation Director; Leo Bernard and Linda Kipnes, Recycling/Energy Cte.; Police Chief Jason Lavoie; Charlie Matthews, Library Director; Connie Owen

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. REDC 2014 CEDS Steering Committee - Nominees

Chairman Maddox asked if Mr. Lathrop was in the audience. Selectman Coutu asked if he was invited to come. Chairman Maddox asked if Brunilda Mejia was here. Selectman Coutu asked if she told to come. Chairman Maddox said on short notice. The problem is we just talked about this Tuesday night, right? The third candidate that's on my list and Selectman Coutu.

Selectman Coutu indicated Cory Boutin is in the audience. He's only here to observe the Selectmen. Do you want him to interview? Chairman Maddox asked how do we want to handle this. Do we want to wait until the next meeting? Selectman Coutu indicated he hasn't even filled out an official application. I don't know if any of them have. Have they? Cory's here if you want to talk to him now. I can do a general introduction.

Cory Boutin, 1 Griffin Road, Hudson, New Hampshire. Selectman Coutu asked to give a little background. Cory is a partner in the business next door to me - Mike's Pie formerly known as Pizza Man. Since I've met Cory and Cory's well known to the Police Department. He at one time was hired by the Board of Selectmen to wash and clean cruisers while he was at Alvirne High School. He's a Hudson resident. From what I observed, he's not afraid of work. He's a workaholic. He's an entrepreneur, always looking for new ventures. I'm trying to calm him down a bit and have him slow up. Cory has mentioned to me his interest in politics or serving on a board or commission. It just so happens that this came up. I forgot about us communicating with Len. I suggested to Cory he might want to apply. I gave him a general idea of what it was about. I really don't have a full grasp of exactly what they do. Do you?

Steve Malizia said no I don't. I got the same Memo you all got.

Chairman Maddox thought it unfair to Cory and to the others. I think we need to at least find out if it meets once a quarter, once a month. Ms. Graham indicated four times a year. Selectman Coutu lacked for a better term would it be unfair to say that they're adventure capitalists except it's nonprofit. They look for...Steve Malizia said they're looking for opportunities, maybe to see what they can do to strengthen our economy in the region. I think that's their mission. Selectman Coutu indicated that they're looking for a business person within the community. Mr. Malizia stated what they said was someone from private industry or a business person I believe - a local business person. Selectman Coutu asked Cory to tell the Board a little bit about yourself and why you would be interested in serving this or any other board in the community.

Cory Boutin said a little background on myself. I graduated from Alvirne. From there I actually became a corrections officer up at Valley Street in Manchester because my goal was to become a cop originally. From there I ended up buying into a t-shirt company which I sold a couple years later to buy this pizza place and now I remodeled it and changed it to Mike's Pie. That's what I've been doing in the past since I graduated high school about 6 - 7 years ago. I'm kind of busy and I plan on always being busy. I want to help out when I can and when I can. That's about it.

Chairman Maddox thought in fairness again we just put this out the other day. Should we wait until the Workshop? Selectman Coutu would give the other two people who have shown an interest an opportunity to come in and meet with us. We know both of them. We all know Len Lathrop. Ben and I have had a lot of fun with Brunilda. She's quite the person. So I'd like to give them both an opportunity. Chairman Maddox indicated we'll put this on our next...Ms. Graham indicated the only problem we have is we have to have an answer by the 31<sup>st</sup> and we don't meet again until after. Chairman Maddox asked to send them a letter saying when you send it to us with not enough notice, the best we can do is November 5<sup>th</sup>. We will contact you.

Selectman Luszey stated why don't we just reply saying yes we'll have a representative there. Selectman Coutu said that's not a bad idea. Chairman Maddox said Hudson will have somebody there we just don't know who.

- 1) Len Lathrop
- 2) Brunilda Mejia

5. A. 2013 Tax Rate

During the budget season last year, Chairman Maddox indicated we appropriated \$600,000. Steve Malizia said yes. During the budget process last year, there was \$600,000 put into the revenue side from the unassigned fee balance to help with the tax rate. So you'll hear from the Finance Director the tax rate with that \$600,000 on her calculation.

Kathy Carpentier said I come before you to ask you to support a tax rate of approximately \$20.56 which is a 3.1 percent increase or \$.61. By using the \$600,000 of surplus as budgeted from the surplus of \$4,337,708. Best case scenario is to get the bills out the first week in November and have them due around December but the Tax Collector would be sending those bills. DRA is ready to set our rate. I'm just looking for direction from the Board to first use the \$600,000 and direction if it's to be rounded whether to change the tax rate or change the surplus amount used.

Chairman Maddox forgot to say to Reverend Howe, I knew we put the \$600,000. I forgot when I saw him the other day that we hadn't yet set the tax rate.

Motion by Selectman Brucker, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to authorize the use of \$600,000 of the Town's \$4,337,708 Unassigned Fund Balance in support of a tax rate of approximately \$20.56 per thousand, as recommended by the Finance Director.

Selectman Coutu asked why are we looking for a 3.1 percent increase over the tax rate. What is the reasoning for going up 3.1 percent? Kathy Carpentier indicated there's different components. The County has gone up by \$.06 out of their \$.61. The school local tax effect has gone up \$.41, and the State Education \$.04. Those numbers are out of our control. From the town side, the taxpayers voted in the use of some fund balance - about \$117,000 for the senior center which is a \$.05 increase; \$.03 for overlay which is to protect us from any abatements that we're going to do based on the recommendation of the Assessor; and \$.02 for property valuation. There was a fluctuation in the property valuation. It's not that we're targeting a 3.1 percent increase. That's what the voters voted for. That's where the valuations turned out. That's what the school and the County delivered.

Selectman Coutu was thinking that why isn't when we did the budget last year but - I understand now. I do understand. We did our budget. I know that the County went up. I know insurance has gone up. We've just been notified of a 5 percent increase. If the voters had voted for the contracts, we wouldn't have that 5 percent increase because that just keeps going up every year. I'm going to support the motion as much as it pains me.

Selectman Nadeau said we're putting \$600,000 from our reserve. How much is left in the reserve? Kathy Carpentier indicated \$3.7 million approximately. You currently have 4.3. You used 600 for the bill for 2102. You're using 600,000 for the bill of 2013. So it's staying flat the use of your funds. This \$.61 for an average single family home would be approximately \$156 increase to their tax bill.

Selectman Nadeau asked how much would we have to put in to bring it back to zero increase. Kathy Carpentier indicated more than you can afford. For every \$100,000 more you're going to use, you'd have to use \$.04 is \$100,000. So to make \$.61 up, we'd be using up our whole \$4 million and you can't do that.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Maddox asked what do we want to do if it's a case of...Kathy Carpentier indicated if the rate is off by a penny or two if we go out and get more surplus or if there's a rounding issue, would you like me to change the tax rate or change the surplus amount used. It's usually very minimal. I've gotten the consensus of the Board in prior years. Chairman Maddox said to raise the taxes. Selectman Luszey said to change the surplus. Selectman Brucker said she'd change the surplus. Selectman Nadeau said to change the surplus. Selectman Coutu agreed. Chairman Maddox said we got 4 to 1.

B. BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Trustees of Trust Funds (5020)

Chairman Maddox stated I did see Mr. Lathrop and he said that it was zero increase so I said Kathy you could also cover it if we had any questions. Everything is flat from last year.

Cemetery Trustees (5025), page 4

Chairman Maddox recognized Finance Director Kathy Carpentier.

First of all, Kathy Carpentier indicated we're under the section 5000 Town Officers for those who aren't there yet. Level funded this one also.

Cable Committee (5045), page 19

Chairman Maddox recognized Chairman Mike O'Keefe.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mike O'Keefe said the Cable Committee met and made a recommendation for the FY2015 budget. I know you've all heard before but I'll say it again, our budget that we do every year we base entirely on the anticipated revenue paid by Comcast and the franchise fee. It's paid to the Town quarterly. So we use the most recent receipt of revenue from Comcast to forecast the following year's budget. Based on that revenue, we came up with a budget of \$333,000. After that, we go through and calculate expenses for the year. Many of the line items we left level funded. Some of them - the part time salaries and the professional services line items went up because the Board approved additional hours for both those positions. We've removed the lease payment line because in this budget we'll be completely in the new facility. So we won't have the lease.

Mr. O'Keefe said we then also increased the small equipment line item because we anticipate as we move into the new facility there's going to be a fair amount of additional equipment that we'll need. We came up with a list. In addition, one of the major components that drives the cable system - the system that plays all the videos back that records all the media, schedules everything. It's about 7 or 8 years old now. We've had a number of issues with it this year. The company has told us that the equipment we have is at its end of life. So we're anticipating replacing that and that alone is probably in the order of \$30,000. Between that, additional lighting for the larger studio, and some other equipment purchases that's why we bumped up the small equipment line item. That left, I believe, about \$18,000. In the past, we've always dedicated that to the capital reserve account for constructing the facility. Obviously that's no longer applicable with the new facility having been built. So we still left it in a capital reserve line item assuming that we may create a new capital reserve account. I understand there's also discussion of potentially a town-wide capital reserve account for building maintenance and along those lines. It could be allocated there as well. That's our plan for this coming FY15 budget.

Selectman Luszey asked what is the anticipated revenue. Mike O'Keefe said \$333,000. On small equipment, Selectman Luszey noted you went from \$70,000 to \$127,600. If you didn't have the new facility, what would that be? Mike stated based on the list I came up with, you'd probably knock about \$50,000 out of that. Selectman Luszey said you'd be roughly back to the \$70,000. On the 380 line - leasehold improvement. In 14 you have \$20,000 budgeted and in 15 you have \$20,000 budgeted. Mike said we left that line in there. The space that's being constructed now, particularly the studio space at the new building was designed basically as an empty space because we didn't know exactly how it was going to be outfitted at the time. When they turned the building over to us, it's going to be an empty room. So we felt there was going to be something that has to be done like the lighting grid installed, we anticipate there may be some need for acoustical paneling on the walls to not make it a huge echo chamber, potentially some flooring materials as well. So that's what we left that money in there for. That would be this year only.

Selectman Luszey asked why wasn't that part of the cost of building the building. At the time, Mike O'Keefe said we just didn't give them the specifications and they designed it to basically be an empty space. Chairman Maddox asked if it was going to be studded. Mike said yes. It will be completely drywall the space and there will be some electrical outlets along the bottom.

Selectman Luszey's last question is 326 the furniture. You went from \$1,500 to \$4,000. What's driving that? Again, Mike said we have more space in the facility. I'm just thinking that we have a conference room now. That could be tables and chairs for that. Selectman Luszey asked is the thinking if I have space I shall fill it. Mike indicated I don't know why we would have a conference room and not have the ability to have conferences in it. Selectman Luszey was thinking we have stuff in storage right now in trailers from excess. Why wouldn't we be looking at using that instead? Mike stated I'm just telling you how - I'm not aware of trailer equipment in the rest of the town. That's the way we budgeted.

As your representative on the Cable Committee, Selectman Coutu wanted to remind the Board that this budget is unique - not unlike a couple of others. It's unique in the sense that the budget is based on anticipated revenue. The budget is based on an anticipated revenue of \$333,000. We account for all of that money and in the process, Mr. O'Keefe and members of the Cable Committee - Mr. O'Keefe prepares a general outline of what he's proposing and how he would disburse the \$333,000. I can assure you that as your representative on the committee that not an expense is made before he brings it before us and we give general approval. More often than not if not always, I believe, at the end of the year there is a surplus. All of the surplus has been going into the capital reserve fund for building the building. That will no longer exist in this budget year. However we determine, there may be \$100,000 not spent at that end of the year and there may be \$60,000. Who knows. He tries to allocate and apportion according to what the needs are. This year is unique to him because we have a new building and he

has to anticipate some of the costs. There is going to be a reserve at the end of the year. It's just a question of where the Board wants to put any money that's not spent at the end of the year because that capital reserve fund is now down. It's over.

Chairman Maddox asked what was the intent of that. Selectman Coutu stated to build a building. Chairman Maddox said just to build it. Selectman Coutu said that's all. Selectman Luszey said no. The capital reserve fund was not to maintain it. It was to build it. Selectman Coutu knows in speaking with Mr. O'Keefe that we're going to cooperate with the seniors portion of the building upstairs by trying to alleviate some of their costs such as perhaps maintenance and things like that. There is no line item. There may or may not be a line item in there for custodial services. Oh yea we did put one in. We're going to try not spend it all but the budget is always based on anticipate revenue. It's offset by cable revenue.

Chairman Maddox thought maybe we ought to look at setting up another reserve fund for them so that some of this money could be put into there so that when they need a \$40,000 piece of equipment, they could rather it be shuffled around.

Selectman Brucker has some information. The Cable Committee to me is sort of a quasi town. So would they be able to get - Selectman Luszey suggested using furniture and other things from the rest of the town. Is that the kind of thing that could happen or that you could have access to? Mike O'Keefe indicated we're just a part of town government. We're not quasi, we are. We're just another department within the town government. Chairman Maddox stated I don't know if I'd go that far because you have your own revenue stream. You're not relying on taxes to generate that. Selectman Luszey indicated it's through us. We're the franchising agent for that. The Board of Selectmen is so it's really flowing through us into these accounts. Chairman Maddox thought it might be an interesting question. If they needed monies and they didn't have it in their budget, could we then take it out of contingency to give it to them? Steve Malizia said yes. Selectman Luszey indicated just like if they have excess, we could take that money and use it to offset the tax rate, which we should be having that discussion now.

Mike O'Keefe stated one of the things we also talked about and it kind of ties into this discussion of how to handle these funds. We looked into the possibility of establishing a revolving fund. I asked the Finance Director to do a little research on that. It's what I handed out to the Board tonight. I realize you haven't had a chance to read it yet. The NH RSAs provide for establishing a revolving fund. In this case, it would have to be established by warrant. The voters would have to approve it. The revolving fund would specify what funds would go into it and for what purposes they could be expended. The main advantage of that fund is that they don't lapse. It's very much like the water and sewer utility funds. All the monies that go in accumulate if they're not spent within that fiscal year. You can put stipulations on the fund when it's created in terms. You can put limits on how much you spend per year, what it's spent on. The first page is some information from the New Hampshire Municipal Association talking about the fund and then following that is the actual RSA from the State. If you notice clearly one of the lines called out is providing cable access for public education and government use as specifically one of the uses for this fund. It would essentially kind of remove it from the operating budget and treat it as a separate fund. Again, very much like the water and sewer funds I believe. The main advantage of course is it doesn't lapse. It can accumulate. I talked about this with some other folks in the local cable area here. One of the things to think about is that the funding source from Comcast is not guaranteed. If the State or federal government decides to do away with the franchise fee, we no longer have a revenue stream to continue public access. If this fund is built up over years, then we can draw down on that while we come up with an alternative revenue source whether it be from sponsorships or what not or from general taxation. Obviously it can be used if biggest expenses occur within a year, you could tap into that fund if it's grown. My feeling and certainly the Cable Committee's feeling is that the revenue the town receives from the cable subscribers should really be used for cable TV purposes. That was certainly the intent when the federal government established the concept of a franchise fee. The revolving fund would be a mechanism for kind of insuring that effort. I'm raising it to see whether the Board would at least be interested in pursuing it. We'd obviously have to draft language for a warrant article. I'm throwing it out there as a suggestion.

Selectman Coutu asked if one of the things that you were anticipating using it for - we haven't had this discussion and that's why I'm asking him. We've had a discussion in general about this concept. For example, we televise basketball games. We televise softball games. We televise hockey games. We have no announcers. If a sponsor say Mike's Pie came along and said look you give me some recognition on the channel and I'll provide \$50 to sponsor every hockey game and have an announcer there. Would that money then go into the revolving fund and we would pay the announcer out of that because I know that's how they do it in some of the other cable communities.

Again, Mike O'Keefe said it would depend on the language of the way it was created. You can specify the sources of funds going into that and we could certainly include something like that. The Cable Committee's vision is that the entire franchise fee would go into this account. We would pull this out of the operating budget and maintain it in its own fund just like water and sewer do. We could certainly also include sponsorship money, donations perhaps, and things like that although of course they'd be on a much smaller scale than the franchise fee.

Selectman Coutu asked what if someone were to come along, a potential sponsor, and say right now I'd like to sponsor all the hockey games and pay for an announcer. We find out that an announcer is willing to do it because the going rate is \$50 per game. I know Mr. Collins does it for Nashua basketball and a few other sports in other communities. They get \$50 a game. Could we do that today? Mike O'Keefe indicated the Finance Director might be able to describe the financial mechanism of

that. I'm certain we could pay someone out of our operating budget to do it. How you would account for essentially I guess a donation from the business. I'm not sure how that would work. Kathy Carpentier indicated or miscellaneous revenue. It's unanticipated revenue that we received for a program that the Board would approve. It wouldn't be cable. It would just go right into general fund the way its set up right now.

Mike O'Keefe indicated we have certainly discussed trying to come up with a sponsorship program but I think what we'd want to do is at the Cable Committee level come up with a policy and a procedure for that and then have the Board approve it. We have to remain non commercial but we do have the ability to do sponsorship just like public broadcasting does. This program is sponsored in part by McDonald's or something.

Selectman Luszey had a couple of things. One is I would not be in favor of creating a revolving account for the cable access for the purpose of should Comcast decide not to provide the channels. It's only a small segment of the population that has cable. The revolving fund should we continue with after that would be burdening all taxpayers to maintain that fund. Second of all, I think instead of continuing to increase the amount that we put in here now that we have the facilities, we should actually consider lowering the franchise fee rate so that the ratepayers for cable could see their costs lowered. Again, it's because it is a bounded set of people that is using this service. It's not everyone that uses it.

Selectman Nadeau didn't believe we can lower it. Didn't we just sign an agreement? Selectman Coutu indicated we did but we can lower it. Chairman Maddox said we'd have to go back and do the whole process again. Just send them a letter saying we're lowering the price. What Selectman Nadeau would like to see done is a capital reserve fund for building maintenance set up with some of their extra money that they will have left over whether we set it up with \$5,000 in it out of someplace in here for this year or just set it up with \$1 that we will use the leftover money from the cable utility at the end of the year to put into this reserve fund for building maintenance. So we were putting this money into this fund to build the building and if something - I'd say building maintenance/equipment purchases or two separate ones. One for equipment and one for building maintenance. That way we're not burdened with buying a \$40,000 piece of equipment if down the road the franchise fee is not there anymore. I don't know what we need to do to set up these two capital reserve fund - if you have to warrant articles.

To establish a capital reserve fund, Steve Malizia stated you need a warrant article for the voters to approve. So that's step one. Second thing, you talked about the building maintenance. In your book, there's a reserve fund proposed under a warrant article "D" tab that covers town facilities. If you consider this a town facility, this would be covered under the maintenance. Selectman Luszey stated it is a town facility right? Mr. Malizia was under the impression that it was so therefore you'll have a discussion later, wrap up night, whatever of warrant article "D" which talks about establishing a town wide facility capital reserve fund. If you want to do specific to cable utility for equipment, you could do that by warrant. If you did a revolving fund, it would basically be the same thing. If the revolving fund specifies that it's only cable revenue should cable revenue dry up, there is no other revenue going in. Taxpayers wouldn't have to pay for it. If that's the only revenue you've designated and sponsorships and donations, general tax money couldn't go into that revolving fund because when the fund is set up, it's specified where the money is coming from. Let's say for some reason the franchise fee goes away. Frankly, cable will go away. It doesn't make any sense to not have it. That's the source that's paying for it. So what you're trying to accomplish you could probably accomplish with a revolving fund. What ends up happening is the money goes in and it never comes out unless they spend it. One year to the next they don't spend it this year, they don't spend it next year, maybe the third year they spend it on a large upgrade or some equipment replacement. For lack of a better word, it almost acts like a capital reserve fund on its own. That's just something to consider when you're considering what you're putting on the warrant. Whatever you do if you do a revolving fund or a capital reserve fund, the voters have to approve it day one. After that, you can put in \$1, \$5,000, or whatever you want but you have to put it on for the voters to approve. Give that some thought.

Chairman Maddox asked the Board where would you like to go. Are you doing a road show now? You went from \$25 actual in 12 to \$500 for gasoline. I just thought maybe you're doing a road show. Mike O'Keefe said they just level funded it. Mr. Malizia said \$25 is what they spent a few years ago before they had their mobile unit. Chairman Maddox indicated they've had that for years. Mike O'Keefe indicated we're using it more now. It's now equipped with equipment to do live productions. We used it all season for football games. We did every home game this year.

Chairman Maddox asked the Board if we just want to move on. As part of the wrap up have the Town Administrator pull together some information on our revolving fund or a reserve fund? Selectman Nadeau said a revolving fund. Selectman Coutu said a revolving fund. Selectman Brucker thought she liked the idea of a reserve fund. Chairman Maddox said that's where I'd like to go. Selectman Luszey said no funds. Chairman Maddox asked for a comparison between the two since we're tied 2 to 2 what the difference is between the two of them.

Selectman Luszey asked are we going to talk about the pros and cons of leaving all 100 percent of the revenues in cable or are we going to look at possibly using some of that to offset the tax rate in the future. I haven't heard that discussion. Yes, no, who cares? Chairman Maddox said you're bringing it up so let's talk about it. You wish to have some of the \$333,000 used to offset taxes. How would you determine what that amount is? Selectman Luszey indicated based on his anticipated revenue and this cost center, I believe we could take a look and say whether or not we could reduce some of the cost items and based on that, come up with a - just like we're going to come up with a revolving fund number, come up with a number of how much of

this anticipated revenue to go back to the general fund.

Chairman Maddox stated that you'd be making a motion of some sort of that nature. I'm trying to decide where you're going here. Selectman Luszey said if the Board's not interested in discussing that, then that's fine by me. I brought it up for discussion. I'm not going to make a motion. Chairman Maddox said you're pretty broad in your statement. One minute you were going to lower the rate, now you're going to take the money and use it to offset the taxes. Again, I'm just trying to figure out where you're going. Selectman Luszey indicated it's a very broad subject Mr. Chairman. What is it we want to do with this? We knew we had to have this conversation this round given that the building is now built and there is franchise fees - monies coming in. What are we going to do with it? Are we just going to leave it all here? Fine, we'll move on.

Selectman Coutu said I'm going to take the same position as the Chairman of the Cable Committee took. Those of us who subscribe to cable service expect that our franchise fees are going towards local programming. Programming that includes education, recreation, municipal government, public service announcement, and also the ability to have members of the community whether they're cable subscribers or not to come into the studio and use the facility and the equipment and the manpower if necessary to produce and for us to broadcast local programming. To take monies that I and other members of the cable community use to do anything other than cable operations for our cable service is a disservice to the cable users. It would be just as unfair if people who were paying a franchise fee for DISH satellite for a special program all of a sudden that program wasn't required anymore and they took all of that money and they used it for another purpose, the subscribers would be upset. This money belongs to cable. We can't anticipate the mobile unit breaking down. We were fortunate that we were able to acquire an old ambulance and fit it up for cable use. If we were to replace a unit of that size and then if we get into the new building and we find that there's going to be more monies that are going to be necessary for acoustical - in order to alleviate some of the noise or echoing factor and we have to do a lot of acoustical work in the building, we can't anticipate those costs.

Selectman Coutu stated generally all of the funds that have been left over went into the capital reserve to build the building. That money has accumulated over many, many years. It took a long time to accumulate enough money to build a building. To do anything other than to use the money for cable and put it in a revolving account is a disservice to cable users. Why should I if I'm paying a fee into being able to have access to public service broadcasting sudden see that part of my fee is being used to offset taxes for everyone - cable users or non cable users, it's not fair. One of the things that we have done is to provide access even to non subscribers by allowing them to go on the internet and being able to view any of the programs that are available on public service for our community. That's my position Mr. Chairman and I'm pretty sure that I'm going to stay with the revolving fund and that's my interest.

Selectman Brucker thought that this year is probably a particularly expensive year for the cable business just because you're having to outfit the whole facility. I think that maybe the rates could come down. We need to see it and how it all looks next year.

Chairman Maddox indicated that's where the Chair I think is coming from also is to say I would rather see a reserve fund so that they come through the budget, we can make adjustments, put X amount of dollars into that reserve if the mobile studio was to break down or whatever, you'd would have some monies outside the budget that you have and then if after a couple of years you saw that we were accumulating way more money than we needed to bring in to use, then we would talk about reducing the access fee. At this point, we're not there yet. I don't think you have the data to be able to substantiate that.

Mike O'Keefe asked why you're preferring the capital reserve versus the revolving fund since you can achieve the same with both. There's nothing to prevent you from using funds - everything goes through the Board anyway. It's not like there's some separate entity is going to be spending this money. The money is still spent the same way. It would actually be much easier from the revolving fund to pay for unanticipated expenses. Depending on how the reserve article is worded, we may have to go back to the voters to get approval to spend the money. If it's in a revolving fund, then it's up to the Board. Chairman Maddox thought maybe it should say that if it's over \$100,000, they do have to. Again, I think there's too many variables for us to work on this evening. I think you have your answer Selectman Luszey. Selectman Luszey said to move on.

Kathy Carpentier asked if this was a "W" to come back. Chairman Maddox said no because there's nothing to come back to at this point. Steve Malizia asked are we coming back with something. What does that mean? Do you want a warrant article to see how it's written? Chairman Maddox asked to give us a sample of both and we'll kick that...Selectman Coutu asked for a definition on both as well. A clear definition of both.

One of the things Selectman Nadeau would like to see is if we do do that warrant article "D" that we use X amount of the cable money whether it be \$50,000 to go into that for building maintenance so that we're starting to put money into that account for building maintenance because we know that we're going to need a roof in 20 years on that building, let's start saving for it now in the building account.

Selectman Luszey said Selectman Nadeau actually juggled a couple of brain cells. Question for Mike. The garage. If we're going to spend 100 percent of this year's budget and you spent 100 percent of next year's budget, how do we build it? Mike

O'Keefe indicated we have funds in this year's budget to pay for the garage. That's the current plan was to use funds in the FY14 operating budget to pay for the garage. Selectman Luszey asked what account. If you kept everything flat, I don't see that. Mike O'Keefe stated I can show it to you but I don't have it with me. I've got all the numbers broken down where I think we can...Selectman Luszey said that was a question the last time we reviewed it is where are we going to get the money to build that building.

Kathy Carpentier stated currently the capital reserve fund has \$864,000 on June 30<sup>th</sup>. They have a budget of \$90,000 to put in there. They don't need to put \$90,000 in. They only need approximately \$30,000 to hit their commitment for the senior center building. So there's \$60,000 that can be used for whatever the Board so chooses. Mr. O'Keefe indicated we were going to use that plus some additional monies from the small equipment budget.

Recreation (5810 to 5840)

Chairman Maddox recognized Recreation Director Dave Yates.

Good evening. Dave Yates indicated I also have Lori Bowen when we get to the senior program, she'll be able to help us out on that. Also with me tonight is Bob Iannaco, Chairman of the Recreation Committee, and Keith Bowen if we need to yield to them. They are also here. The Recreation Department FY15 budget is respectfully submitted. The original budget prior to senior activities is level funded. It has gone up significantly since we have had senior activities this year. The original budget has remained the same. Babe Ruth has been eliminated from this budget and Hudson Youth Lacrosse has been added to this budget.

Selectman Coutu indicated its level funded but has anticipated revenue increased. Dave Yates said yes. Last year it was \$204,000. This current year, I don't know. Also with the senior activities, it will go from anticipated it was \$202,000 up to \$330,000. Kathy Carpentier indicated if you look on page 1 of Recreation, the budget for the senior activities programs proposal is \$222,000 with offsetting revenues of \$130,300. So column 3 that says 15 proposal. That would be if senior activities wasn't here and the fourth column includes the senior activities and the revenue for senior activities.

Selectman Coutu asked if they were going through the senior's portion. I know Mrs. Bowen is waiting to respond to our questions.

Kathy Carpentier noted it was page 32 in the Rec. section.

Chairman Maddox indicated that this is basically a new setup and has a budget of \$210,000 of which about half of that is trips with an offsetting revenue.

Selectman Luszey said if we're going to do a revolving fund research for cable, I request we do one for this here. Specifically for managing the senior activities out of. Selectman Coutu and Selectman Nadeau agreed. Steve Malizia asked are you talking just the senior activities. I'm just reading the law right here and it says recreation. It doesn't say seniors. It just says recreation. That's one kind of revolving fund that's allowed by Statute. We'd have to check to see if you could even do the senior piece separately under the other Statute which you just talked about in cable. I'm not sure you can. Selectman Luszey said he's say it a little differently. It's recreation for the seniors. We want to keep this separate and not co-mingle it with all the other recreation funds.

Selectman Coutu said we by mandate placed the senior activities with the Recreation Department. Do we not now have a recreation revolving account? Steve Malizia stated we do not have a recreation revolving account. We never have. We do not have one. Kathy Carpentier indicated you'd have to have taxpayer approval. Selectman Coutu suggested that we check and see whether or not we can do it with the seniors revolving fund. Mr. Malizia asked you're talking just that piece of the rec. budget or whatever you want to call that budget - the senior piece.

Dave Yates asked would that revolving fund include administrative. Selectman Luszey said no. The revolving fund is for the purpose of doing the activities - the field trips and stuff like that like we discussed. If we're having somebody full time scheduling trips, Chairman Maddox asked is that something that we're going to get into. Selectman Luszey said the whole purpose of a revolving fund is to be able to bring funds in and take funds out over the course of the year. The way these budgets are set up, once I expend all my trip funds - if one trip costs me \$100,000 to set up even though I'm going to get that \$100,000 back, my understanding is I'm done for the year because the revenues would go to the general fund after that and not back into the revolving fund to allow me to book another trip. Chairman Maddox was getting more if you're going to have \$120,000 into trips, you're going to spend some considerable time organizing, planning, scheduling and doing all that, there's a cost there. Do you have any idea what that's going to take.

Lori Bowen believed that as of right now the trip coordinator type person that you're mentioning gets to go on the trips for free. So therefore there really doesn't need to be a budget or a payroll for them. Chairman Maddox stated you're not handling that someone else is going to handle that for a free trip? I'm just trying to get a handle on what we're doing. Ms. Bowen said no I'm

going to be handling it. Chairman Maddox said you're getting paid. Ms. Bowen said yes.

So there's no misunderstanding, Selectman Coutu thought what Lori is trying to say is that the person who is organizing and booking the trips will continue to do so but she will report to Lori all of the trips, where they're going, how much money is collected, and she will turn the funds into her who will then turn them in to the general fund to offset this expense. She will have minimal interaction with her because I think Lucille knows what she's doing. She's been doing this for a long time. She's going to continue doing it. She's just going to give Lori more or less a memo we're taking this trip to New York, or we're taking this trip to Maine. There's going to be 44 people booked for one bus. The cost is \$1,840. This is what I collected. It's paid in full. Here's the \$1,840 and I think we will pay the carrier whatever it is out of our funds. She will put in a PO for the Finance Director to review and for use to sign off on to pay the bus and whatever other expenses we have to pay.

Lori Bowen asked to elaborate further. It's not to say that I won't be able to say I'd like to do a trip here or I'd like to do a trip here. She's not going to be completely in charge of doing things without my consent. We're going to sit down and do them together. As far as the contacts with the bus company, with the travel agencies, and things like that she has those established and slowly going to work together to continue doing and upholding the standards that she has right now and the communication with these trip companies.

Selectman Luszey thought your question really is whether or not we're going to try to recoup the cost of administering these programs.

Again, Chairman Maddox thought Ms. Bowen was going to be doing all that. If someone else is going to be doing that outside then...Selectman Luszey said that's kind of to the point to my question. That is what we hired a coordinator to do. To coordinate this work. Are you looking for the revolving fund to capture the cost of her time associated with coordinating senior activities because that wasn't the intent here. Chairman Maddox's question is more if she's going to spend 10 hours a week coordinating trips, I think we should know that. I'm having a tough leap. The trips are something the Town should be doing. Selectman Luszey said it's an activity and that's the whole purpose of the revolving fund. We need to be able to pay for the trip ahead of time when people sign up for it and then - correct me if I'm wrong - we'll collect the cost of the trip and that's why it will go back into the revolving fund so the net is zero cost to the taxpayer for someone to take a trip that we organized as part of the senior activities. Now the management or coordination of that is not part of that cost. That's what this cost center is all about is the support of the senior center.

On you example, Kathy Carpentier asked you pay for the bus for that trip out of the revolving fund. You haven't collected any cash. That's what Selectman Luszey was saying. When people sign up, we know how many people and we know what to write to the bus company for the size of bus and the bus driver and all that and that's what is collected by the coordinator from the seniors to take that trip. The trips are not fee. They're not on the town. Kathy Carpentier indicated there's nothing in the revolving fund because you haven't collected it yet. You're paying for a bus...Selectman Luszey said that's why we have to establish the fund with some predetermined amount of money in it so that it keeps going around in a circle.

Lori Bowen asked to shed a little light. Currently right now trips are booked about a year in advance. The bus company and the place tickets seats at a venue - for instance if there's a show at Mohegan Sun. The bus company - the seats are reserved, the bus company is reserved, the tickets in the actual theater are reserved almost a year in advance. There is a check sent from a fund currently to those two places to reserve those seats, and those spaces, and the bus. In doing that, the bus is now cheaper, the seats are now at a discounted rate because you've booked them a year in advance. If we continue with those types of planning up to a year in advance, KC is right. We're going to have to have some money established so that I can continue doing that. If we start from zero, then we're not going to be able to do things quite that way and we'll have to start small and work our way up.

Selectman Nadeau asked if the Hudson seniors already have this account established that they're using now currently and will they be transferring that money to use in this revolving? Ms. Bowen indicated there isn't money sort to speak established right now. Right now the money is through the Hudson Council on Aging and the Hudson Council I believe sends the money. I believe it's all the same paycheck but it's under two titles. There will be no more Friends of the Hudson Seniors that take care of the trips. It will be through me, through the Town.

Selectman Luszey said the answer is no. It's a 501(c)3 that has that money. They can do whatever they want with it. If they would choose to make a donation to help establish the account, that's one thing but there's been no discussion on that nor has there been any indication that's what's going to happen. The Council on Aging has the check for that. They've committed to furnishing and fit up.

Chairman Maddox thought this is a debate for another evening. It's not really budget but I guess my question would be is once you've expended the \$120,000 and the money is going into the general fund at this point, there's no more money. I think there's some discussion we need to have and I just don't know...Selectman Luszey's understanding with the revolving fund when I read through it is if we put \$120,000 in there, we spend \$100,000, when we collect the money from the seniors for the trips, that goes back into the revolving fund so we should get back to the \$100,000 that we just paid out. So we go back to



\$120,000. It allows us to continue to evolve or revolve in that account. It doesn't go back to the general fund. Chairman Maddox indicated we don't have one at this point. Selectman Luszey said that's what a revolving fund is about. Chairman Maddox stated we have \$120,000 in our budget and after that is expended, there is no more revolving fund to do it from. So we're going to have to set one up as part of this.

Kathy Carpentier was also wondering if we're anticipating \$120,000 revenue. I think I might be hearing that there's a time lag anyways. If we go out and spend as of July 1<sup>st</sup> and she books trips a year out, she's going to be spending this \$120,000 say 10 trips at \$12,000 a piece, she might not be getting that money back until fiscal 16. So we're going to be having cash outlay and we maybe shouldn't be anticipating \$120,000 in year one of revenue.

Chairman Maddox said right now we have budgeted \$120,000. On July 1<sup>st</sup> when this kicks in, the seniors already have collected the money for that trip that you're taking on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. How is that going to, again...As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, Lori Bowen indicated that's the last event that will be organized. There is one scheduled already for July. As of right now, the money that is collected for that I am anticipating will be turned over to the Town, to the seniors, to the new structure, as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. That monetary money that's been collected already would be turned over to the Town and then would go into the general fund.

Chairman Maddox asked if everyone was okay with that. My only question is if we went to a default budget, there's no \$120,000 there. So do we need to set up a...Selectman Coutu indicated if we go to a default budget, there's no money for the senior center. Selectman Luszey said that's right there's no senior center. Chairman Maddox said there's some in there now. Kathy Carpentier said there is because...Selectman Luszey said he knows. We did the transfer. Ms. Carpentier indicated your purpose is recreation. Your state purpose is recreation. You have a purpose of recreation. How this Board decides to spend rec. money is up to the Board. It's not a no means no.

Selectman Coutu told Kathy Carpentier this budget is in excess to the recreation budget. So you're saying that he would have to have extra money in the recreation account. I don't think he's going to have \$210,000 in excess. Selectman Luszey said or we have to reallocate money like we did last time at the end of the year. Ms. Carpentier said maybe not 210. Maybe \$20,000.

Selectman Brucker asked if the revolving account solve the problem of this overlap when you get the end of the budget year. Chairman Maddox said that's where he was trying to push the elephant. Steve Malizia stated provided you can set one up for just that specific purpose. Chairman Maddox indicated that will be something we need to talk about. Mr. Malizia has to find out from the attorney can you do that just for this narrow purpose. If you can, that would in the long run solve your problem. It's a savings account or an account that money goes in and money comes out. It's fairly simple when you think about it but if you can't do it in the first place. Chairman Maddox said Salem does theirs the Friends - even though they have a whole senior program, the Friends take care of all the trips. I don't know why but when we went to visit them, they kept theirs separately.

Lori Bowen said technically it's the Salem Council on Aging that does the trips. The Salem Senior Center I believe all of their trips are organized and done through the actual Council on Aging not through the senior center. Chairman Maddox said the Director has the checkbook because she told me she wrote the checks for it. That's not Hudson.

Selectman Nadeau stated the seniors currently pay dues to the Council on Aging. Are we going to be collecting dues from the out of town members and could that money go into the revolving account or where would that money go? Lori Bowen said that would be completely up to you. If we're anticipating collecting about \$500 from out of town people with a \$10 membership fee which is what they pay now, we're not going to call it a membership fee necessarily. It would be more of an access fee. That money could be allocated to go into the revolving fund but it's not a substantial amount of money. It's not \$10,000 or \$20,000. We're anticipating in the first year to be about \$500.

Chairman Maddox said we have a "W" just to find out if we can set up a revolving account. Is that where we all are? Are we done with rec.?

On page 44, Dave Yates said is the additional budget request. The first one would be a warrant article to establish the capital reserve fund for \$5,000. We talked about this fund during our workshop when we figured out that the skate park was very badly worn out and we had no money to repair or replace it. I think the Board had made this recommendation that we establish a capital reserve to have a sum of money in there and then in the event when some of our equipment wears out or breaks down, we have a fund that we can go to to replace or repair it. That was the first item.

Selectman Coutu said no.

Dave Yates stated the second one, and we discussed this during the workshop also, was Freedom Field Phase II. I did receive an estimate of what it would cost to put a second field in at Freedom Field. Freedom Field went in in 2003. The original plan was for 2 fields. The private organization that built it didn't have enough money to build the two fields. They only built the one field. As you know, we have lacrosse going on now. We have our soccer program and we are way behind on fields. I don't know if our numbers can go up if we don't continue to develop property that we currently have. The estimated cost for that would be \$150,000.

Selectman Nadeau said I would be in favor of both of these warrant articles but on the second one, I'd strike the word "Freedom Field" and just do a field account. The reason I'm saying that is there is potential other areas that we could put a field and I don't want my hands tied to Freedom Field being the only one that we could put it at.

Chairman Maddox is going to say the first one. I think we ought to just put \$5,000 into equipment maintenance in the budget. I think a warrant article for \$5,000, you don't have that much equipment. Again, it's great to have capital reserves but if you're going to have 25 of them, this one doesn't seem to make a lot of sense for \$5,000. My second thing is I think we should probably do this and say that we'll take \$50,000 in 15, \$50,000 in 16, and \$50,000 in 17 so that we soften the blow of \$150,000 hit to the bottom line.

Selectman Nadeau was thinking something similar to that but like \$75,000. I do think the capital reserve warrant article for replacing equipment is something that we need to do because we have lights at all these other fields. We have bigger items that if we need to replace the chain link fence around one of the fields. I think this is the perfect opportunity for us to start doing reserve accounts. Chairman Maddox said he's just trying to keep down the number of questions on the ballot.

Selectman Brucker indicated I like the idea of spreading out the \$150,000. Fifty a year seems pretty reasonable.

Chairman Maddox said if that's what the warrant article says, then it will be 3 installments. You can't do that? Steve Malizia wasn't sure you can commit future years. We'd have to look into that. You can do that for collective bargaining contracts but if you're just raising \$50,000 a year for 3 years, you may have to do it every year. I'm not sure I can commit you for next year and the year after that. Chairman Maddox said the voters can. We can. Selectman Coutu said in the capital reserve yes you can. Steve Malizia asked is that what you're talking about. If I misunderstood, I apologize. So you're talking a capital reserve for the fields. Selectman Nadeau said yes. Steve Malizia misunderstood. I thought you were just looking to raise and appropriate \$50,000. Chairman Maddox said with the seniors we were putting in some years and...Steve Malizia said yes. Then you'd have to establish a capital reserve and you'd put 50 in this year and next year you wouldn't have to put it separate. You'd put it in the budget whatever number you wanted to do. You really wouldn't articulate that its 50, 50, 50. It would change every year. Chairman Maddox thought we should tell people this is what it's for and this is the life span. So it's not going to be like the trouble we got in with the paving. This has a beginning, and an end, and a purpose.

Selectman Coutu said I understand the logic of doing it in \$50,000 increments for 3 years. We failed to recognize that 1) the need is now and 3 years from now is really 4 years from now based on our budgetary process; and 2) the \$150,000 is based on cost today not on costs that are going to be the estimate 3 years from now might be a lot more than \$150,000. The Recreation Director is trying to point out to the Town that there's an immediate need. There's been a cry, a human cry from the school side that there just aren't enough fields in this town and the Recreation Director is trying to solve some of that problem by identifying a piece of land that is available for exactly that purpose. For us to just push this out 3 more years, I won't vote for the warrant article on the ballot. It's not going to be feasible at \$150,000 three years from now. We can't project what the costs is going to be. Three years from now, people might just get fed up with some of the sports and say there just aren't enough fields in the town to do it. The need is now not 3 years from now.

Chairman Maddox said I won't vote for it if it's all at once. The other 3 will make a decision.

Selectman Brucker wondered where the \$150,000 figure came from. Do you have something in mind? Dave Yates indicated the page right behind it, page 45, I sent the plan to a local developer and he took the plan and ran with it. These are the estimates that he came up with. His range was \$115,000 to \$150,000 but he obviously didn't know if there was ledge on the ground or what. He thinks \$150,000 would definitely cover it. That's the letter I gave you on page 45.

Selectman Luszey said the population, the age groups that use this, how does it correlate to the population of the school? Dave Yates asked as far as whose using our activities? Selectman Luszey said the number of people using it. If the enrollment numbers in our school system is declining at roughly 6 percent annually, what does that mean 3, 4, 5 years out from now in terms of whose going to be using the fields. Mr. Yates said our basketball numbers for this season are exactly the same as they've been for the same...Selectman Luszey asked if this was a basketball field. Mr. Yates was just going through all of our programs. Soccer this year didn't decline at all. Lori Bowen said they actually gained 5 kids. Mr. Yates said lacrosse was a new program last year which started with 160 children and I know it's going to go much more than that. Selectman Luszey got all that. What I'm trying to figure out is are we at the peak of a bubble in terms of population of whose using the fields. Within the next 2, 3, 4, 5 years are we going to start seeing a decline in that population? Mr. Yates didn't know that but I can tell you I don't think based on other communities, we can never have enough fields. We are down drastically. Last year for lacrosse we were putting the lacrosse teams in the outfield of Jette Field, which is a softball field, and Sousa Field. The soccer fields were being used by soccer teams - Hudson United Soccer Club, so we were putting lacrosse in the outfield of our softball fields. Games thankfully the Athletic Director at Alvirne High School let us use the Alvirne High School for games. It really bailed us out. Practice wise, we don't even have really a field for lacrosse. Soccer is so busy in the spring that they're using the soccer fields. Soccer and lacrosse are basically the same fields. Just based on that example, we need something.

Lori Bowen said she was going to throw my soccer director hat on for a moment. Right now currently on the field every evening at four locations I have at least 40 players playing soccer at a time on one field which means that they are very overused fields at the moment. If just one field was added to the location, it would alleviate maybe 1 or 2 teams at night which would only put 20 to 30 players on a field at a time which would also give the players more space to practice. Right now they're practicing with roughly a 30 yard by 30 yard chunk of grass.

Based on your numbers in 3 years, Selectman Luszey said I wouldn't need a field because with the decline if it stays steady, I'll be down 20 something kids. I've just eliminated the need for an additional field. Keith Bowen thought if you look historically over time, the numbers in the Rec. Department has stayed relatively stable even as the school numbers have declined there's still the same amount of participants within each program over the course of that time. I think just if you look at recent history, you'll see that there's a pretty stable comparison there. Selectman Luszey asked does that mean we're doing more out of town. Mr. Bowen said no. I think that the kids are still staying involved or a larger number of kids are getting involved because we're offered a larger number of array of things that they can be involved in. The soccer program back 14 years ago when I was running the Rec. Department, we were bringing in about 750 to 800 kids a year which is still about the same amount that they're bringing in now but the school enrollment then at Hudson Memorial was over 1,200 kids. Now the school enrollment in Hudson Memorial is about 917. So even with the 300 student drop in enrollment, we still have the same amount of kids playing soccer every year. It's recreational and they're all getting involved because they like to be involved in it. For some, it's a social activity. They like to be out there with their friends and for others, it's a competitive activity. The good part about the rec. program is that it supports all of their needs. It allows for competitive play as well as the social need being met for kids. It's a place where they feel free to go and participate without having the worry of not being told they can't participate because they're not competitive enough.

Selectman Nadeau asked to move warrant article for the capital reserve fund for \$5,000 to the warrant.

*Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to move the warrant article for a capital reserve fund for \$5,000, carried 3-2.* Selectman Maddox and Selectman Luszey opposed.

*Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to move the warrant article for field development for \$75,000 to the warrant.*

Selectman Luszey asked why are we just doing these. Are we not going to go back and move everything to the warrant or are we just going to do it haphazardly? Selectman Nadeau happened to want to move these tonight while we're here while it's...Selectman Luszey indicated we didn't do any of the others when we were there. Kathy Carpentier said all of the others aren't specific to his department. Selectman Luszey knows they're not specific to his department but...Steve Malizia indicated fire didn't have any. Police will have one. They'll discuss it when they're here. The groups that have been in it I don't think have had any. Kathy Carpentier stated the ones we have are more general that don't belong to a department head.

Selectman Nadeau thought \$150,000 might be a little much. Like I said, I want to start a capital reserve fund to do the field space and we might find out that we have a different field that could be developed for less money. I'd just like to put \$75,000 into this warrant article.

For clarification, Steve Malizia asked are we establishing a capital reserve fund or what are we doing with the \$75,000? Selectman Nadeau indicated a capital reserve fund. Steve Malizia reiterated that you'd like to establish a capital reserve fund with the \$75,000.

Selectman Coutu somewhat agree with Selectman Nadeau even though I said that I wanted to get a field built as quickly as possible and I thought we should move to have the \$150,000. Based on my communication with Selectman Nadeau, I'm convinced that we could probably do it for \$75,000 and we can do it on a town owned piece of land which this is or perhaps another field that maybe available. I think that considering what Selectman Nadeau has suggested, I think \$75,000 might just do the trick for us. I don't know why it would be going into a capital reserve fund. I would think that it should be a one time allocation of \$75,000 and we'll find somebody to do it. To tell the voters that we're going to raise \$75,000, etc. from here on out when the intent and purpose of the \$75,000 is to find somebody to build it for \$75,000.

Selectman Nadeau said the reason I want to put it into a capital reserve fund is so that we have a reserve fund started for field space so that down the road when the next piece of land comes up or we need to do some work on a field, we have money in a capital reserve fund to do it. Two if for some reason \$75,000 was too much and we were able to do it for \$50,000, that money can sit in the capital reserve fund for the next thing that we need to do in field space.

Selectman Coutu said I would agree to that because we will both be here for the next budget process. If this is approved by the voters and we can build it for \$50,000, then we have \$25,000 less. From then on, we add \$25,000 to the account and not \$75,000. Selectman Nadeau indicated we'll see what it comes out to. Selectman Coutu stated we can change that allocation can't we from year to year? Once you've established a reserve fund, this Board would set the amount that you'd like to put in that reserve fund in subsequent years. Selectman Coutu said as long as we have that option, I'm fine with it.

Steve Malizia reiterated that you want to put \$75,000 in this year into a capital reserve fund and then are you intending to spend \$50,000 out of that this year? Selectman Nadeau said no. We could spend the whole \$75,000. Mr. Malizia said no you can't. How are you going to do that if you establish it then you also have a vote to spend it. Selectman Coutu said we'll leave \$1 in it. Mr. Malizia asked who are the agents to expend. Selectman Nadeau said the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Luszey said that was going to be my point. There's no agent to expend. Selectmen Nadeau and Coutu said the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Nadeau indicated my seconder just agreed to that.

Selectman Luszey's comments were is there's no agent to expend and also are you going to take this strictly from appropriations or are you going to do it like most of these warrant are in that it's from surplus at the end of the year. Selectman Nadeau gave an example like the senior center we took money from the surplus at the end of the year. Selectman Luszey said there's no tax impact. Kathy Carpentier indicated you could do either or. Selectman Luszey said you could do either or but I'm asking the question which way are we leaning. This impacts the tax rate by about what a penny. Kathy Carpentier said \$.03. Selectman Nadeau indicated surplus at the end of the year. Selectman Coutu indicated there's an urgency. Surplus at the end of the year.

Chairman Maddox stated the Rec. Director said it's going to cost you \$150,000 and somehow or another you two have found a way to do it for half of that. Why didn't you build the senior center? The field construction - you're not telling the voters where you're putting this, what the final cost is going to be. Just give me \$75,000 and we're going to go build some field some place. Selectman Nadeau said a reserve fund to build fields. Chairman Maddox said if they give you \$75,000 and it costs \$100,000, you're still not going to be able to build it. Selectman Nadeau stated that we don't do it until we get the rest of the money. It's a capital reserve fund to start saving. Chairman Maddox said I see where you're going and it's a wonderful place but I think it's fuzzy at best. I think it's going to be a challenge to explain to the voters what we're trying to do.

Selectman Coutu asked what kind of a challenge is it to put \$75,000 in a capital reserve fund to meet the recreation needs in our community. What is the problem? Chairman Maddox said the problem is you want to build it immediately and you have a budget here of 150. Some way or another you've found another way...Selectman Coutu said an estimate. Chairman Maddox said estimates are mostly low. Doing it the other way saying we're going to take \$50,000 a year or even \$75,000 a year gets it accomplished. There's just so many maybes and question marks in this Sir.

Selectman Coutu asked to explain where Selectman Nadeau and I are going. This is to meet a community need in recreation. We are certain that either by using our own staff if possible or a local developer or contractor and explain to them the purpose of the field; we can get it done for a lot less money. You put in \$150,000; they're going to want the \$150,000. You put in \$75,000; they might do it for \$75,000. If Kevin has the time, maybe we could ask him. We're talking about grading an area that doesn't need a lot of work. There's trees, stumps, and whatever. It needs to be cleared, and we need to grade the field, and we need to seed it. I'm sure we can do that for \$75,000 and not \$150,000. I would say that if the bid were to come in if we went out to bid and it came in at \$85,000 or \$90,000, we could find \$15,000 to augment the excess that's needed to finish it off. We're trying to meet a community need right now.

Chairman Maddox said we have a lot of community needs but this is the one that's priority right now.

Selectman Nadeau stated one of the other things we're not thinking of or have not been brought out today, we do have impact fees that the Planning Board collects that we could use to augment this.

Selectman Luszey's only comment on this is this is a warrant article that we deleted Freedom Fields from. So it is a generalized warrant article for the purpose of raising and appropriating some monies - \$75,000 a year where the selectmen are agents to expend which means you can do it the first year or you can leave it there until such time we have enough money in there. It could be 3 years to build a field. Selectman Nadeau said yes.

Dave Yates asked why couldn't we leave it as Freedom Field since we know there's already a plan in place. We don't have to go out and get a plan. We already know that it can fit a field on it. The plan is already in place. If this is approved, we're going to go right after Freedom Field and try to do the field there. I don't know what the amount is - KC of that Planning Board...

Selectman Nadeau indicated the reason I took the word "Freedom Field" off there is there could be other places that we could build fields in Hudson. I'll use an example and I'll throw an example out - Robinson Pond recreation area, Benson's. There's other places that we can look. I don't want to be boxed into Freedom Field. If not, then I'm just going to withdraw the warrant article. Dave Yates said we've done research on all the other places. This is ready for a field now. Selectman Nadeau said I'll withdraw the warrant article. Dave Yates wasn't sure why you're doing that. Selectman Nadeau didn't want to put a field name on there in case there was something else that came up. Now you're telling me that I have to do Freedom Field. I do not want to be boxed into Freedom Field. Mr. Yates said initially I did agree with you Ben however...Selectman Nadeau withdrew the motion. I withdraw the motion.

Chairman Maddox asked are we done with the recreation budget.

Selectman Coutu would like to put a "W" on the Freedom Field warrant article for review when we do the final assessment of our budget needs when both have an opportunity to calm down and realize that this is a recreation item that's a need to the community.

Kathy Carpentier indicated I did not put it as a capital reserve fund. It was just a request outside his budget so I did not put it into the budget at this point. It was an outside request by the department head.

Town Treasurer (5050), page 25

Chairman Maddox recognized Finance Director Kathy Carpentier.

Kathy Carpentier said this budget is level funded. This is just the salary and taxes for the Town Treasurer.

Recycling & Energy Committee (5055, 5085), page 28

Chairman Maddox recognized Leo Bernard and Linda Kipnes.

Leo Bernard told the Board that what I saw here is that KC has taken out Energy's money from their budget and put it into one budget completely. That's why it's up. Kathy Carpentier indicated it is level funded based on the Board's motion to combine the committees. Steve Malizia indicated page 39 shows you the zero if you want to see where it was last year. They're the same.

Budget Committee (5070), page 35

Chairman Maddox recognized Finance Director Kathy Carpentier.

Kathy Carpentier indicated again level funded budget. There's nothing to speak of. Selectman Coutu asked if it was level funded. Ms. Carpentier said yes Sir.

Ethics Committee (5080), page 37

Kathy Carpentier indicated its level funded at \$100.

Library (5060)

Without objection, Chairman Maddox said we'll take Library 5060. They've made a change somewhere. There's a new handout we just received this evening. They have gone up. They're not level funded. Connie Owen indicated we are level funded. That's what's on the paper. Chairman Maddox saw it went up \$73.

Connie Owen said if there was a typo, we will remove that \$73. We are level funded. We are very dedicated to complying with the request of the Town and the Selectmen that submit a level funded budget. We continue to provide a wide assortment of services and our library utilization continues at a very dynamic rate with our increasing attention to digital and electronic aspects as well as traditional services. With our other programs, we are dramatically to the quality of life in Hudson and offer supplemental support by providing access to internet, newspapers, magazines, adult and children's educational support and entertainment opportunities. On our circulation, we did a simple breakdown of circulation from fiscal year 12 right through fiscal year 14. We've increased between 6 percent and 126 percent in different programs. Our growth since being in the new library has been stupendous and really like the idea that hopefully it's leveling off a little bit. At our Selectman Liaison's request, we did provide a summary of our strategic planning process which we are involved in right now. That is on the back of your cover sheet here. We are right in the middle of the research aspect of the strategic plan and we have representation from many departments and different areas of the community. I don't know if you have any questions about that. You will have our new mission statement, our challenges and objectives, and then our budget. I don't know if you have any questions.

Just out of curiosity, Selectman Nadeau asked 208 telephone and communications. Fairpoint Communications dedicated line for security systems I understand and elevator? Connie Owen stated there's a phone in the elevator in case of emergency. We have a small elevator that was donated and that's installed in the new building. It's not for patron use. It's mainly for transporting books up and down from one level to the other. That was a very generous donation of BAE in honor of John Creeden. Our Treasurer's husband at the time he passed away. Selectman Nadeau thought it was interesting that there was a Fairpoint for an elevator phone in it. Charlie Matthews indicated we have just two Fairpoint lines. I think that's required to have a telephone line in an elevator. That's my understanding. Chairman Maddox said if it's just for books, I don't understand. Mr. Matthews said it is a passenger elevator but it's used primarily by staff. Connie Owen indicated it's not open to patrons.

Selectman Luszey was on those two line items - the two Fairpoint. How come we can't use Town communication lines for that? Selectman Coutu indicated fiber optic instead of Fairpoint. Charlie Matthews said we use the Bayring service and we

reduced our cost by going to an internet service. So we reduced our costs dramatically. That's why there's a reduction in the Telecom line item.

Selectman Luszey said if this is an internet service, again, why aren't we going through the Town infrastructure to get the internet. Why are we paying for a dedicated line? Charlie Matthews indicated there's two internet services. One is the Fairpoint fast line which will be internet access for our patrons and for the staff computers. Again, Selectman Luszey asked why aren't we going through the town fiber out throughout hubs and switches for the internet. Mr. Matthews thought to save money. It's cheaper if we go directly. That's my understanding. Selectman Luszey would like to have the IT Director explain why it would be more expensive if you're going through her gateways and switches. The security. Is that the same? Mr. Matthews indicated the security system - that's a direct analog telephone line to Monadnock Security. Again, Selectman Luszey said you could use the town's telephone infrastructure to go back. You don't need a dedicated...Connie Owen indicated we'll have to check into that because I can't answer that off the top of my head. We'll be happy to look into it. Selectman Luszey's question was how come you can't get an extension for that elevator that is a dedicated extension that would go back to wherever this thing is being monitored. Connie Owen stated I'd be happy to look that up.

Chairman Maddox asked if there were any other questions of the Library. Seeing none, thank you very much.

Chairman Maddox called for a 5 minute recess at 8:45 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:50.

Police Department (5610 to 5673)

Chairman Maddox recognized Police Chief Jason Lavoie.

Good evening and thank you for having us here today. Chief Jason Lavoie indicated this budget is pretty much the same budget that we've had for the last several years. It's the budget that's been approved a number of times by the Board already. We are just basically maintaining. With that, I'll take questions if you have them.

Chairman Maddox questioned the 1.6 percent increase is due to? Chief Lavoie indicted mostly gasoline as well as some contractual obligations to run some of the programs that we run. It could include the maintenance of the building, etc., Pelmac, Control Tech. Those are identified in their respective cost centers.

Chairman Maddox asked did you carry the same gas price that everybody else did. Chief Lavoie stated traditionally that's what we do. We all use the same vendor - Burque. Chairman Maddox thought we were fueling less this year. Steve Malizia indicated it's off the default number so it's a bigger increase than it would have been had he got what he wanted last year.

Selectman Coutu indicated its level funded. I'm a happy camper.

Selectman Brucker said I'm always worried about the schools and I just wonder if you feel like the program in the schools that we have - that we don't need to do any more, expanded, or. Chief Lavoie thought with the staffing levels that we have right now, we're pretty much doing as much as we can do with what we have. I haven't heard anything from the school administrators indicating that they would like more. We do meet with them. In fact, I wasn't able to make it but Captain Tousignant and Captain Avery were just there recently meeting with Principal Beals. We do that or we get together with other Principals as well.

Chairman Maddox indicated there is no tower in this correct? Chief Lavoie said correct. Chairman Maddox said we did talk about the Fire Department and the radios.

Selectman Luszey said if there is no tower does that mean that you and the Fire Chief have decided not to improve that area. Chief Lavoie stated no. The reason why there's no tower in here is because if I was to bring in a tower, our budget would probably have been up over 10 - 12 percent. Roughly for a tower, there's going to be between, again, I think two years ago we were looking at about \$45,000. A couple of months ago, I believe Chief Buxton had made a phone call and they were guesstimating around \$60,000. We wanted to follow up today. We made another phone call and they're saying anywhere from \$75,000 to \$100,000. They have to come in, they have to test what's underneath the surface to see if it will hold what kind of a pad, the weight of the pole to go up. They're no longer using multiple eight towers that we traditionally would use. It's those one monopoles. That's going to be my wording of it that just goes straight up. Looking at that, I can't budget for that. It's more of a wish list should the Board choose to add that in at some point.

Selectman Coutu asked for clarification. As I understand it and this conversation has been going on for 2 or 3 years. We have areas in our town or 1 in particular where communication fails. Is that correct? Chief Lavoie said we have very good coverage. The areas that we have problems with for the Police Department is the area of the speedway. On occasion we'll lose signal there but sometimes in the deep south end of Hudson, sometimes we'll miss a call or a radio transmission out there. The Fire Department has more of an issue with their transmissions where they'll lose calls more. I'd rather let the Chief speak to it but I think he has a greater problem at the 102 corridor around the area where it blends into Litchfield and before the north bound up

into the speedway West Road area. He has more problems with transmissions that we do.

Selectman Coutu asked has it been determined that wherever we were going to locate this tower it would solve all of those problems - south end, race track, 102. Chief Lavoie said not. This tower here would only be the one for the Police Station. We currently have about a 40 foot tower that's with our building now. It just barely goes to the roof line. The trees around it have all grown up and they're taller than the tower. So what happens is we don't have as good of range of sending signals out from there. Our primary tower, we primarily only have one tower that we operate off and that's the Merrill Hill tower. When the Merrill Hill tower goes down, that's when we'll change it back over and we'll use the tower at the PD to transmit. That's where we will lose more calls.

Selectman Coutu asked is losing the ability to communicate in certain areas - let's use the south end of town because that's my neighborhood. Is there an identifiable area where this happens all the time or is just on occasion it happens? In other words if your own Winslow Farm Road and that's an area where the signal is weak. Let's suppose or hypothetically because I don't think its weak on Winslow Farm. Let's say you found that somebody had trouble, difficulty communicating. That area that it happens in south Hudson is it ongoing in that area? If they're on a particular street you have no communication at all. Chief Lavoie said not that we have none, it's not consistent. Selectman Coutu indicated it's off and on. Chief Lavoie said Wal-Mart is a great problem on the inside of Wal-Mart and the same thing with Alvirne High School being able to get into that building. We fail at. Selectman Coutu indicated I'm satisfied. Thank you.

Selectman Luszey had two things - Merrill Hill. When we talked about it on the joint dispatch presentation 6 months ago with the microwave and all that, there was a statement made that your overdriving the power level on that in order to achieve the coverage you get out of that. Two, that there's been conflict with Salem signaling out. Has all that been straightened out? Chief Lavoie said yes. Selectman Luszey said if we were to get the readings off Merrill Hill, they would be down at the threshold that they're supposed to be and we're not overpowering that any more. Chief Lavoie said correct. They should be within the normal levels that Cybercom set them to.

Selectman Nadeau asked is it possible to put in an extension on our tower at the Police Department like a 10 foot section to our tower over there. Has that been looked at? Chief Lavoie didn't know. Off the cuff of it, I think anytime you go and you start adding weight to it, they may want to re-examine. That's something that's really - I would defer to the people that would be putting in the towers that deal with that end of things. I don't know if 10 feet is going to get us up to - it's kind of putting a band aid when you need some stitches.

Chairman Maddox stated the other problem is if we do go to combined dispatch, you need to put a Fire Department antenna off of that. As I understood it from our combined dispatch days, there's just no place to put it. I think it would be problematic that thing is a lattice antenna. I don't know how that actually - again you'd get into all that. It's only designed to be that big. If you added a 10 foot section and put another antenna on, that could cause problems also. It's something I guess we could look at. Selectman Nadeau stated you never know. Maybe they were thinking ahead back then and made the pad big enough so you could add to it. You never know. Chairman Maddox indicated that's not in the budget anyway.

Chairman Maddox indicated we have a warrant article for the Police Department. I guess its "F". Chief Lavoie stated in my perfect world, I'd love to have this as a full time position. I just think that would be too much to ask for at this point. I think we can get by with a part time position as part of the legal aid. Our current legal clerk who's been in that position since 1988, at that time she was handling a little over 500 arrests a year. Now she's handling approximately anywhere from 1,100 to 1,200 arrests a year. It's the same one person. That position involves a lot work in preparing discoveries. Every time you have a DWI arrest, let's just use a nice simple number. You make 100 DWI arrests in the year. That's really 200 court cases. It's also an administrative hearing that takes place. Paperwork has to be filed for that. It has to go off in a couple of different directions. It's extremely labor intensive as well as there are time constraints on as to getting out the discoveries, etc. We are also running into some issues with transcription. This legal aid person would also be trained in doing the transcription to help out with that in order to provide those things that are necessary. A lot of the discoveries with some of the types of stuff that the crimes people are committing or whatever, when they get involved with like the DWIs if they're getting enrolled into a program that might help with alcohol for example that they have to attend these programs that the court system has put in place require that all their criminal histories, all their prior arrests records have to be sent to the program. So that takes research to find those reports, those records, etc. The workload has just continued to increase and we believe that by asking for the part time position at 29 hours a week would really help get the help that we need in that area.

Selectman Luszey said part time positions - my understanding is that we don't need to go to the voters. We have a number of positions that are currently unoccupied by people sitting in seats. Is that true Steve? Steve Malizia indicated it's been the practice of the Board part time or full time positions have gone to the warrant. I cite for example a part time Water Utility Clerk you did a few years ago. So part time people have gone if you're adding someone to the town's rolls, they have gone - part time. Just to clarify that. Selectman Luszey said if we're adding...Mr. Malizia said correct. If you're trying to move somebody from somewhere else, we know that there was at least a position over in formerly Community Development. There's one I think that \$1. It was vacated. It was a secretarial position over there. I think we also had the other open position that was sitting in there in my department. Selectman Luszey said we could move that over. In theory, Steve Malizia said the practice

of the Board if you put the money in, you could move a position. Selectman Luszey said that would not require a warrant article. Mr. Malizia stated that would not violate the warrant article which says that if you're adding a new head, you want to put that on the warrant.

Selectman Coutu said it would just be a matter of coming up with the \$27,000. Selectman Luszey said exactly and that I think is the real discussion. To your point the other night, we have these positions that are not filled and we should be using those to fill the appropriate needs. If we do this, we're adding head count to the town population and I don't believe we need to do that.

Selectman Brucker thought that I don't think I like doing it that way. You're taking away a position from a department that you might need filled in the next 6 months or a year.

Selectman Nadeau asked do you have any of those type positions available in your - do you have any open positions other than police officers in your department at the moment. You don't have any part time secretaries that were never filled or anything? Chief Lavoie indicated no.

Selectman Nadeau indicated I was on the Budget Committee when they passed that warrant article. It was suggested that any new part time or full time be brought to the voters. I think that we should be fair and consistent and put this on the ballot and put it forward.

Selectman Luszey thought we are being fair and consistent because we reviewed this very method when we hired the part time Senior Activity Coordinator. We did not go to the ballot because we used an open position. We did not ask the voters for a head to hire. We used a current open position to do that.

Selectman Nadeau thought we put it in the budget so that everybody knew the money was there. Selectman Luszey said right. That's what we would do here. It's no different. We would put money in but we're not going to ask the voters to hire a person because if we do that - I don't know what the number of people in town are but let's say there 300 people working for the town. This would make it 301 authorized to hire.

Selectman Brucker thought that that position was already there in the Rec. Department wasn't it a part time clerk? Selectman Nadeau indicated there is a part time clerk that was filled. Steve Malizia stated the Senior Services Coordinator was for lack of a better term a new title. So you took a position from somewhere else and put that over in the Rec. Department for the Senior Services Coordinator. There's a part time clerk over there now that's been over there since Ms. Barry held the job and even before her. Not to confuse it but there is a position that's been there for years. The Senior Services Coordinator which you just assigned to that department came from a vacant position somewhere else in the town's organization. Selectman Brucker asked where was that. Off the top of Mr. Malizia's head, I don't remember.

Chairman Maddox said his problem is that's a wonderful thing that we did but there's not a list that says these are the positions that were approved. We're just kind of magically saying there's a part time position that used to be over here that we want to use. There's no accounting of where they were and where some group of Selectmen moved them to. I think we're going down a slope of saying well there's an empty full time position in Community Development, then we can hire a full time person over there. Where do we want to go with this? Are we intending to just say we have 6 slots that we can use from now on to fill positions and not go to the voters? I'm just trying to, again, ask the question of where we want to go with this.

Selectman Luszey indicated that's exactly where I'm at. We have a number of approved by the voters positions for the town. Where they currently sit or reside, they're unfilled for me they're up for grabs. If a department head comes in and can justify the need, I think we should be assigning one of those vacancies to that department.

Selectman Brucker said we discussed the opening in the Community Development Department and they came in and they requested to fill it. So we haven't even decided that. If you're going to pull it out of that department. Chairman Maddox didn't think we have to because we can imagine there was something somewhere else and that's my problem. There is no list that says that Highway had 22 people approved by the voters. Steve Malizia stated you will not find a list of positions in town that were approved by the voters. This article was advisory in 1994. So anybody who was here before 1994, there wasn't a magical list. There never will be. What you've practiced since 1994 is if you're adding a position, you've put it on a warrant. You're not required to. It's not the law. It's an advisory article. So what I'm saying is you will never find 22 highway people that were approved by the voters because at some point in time, they were already here or they were here or they got hired somehow.

Selectman Luszey acknowledged that you're absolutely right. From 1994 forward, we knew what the head count was at 1994 and we can go forward from that and we can say we know exactly what the voters have agreed to or have not agreed to in terms of population for the town employees. So there is a list as far as I'm concerned. Chairman Maddox indicated that I'm glad you're our Budget Committee Liaison.

Selectman Coutu said based on the data that the Chief provided us in terms of the work flow for that full time position that we



have now, the clerk that's doing it now, and the data that Chief has elaborated has to be prepared for court cases, he certainly identified an urgency and a need that shouldn't even wait until March of 2014 for the voters to decide on. I agree with Selectman Luszey. At some point - it certainly was done over a span of years, a certain number of full time and part time positions were approved by the voters. They exist. They exist in our budget. It's just that their positions we don't fund them if we're not going to fill them. Why go to the voters and ask them to create an additional position which gives another Board of Selectmen an opportunity to fill these 2 or 3 other vacancies later on with anything because we've allowed them to just sit there. I say that he's identified in the - we have a responsibility to be responsive to our department heads who come in with an urgency. This is the Police Department. Crime hasn't gone down. Crime has risen. We all follow the data and the statistics. We see the reports. You can read the arrests in the paper. I read them the other day. It was a column and a half just of Hudson, New Hampshire. There's a lot of other things that go on within the Police Department that we're not going to sit here and discuss tonight. There's an urgency, there's a need. I agree with Selectman Luszey - take a vacant position that exists now, give it to the Police Department so he can create this position without having to go to the voters and I don't think it should wait until next July. If we can find the funds or whatever amount of money we can for whatever period in this year whether it's December 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, let's move ahead and do that. He's identified an immediate need not a wish. It's a need. There's a big difference between a need and a wish. I support using one of the part time vacant positions for the Police Department.

*Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to use one of the part time vacant positions for a part time Legal Aide Clerk in the Police Department.*

Selectman Brucker does agree that there is a need. I think that they should have it more immediately but not in my backyard. I don't want somebody taking a position in the Community Development Department. Sorry.

Selectman Coutu stated no department owns any of the positions. The Town Administrator has identified 3 part time vacancies. Steve Malizia said we know there's an Assistant Town Administrator vacancy. We know there's a secretarial vacancy and there were 2 secretarial positions in Community Development Department. Selectman Coutu asked part time or full time. Steve Malizia stated originally they were all full time. The Assistant Town Administrator was full time or essentially funded. Kathy Carpentier indicated when you hired the Senior Services Coordinator did you identify which position you were taking. That's what we'd have to go back and look at. I can tell you there are vacant positions right now in this budget but if you swapped the heads, that had to be in your motion and that's what we'd have to reconcile too. The same with the newest inspectional service...

The point Selectman Coutu wanted to make if I may because I understand Selectman Brucker's concern. I sit here and I advocate for the Police Department. I advocate for the Recreation Department. She advocates for the department she represents and I appreciate and I respect that. That is not to say Mrs. Brucker because we're going to do this now because he's identified an urgent need that in the future immediate or otherwise, a department head from within Community Development were to come in here and articulate and convince us that there's an immediate need that we would not give them that position because we still have remaining a couple more vacancies. I don't see it as let's take away from this department to give to that department. We're not trying to create a war here. He's identified a need. He certainly convinced me of the need. So I made the motion. He's obviously convinced Selectman Luszey of the need. He seconded the motion. You have stated that you understand the need. So we're trying to fill that need. It's an immediate need. If there's such an urgency and an immediate need in that department, I'm not convinced that there is right now but if there is, and I think that's going to be a conversation for a little later because we're going to back track on a couple of things. I would certainly support filling a position there. I've said that if 2 or 3 years from now a major development or 2 or 3 major developments come down, we may not have sufficient staff there. I don't want you to think that we're stealing a position from somebody. There still exists other positions within the town that if we can identify the position, we can certainly transfer an existing position that was allocated somewhere else that there's no need for or a position that we've abandoned. Assistant Town Administrator is an example. We've abandoned the idea of filling the position but it's there. So we could fill it at a later date. I don't want you to think that we're stealing from anybody. That's not the intent. The purpose is to fill his immediate need as quickly as possible.

Chairman Maddox indicated he was having a little difficulty but I mostly do. I would be much more comfortable if we identified where we're taking it from. I think in fairness to the citizens that approved that part time position - and I'm going to say the Assessing Department just cuz it starts with "A". We can't use it 3 times. I think in fairness if that motion included to take the part timer from Assessing, then we could say that on this date we took that position. It's now been used. Then there would be some record of it.

Selectman Coutu asked to try to satisfy Chairman Maddox. The Finance Director said that she could reconcile that. I'm willing to withdraw my motion and when we do the wrap up, I'll re-introduce the motion and if she can identify the position, we'll reconcile it and we'll identify it in the motion and that should satisfy your...and I'd be willing to withdraw my motion. We're not filling it tomorrow morning. I'm willing to withdraw it if I can get your support by doing that, we reconcile it, and I'd ask the seconder to withdraw his. Chairman Maddox thought that would be a lot easier to the Budget Committee. So we're saying this is what we're doing. We keep using the same mystery part timer 6 times.

Selectman Luszey thought part of that then goes along with the Senior Activities Coordinator. We use the position that was

vacant for that. At the start of this year, we had some positions. We've used one and we're about to use a second. That will leave a remaining. For me I will not discern between a part time and a full time on those positions. Selectman Coutu understood that. Selectman Luszey said we use it for a part time. There's not another part time. That one head is gone. Kathy Carpentier believed you also hired a full time in place of a part time. The last Inspector. Steve Malizia stated we had a full time vacancy at some point in time. Kathy Carpentier indicated that's what I'm saying. You swapped out a position. Selectman Luszey stated at the beginning of this year we had a number of vacancies and we've put two people in. Let's make the list. Again, Chairman Maddox didn't disagree. I'm just saying that it's in fairness to the voters to say we haven't used that same slot 4 times or some Selectmen downstream are going to use it again.

Not to beat the dead horse, Steve Malizia said this year if you do that immediately at the next meeting or whatever, they will have to find the money somewhere in their budget. What you'd be prudent to do if you're going to do that for next year, put some number into the budget so that they're not looking to find the money again next year in their budget. In other words what you're saying is we're going to put a position in his department you have to have money. He doesn't have money for it. Do you know what I'm saying? So this 27240 for example, you'd need to put it in his budget in the wrap up night. I just want to make sure he doesn't lose in that transaction. For this fiscal year, he'll have to find it if it's not already in a position. Selectman Luszey said which means we would have to put it into his budget for next year. Mr. Malizia said correct. So instead of doing a warrant, it would get somewhere in the operating budget should the board transfer that over. I just wanted to make sure we all understand that.

Selectman Brucker stated I like that idea. I think that if somebody comes in and they want to fill a position they think they have and then they're the ones that have to go after a warrant article, I just would like to avoid that.

Chairman Maddox said one of the things I didn't get to talk to Senator Ayotte who was in town today that EPA ruling I think is something we need to follow up on before we drop \$50,000 into the budget. I just think it's fascinating that they're going to make a rule and we have to follow it without knowing what the costs are or what the rules are. I think they should at least give us a year or two to be able to do some planning for it rather than so maybe we should send a letter off to her office in Nashua to see if we can get some help with that. Again, we're funding \$50,000 for we don't know what. That's all going to come on the "W" nights which will be November 5<sup>th</sup>. Any other questions of the Police Chief?

Selectman Coutu asked Ms. Carpentier the 27240 is all inclusive. Kathy Carpentier said the only thing it has is taxes. It's on the next page. Its 29 hours per week for the full year. Selectman Coutu said it's all inclusive. I just want to make sure we have that. Somehow we'll transfer these numbers into the police line item under whatever department this part timer would.

Chief Lavoie thanked the Board and I appreciate your time and the understanding the need for this position. It would be a great help. I'd also like to thank my Captains for their help with presenting the budget and the one that drives this ship sitting back there, Dorothy.

### C. Health Insurance Rates

Chairman Maddox recognized the Finance Director Kathy Carpentier.

Kathy Carpentier said we were informed that the health insurance rates went up 5 percent for all of our carriers now. CIGNA has chosen not to renew our contract. So I went and updated all the departments for that 5 percent increase. It was \$122,000. I've created new sheets. I don't know if you want to pass them out and go over them or what. The increases were not part of the budget that's in your book right now. So it's a \$122,000 increase to the budget. So for the 5<sup>th</sup> of November, Chairman Maddox said we will have a list of all the "W"s and their potential costs. Ms. Carpentier said yes but some of them you had put on the list a whole department. So I'm not sure that that's the cost of your action but yes. Steve Malizia said where it was specific, you will get it where it was not specific you'll get a reference to it. Again, Chairman Maddox said to have some idea of how much money we're talking about. We're now talking a quarter of a million dollars.

Selectman Luszey asked is there a way you can talk to the school and let the 5 employees that want CIGNA work off the school CIGNA? Kathy Carpentier didn't believe so because I was told by our lawyers that it now becomes a contractual negotiating item because CIGNA is called out in our 5 contracts. Selectman Luszey indicated that's what I'm saying. Why can't they sign up with CIGNA...Mr. Malizia indicated they have other choices here though that may just be as reasonable. There is an HMO option here similar to the CIGNA that the 5 people were taking here. We had 5 people taking it. They dropped us because we didn't have a participation rate that was sufficient. I suppose if they want...All Selectman Luszey was saying is if they could get it through the schools cuz if they want CIGNA...Mr. Malizia said it may be a different program that they have something - school care. It's probably different than the OPN network we had here. I'm not sure it's the same product over there either. CIGNA is a company that has different products. We've given them the information. They would be able to evaluate what's best for their needs and if they pick one of our programs that's best, so be it. If they go outside or get it through a spouse, so be that too. Unfortunately there were only I think 5 people and they weren't going to write a policy for 5 people. There's nothing else we can do about that.

Selectman Coutu asked are we going to get the document or are we going to do it for later. Chairman Maddox indicated we're going to get it tonight and we'll take it home and study it.

Selectman Luszey asked the Chairman if he was looking of adjournment pretty quick right. Chairman Maddox was just wondering if that's where we're headed Sir. You have some items.

Selectman Luszey said the Supervisor of the Checklist laptop that we have in the 15 budget. Steve Malizia indicated that's a "W". Kathy Carpentier indicated that's on the "W" list and it is not in any budget at this point.

Selectman Luszey asked about the carpeting for sewer/welfare. Steve Malizia said no. Kathy Carpentier said that was a motion. You put that into the budget. A motion was made to put that into the budget for not to exceed \$22,000. So that is not on the "W" list but you can revisit it if you'd like obviously. Selectman Luszey said I had an action item to go off and find it. It was \$1,400 to do that - welfare, sewer and hallway. Chairman Maddox said you put \$22,000 in to do the whole thing. Selectman Luszey said the reason it didn't get done is because the PO was encumbered. Kathy Carpentier indicated estimates were made for the project and then encumbered, and then the additional rugs came afterwards. They were not part of the prior year encumbrance therefore there were no funds to do the additional carpeting. I confirmed that with the Chief. Selectman Luszey said the action item was did we want to do it in this year's find the money or just leave it in the budget. Chairman Maddox indicated let's see where we end up with the "W"s because I think the number is rapidly ratcheting up to a number that's going to be challenging. Selectman Luszey asked that the carpets be added to the "W" list. Steve Malizia indicated you've already added it. Kathy Carpentier indicated you didn't because you did a motion so it was a done issue but I will add it to the "W" list.

Chairman Maddox stated that we've seen all the departments. It was a great tour. Now everybody will get the breakdown and KC after tonight you'll send us where we are as far as spending. Kathy Carpentier indicated at this point..Chairman Maddox said as best you can. There's some things that we kind of wouldn't general with. Kathy Carpentier said what we will do is get you any documents. Some department heads have given us follow documents. We got something from NRPC, the Assessor gave me some documents. With Donna, I will put an agenda package together prior to the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. You'll have the "W" list, all the new rates so you'll have some time to look at it if that's what the Board wishes. Chairman Maddox asked is that what we want to do.

Selectman Luszey had one other question. On the "W" list was combined dispatch put on as a "W" or was that just a casual conversation we had. Selectman Nadeau indicated that's what we were going off to do in December. Kathy Carpentier said you put the fire communications professional services \$40,000 radio transmission site on the "W" list and you made a different motion to revisit combined dispatch. Selectman Luszey indicated it is a "W" then. Chairman Maddox said we'll see it on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Kathy Carpentier said you will also see the default and we haven't reviewed the revenues at this point. Steve Malizia indicated there maybe a couple of warrant articles obviously that we've alluded to at that point in time. I think they're in the book - facility. I think there was one for the Town Clerk. There was one for you to discuss for department heads. Those are in the book. You will at some point as we settle contracts, hopefully get contracts coming across. Right now we don't have any to give you but as they come, they would obviously go into the book. That will probably be after November 5<sup>th</sup> but they will get forwarded to the Budget Committee for their collective bargaining review which is late December early January. The date eludes me but as pretty typical. Kathy Carpentier indicated the budget books will be turned over to the Budget Committee on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Steve Malizia said we are first this year.

Selectman Luszey said the fire \$40,000, that was just for his radio transmitter. That was based on the police requesting the antenna. Can you just make sure the Fire Chief knows that that intent is not part of the police budget. I specifically asked a question and they said they did not have a real firm communication on that. Steve Malizia indicated it sounds like they should talk. Selectman Luszey said there's no antenna in the police budget. Mr. Malizia said he'll notify the Fire Chief that there's no antenna in the police budget and will tell him to talk to the Police Chief. Selectman Luszey said or figure out what he's going to come forward with for that "W".

Selectman Nadeau had a couple of things before we adjourn. Nothing major. Just a reminder that tomorrow night is Fright Night for the Police Department CHIPS. The next thing that will be put on by the Rec. Department - trick or treating at Benson Park on Sunday. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, the day before trick or treating, at Fairview Nursing Home they're doing trick or treating for the younger kids in the nursing home. It was in the Hudson/Litchfield News last week or the week before for the residents and everybody is invited to attend. I just saw that again when I was looking through one of the old Hudson/Litchfield News. Selectman Coutu said they did it last year and was a success. Selectman Nadeau said somebody reminded me of that at PumpkinFest. So I just wanted to make sure that everybody was aware of that. That's all I have.

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

*Motion to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, carried 5-0.*

Recorded by HGTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Richard J. Maddox, Chairman

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Nancy Brucker, Selectman

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Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

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Benjamin Nadeau, Selectman

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Ted Luszey, Selectman