

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the May 7, 2013 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Maddox the meeting of May 7, 2013 at 7:03 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Laura Bisson.
3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Rick Maddox, Nancy Brucker, Ted Luszey, Ben Nadeau (arrived at 7:20 p.m.)

Absent: Roger Coutu

Staff/Others: Donna Graham, Executive Assistant, Connie Owen, Charlie Matthews, Amy Sousa, Lee Lavoie, Bryan Lane, Laura Bisson, Shawn Jasper, Andy Renzullo, Sharon Carson, Lynne Ober, Russell Ober, Charlene Takesian, Patrick Culbert, and Jordan Ulery

4. CONSENT ITEM

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to approve consent item A as noted or appropriate, carried 3-0.

A. Licenses & Permits

- 1) Request to Solicit Funds - Bikers Against Child Abuse

5. DISCUSSION

A. Discussion with Hudson School Board

Chairman Maddox indicated that we're lucky enough to have the School Board here and the Library Trustees. I'd like to quickly go around the room and introduce yourselves. Connie Owen - Chair of the Hudson Library Board of Trustees; Charles Matthews - Library Director, Rodger's Memorial Library; Amy Sousa, School Board; Lee Lavoie, Vice-Chair, School Board; Bryan Lane, Superintendent of Schools; Laura Bisson, Chair of the Hudson School Board; Rick Maddox, BOS; Nancy Brucker, Co-Chair; Ted Luszey, Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Maddox said this has been discussed a number of times about getting together and talking about how we can better utilize the monies from the taxpayers. We both serve the same people - the taxpayers. Here's a chance to say are there some "low hanging fruit" I call it that we can do quickly and very quickly. I know you say all the time Mr. Lavoie that the School Department spends \$40,000 a year on toilet paper. With those kinds of numbers, I'm sure you're probably buying office supplies much cheaper than we are. Electricity - I know we both have plans. Who has the best plan? Let's take a look and the other one will go with it. I think, again, that as we go around tonight and the second part, the one you really want to stay tuned for folks is we're going to have the State Reps. also in so that again both boards can have some dialog with them. Rather than them going to the Selectmen's meeting and to a School Board meeting, we figured we'd tie it all up and do it all in one circle so that, again, showing the citizens we're trying to do everything we can to maximize the amount of goods and services that we provide for the dollars they give us.

Chairman Maddox opened the floor to Laura Bisson to see if you have any comments as we start.

Laura Bisson thought first just our gratitude for being included in this type of forum. It's something we've talked about I know on our Board level many times. I think in this Town and many towns it's looked at that

We have the school side and we have town side. The bottom line is we're all one town and we just serve two different governing boards. You're absolutely right. I think there's an opportunity for us to capitalize on areas that we make purchases or not even that. Some of it is just some of the skill set that we offer and some of the skill set that your side of the town offers. I don't know if our Board wants to offer anything else but it's definitely a dialog that I'm thrilled to be part of. I know the Board. I speak on behalf of the Board. Two of our members couldn't be here tonight for last minutes commitments that had come up. I think that it's only going to lead to a greater community if we can have this dialog more often and show that we're both working for the better of Hudson community which I know we are. With that, I don't know if there's any comments from our Board. Superintendent Lane is here willing to take everything back and work with Karen Burnell who couldn't be here as well.

Unfortunately, Chairman Maddox stated that Mr. Malizia was pulled away this afternoon because of an issue with his family. He is not here but Donna is here taking great notes. This is all being recorded and sent out. We will hopefully have a dialog between the Superintendent and the Town Administrator to take some of these items and see if we can bring it to some sort of resolution for savings and/or a dialog. Something that I have on here. You people have an in house HVAC technician. If that person in exchange for some of the stuff we can do for you could do some of our routine maintenance that's not getting done. We deal with it on a crisis basis rather than taking care of the small stuff. Trying to do those kinds of things that you already have an in-house person that if he gets to know our buildings as well as yours, we won't have these kinds of - it's broken.

Selectman Luszey indicated in the past we had this thing called a "Joint Planning Committee". I actually chaired it a number of times. Every time we kicked it off, we'd have a few meetings to address exactly that between the School District and the Town. We never got too far. The Library was included also. Some of the big ticket - I know you're talking about low hanging fruit but that's not really what's going to get us there. If we're really going to talk about working as a unit of one, we need to start taking a look at the infrastructure between the three units if you will - the Town, the School and Library. Right now the Town and the School both have ERP systems that they pay separate contracts for. They have separate sets of hardware for. The taxpayer is paying for redundant hardware and software that in a business he or she would enterprise resource planning. The ERP systems are the computer systems that we use to run our business whether it be the school or the town. We don't need two for the "big town" which is the school and the Town of Hudson. One is plenty and we could save a significant amount of money if we were to consolidate those like functions.

The IT functions. Selectman Luszey said if we were to combine resources, we could save money. Facilities management. You have a contracted services that does a great job. There is another area that the Town should be able to take and benefit from. Because of Aramark's buying power, they get a great price on cleaning solutions. Aramark is the number one catering business in the country along with janitorial services. We should as a town be partnering with the school to get that bang for the buck. Those are types of things that I think we should be going at not a couple of boxes of printing paper. Chairman Maddox said he was doing it in order of low hanging fruit and longer term but you jumped right into the big ticket.

Laura Bisson asked Selectmen Luszey if he knew of any towns that have this combined ERP system. Selectman Luszey said only cities. Nashua would be one. They have one that runs everything. It's because of the type of government that we have. It's probably been 8 to 10 years when we upgraded our system here and the school upgraded their system. Lynne Ober actually was the person driving the school side and it was Kathy Hawkins drove the town side. We couldn't get the two to talk together. So we ended up with two different systems yet it doesn't make a whole lot of sense. Chairman Maddox thought that is a conversation for the Superintendent and the Town Administrator to come back to us and the Library if they're so inclined to look at how, and what it's going to take, what type of cost, and what kind of payback that would bring to us. I think that because we're all interested in doing this, I think maybe the hurdle is that you've seen before might go away. Both of these groups realize that we have to squeeze every nickel we can and now is the time to look at these items that we may not have bothered to years ago. Laura Bisson asked if they could take the tax deduction on the school side if we save money. The tax rate goes down on the school side. You just stay where you are and we'll just start whittling down on our side. Selectman Luszey said if you were to do away with your financial system, you'd eliminate that from your budget so your tax rate would go down. You would be coming on the town side.

Again, Chairman Maddox thought this is the things we want to talk about. Where it takes us, how fast we can go, again let's talk about trash pickup. The Road Agent tells me we could save you a bunch of money. Let's find out what that really is and how we can implement that. I have one thing for the School Board that is kind of off side a little bit. If you've been watching the Planning Board, which is a good time, the impact fees. There was a ruling that we suspended the collection of school impact fees for a certain development of 55+ housing. They showed that there was not a lot of school aged children there. One of the things that was brought to our attention is that that study is from 2000. So number one it does not include kindergarten and it only went through grade 8. I know that you have had some preliminary discussions about infrastructure needs that you're going to be talking about in the next number of years. It may be worthwhile to get that updated to where we can collect the right amount of money for K through high school as opposed to just 1 through 8. That might be something you want to discuss. John Cashell the Town Planner was going to get a price. Again, I know the last time we gave you \$1 million I believe the last round to pay down the debt and then you're collecting \$100,000 a year. There is monies there. I don't know what the study would cost but I'm guessing in the range of about \$20,000 to \$25,000. There is monies there. I don't know what the study would cost but I'm guessing in the range of about \$25,000. If it returns you that kind of money over the next X number of years it may be well worth the money.

Amy Sousa indicated that this is a meeting about increasing operational efficiency. I'm hoping that we can do that with the meeting agenda and thinking about the Joint Planning Commission that met a few times. I would assume

that there was a list of topics that we had in common that was produced by that Commission even if they didn't come to fruition. Is that list available so that we can work with it? Selectman Luszey said a lot of it is in the technology area like mail serves, web servers, and financial accounting systems, help desk support, and things like that. The other side was in the area that I talked about was maintenance and trash removal. Those were the things that we came up with but we could not get people in that room to agree to pursue. Amy Sousa said if we already have that list, it seems like we're brainstorming a list that perhaps exists in part or in whole. If we could see that list and then start working on how we actually do it, that would help at least my thought process as to how I can work with you to make it happen.

Chairman Maddox thought the intent of this meeting was to make sure that it's something that you wanted to do. I think there was a certain amount of frustration probably on both sides that the boards were not involved. It was this committee and good or bad, the boards didn't see it. I think that we need to start from the top and say that both boards are interested in moving forward with this along with the Library. Now let's go back and take those notes and see if that's something that we can do. I just had some of these things that just popped into my head. If you've already got some of this stuff to where we can go from there and assign some people and then report back to us and we meet again in 6 months or whatever time frame we find comfortable...

Selectman Luszey said that's where we break down. It's the people in this room that are going to have to make this decision to do things. If you were to put department heads and managers in a room that own different functions if you will, their natural tendency is not to give those up. We're talking about truly giving up control of certain functions on each side of the fence. It's this group of people that has to do it. We can't expect the people in the trenches to do it.

Chairman Maddox said we're doing it with our inspectional services. We're finally putting that under the Fire Department. Again, it is a process. Not as fast as Selectman Luszey would like it but we are moving forward. I don't disagree but I think we have good people working for us. If they understand that this is what we are looking for, I think it's just a matter of strongly advising that that's what we're looking to do. If we can get that list of what you had from the past. IT and software was on my list of more longer term if you would. Contracts - whether it be copiers, vehicles, or whatever we may do, how can we make this the best price we can, again, for the taxpayers. We talked briefly about having IT. We're going to try to do something with our website. Maybe it's sensed that that be done by one person rather than 2 separate groups so there's a consistent message and goes across both platforms.

Chairman Maddox indicated that this is what we're talking about and again Library if you have something, I know that you're going to an open architecture on some of your stuff. So maybe some of your software is also changing. Connie Owen said an open source. Charlie Matthews said it is a Unix based system that's open. It's supposedly free software but of course it's not free because it needs to be supported and developed. We're moving in that direction because it gives us a lot more flexibility and we can add features that we want to add in a timely fashion as opposed to waiting for a proprietary vendor to gain enough interest among other customers to do that. I think in the long term it's going to save us some money and we're going to be able to use those funds to help develop our collection further.

Connie Owen said she was present at most of the meetings of that group two years ago. Either I was there or our Co-Chair Linda Kipnes. We've already benefited from some savings on contracts for our copiers going in with the Town on that and also have worked very, very closely with Lisa Nute around bringing our IT systems into some sort of cooperative mode which we knew right at the beginning was not going to save money the first couple of years out. It has not but the long term plan is to increase the value of the services, back up the Town with our computers, they'll back us up and eventually get some savings from there. We're certainly open to other savings. I would not want to bypass the low hanging fruit because I think those are savings we can manage to gather right away where some of this other more complex is going to take a great deal more time to actually phase in. We don't use a great deal in the way of supplies but if we can get it more reasonable than we're paying for it right now, all the better. Who would be the responsible storage point in ordering point for that I don't know. There are some complications but certainly we have already gathered some savings and look forward to gathering some more. However, I think department heads need to be involved because we're not all delivering the same service in this Town. I think the department heads have the unique knowledge of what the service needs to be provided. Certainly all the boards can sit here and say you have to do this, that, and the other thing. In certain cases, it's not going to be a good fit.

Chairman Maddox said he agreed. I think that we're not going to get one size fits all. You have certainly needs that we don't have and you don't have some of our needs for 24 hour a day personnel for public safety. There are going to be some issues that are just not going to be compatible. If both of those groups needs to have IT. I see Mrs. Nute sitting in the audience. Have all the schools been wired for our fiber? Lisa Nute answered yes. They all go back to SAU. Chairman Maddox stated so that's at least in place. That will help us as we look at infrastructure for our computers. I think that's probably the biggest thing. You're probably buying more computers in a year than we buy in 5. Is there a savings there? Is there one contract to be had. I think Selectman Luszey has pointed out why we have two or maybe even three agreements with Microsoft rather than have one master and pay one master price rather than 3 master prices and all the subsets. I know this will be a certain amount of accounting that needs to be done. In

the long run, I would hope that those are savings that again we show to the voters that the 3 groups understand that there's a limited amount of resources and we must do what we can to maximize those.

Chairman Maddox indicated that you have a great Agriculture Department at Alvirne. We have tasked our Conservation Commission with better managing our town own land and conservation areas. Is that an area where we can partner together where they get some experience and we have a management plan for our town lands that right now are probably not getting done what needs to be done. Again, there's something that may not save us a lot of money but it gives another cooperation if you would between the two boards that says that we harvested X amount of timber out of a couple of our areas and made a few thousand dollars but it's getting done in a proper manner. Your people are getting some experience in at least managing that. I wouldn't have them cutting down trees probably but managing the forest lands. Is that something that we could look at? I know that Selectman Nadeau you had some input into that as far as trying to make us be better stewards of our land. Any input from the late guy?

Selectman Nadeau said no. That's just one of the things that I had written down as far as the forestry program at Alvirne managing the forests and coming up with our plan. If we had to bring in a person to do the first plan, at least let the kids get the experience in doing it with them. There's a lot of foresters that would be happy to go to the high school for a half a day, talk to the kids, and then we got that nice bus now that the Trustees bought that they can go out to the lots. They're all here in Hudson so they can go out to the lots and walk them or do what they have to do to come up with a management plan. I think that's a very good idea and something to look into.

Chairman Maddox asked Superintendent Lane since you're the one staff if you would here. Is there anything you thought of as you're sitting there how we can better utilize? As far as the resources that exist for supplies and things of that nature, Bryan Lane thought we need to figure out first is do we and can we play off the same bid list? I don't honestly have an answer to that and I'm sure that Karen Burnell and the town side could come up with do we have access to the same bid list? If we have access to the same bid list, then most likely the supplies aren't really aren't going to be a whole lot of help to us. On the other hand if we have - and do we get a specific discount because its and educational piece? Can we combine that with the Town? What are the restrictions? We need to look at that as far as what the restrictions to the bid list are. I would think at this point that that may not be true. There would not be a restriction. Again, I don't have that information.

In responding to Mr. Nadeau, Mr. Lane said our forestry program has morphed into a little bit of a different function at this point. Our teacher is an arborist. As far as going out and creating management plans with the students, that's something that he can do. He's experienced working with the Cooperative Extension to the University of NH before he came to us. So that's a piece of what could happen. The other part is that the curriculum has moved toward conservation and natural resources as a separate entity. So through both concepts whether it be managing the forest or look at conservation lands, we have curriculum that leads in both directions. So could this benefit our students along with creating the plan and working with people around, in the past I will tell you our program might have been able to handle the logging end of it because that was the focus at the time. Again, we've moved away from that. We do have the portable saw mill and we have the medivic, which is actually a machine that picks up the logs, puts them on a trailer, and moves them out. So we have that capability and again if that's something we can do - and then we can mill the lumber to rough standards. Some people are okay with the rough standard lumber. Again, that's things that the Town and the School can benefit from.

Again, School Board Member Lavoie asked Bryan Lane about when our contracts are up for trash. I don't have an answer to that. I know that we're probably coming into our final year of our Aramark contract. I think this next year would be the final year and at that point could we look at through Aramark expanding services with a larger contract and would that be a cost savings. There's always the issue around who works for who? Does the custodial staff work for Aramark or do they work for the schools and the town? Well right now they custodians work for the schools. I would assume that the Town would stay the same in whatever contractual scenarios that you have would stay the same. We also have improved our efficiency. We have better systems in place now so that we're doing things in a manner - because Aramark is the supervising agent and that also goes along with preventative maintenance for both HVAC as well as electricity to some extent. Looking at those issues, and again, I think that there would be a combination of myself, Mr. Malizia, along with Karen Burnell, and the finance people from the Town getting together and saying when our contract is up, what could we do. The technology piece I think has been looked at in the past as far as the technicians. I know that, please correct me if I'm wrong, I believe the Police station has one person whose solely at the police station. There's a specific function for that and then there's two other people who handle the different rest of the Town scenarios. Our people are pretty much stretched out tight as far as doing work but could we work a little bit differently with file serves? Could we look for cloud services together? That would be something that would be beneficial. That's the direction people are going in as far as off site bases so that we don't have to maintain our own file servers and things of that nature, which do become an expensive item especially when it's time to replace 3 of them at the same time. They all tend to go at once. Again looking at those conversations, it may not be the technicians where we save the money but the services that we could save the money.

Bryan Lane thought looking at this in different prongs where supplies is one thing, combined services another thing, and technology is this whole other entity in and of itself, if we could look at it as a three prong attack at that point toward finding out where the common areas are. If by chance through the supply piece we save the Town \$400 because of paper, well that's \$400. It's still \$400. I don't think that that's a bad thing.

Selectman Nadeau said one of the other things when we're talking about buying from certain vendors is we have a State bid list for trucks and vehicles - not that you buy that many of them but that's another thing that they do have. I saw them on one of the lists - they do have the minibuses for the nursing homes and for a couple of the State agencies that use those. I have seen those on the State bid list. It could be these guys save \$2,000 to \$3,000 on it. Again, it's not a lot at once but it does add up. If you have to get another maintenance vehicle or another truck for the high school for the farm, that also could be out there as far as those type items of savings.

Lee Lavoie said the last few vehicles we purchased we actually didn't purchase. Aramark purchased it as part of the contract. I wish we could buy vehicles - like Selectman Luszey said, the buying power with Aramark was incredible what they purchased. The minibus van was like \$3,000 to \$4,000 cheaper than what anyone else could buy it for. Chairman Maddox indicated that those are the items that we should be taking a look at. Again, I don't think the Town cares if we write a check to Aramark if it saves us that kind of money. You talk \$400 but, again, we keep adding these up. We're not going to build a new building with it but I think that again it's really showing that we can squeeze every nickel we can with the money we get. I think that we need to take away tonight that basically saying to our departments there will be another one of those meetings and we need to talk specifics. I think we need to look into some of the things you talked about - what licensing is able to be done because of your contractual agreements whether it be educational. You probably have some issues that are unique to the Library. Again, we have any number of things we could at least take a look at. Let's come back in X amount of time and let's see where they are, and see what progress we can make. Again, I didn't think tonight we were going to save \$1 million but I think we need to again make a step. I think without bringing the two boards together, it was going to be we'll do it next week. We're terribly busy. I think it really needs to come down that we want to see some answers. If the answers are we can't do it, at least we have an answer. I think that's part of maybe the frustration Selectmen Luszey you weren't getting an answer or maybe not the answer you wanted. Selectman Luszey said it's the wrong answer because in the technology field, I know what we can do and we have not done it. Chairman Maddox said so let's take a look at those items.

For the voting people out there, Lee Lavoie said they need to understand that we do actually have some pretty good partnerships. You guys help us plow our parking lots. We provide the gyms and field space for the recreation part, the Police Department actually pays for our crossing guards and school Resource Officers, which is a big thing. It's a two way street but I just want the viewers to know that we actually have some partnerships going. I know being the Chair the past two years, every once in a while we could have a problem with Lions Hall/Community Center. Our HVAC person would go over and fixed it if there was an event coming up and needed to be fixed and it was 90 degrees. I just wanted the people to know we are doing some but I think we can do a lot more. Bryan Lane said one time it was just turning the switch that we didn't know where it was.

The advantage of having a new building like the Library, Chairman Maddox said it gets older every day. I know the Planning Board just released some money for you to finish off the landscaping. Hopefully all that will be completed and be able to finish that up and be done finally maybe. Connie Owen said the fit up and furnishings money will be spent in due course before the warrant article expires. We have completed the archives room which is a part of the original build which could not be done because we were concerned about the cost. We did find out by severely modifying the plans for the archives room we did have fit up and furnishings money. So that's complete and that will be opened and dedicated on our anniversary in June as well as the impact money and some of the fit up and furnishings money going to the completion of the landscaping. I believe you had your final meeting tonight Charlie around 5 p.m. to make sure that hopefully that will be done by the middle of June as well. So we have been holding onto that money very carefully knowing that it needed to be spent in only specific areas but I think we've expended it in areas that will continue to serve all the community and make the Library even more efficient. We do have some unique needs at the unique. Not all of our needs are unique and certainly we have benefited from services from the Town and also provide services that are not in competition with anything that the Town does but are complimentary to it. Education is a wide spread process and it begins with toddler story time and goes right on up to senior groups. So we provide a service that anyone in the Town can benefit from at no cost at all except for the tax dollar. I know there is no free lunch this day and age but we are available to anyone in the Town who wants to use us for any purpose at all, including the use of our meeting rooms which are extremely well utilized. We're all in favor of making this efficient but also understanding that there are some limitations that only the experts in the particular department really can weigh in on.

Chairman Maddox indicated that the Planning Board is no longer collecting impact fees for the Library because you have a brand new building. It wasn't a lot of money but it added up over time. Again, I think that the School Board needs to take a look at that issue to see if it makes sense to fund getting that data changed from 2000 to where it is

up to date and encompassing of everything they do now from Kindergarten through high school to see of those dollars - there are developments being built in Hudson. There is new housing being built so might as well get the money.

Laura Bisson asked if the decision made by the Planning Board is one that sets a precedent. From my understanding this developer did the same thing up in Derry I believe. They fought the impact fees and won. Am I understanding that correctly do you know? Chairman Maddox said the gentleman that represented the developer is going around and doing - once you're done the base study, it's a lot easier to just come in and do a couple of developments. It's showing that there is not as many school aged children as we might have thought. It was a close vote inasmuch that again that house is going to be there for 50 years. What happens in 20, we don't know. Does it all change over to apartments at that time and you have X amount of kids. We felt that if we had the money, at least we had the money. It was suspended.

Selectman Brucker said this original impact fee was just for building school buildings. I think that if the concept is not just buildings but what programming or what other kinds of things are impacted by different age groups in the community. It will look different from what Mr. Mayberry said. Just looking at it differently, the needs in education are quite different from when it was just buildings to house children. It's more technology and other programming that could be paid for out of an impact fee that has a different basis for it. Chairman Maddox thought he said something - well again, we weren't doing Kindergarten. Your school classroom size has changed. So you're trying to get - I think 1st grade is how many per classroom? Ms. Sousa said under 20. Chairman Maddox stated what it was at 20 years ago when the studies were done. Because you're doing more, the rooms need to be less students per room that might impact how many rooms we need and those kinds of things. Again, something for you to mull over. I will have John Cashell get a quote and have it sent over to you so that you have that to at least take a look at.

Chairman Maddox thought we needed to have a discussion with our Town Administrator. You have the luck of having the Superintendent here but, again, I think that if we can at least make an effort to come back after school starts. It's probably the easiest for you. You're probably very busy now doing a lot of things getting ready for. Let's look at our schedules and let's head up something. We'll see where this takes us. Again we've talked about it, let's see where it takes us. I know there's going to be some questions on both sides of what we can and cannot do. Let's find out.

For the second half of the meeting, Chairman Maddox indicated that we asked the Legislatures to be here. Rather than going to the School Board, the Library, and the Selectmen, we figured we'd have you come in once and see us and bring us an update as to what bills are happening, what things might impact the Town of Hudson, and maybe some questions from all 3 groups.

The Board took a 10 minute break at 7:50 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

B. Discussion with State Representatives

Chairman Maddox indicated that we have our legislative delegation here to, again, have a conversation with all 3 rather than having to do it separately. We thought we'd make it easy on all of us and televise it at the same time. If you could introduce yourself to the people at home.

Representative Andy Renzullo - I've been a Rep. for - this is my fifth term. I'm on the Recreation and Development Committee and also the Deputy Republican Whip.

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to be here with you this evening. My name is Sharon Carson. I am the State Senator for the District which is Senate District 14 comprising the towns of Hudson, Londonderry, and Auburn. I currently serve as the Majority Whip for the State Senate. I also serve as the Chair of the Executive Departments and Administration Committee and the Chair of Senate Judiciary.

I didn't realize we lined the Whips up in a row here. I am Shawn Jasper. I'm the Republican Whip in the House. I'm in my 10th term serving on Election Law and the Rules Committee.

I'm Lynne Ober. I'm in my 5th term as a State Rep. representing Hudson and Pelham. I sit on the Finance Committee and the Performance Audit Board. The Finance Committee is always very busy the first year of the biennium because the budget is being worked on.

I'm Pat Culbert and I represent Hudson and Pelham. I'm on the Health and Human Services Committee.

Good evening. I'm Charlene Takesian representing Pelham and Hudson. I am on the Judiciary Committee. This is my first term. I want to thank all the people in Hudson for having faith in me to put me in office. Without you, I wouldn't have been able to do it. Thank you very much.

Good evening and thank you very much for hosting this this evening. I am Mary Ann Knowles and this is my third term in the House serving Hudson and Pelham and my first time as Vice-Chair of a committee. I am Vice-Chair of Election Law.

I'm Jordan Ulery. This is my fifth term in the House representing Hudson and Pelham - representing the people of the two towns in the District. I serve on Ways and Means and the Joint Ethics Legislative Ethics Committee.

I'm Russell Ober. I represent the same two towns as everyone else. I seem to know most of the people outside having been a teacher at Alvrine for 17 years. That kind of red seems very familiar to me. I serve on the Ways and Means Committee and as we joke around the house, I find the money and Finance spends it.

Chairman Maddox thanked everyone for coming. Again, having a discussion at the local level. We can all kibitz about the fact that the Board of Selectmen or the School Committee, I just thought this would be a nice chance to have us all together and again brainstorm some ideas to be able to ask you. What I'd like to start off with is maybe the Whips can whip us through some of the important legislation that will affect Hudson. Something that you think that is coming down the pike that has either passed or we're about to pass that could affect Hudson or of great interest to our community.

Senator Carson indicated that right now the Senate is dealing with the House Bills and the House is dealing with the Senate Bills. As you can imagine having 400 members, they've sent us a lot more than we've sent them. I think the thing that we're dealing right now that is of paramount importance is the State budget. Senator Chuck Morse from Salem is the Chair of the Finance Committee and right now they are going through the process. They are holding public hearings with various department heads, going through the budget line by line that was sent to us by the House. Again, I think that's probably the most important bill that we have right now.

Representative Shawn Jasper concurred that that is the most important piece probably that is going to be affecting everyone. One of the reasons that's true is because in the House budget there was a fair amount of down shifting, particularly to the county levels where the Commissioners have done a very good job I think of going over the budget in trying to manage that. Because of all the mandates that come down and the fact that a few years ago one of the things that the State did was say okay counties you're going to be responsible for all the elderly and we'll be responsible for all the juveniles in trouble sort to speak in need of services. Well I think we all know we have a graying population in New Hampshire. While that may have been fairly balanced at the time, we all know that this is going to happen. So the net result right now is we're looking at a 7 percent increase in the county tax rate. Certainly the Budget Subcommittee is going to work very hard on that. A lot of the things there are really going to be very hard to manage and that's one of the problems with State budgeting. We all see the effect even though last time both the town and the schools got hit with retirement. Had we done nothing, the effect would have been the same but the reality is the taxpayers on a local level still paid more for retirement. We know what's happening with health costs. The town and school district continues to be on the receiving end of that. It's nice to say well we're not passing any tax increases in Concord but in a way we are when we pass costs down either intentionally or unintentionally. That's our challenge - how do we find money, how do we find ways so that we're not constantly impacting the taxpayers on the local level.

Representative Renzullo said there's actually very few things about to become law yet because of cross over. These are what's being talked about now is one body had passed something and it is now in the hands of the other body. There are very few things that actually have become law. There are some additional things other than the budget that are happening as well and that includes the attempted repeal of Stand Your Ground Law. The issue attempted to repeal education tax credits. There are several others.

Representative Ulery indicated that one of the Bills that several of us are sitting on and working very diligently over the last several weeks while the Senate is very sparse in sending Bills to the House. We sent a lot of bills over to the Senate, which is routine. One of the Bills the Senate sent us however is casino gambling for a casino some place in the State, probably near a horseracing track. At any rate, we've been spending a lot of time on that. There's a potential for revenues coming in there but there's also potential for increased social costs. I hate to talk about social costs as a fiscal conservative but some of those costs will be passed on to the towns and working very diligently to try and prevent that as much as is possible. Most such casinos have a 30 mile catchment area where individuals with problem gambling or even diagnosable gambling addiction live within 30 miles of a casino. Sharing what profits may be made with the towns is one of the areas that we've been looking at in the Subcommittee I sit on. I know that Russ has been working on rules and Lynne I think you've been working on revenues. We're covering the bases pretty heavily. We're talking 3 sometimes 4 days a week in Concord on that issue.

Representative Lynne Ober thought one of the things we'd like to know - this delegation has frequently met with a joint meeting when we represented Litchfield, Hudson and Pelham. With the Litchfield School Board, and the Litchfield Selectmen, and also their Library representatives which we have with us this evening, we'd like to know what

legislation we can work on with you. You have to remember that we're the starting point. We file the Bill for you. It is definitely a partnership because every Bill has a public hearing and we need you if we filed a Bill for you to come and support that in a public hearing. Over the years before Superintendent Lane was the Superintendent, Randy Bell was out Superintendent and I filed two or three pieces of legislation for him that we were able to get through. We need that dialog because if we don't have that dialog and we don't hear from each of you as to what you might need, we're not able to really meet your needs as we go along. We can only file Bills once a year and that will come up in the fall. Those Bills will be heard starting in January. So now is a perfect time to start talking and opening that dialog to say what do the bodies need that we could help with to enhance life across the board in our District.

Representative Mary Ann Knowles wanted to mention one Bill in particular that we spent quite a bit of time working on in Election Law that does have an impact here in town as it does in just about every municipality in the State. It has to do with legislation that was passed in the last term and was going to be phased in in two different phases. It has to do with the election procedures in the towns and voter registration in particular. Phase I was implemented. They heard from many moderators, town moderators, and other town officials who quite frankly see no problem with the first phase as it was implemented. It seemed to go quite well and we were happy to hear that. Phase II, we had many requests from many town moderators. I heard from our very good Moderator Mr. Inderbitzen here. They were concerned about some of the other pieces of the legislation that would have to make it a little bit more difficult to prove your identity in your place of residence, etc. We are working on that and we understand that there is a need - to be very careful and to make sure that people who should not be voting in town are not voting. We also are of course trying to balance that out with the right of every registered and legal voter to be able to cast a vote. That's something that we're working on right now.

Representative Lynne Ober thought they'd be interested to know that the Secretary of State is trying to validate the people who same day registration to vote. They have already identified 5,200 erroneous registrations where the person said they lived in New Hampshire, voted in New Hampshire, and then when they followed up after the election, that person is not where they said they were. They are doing that laboriously across the State. So that's a long process for them to try to do that validation. So we've gotten some interesting feedback from having the photo ID the past election.

Chairman Maddox said he wasn't up on his election law so as the second phase comes in and you find that they are not a resident of Hudson and/or New Hampshire, what is the penalty? Representative Jasper said that wasn't really the second phase. That's the normal penalties which if there are proven cases of voter fraud, they would be prosecuted depending on what offense they actually committed. That's been the big argument about election law because we really have never looked for voter fraud. People come in and they sign Affidavits and say who they are and where they live, and they go on their merry way, and we've never made a real attempt to find out if in fact they lived where they were and said that they were who they said they were. This is the interesting thing as we go on here. There are severe penalties for voter fraud. I think in most cases it is actually a felony and of course in many of those cases, someone who committed certain types of voter fraud would never be allowed to vote again if they were convicted. So this is why we're really trying to gather that data, figure out what happened, where these people disappeared to. Some people said well people move all the time but in 60 days to have as many people as we had who their mail came back saying they weren't there seems a little odd. The Attorney General has his job cut out for them. They're asking for help from the Secretary of State's office and other agencies trying to verify. It's going to be a long process. We don't know exactly how many individuals the Attorney General may have because there are 3 types of Affidavits you can sign - one saying this is where I live but I don't have any proof, this is my name but I don't have any proof, and I am a citizen but I don't have any proof. You've got some overlap there. The minimum number of individuals that may have actually potentially not been eligible to vote would be about 1,600 and then that number goes up from there. That's what we'll be finding out in the next year or so just how many people did actually commit voter fraud or some people will still say if you never find them, you don't know if they really committed voter fraud. That's the problem. There is a real denial by some people. If in fact we never find them, you'll still have people saying well we don't know that they committed fraud cuz we didn't find them. That's going to be the problem we face.

Amy Sousa wanted to respond to Representative Ober's request that we give feedback. I did want to mention that Representative Jasper did an interview on the exchange that was really informative on this - in terms of the election law and the changes. I highly recommend it. I think it's still on the website that you can link to it.

Amy Sousa mentioned that Representative Ober was asking about the different boards and some areas of interest. With our default budget, we have found the experience of cutting a challenging one since we've had to do it in a short period of time. One of the things that we've been faced with cutting is any reserve tuition for out of district placements for students who need services that go beyond the capacity of our school district. Often times those students need some form of emotional/behavioral/psychiatric services. At one point the State paid for a portion of that through the CHINS program which was pretty significantly demolished recently. There have been a number of bills reconsidering CHINS but for me speaking on the School Board and seeing my colleagues nodding, we are very interested in seeing the reinstatement of CHINS on some level to help support those costs.

Representative Ober said there is a reinstatement of some of the CHINS costs in the budget. You will find the details in House Bill 2. We've looked at 3 methodologies. The House finally agreed on one - not the one the Governor recommended. The House has passed that to the Senate. The budget is like a football game. Quarter one is the Governor, although that takes her almost 9 months so it's not just a quarter. Quarter one is the Governor, quarter two is the House, quarter three is the Senate, and just like at home - I want a Ferrari and Russ tells me can't afford one, so we have to find a compromise and I don't get a new car at all. Well then you get together and you have what's called a "Committee of Conference". I know that in the Senate that's one of the things they're looking at whether they will go with what the House passed, put in a plan they've been looking at, or go with the Governor's plan. There is more money in the budget currently. We won't know where that is until we get done the end of June. You're first request is something that has been diligently worked on since the beginning of February.

Just as a request in terms of advocacy, Amy Sousa stated that is something that is important that will have a direct impact on taxpayers here in our community knowing that we've experienced the needs of these students first hand. So anything that the 9 of you can do to support CHINS, the School Board would be appreciative. Representative Ober said right now it's over in the Senate. When it comes back, we'll have another swipe at it. Senator Carson I'm sure is watching that as those of us in the House who served on the Finance Committee are watching the changes. Understand that Senator Morse released a press release today with a large amount of cuts that he expects but I did not see that. Did you see it? Senator Carson indicated that she hadn't seen the press release.

Superintendent Bryan Lane stated in addition to that part of the CHINS piece, there was a part of it that addressed truancy. Again looking at what we were able to accomplish with our attendance policies and our decrease in our absenteeism over that, it really did help a lot to have that in place because it gave us some teeth to go to parents and say yup this is important. In the process that exists now, we still do the levels of communication but it now doesn't really give us as much bite/bark with what we're doing. I realize a lot of it came back to court costs and the fact that there was - I don't necessarily think that anybody understood the volume of interaction that would happen at that point. I know at one point even the Nashua School system had a Judge that went to school to do the court pieces, which I thought was pretty neat. Again, that is another important piece of the legislation that would be helpful.

Representative Ober said this goes back to that process Superintendent. We had a bill on truancy last year. Nobody from Hudson, nobody from Pelham School Districts came and testified on it. It was ultimately killed because co-op school districts mounted a strong press against the Bill. That's why I said this has to be a partnership. I chaired municipal and county last year and that came in front of municipal and county. The problem with the co-op districts as compared to a Hudson District or a Pelham District is that they have several towns sharing in the cost but they don't want to share equally because the students don't come equally from each of those towns. You may have one year a pocket from 1 out of 6 towns and another year it may be more spread across that district. So the co-op superintendents and the school boards and the co-op districts mounted a strong pressure in the legislature to kill the bill because they did not want to pay any of the shared costs. In Hudson, the pieces that you pay for come out of your legal bill, come out of what you're doing with your extra people. When we have those bills and I know the New Hampshire School Association puts out a newsletter, I'm on that list, and Superintendent Bell used to be so I think you, when you see those you guys really need to get up there and testify strongly in favor and why. Single district towns sometimes like Hudson and Pelham get overwhelmed by the co-op districts where there's a strong anti we don't want to have to share any of those costs so we just don't want have the program and that's what happened with the truancy bill last year. Superintendent Lane said he'd be glad to be there.

As the budget moves forward, Superintendent Lane mentioned the Adequacy Grant which is based on student attendance. Representative Ober indicated that was not in the budget. That was a separate bill. It stands separately. It is fully funded in the budget as attendance but it's not actually part of something that they worked on. The DOA presented the cost. They're now using data that's one year behind instead of three years behind. As your enrollments go down starting this year, your costs are going to go down. You've been held harmless up to this but now as your school enrollments drop, you will get less. It is fully funded for the formula not on the table for a cut. Superintendent Lane indicated the last time he was at the Commissioner's meeting they weren't sure. Representative Ober said no. It did go through the budget fully funded. What didn't get in the budget was school construction a program was completely cut which more hurts Pelham I think than us. It was completely cut after all the work we did last year to get it restarted.

From the federal side while Superintendent Lane knows you don't have any direct influence, I know in the past the legislature has not approved the Perkins Grant and basically the President since the Bush era has brought it back in. Whatever influence we have to maintain the Perkins Grant, which is a key piece to funding career and technical education, as we know in Hudson it's an intricate part of what we do. There's also transportation issues that go along with it. The sending schools if they don't have transportation money to supplant their cost in getting students to us, programs particularly in veterinarian technology will decline in enrollment greatly. Not only would it be a loss for Hudson but it would be a loss for programs throughout the region. In speaking with your colleagues, that

transportation cost for those things are really important. I guess two years ago there was a real threat to that being eliminated. There was an agreement between superintendents to my understanding that they would continue to fund it through their district budgets for at least a year. In these times, I don't know how much that's going to be possible.

Representative Ober said two years ago it was a cut offered by the Department of Education on their budget. It's not something the House imposed. Typically if an agency comes and says we want to cut this program, the legislature rarely says no in house finance and I think senate finance does pretty much the same. Federal money does go directly to the Department of Education. It is distributed by the Department of Education without the legislature having any say. We do look at how much they get in total and they do talk about what they do with it but we don't say yes or no on that. Whatever they budget goes through. We see it as part of the budget process but it goes through the budget process with no cuts by us and not cuts by the Senate. We just passed that through even though we do see the budget. So when they have made a cut or proposed a cut, we don't say yea or nay if it's federal dollars. We really look at State revenue and State dollars. We don't have a lot sway over what the feds give us or don't give us. We do listen to them.

One last thing Superintendent Lane had, in looking at the retirement at large a big piece of the issue was how the funds were managed, and were not managed, or we won't get into what happened there. With the investment change and the increased in the stock market and hopefully some of the recovery to the retirement system at large, is there any long term look for relief as their investments improve for local district? Representative Ober said in Finance we see their budget and we go through it line by line. I don't know if the Senate goes through because they are not a State agency. The retirement system is entirely stand alone. It is not run by the legislature. It is run by a board. We did go through everyone of their budget items and I will be quite honest with you, when 9/11 happened which is now what 11 years ago, nobody thought it was going to have a decade long impact on investments. It certainly did. People thought it would be a year and would spring back. Yes they didn't respond. They're looking at 30 years before they are solvent with the plan they have. They think it is a reasonable plan.

Representative Ober indicated here's one of the issues that the retirement system has. We are responsible for what our State employees are paid in the legislature. We have contracts and we pay them. Voters in each and every individual town and city are responsible for what teachers make, what firefighters make, what police make and there's no control on the State for that. They are always reactive to changes in contracts that they can't control. Because it's not a State agency and as you noted it is run by a separate board and there's been in investment strategy. I think Dr. Shapiro has brought some financial management that they needed as the leader of that board. They are on the right track. I think you're going to see some of those things be a little more stable than they were in the last 2 or 3 years. I can't tell you it's a rosy picture when you're looking at 30 years before you're 100 percent solvent.

Just on that, Representative Jasper thought assuming that the rate of return follows somewhat what the stock markets are doing when they set the rates for next year, and I believe that's usually done in early October, there's a good chance we won't be seeing an increase. I doubt that there would be a decrease because as Lynne said, we have a huge problem. One of the most frustrating thing for me is 20 years ago this was a problem that we saw coming and I was Majority Whip back then very involved in the issue. We tried to make some changes that would only affect new hires as of July 1, 1993 - 20 years ago - and unfortunately the unions fought that tooth and nail even though we tried to explain to them there was a coming storm and that we weren't going to do anything that was going to hurt anybody who was in the system. Unfortunately the pressure came to bear. The funniest thing to me in a sad sort of way is last year they were all saying why don't you just do things that will only affect new hires as of July 1, 1992. We're 20 years too late for that because the hole is just so great. I am optimistic and I haven't seen any reports on what the rate of return is. I think we can assume with the record highs in the stock markets, and not all our money is there by any stretch of the imagination, but companies seem to be doing well. I'm assuming that the companies that were invested in are doing well. We probably will meet our targets and if we meet our targets, there's a good chance that there won't be any increases coming forward. We can keep our fingers crossed. Superintendent Lane said it would be a relief. Representative Ober said they had no increase projected in the budget they presented to House Finance.

Senator Carson indicated that one of the committees that I sit on, we deal with the retirement issues. I think everyone knows that two years ago we had to make some very difficult changes to the system because it couldn't sustain itself any longer. We're starting to see some of the results of those changes. It's important to realize that some of that Bill is still being litigated in court especially the issue about whether or not we can change the contracts for people that aren't new hires but haven't reach 10 years of service yet. That's still in court. In the legislation that we've seen so far, and it's important to realize that the House is still holding 9 retirement bills, we haven't seen them yet in the Senate. We have had a few retirement bills. Most of them are dealing with part time workers. There was a bill that passed the House that would have required municipalities to report to the retirement system on all their part time workers, which was going to be very difficult to do because while they might work for you a few hours a week, they're working for somebody else a couple of hours a week, and they were trying to hold the employers to task to make sure that these employees did not go over the 1,300 hours per year. What we did was we changed it and we have now the

retirement system reporting to the employees that you have to constantly watch the 1,300 hour rule and that you're responsible and not the employers. We also put into place a Study Committee that's going to last for 5 years that's going to track part time employment within the retirement system. There are some things but from my understanding, the last information that I had that the rates were stabilizing and they're projecting that beginning in 2015 the rates are going to start to decrease. From our point of view, Superintendent Lane said stabilization would be relief.

Chairman Maddox said notification. I think the toughest part that we suffer is because we budget so far in advance when you make a change, again you have to, it affects us in ways that we can't even plan for at times. The more notification if you're going to change some of these things is good. You talked about communications Lynne. Is there a point person for the Hillsborough 37? Representative Ober said each of us you heard sits on a different committee. Each committee has specific work assigned to it. For example, the budget really takes 6 days a week for the 6 weeks that House Finance has it. Nobody else knows what's going on in Finance unless you sit on that committee cuz you don't have 48 to 50 hours a week to put into that. It's not so much a point person as an expertise area. I sit on Finance. You heard what everybody does. Russ and Jordan sit on Ways and Means which is revenues. We don't have anybody in our District I don't think sitting on Education, which is what you're interested in. That's where something like the New Hampshire School Board Association e-mailed newsletter goes out on all the bills. The LGC is supposed to be keeping the towns aware. I don't know if you get it but I certainly get their newsletter that comes out. They both e-mail it and they put it out in hard copy. They always have out the bills that are coming of interest. If it's going to impact you negatively, if you call one of us and say listen this is testimony that needs to go could you take my written testimony to the committee - yes. Every committee has an e-mail address that if you e-mail to that one distribution list it goes to everybody committee member. That's on the web site. Use those pieces because there's only 11 of us and there are 26 standing committees. So you won't have somebody on each and every area of expertise.

Representative Ober said there's a Senate bill that has to do with fees. Correct me if I'm wrong - she's not here. If someone wants a copy of a birth certificate, they come to the town and they say I need a copy of my birth certificate. It costs them \$15. Of the \$15, \$8 goes to the State that maintains this file of all the certificates in the universe. The Town gets \$5 and the State gets \$2 for the general fund. The Bill tomorrow which will be heard at precisely 11:32 a.m. says no don't send the \$2 to the State general fund give it to the town so they get an extra \$2 for everything they produce. That, presuming it goes through because that came through Ways and Means and it will be heard tomorrow, will give you \$2 extra for every time you run the copy machine. Representative Ober said birth certificate, marriage certificate, all those.

Selectman Luszey said if you're going to give us the \$2 extra that used to go to the State. So now the general fund at the State level goes down by \$2. Representative said you're right - \$390,000.

Selectman Brucker thought she read yesterday in the paper that you are not going to reinstate the cigarette tax is that correct. Representative Ober indicated that was incorrect. \$.20 additional cigarette tax per pack is in House Bill 2 in the budget - passed in the House budget. Selectman Brucker asked if that was where it was before. Representative Ober said no. That's \$.10 where it was before and \$.10 increase above that.

Just to be clear on the cigarette tax, Representative Jasper said we had cut \$.10 a pack two years ago. Unfortunately that was timed perfectly with the increase that the cigarette companies passed so there was no retail change. There was a sunset provision in there if we didn't meet our revenue targets, the \$.10 would go back up. That looks like there's no chance of those targets being met. Automatically the cigarette tax will go up \$.10 on July 1st. Additionally, the House passed an additional \$.20 and that's in the hands of the Senate at the present time. It's unknown what they will do will that \$.20 at this point.

As a follow up to what Lynne was saying as far as us not knowing everything, Representative Charlene Takesian noted that she was on the Judiciary Committee. People in my town or from here I guess you could call me and ask me but there's over 1,000 bills every year that gets submitted into the legislature. For us to know what all those 1,000 bills are is just overwhelming. I'm a new legislature. This is my first term up there. I was just completely surprised at what happens up there. Every bill gets heard. Every bill is assigned to a committee. Every bill has a public hearing. I don't think that happens in any other State in the United States. It's unique to New Hampshire and it's a wonderful thing. It gives everyone the opportunity to go up there and say what you think about a bill. I would encourage all of you and you people at home to go on the New Hampshire website. Its www.nh.gov and you can go to the Senate website from there or you can go to the House website from there. It's very easy to find your legislator so you'll know who the 11 of us are, or find your Senator by District, or if you know the name and you want to look them up and find out what committee they're on, and then you can go to the standing committees and find out what bills that they're hearing. A lot of it is on your part. You need to help us out by finding out what's going on because I have no idea. Lynne is on the Finance Committee. She knows about the budget. I have no idea what's going on in the budget until it comes to the floor of the House. Then we go on their recommendation. That's how a lot of things get passed up there. It just goes on the recommendation of the committees because the committees will vote on every bill whether

it's inexpedient to legislate or whether it ought to pass, and then it comes to the House floor, and we vote on it there, and then it goes over to the Senate. The Senate in the meantime is doing the same thing. It would help us out if you all would keep track of or if you would just look up or you can look for a bill by words. If you're interested in education, look up bills by the word "education" and see if you can see if you find things that way. Like Lynne said, that Legislative Bulletin is handy and if you get the thing from the education from the State of New Hampshire, it's handy too. You can go on the nh.gov and find out who your representatives are, who your senators are, and what bills are out there. There is 1,000 bills so we can't possibly keep track of every single one of them. I would love to hear from anyone who has any input. I know I'm in Pelham. I don't know many people in Hudson but I would really like to hear from you and find out what you'd like. If there's something that you want, contact one of us either by e-mail - I think all of our e-mail addresses are posted on the website, and e-mail us and tell us what you'd like to do and we can get some help to put a bill together for you. Thank you.

Chairman Maddox indicated that one of the things that we're going to try to do as far as the Town is to maybe update our website and maybe it will be more friendly to getting information to you from either the Town or our citizens.

You asked for some suggestions and one of the things Chairman Maddox said he has talked to Representative Jasper about is being able to borrow our own money. We have millions in our sewer account and probably not going to be spending it any time soon. Why couldn't we build a fire station and borrow against that money? As long as we're paying the same rate of interest we would with a bond but giving the money back to Hudson and being able to, again, pay ourselves back if we've got that money sitting there. Selectman Luszey said like a 401K. Chairman Maddox indicated that right now we can't do that. If that was something we could put a bill in to be able to utilize our own revenue to bond...

Senator Carson asked to make a suggestion. The Town of Londonderry just went through something very similar with impact fees that we had allowed to accumulate. The Town was sued and we lost that lawsuit and we lost the money. So I think if you're going to play around with impact fees, you really should consult...Chairman Maddox noted it was not impact fees. Senator Carson was making sure that you're not talking about impact fees.

Chairman Maddox said every year the Town of Hudson gets a report as to what monies need to be expended for our impact fees before the statutory limit is up or anything that we could be utilizing the money for. I think we're on top of that. We hopefully won't fall into that Londonderry dilemma. This will be money in our sewer. We have millions in there for hopefully expanding our sewer at some point but that could be 15 years from now at the rate it's going. If we wanted to build something or we wanted to borrow money, why not borrow against our own money and take the interest and put it back in our own pocket rather than sending it off. Representative Jasper and I have talked about this. It's one of those things that it sits in the background. It's nothing we need to do tomorrow but it's something that possibly could help us make that difference that we're giving ourselves the interest back as opposed to showing an X amount of dollars that would be financed to a bond.

Representative Jasper said he thought of the idea, had the conversation with Selectman Maddox, and then promptly forgot about it at bill filing time. I'm not going to forget about it for this year. This coming year will probably be a better year to do it anyhow when there's not so many pressures on the budget and other things. I think I have some colleagues around me who will be glad to co-sponsor that bill. With certain safeguards, it makes a lot of sense.

Representative Renzullo said there's a caveat. You're going to have to come up and testify for it. Chairman Maddox said absolutely. Again, it's a function of knowledge. In that same vein, Hudson is probably semi-unique that we have both a sewer and a water utility. I'm now being told that we cannot generate one bill to household. If you have sewer, you'd only get a sewer bill. If you only had water, you'd - but if you had both - so we could cut our cost of mailing, our cost of stationery. We're being told that there is a statutory requirement that we cannot. Interesting to know why...Representative Lynne Ober asked who told you that. Chairman Maddox said our Finance Director Kathy Carpentier. I will see if she can get the RSA and get it to you. Again, there's something that we're sending out thousands of water and sewer bills a year. If we could combine them onto one bill, one printing, one stationery, one postage, it adds up.

Representative Ulery said before we start writing these things or throwing them out, I would suggest that you collectively as the select board put them together in a priority list as to what is important. That way we know how to address this in a "political" atmosphere at the State House. Some of these will be objected to. Some will be supported widely. Some will be objected to on whatever grounds somebody can find to object to. If we know what the priority is and we have them laid out in front of us, then we can take action. We can divide up the workload amongst us. One thing that Representative Lynne Ober didn't mention is that occasionally we get together and we sit down and we talk. We have breakfast on a Saturday morning. We talk about what is needed, where things are going, and how it operates so that we can provide better service for the two towns. We talk amongst ourselves and if we have a guideline from you, the Pelham Selectmen if they want to have us come over and talk to them, then we can go forward and address the issues that are being brought up now. Thank you.

Chairman Maddox asked to divert for a few seconds here. I know a number of you are on the County Committee. Representative Lynne Ober asked if Chairman Maddox had another thing or two because some of these need research before you can say yes if it can be a bill or not. We don't have to do them in depth, just what you think...Chairman Maddox said maybe more of a suggestion. I know there's a lot of talk about the gas tax. My position would be if you're going to do any diversions, you have to have a super majority to change those diversions. I don't disagree that Hudson would like to know that over the next 10 years we're going to get \$1.6 million so that we can start planning what we're going to do with those monies. We don't want to see after year three that it dwindles down because while we diverted some over here. I think there needs to be a kind of commitment between us -because you asked Representative Jasper how we felt about that and the Board of Selectmen said they were in favor of it. I think it just needs to be locked in if you would so that we don't see that change.

Just so you know, Representative Lynne Ober said by State law constitutional amendments and bills that are going to be voted on by the people have to be passed by the super majority. Everything else that the legislature does is passed by a majority rule. Some of those things, and that's one I can understand you would like to lock it down so it can't be changed, I don't think you're going to change the way the government works in that case. Certainly where you're looking at one bill for water and sewer, I think we can look at that RSA, do some research, and help you.

Chairman Maddox indicated that the last one I had was a bill that would have any land bought to put in a highway through a town that was not built the town would be able to utilize that land for a town road. Of course, I'm talking about the circumferential as its colloquial known "the Maddox Madness Parkway". That's a road that at some point is going to need to be built. We can't make Lowell Road wide enough to make that work. One thing that could possibly work is taking some of that traffic off. Again, we need to do more studies but our dilemma is we don't want to study it too much if we don't know if we could ever use the land. So it's a chicken in the egg. How we can take this.

Representative Lynne Ober said right now you can buy the land and do whatever you want with it. Chairman Maddox said we only want to lease it. Selectman Luszey said to give it to us for \$1 and we'll take it. Chairman Maddox said it has to go through that whole process because it was bought with federal monies that you'd have to then go through that whole surplus. We would like to be able to lease it because then you could use it as a highway in 50 years if that's what the State wanted to do. We would like to be able to lease that at a reasonable number. The \$1 would be fine. It would still be the State's property. We would not take possession of it. It would be utilized for a roadway to be able to deal with Hudson's unique issue of transportation. That road was how Hudson was going to be bisected to deal with traffic and now it's trying to go down Wason Road. When you're behind a tractor trailer on Wason Road, it's an interesting day. Then the school bus gets behind the tractor trailer and all the schedules go right out the window. Again, if that's something that we could be able to do, and then we could probably put some more effort into how we're going to engineer it and whatever. If we can't get that far, so be it.

Selectman Luszey indicated that his question deals with the Library. Having sat on the Budget Committee for about 13 years and now the Board of Selectmen, every budget season we have a discussion about the Library budget. RSA 202A:6 talks about the "Library Trustees shall be the entire custody and management of the public library and all the property of the town relating thereto, including appropriations" and that's the key word, "appropriations held pursuant to RSA 202:A:11(3)". That RSA says the Town appropriates that money as part of their budget process. So what we've been discussing is is there a possibility like the School District, like the Town, that the Library budget be put on its own warrant and let the votes decide if they approve or disapprove that level. Right now, the Board of Selectmen have basically no say over those monies. It is the Library Trustees because they're elected officials. They're the custodians of those funds.

Representative Lynne Ober stated that there was a Bill for that last year that also was killed in Municipal and County. Connie and Mary remember the specifics of that. That was before I sat on Municipal and County last year. Connie Owen indicated it was HB436 - similar but not identical to what Selectman Luszey mentions. Representative Lynne Ober asked if they wanted the Selectmen out of the loop. Selectman Luszey said basically. We have no input into it right now.

Representative Mary Ann Knowles indicated that because I had heard that you wrote this up with the Library Board according to town rules, who works hand in hand with the Attorney General, she has told us that the library because it was a gift to the Town - actually both of our libraries have been a gift to the town, has the statutory obligation to maintain the library, which means that we are obligated to make sure that a certain amount of funds goes to the maintenance of the library in every budget which could become very problematic if it's a separate warrant article, it goes to the voters, and the voters decide no we don't want to pass this warrant article. According to Attorney Knowles, that would probably put the Town in a very awkward position because we would be obligated and we might have to go back and send out a supplementary bill to the taxpayers who thought that they had exercising their right on the warrant had turned down the taxes for the library budget. It's something that has to be looked into very carefully.

It's a rather complicated situation because of the entire RSA regarding the libraries. We do have that obligation. Thank you.

Representative Lynne Ober asked Selectman Luszey if he was thinking about making it like the School District, like the Board of Selectmen -it's a warrant article (inaudible) and with a default budget. If the operating budget gets voted down, then the default budget is still there. Selectman Luszey said that's basically it.

Representative Shawn Jasper said however you need to really think this one through. If you were to do this, you would actually be having a third election. This would be very much like a village district. So you would have a ballot that would just be for the library and they would have a default and you would also then be giving them the same power that the School Board has and the Board of Selectmen have which is if their warrant article were voted down and they reverted to a default, you would be giving the Library Trustees then the ability to call a special election. I don't know if you want to go down that path but that's the only way that I can see that a bill such as that would ever get through the legislature. They are a separate governing body but they're special because of the way it works into the operating budget. I have to tell you, I couldn't support that because I would not want to put us in that situation where just for what would essentially be a very limited amount of money but you've got to look at this state wide. The difference between a default budget and a library could be miniscule but you'd be giving them the ability to call an election which could cost more to the taxpayers than the difference in the default. If that's something that this Board of Selectmen wants to pursue, I guess in that regard I would probably sign on as a file a bill or sign on as a co-sponsor.

Representative Lynne Ober said unless you can make the argument in the legislature. I've said that to people. That's part of our job is to sign onto the Bill and let you come make that argument.

Representative Jasper thought if you really analyze it for what it actually entails and for what little problem it causes the Town, I don't think it's a good idea but I leave that to the Board of Selectmen I think as we all do to get your input.

Selectman Luszey said the legislature might take a look at the entire RSA because if you start doing the research on it and why public libraries came to be, the purpose of them has changed dramatically. So maybe it's an overhaul of the entire RSA that defines what a public library is and isn't any more. Representative Jasper said that was certainly a whole different..

Lee Lavoie asked would you do it as a default budget but my colleague, Dr. Sousa, had to leave. She had a babysitter until 9 p.m. I didn't want anyone to think that she was being rude but she needed to leave.

Representative Ulery said the suggestion and the dialog that just took place is probably the one that needs to take place. I think the Board needs to determine whether they want to do the minor change or the more serious change. If it's going to be serious change of addressing the entire issue of how the library boards are structured under State law, that's not a second year bill. That's a first year bill so that you have the summer to convince people of its value or to point out "unanticipated consequences", which is a favorite phrase in Concord of that particular legislation. When I was talking about ranking bills and setting them up for political analysis, this is exactly the point I was trying to make. It may very well be. I don't know the library bill has been around 75 or 100 years or so. Senator Carson indicated it was originally established in 1895. It's probably time that that gets taken a look at anyway. 1963 was the last time it was revised. Maybe it's one of those gems or grains of an idea that needs to be worked on.

Lee Lavoie indicated that he and Representative Jasper have talked about this several times and this is not something we can do tonight. I really think Senate Bill 2 needs to be tweaked a little bit. You guys all know. We have a public hearing, we have another deliberative session, and then we send it to the voters. I always wondered why we have that public hearing because nobody shows up. It knows its part of our makeup of New Hampshire that we want but nobody shows up. It's just another day that the Budget Committee, the School Board, and the Board of Selectmen all have to be there. I don't know if we can ever change that. To me the budget hearing just seems like a waste of time. I understand the deliberative session piece but.

Representative Jasper indicated that was one I wouldn't be willing to touch to try to take away the ability. Sometimes it's an issue. Yes nobody exercises it on a regular basis but that's that right there and to say it's a pain in the neck for the Budget Committee. You run for the job, you get there, and often we get changes in the votes at the public hearing for various things whether it be phone calls that people have got e-mails or whatever. Maybe not necessarily at the public hearing but discussions that have taken place and sometimes there are changes in the recommendations. I think just the idea of trying to eliminate a public hearing is not something that's going to go over very well with the public whether they exercise that right or not. Maybe I'm the only one who feels that way but...

Representative Lynne Ober thought you'd find if you look last year, Senate Bill 2 had tweaking Senate Bill 2 was the existing State law that had the most bills submitted to try to tweak it. Everybody has their own little take on how it

should be changed and nobody agrees. There was a study committee - Sharon weren't you on that in the summer that tried to look at overall what might be a good approach for tweaking Senate Bill 2? Senator Carson indicated they looked at that and the issue of the public hearings and even the deliberative session came up. Why do we need to have them? Very few people actually show up for the deliberative sessions and even fewer people show up for a public hearing. It really is in the public's interest and you really don't want to take away the ability of that one person to come forward and give you their comments. There was a Bill that was filed, I believe, by Representative Abrami and I think he's from the seacoast. It went through the House and I'm not sure what happened to it if it was passed but making some changes to Senate Bill 2. Some that had to do with notification, SB2, the budgets, and things like that - the default budget. So there was a piece of legislation that did come forward. Again, it's hard keeping track of over 1,000 bills and what's going on where.

Representative Lynne Ober stated Municipal and County had 5 separate bills on how the default budget should be written. Each one was a different methodology.

Lee Lavoie said it wasn't that I wanted to take the power away from the people, I don't understand a person going to the public hearing can't make the same decisions on the floor at deliberative session. That's my point I guess.

Representative Lynne Ober advised that the one interesting thing now is that after the public hearing the Budget Committee can meet and vote up or down on their recommendation. After the deliberative session, a warrant article has to have been changed in Senate Bill 2 now for the Budget Committee to take a revote. The only kind of free revote based on public opinion comes after the public hearing even if a change hasn't been made to that warrant. So there is that one twist that allows the Budget Committee to hear and say maybe we didn't make the right decision even if the governing body has not modified or the body on the floor has not offered an amendment to modify it. After the deliberative session, a warrant article has to now have been changed for the Budget Committee to revote.

Chairman Maddox indicated that if you're going to make tweaks to HB2, then why don't you require School Board and Library to be there as well at the elections. Since we're getting their money for them, they could at least come and help bail us out. Representative Lynne Ober said she thought that was kind of interesting. I wondered that myself in the past. Representative Ulery stated isn't that what the volunteer body gets paid to do anyway.

Chairman Maddox asked how many were on the County Commission. All the Representatives indicated they all were. Representative Ulery asked Chairman Maddox what he meant. There's two county governing bodies. There's the Executive Committee and then there's the County Delegation. Representative Lynne Ober stated that Senators are not part of the County because the Senator's District may span multiple counties as Sharon's does.

Chairman Maddox said we're seeing that we're going to see a 7 percent increase I guess in the County tax this year. Representative Jasper stated that's the Commissioner's budget that's come to the Executive Committee at this point is the 7 percent. Chairman Maddox said he knows that you've done a good job like we're trying to squeeze every dollar. One of the things that we utilize was the prisoners. I guess now that that has gone away. Is there a way if we had to pay a couple hundred dollars picking up trash, or painting buildings, we got some use out of them? Is there a way that that can be looked at? Representative Ulery said yes. As a matter of fact, the Superintendent made that recommendation during their presentation of the Commissioner's budget to the Executive Committee. The way the county budget works is the Commissioners come up with a wish list, give it to the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee goes down through it and either adds to it or subtracts from it, and then some time towards the end of June, we submit it to all 122 or 123 delegates or representatives who are a member of the delegation, and then we vote on it at that time along with union contracts for the nursing home and the different unions that exist within the county. What the Superintendent did say was if the budget gets increased this much, he can put them back in. What was given to him the last two years was the option to spread the money the way that he best saw fit. The previous Superintendent was under the same restrictions and saw fit to provide that service to the towns in Hillsborough County. This one because of an increased population and an increased need for in house guards has not been able to do that. If it's an unanticipated increase in population because of a variety of factors, we're a receiving county for female prisoners, which has increased the number of people that are necessary to be in Valley Street or to watch out for the safety of the prisoners there. We're also had a slight uptick in the general population because of some aggressive law enforcement activities.

Representative Jasper added to that by saying I am the Chairman of the Budget Subcommittee on the House of Corrections and I assure you to the best of my ability, we will find a way to make sure that that service is returned to the communities.

Chairman Maddox indicated that you know we're squeezing Kevin as much as we can and to pick up trash is just not in his timeframe, it was just a valuable service that nobody really thought about until it went away.

Representative Lynne Ober asked about when they were talking about cutting it. One of the pitches given to the Reps. was that there just wasn't enough money to pay for the guards that come out with the prisoners. At the time I said but every town has got a police force, couldn't you partner with selectmen in towns who had said we will provide you with a guard. We will also provide if you need two police officers to guards these. Is that something Rick you guys would be willing to entertain if we tried to work out some kind of compromise? Chairman Maddox said we'd certainly look at it. Again when it went away, it was kind of like nobody thought about it until it went away. So that would be something certainly the Board would look at.

Unfortunately what happened, Representative Jasper said there were two levels of cuts that were made by the Executive Committee last year. The first cut the Superintendent said yes I can live with that and still provide the service. The last minute another cut was made and he said I can't provide the service if you cut this money at this point. People argued that oh he'd still be able to do it. I argued look he's the Superintendent. He said he's not going to be able to do it. It's not going to happen and unfortunately part of the thinking was well you know there's always money leftover at the end of the year. As I said to the person who made that argument, it's a little late when he figures out how much is left June 30th to provide anything for the 12 months before that. We'll figure something out to make sure.

Representative Lynne Ober said plus if that's the issues is there a way we can partner with each town and their police force. Police officers are certified by the State. So whether you're a corrections officer or a police officer, you've gone through certification at the Police Standards and Training Council. Chairman Maddox said hopefully you're just sending out the people that are near to the...Representative Jasper said these are non-violent offenders. It was just simply to put even two guards in the van and drive to wherever. You're going to have to have that regardless of those two people because you're transporting prisoners. We just had not left him enough money to be able to be comfortable with the fact that he could do that. We'll get it figured out this year. Hopefully my friend from Weare won't screw that up this time.

Representative Lynne Ober said you're right. There are prisoners who are good behavior, nonviolent getting ready to be released. For them, it's a day of doing something out in the sunshine. They actually like coming out. We ought to be able to provide that not only for the towns but for the prisoners.

Chairman Maddox indicated this is the way hopefully we can communicate back and forth. You know we're all very busy. This was a night that luckily everybody was able to be here. Great representation from all of you to be able to update and show who you are. I mean working the elections, people say who are these people. Well now at least they've got a face to go with a name on the ballot. Some of you are more famous than others. The people from Pelham, we're kind of that other group. I hope that you will come and see us again. Does anybody have any other closing remarks?

Lee Lavoie thanked everyone of you. I think there's only 3 people in this room who aren't elected - Donna, Superintendent Lane, and Charlie. Thank you for serving our town. I know people are always throwing darts at us, calling us names, and they think we like to spend their money but it comes out of my pocket too. I really wanted to thank everybody for your service.

Senator Carson suggested that perhaps we meet again in September because as Representative Ober said, in November or that time frame, we're going to be filing bills. I'm not sure what the House time frame is but usually the Senate files Bill in November. If you have ideas, it's a good time to reach out to us to let us know what you think, what you'd like to see, and it will give us time to do some research and talk with OLS and see if we can actually do something like this. I would suggest, again, that we do this again probably sometime in September.

Since we are talking about after Labor Day for your side and our side as far as the earlier part of the meeting, Chairman Maddox said maybe it will all work out well. Again, we don't want to bring everybody out every night. You're busy in Concord and whatever. I hope that this was convenient. At least you got to see all 3 Boards at once rather than going to each one of them separately. I thank you all. The Board of Selectmen's meeting is still going on but I would like to say that we can cover our remarks next week.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:16 p.m. by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, carried 4-0.

Recorded by HGTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

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