

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the July 10, 2012 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Coutu the meeting of July 10, 2012 at 7:02 p.m. in the BOS Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Selectman Luszey.
3. ATTENDANCE

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

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Donna Graham, Executive Assistant; Chief Jason Lavoie; Road Agent Kevin Burns

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Mark Leach - 20 Maple Avenue. I'm also on the Building Code Board of Appeals here in Hudson if that has any weight. The whole neighborhood is here right now about Merrill Park. It's a very dangerous place. The Town of Hudson is advertising this on their website as a place to go bird watching, canoeing, kayaking. It's nothing but a bunch of thugs in there. I have some photos that you can pass around. My wife took a walk around and took some pictures the other day. It's terrible and it's all hours of the night, all hours of the morning - 4:30 this morning I was up getting ready for work and I see thugs from Nashua. I'm assuming they're coming from Nashua going in there at 4:30 a.m. If you look on your website, there's a blue sign that says "Hours of Operation 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.". Nobody is enforcing this. This place is dangerous; it's a liability to this Town. If any one of you think that these thugs that are in there get hurt won't sue this town, guess again. They'll sue this town. It's a huge liability and I don't want my taxes going up because of this. The whole neighborhood has become dangerous because nothing is being done about the park. We've had the police there. When called, they show up. They're doing what they can. They can't be there 24/7. We're told that they'll increase patrols. We haven't seen them there in a week unless they were called. Something needs to be done. Shut the park down. I know you need it for fire access to rescue on the river or what not. Sign it over to the Fire Department. Post it "no trespassing - Fire Department property". Whatever you have to do. It's terrible. Walk through it any time of day or night. You're going to find a bunch of hoodlums in there. My neighbors found syringes on the ground, empty beer bottles, broken beer bottles. I take my grandkids for a walk and nothing but obscenities are being thrown at us. We're pretty fed up. That's about all I have to say on it. It needs to be shut down.

Just for the record, Chairman Coutu said obviously we're going to have to address this problem. Just signing it over to another department doesn't get rid of the problem. It still belongs to the Town of Hudson. You can't just assign it. Mr. Leach said there's an old bridge abutment there. Chairman Coutu said he was very familiar with the park. I've been there several times. Mr. Leach said there's no fencing around there. It's about a 30 foot drop. The kids are swimming out to the abutment out in the middle of the river. They have a rope on that thing. The climb to the top and dive off of it. There's pictures of a tree that's down a steep embankment that's probably on a 35 to 45 degree angle over the water with the little steps going off that they're jumping off of that. Do I have permission to cut it down? The Town uses that basically for a place to dump snow. Other than that, the Town doesn't care about that park or the people that live in the neighborhood. Chairman Coutu thanked Mr. Leach for his comment.

Michael Shumsky - I live at 16 Fulton Street right next to the park. I call this the park that time has forgotten. Nobody cares about it. If you have Benson's, this park is totally - you may as well just forget about it. I've spoken with Kevin Burns and he's helped us in the past fix things on it. He's been very helpful to do that. The thing is they blocked the park off. We used to have stones that were a ways in there so people could if they wanted to park in there off the street. So Kevin put those there and then he was told to remove them because the Fire Department has to gain access. What happens in the winter time when they pile all the snow up there? Fire Department can't get in there then so what's the point. Something has to be done and we're asking you for help and we'd appreciate it if you could help us with this.

Donald Couillard - 14 Fulton Street. I've lived there for 10 years. I've watch a lot of stuff happen there. I've called the cops many times there. I've seen sexual acts going on down there. I've broken it up. I've threatened to call the police. The beer bottles, the kids coming by the droves, the traffic. The traffic is horrendous. Thank god my kids are older now and they're not on the bicycles and everything but we have a whole new flock of kids there. Someone is going to get killed. I'm not kidding you; someone is going to get killed. I've seen them around the corner at the American Legion the other night. I swear to god one of them was going to flip over. You try to stop them when they leave. They're like maniacs. You try to stop them when they leave, they'll go right around you or they'll try to run you

over. They don't care. We've given them plate numbers. They walk across the bridge over down Maple Ave. by the family loads. It's incredible and I call the cops. She said it is a public park. It's a public park no to do what they're doing. This is ridiculous. It's out of hand. They come from everywhere. They're coming from Londonderry and they're not there to just enjoy the park. This park isn't a park that has benches and everything. This is a park with turned over cement fixtures with rebar sticking out, glass everywhere. It's disgusting. It's freaking disgusting. Then the town goes down there and cleans it up with some type of saw and cuts all these trees down and leaves sticks standing this high up where if somebody feel, you'd get impaled. It's crazy. It's not right. It's got to be cleaned up.

Patrick Lacasse - 7 Fulton Street. The speeding that he was talking about. There's 6 families at least at a minimum that have little kids. I'm one of them. I have two little boys. I've tried to talk to some of these teenagers that do drive up and down. They don't stop. I've cornered one of them. I've told them you need to slow down. That one listened. We have sand all thrown up over the fire line and they think it's funny. You say something to them and they ignore you and go off. There's no respect at all. It's a drag way from the bottom of Fulton Street - if any of you know about it, the little hill that goes down it's a drag way from there to the American Legion. They just bolt. They don't slow down. There's been many times...we got a new family in that area and there's a bunch of little kids. I've seen one of them almost get hit twice. It's due to the traffic of the park. It's called Merrill Park. The pictures that Mark handed around have picnic tables flipped upside down with graffiti all over them. They have picnic tables with trees growing out of the middle of them. That's not a park. Am I wrong? Chairman Coutu said he was here to listen to you. It's not an inquisition. I'm here to listen. Mr. Lacasse asked if anybody would feel comfortable sending from all the photos that you guys have seen sending your kids there. I wouldn't. I don't allow my kids down there. I live right there. I really think it needs to be shut down. That's all I have to say.

Chairman Coutu wanted to make sure we give everybody an opportunity.

Colleen Baker - 17 Maple Avenue. I also have young children. My property backs right up to Merrill Park. We don't go back there. We don't use it because I know what's back there. Pat was talking about Fulton being kind of a drag way. They also use Maple Avenue the other way going very fast and it concerns me very much with my young children. If we sit out on our back deck, the kids back there are swearing and stuff going on so I have to take my kids inside. I know that the kids as they walk up and down the street they come on our property. I've been told by the neighbors across the street have seen people go up on our lawn, take our basketballs, use our basketball hoop. Across from Pat, the little boy there had his bike stolen right off his front lawn about a month ago. People on our street have had their cars broken into. I'm very concerned too.

Jen Stafford - 18 Maple Avenue. So I think one of my biggest concerns is as you know like the majority of the people work on our street have children so they're busy during the day. These kids are constantly in the park. It makes me worried for my property and it also makes me worried for my pets. As you can see in one of those pictures, it looks like there was an animal that had been burned. That makes me very nervous about leaving things in my garage, leaving my pets out because I feel like these kids are going to the park and using drugs and their mind frame is completely gone when they're leaving the park. If they see things in the yard for example, I feel like they're going to be destroyed and that we can't even leave our pets out. That's like a really big concern for me because we can't be home all the time during the day. My husband is in a job where he travels. That makes me very eerie at night with these kids down at the park. Like am I safe in my own house. I think that's a big concern. It's just like the safety on our streets. Thanks for listening.

Chris Caron - 19 Maple Avenue. I get the best spot on the whole street because mine is right on that corner. Chairman Coutu said he was very familiar with your house. Mr. Caron said you can come by my house on almost any evening and it's a parking lot all night long and they don't care. I got garbage on my grass. There's clothes out there right now all over the place. It's just terrible. I've lived there for 30 years. I've never seen it like this until the last 2 or 3 years. It's just way out of control and it gets worse by the day. It's like you said, there are families coming down Maple Ave., or they're cutting through the woods right next to the river. We really need to do something about it. You've seen the pictures, it speaks for themselves.

Emily Eastman-Brown - I live at 22 Maple Avenue across from Chris. Unfortunately I can see where they use the yard as an area to do donuts and to drive across and to park there. The same thing with Mike's driveway. They'll park in his driveway and not even care. They'll park on my lawn. They'll park on the other side and leave their trash there and/or throw things at my yard. They've thrown rocks at my siding, windows, at my dogs because they bark because they'll telling me that somebody is over in the park. Thank god for that. A month and a half ago my car was broken into as was other neighbors. The same type of kids or what not being down there. We'll call the cops. They'll come when we ask them to come if they understand what we've asked them to come for. The other evening two kids, two different vehicles, they don't care. They backed into the fence and then took off at 70 mph. Sunday they're back. Mark has a word with them because basically we told them we gave them your plate numbers. We basically don't want you here anymore. They took off right in front of Pat's house. They're having a party. There's tons of little kids outside. I watch Colleen's kids come around because I'm right on the outside. I'll see them walk down the street.

Unfortunately, one of these kids is going to get killed. I see it all right on the end. We were teenagers. We understand how it is. We've been down that avenue. There's times where you just look the other way and it is what it is. It will pass. They're just being disrespectful. This is just getting out of control.

Chairman Coutu asked if heard in Ms. Eastman-Brown's comments that you had called in plate numbers. Ms. Eastman-Brown said absolutely.

Those of you who are familiar with the Board of Selectmen meetings, Chairman Coutu said you've heard me say repeatedly over the years that it's imperative that people come in and take advantage of the opportunity that we have afford our citizens for you to come in and express your pleasure or displeasure about anything in the town. This is something obviously that we do have control of. It is our property. As a matter of fact if you were to look at the registry of properties that we have available to sell in this town, it is probably the piece of property that's worth the most money because its riverfront. It's a gorgeous piece of property. It has tremendous value if it's kept up or if somebody were to buy it and invest and want to put a nice home back there, it has all kinds of potential. I've been in that park many, many times for a lot of reasons. Initially I looked at it as a potential home for the senior center some 5 years ago when I first embarked on the project of trying to do something to help the seniors get a senior center. Since then, I've been there on at least 2 separate occasions in the past year not on anonymous complaints but I've had a couple of people come into my store. When they're coming down to the south end of town, the further south point of town from this end of town to tell me there's a problem that exists up at this end of town, no one is just going waste their gas coming all the way down there.

Chairman Coutu indicated there are some logistically problems with us having to close the park. However, I can assure you this and we're all here and I think I can speak for them and I'll give each of my counterparts an opportunity to speak because they're all very familiar with Merrill Park. As a matter of fact, Selectman Nadeau lives the closest to the park and is very familiar with that park. We have here in our audience and you have seen him is the Chief of Police. Fortunately as well we have the Road Agent Kevin Burns with us and both of them are part in parcel of the Hudson, for the lack of proper term, safety board. Is that what you'd call it? I think that it's imperative...this isn't going to happen overnight. So don't expect to see a full mirage of people down there tomorrow morning solving this problem. I will make you this promise and I'm sure you may hear the same from my peers on the Board of Selectmen. We will all on our own time, and I hope within this week and I will be there again tomorrow, because if you're saying it's getting worse the last time I was there it was pretty bad. I want to see what worse is. Those pictures certainly is worse than what I saw about 3 weeks ago. I am going to ask each member of this Board to go down there this week and take a look at that park. I'm going to ask our town officials - obviously the police, the enforcing agency, Police Chief, our Road Agent, and our Recreation Director to go down there and take a look and come back to us with a recommendation to the park. What we will do is if you can take a couple of key addresses and names that we can contact you so that when we sit down to decide how we're going to resolve this, we can probably ask you to come in for a community meeting - not necessarily a Selectmen's meeting but a community meeting. We can meet together - maybe even at the park and we can talk about proposals with you. This is property that directly abuts you. It affects you personally and a primary concern to me are the hazards that are on the property number one. Number two some sort of traffic control, and number three seeing what we can do to clean it up and what alternatives we have in terms of being able to secure that portion of land. It's very difficult to secure anything. You can't even secure your own backyard. I can't secure my backyard. If they want to trespass, they're going to trespass. You can put up a 6 foot high fence and they'll find a way through. When businesses are having their walls cut open for people to crawl in if people want to get in, they're going to get in.

Chairman Coutu agreed that it's a double edge sword. It's a beautiful piece of property and it's an attraction and that attraction turns it into a slum. Apparently that's exactly what it is. We're certainly concerned that we're going to take steps to see what we can do and we want to involve you in the process. Does any member on the Board wish to speak on the subject at this time?

When Selectman Maddox got elected a long time ago, I thought this was a jewel. I couldn't believe that Hudson had a piece of property right on the river. I thought it had great potential. Monetary and all the things that happen with public lands, it has fallen by the wayside. The enthusiasm of Benson's has over shown the other parks and places we have within town. We've had this problem at Musquash and in a number of other locations. I absolutely agree that we need to do something. It is our property and we are responsible for it. If somebody gets hurt in there, we're going to be visited. I think it's imperative that we do something. Nobody should have to live with those conditions going on in their neighborhood. Let's do what we have to do.

Chairman Coutu wanted to say one thing that he heard and he thought the Police Chief would be the first to jump up here and agree with me. Under no circumstances should you confront any of the kids that are in that neighborhood, come into that neighborhood regardless of how destructive they are. You should not approach them because it's going to make matters worse. I know it's tough not to do it because I wouldn't put up with it and I don't know they'd have to restrain me but it is not the right thing to do for your own safety and for the safety of your families in that

neighborhood. I think you would agree with me Chief that you should not approach these people. Mr. Leach said they were going to protect our properties. I guarantee that. Chairman Coutu didn't blame him and he thought when we have a conversation with the Chief and we'll obviously involve him with our neighborhood discussion, we'll go over those kinds of things.

There are a couple of things. Selectman Nadeau has been at this end of town for about 10 years. Over the last 3 or 4, I've talked to Mike and Pat. In the last year, it's gotten a lot worse. There's a couple of things that we have available to the residents. We have a neighborhood watch program where we can post the signs. We have an officer who does go out to the neighborhoods and does stuff with the neighborhoods and educates the neighbors on what they can do, and what to look for, and what to call the police for. If you do call the station or the Chief will get you the name and number of the person to talk to. It is very effective in Nashua where my business is. I see it's very effective here in the neighborhoods that have used it. If that's something that you guys are interested in, please contact the Police Department so they can set that up for you and help you out. Again like the Chairman said, we will get together and see what we can do about this.

Selectman Luszey said he would be there tomorrow. I'll take a walk through. When I looked at the pictures and listened to the folks talk, what came to my mind is the Conservation Commission has been looking for things to work on. I think this is a park that we could ask them to focus in on. I also think we may want to look at putting together and us driving a committee much like Benson's to help get the community involved to clean that place up. I know at one time when the skate park had issues like this, we put cameras up there. I don't know if there is a way that we could put cameras up there to monitor and possibly get at some of the folks that are vandalizing and things like that but we'll figure it out.

Selectman Brucker is hearing what the situation is. I know I certainly wouldn't want that going on in my neighborhood. I wouldn't want my children or my grandchildren to be exposed to those kinds of dangerous conditions. I'm totally behind finding a solution to it. I think it's going to take a number of groups to work on it.

Obviously Chairman Coutu said there's a lot of ideas out there generated. Selectman Nadeau came up with the neighborhood watch. I can tell you that we did it in my neighborhood four years ago. At the first meeting we had 75 people in one person's home. It's well posted. The problem is when you live in a neighborhood and you're a member of the Board of Selectmen, you're automatically elected the captain of the neighborhood and we get all the phone calls. We had a situation where a kid was going around soliciting for magazines. The people didn't trust him. He looked suspicious. I happened to call the police. They came and questioned him. There was an outstanding warrant for him for breaking and entering out of Chicago. There was another one outstanding out of one of the southern states. I believe it was Louisiana. That's how effective neighborhood watch can be. You're not just told its everybody watches out for your neighbors. They tell you all of the things that you need to do to make it effective. The key to success obviously is communication. At the time that we instituted, Sully brought in his dog and he did neighborhood watch, and we got to see his dog, and so everybody was pretty excited about it. It's worked well in our neighborhood. However of a more pressing need obviously is to address the problem of the people going in and vandalizing the park and posing a threat to your neighborhood in terms of littering, abusive language, endangering themselves - their safety and your safety as well. I would expect that by the end of the week all members of the Board of Selectmen will have visited the park. I would hope that Mr. Burns and the Chief will also do the same. I'm sure they will. They will be in touch with the Town Administrator's office and we'll see if we can through the Police Department set up a neighborhood meeting. Once we can do that, I'll make sure that all the members of the Board of Selectmen are invited to do walkthrough again with you, and to listen to you, and then you can listen to the plan of attack that we're going to pursue.

Chairman Coutu thought that another thing that I heard tonight that made a lot of sense, it was mentioned by Selectman Maddox and echoed by Selectman Luszey is that maybe we need to focus our attention on Merrill Park. Maybe we need to adopt it as a project just like we did Benson. We're not going to turn it into a Benson Park. It's not going to be a tourist vista but if we could make it a somber area where people can go and enjoy a picnic, look out at the river, and have a couple of walking trails. It can be developed. Those are all things that we want to explore with you before we do our plan of attack. We have a lot of ideas on the table. Perhaps you'll have at least a week to be able to sit down amongst yourself or separately and think up some ideas and give us some ideas of how you think that we can accomplish the goals that you want us to accomplish. Closing the park is going to be a very difficult task. It would be a very expensive task and it would affect your tax rate. You can't close anything today. It's very, very difficult. We know, the Chief has heard you. I'm sure they're going to beef up patrols in your neighborhood. Jotting down plate numbers and calling them in is a good idea. You should document it - the plate number, the time of the call. It's all on tape. The Chief can listen to those calls at any time. With that ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank you for coming in and telling us about your problem. All I can do is promise you we will do our best to get it resolved as quickly as possible.

Unidentified Male Speaker said if you want to cut one piece of cancer out of this thing, cut that tree down. That's the rope swing. That's one of the reasons they go there. Chairman Coutu agreed that that's something that's an attraction. Mr. Burns should take a look at that and see. Sometimes it's not easy just to cut a tree down. It's our property and we'll address that. We don't want you to get hurt taking down a tree.

5. NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS - NONE

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman Coutu asked if any Board member wished to remove any item for separate consideration? Seeing none.

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

A. Assessing Items

- 1) 2011 Tax Abatement Settlement - Map 157, Lot 2, w/recommendation to approve
- 2) 2011 Tax Abatement - Map 215, Lot 10, w/recommendation to deny
- 3) 2011 Tax Abatement - Map 165, Lot 151, w/recommendation to deny
- 4) 2011 Tax Abatement - Map 100, Lot 10, w/recommendation to deny
- 5) 2011 Tax Abatement - Map 157, Lot 32, w/recommendation to approve adjustment
- 6) 2011 Tax Abatement - Map 168, Lot 68-80, w/recommendation to approve adjustment

B. Water/Sewer Items - NONE

C. Licenses & Permits - NONE

D. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the June 12, 2012 meeting

E. Calendar

07/11 7:00 Planning Board - Buxton CD Meeting Room
07/11 7:00 Benson Park - Landscape Cte - BOS Meeting Room
07/12 5:00 Sewer Utility Committee - BOS Meeting Room
07/12 7:30 Zoning Board of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room
07/16 7:00 Energy Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
07/17 7:00 Cable Utility Cte - BOS Meeting Room
07/18 5:00 Water Utility Cte - BOS Meeting Room
07/18 7:00 Council on Aging - Buxton CD Meeting Room
07/19 7:00 Benson Park Cte - BOS Meeting Room
07/23 7:00 Recycling Cte - BOS Meeting Room
07/24 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on June 26, 2012

- 1) *Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to award Dorothy Carey a \$500 merit award; Captain William Avery a \$250 merit award; and Captain Robert Tousignant a \$250 merit award per the Town of Hudson Professional Management Association Contract, carried 5-0.*
- 2) *Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to hire Shayla Bergeron, Maggie Blinn, and Emily LaPlant as Counselors for the 2012 Summer Staff at an hourly rate of \$9.50 per hour, effective June 27, 2012, carried 5-0.*
- 3) *Motion to adjourn at 11:03 p.m. by Selectman Brucker, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, carried 5-0.*

B. Public Hearing - Amendment to Town Code Chapter 270 - Sewers

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Back in June, Mr. Malizia indicated that the Board discussed making this change to the Town Code that would allow for folks that have a sewer bill that's being disputed to not have to pay the bill prior to filing for the abatement. They voted to send it to a public hearing tonight as a requisite public hearing. This would change the Town Code so that it would be in alignment with the Sewer Utility Policies and Procedures which already state you don't have to pay the disputed bill or you may not have to pay the disputed bill should you have an issue with a sewer bill. Again, this is a public hearing to take comment to see if anybody has any comment on this Town Code change.

Chairman Coutu opened the public hearing at 7:33 p.m. Does anyone in the audience wish to speak on this item? Apparently there is no one. The public hearing is closed at 7:34 p.m. Does any member of the Board wish to speak on this item? It was a motion that brought this here from Selectman Brucker seconded by Selectman Luszey and it was unanimous.

Motion by Selectman Brucker, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to accept the Sewer Utility Committee's recommended changes to Town Code Chapter 270, Sewers, Section 10, paragraph D, Abatement procedures, carried 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2012 Comm/Ind Valuation Contract Extension (Time) request

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

As you are well aware, we're going through a revaluation and a component of that revaluation is a valuation of the commercial industrial properties in town. For the reasons articulated in the Memo, it looks like we're going to be about 6 weeks out from the original deadline that we had articulated in a contract with our property appraiser for that project. Therefore, there's a clause in the original contract that says if we're going to be late that contract pays \$100 a day. It's not due to that contractor's work or anything in his schedule that's caused this to be delayed. So basically there's an addendum to the contract that gives us an additional 6 weeks before any clause kicks in. It's basically formalizing the understanding that right now because of things on the town side, it's delayed for about 6 weeks. We don't want to penalize this particular contract for something not in his purview. This is basically just a modest amendment to the statistical update contract for the commercial/industrial property in town.

Two things. Chairman Coutu said this is not the first time this has happened. Mr. Malizia said this happened the last time we did this - 5 to 6 years ago. This time if you remember, Chairman Coutu said we had one employee in the Assessor's Office who was out for an extended period of time. It's cause for delay. None of this will prohibit us from being able to announce the rate and proper time. I've been assured by the Town Assessor.

Motion by Selectman Brucker, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sign the "Addendum to 2012 Statistical Update Contract" as per the recommendation of the Assistant Assessor, carried 5-0.

B. Public Hearing - Acceptance of DWI/DUI Patrol Project Grant through the NH Highway Safety Agency in the amount of \$7,500

Chairman Coutu recognized Chief Lavoie.

Again, Chief Lavoie indicated that they were asking the town to support this grant that came in from the State. This grant will allow us to put out approximately 20 additional patrols for a total of 6 hours during each patrol to just have officers come on in and be focused on trying to get impaired drivers off the roads of the Town of Hudson.

As Chairman Coutu understood it, our grant requests in the past have been successful. The numbers certainly have proven that this is necessary. So people understand community policing, believe it or not, this is part of a community policing concept is to take people off the road who are impaired and could cause serious harm if not bodily injury to any one of us who are citizens in the town.

Chairman Coutu opened the public hearing at 7:37 p.m. Does anyone in the audience wish to speak on this item? Seeing none, the public hearing closed at 7:37 p.m. Any discussion by the Board on this agenda item.

Selectman Brucker had a small detail. It says it's a federal budget. Is it federal money? Chairman Coutu indicated this was the Highway Safety Agency out of Concord is providing the money. It comes from federal funds by filters through the State. Our direct recipient is the State. Its original source comes out of National Highway Safety Award money. Not unless you want to donate it? Selectman Brucker was thinking about it but...

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to authorize the Hudson Police Department to accept the DWI/DUI Patrols grant awarded by the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency in the amount of \$7,500, carried 5-0.

C. Update on Landfill Ticket Program and Request to Modify Hours

Chairman Coutu recognized Road Agent Kevin Burns. Good evening Kevin and welcome to the lion's den.

Good evening. Mr. Burns had a quick update. I came to you before to implement this ticket program because our costs were spiraling out of control up there to the town of \$100,000 to \$150,000 a year to run the landfill 12 times a year. The numbers have kind of blown out what I thought. We've reduced our costs by just about half. We've spent \$16,000 the first 4 months of this year since the program started. The previous two years the same 4 month period we spent \$29,000 both years. It's about 50 percent. Most of the feedback I'm getting from the people at the cleanups is they're happy. The long lines are gone. The people from out of town are gone. The contractors are gone. In my humble opinion, it's been a success. The one thing I would like to modify is the hours. As an increased service, the Board had asked me this year to open the landfill spring, summer and fall every Saturday for yard waste, which we've done and it's been successful and popular. More so in the spring than midsummer now. I think it's a worthwhile program for a minimal cost. We set the hours for that 8 to 12. The hours for the regular clean up, the last Saturday of every month is 8 to 2. We don't have a lot of people left coming between 12 and 2 anymore. It's really confusing when we tell people well the first three Saturdays are open 8 to 12 but the last Saturday we're open 8 to 2. I'd like to just set the hours at a permanent 8 to 12.

Chairman Coutu asked for a consensus of the Board to allow him to change the hours consistently from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Any discussion? Everybody agree?

Consensus of Board of Selectmen to modify the monthly clean up day hours from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. to 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., which includes both yard waste days and regular clean days beginning in January 2013.

Selectman Nadeau agreed but he thought if the first one in the spring we have to be a little more flexible. If people are in line at 12, we let them go through.

First of all, Mr. Burns didn't mention this but I wouldn't implement this until January 1st because the flyers for this year with the schedule are already out there. So I would start this January 1st. The lines that you're speaking of are no longer there but we wouldn't slam the door on anyone's face.

Chairman Coutu said he could honestly say this is one of the few years since I've been a member of the Board - I remember the first year I received half a dozen calls on Saturday mornings. You ought to come up here. We can't get in there. The lines are backed up down Robinson Road. I haven't had those calls so it must be working. If Selectman Nadeau is happy about the landfill, I know I'm happy.

One interesting statistic that surprised Mr. Burns is less than 5 percent of the households have even come to bother picking up their tickets.

Selectman Luszey had a point and it's very relevant. I'm going to call it a learning. I own a house on Derry Road and I resided it the last few weeks. This past week I had some extra vinyl so I threw it in the trash containers. I read that contract and apparently I didn't read it close enough because construction debris is not allowed in our trash cans. When my trash cans didn't get picked up, I called Pinard very ticked of. I gave them a piece of my mind. He told me buddy sorry. I called Kevin and he said the guy was right. I did apologize to Pinard but I also wanted to thank Kevin. It did get picked up but we really should run some articles in our local paper. There are a bunch of things that - and I guess the best way to describe it is its household waste that goes in those barrels. Not everything can go in those barrels. For a guy that approved that contract and not understanding that everything can go in there. If I don't know it for sure, I'm sure there's other folks. Chairman Coutu told Selectman Luszey not to feel bad. She didn't call Pinard she called Kevin's office. Didn't tell anyone who she was. The girl was very, very nice. When she got off the phone she said do you know what kind of a contract you signed. I can't throw anything away. She wanted to know if she could throw an iron away. She said it was recyclable metal. Why can't they? Chairman Coutu said maybe they're telling us to bring it over to a guy that's willing to buy it from us and we can make some money. Selectman Luszey said sometimes they forget the nitty gritty.

Selectman Maddox stated that we're saving some money here. Let's maybe put some money into some advertising. I do think that the new contract is going to be challenging for some people. To spend some money to put in the paper with photos - they did a good job with the Pinard thing but just to remind people. They came out on July 1st. People may have just put that right in the barrel for the first round. Maybe put some of those things in there. What can be put into it? Why we're doing it. Those are the kinds of things I'm hoping that the Recycling Committee could work with

you on but to get that notice out Mr. Chairman. The biggest thing is still styrofoam. If you get anything with styrofoam, your trash barrel is full. Again, just explaining those details.

Chairman Coutu indicated that the Chairman of the Recycling Committee is here. He's heard us loud and clear. Anything you can do Leo to help publicize the new process will be helpful. Briefly, Mr. Burns showed what was attached to the totters. It's on the web page. It was delivered to every household in the Hudson News. It was on the front page of the Hudson News. Chairman Coutu didn't think throwing money in ads in the newspaper is going to do any more than what that's done. If you look at a lot of the blue barrels that are out there being used today, Mr. Burns said these are still hanging on the side. Chairman Coutu said those are the people that don't read anything. Putting it in the newspaper, they're not going to read it. It's an ad. Selectman Maddox said to put it in the Thumbs, they'll read it.

Selectman Nadeau was sure our columnist on the Recycling Committee would be glad to work with Kevin and do up some little articles that we can put in on the Thumbs page if we pay for them so that people can read these things. Like Selectman Luszey said, it's a learning curve on what can go in the trash cans and what can go in the recycle barrels. What are we going to do if we have too much recycling? Are we going to have to modify our pickups? Its stuff that we're going to have to look at in the next 3, 4, 5 months in the statistics. I think it's something that the Road Agent will keep us abreast of and we can work with what we have and use our savings to help us recycle more.

Selectman Brucker was thinking that it's kind of a perfect topic for some of these video shows. It would be great to have a few people on talking about holding up something that's ceramic and saying, "No, you can't put that in there" or something demonstrating. Chairman Coutu said that was done I think the first time with former Selectman Robinson and we still only get 20 percent of our rubbish that's recyclable recycled. Selectman Nadeau indicated that Selectman Brucker wanted to get together and do a show with Doug, I'm sure he'd be more than happy.

Mr. Chairman before the meeting, Selectman Maddox indicated that the Road Agent did tell me that the recycling truck is making 2 trips out of town to empty his load. So it is working. I think that we need to foster that and encourage that. I don't think an article in my opinion is what you're going to put in. You're just going to put in pictures saying recycling or not. You don't want wordy articles. Pictures.

Chairman Coutu asked Mr. Burns if he heard anything relative to...he's heard from several people they've gone in and looked at some of their neighbor's barrels and they're seeing all kinds of rubbish being thrown into the blue container - the recycling barrel. Has Pinard said anything about he's catching them? Mr. Burns said that's with the recycling truck. They went with a front load so the driver is actually looking at it and dumping it. I spoke to him today and he's not having a lot of problems other than getting people to separate their carts a little bit. What Selectman Maddox was saying is he's telling me that he's going to dump two times a day. He used to only go dump every other day. It seems to be working. I have no complaints on contamination as of yet. Chairman Coutu said they'll see what the numbers come in for rubbish then at the end of the quarter. So you have a consensus and you can proceed.

D. NHDOT Draft Road Safety Audit for the Sherburne Road/Dracut Road Intersection

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia. He was standing at that intersection I believe 4 ½ years ago and they told me they were going to get right on it and here it is...4 ½ years later. Mr. Malizia said it was only a draft. So don't get too excited. Chairman Coutu said at least we're making progress. We're only 3 years out to having this complete.

Mr. Malizia said the DOT has forwarded this draft through our own Highway Safety Committee just to make sure that they saw it. They had an opportunity to yeah or nay recommend and they are recommending that the Board of Selectmen concur or agree to the draft so that hopefully DOT can then get off the dime and actually implement some of the measures that are in this draft proposal. Some of them would include a chevron on the other side of the road, better reflective marking, possibly a 3-way beacon, even possibly some island work. Again these are articulated. I will tell you though that this is a draft. It appears that DOT once they get this back needs to do something internally. I would not hold your breath that they're going to be out there tomorrow or next week.

The only thing that Chairman Coutu found and he read it cover to cover that could be an error is on page 12 of 13 under "Conclusions and Recommendations", Item A. "Hudson Police Department will continue its enforcement of 35 mph speed limit on Dracut Road, especially south of the intersection;". South of the intersection is Tyngsboro. I think that should be "north" of the intersection. Mr. Malizia said he'd articulate that back to them. Chairman Coutu said that definitely needed to be corrected. That's definitely north. We are not going to enforce the laws in Tyngsboro. That's up to them. With that noted amendment, I will entertain a motion.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to approve with the amendments the improvements for the Sherburne Road/Dracut Road intersection as presented in the draft Road Safety Audit Report prepared by the NHDOT and recommended by the Hudson Highway Safety Committee, carried 5-0.

E. Budget to Actuals

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Mr. Malizia advised the Board that they have in front of them the "preliminary", and I say "preliminary" because there's a manifest that's upstairs that was going to be processed as well as audit. When the audit comes in, they make adjustments. It depends on sometimes things get paid into next year and they'll make an adjustment going backwards. I will also caution you that of the \$400,000 approximate balance, assume the General Fund approximate \$62,000 is going to the cable fund. So don't walk around thinking there's \$400,000. It's \$400,000 minus \$62,000. That number is subject to change again because there's some manifests upstairs. Some of the money may have been encumbered so we'll take it off the encumbered column and put it into the paid column. Generally speaking, we ended the year about expected, a couple hundred thousand dollars of surplus or under expended funds. We came real close, 99.9 percent for the motor vehicles. Statistically that's the closest we've come in a while. We have a month lag of ambulance and there are some other adjustments particularly in the grant line for \$200,000 that will get made. In other words, we need to book in the appropriate bucket the grants that we got from FEMA this year. I think that there's some monies that we voted from surplus that the auditors traditionally make the entries for. When you get down to the revenue, we should hit that number or pretty darn close to it. Overall, we basically under expended the general fund by about a percent or so. So we can within a percent of our appropriation. It looks like we'll hit the revenue.

Water and sewer - Mr. Malizia said water revenue is greater than budgeted. I think the expense was a little bit lower. On the sewer side of things, both sides were down because we did not get a large bill from Nashua. We try to estimate. We try to work with them. They try to give us their capital. They don't always give us the right year but we try to budget it. We budgeted \$1 million for some project they're going to hit us with. They didn't hit us. So both sides of the ledger were lower than expected by at least \$1 million. Chairman Coutu said it was a \$1 million on both sides. Overall, Mr. Malizia said a pretty reasonable year. Again, this takes into account the encumbrances we made. It also takes into account the 2 batches or the 2 runs of earned time payouts that already in these numbers. So that was already taken care of. That's in there. Again, I caution you \$62,000 is going to come out for the capital reserve for the cable utility. We show an estimate in the \$300,000 range.

Chairman Coutu stated it was a small number but I want to comment. As you know we have a welfare person who handles welfare in our town. When you look at the reimbursement and we've budgeted \$1,000 and we've received \$9,677 reimbursement, that not only speaks well for the manner in which we process people for aid in our town, it speaks tremendous volume about the people who apply for the aid and make restitution for some of the monies that are fronted them in order to give them a helping hand through their hardships. I'm very impressed. The only thing I would advise Mr. Malizia is that in talking to the department heads, we'll be discussing budget strategy obviously in the very near future that when this is in final draft they look over these revenue lines very carefully and adjust next year their budgets accordingly so that we have truer figures on estimated revenues. A lot of them estimated a little more than what we actually got and some of them were a little on the low side. There's a happy balance there somewhere I'm sure.

Selectman Maddox asked if we've worked out the issue on the Conservation Commission where they're over by the \$5,000. Chairman Coutu asked if that had something to do with pulling the money forward on Ottarnic Pond. Selectman Brucker indicated it was an error by whoever did the bookkeeping if that's what you're talking about why its 123. Selectman Maddox said right. He was just wondering if that's all cleared up so that we're not going to start this year with another...when we get to the audit process, Mr. Malizia said the auditors in conjunction with the Finance Department put things into the right bucket. So if something got into the wrong bucket, in other words, there's a conservation fund we can draw money out of. They'll take it out of that fund and get rid of this negative here. In other words they have their own fund. Selectman Brucker said yes \$644,000. Selectman Maddox indicated that was only for acquisition of land. Mr. Malizia said of that, \$65,000 is in a fund. Again, Selectman Maddox wanted to see if they could clear this all up because it seems like they're always behind the 8 ball with the funding when we come in for budget season. If we can get it to...

As Chairman Coutu understood it, the Finance Director had...Mr. Malizia said she's on vacation. She hasn't even vetted this. I got this just to give you something right now. In terms of how they were spending money or what not, Chairman Coutu said she straightened them all out and told them they were drawing from wrong accounts and that was supposedly taken care of. This may be a carry over and it's going to be adjusted through the auditing process. Again as the Town Administrator said, she hasn't vetted this yet. It's just a draft copy. Again, Mr. Malizia wanted to make sure you had some idea where you ended up. Again there's a manifest upstairs that will affect this to some

degree. The \$62,000 isn't draw out of here just to give you an idea of where you were. In case people ask you, you can say somewhere in the \$300,000...Selectman Maddox said at least we haven't overspent. Mr. Malizia said no we have not.

9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Luszey - Just a quick update on the seniors architectural plans if you will. The drawings as I mentioned the last time are pretty much complete. There was an update to them last week and they are available for anyone who wants to take a look at them in the Engineer's office. Our current plan is to have the cost estimates done by July 15th. I did not have an opportunity to check my e-mail but I will talk with the Town Engineer tomorrow morning. I believe we'll be requesting for the 24th agenda to review the actual plans and the cost estimates. If you recall at that time, we committed to the Hudson Council on Aging that we would invite them here to be part of that review of the building drawings if you will. If the cost estimates are complete, I will be requesting for that to be put on our agenda.

The other is combined dispatch. If you recall from our last meeting, Selectman Luszey said we basically said that we need to do some work on that. My intention is to get together with Selectman Maddox within the next couple of weeks, July being a heavy vacation month, I have done nothing with that. I will get together with Selectman Maddox in the next two weeks and put together a list of names. Basically I believe it's going to be the department heads and maybe one or two other people to begin to do the analysis of the current infrastructure and begin putting together the plans and documentation needed to sell if you will or fund whatever that analysis leads us to. With that being said like that, what I'm going to ask this Committee to do is break that work going forward to something more along the lines of the town communication infrastructure program/project. Combined dispatch because that is more of an organizational discussion be broke off on its own and have this Board put it on a future agenda to talk about whether or not we want to organizationally bring those two groups together or not. It is independent of the infrastructure if you will. I'm asking this Board right now for the work that I'm going to work with Selectman Maddox on be more of an infrastructure program or project versus a combined dispatch project. I want to be real clear when we come back together that if there is plans to upgrade the radio equipment or, and I think there will be, software, that stands on its own and is not tied to this notion of a combined dispatch.

Chairman Coutu didn't care how they approached it. I know from my part in the process I don't mind continuing working with Selectman Maddox on the manpower portion of it. We had started down that road. We told them that we would get back to them when we had something a little more concrete. I think it's a discussion that needs to take place with the Fire Chief, the Police Chief, Selectman Maddox and I, and the Town Administrator. It has its own complexities that we're going to have to deal with. We have 2 different unions. Two different bodies of people and how do we approach them together.

Selectman Maddox thought that Selectman Luszey has a point but I think that I guess we're going to go back to Selectman Brucker who 3 weeks ago came in and changed her vote based on some information that she received. I think we should all receive that information because maybe we'll all change our mind about how we're going to do both or either of those parts. She had said to the Budget Committee that we were going to go a different way from some plan that she had heard that I don't believe the entire Board has heard. I think the first step should be that the two Chiefs come in and give whatever presentation they gave to Selectman Brucker to all of us so that we know that if we're going to chase microwave first before we even talk about personnel or whatever we're going to do, we're not spinning our wheels as trying to do one part of it when there's some other pieces to it I think. I was kind of blindsided by your change of heart and from information that I do not have, I would like us to put that on the table Mr. Chairman before we do anything else with combined dispatch.

Chairman Coutu was not here to defend what Mrs. Brucker did. She surprised me as much as she surprised you. Except that she extended me a courtesy call and asked me what the procedure was, I extended it to her. My understanding was that Mrs. Brucker, obviously she's newly elected. This is her first term. She was not involved with the initial discussions of how we were going to get to combined dispatch. She reached out, I believe, to the Fire Chief and perhaps the Police Chief both to try to assimilate some information that she could have a more introspective approach on or idea on how we're going to go about doing this. I was as surprised as you when I heard her say to the Budget Committee, because as you know I watch all these meetings and you were there. She said microwaves first and I said, "What?" This is all new to me. I think that in all fairness to Mrs. Brucker, and she's a big girl she can speak for herself, I think that she was inundated with a lot of information. I think she might have been a little overwhelmed with a lot of information just like I was and I admitted that to Selectman Luszey and said Selectman Luszey please do me a favor and take my position because you know more about the technical aspects of all of this equipment. I don't. I can get snowed very easily and that's not the way to approach this just to say yes to appease people. You should have people work at what you have a much better knowledge of the equipment. I've heard you talk to me many times that kind of snowed me about a lot of things. I'm only kidding. You've talked to me many times and we've had these discussions. I'm impressed with your knowledge o all of these things.

Chairman Coutu didn't think that Mrs. Brucker was given a detailed plan on how to approach it. I think it was an observation she made as a result of hearing certain things. There was so much discussion at the time about microwaves, I'm guessing she thought that was in the forefront because that's not the information I'm getting. I think it's going to cloud the issue to say well she needs to come back to us with all the information. I'm sure she didn't take a tape recorder and doesn't remember word from word everything that was said. I think we still need, you and Selectman Luszey on your approach, are still going to have need to sit down with the Police Chief and the Fire Chief and work this all out. I don't think it matters that whether Mr. Brucker has different information. Once you're able to put this plan together and you can come back with the detail and analysis of what the need is, what the cost is going to be, and what equipment is going to be needed, then we'll all have a

clear understanding of whether or not we were going to support this approach of combining dispatch. You don't seem to be happy with that. I just don't want to see Mrs. Brucker be put on the spot. I don't think she came in with...Selectman Maddox said she's a Selectman. She came in and said to the Budget Committee what she thought was going to happen and not what we had voted. I'm just asking not for her to present it but for the people that presented it to her to present it to all of us so that we don't have 2 people going in one direction and 3 others going in other directions.

Chairman Coutu thought we were trying to set the direction which was to have you and Selectman Luszey to initiate this plan now...Selectman Maddox said you and I were trying to do that and it got pulled out from underneath. I'm just trying to say on television, in public explain to everybody what it is that we're doing or what the new plan is so that we can start from there. Chairman Coutu was hoping that this was what you and Selectman Luszey would come up with - the new plan. You don't have to go out and tell all the people what the plan is when we haven't worked out the plan. That's what was missing. That's why it is where it is today. That plan was missing. All we had was a piece of paper that said next spring we're going to put up this tower, maybe next fall we're going to do this, we might put this equipment in in August. That's not a plan, that's pot shitting it. I wasn't happy. I thought I was going to get a little more detailed than what was presented to me and that's why. I worked with you and I voted no on it because it was not a plan, it looked like an idea, a sketch, a rough draft is what it looked like to me. It was a bunch of sentences saying we could do this, this, and this but there's no vision of what we were going to get for the money.

Selectman Maddox said it appeared that there was a plan that was presented to...Selectman Luszey said no. Chairman Coutu asked Selectman Luszey if he was in the meeting with Selectman Brucker. Selectman Luszey said he was and there were no plans. The last name that when we were here, I brought you the information. I had a copy of it and you have a copy of it today. It's a couple of pictures that show microwave towers here and there. It shows what fiber lines exist. What copper lines...that is not a plan of combining dispatch. That's why I am asking tonight to be very clear about what is going on here. I spoke to it the last time. There's 3 elements to this. There is the hardware and the communications piece. If we're going to go and do something, it needs to be addressed. That should and can stand all on its own whether we combine the dispatchers or not. There's the software element that must be addressed to do this. Then there is the organizational piece that there is nothing really that outlines how you're going to bring those two separate units together and that needs to be done in a very planful and deliberate manner. It's not through buying hardware and software that you're going to make that organizational change. That's a discussion this Board needs to have and have a very deliberate plan on how that gets executed. That's why I ask that we break this into two elements. The infrastructure piece that will support a combined dispatch should we go that direction or not. There are needs that exist today as I explained at our last meeting, we are operating with unsupported and obsolete equipment that should it break in the near future, i.e. 2 or 3 years out, we will not be able to operate. That needs to be addressed whether we combine dispatch or not. I don't know how much clearer I can be.

Selectman Maddox said if we're not going to do combined dispatch Mr. Chairman - if the will of the Board is not there to put those 2 groups together, that changes the whole complexity of the project. You don't have to move digitizers. You don't have to have some of the equipment that was told to us originally. Again, I'm just trying to not duplicate our efforts that we just did over the last year. Chairman Coutu asked did you get a message from this Board other than Selectman Nadeau who doesn't wish to discuss this any further and will not be any part of voting for combined dispatch and that's the way he felt at the time that the rest of us were against combining dispatch. I think there's a consensus here amongst the majority of us if we can put a plan together, we will support combined dispatch. I want to see the final cost. I want to see that both teams are in agreement, and I want to see that we're buying the right equipment to make it happen. I don't think that's too much to ask. I think it's the right approach. Selectman Maddox said the personnel issue is something we're going to address probably sooner rather than later. Chairman Coutu said he was willing to sit in with you on because we both represent each of those unions. I think it would be unfair to ask other Selectmen to do that. Sooner rather than later is as good...because if that can't work, then we have other decisions we may have to make depending if we're going to pursue this even further. We can arrange meetings any Monday or Friday. I'm available. If I have to make a couple of afternoons or whatever we have to accommodate the union reps. as well. I'm all for that and we had told them that we would do this inclusively with the unions and I know that we both want to...Selectman Maddox didn't want to go off and do something on hardware. Even though its 3 parts if we're not going to support combined dispatch.

Chairman Coutu said the vote right now I would say is 4 to 1 and Selectman Nadeau might be convinced if we can provide him with a clean package. Don't say no Ben. We'll talk about it later. Selectman Nadeau said we can talk about it until...

Selectman Brucker - Selectman Brucker was sorry she got in the middle of all of that. I made an assumption the evening of the vote that this was already planned out and that everybody knew what they were doing before we were voting. I changed my vote because I learned that that was not the case. That's my reason. I certainly do support it. I wouldn't have jumped in with two feet to begin with if I didn't support it. That's what I'll say about that.

Conservation Commission - we met last night and The Friends of Musquash Trail are forming a group. They are going to be meeting August 23 for an informational meeting and then they're looking towards 2 work days. There's quite a bit of work to do on the trail. So September 15th and October 20th are potential work dates.

The NRPC is going to be helping with GIS mapping. They're willing to map walking, biking, sidewalks, ATV trails, and they're going to help us with Musquash.

If you're curious about New England Cottontails, Selectman Brucker said they are losing their numbers. If you see one, call me. Chairman Coutu asked if they were an endangered species. Selectman Brucker said it's not endangered yet but they...Chairman Coutu said he has them all over his yard. Do you want to come and get them? That's why the hawks are living in my trees now. It's the hawks that are doing it. It's survival. Selectman Brucker asked Chairman Coutu if he was sure they were Cottontails. They have white tails. Chairman Coutu said yes they have white tails and they're multiplying like most rabbits do - in great numbers and they're in my yard.

Selectman Nadeau - I just wanted to tell everybody that the Highway Department is still working on their road projects for the spring and summer. It seems that they are working on Webster Street or they finished up on Webster Street. Just be aware that they're out there working on the roads. Expect delays.

Selectman Maddox - I stole my own thunder by saying the recycling is going well according to the guy who's picking it up. Let's see if we can keep that moving forward.

Second not this meeting but the next meeting of the Planning Board, we will be having that discussion about the south end. Mr. Burns was kind enough and he's going to put out traffic counts. So we're trying to do our part as the town. I know that I've told you that the developer wanted us to kick in money and this Board rightly said no thank you. We can do some things. So they're going to do some traffic counts on the highway side, maybe some speed from the police and accident counts. NRPC, again, said they would help whenever they have their traffic modeling. We can kick in some portion of this project. Where it's going to go Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure. Again, I think it's going to be enlightening to see the numbers that are going to come out of...again, I've been doing more research if you would on Dracut Road. The number of cars going at the speeds that they're going is quite amazing on Dracut Road. This at the very least will bring that to focus.

Last, Selectman Maddox said they had people come in tonight frustrated by items. I would hope that they had called the police, talked with the Chief at the level that they were having an issue with. We'll try to help them but when they show up...again public input is great because we hear input from our citizens. Rarely do we have any answers for them because we didn't know it was coming. There are department heads, the Town Administrator that they could call and least start the ball rolling so that we could have more information before us. I'm sure that again Merrill Park I thought was absolutely gorgeous. Most towns would kill to have a park right on a good size river. I think it's just one of those cases where it has been forgotten and this maybe the kick in the pants that needs to get it revitalized. That's all I have this evening.

Selectman Coutu - Just to echo that, Chairman Coutu said we made a commitment to these people. We're going to hold to that commitment. We're going to stay on top of it. I think that the idea of energizing people to adopt the area and work in there is a great idea. Hopefully we can work with these people rather than shuttering. We can restore it with a little bit of enforcement in that neighborhood to discourage these kids from hanging out there. We've known for a couple of years that there were some problems in the later evening with kids going down there and hanging out for drug use and what not. Hopefully now this has come to light. It's a lot more serious than I think that we all thought. Hopefully we'll all get to see it and we'll take some action.

The only other thing I have to say is that this coming Monday, Selectman Nadeau I know that you don't fancy the game of golf, but Chairman Coutu does know you like the after party and I'm sure I'll see you there is the Zach Tompkins annual golf tournament this Monday at 11:30 a.m. at Sky Meadow Country Club in Nashua. My team will be there trying to win a golf ball or something. We're so lousy every year. This year we kind of padded the team. So I think we're going to play well. Afterwards, they have a social which I believe begins at 6:30. There's a casino night. You can buy in right up front. It's not for money. It's for prizes. Selectman Nadeau I know is always at all of those events. He always goes to the Zach Tompkins fundraising affairs that they have. This is our largest one every year. We raised a considerable amount of money and, again, this year it looks like we're going to have a great crowd. I'm looking forward to playing this coming Monday in the 90° heat.

Selectman Maddox wanted to update the Board on the field. I wanted to thank the Town Administrator and the Town Engineer for doing some paperwork. I keep saying government is glacial and they love to prove me right. It is moving forward. The remediation numbers are high. The EPA's budget number was kind of over shot and the State stepped in and said they had some money. We had to fill out the magic forms. Again, kudos to the Town Administrator and the Town Engineer. They got that done. We got it delivered to them in time and hopefully in the next few months we will have an answer to whether this is going to be remediated on site, buried underground under the parking lot, and cleaned up once and for all. It's been a long arduous program for all those waiting to put a football field up there. Until the asbestos was remediated, it made no sense. It is moving and again, it is moving at fast glacial speed for government type work. Thank you sir. Chairman Coutu said it's a step above stop with DOT. I'm not going to knock them. We're making progress. I expected to be sitting in that field last October for opening game. It looks like it's going to be at least a couple more Octobers before that takes place. I know you're on top of it and I know that the Zach team - everyone is working together. We're very fortunate Selectman Maddox with the people that we have - the professionals - that we have working with us to help us get this through. Sooner rather than later but we'll take a little later as long as it's a lot faster speed than what it's been going at. We've made some progress.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to enter Nonpublic Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee; and RSA 91-A:2 (a) Strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining, carried 5-0 by roll call.

Chairman Coutu stated that Nonpublic Session is being entered at 8:23 p.m., thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public is asked to leave the room.

Chairman Coutu said open session is being entered at 8:39 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to hire Matthew Costa of Windham, NH at a rate of \$17.67 per hour (Grade VIII, Step Minimum) effective July 29, 2012 and Scott Fuller of Pelham, NH at a rate of \$17.67 per hour (Grade VIII, Step Minimum) effective September 30, 2012, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to approve the time extension request for the Step 3 Highway Union Grievance (John Dowgos), carried 5-0.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Recorded by HGTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Roger E. Coutu, Chairman

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