

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

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Coutu the meeting of April 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 (arrived late at 7:50 p.m.); Donna Graham, Executive Assistant; Jim Michaud, Assistant Assessor; Kevin Burns, Road Agent; Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director; Dave Yates, Recreation Director

4. PUBLIC INPUT - NONE
5. NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

- A. Resignation of Nancy Brucker as a member from the Conservation Commission

Chairman Coutu indicated that the Board needed to accept the resignation to the Conservation Commission, an appointment which we made prior to Selectman Brucker being elected to the Board of Selectmen. At her request, she now serves as a Selectman Liaison to the Conservation Commission. Nancy for that one meeting you attended, thank you very much. I know that you will serve faithfully as a Conservation Liaison for this Board and advise us on all matters that should come before us.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to accept the resignation of Nancy Brucker as a member of the Conservation Commission, carried 5-0.

- B. Conservation Commission - (4 vacancies, 1 member term to expire 12/31/14; 1 alternate term to expire 12/31/12; 1 alternate to expire 12/31/13; 1 alternate to expire 12/31/14)

Timothy Boland - 2 Megan Drive.

Chairman Coutu asked if anyone had any questions. I'll start it off Tim. You certainly are known to most of us. You served honorably as a member of the Budget Committee for several years. Selectman Nadeau, you, and I have socialized. So we know that your personal interest in the Town and your willingness to serve. Why don't you tell us the reason why you selected those two committees?

Mr. Boland indicated that he had been approached by Selectman Maddox. It's been roughly 3 ½ since I've served on a committee and I was looking forward to getting back into it. He approached me with these 2 ideas. I'd like to get back into serving the town. It seems like a good fit.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Timothy Boland as a member to the Conservation Commission with a term to expire 12/31/2014, carried 5-0.

- C. Energy Committee - (2 vacancies, 2 member terms to expire 12/31/13)

Timothy Boland

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Timothy Boland as a member to the Energy Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2014, carried 5-0.

Chairman Coutu welcomed Mr. Boland back. I'm looking forward to working with you. Mrs. Brucker will be the Liaison and Selectman Nadeau is the Energy Committee Liaison.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman Coutu asked if any Board member wished to remove any item for separate consideration.

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

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Veteran Tax Credit - Map 216, Lot 014, Sub 086, w/recommendation to approve
- 2) Elderly Exemption - Map 185, Lot 084, w/recommendation to approve
- 3) 2011 Tax Abatement - Map 182, Lots 124 & 125, w/recommendation to deny
- 4) 2011 Tax Abatement - Map 191, Lot 132, w/recommendation to deny
- 5) 2011 Tax Abatement - Map 147, Lot 16, w/recommendation to deny

B. Water/Sewer Items - NONE

C. Licenses & Permits

- 1) Raffle Permit by Jay O'Halloran Memorial Scholarship Fun

D. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the March 12, 2012 meeting

E. Calendar

04/11 7:00 Planning Board - Buxton CD Meeting Room  
04/11 7:00 Benson Park - Landscape Cte - BOS Meeting Room  
04/12 5:00 Sewer Utility Committee - BOS Meeting Room  
04/12 7:30 Budget Cte - Special Meeting - BOS Meeting Room  
04/12 7:30 Zoning Board of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room  
04/16 7:00 Energy Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room  
04/17 7:00 Cable Utility Cte - BOS Meeting Room  
04/18 5:00 Water Utility Cte - BOS Meeting Room  
04/18 7:00 Council on Aging - Buxton CD Meeting Room  
04/19 7:30 Budget Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room  
04/19 7:00 Benson Park Cte - BOS Meeting Room  
04/24 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room  
04/25 7:00 Planning Board of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room  
04/25 7:00 Benson Park - Landscape Cte - BOS Meeting Room  
04/26 7:30 Zoning Board of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room  
04/30 7:00 Recycling Cte - BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on March 27, 2012

- 1) Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to authorize the Fire Chief to hire John J. O'Brien to the position of Deputy Fire Chief of Support Services within the Fire Department. This assignment will be an exempt position and in accordance with the Police, Fire and Town Supervisors Association Contract, with an annual salary of \$80,501 Step 3 and then to Step 4 at the completion of probation, effective June 3, 2012 as recommended by the Fire Chief, carried 4-1. Selectman Maddox in opposition.
- 2) Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to hire Matthew Keller as the Babe Ruth Baseball Director for the fee of \$600 effective March 23, 2012; Kimberly Buccarelli as Summer Program Director for the fee of \$5,500 effective June 1, 2012; Cindy Holton as Ladies League Softball Director for the fee of \$600 effective March 28, 2012; and Robert Wesson as Men's League Softball Director for the fee of \$600 effective March 28, 2012, carried 5-0.
- 3) Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to hire Elizabeth Holt as an Intermittent or Floating Employee for the Town of Hudson, effective April 8, 2012 at a rate of \$15.37 per hour, carried 5-0.
- 4) Motion to adjourn at 12:28 a.m. by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, carried 5-0.

B. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on April 3, 2012

- 1) Motion to adjourn at 10:25 p.m. by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, carried 5-0.

C. RFQs for Senior Center

Chairman Coutu recognized Selectman Luszey.

As you know, Selectman Luszey indicated that they've been working these past few months toward getting the approval of an architect to do up the construction plan for the proposed senior center which the voters this past March approved. The Warrant Article that set an additional \$300,000 aside. With that, I'd like to ask the Town Engineer to come up and give us a little rundown on the vetting process that they went through with a number of respondents to the RFQ.

Town Engineer Gary Webster indicated that advertised for architects in the Union Leader and we ended up with 12. I did send a couple of personal ones out to some local architects in Nashua. Obviously there was nobody in Hudson that does this type of work. We evaluated and got the selection down to 4. You have notes of what's in there. The selection committee was Ken Massey, Richard Tassi, Jim McIntosh, and Bernie Manor. I asked him to come on. I did not do the interview personally because I knew what the prices were of each architect. I did run the meetings the first day. We had some close votes there. One of the things was a 2-2 tie and in justifying the difference between Barker Architects and WarrenStreet was quite a bit of difference. They could come up with why they would spend that extra money and what reasoning. I would not come to this Board asking for that extra money. They had a meeting. I was the Chairman as Mr. Luszey couldn't make it. We voted WarrenStreet as the architect for doing the senior center site plan and so forth. That night I e-mailed them and the next day he sent these plans up that you have in front of you. That's how quickly he responded. I do have the draft contract in front of me. I just haven't had the time to go over it. I think what we're asking tonight or the subcommittee I'm representing them asking to approve WarrenStreet Architects for the design of the senior center/HCTV building. Like I said, I sent all this out to everybody but I haven't heard anything back from anybody about the contract and any comments. I sent that out 2 week ago.

Chairman Coutu thought one of the reasons why, and I can't speak for the Board, but we authorized a vetting process. Selectman Luszey and Selectman Maddox both serve on the committee and may not have been involved in the vetting process, but they serve on the committee. They've been our watchdogs. I was hoping to rely on comments from both of you as to the recommended architect and then we might have some questions to follow.

Selectman Luszey said when they began this process, I intentionally kept myself out of the interview group before the architects so that I could look at the information as a Board of Selectmen member at the same time you folks are. Also I was relying on the expertise of the Town Engineer as well as that of Bernie Manor who has done numerous projects for this town in terms of managing projects like this from the schools, to the library, and others. WarrenStreet, and I have talked with the Town Engineer, and I am in full agreement. Since this is a town project, it's not a private club if you will or a private organization activity. The taxpayers are looking for us to ensure that we get the absolute most out their dollars. I believe WarrenStreet met all of the criteria that we put forth in a requirements document. We sent out, I believe, what I would consider a very detailed list of requirements that the Building Committee came up with and having reviewed some of that here included in that list was some of the Board of Selectmen's concerns. Also, it falls within the parameter of a building in the \$1.5 million range. With that, I am in full agreement with the selection committee's selection of WarrenStreet as the architect to go forward.

Selectman Maddox is almost going to echo what Selectman Luszey said. I kind of stepped back and let some people that have a little bit more expertise. Just by happenstance, I just went into one of the interviews and it happened to be WarrenStreet. Being the shy diminutive person that I am, I asked him about the little snafu with the roof. He gave me a befuddled answer but we moved on. I guess based on the recommendation of that committee Mr. Chairman, I think obviously that they were trying to go as fast as they could on the train station and they hired people that weren't local - let's see if we can fix that. They said the next time through this wouldn't go the same way anyway. It's going to be out to bid. So it won't be such an issue. They obviously are responsive. Mr. Webster has had good luck with them. Again, I think that this is the group for \$25,000 less than the nearest. Obviously being a cheap Selectman and, again, spreads the money that we need to spend later on other things other than just a bunch of drawings. I'm hoping that, again, they've already pulled together some items that we can start talking about if this is the group to go with Mr. Chairman.

The only comment Chairman Coutu is going to make is I had made some notes and I was primarily concerned with the vetting process and the numerical assignment to some sort of a score sheet. I'm not a big fan of that. I had alluded to that in a previous occasion. You've allayed all of my fears Selectman Luszey when you told me and you Selectman Maddox when you affirmed the statements that he was making. When you named the members of the committee who were doing the vetting process, and I certainly appreciate sitting here both of you not fully participating in this process so that we can make this decision independent of anything we may have interpreted by being there or misconstrued that we had a panel of 4 people who vetted these bids and these architectural firms and quite pleased with the process.

Chairman Coutu asked if there was anything Selectman Brucker or Selectman Nadeau wished to ask or add relative to this presentation. Selectman Nadeau said no. He's read it over. It looks good. Selectman Brucker indicated she read it as well and I think that part is fine. Are we going to discuss the drawings or is that for another meeting?

Chairman Coutu said it was for another meeting. This is just an architectural rendering of what it would look like. It's a dual story. Upstairs will be the senior. Downstairs will be the cable television studio.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to authorize the Senior/HCTV Building Committee to engage the firm of WarrenStreet Architects to complete the engineered topographical site drawing for a cost not to exceed twenty four thousand nine hundred and five dollars (\$24,905.00), carried 5-0.

Chairman Coutu asked why are we spending \$50,000 and another \$25,000. Selectman Maddox indicated that one is for the site work.

At the meeting with the committee, Mr. Webster said it was suggested by one of the members that we should have a topo, accurate utility and so forth done. They asked me to get a price from WarrenStreet to do that work, which included in your memo what the amount was for doing it. They have to come down. They want an actual survey on all the topo. I'm not the controlling member so that's what they wanted and that's what I pursued what they voted on that night.

That's Chairman Coutu's question. So a member of the vetting committee, one of four members of the public who was selected to vet this made a suggestion that we ought to do this and its going to cost us \$50,000 because one member suggested that. That needs to be explained to me.

Mr. Webster indicated that \$50,000 is doing the architectural drawings, the bid documents ready to go out to bid and the meetings with the committee. That's what the \$50,000 is. The \$24,000 is a site plan doing on site topo for the site plan. It will produce a site plan and all the information that goes with the topo - finish grades and everything looking for a site plan. They voted on it as a committee.

Selectman Luszey indicated we should only approve the \$50,000 for the drawings. That's all we should be approving tonight. Unless this Board agree that we just want...Chairman Coutu indicated that we just approved the \$24,905.000

To have them do an accurate design, Selectman Maddox indicated that you have to know what the topos are of that space. Mr. Webster did a preliminary plan of that. Number two, I'm sure the State's going to want something to delineate where this is actually going to go. We still have to do utilities. There's a whole bunch of things that need to be done. We can split this up and do the design, but I think some of the things they're going to end up having to do are going to be tied to this site plan - how the driveway is going to lead into it, and all of the things that are going to have to be on the site plan. If you design a building and then say okay go make it fit on the site, that's a lot harder than doing a layout of what that topographical land looks like and then designing a building to it. We can ask them to design the building but if they don't have the topos, again, there's some question as to grades and how that exactly is going to work. I think this is money that's going to have to be spent we're just doing it now rather than waiting until after a building is designed and then trying to jury rig them to fit Sir.

Selectman Brucker asked if they were approving this this evening. Selectman Luszey indicated that they have \$150,000 available to us for this work.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to authorize the Senior/HCTV Building Committee to engage the firm of WarrenStreet Architects to design the Senior/HCTV Facility at a cost not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000); and further to authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the contract with WarrenStreet Architects, carried 5-0.

Chairman Coutu thanked Mr. Webster. I know that you spent a considerable amount of time putting this together to a successful conclusion and I appreciate it. I'm sure the seniors in our community are going to be very pleased that we are making progress.

Just a point of information for your Chairman Coutu. Mr. Webster stated that he finally sent the contract to the State for the train station today. The CMAQ got approved from the State yesterday afternoon. That's what I've been working on. Then I'll put the effort into this tomorrow with the contract. Thank you very much and I'll be back with a bunch of contracts.

Selectman Luszey indicated that what we've done tonight is actually put in motion the remainder of the schedule that we had put forward a number of months ago, which means that we will be coming back to this Board in the late August early September with the full package ready for the budget pass of 2014.

The only concern Chairman Coutu had when he looked at the proposed itinerary of progress for it was that we have sufficient time because we're going to be getting down to the nitty gritty because we'll have the final number by that time. We have plenty of time between then and the submittal for budget consideration for detail discussion on the

contract. It's a sizable commitment on our part and obviously we want to look at the financing plans and proposals. You're satisfied that we can meet that objection.

Selectman Luszey's plan is we're actually expected to have a "first pass draft" of all this stuff in the mid to late June time frame. I can bring it here and we can start that conversation then. Chairman Coutu wants to get this aired so the public knows the total detail and involvement.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Request to use and waive the fee for the Community Center for Hudson Lions Club scholarship dinner for Alvirne High School

Chairman Coutu said that this is not the first time they've come before this Board with such a request. I assume and certainly would hope that they are aware of the process of cleaning up after they use the facility and we've granted it in the past. What is the wish of the Board?

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to approve the use and waive the fee for the Community Center for the Hudson Lions Club on June 4, 2012 for the scholarship dinner for Alvirne High School.

As usual, Selectman Nadeau indicated that they've taken very good care of the building. I've been there in the past. I will be there again this year to give out some scholarships. I think they'll do just fine this year.

Chairman Coutu said they give out scholarships for Alvirne High School.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

- B. Capital Reserve Fund for Property Reassessment - Funding

Chairman Coutu recognized Assistant Assessor Jim Michaud. He read in detail as I'm sure other members have your suggestions and requests. Could you give us a general overview of this presentation please?

What Mr. Michaud is asking the Board to consider by June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year is to place an allocation of funding, up to \$30,000, in the existing Capital Reserve Fund for property re-evaluation. This is really about planning for the next reassessment after the 2012 reassessment, which has not been completed yet. It won't be completed for the summer. I think we know that market value can change quite rapidly and protecting our taxpayers assessments and keeping them close to market value close to that State standard, which is between 90 and 110 percent, is a worthy goal. I'm sure that there will be other competing interests that will seek other appropriations of year end funds. While April 10<sup>th</sup> might be a little bit early to make the decision on this either way, I just wanted to start the Board off on thinking about this. We've identified maybe up to \$20,000 for the end of this fiscal year within the assessing budget. I think I'm laying out a rationale within the memo for why I feel it's prudent on two major fronts for more frequent reassessments than once every 5 years. Many communities throughout the State do this. While we are only required by State law and Constitution to do it once every 5 years, we certainly have gotten into situations in the past where we've had elevated abatement overlay accounts because our ratio has gotten so far out of whack. It doesn't mean that we're being inequitable to the taxpayers. You can equitably be at 120 percent and you can equitably be at 80 percent as long as everybody is right around that same percentage. I think public perception is a big deal. The public perceives that when you are significantly above 100 percent, they tend to take a less than kind view to funding requests at Town Meeting. Those two kind of go together. We have an abatement overlay, say argument within the memo, and then we also have a public perception argument within the memo.

Mr. Michaud indicated that he can't crystal ball what's going to happen within the next year or two or three years, but if we don't have the funding in the account to do a reassessment within the next 2 to 3 years, then the Board won't have that option to choose. This isn't a decision to do a reassessment in 2014/2015; this is a decision at some point before the end of the fiscal year to place some amount of additional funding in there.

If Chairman Coutu were to capstate this, and correct me if I'm wrong, based on our capital reserve commitment each year to the reassessment pool money, we are on target to do it every 5 years and have sufficient funds in the account. What you're asking us to do is to move it up to 3 years which would mean that we would have to add additional monies because we won't have enough at the end of the 3 year cycle is we were to agree to do this every 3 years.

Mr. Michaud said yes - to give you the option to do it within 2 to 3 years and not make the decision today to do it in 2 to 3 years. That's my only qualifier.

For Selectman Luszey, this is like a 5/22 situation. We hear every day from property owners that their assessed value is out of skew with the market value. What I'm hearing is we want to take monies that are appropriated through taxes and put it in an account so that we can reassess the town for all the properties instead of every 5 years - every 2 years or so which means in essence if we didn't put that money into that account, we could have given it back to the taxpayers to reduce their tax rate. I'm not sure I'm in favor of bringing this in to 2 ½ to 3 years when \$30,000 is roughly a penny on the tax rate. It's a full cent for the homeowner. I think we need to be extremely sensitive to what we're doing with the taxes that we're collecting today.

From Chairman Coutu's perspective, I understand their perception argument but what's difficult for me, I understand and we understand because we are the municipal managers in essence. We're the Board of Directors for this community. Whether your assessment goes up or down, you're still going to pay the same in taxes. We need X number of dollars to fund the municipality. The perception is they're telling me my house is worth \$250,000 and I can't get more than \$200,000. I'm being over assessed by \$50,000. If everybody's assessment drops, whatever the ratio, the tax rate goes up to be able to collect the amount of money we need to run the municipal government whether it's on our side, the school side, or the county side. We still have to balance the budget at the end of the year. It's difficult but I agree with you. We are in a catch 22. The money requested does represent a hair over a penny on a thousand on the tax rate.

Selectman Maddox said it's not even half a Tahoe. So I think we need to be prudent here. Mr. Michaud is not asking to do the assessment; he is simply saying we should put this money aside if at the end of the year. He's just bringing us a highlight reel if you would of saying what we should be looking at. I agree, I don't want to reassess and I am hoping Mr. Chairman that the 2012 assessment from there will go up. Not many people call up and say you need to raise the value of my house. Again in 5 years when this thing really becomes in place, the Board of Selectmen at that time may decide not to do it. At least taking this information and saying we have \$20,000 that may be able to be used is a reasonable informational. It is interesting to see that if the goal is 100 percent in 37 years, it's only been hit once. So it's a moving target. I would hope that we would at least keep this in the back of our thoughts for the end of the year and be able to say let's put it in there because we haven't spent it.

Selectman Luszey indicated that all of these Capital Reserves, and I hear what you're saying, but there's a bunch of stuff that we're going to be spending or be requesting to spend surplus money on and we keep doing that. For me to put \$30,000 a year away in an account that we may or may not ever use I don't think is a prudent thing given that we have critical infrastructure needs that needs to be addressed that's public safety related. This is a real nice to have. It's not a real critical item that we need to do because we already fund a 5-year reassessment.

Mr. Michaud said he recognized your comments and I respect your comments both of you. This isn't a request to fund \$30,000 every year. This is a one-time in front of you, unless I misheard you and if I did I apologize, it's a request to potentially allocate at \$30,000 for the end of this fiscal year. Then we'll have another discussion this fall on how much we want to budget for a reserve. So this is not a \$30,000 a year commitment is what I'm asking for. Secondly, and I will ask the Finance Director this and maybe this will be helpful for the Board in the future, I've been here 16 plus years. Some of our highest abatement overlay years occurred when our assessment ratio was the lowest and that goes to my abatement overlay issue. You'll be adding money, in my opinion because I've been through a couple of these cycles, you'll be adding money to the abatement overlay to cover abatements when our ratio goes down because commercial industrial property does not change it historically at the same rate as residential property. So the ratio ends up working against us. Right now, the ratio is actually working for us because we're above 100 percent when we get involved in tax abatement discussions like commercial industrial property. I can track back. Back in 1995 and 1996 when I first got here, we had a check for over half a million dollars to Lockheed Sanders was the name at the time. That in part was because we were not on a cycle of maintaining frequent updates. Admittedly that was before the Sorrell decision. Before the State actually started enforcing them once every 5 years. It wasn't that long ago that market value was right here and it didn't take that long to tank pretty quickly. It took less than 5 years for that to occur. Our assessments represent the tax base that funds the public service infrastructure that folks are thinking about. It's not sexy. It's not dynamic but my goodness if we don't get it right at least every few years, then in the eyes of the public its back to that perception issue. I'd love to do it for free. I wish I could tell you it was free but it's not.

Chairman Coutu said we've been doing our re-assessment every 5 years correct. Mr. Michaud stated our historical average since the Sorrell decision is once every 2.75 years. Chairman Coutu said ours, the Town of Hudson since the decision. Mr. Michaud said since 2001. Prior to the decision is the last century. Literally it is last century in terms of the way the State has approached property assessments - the legislative level - the judicial level and the executive level. Before there was no standard for what communities would reassess...Chairman Coutu said until the Sorrell decision when the State mandated minimal once every 5 years. Mr. Michaud said we went from 68 to 78 to 91 to 02.

Relative to the overlay when Chairman Coutu went through the budgets to actual, which we're going to be going through later on, that line looked relatively healthy. Do we have a substandard number of cases that are still pending

that could affect that line item that decisions would be resultant in this fiscal year? Mr. Michaud said no. I'm talking about a real estate market atmosphere in 2013 and 2014 or even 2015 that may be substantially different than today. I anticipate that if the ratio drops, we hit 100 percent for this market and we're not at the bottom of the market but we're pretty close to the bottom of the market. I think we're a little bit above where the bottom was and some will disagree. If we hit 100 percent and the market recovers, now we're going to be hitting 90, 80, 67 and potentially be back where we were before we did the 2002 reval. That is my concern on the abatement overlay account is that that ratio dropping favors commercial industrial tax reps. coming in and poaching our overlay account or the court system saying you'll pay it regardless. I guess my point is I can't crystal ball it. I anticipate we're going to pay one way or the other. We're either going to pay because we want to keep our assessments; we want to plan for the future; and we want to keep our assessments close to market value or we'll plan within the August time frame of when we set the tax rate and we have to increase our overlay account.

In light of the concerns that were expressed, Chairman Coutu would suspect that it would be - and I haven't heard from this side of the room - but I would suspect that we would want to put this off until we get near the end of the fiscal year so that we can look at what our unexpended funds are and what the critical needs of the community are first. We're going to table it. We're not just going to say no out of hand. I would suspect that that's the wish of the Board at this point. We'll ask the Town Administrator to bring this item back or you can remind him to bring this back at the beginning of June I would believe we start looking at that to see where we're going to go at the end of June with any unexpended funds that we may have.

Mr. Michaud appreciated that and by no means was I trying to - I think I acknowledged within my own memo that there will be other competing things that are coming up. It's not an easy subject sometimes.

Chairman Coutu said they understand. We certainly appreciate how the climate has change significantly especially when it comes to property values.

Mr. Michaud said it's easier for me to do a reassessment once every 5 years. The easy thing is to not come in here tonight and do this. I'm doing the harder thing, which is going to cause more work but which I think is worthwhile. Chairman Coutu said they appreciate it and we'll table it for now. Thank you Mr. Michaud.

#### C. Bid Recommendation - Replacement of Front End Loader

Chairman Coutu recognized Road Agent Kevin Burns.

Good evening. As you may or may not be aware, Mr. Burns said he received funding to replace our 1984 Caterpillar front-end loader. Funding was in the amount for \$44,000 for a 5-year lease purchase. I prepared detailed bid specifications and it is my recommendation to accept the lowest bid that meets those specifications, which is from Milton Caterpillar for \$35,7091.70 per year.

Chairman Coutu indicated he had a question. I'm not one to go into tons of detail but when I read this bid recommendation and I look at the amount submitted by Milton Caterpillar versus Chadwick-BaRoss, Inc., my interpretation of what I read was that their bid was not complete. What specifically does that mean "it was not complete"? What was the missing component that excluded them from your consideration?

Mr. Burns said detailed bid specifications is probably 13 pages with maybe 25 items per page that they just totally overlooked. The bid is entirely blank.

Chairman Coutu said as Selectman Maddox says, "If they're not going to show up, why should we be interested if they're not going to fill out the form properly." Mr. Burns said they gave me nothing. They gave me one page and said we're giving you a 5-year warranty but not telling me what the warranty covers. Basically I was talking to someone the other day about it and I said it's like that all game show Let's Make A Deal. You give me \$182,000 and I'll show you what's behind door number 3 because I don't know what's behind door number 3.

Chairman Coutu did that for the sake of transparency. Someone later might look at this document and say they didn't go with the lowest bidder. Now we know why. As Selectman Maddox said, "If they can't fill out the forms right, what are you going to get for a product." Certainly we are all familiar with Caterpillar, its success and longevity. Any questions from the members of the Board? Seeing none if you so agree, I'll entertain a motion.

*Motion by Selectman Brucker, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to award the bid to Milton Caterpillar, the lowest bidder that meets the bid specifications, for a replacement front end loader at the net bid price of \$167,900 plus interest for a five-year lease purchase as recommended by the Road Agent and the Finance Director, carried 5-0.*

#### D. Loyalty Day Award

Chairman Coutu indicated that the Town Administrator Steve Malizia is not here but will be here shortly. The VFW Post 5791 Loyalty Day Award Nominations are going to be held and each year it is recommended that a Town employee be nominated. The Finance Director is here if you don't mind. Ms. Carpentier would you come up and explain to us the nomination because it is one of your employees. Someone I'm very familiar with.

Ms. Carpentier said she was only recommending Kathy as the Town person. I guess they also do a police and a fire. For the Town Hall, the Town Administrator and I would like to nominate Kathy Wilson. She's been a 16 year employee of the Town. She started out part time as a secretary to the Finance Department and has had many roles throughout her tenure here. Most recently she's working for the Finance Department, does a lot of benefit administration, and she's also the Welfare Administrator for the Town. She is a great employee. She's a wealth of knowledge. She is somebody I like to say has a lot of tribal knowledge. I am asking the Board to accept my nomination for her.

Gentlemen, Chairman Coutu said we are all aware of and especially you Selectman Nadeau because you work hand in hand with feeding the needy, with how tough things are out there. When we get to budgets to actual and you look at the Welfare line item, she's been able to serve but she's done so very frugally. This is the first year since I've been a member of the Board of Selectmen that I have not had a complaint from somebody saying they were denied. Usually when they're denied, it's for a good reason. When they're in need, she does an outstanding job in my opinion, in my observation.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to nominate Kathy Wilson, Human Services Specialist in the Finance Department, for the VFW Post 571 2012 Loyalty Day Award, carried 5-0.

Chairman Coutu stated that the members of the Board of Selectmen are invited to attend on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. I didn't attend last year but I believe I will be there this year.

E. Record Storage at Hills Memorial Building

Chairman Coutu recognized Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director.

A few years ago during the budget process, Ms. Carpentier stated that the Town Clerk/Tax Collector was saying how her record management - offsite storage bill is becoming very large. A lot of department heads have been really looking at the retention policy, cleaning out files, scanning products. In my Water Department, we have destroyed 150 boxes, which is about a \$60 savings per month. That is one thing. What I would like to do is ask for your approval to use part of the Hills Memorial Building, which is the old library across the street here. There's two specific areas. One would be a locked storage. I'm looking to put the personnel records in there and the welfare clients for as long as we need. I'm doing it to save money but also to have easy access to it and have it more in our control than being off site.

Ms. Carpentier said the other area is in the upstairs. Half of the loft and that would be for general records - accounts payable vouchers. They're public knowledge. They won't have public access but they don't need to be controlled. This also would be a \$60 savings per month.

Some expenses Ms. Carpentier might need to incur, I hope to put some of the records in tote boxes to keep them from getting moist and I would reuse them. Some of them are \$2; some of them are up to \$7 per box and then we just destroy the boxes. I guess that's my proposal. I did go in front of the Library Trustees to get their approval before coming before you. I have their approval and the SAU weighed in and said that they didn't mind us using those spaces.

The other question Chairman Coutu has is the offsite storage that we use, which is in Nashua, has fire preventative measures within the building to protect the records in case there should be any kind of complication there? Ms. Carpentier believed they did. Chairman Coutu said that we don't have that over here in this storage. What is our liability and not terms of financial costs of our risk should we lose say for instance the personnel files. Do we have them...Ms. Carpentier said no we do not at this point but that is part of the process. I hope to get them over here, get them organized, and we do have a scanner. I'd like to start scanning them to have an electronic record. We do not have that at this point.

If you're scanning those types of files, Selectman Luszey asked why do we have to keep the paper. Ms. Carpentier said we haven't done that yet. Selectman Luszey said what he just heard is you said part of your process is getting the files over here to scan them in and then put them over there. Ms. Carpentier was going to get them all over here and then work on the scanning project.



Chairman Coutu said what Selectman Luszey is asking is once you've done the scanning you still planned on storing the boxes. Ms. Carpentier said in the municipal record retention policy, there is no definite answer of what you have to keep and what you don't have to keep. There are some documents that are signed and need to be kept. I have not done that formal research at this point. I do know that some things need to be hard copied and that's what will be part of the scanning project. Chairman Coutu knows that the Labor Board does have certain requirements, so you do have to check with them to see what they are. I have to keep hard copies of all of my employees for 7 years after termination.

Selectman Brucker asked how long would you expect to keep these files. For personnel policies, Ms. Carpentier said it was permanent. For welfare I think its 7 or 10 years. Sometimes we keep them longer if that client is still an active client so we have history. That would maybe be a duplication of space, but the space isn't costing me anything. That's my fire measure. If it's scanned here and you'll have hard copies over there. The other records aren't as critical because we do have electronic POs. You wouldn't have signed POs but we have the Munismart module that has POs, what's been paid, and that type of thing. A lot of that can be recreated. The auditors insist that we have that for 3 years after being audited.

Chairman Coutu asked how would you plan on having the scanning process done with the workload that you have and the staff. Are you thinking of going to the high school and ask them to give us a couple of volunteer students to help you? Mr. Malizia said they're personnel records. Ms. Carpentier believed that we have, believe or not, we have slow periods. We're in it now and that's why we're trying to do this before we get into May, June, or we start doing year end stuff. So it might not happen until this time but there's different lull times for some of my staff. Until we can get it over here and figure out what's in those personnel files, because they're years and years old and I wasn't the person putting them over there. Is it direct deposit slips? You really don't need those. If it's W2's, you have to keep that. Chairman Coutu asked where would you put those in house because obviously you're going to take them out of the building in Nashua and bring them in this building. Ms. Carpentier said she'd like to put them in the Hills Building, in locked storage. Chairman Coutu thought Ms. Carpentier was going to scan them first. Ms. Carpentier said that's going to be the process. I'm going to bring all 30 boxes to the library, rebox them, and scan them. Chairman Coutu asked if Ms. Carpentier was going to scan them over at the library. Ms. Carpentier didn't know if she had those capabilities. I would bring a box back, scan it, and bring it back. If a scanner can be set up over there, but I have not gone down that road.

*Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to authorize the Town Finance Department to use the basement office and the right side of the loft at the Hills Memorial Building for record retention with all costs being paid by the Finance Department and final approval of the action plan and the timeline by the Library Trustees.*

Selectman Luszey said if you go outside it, do we have to come back for another motion to add a little 2 foot space? The detail of the motion...Chairman Coutu said it was the way it was presented. Ms. Carpentier said she was instructed by fire prevention that I only should have about 100 boxes up there. So even if I wanted 200 or more space, I'm limited.

Chairman Coutu asked if there was any further discussion. Are you still perplexed Selectman Nadeau or are you ready to vote? Selectman Nadeau has heard enough of this because I had to go through it at the library

*Vote: Motion carried 5-0.*

Ms. Carpentier thanked the Board for their support. Chairman Coutu thanked Ms. Carpentier for looking for ways to save the taxpayers some money.

Just so that people don't think that he just fell from the sky, Chairman Coutu indicated that the Town Administrator is here. He did not fall from the sky nor did he sneak in.

#### F. Budget to Actuals

Chairman Coutu said that the document that they have before them is probably going into the last quarter one of the most critical that we look at. If there are things that pop up and probably have some questions. With that, Mr. Malizia.

As you stated, Mr. Malizia said we are three quarters of the way through the year, which means we have 3 months or one quarter left. One of the positive things that happened was we were able to return some money to the legal budget based on a recent settlement of a case where we had reserved some money for the possibility that we wouldn't win the case. So legal, which was an item that I talked to you about before is now going to be back in the black and not of the red. At the rate we're spending legal dollars going forward, you should have plenty of money left on that account.

A quick tour of some of the other accounts. Mr. Malizia said we had a relatively mild winter that definitely assisted us overall as well as some of the work that Kevin Burns had done for the trash. That's going to yield some savings at the end of the year. I think overall from an expenditure side of the house barring any projects that the Board wants to do such as the generator project and I think there may be an IT item coming in the next agenda, we should have a very positive or favorable budget to actual in the expenditures.

On the revenue side, the ones we track closely Mr. Malizia said are the car registrations which right now are 73 percent. We're getting there. I just try to move them around a little bit. It's possible we could be \$100,000 short there. Just kind of looking at it and trying to look at what the average has been in the last 3 months for the last few years. That's somewhat mitigated by ambulance revenue, which will probably about \$80,000 greater than we've budgeted mainly because as you look at those numbers, they don't have 9 months. They have 8 months worth. Just doing some simple math indicates that ambulance is doing pretty well. The same mantra on interest. It's nonexistent. So we're really not making anything there. Fortunately we have some overlay left. That should definitely cover any interest that we don't spend. Overlay is money that we've returned for abatements. Right now that looks favorable.

Chairman Coutu said he was talking about the overlay account when we were talking to Mr. Michaud about potentially adding money to his budget. Selectman Brucker just for your edification, when we're looking at the budget to actuals, this would be all inclusive through March 31<sup>st</sup> except for one line item, which is very critical because it's a large income item. It's the ambulance net revenue. If you look at page 6, the third line from the bottom, you'll notice that in our budget process we estimated that our revenue would be the first column, \$590,000, and when you look at the year to date, third column over, \$458,265 was collected or \$131,734 short of the projection with 3 months to go. However, the ambulance budget, the ambulance revenue report is always one month behind. We still have 4 months to go on that one line item. Though it may look dire, it isn't. It looks like we're going to be on target or slightly ahead. The motor vehicle what I thought we were going to do, we were going to be on target. It's going to be close.

One question Chairman Coutu has that sticks out Mr. Malizia, there are several but I won't dwell on them. On page 6, the very first item library revenue the \$18,500 and we didn't get anything. What is that \$18,500 revenue from the library? Mr. Malizia deferred to the Finance Director because she probably has the answer more readily available.

Ms. Carpentier believed it's from the fees and stuff collected by the library. When they presented your budget for fiscal 2012, they said I need X minus this \$18,000. They're to give the Town \$18,000 at the end of the year. Chairman Coutu said they usually meet that objective? Ms. Carpentier said this is the first time they've actually budgeted the revenue. Whatever their costs are that we give them money, they're giving us back money from their fees collective.

Some of these you may have to bring the staff in and see if you can get an answer. For instance, Chairman Coutu said on the Hawker/Peddler License, it's a minute number but do we have a number of how many ice cream vendors come into our town? Do we get any? Mr. Malizia said yes. As modest as some of those are, the fee I think is \$100. It's a relatively modest revenue stream. Chairman Coutu indicated that we only have \$236. If they're \$100, that's 2/3 trucks. Selectman Maddox said you can get some for a week. Mr. Malizia said the flower guy at True Value just came in. He'll probably show up next month. For example, he gets a permit like that. Are they sporadic? There's maybe a couple of regulars and then there may be some that are here today and gone tomorrow.

With regard to page 7 which would be recreation, Chairman Coutu said the supervised play - I think this question comes up every year. The budgeted is \$91,000. We're \$56,000 short of that. Is that because the summer registration. It's because of the cycle. I wanted to make sure that's clear. Bank charges. We pay that much in bank charges \$18,687. Selectman Nadeau said yes for the lock boxes. Ms. Carpentier said it is very fee oriented. For every check cashed, every deposit made, for every lock box service, that's how the banks are making their money these days. Mr. Malizia said they're maximizing their revenue.

Chairman Coutu asked if an explanation could be given on why in the Capital Reserve Account second from the bottom on that same page we budgeted an estimated revenue of \$116,000. We received \$141,000. Where's that difference come from? \$25,000? Ms. Carpentier couldn't off the top of her head. You would have approved the...Chairman Coutu asked if we transferred \$25,000 additional at the beginning of last year for something? Ms. Carpentier said this would be money that we received from the Trustees of the Trust Fund. Chairman Coutu couldn't see where the \$25,000 encumbrance over and above what we had asked. Ms. Carpentier definitely will follow up with that.

Being new to this, Selectman Brucker didn't fully understand the overlay and Mr. Michaud had said that if there is overlay, it benefits the commercial businesses. Chairman Coutu asked the Town Administrator to explain overlay. It was something when I was sitting on the Board I had to ask too and say what does that all mean. Now I have it.

Mr. Malizia stated that we obviously take in money for general property taxes. Against that, there is money that may be paid back for an abatement. For example, someone comes in and may say that my value is wrong. You counted a shed, you counted a garage I don't have one. That sort of thing. We put some money aside sort of as a charge against the taxes we take in. It's referred to in the law as overlay. It's an amount of money you're raising and having available that you have to make modest abatement, not settlements which are different, against your property tax revenue. If you look here, it's expressed as a negative number. Negative is good on this particular line because it's a charge you're not paying. It's the simplest way to put it. We had estimated \$104,920. We've paid out I believe \$34,760, which means we still have \$70,000 left. If we make it to the end of the year with something greater than zero, we are ahead of the game on that. We didn't spend it.

If you noticed Selectman Brucker on the consent items that we have before us sometimes, Chairman Coutu said there will be some abatement requests. There may be some tonight. If it's approved, the Assistant Assessor will put an amount. The abatement will be \$85, \$1,213, whatever they needed to abate. A classic example would be if you feel that your home has been assessed at a value higher than you think its worth because of its conditioning. It's not an excellent, it's good. They'll come out and re-evaluate and they'll look and they say well we overestimated the quality of the house so we're going to abate. We have to have monies put aside for any of those potential abatements. I believe the number that we arrive at is based on history from the previous years.

Mr. Malizia said Mr. Michaud does an analysis every year and looks at previous years and tries to give us a good number. Last year I believe the number was higher than we had set aside. We did much better against it. You adjust every year. This evening you had 3 which you denied. So you didn't give anything back to tonight. In the normal course of business, you'll get 1 or 2 every couple of weeks. Sometimes it's a condition one. Sometimes it's quite simply a personal conversation saying I don't have a garage or my card is wrong. It's something that is easier to prove. When I say prove, we can debate all the time how much you think something is worth and how much I think its worth. If you can show clearly that I took that pool down, or I took this deck or whatever, that's cause for an abatement. You'll see those generally in the consent packet. They're easy to track and you can see them. All those dollars, that's where they come back from.

Selectman Brucker asked how does it benefit commercial business. Chairman Coutu said that was different. That's a different pool. Generally speaking, Mr. Malizia said commercial business is because when we enter into some of these discussions, a lot of times we'll reserve money for those kinds of cases. When I reserve money, they might have bigger dollars at stake. So we'll put something on a balance sheet for example in the eventuality of the possibility that we may lose or split a case. A lot of times we'll put for bigger commercial property we'll put money aside on the books per say. I know we've done that in the past. A lot of times those will if not go all the way to court, they go pretty close to going in front of court. Usually sometimes settle on the courthouse steps. Ms. Carpentier said we have \$48,000 at the end of June set aside for cases that were pending according to the Assistant Assessor. Again, Mr. Malizia said that's another analysis where he looks at what he's got, who's filed a docket through the Board of Land and Tax Appeals, or the Superior Court. He has some idea of what they're looking at. What we're looking at and tried to do an evaluation well let's reserve half of it. If we meet in the middle, which happens, then we're covered. Very rarely does a court go all the way one way or the other.

Thanks to Mr. Michaud, Chairman Coutu said we have been very, very successful in settling a lot of cases before we went to court. When you're looking at some of the buildings we have in town here that are assessed at well over \$1 million to \$2 million, we're not talking about a \$50 - \$60 abatement. They're looking for a couple hundred thousand. There's a lot of negotiation that goes back and forth, various assessing methods that are used, and it's which one will hold up before the Assessing Board or the courts. Most of the time we've been very successful of not having to go to court thanks to the efforts on behalf of the Town from Mr. Michaud. Any further questions? Seeing none, thank you very much. I appreciate it.

#### 9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Nadeau - A couple of things. With Easter last week, we had the Easter egg hunt at Benson's. Very good turnout for the people at the egg hunt. The other thing last week that I was doing was we talked about St. Vincent and Kathy Wilson at the beginning of the meeting. We had a food distribution over at St. Vincent and the Historical Society had a tea social and they did Easter baskets. They collected Easter baskets as the admission to the tea social and we handed those out at St. Vincent along with baskets that were done by other organizations in town. I'd like to thank them for helping us with that.

As you can see, Selectman Nadeau said there's a lot of stuff going on with the Highway Department. You'll see them throughout the town but just pay attention to the signs that say "raised manhole covers" and "crews working ahead" because people are not very aware that those signs are out there. They will be out in the roadways working. Please pay attention to those signs. That's it.

Chairman Coutu asked about the parking for the Easter egg hunt. Selectman Nadeau said the 197 spots in the parking lot were all full. The cars went past Cahill's and went up the hill. They were also down the side of Bush Hill Road to Jump

Lane. It was quite the turnout. Chairman Coutu asked if all 10,000 eggs were found. Selectman Nadeau said yes, 8,000. Mr. Malizia said there were two batches of 6,000, 12,000 total I think. Selectman Nadeau said they were stuffed by different groups in town - the seniors, Girl scouts, we stuff a few of them at the shop. It was a very well attended event. There were Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts at the event helping out picking up, cleaning up along with Benson Park members cleaning up afterwards. They recycled as many of the eggs they could capture back in the bins as people were leaving so that we can restuff them for next year. Chairman Coutu said it was like springtime Halloween. What a great thing for our town that we can gather hundreds of children at Benson Park for an Easter egg hunt. Second year and more successful obviously this year than last year. Selectman Nadeau said there were more eggs. Most of the kids got a couple eggs a piece. Chairman Coutu asked if the Easter bunny was good this year. Selectman Nadeau said the Easter bunny was very friendly handing out lollipops. It was a very good event.

Selectman Brucker - Is this the time that I would report back on my liaison to the Conservation Commission. Chairman Coutu said yes. Selectman Brucker indicated that the Conservation Commission met last night and had some discussion about their changing all over to stewardship and some discussion of how the Commission would carry out some of those responsibilities since there are no people within the Commission that can do highway type work or if we want to enforce a Code anywhere on any of the properties. They're still working out those details of how that is going to be done.

Relative to Code, Chairman Coutu said you are also the liaison for the Community Development Department. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask Mr. Oleksak. If it's something that on the town side needs enforcement or the State side, he would be your contact person to be able to resolve some of that. It might be a good idea to sit down with him and any number of the Commission or have him to the Commission and have him meet with you to go over some of those things and how we can help you with enforcing any violation that may be occurring on any of the lands that are under the purview of the Conservation Commission.

Selectman Brucker said there was some talk of the ATV vehicles going through the conservation land and tearing it up and how to enforce codes against that. Also wanting to put up some signs and maps and where we have to go to get those made. Chairman Coutu said those were Boy Scout projects. Selectman Brucker said they talked about maybe the high school woodshop doing some things and also that we might need some money to do some of the signs since we'd have to buy materials for that. It was a very productive meeting and it will continue.

For the record Jim, Chairman Coutu heard the comment last night - yes I do watch the meetings while they are being televised live. Maybe you don't want to bring that to the Board of Selectmen. Maybe they're watching right now. Yes I was but it was a good suggestion though in light of the last conversation that we've had about that.

*Motion by Selectman Brucker, seconded by Selectman Maddox, that the Hudson Board of Selectmen vote to express its opposition to House Bill 592, the House Redistricting Plan, because it dilutes local representation. Alternative plans must be brought forward that would go further to satisfy the requirement for equal representation and fairness. It is necessary to act promptly in order to assure equal voting rights for the citizens of Hudson.*

Selectman Brucker knows that Pelham is fighting the redistricting. I'd like to see us do the same thing. I think that because we can't all have our own voices heard, we have representative government. I think that if we're large enough town to be our own district, have our own representatives that would be more true to the citizens of Hudson than if we're included in a group with Pelham. For that fact, I would like to see us be our own district. I don't know how we fight it but I do know that Pelham is trying to.

Chairman Coutu indicated that the Senate is studying the plan that was proffered and failed and they're looking to revise the districts again under new legislation. Selectman Brucker thought they needed to hear from us.

Selectman Maddox seconded it so I could hear what you had to say. I'm just not up to speed Mr. Chairman. I don't really know enough to go one way or the other. If we had a copy of it or something, I'm sitting here saying...I'd like to support but I don't know what it's going to do one way or the other Mr. Chairman. I wanted you to at least explain what it was. Is there a way to get a copy of something?

Chairman Coutu couldn't shed much light on it like you. I follow Landrigan's column in the paper and I understand what's going on. If your motion were to pass, specifically what are you suggesting we do, we send a letter to somebody? If so, who? Selectman Brucker said through our Representatives. I know that it was passed in the Senate this original to redistrict it to keep it the way that...I know that Governor Lynch vetoed it and the House overrode that veto so that it would be this plan where we would be - instead of being in the district with Litchfield like we have been, they now are on a district of and by themselves and their smaller than we are. We're in a district that includes Pelham. We were just included with Litchfield. I think we need to express our dissatisfaction with the idea of just being with Pelham.

Chairman Coutu asked if we were in the district with Litchfield and Pelham. That's number one. Number two, Pelham put up one candidate. It's their fault that they don't have enough representation. One candidate and he won. Selectman Maddox believed Litchfield has a district with Manchester so they're not by themselves. Chairman Coutu said almost every Representative comes from Hudson so I don't see how we're being hurt by it except that we have one Representative from Pelham.

Selectman Brucker said it could be. Suppose they put up more candidates and they get in. Chairman Coutu asked what the population of Pelham compared to our 25,000. Mr. Malizia said half - 12,000 to 14,000 tops. They put up a slate of candidates. Unfortunately we're the bigger district so I'm assuming our residents are voting for our local people. Selectman Brucker said, "So you don't think it's an issue?" Chairman Coutu said he can appreciate Representatives Doherty's concern and the Town of Pelham's concern because they want to have their own district. I feel personally based on my knowledge, and I don't profess to be an expert, that we are well represented. We pretty much control the seats for this district that for us to get involved in a House matter that's not going to adversely affect us, it's like saying we support Pelham. From my perspective anyway, we should be concerned about Hudson. We're not being hurt by it at all.

Selectman Brucker stated that Chairman Coutu was assuming that it's going to continue to be that our people will be elected just because we have more citizens doesn't mean that they can't rally their...only 2,000 people came out to the polls this last time. It doesn't mean that they can't get more Representatives.

Selectman Luszey didn't support this and here's the reason why. We do elect our Representatives and we send Representatives that are our voices whether they're from Hudson, Pelham, and it used to be Litchfield. They were our Representatives. The notion that our voices aren't being heard our votes don't count to me is they haven't shown or proved to me that that is the case. I know a number of the Representatives that have worked issues for Pelham. I know a Representative from Pelham that I actually spoke to an issue of Hudson. I think that communication is there. I think that our voices are being heard, and I think our votes are being cast based on the needs of the people. I think this is more of a political move by those in Pelham to try to get a little something that they feel they're not being represented.

Selectman Brucker said to Selectman Luszey that he didn't feel any need to...Selectman Luszey didn't see any need for any change. My closing comment would be is we elected a whole bunch of people to the legislature to work these issues there. That is what they are there for. If enough people in Pelham feel that they're not represented, there is a mechanism for them to do what they're doing just as if there the voters of Hudson feel that they need to be represented by a soul voice or a set of Representatives, they can do that. I don't think that is our role here to be in that political arena. We are here to manage and govern the Town of Hudson.

Selectman Brucker was curious as to why the Pelham Board of Selectmen have chosen to do it. They see their role differently? Selectman Luszey said they're fighting for what they believe they want. That is a separate set of delegates to Concord. Selectman Brucker thought we should have the same...you were saying that it isn't really our role because we're just running the town and we're just trying to...Selectman Luszey doesn't hear an outcry from any residents of Hudson to say Selectman Luszey I want you to go and beat up on our representatives to redistrict Hudson into its own. So far, I've only heard two people come here and make that statement and you're one of them. The other one was Mr. Schneiderman.

Though I sympathize with Pelham, Chairman Coutu said it is not Hudson's battle. It's their battle. We're amply represented and I don't think to get involved in a battle to try to support Pelham, I don't see Pelham coming over here helping us with anything. The district is the way the districts were laid out. The Governor vetoed the Redistricting Bill that was presented. We have what we have. I sympathize with them. I know they want to be a sole, unique and distinct district. I know they qualify based on the population. I know some of the districts up in Concord are way out of whack but it's of no concern to me only if I felt personally, I'm not speaking for the Board, if I felt that my town was not being properly represented, then I think I'd be up in Concord lobbying and certainly not running around to Boards of Selectmen lobbying. I agree with them. I just don't think it's a matter that this Board - it doesn't affect us. It affects the Town of Pelham. That's their battle.

Selectman Maddox indicated that we actually represent more citizens than our Representatives just by the numbers. We're at 5,000 apiece and they're at 3,400. In the years that I've been out at the polls, I don't think I've seen many Pelham people standing out at our polls. You have to work with what you've been given. I'm sure that Litchfield isn't pleased with being tied now with a city. That's what the districts are. Everybody wants their piece done. You'd really have to start from scratch and come up with a new formula. Good or bad, the Primary is in September. It's getting close. I just think Mr. Chairman that although in a perfect world, we're not the perfect world. It's political.

Some of Selectman Brucker's other concerns are that some of the legislation that's being passed up there where they're cutting back on so many things, I don't see it can help what effect the towns and the money that we're going to be getting from State government. Chairman Coutu said that we're watching that. We're watching that very closely. It's not affecting our taxpayers pocketbooks. We will be loud and clear with our State Delegation that they need to rethink where they're going with - there are ways to cut costs but when it starts affecting the local taxpayer, that's what we're here for. Selectman Brucker said that's my concern is to make sure that we are well represented up there in Concord. Chairman Coutu said it depends on your party affiliation and who's in power I guess. I think we're well represented.

Selectman Maddox indicated that this Board has over the years brought our Representatives in no matter whether they were from Pelham, Hudson, or Litchfield. We invited all that represent Hudson and if we have concerns, we brought them to them. I'm sure that you will probably do the same thing this year. We're actually meeting with our Representatives trying to put forward what Hudson's issues are. We are all concerned about pass down of costs of things that are being cut and we're all watching that as closely as we can. As much as I think this is a nice discussion, I'm going to withdraw my second Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Coutu asked if there was a second. Seeing none, the motion no longer exists for lack of a second. I want to reiterate what he said. We have started on an annual basis to bring in our House Delegation to come in and meet with us. I believe we also invite Senator Carson if she wants to come. We expressed our concerns to them. I remember last meeting they were very attentive. Also I want you to be aware of that the Chamber of Commerce, which Selectman Nadeau and I are liaisons to have functions. One of them that they have is they have a State House breakfast. That's coming up very shortly I believe. I don't think that they've had it yet. They have it where they invite the Delegation to come in. Even though you're not a liaison as a member of the Board of Selectmen, we are members of the Chamber. You're welcome to attend that forum and ask any questions of your State delegation there as well. The last one I attended was at Valentino's. I don't know where this one is going to be held - Valentino's again isn't it? Selectman Nadeau said they had one at Valentino's; they had one at Cookies before. It's usually in the summer to fall range. Chairman Coutu indicated that when we hear of it, I'll make sure that you're aware of it. You should start getting shut offs from the Chamber. Is there anything else Selectman Brucker?

Selectman Brucker said yes. You just said you're keeping a watch on it now. Is this something you're doing in your own private personal time, changes that are coming from the State House - that will affect our money/taxes? Mr. Malizia indicated that we get legislative bulletins; we get NHMA; we get our Local Government Center that are advocates to pass information down when its germane such as pension issues, it comes to this Board. I believe we've talked about highway money that comes to this Board. So when there are things that have a fiscal impact, they come to this Board.

Chairman Coutu stated that Selectman Brucker must be aware that part of the role of our department heads such as the Road Agent, the Recreation Director, the Fire Chief, the Police Chief, and certainly the Town Administrator is that if they see that there's legislation that's going to adversely impact or affect any of their operations whether it be public safety, highway, roads, town administration and governance, they bring it to our attention and we have a discussion here. If necessary, we can individually or collectively ask the Representatives to come in and express our concern about legislation. So far, I think Hudson has been the beneficiary of a lot of good things from the State. We've had a close relationship with the Governor and the Governor's office to help us expedite a lot of things. Our legislature, the former Selectman Jasper is the majority whip so he has a considerable impact on legislation and he watches legislation as do all of our other Representatives that serve us on matters that affect our town. They no more want to have to come back into a district that's all wild up because they cut something that's going to eventually be affecting their tax rate here at home. I'm sure they're aware of it. Each community is affected in a different way. I feel, personally, we're well represented.

Selectman Luszey - We reviewed the senior center work that's ongoing. I'll be looking to bring some more of that back. It's been a nice easy week for me. Thank you.

Selectman Maddox - I hope everybody got to see the article in The Telegraph on the front page about Benson's. They're at least bringing to light that we are going to try to work the enforcement issue. Did signs get put up Selectman Nadeau? Selectman Nadeau wasn't sure. Do you know if there were any signs that got put up Kevin for the entrances for the dogs? Mr. Burns said no. Chairman Coutu thought that right now they're more concerned about the fox dens and keeping the children away from the fox. They're working with the Police Department to take care of that.

Selectman Maddox said there is two fox dens presently on Benson's. I believe they are more on the trails area. The Animal Control Officer had put signs up. Again, they're cute; they're cuddly; they're dangerous. Chairman Coutu believed it's going to be roped off. They were talking how they were going to do with the State - they had a couple of different avenues. They are out there. You are in nature. Just be aware. Also the other part of that article was about trash.

Once again, the Road Agent found a way to solve a problem. We talked about putting up barrels. Instead through some negotiations with Mr. Burns, Selectman Maddox said our vendor Pinard has dropped off 12 totters that they are going to pick up on Fridays and Mondays at their cost. They're, again, trying to be part of a team with the Town. They have put them in place and they're going to pick them up. We'll see how that works as far as yes in a perfect world carry in carry out. Again, perfect world. Again, found a way to fix the problem hopefully with a number of barrels. We won't have to have volunteers trying to pick up barrels and take them to the dumpster. Let's see how this works. Hopefully this will alleviate the trash problem as well as the dog waste problem.

The next item Mr. Chairman is tonight unfortunately Selectman Maddox said we were all here so we were not able to be at the Grange where Sergeant John McGregor was receiving an award for the Officer of the Year from the Grange. Tomorrow night, Master Patrol Officer Marcotte will be receiving an award from the Hudson Jr. Woman's Club at 7 p.m. at the Library. So congratulations to both of those officers. Again, I tried to swing over there before I came here and it just wouldn't line up. Congratulations to them. I'm going to leave it at that Mr. Chairman.

Just a follow up. Chairman Coutu said that Sergeant McGregor was the leader of our CALEA team this year. Officer Marcotte was the police officer who jumped into the river to try to save a man who jumped in. In fact he was successful in getting him out. Those are the commendations for that. Thank you for that.

Selectman Coutu - The first thing I want to say is that next week April 15 to 21, we're not going to be meeting next week but it is National Volunteer Week. I want to take this opportunity to express on behalf of this Board to all of the citizens of Hudson who have volunteered so much of their time, their energy and their resources at Benson Park, the scouting groups who have done so much to mark our trails and have taken on so many projects, and all of the people - like you said Selectman Nadeau - who volunteered and helped with the Easter egg hunt, and the volunteers even within our own staff - Highway, Police, Fire

who go out and do things throughout the year while they're not on the clock to aid our citizens. You Selectman Luszey know the value of volunteerism working closely with Mooremart and their foundation and what they do for our servicemen. There are countless numbers of people within our own community. We're very fortunate. You've heard me say that many, many times that go out and put that little extra effort in to make our community thrive and succeed. The Food Bank is another example. They're ongoing and they're continuous. When you look at all of the organizations within our community who are trying to raise funds for their various little projects and they're very successful at doing it. We are a blessed community. On behalf of the Board of Selectmen to all of the volunteers of our community, especially those who serve on our government boards that you continuously recruit successful. We thank you very much from the bottom of our hearts.

Chairman Coutu said The Lowell Sun named the All Star wrestling team for this past year. Steve Lichtenberg a Senior at Alvirne High School on the Broncos Wrestling Team with a 27 and 9 record was selected in the 195 pound division as an All Star wrestler for this area. So we congratulate Steve and second team Josh Metivier was selected by The Lowell Sun.

Chairman Coutu had one last item that I want to bring to your attention and leave at your discretion. Selectman Nadeau you'll be interested in hearing this. It's a letter that I received from St. Vincent de Paul:

"The St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry has been providing assistance to needy residents for over 25 years. Our mission is to provide for individuals and families regardless of age, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation or personal beliefs. The Food Pantry works closely with the Town Welfare Department in assisting with food and financial assistance when applicable. Our volunteer work with Kathy Wilson to ascertain the eligibility of individuals seeking our limited financial assistance. The Food Pantry provides Hudson residents in need of food and financial assistance. Each year the number of families grow until today we are serving over 350 families at various times throughout the year. This represents over 800 individuals. On Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, the Food Pantry volunteers distributed food and Easter baskets to over 123 families. In 2011, the Food Pantry distributed 114,135 meals to the residents of Hudson. Since January, we have distributed 26,975 meals to the residents of Hudson. In 2007, a mere 5 years ago, we had a total of 47 families requesting assistance for Easter. This year for Easter we had over 2 ½ times the number of families signed for the holiday (that would mean approximately 120 families.)

We have recently been informed that there may be a surplus in the 2011/2012 welfare budget. In addition we learned that when this occurs the Selectmen have the authority to allocate the surplus funds to worthy charitable organizations. The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Hudson Food Pantry certainly qualifies. Our organization exclusively serves Hudson residents. We provide food and assistance to our local residents. All of the members of the Society are volunteers. All of our funds go to provide direct service to the community. Therefore, we'd like to be considered for financial support from the town in the event that there is a surplus this year or in the future."

Chairman Coutu indicated that the last paragraph is pretty generic and it is signed by Leon Shanholtz, Secretary of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. I don't know what common practice or past practice has been. If you could enlighten us Mr. Malizia.

When Mr. Malizia received a copy of the letter, I questioned the legality of giving surplus money to an organization that's providing those services. I had a quick conversation with our attorney. The quick response was you can't do that because it is prohibited. What you can do which you could consider going forward is if this organization would like to apply for a community grant such as the other 14 or 15 local organizations that apply; they'd be most welcome to apply during that process. If the Board would then deliberate that, the Budget Committee would deliberate that, that is a more common way to assist with helping folks in need.

For the sake of transparency, Chairman Coutu wanted to put this letter on the table so that they don't feel that we were shunning them in any way. They are not, as I recollect, on the list. Selectman Nadeau thought this was their way of getting on the list. Mr. Malizia indicated that they have not asked for a community grant in the past. Chairman Coutu told Mr. Malizia what he should do is ask them because you work with them very closely Selectman Nadeau to request to be put on the list for this coming budget year. Mr. Malizia said he could send them a letter on the Board's behalf if you'd like me to do that. Chairman Coutu asked if that was the consensus of the Board. Selectman Nadeau said that's what they've done in the past when we've gotten other...Chairman Coutu said maybe you should encourage them to do that. They usually ask for a specific amount don't they? Mr. Malizia said he would articulate the best way, point out the guidelines and what they may or may not consider doing.

#### 10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

*Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee; (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community, carried 5-0 by roll call.*

Chairman Coutu said the Nonpublic Session is being entered at 8:45 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 stated that open session is being entered at 10:10 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Brucker, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to hire Scott Fuller as the seasonal part-time laborer with the Highway Department at a rate of \$12.00 per hour for 24 weeks effective April 15, 2012, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to hire Jorge Alvayero, Nicholas Bunker, Brandon Doyle, Maura Hein, and Jacy Pack as Counselor I at \$9.50 an hour effective May 26, 2012; Matthew Brownrigg, Lauren Chesnulevich, Kathleen Foley, Larissa Miller, and Briana Parisi as Counselor II at \$10.00 an hour effective May 26, 2012; and Ralph Carpentiere, Frank Girginis, Jenna Lambert, Michele Martineau, Debra Smith, and Tom Tollefson as Counselor III at \$10.75 an hour effective May 26, 2012, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Brucker, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to hire Chris Brownrigg, Courtney Clark, Kaela Craven, Kevin Kauffman, and Kristine Rowe as Counselor I at \$9.50 an hour effective May 26, 2012; and Ernest Gifford and Vinnie Scurini as Counselor II at \$10.00 an hour effective May 26, 2012, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Brucker, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to hire Michelle Alvayero, Shantelle Lacasse, Julianne McGrail, and Kelly Robinson as Summer Counselors in Training at \$7.50 an hour effective June 1, 2012; and Morgan Knight and Ryan Martineau as Substitute Summer Counselors in Training at \$7.50 an hour effective June 1, 2012, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Brucker, to hire Lisa Terwilliger at \$13.25 an hour, Travis Terrio at \$10.50 an hour, and James Tomaswick at \$10.50 an hour as tennis instructors effective June 1, 2012, carried 5-0.

Consensus of Board of Selectmen to pay \$50 for Chairman Coutu to attend Superintendent Randy Bell's retirement.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Coutu adjourned the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

Recorded by HGTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger E. Coutu, Chairman

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Benjamin Nadeau, Vice Chairman

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Richard J. Maddox, Selectman

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Ted Luszey, Selectman

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Nancy Brucker, Selectman