

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the March 6, 2011 Workshop Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Jasper the meeting of March 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Selectman Luszey.

3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Shawn Jasper, Roger Coutu, Rick Maddox, Ben Nadeau (arrived 10 minutes late), Ted Luszey

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator, Gary Webster, Town Engineer; Mike O'Keefe,

4. NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

5. CONSENT ITEMS

Licenses & Permits

1) Request to Solicit Funds by Campbell High School Class of 2012/Senior Class Trip

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to approve the request to Solicit Funds by Campbell High School Class of 2012 for the Senior class trip, carried 4-0.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Public Hearing - Comcast - cable television franchise renewal agreement

Chairman Jasper recognized Mike O'Keefe, Chairman of Cable Utility Committee, and Jim McIntosh just to walk us through the changes from the current contract to the one that's just been negotiated.

Mr. O'Keefe asked if Chairman Jasper wanted to do this as part of the public hearing. Chairman Jasper indicated before I open the public hearing so that the public...

Mr. O'Keefe indicated that we spent some time, probably the last 6 months or so, negotiating with Comcast for the terms of the new franchise agreement. There's only certain aspects of the contract that are really negotiable from the Town's side. That includes the franchise fee, the availability of channels for public access, and PEG channels is what they're referred to. We can ask for capital equipment money and basically origination points around town. There's really not much more that's negotiable on those fronts. In terms of those items, the changes from the current agreement to the new agreement include the franchise fee moving from 3 percent to 4 percent. The range can be anywhere from 0 to 5 percent. Five percent is the upper limit based on federal law. It starts at 4 percent at the initial beginning of the contract and then after year 5, the Board has the option to adjust that either up or down. That was the discussion we had prior that it's hard to estimate at this point where we're going to be in 5 years in our needs. We started with a 4 percent and in 5 years the Board can decide whether it needs adjustment. In theory, it's probably possible to adjust it down before then. I don't think Comcast would have an issue lowering it but they wouldn't agree to a raise except after the fifth year when we have the option to raise it to 5. That's the franchise fee.

(Mike O'Keefe) In terms of the channel capacity on the system, we currently have 3 channels - 20, 21, and 22 which are allocated to public, education and government programming. One of the items we wanted to add in this contract was an additional fourth channel so that we have some more capacity for programming, announcements, and what no. We do have this in this contract. We can ask as soon as the franchise agreement is executed. We can ask them to give us a fourth channel and there's no specific requirement other than us requesting it.

In terms of origination points, Mr. O'Keefe said Memorial School is the new origination point. When I say origination point, it means locations within town that we can broadcast live programming from. The current agreement gives us origination capabilities at Town Hall, Community Center, Alvirne High School, and the current HCTV Access Center on Old Derry Road. The new agreement will also add Memorial School. There's a provision in there should the Access Center relocate to the potential new facility at Benson Park. Comcast will cover a portion of the cost associated with dropping a fiber line there for origination. I believe they'd cover the first \$15,000 and then we would cover anything above that. We updated the lists of municipal buildings that receive free basic cable. It's not a huge

deal. Comcast basically provides free cable to all municipal and education school buildings in town. Since the last list was 10 years ago, we updated that list. Those are the major differences in this from the last franchise agreement.

Before Chairman Jasper opened the public hearing, are there any questions at the present time. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions or comments after we hear from the public.

Chairman Jasper opened the public hearing at 7:13 p.m. and asked if there is anyone who would like to comment. Seeing none, I will close the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

Again, Selectman Maddox said this only happens once every 10 years so it's probably an eye opener to many. It's sad that nobody is here to talk about the items that everybody talks about cable. Number two; it's a little disconcerting that unfortunately Comcast isn't here. I think that the Cable Committee does a fine job but they're not going to like some of these questions. Again, the thing is it says in this agreement that we have that we get to review the performance of Comcast. Steve how many calls do you get a week for people from Comcast. Mr. Malizia asked regarding their cable? I don't get maybe one a week maybe if that. That's not even an average. It depends. We direct them to Comcast because usually it's a question of my service didn't show up or something.

Strictly to his point, Selectman Coutu said it does say that. We have no control. I put the blame on the legislature. I have found out - you know I'm not directing it at you Chairman Jasper, but I discovered much to my chagrin - and they promised that they're going to eliminate "contact the Board of Selectmen" if you have any problems with Comcast. It also says you can contact the PUC. I called the PUC. The PUC is autonomous. The PUC has no control. They do with the electric company and other utilities - phone companies. Comcast is out there on their own. They can do what they want, when they want, however they want except for those things what we have a right to review. I think that's the intent of the language - the access to our public channels. That's the only thing we can review and we can discuss with them. If we're not satisfied with the quality of the transmittal over the line service and things of that nature, those are the things that we have a right to complain about because they're guaranteed in our contract that they are going to provide these things.

Also access to our municipal buildings. Selectman Coutu knows that when they did the transfer over for the boxes Mike this year and told everybody you had to have a digital box that you had some problems with some of the conversion kits that you went and picked up. They weren't working. I watched the sequence of e-mails and you went back up and they replaced them all. So those are the kinds of things that we can question.

In terms of channel changing, Selectman Coutu said they're going through this in every community. The City of Lowell right now is fighting with them over channel changes and so are several other communities. We have no say. They're an independent corporation that can pretty much do whatever they want.

For the record, Chairman Jasper announced that Selectman Nadeau has arrived at 7:11 p.m.

Again Mr. Chairman having read this agreement, Selectman Maddox said it says in there that we have the ability to hold meetings to question their pricing and their performance. You're right, the PUC does not. The only agencies that do are the federal government and the franchising authority, which are us.

Chairman Jasper thought the reality is that's all well and good but they can sit here and say a hum, a hum, a hum and walk away and nothing changes. I'm not sure to what end. There's no competition. That's the problem with the way this has been set up by the legislature. You make a franchise agreement with one company and pretty much when they're in here, they're staying.

Selectman Maddox said that's not exclusive. The agreement clearly states that it's not exclusive. We could say to another cable facility if you ran the wires, you can operate in Hudson.

On page 203 getting to Selectman Maddox's point, Selectman Luszey said around performance evaluation hearings, Section 11.2, the language is "the franchising authority may hold". Could we change that to say "will hold" or "the franchisee will make it a requirement that they provide us with the performance of their service. It specifies in that paragraph it talks about complaint response and customer service and all that. Instead of May, can we change the language in this contract to say "will"?

Selectman Coutu said we don't need to change the language. We can. We have to notify them that we're going to be doing a review and they will come down. We can. We are the authority. The Board of Selectmen is the authority that determines whether or not we want to hold these. Apparently up to this point, we've never taken advantage of that option. I welcome wanting to do this on an annual basis that whoever is sitting as Chair, a Selectman makes a motion that in 60 days we want to have an evaluation review. We're going to invite the public to come. We notify the

franchisee that we're going to do so, and they should be here. The language doesn't need to be changed. It's whatever we decide to do.

What Selectman Luszey is trying to get to Selectman Maddox's point is it's upon us to make the request versus making it a requirement of them to report out to us the types of issues they are seeing from our community to us. Right now Steve may get a phone call, or I may get a phone call, or you may get a phone call. We really don't know the scope of what the customer complaints are unless we hold a hearing versus if we made it a requirement of Comcast to send us a written report on a quarterly basis on certain benchmark criteria. For instance, how many complaints are you having? How many outages have you experienced? I don't know what we want to put here but we could put things that we could ask for. That's what I'm asking.

Selectman Maddox said it was on page 47. It's "Subscriber Complaint Log". We have to request as well as an annual performance test if we want to change that in the agreement to say they "will" not "we have to request". That was Selectman Luszey's point. Selectman Maddox said that they get a report that says that there were 61 complaints or there were 610.

Chairman Jasper said these are the type of things though that should be coming up before we negotiate. We finished our negotiation and now to say well we didn't do a very good job negotiating on our behalf. Selectman Maddox said that we're the people that are signing this. Chairman Jasper understood that but when you go into negotiations, just like with a labor contract, you go in with all the things that you're requesting. You don't finish negotiating and then say "Oh gee, I should have asked for that." "Oh gee, I should have done that." The only thing you do is go well wait a minute negotiating team, you didn't get what we asked for. We're not going to sign this. You can't now say we're going to change the contract based on something that we didn't ask for to begin with. You don't have to vote for the contract...Selectman Maddox said he didn't have to sign it. You're absolutely right Sir. I can see how this is not a good contract. Chairman Jasper said you didn't ask for...Selectman Maddox said he didn't know to ask for it Sir. Chairman Jasper said Selectman Maddox could have asked for the contract before to see what was in there. It's not the way to go into negotiations. Selectman Maddox said we're not negotiating. We're signing representing the Town. Chairman Jasper said we did negotiate. Roger represented us on the Board. These gentlemen represented us as well. We had a session in here before, at least one where we talked about what were we looking for in the contract. That was not something we were looking for.

Selectman Coutu said our Town Administrator was involved in the negotiations as well. We previously discussed this. We addressed every point that was brought up by this Board. We had a difference of opinion on the franchise fee - a 5 percent to 4 percent. It was fair. We weren't hard and fast on the 5 percent. We thought we'd take full advantage of getting as much as we can. We understand the conditions of the times and I agreed to the 4 percent and that's what we presented. The Town Administrator is also here representing the Town. I think that thoroughly covered ever single request that was made. If the position of this Board were tonight not to sign this contract, we're going to shut the cable television service off in this Town. That's what's going to happen. We either have a contract or we don't. We negotiated in good faith on the basis of what we discussed. I agree with the Chairman. If there were concerns, they should have been brought up sooner. If we need to have a contract, I fortunately being - you had a copy, I had a copy and Mr. O'Keefe had a copy. It's a public document. You could have requested it and reviewed it.

Selectman Maddox said he didn't know what you were negotiating at the...Selectman Coutu said we were negotiating a contract for cable television. Selectman Maddox indicated he still had the floor. Chairman Jasper said he did have the floor. Selectman Maddox said this is pretty much a done deal. Sign the thing. I won't. I think this is a terrible setup Mr. Chairman. It's done. It's over. Selectman Coutu resented the fact that this is called a "set up". It's not a set up. Selectman Maddox said it was a poor choice of words. I will rephrase that to "it is not a good deal for the taxpayers".

Chairman Jasper said that Selectman Maddox had a responsibility here. You were part of these discussions. Because you didn't...Selectman Maddox asked if they got a copy of that Sir when we were talking about it. Chairman Jasper said he certainly could have gotten a copy of the old contract. That's what we were basing it off of. This language is probably the same language as in the current contract. Mr. O'Keefe is saying yes. It's the same language in the contract now. You had these concerns. All you had to do is say...Selectman Maddox didn't have them until he read it Sir. Again...Chairman Jasper said he could have requested the current contract if you wanted to get into this level of detail. You could have requested to be on the team. To come in here now and say they did a bad job for the Town because you read something that has been in place for 10 years and now you don't like it is not fair to the people who were negotiating the contract. It's not. Selectman Maddox said he was right. It's also kind of we have to do it tonight or cable goes off.

Chairman Jasper didn't know of cable going off. That's not the point. We have negotiated the contract and the only thing that we would have a basis to reject this contract on is if there were items that we as the Board of Selectmen brought up during the strategy session and the team did not reach our objections. We would have a valid reason to

say no we're not signing because you did not do what we asked you to do. That is not the case. You can't bring up new things now any more than you can in a labor negotiation. When you sit down with labor negotiations, you have so many meetings to put the things on the table. If something comes up later, you can't just say we're going to start the negotiations over again. Unfortunately, that's the way it is. Obviously we have no public here coming in commenting on this. We don't have people coming in on cable. We have people calling maybe one a week but as you just heard primarily about issues with service or something else. I think this is just a little bit off base here.

One of the questions Selectman Nadeau had asked when we were deliberating this or going over it was other towns have a senior rate. Did we get anywhere with the senior rate when we negotiated this new contract? Mr. O'Keefe believed it was brought up but Comcast was not amenable to supporting it. Selectman Coutu thought it was being eliminated from all contracts in the future. I think that was the statement he made. It is being eliminated. Mr. O'Keefe said the concern is with Comcast that when they institute anything like that, the offset to pay for that is passed off to the rest of the subscribers. It's not a cost that Comcast absorbs. So they would essentially raise everyone else's rate to provide a lower rate for seniors. They prefer not to do that. I didn't hear that as a requirement from the Board so we didn't pursue that strongly. Selectman Nadeau said it was just a question/comment that he had asked. He didn't see that anything in here had changed.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to approve the Cable Television Renewal Franchise Agreement between the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Hudson and Comcast with a term for ten (10) years commencing on March 6, 2012 and expiring on March 5, 2022.

Selectman Nadeau asked if it was standard that every town is doing 10 year contracts. Mr. O'Keefe said it was fairly standard. It's not absolute but they are all within that range. Selectman Nadeau asked what range are other towns just out of curiosity. Mr. O'Keefe knows all the ones recently like Londonderry is 10. Jim McIntosh said they won't negotiate for less if that's what you're asking so we can make changes earlier. We did negotiate to change our rate, which they don't usually do with people. That was hard fought to get that and the fourth channel was a very hard fought to get in order to provide better services for the people. If anything, they'd love it if we'd go to a 20 year. They'd be making out like crazy in the long run. Ten years is pretty much standard through everywhere. We did ask if there was a way to renegotiate it. That's how we managed to get the concession for the adjustment of the rate in 5 years if we wanted to. It's just negotiating the contract.

Selectman Luszey said Mr. McIntosh said something that just struck a chord with me. You said you had to fight like heck to get the fourth channel. By doing so, just like the elderly exemption, is that a cost that is going to be passed on to the subscribers. Mr. McIntosh said it was a question of band width. The more TV stations they can sell like private stations, the more money they're going to make. So they don't want to give anything. We are in the low range, which is prime territory for TV stations. If you look at other communities, they're being pushed up to the 9500 and the 300s. A lot of people in order to get those higher channels, you have to buy a bigger package. So we tried to make sure we stayed out of that. There was talk mentioned at first of us changing our location of our stations, which we fought too in the very beginning. It's like I said, its negotiations and we did prevent that. That fourth channel is not going to cost us anything. There's going to be no past due fee on it. There is not cost. It's just a concession on their part. We didn't give up anything to get it. They didn't want to give it up either especially at the low range.

Chairman Jasper asked what the new channel number would be. Mr. McIntosh said they didn't know yet. We have to apply for it. I believe they have 120 days before they have to initiate it.

Selectman Maddox asked if this was the up to date copy. You said you changed some of the things on page 56. It still has the Hudson Lions Club on Lions Ave. and the Hills Memorial Library at 16 Library Street. On page 56, Mike O'Keefe's copy has Community Center, 12 Lions Ave. So you might have one revision earlier. I know Donna has the most current copy. Selectman Maddox said number 2 says "Hudson Lions Club on 12 Lions Ave. and 12 Memorial Library. Mr. Malizia thought he just got a draft because of getting it on the agenda. Bottom line, it says Community Center on there too here. Selectman Coutu said he has the same copy. Mr. Malizia said they all would.

Vote: Motion carried 4-1. Selectman Maddox in opposition.

B. HCTV - programming at Hills Memorial Library

Chairman Jasper recognized Selectman Coutu and Mike O'Keefe, Chairman of Cable Utility Committee.

Selectman Coutu told Selectman Luszey the reason why we're here discussing this week as opposed to last week is at your request. Selectman Luszey thank him. Selectman Coutu gladly obliged and any discourse Sir that you might have relative to this and I understand where you're coming from. I'll explain my position because my position was similar to yours. As you recall in the initial discussions that I had with the Board after having discussion with the Cable Committee, the Cable Committee initially wanted to provide quality equipment and programming at the Library.

We're talking back now a year ago. As a result of the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee's insistence that that building should not be funded for operational use, much to the chagrin of my fellow members on the Cable Committee who wanted to provide quality television service over there and insisted that I should probably sell that to the Board of Selectmen. I told them that I felt in all good conscience that I could not. I came here and I recommended at the time that we not do it. I wanted, like you, to send a clear and consistent message from both the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen. You all agreed that we would not do it. As in government, there are always mechanisms to make things happen that you want to happen, and it has happened. In light of that and in light of the criticism that Hudson Cable Television, which we manage as the Board of Selectmen, have received because of the poor quality of the television broadcasts and because I feel that we obliged to provide programming for all of the constituents of cable television. It is apparent to me that they're going nowhere. They're going to continue being there and holding meetings and doing whatever they want with that building. I feel that now it's time that we grab the bull by the horns and we provide the quality programming that is necessary for people to be able to see and understand what's going on rather than a bunch of mumbo jumbo and static coming across the air because they have poor quality equipment.

Selectman Coutu said we have the funds available to fit up that whole operation over there. We have an estimated cost of \$19,630. We are more than confident that we will have much more than that in surplus and we can cover the costs. I recommended to the Cable Committee - I brought the subject up. I recommended to the Cable Committee that perhaps we could meet them half way. Mr. McIntosh made a very strong argument and a very persuasive argument because I bought into it and I'm glad I did. As the responsible broadcasters for all of our government affairs programming, we should have total and complete control of the facility that is going to provide that broadcasting. In order to do so, we should own the equipment. Having listened to that, and like I said it was persuasive, then I suggested that we give them back all of their equipment to put into their audio/visual department at the High School because they're lacking in equipment. We do fit up the whole operation. The upstairs balcony provides sufficient space for us to hold a control room and we can install similar to this room 4 cameras. So you'll have the angles that are necessary to be able to see everybody face on as opposed to watching the public from behind and watching School Committee members in a captive picture from a far distance not knowing who's really speaking, especially when you have 3 women on one side and Lars. You know when Lars is speaking, they just nudge him and he says something. With that, I recommended to this Board that we go ahead and that we grab the bull by the horns and just provide a quality program. That's my recommendation.

Mr. O'Keefe passed around the documentation to see what it takes to fit up. Selectman Coutu said this was a complete fit up from the broadcasting booth all the way down to all of the cameras and microphones. Am I correct? This is a complete package. Mr. O'Keefe said yes.

Selectman Luszey asked if this was an appropriate time to comment.

Chairman Jasper said he'd like to get a motion on the floor so that we have something we're specifically discussing.

Motion by Selectman Coutu to approve the fitting up of the Hills Memorial Library for broadcasting/using cable facility funds not to exceed \$20,000.

Selectman Coutu asked if we could live with the \$20,000. Mike O'Keefe said probably. This estimate was done back in September. It's certainly not still valid. I can't imagine it's changed significantly.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to approve the fitting up of the Hills Memorial Library for broadcasting/using cable facility funds not to exceed \$20,000.

Selectman Luszey was still not in favor of this. I'll give you a couple of reasons why. One is if we do this we are enabling the Library Trustees to continue to do things with the Hills Memorial Library without really the blessing of the taxpayers. In terms of quality programming, the School Board was broadcasting out of Room 101 out of the High School when they used to have their school meetings which was a quality sound and picture. People could follow along.

Chairman Jasper told Selectman Luszey that they were broadcasting out of here. Selectman Luszey knew that they were doing it out of the high school too. Mr. O'Keefe said not on cable. Selectman Nadeau indicated that they used to record those back then. Chairman Jasper said the only time they've been live has been in this room and across. Selectman Luszey said he stood corrected on that one. Even so, we have a proposal that's going in front of the voters next week that includes a new cable facility. We have multiple rooms here. My question to the members of this Board is how many highly qualified production rooms do we need in this town? I would think that if the senior and the cable center is approved, we'll have a brand new facility there that the School Board would be more than welcome to use I believe. It would be at no additional cost. Again just approving this, we are enabling the Library Trustees to continue to put money into a building that the voters of this town have rejected a number of times and really have no

long-term plan on what they're going to do with that building. They're looking for excuses as to why and what they can do with it. For those reasons, I cannot support this.

Chairman Jasper wanted to weigh in on this. I agree with many of the points that you've made Selectman Luszey and I am extremely frustrated by what has gone on on behalf of the Library Trustees and the School Board. I have no reason to think, however, that if we build a new facility a couple of years down the road that they will move. They would be much better off in this room than they would traveling across town. I will tell you that as long as I'm on the Board, I will continue to fight for us to be here so we can have staff here available and accessible to the resources we need, which they have a similar ability when they're right next door to do. The only people that we are punishing in this are the people who want to watch the School Board and want to see what's going on. I find it extremely frustrating trying to watch the School Board at home. The quality of everything is just so poor that you really most of the time don't have any idea who is actually saying what. I think that even though I find what they have done to be irresponsible, that they never should have moved without having the proper setup, and they should have had a conversation with us first, they just decided to do what they wanted to do on their own without any thought to how that was going to impact the residents. The residents really haven't taken any real interest one way or another. I don't know that there was any discussion - I wasn't at the school district meeting but I certainly did not hear that there was discussion at school district meeting about that - that there were any motions made or anything to try to get the School Board to move out of there. They're an independent body. They're going to be there as long as they want. The same is true of the Library Trustees. This money is not taxpayer money. It's franchise money. We owe the people who are paying the franchise fee the best quality that we can give them. We tried to prove our point and it has been several years now. Unfortunately nothing is going to change. I think we're the ones that need to budge in this situation and provide the viewers a better quality. If you wish to respond.

Selectman Luszey's only response to that is I do agree. Our viewers should get a quality program. My question back to the Cable Utility is have we offered to put this equipment at the high school because they have a place that this could be set up where the School Board could meet in their own domain? Chairman Jasper didn't think that's really relevant because they have decided where they're going to meet and had they wanted to meet at the high school, they could certainly have requested this. It seems very clear where they want to meet.

Selectman Luszey said it's relevant to the point that if they truly want to provide a quality viewing experience for the people that want to watch the School Board meetings, I would like to hear them say no to putting this type of equipment in the high school and why it's not in the educational domain versus library.

Chairman Jasper thought it's very clear after two years that they are not concerned with the quality of the programming coming out of there. If after watching this or certainly we the Cable Committee can have a discussion with them and say we're willing to put the same setup at the high school if you're willing to have your meetings there. This is approving this amount for these facilities. If they suddenly have an epiphany and decide that gee it's really a better idea to do this where it could be most useful we'll set it up at the high school, I don't think there would be anybody on this Board who would object to that. Selectman Coutu indicated Chairman Jasper shouldn't have said that. You opened the door for Rick.

Selectman Coutu told Selectman Luszey that he was going to say something and I sincerely mean this. I didn't expect that Chairman Jasper was going to agree. I thought he was going to agree with you. The point is this Selectman Luszey. I'd love to win you over for one reason. I was with you, he was with you, we were all with you and we agreed. I articulated the position that he also spoke about which is that they're not going to move. To say that they are not in their domain by being across the street, you're going to be hard pressed to sell me or them on that idea because they're paying rent and it's an extension of their domain. The point that is most relevant, most relevant to this entire discussion is we are the cable company. We - the 5 of us - manage the cable facility. What comes out of there, we get blamed for. That's been the problem and I'm sick of listening to it. I'm sick of the phone calls and I sympathize with the cable users because like Chairman Jasper, I'm fed up. I like to watch what's going on in this town. Whether I have control over it or not, I want to know what the hell is going on. I want to be able to speak intelligently to our constituents when they call me about a problem as I'm sure you do. I don't like doing this any more than you do. We need to bite the bullet and we need to provide quality programming because that's what our subscribers expect, and we are the providers, we are obligated to do this. That's how I feel today. We can say no, but I just feel we owe it to the people who are calling and constantly complaining about the quality of the broadcast. Believe it or not, people do watch us and do watch the School Committee. You know it. You're inundated with calls like I am.

Within the last two days, Selectman Luszey had a comment made to me about the quality of the School Board.

Mr. Chairman, Selectman Maddox said he was going to vote no because I'm good at it. It's really value. I have a tough time saying that there's two rooms in this building that are full set up and not being used. I just can't justify building a third to do the same thing that there's two empty rooms. I think really the question should be of both of

those groups - what is their objection to using the two rooms that we have all set up? If you're telling me because it's the building that their files are in, we can give them a file cabinet. What are their objections other than they just want to use that building for something?

Selectman Nadeau indicated that Selectman Luszey hit on quite a few good points. One of them being if you put this facility over at the high school, I think it would get a lot more use with the high school students being able to maybe do some of their stuff and put it on the air. I think that we would definitely be putting out the wrong message that we want to keep the library building when we've heard all through the budget season that this building is costing us a ton of money to heat, maintenance, and we're not even using the building to the best of its abilities. I think we really need to come up with a very thorough plan before we spend \$20,000. This is a great plan. I would love to watch the School Board meetings and know whose talking and have the names scroll across the bottom of the screen so that everybody would know them. I think \$20,000 would be a great expenditure at the high school. I just don't think that building is the right place to put this other facility that we're going to build.

Chairman Jasper wanted to respond to Selectman Nadeau on that. Again, we don't control them. We can't control them. I look at this \$19,000 and see \$396 in cable. Maybe I missed something. I'm not even sure if that can't be reused. Every single other thing on here if the School Board finally wakes up and realizes that they are not acting in the best interests of anyone but themselves and want to move it, from what I can see here - there's \$188 in shipping costs. There is some other cable here but still we're coming up with just over \$1,000 in cable I guess. I don't know how much of that can be reused or can't. That's nothing. Everything else is equipment that can simply be packed into the truck and moved down to another facility. It's not a waste of \$20,000. It's not like oh my god they agreed in a month that they really ought to be at the high school and now we've wasted \$20,000. This is equipment that can move from one location to another. We need to come to the realization that the School Board is not going to meet in one of our buildings. That's it. They're not coming back here. Right now they're going to meet there. They have a lease. They're at least be there through the terms of the lease. At the end of that lease or sooner if they want to move, we can move that equipment less whatever wire is cut to size and no longer usable. Everything else can go down there. Let's not use the issue of cost. This is not about equipment, and cost, and waste. This is about them being stubborn and now this Board being stubborn. We have two boards being extremely stubborn and we're not serving the people who need to be served. That's the people who want to watch the meeting. They've paid for this. The money sitting in the bank, we need to spend it on the equipment. You can say we have two rooms here but during budget season, sometimes you don't. You don't always have the ability to have everybody who needs to meet meet. Having a third room whether it's over there or down there, we can't bank on anything going down at a building we haven't built. We need to do the right thing here for the people and allocate this money for the equipment.

Like Selectman Luszey said, I really don't like doing this. It enables that building. I will support buying the equipment but that doesn't mean I'm not going to continue to go after the School Board to move. I honestly believe this would be much better in the high school and have them do that.

Selectman Coutu wanted to correct Selectman Nadeau on one thing in your presentation. Don't think I disagree with you, I don't disagree with you. You know how I feel and am as passionate - this is the most passionate I've seen him in a year. You should be on the Cable Committee. You articulated and argued more strongly than I did. Selectman Nadeau in this past budget session both here - three places - the School Committee and their deliberative session, and our deliberative session or in this house. We had 5 opportunities this year to bring this up - that building over there, the Hills Memorial Library. It was never brought up this year. The battle was fought last year. It was lost. In essence, there's been a concession made. If it was enabled, it's not being enabled here. It's already been enabled by a lack of action this year. I remember one member of this Board articulating that he was going to get it on the ballot and he's going to vote against it tonight. He didn't get a warrant article to put that building on the ballot. Selectman Maddox said we got an attorney's ruling that says we couldn't. So what's the sense? Selectman Coutu didn't see it as enabling them. What I see it as is correcting an injustice that's being done to the people that we're trying to serve. As long as we continue to allow this type of programming to continue in the fashion that it is, we're going to constantly be criticized for it. I say let's grab the bull by the horns and I appreciate your support Selectman Luszey.

Vote: Motion carried 4-1. Selectman Maddox in opposition.

6. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Luszey - I left record breaking temperatures last week down in Florida with Uncle Mickey to come back to snow and a two hour delay because our beloved President was in the area, which causes a no fly zone in Boston and Manchester. That's it.

Selectman Nadeau - I have one thing this evening. I'd like to wish the Alvirne Varsity Hockey team well as they're traveling up to Concord tomorrow to play in the semi-finals against Belmont and Guilford. If they do win there, they

will be going on to the Verizon Center on Saturday for the finals. I wanted to wish the Alvirne Hockey team great luck up there and keep playing the way they've been playing all season and we should be going to the Verizon Center. That's it for this evening.

Selectman Coutu - Thank you Mr. Chairman. Number one, again, I want to remind the voters we will have one more meeting prior to the election, next Tuesday, we'll be holding our meeting on Monday evening. It should be a short meeting. Certainly Selectman Luszey, Selectman Maddox and I will have a long day at the polls. I wish you and Selectman Nadeau the very best of luck. Based on what I'm hearing from the opponents, we're doing an outstanding job so I don't know why they ran. I would hope and expect that you'll be continuing your service on this Board as you have so faithfully in the past few years.

Lastly Mr. Chairman, Selectman Coutu wanted to remind everyone I have one week left up until Election Day to sell tickets for the St. Patrick's Day roast. I heard you weren't going. I'm a little disappointed. You were a great target. Did you have a conversation with Chairman Lavoie from the School Committee? Did he ask you if you were attending? Chairman Jasper said no. Until you said I was going to be a target, I was planning on going. Selectman Coutu said he'd give him the microphone. You could be good at it. You and Ben would be easy targets. Rick all we'd have to say is no, no, no and everybody would know who we're talking about. That would be Selectman Maddox. This is going to be an old fashioned, good natured, typically Irish corn beef and dinner roast. We expect to have a good time. We still have quite a few tickets available. I know that Mal's Pals is doing another fundraiser this Friday evening at the Community Center. We allowed them to go in. Its ladies night out where they're going to showcase 22 vendors, all women's products - Tupperware is one of the companies, Avon products - whatever the wives get invited to all these house parties. They're going to put them all in one building and they expect a crowd of approximately 200 people. Hopefully they'll sell some tickets for the roast. I was down at White Birch today discussing our plans with them, table set ups, and things. The tickets are \$25 a piece. They're \$200 for a table of 8. We have between now and Tuesday. All of the members of Mal's Pals Committee which include School Committee Chair Lee Lavoie and Jeremy Griffith, and there are several other people - the Bowens who have tickets for sale. I have tickets for sale. I'll be at the polls all day Tuesday if you want to buy a couple of tickets. I'll have some on me.

Selectman Coutu indicated that Selectman Maddox will be busy recruiting people I hope for our Board and Committees. We need a few people on the Cable Committee. I believe we have 3 vacancies right now. If you want to join the Cable Committee, I'll recruit Selectman Jasper to join us next year. With that, thank you Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Maddox - Thank you Mr. Chairman. Last Wednesday I got to go to the BAE open house. They added on to one of the buildings and they wanted to showcase what they do inside. I did get to talk to several people from BAE, including the person in charge of the facility. Very complimentary to the Town of Hudson. They were very appreciative of what the Planning Board did. I know the Planning Board does a bad rap at times from some other candidates but they were very pleased with how that went right through as a conceptual, no big deal. They complimented the Town Engineer about some issues with wastewater treatment and the like. He would like to get together, and I suggested I would have the Town Administrator contact him, I have his card and I'll get it over to Steve. Again, they were very pleased with what they have had interaction with the Town of Hudson. That's good to hear. Again, they don't call the Thumbs so it was nice to hear it from a person.

Next as Selectman Maddox touched on Thumbs, I can't bypass even though I'm not the liaison to the Town Clerk, I will say that I'm just fascinated some days where the information starts from. There's always been a boat tax and it's done by the State. Certain places are authorized to do it - not everywhere. Our Town Clerk took the initiative to take the courses, get the equipment - I guess it's still not on line. The State is still not yet prepared. This is not the Selectmen and the Town Clerk finding a new way to get money out of people. It is a boat tax that's been around since probably Noah. Again rather than having to drive to Nashua or Derry, it was intended to say you're registering your boat trailer why can't you do the boat. So, again, kudos to the Town Clerk for taking the initiative and now taking the grief because we've made up this new tax.

Selectman Maddox's final thing is there's been much malign about raises. I think that Selectman Coutu and the Chairman had a television show that hopefully covered the fact that we put forth a project that balanced on both sides. Some give and take with the contracts. I hope that the citizens get a chance to look at that and see that whether it be the Town Clerk or the two union proposals we have on the ballot, that they look at these as hard work on both sides to bring fairness and some well deserved recognition to our employees. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Jasper - Thank you for those comments relative to the Town Clerk. I have a feeling that the people who write Thumbs Down to the Hudson News watch this meeting. I'm going to issue a challenge to the people who write the Thumbs Down about the Town of Hudson. Call one of the five of us, or call Steve, and ask the question before you write the Thumbs Down. Most of the Thumbs Down that is put in regarding the Town of Hudson is based on misinformation. They are not based on fact. I challenge you to get your facts right, have the courage of your conviction and call us up. Say look here's what I think the problem is and let us try. We'll either agree with you if

you're right or we'll be able to give you the information. We're all in the phone book. That's my challenge to the people who want to constantly tear down the employees of this town, the town government. This is a great town. Unfortunately there are just a few people out there who seem to have nothing better to do than try to spread misinformation week after week.

7. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee, carried 5-0 by roll call.

Chairman Jasper indicated that Nonpublic Session is being entered at 7:59 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. Leo Bernard is asked to leave the room.

Open session is being entered at 8:19 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to hire Kimberly Moore as the new Administrative Aide in the Engineering Department at the starting rate of \$16.04 per hour in accordance with the Support Staff Union contract effective March 26, 2012, carried 5-0.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Jasper at 8:20 p.m.

Recorded by HGTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Shawn Jasper, Chairman

Roger E. Coutu, Vice Chairman

Richard J. Maddox, Selectman

Benjamin Nadeau, Selectman

Ted Luszey, Selectman