

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the February 28, 2012 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Jasper the meeting of February 28, 2012 at 7:03 p.m. in the BOS Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Eagle Scout Candidate Ben Bates.
3. ATTENDANCE
Board of Selectmen: Shawn Jasper, Roger Coutu, Rick Maddox, Ben Nadeau, Ted Luszey (absent)
Staff/Others: Donna Graham, Executive Assistant; Jason Lavoie, Police Chief
4. PUBLIC INPUT
 - A. Recognition of Hudson Litchfield Bears Division 12 placing first in the American Youth Cheerleading National Championship in Kissimmee, Florida

Chairman Jasper read the following:

The Hudson Board of Selectmen wishes to congratulate the Hudson Litchfield Bears Division 12 Cheerleading Squad in winning first place at the American Youth Cheerleading (AYC) National Championship.

The girls out performed many teams in New Hampshire and New England to earn the right to attend Nationals in 2011. They also overcame many obstacles along the way. Despite experiencing the trauma of a teammate breaking her arm during warm-ups at the New Hampshire State Cheer Championships, they placed 2nd out of 7 teams. The team then went on to rebuild their routine and placed 2nd out of 15 teams at the New England Regional Center Championships earning the right to attend Nationals in Florida. However, the hard work wasn't over yet. The team found themselves needing to rearrange their routine one last time for Nationals, with only 4 practices to do it. The girls managed to pull together their strongest routine of the season.

On Saturday, December 10, 2011, the Hudson Litchfield Bears Cheerleading Squad took center stage at the Spurs Silver Arena in Kissimmee, Florida, for the American Youth Cheerleading Competition and took 1st place. This is the second time in Hudson Bears' history that a cheerleading squad has brought home a National Championship.

Congratulations on this amazing victory!

Hudson Litchfield Bears Cheerleading Squad consists of:

Haley Barahona
Amber Bardsley
Carisa Blais
Emily Chaisson
Meaghan Connors
Catherine Donahue
Lauren Ferentino
Mallory Floyd
Kendra Gerace
Cassidy Griffith
Kaylee Hunt
Kayleigh Lavoie
Sarah Linnehan
Jessica Lortie
Juliana Page
Rachel Perron
Tyler Prather
Olivia Roberts
Kirsten Rourke
Autumn Saab
Haley Tuck
Tori Willard
Alexis Williams

Coaches:
Christine Bardsley, Head Coach
Heather Chaisson, Assistant Coach
Robin Donahue, Assistant Coach
Cindy Roberts, Assistant Coach
Kayla Page, Student Demonstrator
Holly Roberts, Student Demonstrator
Lisa Ferentino, Team Mom
Mary Linnehan, Team Mom

5. NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

- A. Resignation of Kristofor Georgeou as a member of the Cable Utility Committee

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to accept the resignation of Kristofor Georgeou as a member of the Cable Utility Committee with thanks for service and regret, carried 4-0.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

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

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to approve consent items A, B, C, D and E, as noted or appropriate, carried 4-0.

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Veteran Tax Credit - Map 217, Lot 017, Sub 002; Map 149, Lot 001, Sub 070; Map 140, Lot 058, w/recommendation to approve
- 2) Elderly and Blind Exemption - Map 124, Lot 014; Map 165, Lot 063; Map 241, Lot 002, w/recommendation to approve
- 3) Current Use Lien Release - Map 114, Lot 3, w/recommendation to approve signing the release
- 4) Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed/Timber Tax Warrant - Map 226, Lot 001, w/recommendation to approve
- 5) 2011 Tax Abatement - Map 147, Lot 22-21, w/recommendation to deny
- 6) 2011 Tax Abatement - Map 154, Lot 27, w/recommendation to approve adjustment
- 7) 2011 Tax Abatement - Map 216, Lot 18-15, w/recommendation to deny
- 8) 2011 Tax Abatement - Map 191, Lot 186, w/recommendation to deny
- 9) 2010 Abatement Application Settlement Agreement (BTLA) - Map 222, Lot 11, w/recommendation to approve

B. Water/Sewer Items

- 1) Sewer Abatement, S-UTL-12-19, 16B Tammy Court, w/recommendation to approve
- 2) Water Abatement, W-UTL-12-01, 16B Tammy Court; W-UTL-12-03, 17A Chandler Court, w/recommendation to approve
- 3) Water Abatement, W-UTL-10-34, 93 River Road, w/recommendation to deny
- 4) Sewer Acceptance - Map 184, Lot 032, Oak Ridge Condominium - 109 Belknap Road, w/recommendation to approve
- 5) Water Main Acceptance - Map 184, Lot 032, Oak Ridge Condominium, w/recommendation to approve

C. Licenses & Permits

- 1) Request to Solicit Funds by Londonderry Athletic & Field Association

D. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the February 7, 2012 workshop meeting

E. Calendar

03/01	6:30	Recreation Cte - BOS Meeting Room
03/01	7:00	Benson Park Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
03/06	7:00	Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
03/07	7:00	Planning Board - Buxton CD Meeting Room
03/08	5:00	Sewer Utility Committee - BOS Meeting Room
03/08	7:30	Zoning Board of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room
03/12	7:00	Conservation Commission - Buxton CD Meeting Room
03/12	7:00	Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
03/13		TOWN MEETING
03/14	7:00	Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
03/14	7:00	Benson Park - Landscape Cte - BOS Meeting Room
03/15	7:00	Benson Park Cte - BOS Meeting Room
03/15	7:30	Budget Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
03/19	7:00	Energy Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
03/20	7:00	Cable Utility Cte - BOS Meeting Room
03/21	5:00	Water Utility Committee - BOS Meeting Room
03/21	7:00	Council on Aging - Buxton CD Meeting Room
03/22	2:45	Trustees of Trust Fund - Buxton CD Meeting Room
03/22	7:30	Zoning Board of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room

03/26 6:00 Recycling Committee - BOS Meeting Room
03/27 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
03/28 7:00 Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
03/28 7:00 Benson Park - Landscape Cte - BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on February 14, 2012

- 1) Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to hire Kristofor Georgeou as the part-time HCTV Production Assistant at a rate of \$11.00 per hour for up to 20 hours per month, carried 5-0.
- 2) Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to approve the Order to Repair or Remove Hazardous Building located at 60 Greeley Street, carried 5-0.
- 3) Motion by adjourn at 9:12 p.m. by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, carried 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Naming a trail at Musquash Pond - Blue Dot Trail, for an Eagle Scout project by Ben Bate

Chairman Jasper recognized Ben Bate and Joe Undercofler.

I'm Benjamin Bate and I live at 9 Lund Drive in Hudson. Joe Undercofler, 137 Musquash Road.

Chairman Jasper asked that they tell us a little bit about your project and how you came up with the name.

Mr. Bate said the project was to build a new trail over at Musquash Pond. One that was closer to the actual pond so as you're walking the trail the pond is always - if you're going the way we built it, it's always to the right. If you're coming back, it's always on your left. We also built a small branch trail that goes out and has an overlook of the pond. The trail is about a half a mile. It's a full mile round trip. We named the trail the Blue Dot Trail or came up with that name because of the blazes that are on the trail. They are blue circles that are on trees as you go along the trail.

Selectman Coutu asked Ben how long it took to do the project. Mr. Bate said it took about 7 or 8 different work days to go out there and do the trail. A total of about 248 hours. Selectman Coutu asked how many people on his crew did he have that he supervised in helping him with this project. Mr. Bate said the group varied from just me and Mr. Undercofler to about 12 different people depending on the work day. The reason why Selectman Coutu asked for this information is so that people understand that this just isn't something that is done willy nilly. It isn't done over night. It takes planning. It takes a lot of planning and cooperation. It gives you an ability to show your leadership skills in organizing this project. What was your total cost for this project approximately? Mr. Undercofler said Ben was not finished with this project just yet. We're trying to get the name nailed down so that we can make the signs. WE have the posts up. The posts are in place. The signs will be very similar to what's at Benson Park - same look, same type of sign. We needed to nail down the name so that I can route the signs to finish this up. Mr. Bate said an estimated cost was around \$300 at the moment.

Selectman Maddox asked if Meetinghouse Trail be more appropriate. He gave us the history that there's a stone marker there right now that signifies that. Would that make more sense than Blue Dot? Chairman Jasper said it certainly is the Board's prerogative. The signs would be a little bit long. Mr. Undercofler said Blue Dot is a little generic and I'm not opposed to the Meetinghouse Trail or whatever you would like. Like I said, we haven't made the signs yet. It really doesn't matter at this point.

Selectman Nadeau didn't really have a preference on the name of the trail but while I was at Benson's this weekend, I was talking to somebody who was on the trails over the weekend. They've been using it for the last couple 3 or 4 months even through the winter hiking. They really think it's nice and the views are really nice along the pond. People are using it already even though there's no name on it. Just so you know that people are using it and they do like it.

Chairman Jasper said he isn't crazy about the name Blue Dot. I like your idea.

Patricia Dubay interrupted. She lives at 9 Elaine Street. I'm on the Conservation Commission. I was working with these folks trying to get the name of the trail. I'm also working with Ted Lucy. We already got approval from the Fire Department to try to get this name in so that he could finish his project by April 1st. Would changing the name from Blue Dot to Meetinghouse Trail cause him to miss his deadline of April 1st?

Chairman Jasper said no. Ms. Graham stated that she spoke to Deputy Chief Buxton. I had him go through those other names that they suggested on the e-mail and they are fine. He had no problem with that name at all. Chairman Jasper indicated to Ms. Dubay that that won't cause a problem.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to name the trail at Musquash Pond the Meetinghouse Trail, carried 4-0.

B. Request by Brett Reed to waive the fee for the use of the Community Center for a spaghetti dinner

Chairman Jasper to recognize Joe Undercofler.

Mr. Undercofler indicated that Brett has a stomach virus so he couldn't be here this evening.

Chairman Jasper indicated that the request was to use the Community Center to hold a spaghetti dinner for an Eagle Scout fundraiser on Sunday, April 15, 2012, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and to waive the fee.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to allow Brett Reed to use the Community Center to hold a spaghetti dinner for an Eagle Scout fundraiser on Sunday, April 15, 2012, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and to waive the fee.

Selectman Coutu wanted to make sure that they understood the cleanup procedure. Chairman Jasper said that Mr. Undercofler understands the procedure very well at this point.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0.

C. Request by Paul Lacasse of The Friends of Benson Park to waive the fee for the use of the Community Center for a spaghetti dinner

Chairman Jasper recognized Paul Lacasse.

Paul Lacasse, 5 Logan Court, and also the Treasurer of the Friends of Benson. We're looking to have this spaghetti dinner to raise funds for hopefully Warrant Article 14 that's going to pass on March 13 for the elephant barn. All proceeds from this will be going to the park one way or another.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to allow the Friend's of Benson Park, Inc. to use the Community Center to hold a fundraiser for improvements at Benson Park on Saturday, April 21, 2012, and to waive the fee.

Just so they are aware, Selectman Nadeau said the rules of waiving it that they have to clean up. I'm sure that Mr. Undercofler will probably be there to help them with that one too. Chairman Jasper assumed that you're aware of all of the...Mr. Lacasse said he hadn't been spoken to about that but its common sense I would think. It's the same way as when I leave. When I came, it's the same way when I leave. Chairman Jasper thought what Mr. Undercofler would suggest is that you come the week before and you learn the whole setup, breakdown routine the week before.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0.

D. Bid Recommendation - Police Package Vehicles

Chairman Jasper recognized Police Chief Jason Lavoie.

Good evening. Thank you Mr. Chairman. Chief Lavoie indicated that it was that time of year again where we're here asking to accept the bids. Every year we purchase new cruisers. We eliminate the vehicles that are over 80,000 or approaching 80,000. It's a good cycle that the Town has been doing since apparently the early 80s. It works real well. Again, we're at that stage where it's time to trade out some of the older vehicles. We advertised in a few different newspapers. The bids came in sealed and then they were opened up here at Town Hall. I am recommending to the Board to go with the lowest bids. The lowest bids were submitted by MacMulkin Chevrolet. When all is done, the final cost is \$90,756. That's just to take the cruisers, take the old ones away, and get in the new ones. We'll then have to outfit the cruisers, swap them over, strip them, etc.

Chairman Jasper said the Chief has a \$120,000 budget for that. I'm assuming that you will be well within budget by the time everything is done swapping out and setting up. Chief Lavoie said yes.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to award the bid for five (5) 2012 police package vehicles at the net bid price of \$90,756 to the lowest bidder, MacMulkin Chevrolet of Nashua, NH, as recommended by the Police Chief and the Finance Director, carried 4-0.

E. HCTV - programming at Hills Library - DEFERRED UNTIL MARCH 6TH MEETING

9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Nadeau - I have one thing this evening. On Sunday, the Hudson Dog Park Committee had a fundraiser/demonstration at the park. They had dog sleds, people with their cardboard dog sleds. It was very fun and interesting event at Benson's. It was very well attended. All the parking lots were full, which was great. There was a lot new interest in getting the dog park open. They raised \$1,700 and a lot of people were interested in the adopt a fence panels. That went very well. Hopefully soon enough the dog park will be open. Until then if people are interested in making donations, they can get a hold of the Hudson Dog Park on their Facebook page. That's all I have this evening.

Selectman Coutu - Thank you Mr. Chairman. A couple of things. I alluded to it earlier that I watched the candidates' debate that was sponsored by the Junior Woman's Club. I was a little take aback by a couple of things that I can't in any way let go unchallenged. One candidate makes reference to the Planning Board representing that they were an obstacle to the progression of business in our community. I've been sitting on this Board now for 4 years and if there's anything, I've seen a tremendous amount of progress and just the fact that the Planning Board has worked feverishly with those who are coming into town, proposing new businesses, or converting building lots into livable housing space. As most of the citizens who are attuned to how our government operates and watch the Planning Board meetings and other meetings on television, it's not a simple thing to take a 100 acre lot and just come in with a plan and expect that 50 homes are going to be approved and built in 2 or 3 months. If we were to let the engineers and the proponents of different businesses and housing just rush through their plans, we'd have an irate citizenry in this town because there are certain codes and restrictions that they have to be limited by. Selectman Maddox sits on that Board. He represents this Board as a voting member of that Board and I'm sure that he's as concerned as the rest of us about the progress of what takes place at the Planning Board. I'm sure he could attest first hand otherwise I'm sure he would have come in here and he would have notified us that there was a deliberate attempt or people dragging their feet. I'm very proud despite when other candidates saying that we have some control because we appoint the Planning Board members. I know Mr. Chairman that you and the 5 of us who sit here vet these people for the most part. I have never had anybody come before this Board who I felt didn't represent the sincere interest in wanting to help this community whether it's serving on the Planning Board or another board or commission in this town. Granted some of the people are new and they go through a learning process. As we have witnessed firsthand, some of the people who sit on the Planning Board have been through that learning process and now they speak up and they're active participants. I'm very proud of the people who serve on the Planning Board. I feel bad that they were somewhat maligned in that fashion.

Another thing that upset Selectman Coutu very much is that very same candidate made an assertion, and I don't know if he was referencing Selectman Maddox, or he was referencing me, or he was referencing both of us to imply that one of us or both of us refuse to sit down with the respective unions that we weren't bargaining with. Selectman Maddox with the Police Department and I with the Fire Department, we refused to sit down and negotiate with them is an absolute falsehood and a misrepresentation of the facts. Granted we didn't arrive at a contract but people need to understand the process. The process is that the union and their representatives sit on one side of the table and we as representing the Board sit with the Town Administrator, the department head, and a professionally paid negotiator to negotiate a contract. In the case of the Fire Department, we reached a stalemate over one of the issues that we wanted to discuss and we're going to go back to the bargaining table next year. If Selectman Maddox wants to comment on that, I welcome it. Selectman Maddox, I'll yield some time to you.

Selectman Maddox didn't get to stay for the candidate's night, so I didn't hear what you're talking about. I did hear it when you had the candidates over about the fact that there was no contract for these two groups. Negotiations are difficult. In these economic times, this Board tried to balance what the citizens, taxpayers would pay, and what we could afford to give. It's a give and take. Unfortunately, I think more than anything else ran out of time I think that had we managed to keep going. Again just giving out money is not the answer. We need to balance that with something with our health care. Something that this Board has been striving for the last several cycles with our union contracts. There was negotiation. It wasn't fruitful in some cases. I know that in my case, and I'm sure in Selectman Coutu's, we wished we could have come to a decision where we could put it before the voters. I guess I'm unhappy to hear that. If you're not in the room, it's tough for people to know what goes on.

More importantly selectman Maddox, Selectman Coutu asked if he got up and leave your negotiations and walk out. Selectman Maddox said no. Selectman Coutu said neither did he. That was the implication and I resent things like that being misrepresented. I don't care what the forum is.

Lastly Mr. Chairman, Selectman Coutu said he'd let him expound on it a little bit. Chairman Jasper and I happened to have a casual conversation in the Selectmen's room last Friday. I hope you don't mind my bringing this up. I want people to watch this. We had a casual conversation. It was witnessed by Jim McIntosh who is our cable Facilitator. The Chairman and I, as I said, it was a very casual conversation about the state of affairs in our town. We weren't making decisions. We were just discussing the town in general and warrant articles that were coming before the voters. Near the end of the conversation,

Mr. McIntosh said to Chairman Jasper and I, this particular conversation that you're having is the kind of thing that the voters need to hear. On that, we picked up on it and what we did is we went to the cable studio yesterday and we had a casual conversation. We gave as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, we gave a State of the Town message to our citizens and we went over some of the ballot questions. I think it's worth viewing. I think it's very informative. I think you're going to enjoy it. It will give you a little more insight as to how these ballot questions came about and their implication to town whether good or bad. For the most part, they are good. I hope you get to watch it. With that Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Selectman Maddox - Good that means Selectman Coutu and I don't have to do it because we talked about the very same thing. Again, the issue with the warrant articles for the contracts we do have have laid the ground work for some of the things that we're trying to do as far as the vacation holiday type of set up, the earned time, and the medical insurance. I'm glad to see that you guys have already accomplished that. I kind of scratched that off my list here.

The other thing Selectman Maddox had was on Saturday, having much time on my hands, I swung by the landfill. It was the last weekend of the month so it was the usual exodus of citizens with their stuff for the dump. Mr. Chairman it was a good thing we weren't opening a hot dog stand looking for income from that job. The crowds are way down. They said they filled 3 dumpsters as opposed to 17 a year ago. As much as it is painful sometimes to make a decision in regards to the stickers and the mechanism, the amount of obviously visiting trash has reduced substantially. Again, kudos to Kevin Burns who stuck his neck out and kind of dragged ours with it a little bit, he looked at the situation and found a solution that hopefully doesn't hurt Hudson citizens but it does hurt Hudson taxpayers by paying for people outside of Hudson dumping their trash because we were free and easy.

Finally Mr. Chairman, You and briefly talked about the Atrium Medical. I'm glad to see that you wrote a letter that covered the issues. They're looking to stay in Hudson. You talked about the Planning Board and whatever. They are going to try to expand and we would like to help them. The letter that you sent is great and, again, one of the things I did say to the Chairman at candidate's night is unfortunately we're not very good at blowing our own horn. This is a case where if we didn't do anything, we'd certainly hear about it. When we do do things, nobody seems to hear that. I haven't figured out why incumbent has become such a bad word if the job is getting done. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Jasper - I agree with Selectman Coutu relative to the issues of the Planning Board. The little conversation we had yesterday hopefully will shed some light on some issues. We tried to go over a lot of things that we hear around town - concerns, questions that people have that they don't quite understand how some of the things work. We tried to cover those issues and I thought the conversation went well and hopefully some people will find it enlightening.

Chairman Jasper also agreed relative to the issue of the contact. Selectman Luszey and I both had a somewhat heated conversation with the candidate that Selectman Coutu was referring to after candidate's night because of this misinformation that the Selectmen just went in and said this is what we want and that's the way it's going to be. If you don't agree with us, there won't be any contracts. Nothing could be further from the truth. We went in with the same parameters to all four. We got contracts with two. Those two that we got we didn't get what we were looking for to start with. If you looked at what we went in and what we were asking for, we came away with a greatly modified set of parameters and a package. That's what negotiation is about. Both sides come in and say this is what we want and then you work towards trying to find middle ground. We did the same thing with the other two units and we would have given them the same deal that we made with the two that we were successful with. That was not something they were interested in. As long as I'm on the Board of Selectmen, I really thing that when it comes to the issue of benefits, wages and insurance, all our employees need to be treated the same way. When we're negotiating four contracts when it comes to those three issues, you really have to come out - sometimes you can look at what's fair relative to other departments if we're losing people to those departments. Particularly the benefit package should be consistent in the town. That's the one thing that really needs to be consistent. We couldn't come to agreement there. We didn't reach agreement. Nothing could be further from the truth to say we went in there and said it's going to be our way or the highway.

Selectman Maddox was sure that Selectman Coutu will agree both as the liaison for those other two groups; he and I came into this meeting room and tried very hard to push for making some modifications. It wasn't like we just simply walked away. We pushed as hard as thought we could internally here. We tried.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 93-A:3 II (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with any body or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph, carried 4-0 by roll call.

Nonpublic Session is being entered at 7:41 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.

Open session is being entered at 8:27 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Maddox, carried 4-0.

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