

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the October 27, 2011 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Jasper the meeting of October 27, 2011 at 7:04 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Selectman Coutu.
3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Shawn Jasper, Roger Coutu, Rick Maddox, Ben Nadeau (arrived at 7:46 p.m.), Ted Luszey

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Donna Graham, Executive Assistant; Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director; Chief Jason Lavoie; Dave Yates, Recreation Director; Harry Schibanoff, Chairman of Benson Park; Captain Bob Tousignant; Tim Quinn, Chairman of Conservation Commission; Linda Kipnes; Leo Bernard; Dorothy Carey; Connie Owen; Charlie Schweiss, Chairman of Budget Committee; Toni Weller and Library Trustees

4. BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Cemetery Trustees (5025) – Town Offices, page 4.

Ms. Carpentier said we level funded the budget.

Mr. Malizia indicated that their budget routinely provides for names of headstones. I'm not sure they did any last year but pretty much what we do with this budget. If there's any vandalism or damage from weather for the headstones.

Chairman Jasper indicated that was level funded at \$1,260 for those watching in. That might explain why they're not here. Any questions or comments?

Conservation Committee (5586), page 1

Ms. Carpentier indicated that there was also a one page handout given out by the Conservation Commission.

Good evening. Mr. Quinn indicated that in front of the Board they have an original conservation budget request. That was done on an estimate on the DASH unit use on my part turned out to be low. We had to make a correction. That's the second page. That would increase it by \$4,865. The reason for this is that the herbicide treatment on Robinson Pond was disappointing. It turned out to be a lot more invasive species left over at the end of that than was originally thought there would be. The people at Robinson Pond wanted actually 10 more days than we have here. So this is kind of a compromise. It's kind of pay me now or pay me later type of problem. If you don't go in there and rid all of the invasive species, it's going to grow right back where you took out the other stuff. We took a look at the areas that were the hardest hit. I'll let Jim Kegley talk to the maps.

Jim Kegley a resident of 5 Griffin Road in Hudson just outside the watershed. I gave you 3 maps. One is for the pre-DASH before the operation started in June of 2011. These are approximations that were done based on drawings by the DASH operator for the 17 days he spent underwater this season. The first is before we started. The red areas indicate our greatest concern with a high density. The green areas represent our least concern with sparse density. Then the second map is a drawing after the DASH was done, which is noticeable for the near absence of the dense areas. The final map is what we haven't yet accomplished but it's the target for sparse growth around the perimeter of the pond but not elimination.

Before you go any further Chairman Quinn, Chairman Jasper was just trying to understand. We're looking at a request in our budget of \$21,485 but what you are actually requesting at this time is a total budget of \$27,499. Mr. Malizia indicated that right now they have \$19,634 budgeted in Other Professional Services. It appears they're looking for \$24,499 for Other Professional Services. Ms. Carpentier said it has to be 27 for gross appropriations.

Chairman Jasper said we would need to put in \$3,000. That's the request for that one line needs to go from \$19,634 to \$27,499. Is that correct? Mr. Quinn said yes.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to increase Other Professional Services from \$19,634 to \$27,499.

Selectman Luszey said the Conservation Commission has been spending a lot of time and effort trying to control the evasive weeds in the surrounding ponds. They've got a pretty good handle going on Robinson Pond. If we should not fund this, the fear is that we'll kind of get back to page one of the drawing because we won't be able to eradicate that evasive species. I think this would be worth the \$7,865 increase to maintain a program that will help keep these ponds alive.

Selectman Coutu said he wanted to hear a little more. I'm a little concerned about the percentage of increase.

Again, Selectman Maddox was in the same boat. It's great that that's what they want to do here at the ponds but we've asked police and fire to stay at zero increases. They're going to have to adjust their budgets whether they only go to Ottarnic for 4 days and bring it down to where it stays within the amount. These are nice colored charts but nothing is going to guarantee that you're going to get to your goal depending upon all kinds of factors, what type of spring we have, and what type of nutrients are being put into those ponds. I think at this point I'm not ready to put up for another increase.

Vote: Motion failed 1-2-1. Selectman Luszey in favor. Chairman Jasper and selectman Maddox voted in opposition. Selectman Coutu abstained.

Given that the motion has failed, Chairman Jasper would like to suggest that we could level fund this budget by adding \$2,000 and change back in this. That's what Selectman Maddox was going to suggest. We put back to the FY2011 number of \$23,539. Whatever that increase is KC. Ms. Carpentier said \$2,054.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to increase Professional Services by \$2,054, carried 4-0.

Mr. Quinn asked if there were any other items on the budget that you wanted to discuss. Chairman Jasper didn't believe so. Anybody have any other questions? We do still have the grant and the donations, so we need to deal with that and other revenue. You're anticipating that you will still get the \$2,000 and the \$1,000 in donations. Mr. Quinn said yes. Chairman Jasper said to keep that on the side list when we get to it.

Energy Committee (5085), Town Offices, page 36

Chairman Jasper said it was level funded at \$800.

Ms. Kipnes said most of what we spend our money is copies of information to hand out to people, fees and registrations for us to go to conferences.

Recycling Committee (5055)

Chairman Jasper said there was a request by the Recycling Committee for a budget of \$500. Ms. Carpentier indicated it was a hand out I gave you. I created a budget based on the Board of Selectmen meeting I overhead. They usually buy kitchen pails, compost bins, and recycle sorters and then they sell them to the public. Technically we should add \$3,000 for that and a revenue. I believe I put a motion in front of Ben and yourself but Ben's not here.

Just to clarify, Chairman Jasper said there never was a separate budget for recycling. It was something that was handled within Highway but you did request this. Leo Bernard said there was at one time. Chairman Jasper said it was a moot point. Not that anyone can find within the records of the Town. Mr. Bernard knows it is in the minutes. When Doug Robinson was Selectman it was put in and when I was on the Budget Committee. There was a line item at one time. I don't know what happened to it. It just disappeared and it was never discussed again. That's why I

did ask for it again. Chairman Jasper said that was fine. Whatever other history was, I guess it was and it's not really important at this particular time.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to create cost center 5055, Recycling Committee, with lines 241 – Publications, at \$500 and 340 – Small Operating Materials, with \$3,000.

Selectman Coutu certainly sympathized with the Committee's request for the \$500 for publications. We need to exert ourselves in terms of trying to convince more people to recycle. We see where costs are escalating for removal of our rubbish here in the Town. Recycling would certainly help contain those costs. I can understand the need for publications. The \$3,000 in essence is a revolving fund. They have successfully, I believe, for the past 2 years been able to purchase the kitchen pails and the compost bins and recycle sorters and they've been able to sell them and return to the general fund the \$3,000. I think that that will be justified with the revenue line. I think that will be equal to the \$3,000 because they do anticipate. Considering how well you did last year, which surprised me, there is a possibility that we could generate even more revenue with the expenditure of the \$3,000. They're becoming more and more popular. I certainly support their need for \$500 for publications so that the members of the team are more adequately prepared to sell the idea of recycling and the \$3,000 is a wash with the revenue. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0.

Budget Committee (5070), page 32.

Chairman Jasper recognized the Chairman of the Budget Committee Charlotte Schweiss.

Good evening everyone. Ms. Schweiss brings in a level funded budget. I would like to talk about the specifics of it but with the Budget Committee it's more of a who do we get elected to it if we get anybody elected. If we don't, then we have to go out and publicize for vacancies. What would you like to know? Is there anything in here that you think is a little too high? I know you took out \$200 last year. We have had more people going to the seminars. I have put in for the Town and City magazines that we hadn't been getting in the past couple of years.

Selectman Maddox indicated that they expended \$270 in 2011. There's quite a disparaging. Ms. Schweiss said there always is with this budget. Actually you're right. The cost of postage for us because everything has been on e-mails – you took out about \$100 for postage last year.

The only thing that gets Ms. Schweiss on this, and I know this budget has been this way for ages and ages, is that from one Chairman to another you don't know what they're going to do. People have started going back to the seminars. They hadn't been going for a while. There are different things and every year you don't know. There are times that we don't get anybody that puts their name in for the Budget Committee. We have to go out and that takes sending something into the newspaper. So you don't really know what it's going to be. You don't know if you're going to have the resignations during the year. It's an iffy, iffy. Yes you're right. There is a big disparity. I'll be the first one to admit that.

However just to put things into perspective, Chairman Jasper said this is a budget total of \$926. Selectman Coutu indicated it was level funded. Ms. Schweiss said you could take 10 percent out if it makes you happy. We would have. I would have sent it to you with 10 percent but I was told I didn't have to really.

If there are no motions or nothing more, Chairman Jasper said for \$926 let's move along. Thank you very much.

Police Department (5610 to 5673)

Chairman Jasper greeted Chief Lavoie. Do you wish to make any opening statement Chief.

Good evening. We were asked to come in level funded. Again, this has only been twice since 2003 where we were allowed to actually since planning in fiscal year 2003, we were actually able to increase our budget by a total of 6 percent. We've actually cut out budget over those same time periods 5.9 percent. We have in essence not increased our budget for almost 10 years now.

(5610 – Admin., page 1)

Chairman Jasper said that was up about \$5,000. It looks like most of that is probably retirement and insurance flex benefits. Questions or comments?

(5615, Police Facility, page 6)

Chairman Jasper indicated that this is down about \$1,800. Any questions? We'll move along to the next section.

(5620, Police Communications, page 11)

Chairman Jasper said this budget is down about a little under \$18,000. Questions or comments?

(5630, Police Patrol, page 15)

Chairman Jasper said this area is a little under \$30,000. Given that the retirement here is up almost \$100,000.

402, Automobiles. Due to the fact that we still have not gotten our vehicles for this cycle, Selectman Maddox asked if we were going to get them this November. Chief Lavoie said that's what we're being told. What Selectman Maddox's question is how will that impact how we move forward as much that are we going to need all this money to fund the... Chief Lavoie said the funding for that is to get us back in line because we missed a year basically with not being able to replace certain vehicles. Those vehicles are still scheduled to go. A few of them we've had to shut down already because we still need to keep them within a reasonable mileage even though we were allowed to go over that \$80,000 that we try to keep them under. Because those there we've gone up, they still have the vehicle miles that are still racking up. So we need to maintain the same replacement program that we've been involved with now for 20 years or so. Chairman Jasper would say it's pushing probably 30 at this point if not more than that. We've had a good replacement program as long as I was on the Budget Committee that I can remember. That goes back to 1980. It's been a program that served us very well. The matter of 3 or 4 months does not really... Selectman Maddox was just asking the question Mr. Chairman.

(5640, Police Investigation, page 20)

Chairman Jasper stated that the budget is down by a little over 50 percent, which is in this case about \$7,500 or \$8,000 more accurately I guess. Questions or comments? The big item is there's no new equipment this year.

(Animal Control, page 22)

Chairman Jasper indicated this is down about \$1,000. Questions or comments?

(5660, Police Information Systems, page 25)

Chairman Jasper indicated that this cost center is up about \$74.00. Questions or comments?

(5671, Police Support Services, page 28)

Chairman Jasper indicated that this one is exactly level funded. Questions or comments?

(5672, Cross Guard, page 30)

Chairman Jasper indicated it is exactly level funded.

(5673, Police Prosecutor, page 33)

Chairman Jasper indicated that this one is down not quite \$3,000. Questions or comments?

(5677, IT)

Ms. Carpentier believed we covered that with the IT Director.

We did. Just for the record, Chairman Jasper said this was down \$50,000. Overall, the Police budget of \$6,607,312 is up about \$4,000. I'm sure that was not an easy task. Do you have any off line requests at this time?

Chief Lavoie said the only off line request that we would make is the refunding of that one vacant officer position that was unfunded last year. Chairman Jasper thought they funded it for half a year last year. Chief Lavoie said that was 2 years ago. Then we unfunded one officer for a full year. Chief Lavoie indicated that there would be the only off line request that we would make. Chairman Jasper said we currently have 1 funded vacancy at this time. Chief Lavoie said that was correct. We have chosen not to fill that position at this time for the simple fact that we knew that there was some issues that were going to be happening up in Concord regarding retirement and monies in that area. In order to not burden the taxpayer, we chose to not supply it so we could offset those costs.

Chairman Jasper asked Ms. Carpentier that he knows there's a position in the Fire Department as well and we're looking for just to take care of the retirement issues, probably about \$120,000 worst case scenario. Any idea in what month will we achieve the savings between those two vacant positions.

Ms. Carpentier is scheduled to meet both Chief but if both positions, the Deputy Fire Chief and the Patrol Officer, were vacant for 6 months, it would cover the \$120,000. It wouldn't cover it in police and fire but it would go all on the Town. Also, the Group I employees have a lot of favorability which is net income to that \$120,000. Chairman Jasper said in January we can consider filling these two vacancies in the two departments. Any questions, comments or motions relative to the unfunded but authorized position in the Police Department at the present time?

Selectman Coutu asked to take that up as a separate issue later Mr. Chairman. Chairman Jasper said they certainly can. I just thought where the Chief was here if you had any questions or comments. We can take it up at any time. Thank you very much. That was the shortest time on record that we have ever spent on the Police Department.

Chief Lavoie certainly thanked my staff for their help in getting this done.

Chairman Jasper indicated that at this time we're going to take out of order since the Rec. Director has not arrived yet. We'll take up Benson Park at this time.

Benson Park (5063, 5563 – Town Offices, page 28)

Good evening Chairman Schibanoff. The first is Benson Park Committee. That budget is down 10 percent or just under \$2,000. Questions or comments?

(Park Operations, page 30)

Chairman Jasper said that is also down 10 percent. That's about a \$3,000 cut. Question or comments?

Ms. Carpentier believed it may have been communicated inaccurately to the Benson Committee that they had to come in at 10 percent. Chairman Jasper said that was his recommendation to them that they do come in at 10 percent. Ms. Carpentier wanted to make sure. Chairman Jasper made that recommendation to the Committee. I'll just state on the park maintenance. We have not really specified anything in particular because there are a lot of things in flux right now. I think we're all under a lot of projects going on. There won't be any difficulty in making the improvements to the tune of \$20,000 in there. Given what may happen with the train station and things surrounding that area, roadways, and any number of projects depending on who may be looking to do a project or grant that may become available. We want to try to keep that whether non specific to allow flexibility.

Selectman Coutu said last year he had expressed some concern, and I think the Board shared with me and you did as well, about the request that we're coming in at. I believe that Recreation Director is still charged with the responsibility. I don't know that we've ever discharged that responsibility of sort of being somewhat in an abuts

men between those people requests needs for the park and monitoring their purchases and working with the Benson Park Chairman whether or not this is ongoing and we have it under better control that what we did last year.

Mr. Schibanoff indicated yes we do. We became aware of that situation. It was a little bit out of control. I really clamped down on the committee and the role now is basically you can't spend any money unless it's approved by me or Shawn. Chairman Jasper said we have had no more issues since that happened. Some of the mad rush that occurred at the beginning of the park opening has sort of slowed down into a little bit more better planning has gone into what's going on. Selectman Coutu said a lot of it is trial and error. A lot of volunteers. The park speaks for itself.

252 – the archeologists. Selectman Luszey said every time we do something there...Selectman Maddox indicated that was last year. Selectman Luszey said that was last year and there's nothing this year. Do we not assume we're going to need or everything that we need that is covered in those specific projects? Chairman Jasper said the money that's in this year's budget is for putting the lines down, the gas, water, sewer lines and that's where we need the archeologist in the historic district. There is no anticipation that once we get those lines in we would be doing any excavation that would require an archeologist. If there is, Selectman Luszey asked if we would put it in that particular project. Chairman Jasper said right. If there was, we have park maintenance of \$20,000 and if we decided to do something there, we could spend it in there but just account for it out of the approved budget. Anything else? Thank you very much.

Chairman Jasper indicated that Mr. Yates has arrived. If Mr. Yates doesn't mind, we have a lot of people here roam the Library. I think maybe we could just take them quickly now.

Library (5060)

Good evening gentlemen. Connie Owens stated it was nice to be here on the first night of real winter in New England. Those rain drops were getting fat when I pulled in. Not fair for Halloween in the snow. We did provide you with a budget narrative that explains in a little bit more detail and also some charts that talk about the utilization of the Library. The budget we are presenting for this year or for 2013 represents a .6 percent increase. That increase is not in defiance of the request for level fund. However, it does include two items which push it up slightly over the level funding. The first of which are expenses related to the maintenance of the house at 47 Ferry Street, which we hope will be taken off the records by 2013 if not sooner. We hope so too.

Ms. Owens said the other item was added an item of almost \$7,500 for postage, which is an increase. That is based on the potential reassignment of federal funds which are now funding the intra library loan service around the State. We are desperately hopeful that that federal funding will remain in place. We estimated the cost of replacing that service if in fact we do lose the federal funds. If those figures are taken out of the current budget, I believe we'll be just about right on the button with level funding.

For those watching at home, Chairman Jasper said their increase is just under \$39,000 on a \$1 million budget.

Ms. Owens said they have shown here an offset of \$33,000 income to offset expenses which comes from copy machines and unexpected revenue from fines and whatever. We've been able to increase that from I believe it was \$18,500 last year Arlene. Arlene said yes.

Relative to page 9, which is the first two lines 101, 102, and salaries, Selectman Coutu asked for an explanation why a full time salary line went up \$13,000 and the part time salary line went up \$5,000. Ms. Owens said the part time salary line went up that included a hope for a 3 percent increase for our part time employees. Arlene, do you have the figure on the full time? Selectman Coutu asked if they included raise increases. Ms. Owens said only for the part time. There have been some adjustments in staffing and some promotions internally but we are not submitting a warrant article this year. We have not given our full time employees raises. Selectman Coutu said there's an increase of \$13,000 in that line. Arlene indicated that part of it was the 3 percent increase on part time and the difference would have been benefits for our employees.

Chairman Jasper indicated that this was in the salaries full time line, which shows going from \$347,000 to \$360,000 which wouldn't be part time or benefits.

Selectman Coutu said it was line 101. It went up \$13,624. Ms. Owens said she was unable to answer that at this particular time. I will certainly research that.

Ms. Carpentier believed the Budget Committee removed a position where you stated that it was page hour that were to be disbursed amongst people. Ms. Weller said no that was part time. Arlene indicated a tech service position which we needed which they've removed and we chose to take the money from a different line item. The Budget Committee shows that it was out of salary line item but we left it in the salary line item and we took it out of a different line item. That was the \$10,000 something that would have been a large chunk of that amount. Ms. Carpentier said that's why they're seeing the difference from fiscal 2012 to 2013. Chairman Jasper indicated it was action that the Budget Committee reduced the line and you continued with the position taking money out of someplace else, which is within your purview and you're just showing that again fully funded.

If Selectman Coutu were to try to isolate items within the budget for the continued maintenance of the building across the street, where would I find those? Ms. Owens said they are broken down in each line item and they're identified as HML (Hills Memorial Library) as opposed RML (Rodgers Memorial Library). Selectman Coutu was looking at lines 101. Chairman Jasper said if you go to page 11. Selectman Coutu thought it would be in that line. I see it here. Thank you.

On page 2 of the handout, Selectman Luszey said the SAU is giving them money for lines 206, 207, and 209. On line 206 if I understand this right, the SAU is providing \$2,200 to offset electricity for the Hills. Arlene indicated on line item 206, they are giving us \$1,450. Selectman Luszey said he had \$2,002. Arlene indicated that's how much it costs us for our gross. It costs us \$2,200. So the school pays a percentage to us so they're giving us that \$1,450. Ms. Owens indicated that we share expenses. The SAU pays 65 percent and we pay 35 percent of utility costs. On line items 206, 207 and 209, Selectman Luszey said the SAU is how much? Arlene said \$1,450 for line item 206; line item 207 \$150; and line item 209 is \$2,100.

Selectman Coutu had one additional question at the present time. You have an agreement with the School Department. Do you have a dated contract or a facsimile and could you tell me what the end date is presently? Ms. Owens said we have a Memorandum of Understanding with the SAU that is for five (5) years. Selectman Coutu indicated that you can't contract for more than one year even though they're a separate entity. Chairman Jasper said they could not. I don't believe that they could do a lease but I think they have a Memorandum of Understanding, which is not a lease. They have no obligation and could end it at any time. Selectman Coutu was satisfied to this point.

Selectman Maddox had a question on 209. You have Ferry Street \$1,000 for heating oil. That's for 47 Ferry? Ms. Owens said yes. Selectman Maddox hoped we don't have that after July 1st. I'm hoping that it's removed soon. Chairman Jasper hoped before we get to deliberative we may have that. Again, it's not a lot of impact. Ms. Owens said you'll see that the Ferry Street costs pops up under 207 as well under utilities. They are necessary to maintain it in the state that it is and we're hoping it disappears much before the beginning of this.

Chairman Jasper asked if there were any other questions. You have no request for a warrant article this year? Ms. Owen said no warrant article. Chairman Jasper appreciated them coming in for reviewing your budget with us.

Recreation (5810 to 5840)

Chairman Jasper greeted Mr. Yates. Do you have any opening statements?

Mr. Yates said yes. The Rec. budget is coming in level funded per your parameters. A positive note is that the revenue went up \$14,383 last year. So we're up over \$200,000 in revenue for the Rec. Department last year. We made adjustments to several line items just to balance off some that was costing a little more. Everything is pretty much the same. If anybody has any questions, I'd be glad to answer them.

Selectman Coutu had one on revenue. I know that when I served as your liaison the Recreation Committee had put together a restructuring of the fees and it was approved by this Board. Is that partially what impacted last year? Those fees take effect in this budget year. Mr. Yates said we did that personally about a year ago. Some took affect

because based on the fiscal year, some went into affect now and some are going to go into effect next year. Selectman Coutu said that we'll be in full board for the 2013. Mr. Yates said yes we should see the full affect.

Chairman Jasper had to comment. While you were talking Selectman Coutu, I don't think I've ever seen such a serious look on Selectman Nadeau's face. Selectman Nadeau said it's almost 2 years.

Chairman Jasper said administration is up about \$2,500. Any questions or comments?

Merrifield Park (5815) page 8

Just a question out of curiosity since Benson Park is open; Chairman Jasper asked if you've seen any decrease in the use of Merrifield Park. Mr. Yates said absolutely. Merrifield and Greeley too. I haven't seen hardly anybody at Greeley at all since Benson's opened. Not that that was heavily used before but I went by several times and I haven't seen anybody. The Benson playground is packed. Chairman Jasper said particularly Merrifield Park; there are some neighbors in there that may be using that park. I think we need to keep an eye on that to see how much sense it makes to continue to maintain that. It's only \$1,000. Selectman Maddox sees people in there playing volleyball all the time. Selectman Nadeau said they have a lot of picnics and stuff there. Chairman Jasper said over half of the expense is just having a portable toilet there. Mr. Yates said the park is 13 years old and doesn't cost us anything really. It's fairly maintenance free.

Ms. Carpentier said there is a capital reserve fund for Merrifield Park. Is that for the park or the pond also? Mr. Malizia asked when it was established. Ms. Carpentier said 1992. Chairman Jasper asked if we had been putting money in there. Ms. Carpentier said no. We have \$1,438. At some point, we should probably figure out what the purpose is and use it is my recommendation. Chairman Jasper thought that would be a good time when something breaks and needs to be replaced. We can just continue to let it sit there and accumulate the great interest of \$.32 a year.

Supervised play (5821) page 10

Ms. Carpentier said Dave has always put on page 11 the top of it, he puts the revenues for that cost. Chairman Jasper thought we have \$103,000 down and about \$500 in projected revenues at \$93,000. We're not too bad of shape in supervised play – not from where we were probably 10 years ago or so.

Actually the previous year's revenue was \$79,825. That went up almost \$14,000 last year.

Selectman Nadeau asked if any of that new revenue came from the before and after hours. Mr. Yates said yes. That's a good amount. I forget what we're turning in but it's been a few thousand dollars over the summer. People do use it. It definitely helps.

Ms. Carpentier said she did not track it separately but it's in the numbers.

Robinson Pond (5822) page 13

Selectman Coutu said compared to previous years, how did you find the use at Robinson Pond this year by the general population? Mr. Yates said very good. The weekends are packed – 150 to 200 people a day. E Coli was not an issue this year at all. Selectman Coutu said that was amazing. This is probably the first year we didn't have to shut it down. Mr. Yates said this is the first year that we've had no issues at all. When I go by on week days, there's a good 100 people or so. It's well used. Selectman Coutu asked if we were still monitoring Saturday and Sunday. Mr. Yates said yes and even holidays. Ernie does give me a spreadsheet of how many people he turns away and how many he allows to come in. Selectman Coutu asked if there were any problems. Mr. Yates said a couple of attitudes when you turn them away but no major problems.

Chairman Jasper asked if Mr. Yates noticed less water fowl there. Mr. Yates said yes.

Babe Ruth (5823) page 16

Chairman Jasper said it's down \$1,000 exactly.

Selectman Coutu said one of the most recent meetings I watched there's discussion about consolidation of Babe Ruth. Has any progress been made? I know one of the members of the Recreation Committee, without getting into names, is affiliated with the other association which is a nonprofit entity and stands by itself. Is there a likelihood we can fold this into that organization and eliminate this expense in future years? Mr. Yates is hoping so. I'm in communication with youth baseball now. They seem pretty positive. They would like to tag along with our Babe Ruth Director next season and see how it goes and go to the meetings with him. They seem to be fairly positive about possibly taking over the following year. Nothing has been resolved completely but we're definitely talking. From Selectman Coutu's perspective having listened to the discussion, it's obvious to me that there was some concern by the nonprofit of the additional costs. There's no doubt in my mind that those costs can be absorbed with reasonable fees no greater than what they presently charge other youth. They can absorb those kids into that program and it would make it a much more competitive program for them. They're going to have a greater number to recruit from. The caliber on both sides is pretty good. Our Babe Ruth organization is well managed and well organized. It makes sense to combine the resources of both to make one good strong league so that the Town can participate and it would save us on this end – that line item of \$13,774.

Mr. Yates said it is very, very little revenue. It would be a big savings to the Town. Selectman Coutu said this is one of the programs we lose money on. As long as you feel that we're...Mr. Yates said we're definitely talking and I'll keep the Board posted.

Chairman Jasper said we're projected to lose \$9,074.

Selectman Coutu said they're taking a step in the right direction trying to fold it in. Selectman Maddox indicated they're probably making 30 percent of what it costs. I think we should nudge that along.

What had happened historically, Selectman Coutu said there was a concern that some of the youth – it's the different age category that's why – it's like the mid range kids that had no place to go. Now with this other organization getting much stronger, I feel that if they're going to monitor and they can fold the kids in, we'll save that \$13,000. We won't generate the revenue but we're going to save a net of \$9,000. We're in the right direction. Selectman Maddox said the dues and fees are 4 times more for Babe Ruth as they are for the next one down? Mr. Yates didn't know where it puts them. Selectman Maddox said he had fees of \$2,000 in 217 and then on 217 on the ball fields, it's only \$455. Mr. Yates said we pay dues to the Babe Ruth Association too as members of Babe Ruth. That's why the dues are so high there. Again, when we do lose it that goes away also. Babe Ruth is a private organization that you have to pay dues to. In order to compete in any Babe Ruth organized program, Selectman Coutu said you have to pay the Association dues to qualify that.

Selectman Luszey asked what would it take to have them pick it up next year. If we were to eliminate this for next year, would they pick it up? Mr. Yates said we're already budgeted through July. So we have money going forward through July. I think they were hoping to kind of piggy back on with those and see how it goes before they make a decision. We can always put it in the budget and then if they decide to take it over, we'll be turning back \$14,000 next year. I'd hate to get rid of it and then they say no. Now those kids are out of luck. From what I'm hearing, it sounds pretty positive that they are going to take it but I don't want to jump to conclusions yet.

Selectman Luszey asked what's their motivation for doing it. Mr. Yates told them that he thought it was the natural progression. They have up to the 12 years olds and this would be 13 through 15. They have the knowledge of who the kids are that are moving up through the chain. They have a strong Board of Directors. They have people and their kids are going to be moving up with it. So they have interest. Their own sons are going to be moving up. This is Hudson Youth Baseball. Getting back to the dues, they pay dues through Cal Ripken baseball because they're under Cal Ripken.

Mr. Malizia said they're affiliated so there are a members and dues. It's part of that organization.

Selectman Coutu said we're making progress.

Ball fields. (5824) page 19

Chairman Jasper said it's down \$300 exactly. Any questions or comments?

Selectman Coutu asked how is our lighting situation at the parks in general and not just this one. Are we having some problems like the PUC is and if so, have they all been addressed? Mr. Yates said it seems to be. This year we had a problem with the fuses we're blowing out on Lowell Road at the main. PSNH finally found the problem. We were out there digging the ground up and trying to find problems. Finally it was animals and I think they put a fake owl or cat up there. It wasn't our problem. We do normal maintenance. We have to change bulbs. The biggest cost is we have to hire a lift because normally electricians have their own lifts. So they have to hire a lift to change 3 or 4 bulbs. Overall, it's in fairly good shape.

Instructional Tennis (5825) page 22

Selectman Coutu said that was self sufficient. Chairman Jasper indicated it was level funded and projected to cost us \$78 to run the program.

Basketball (5831) page 25

Chairman Jasper indicated that this one is about \$6,000 short of being fully self supportive. Questions or comments?

Rec. Soccer (5834) page 28

Chairman Jasper indicated that this one is level funded. It is cash deposited in the tune of about \$7,000.

Teen dances (5836) page 31

Chairman Jasper indicated that this is another area where cash deposited to the tune of around \$4,000. And that still continues to go well? Mr. Yates said yes. There's no new issues at all. We had a dance last week where we had over 400 children attend. It was the longest 3 hours of my week.

Community Activities, page 33

Chairman Jasper indicated that this is also cash deposited of about a little less than \$3,000.

Skate park (5840) page 35

Ms. Carpentier said it was level funded \$1,149.

Chairman Jasper asked if there were issues there. Mr. Yates said it was fairly quiet. I haven't actually talked to the Police Chief about any issues or anything there but as far as I know, it's been quiet on my part.

IT

Ms. Carpentier indicated that this was previously covered by the IT Director. Chairman Jasper said this is obviously a very tech heavy area where your total tech needs are \$200 a year. Mr. Yates said it was just for cartridges. According to the IT Department, we get the most e-mails of any department in the Town.

Chairman Jasper indicated that the total for the Rec. Department is \$356,319. The revenues are actually up more than \$109. The net effect to the taxpayers has gone down if I am correct. Mr. Yates said yes, absolutely.

Before we go on to dealing with our revisit list and revenues, without objection, the Chair would call a 5 minutes recess at 8:09 p.m. and we'll be back at 8:15 p.m.

Chairman Jasper brought the meeting to order at 8:14 p.m. Our first item last week, Chief Murray had given us some erroneous backup relative to the capital reserve account. The memo we were looking at at the time indicated

that he had budgeted \$10,000 in the account. We moved to move it from \$10,000 to \$20,000 where in fact there was actually \$1,000 in that line item. We need to revisit that one way or another. I would ask for a reconsideration on the motion to move line item 0142205730-450-782. Selectman Coutu moved to reconsider. I'm sure I voted yes. Chairman Jasper said it was unanimous.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to reconsider line item 01-4220-5730-450-782, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to move line item 01-4220-5730-450-782 from \$10,000 to \$20,000 and amend by moving it from \$1,000 to \$20,000, carried 5-0. Amendment is adopted unanimously.

Motion to approve as amended, carried 5-0

Revenues

Ms. Carpentier indicated that she handed to the Board a package today. It has where we stand right now. We got in the insurance rates. They were very favorable. They only increased the budget by \$35,000 so I adjusted the budget request. Revenues are also in this package. All the motions made prior to this evening are reflected in here. The revenues would be on page 9 and 10. Where do you want to go from here?

Chairman Jasper asked what was the Board's pleasure. If we look on page 10 in the total revenue, we're only projecting a revenue are going to be up about \$35,000 and that's keeping the use of fund balance of \$655,000.

Mr. Malizia indicated that they have a couple modest ones that we had talked about earlier. Those need to be added if we're talking revenue. Selectman Maddox asked if we can add the \$4,000. Mr. Malizia indicated it would be \$3,000 worth of revenue for the recycling and \$3,000 between the grant and the donation for Conservation. So it's \$6,000.

Ms. Carpentier said technically we've already received a donation so it's not an additional revenue. We would just do the grant for \$2,000. So miscellaneous grant would go up to \$2,000 for Conservation and \$3,000 for recycling.

Chairman Jasper indicated that they could certainly do that in one motion.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to increase the revenue of \$2,000 for conservation and \$3,000 for recycling, a total of \$5,000, carried 5-0.

Chairman Jasper indicated that we're showing ambulance down from the budget amount from 2012 significantly. Is there a reason that we believe that we're not going to meet the 590 this year? Ms. Carpentier calculated it based on the FY2011 actuals to be conservative. We had \$517,000 in 2011. Chairman Jasper indicated that we had made changes to the rates and we must have a first quarter at this point. I know it's not always lineal but do we have actual revenues that indicate that we are down? Ms. Carpentier indicated that she didn't have that right this moment. I can have it in the next few minutes. Chairman Jasper through that was important. Selectman Maddox said it was \$75,000. Chairman Jasper said its \$65,000. Selectman Maddox was thinking it was going to go up to 6 based on the last budget. We saw a tremendous increase.

Selectman Coutu said those were the two that if we could do anything, it would be there. I am very comfortable from my perspective anyway speaking as one member with the motor vehicle permits, there's been an adjustment. It's a reasonable adjustment. I think it's achievable. On the ambulance revenue, I might tend to agree that I think once we get the numbers, we may find that we can increase that revenue line.

Selectman Luszey said the cable franchise fee I believe that is a number based on a5 percent. Is that true? Mr. Malizia said that was correct. That is true. Selectman Luszey asked if we were going to revisit that later. It was Mr. Malizia's understanding is on Tuesday you're going to revisit it in nonpublic session because of negotiations. That revenue does offset the expense that's in cable. So those two numbers equal.

Selectman Maddox was all set.

In any event, Selectman Coutu said you would have a zero affect. Chairman Jasper said correct. Whatever you do on one side, Mr. Malizia said it in affect moves to the other side. It won't make any difference. Selectman Coutu said the ambulance line does.

Ms. Carpentier said she hadn't looked back to see if it's linear, but currently through 3 months of billing we have \$170,000 which would annualize over \$670,000.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to increase the revenue line for 2013 4730 to \$600,000, an increase of \$75,000.

Selectman Coutu said the discussion was just given to us and it's justifiable.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Given that we just increased that by \$75,000, Chairman Jasper thought they ought to consider whether we want to decrease to some degree the use of fund balance. That's been an ongoing problem. We're relying heavily on that to the tune of \$655,000 and whether we should at least reduce that to \$600,000 for this year.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to decrease the use of fund balance from \$655,000 to \$600,000, a reduction of \$55,000, carried 5-0.

Selectman Coutu said the voters have an understanding Mr. Chairman of what this action did. What it did is it makes our financial situation healthier by the action we just took.

Given the two actions together, Chairman Jasper said it slightly reduces the tax rate because there's \$25,000 still more going in and overall tonight that the there will be \$30,000 more where we're going to reduce taxes. Selectman Luszey said maybe. Chairman Jasper said that money would still go towards reducing taxes regardless of whatever we may do ultimately. There'd still be \$30,000 less needed to be raised by taxes as a result of the action we just took. Anything else in revenues?

Chairman Jasper indicated that we're currently at \$5.15 as a result of what you've done thus far. The current tax rate is \$5.18. So we are at a 3 percent reduction at the moment, which will probably change shortly. What would you like to look at next?

Hudson Community Center (5125) roof

Mr. Malizia said Lee Lavoie who's been on the roof multiple times to do some patching and fixing flashing. I actually spoke to him today when he brought that in to me. In his opinion professionally, the roof is shot. It's brittle. He didn't want to walk on it any more. He doesn't know the age but he can tell you it's been a long time if ever. He actually thinks it might be the original roof. I can't go by that because it was 1960 when it was built. Chairman Jasper said it's not the original roof because the garage was an additional and that's woven in there. It probably was replaced when that garage was added on some time in the mid 70s. I just took a look from the ground. Mr. Malizia said he offers to take you up by the way. Anybody who would like to come up. I'm not being a wise guy. He is more than willing to take anybody up there.

Chairman Jasper took a look at it. As bad as my eyes are, I wasn't wearing my glasses; I could tell that both sides of the roof were shot. Selectman Coutu said when we're talking about the roof being shot...Chairman Jasper said just the shingles. Selectman Maddox asked about the fascia boards. Chairman Jasper was going to suggest to that is while we should put aluminum, we should encase all of that in aluminum. It would be relatively inexpensive to do that whole. Selectman Coutu said they just did it at his store. It looks so nice and it protects what's there. Chairman Jasper thought they probably ought to budget. If your estimate was \$39,000...Mr. Malizia indicated it was \$39,935. With the aluminum which wouldn't be that bad, Chairman Jasper was thinking probably \$45,000 would give us a little bit of a contingency and more than enough to do that.

Selectman Coutu said he mentions fascia board in here. Was he estimating the \$39,000 just for shingles or shingles and these things that he put in his memo here on the structure? Mr. Malizia was looking at the estimate and didn't see the word "fascia" in here. That doesn't mean you wouldn't go out and put that as part of a bid spec. I'm just not seeing it in this initial – we're going to go out to bid. These are just give me an idea of what we're looking at.

Selectman Maddox asked if we're going to put that in the Community Center budget. Mr. Malizia said it is in the Community Center budget 5125. You are correct.

Ms. Carpentier said from \$7,090 to \$52,090.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to increase line item 5125-224, building maintenance from \$7,090 to \$52,090, an increase of \$45,000, carried 5-0.

IT Warrant Article

Chairman Jasper asked what was the Board's pleasure.

Selectman Coutu said in all fairness, I would defer it to Selectman Luszey. It's his department.

Selectman Luszey indicated that given the workload and having been a participant of a couple of mishaps around here, I would support moving that to a part time position versus an intern. This year we had a lot of trouble getting an intern in for the period of time during the off season of school. This would be a part time position that I believe would be more favorable for folks that would be looking for part time help. It would be a more reliable person that we would have to do a lot of the help desk calls and what I would call entry level type of work. What's going on right now as we have increased the technology base in and around the town, we're using our senior people as help desk operators and call centers. We're helping people set up printers. We're helping people change printer cartridges and get e-mail to work right. It's not a cost effective use for our principal engineers. I would support moving that position from an intern to a part time position.

Chairman Jasper said we have that proposed warrant article someplace. Ms. Carpenter indicated it was under the IT section, page 8. The original request was a warrant article for \$15,673. There was also some money in 533252 for the same purpose. On page 4, there are also some other professional services. Chairman Jasper wasn't sure we ever did a warrant article quite this way but we should. I don't think there's any reason why we can't if we gross appropriate and show the offsetting line item. Selectman Luszey are you moving the warrant article with the added verbiage of an offset from that line and that amount of \$5,376.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Coutu to move the warrant article with the added verbiage of an offset from line item 533252 in the amount of \$5,376 from an intern to a part time position.

Selectman Coutu said that a department comes in to us and they request an intern and we can do it. We have to go to a warrant for a part time employee. Chairman Jasper said we do not have to go to a warrant. We have an advisory from the voters from 1995 I believe – it says all full and part time positions need to go to warrant. Whether we honor that or not is up to us. It does seem in this day and age with this size operation that every little part time position doesn't make for a very efficient operation but that is what we have honored. In essence what we're going to, if Selectman Coutu is correct, assuming the votes were there to approve this and the voters say no, she will also lose...Chairman Jasper said no because the money will still be in the budget.

Selectman Luszey said the distinction is we're taking an intern which is really basically consulting if you look where it falls in the budget. We don't ask voters to approve consulting services/professional services. This is a head count. We're going to add a head count. A permanent part time head count to payroll. The advisory was if we do that, the voters would like a say on that. That's really what we're doing. We're converting a professional service contractor to an employee.

If there's a revenue offset in there, Chairman Jasper said in this case the gross increase would be about \$10,000 to the budget. If it failed, you are asking for \$10,000 more, you didn't get it, go back to where you were.

Ms. Carpentier asked for clarification. So you would leave the \$5,376 in the 252 account. The warrant article would just be for \$10,2...Chairman Jasper said it would still say, "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,607 to hire a part time position with \$5,376 to come from the line item." Then we would put the title of IT Consultant raising an amount of \$10,000 or whatever the balance is from taxes with a tax rate impact of less than a half a cent. I want to get this less than one cent.

Selectman Luszey said they didn't want to double dip. Chairman Jasper thought that should pass muster with DRA because you already have the money in there. It's the same as if we were taking money out of a capital reserve account and put that in there.

Selectman Maddox said that the Chairman knows the budget better. I think that if they said no to this position and you counted that IT \$5,000, it's gone to. Chairman Jasper said no. You're just saying where the money is coming from. The money is still there. The money is in the budget.

Selectman Luszey said we did not zero out this line item.

Chairman Jasper said you did not zero out the line item. You're asking for \$10,000 of new money. If you don't get the \$10,000 of new money, you still have the \$5,000. That's not even really a point of debate. It's just like if they said no if you said we're going to buy a new fire truck, which we've done, with X amount of money to come from the capital reserve account, the capital reserve account doesn't go away. It's the same exact principle.

Selectman Nadeau asked how many hours a week is the intern that we have and how many weeks. Selectman Luszey believed 20 hours. Ms. Carpentier said Ms. Nute's backup says 32 hours per week for 12 week equals \$5,376. The warrant article says 24 hours for 50 weeks. Selectman Coutu asked if it was at the same hourly rate. Ms. Carpentier said yes. She assumed the same hourly rate. I'm pretty sure of that.

Selectman Maddox asked if that had the roll ups in it. Mr. Malizia said FICA is the only roll up.

Selectman Coutu asked what would preclude her for hiring 3 interns. Chairman Jasper said the budget. We could increase this budget by 3 interns. The problem has been the reliability and getting people. Selectman Coutu said let's say we had 3 interns and we couldn't find somebody who or we found somebody that could fill all 3 because 1 would be for 1/3 of the year, the other would be for the other third of the year, and the third one would be for the third.

Selectman Luszey said we probably could do that. From an efficiency point of view, it doesn't make a lot of sense. The person that you bring in there's a learning curve. They need to learn the systems that they're supporting. They need to learn the applications they're supporting. Before they become proficient at helping people, they need time to learn. If we were to do something like that, we would spend 3 and 4 weeks training them and then we'd get a couple weeks of productive support out of them and then they're gone. That's what we've been finding with the interns also.

Selectman Maddox said you're hiring interns that don't know Microsoft XP and office. I thought the whole idea of this was to have these people do, for lack of a better term, the menial jobs of changing printer cartridges, mice, and those types of things. If they're not coming in able to deal with Office and those types of simple things, it takes 4 weeks to train them on that, we're hiring the wrong people.

Selectman Luszey said it's more than that. If it was just that, I would not support this warrant. I would say we can train the users to change out a mouse or even a printer cartridge. Where the help is needed is putting up virtual desktops that we're moving to. We're not asking users to do that. That requires a level of technical expertise to be able to configure a virtual desktop in a virtual environment. We're asking these people to learn GIS. We're asking these people to learn Munismart applications so that when the users get hung up and they say my reports not printing, they can go and help get that report out. Or when they say the screen that I normally press F3 for doesn't come up, they can help them get that. It's not just changing out a mouse or a keyboard. It is a little bit more than that. We're asking them to learn specific applications we use in this facility.

Selectman Maddox said that Selectman Luszey was quite adamant and quite proficient in getting our people programs that will help them along. I think adding payroll headcount when we should be utilizing the technology that's there to help them through these steps. This part time person will be a full person in no time at all. We need to start looking at getting some advantage out of all of this technology and be able to have what you created you said at HP is if this is going wrong, you do this. Hiring somebody and training them as part time, they're either going to be very good and want to be full time or they'll move on. I think we should stick with what we have. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Luszey would like a rebuttal. There is an interim step. You're absolutely right. We brought the users at HP to a certain level where they became proficient at I would say self diagnosing their issues. Behind the curtain took many years of highly skilled people to create a knowledge base and to build the tools that the user could use. We're not doing that here. We don't have that type of infrastructure here. Will this person become a full time person? If we keep going on the rate that we're going and we keep pushing technology to meet the user requirements, probably 3 years down the road I would say yes. You're going to need a full time person because the users in the community are becoming smarter and more text savvy and they want to be able to interface our departments, our government with things like Smartphones. We're behind the curve already there. People would like to be able to do their registrations on line. They would like to do all of their permitting on line. To provide that level of service to the community, you need the support in the back office to do that.

Vote: Motion failed 2-3. Selectman Maddox, Selectman Nadeau, and Selectman Coutu in opposition.

Other Warrant Articles

Mr. Malizia would like to mention at this point in time. I have traditionally prepared something for you to consider on the Town Clerk. That's an elected official. Whether you'd like to forward something to the warrant for an increase in salary. I have a spreadsheet I've put together. For the last 3 years there's been no increase for the position.

Chairman Jasper indicated she hasn't had a raise since she became Town Clerk.

Mr. Malizia stated that Patti Barry was appointed July 10, 2007. What I've done here is put together what a 1 percent, 2 percent, and a 3 percent would be if you were to forward this to warrant. Again, the last page shows what the salary is and what it's been since.

Selectman Maddox asked if it was on the ballot last year. Mr. Malizia said no. It's just something I felt that should at least identify to the Board for your thought.

Chairman Jasper asked what the Board's pleasure was.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to submit a Warrant Article requesting a 3 percent increase for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector for fiscal year 2013.

We're on air and so that the taxpayers are aware, Selectman Coutu said this will mean a total increase of \$1,831 with taxes. I'm saying she won't realize that much money in her net pay. So her salary would go from \$52,403 where it is presently to \$53,975. Mr. Chairman in light of the fact that she has been here now I believe 3 years and she has not had a raise in those 3 years and she's made significant inroads in providing greater service to our community with reorganization of hours of operation and what I'm hearing from the community is that they are very satisfied with the changes in that department and they're always treated very courteously. I think it says a lot about the people that work there and the supervision that they're getting and achieving that kind of rapport with the voters. I think it's something that the voters should decide.

Just to clarify, Chairman Jasper said as of the time this will go into effect she will have been there 5 years. This would be the first raise in 5 years.

The only thing Selectman Luszey would like to add to Selectman Coutu's statement is that she's also helped bring that group up to the 20th century in bringing on credit card capability and bringing in the boat registrations, which is an additional revenue line item that we'll be seeing. She is working for her salary.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Malizia did not prepare anything for department heads. As you are well aware, last year the Board discussed deliberated and decided to put money into the budget for department heads to try to deal with compression. I haven't prepared a follow up to that. I don't know if the Board wishes me to. That's why I didn't want to be presumptuous.

Chairman Jasper would like to suggest that the Board originally had had a 10 percent delta between the second in command and the department head. Whether that number should be 10 percent or not, I'd like to see where we are currently. Mr. Malizia said he could bring something to next Tuesday's workshop if that would be helpful. Chairman Jasper indicated they could see where it is and whether we want to revisit maybe that number should be 5 or 7 ½ percent or 10 is a good number we can look at it there and see where it would be. I think we're fairly far behind there because we only did half of what we were. I'm not suggesting that we want to move them up to that point. Some of this I think needs to depend on whether or not in fact we approve any contracts to go to warrant. Clearly in my opinion if we do approve contracts to go to warrant, then we should add money to those line items. That's probably not going to happen before we send the budget off to the Budget Committee. We at least want to look and see where we are and where each position is with that 10 percent goal in mind. Mr. Malizia said he would refresh the worksheet and bring it back Tuesday if that's acceptable.

Selectman Coutu thought it was a good talking point and I think we need it.

Chairman Jasper asked if there were any other comments on that subject. If not, we had a discussion early on about town wide paving and the possibility of bringing a warrant article forward. I had suggested at that time that we put in a warrant article for \$500,000 and see if the voters want to do that. What's the Board's pleasure?

Selectman Luszey would support that. If you take a look at the last 3 years, we've been taking money out of that account. We're doing less and less road work. The amount of money he has in there this year I think is less than a half a mile. That's like pothole repair. Selectman Maddox said it was closer to 2 miles. Mr. Malizia said it was a mile and a half. But still, Selectman Luszey said given the amount of miles we have...

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to submit a warrant article to add \$500,000 for town-wide paving.

Selectman Coutu wanted to make the people aware that you know we're asking the people to support an approximate \$.18 increase in their taxes. Chairman Jasper said certainly any other number would be in there. We can use any number we want. I think this is an appropriate place to start and we will certainly hear discussion and there will be an opportunity at deliberative to amend this. We'll get feedback from the Budget Committee. This is a realistic number in that we should be putting \$1 million in there. This will get us to somewhat under \$800,000. I think anything less than this really doesn't get us where we should be. I'm supportive. This is a starting point. See where we end up. Any further discussion?

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Carpentier had a question. So your intention is that's all coming from taxes. No revenue and no offset. Chairman Jasper in order to do this right, we need to establish this in the tax base because this needs to be ongoing. Once we establish it if the voters were to approve this, it then becomes part of the tax base and we can move forward and our base amount would then be \$790,000.

Selectman Maddox indicated that Chairman Jasper was saying that this is going to be not a one time deal but this will be a recurring number inside that budget. Selectman Coutu said it would be fixed in the budget. Selectman Maddox said as long as we explain it that way. Chairman Jasper said that people need to understand that.

Chairman Jasper asked if there were any other warrant articles we were asked to... we have one that came up today.

Selectman Maddox said after our talk the other night in regards to the senior center. Rather than looking at what could have, what it, should have I think that I would like to propose that we put a warrant article out to take \$300,000 from unexpended fund balance and put it into the senior building fund. Chairman Jasper asked if this would be an addition to the \$25,000. Selectman Maddox said yes. It would be additional to that. Again, I think this show progress. It shows voter interest. It gives the seniors we are moving forward. Again Mr. Chairman DOT, us, the seniors we can blame anybody we want. This isn't meant to blame. This is to say a lot of things didn't happen the way they should have. This is to move this forward. It would put more money into that account so that hopefully the following year we won't have to bond that number. It will be doable within all the funds that we will accumulate. This was meant to say here is a positive step forward for that facility.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to submit a Warrant Article to take \$300,000 from the unexpended fund balance and put it into the future senior center fund, carried 5-0.

Chairman Jasper said they have an e-mail exchange from the Road Agent. It wouldn't necessarily be a warrant article. It would be the amount that it was. Does anyone wish to explore that today relative to... Selectman Luszey asked if everybody go that. Chairman Jasper said he'd put it off until Tuesday. There was discussion about a lift – replacing the bucket truck. Check your e-mails. If you didn't get it, e-mail Steve or Kevin. Mr. Malizia said he didn't get the e-mail. Ms. Carpentier said he was late in getting the documentation and warrant article sheet. Selectman Luszey said it wasn't going to go for a warrant article. It's for \$45,000. Chairman Jasper said it was a self-propelled lift. He's spending about \$7,000 a year now to rent a similar thing. It would be usable for Christmas lights, traffic lights and a lot of things that they use the bucket truck for. The bucket truck to me it doesn't replace the Fire Department's needs for a bucket truck but it does replace the Highway Departments. I think we heard tonight about having to rent one for the lights at the ball field. This is something that has a higher reach than the bucket truck and would allow us to do more. Take a look at that and see what you think.

Selectman Coutu said he's heard enough discussion. I don't have to look at it. I might have a couple of questions. What he just said is what's in the e-mail. We have it. Let me ask a couple of questions. We presently have a bucket truck there now and you're saying that he's spending on average \$7,000 a year or he's pumped in \$7,000 to fix this thing. Chairman Jasper said no. He's spending \$7,000 a year because the bucket truck doesn't do everything he needs it to do everything. He's saying he is putting \$7,000 a year into rental. So this would essentially at \$45,000 – that's a 7 year payback.

Selectman Luszey said the bucket truck that the Fire Department has a max reach of 30 feet. He needs one with one at least 45 feet. When it's over the 30 foot, he has to go rent one. The other thing is on a number of occasions when he's needed the bucket truck, it's been out of service because it's out for repair. It's a 1971. The Fire Department actually should be coming in for a replacement soon on that and they have. This will not replace the Fire Department's truck because it does not meet the requirements to go up into the power line usage. So just be aware of that. It does give Kevin the ability to basically maintain all the buildings in town, be able to bring it inside a building to replace lights in buildings like the Rec. Center, and even in the high school if they needed it to go inside to do the auditorium stuff. More importantly, it gives him the capability to do tree trimming at the 40 foot level also because of the type of the rig that's on the boom.

Selectman Coutu said you've lost me. Are we talking about a truck or are we talking just about a bucket? Selectman Luszey said it wasn't a truck. It's a lift. Have you ever seen the big 4 wheel drive lifts? Selectman Coutu said now it's different. I'm thinking a truck. Now I know exactly what it is. When he said bring it into the building, I'm saying you can't bring a truck in a building. They have to be talking about something different. Selectman Luszey said this is a man lift. It's a big man lift that allows you to go inside and its 4 wheel drive. So you can use it inside and outside. Selectman Coutu asked if this was hauled. Selectman Nadeau said on a flat bed low boy. Chairman Jasper said you can't drive it down the road but it moves within itself. Selectman Luszey said that Kevin has the capability to move that today. We have the trailers and the trucks that would be able to transport it. So there's no additional costs there.

Selectman Coutu said that Kevin has a bucket truck. Chairman Jasper said he doesn't but the Fire Department has a 30 foot bucket truck, which is the only real reason for that bucket truck is maintaining the wires on the poles. So it

doesn't need to be any higher than that. Presently, Selectman Coutu said he's using the bucket truck when he needs to do because he doesn't have...Selectman Luszey said up to 30 feet. Mr. Malizia said above that, he has to rent something. Selectman Luszey said or when it's out of service. Selectman Coutu supports the request. What do you need?

Chairman Jasper said we could simply put it in his budget, reduce the line by \$7,000 and do a net effect of \$38,000 in the budget. Selectman Luszey didn't have a decreasing line but the line that we'd need to increase is 5552-403 small equipment, Streets. It would need to go from zero to \$49,000. Chairman Jasper thought they needed to find out where that offsetting \$7,000 is before we go forward. We can do this Tuesday. It's not readily identifiable here that I can see.

Selectman Maddox was trying to sit here and say its \$49,000 at 7 years. Are we better off just keeping rent? Are you using it 10 days a year or 40 days a year? Selectman Luszey said the answer would be no if we used the same logic as when we purchased the brush mower for the side of the roads. That was like \$68,000 – the John Deere tractor with the brush hog. We use that during the summer months only to trim the side of the roads. Over time, the life of the service of that vehicle it actually has a greater payback. The life of this piece of equipment is 20 years. If you're spending about \$7,000 a year on rental and you take that out for 20 years, you have yourself a savings. It's a cost avoidance after the payback.

The only thing Selectman Maddox would say to that is that these particular devices have changed dramatically over the last 10 years because of various regulations. I remember my first lift I got on is a lot different than it is today. Do we want to buy something that is going to change? A truck doesn't change much. This thing they may require a bigger out rig. All the things that I'm just not sure that you buying one is...Chairman Jasper indicated that you can always make that argument but since the payback is 7 years, you'd say all right we've changed the regulation and everybody has to buy a new one. Selectman Maddox said that they do say you have to have a \$5,000 pound point of attachment for the person in the lift. If you didn't have that, you have to have all that done. All I'm saying is it justifiable for the amount of use it's going to get. So maybe the more documentation and maybe that's all in the e-mail but we've only...that's why Chairman Jasper was suggesting that we wait, get the documentation, and he wanted to make sure that everybody has it. There seems to be I think at this moment we have 3 votes in agreement that it's probably a good investment for the Town.

Selectman Coutu believed in giving the people the tools that are necessary to keep the services going for our citizens yes. Chairman Jasper said it is also going to actually, although he does say that that bucket truck and we know there's problems there, that's going to take a lot of stress off of that. Probably more use of that truck goes towards the Highway Department. Instead of just attaching wires, they're doing things that tend to fall on the truck and using it in some very adverse conditions. It probably helps us maintain that other truck for a few more years.

One of the things when you're talking to Kevin, Selectman Nadeau wanted to see if we could do a 3 year lease purchase on one of these to see what the difference is. Chairman Jasper thought that would certainly be good if we could stretch any more. Small equipment like that worth only \$45,000 may not be cost effective. Selectman Nadeau said it might be.

Chairman Jasper said the question is would we like to have the budget wrap up November 1st, next Tuesday during the workshop while discussing fire and cable or do we want to wait and do it at the November 8th regular meeting. When has the Budget Committee requested the budgets? Selectman Luszey said the 17th. Ms. Carpentier said the 17th so the 8th is kind of short notice. That is the time it was scheduled is November 8th to do it. November 8th is the regular schedule.

Chairman Jasper said if we don't get it done...Selectman Maddox said if they had a question, we could always then...Chairman Jasper suggested that they shoot for the first. If we don't get it done, we're still within the schedule by getting done on the 8th. Selectman Coutu said that their schedule now is tentative. Chairman Jasper said they're going to attempt to wrap up our budget on the first.

Ms. Carpentier asked if the Board wanted to review the default at all today. Chairman Jasper said yes let's look at default before we leave and get that out of the way.

Ms. Carpentier said because we now have the insurance rates, I was able to create the defaults and break it down. Starting with what was approved last year, any one time adjustments adding in change index services, adding in the 2 reoccurring warrant articles for the Highway union contract that was passed in fiscal 2011 in fire equipment capital reserve in fiscal 2012. Then the next page breaks it down by fund. At this point, the default budget as compared to the proposed Board of Selectmen budget as it stood prior to this evening would have been the \$347,000 change to all the funds with \$191,000 coming in being the change in the general fund. That's primarily because of the cable increase, which I know you will be discussing on Tuesday night.

Questions or comments? Chairman Jasper said given that we have got to finalize everything, this is just an overview. We'll be voting on the default after we have completed the budget.

Default Budget

Mr. Malizia pointed out that this probably won't change but (inaudible) the default to change. The calculations of pro and con but the default budget won't change because of cable. Selectman Coutu said they've also made a couple of other adjustments. We've increased revenue. Ms. Carpentier said the comparison won't change. Mr. Malizia said it will not change the default budget. Your comparative bases will change but your default yourself, that's the number.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to approve a 2013 default budget in the amount of \$28,054,345, carried 5-0.

Selectman Maddox had a reminder to those watching this exciting presentation here on cable that Saturday at Wal-Mart from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. they will be taking back unused drugs.

5. ADJOURNMENT

If there's nothing further, Chairman Jasper adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Recorded by HGTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Richard J. Maddox, Selectman

Benjamin J. Nadeau, Selectman

Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

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