

HUDSON, NH, BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the Workshop Meeting on March 1, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Massey at 7:03 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Selectman Jasper.
3. ATTENDANCE - Ken Massey, Roger Coutu, Rick Maddox, Shawn Jasper, Ben Nadeau – arrived late

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Rep. Lambert; Rep. Renzullo; Rep. Haefner; Rep. Maltz; Rep. Doherty

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Issues that are important to the Town that may require legislative action and pending legislation that could impact Hudson

Chairman Massey indicated that the Board would be meeting with the legislative delegation so he thought it would be appropriate if each of the Representatives introduced themselves for the Town and give some brief description of which committees they're serving on.

Representative Bob Haefner – He's from Hudson. He is the Chair of the Committee on Environment and Agriculture. This is his third term.

Representative Andy Renzullo – He's Chair of the Resources, Recreation and Development Committee. This is his fourth term.

Representative George Lambert – He's on the Committee for Redress of Grievances. This is his first term.

Representative Jonathan Maltz – He's from Hudson. He's on the Public Works and Highways Committee. This is also his first term.

Representative Shaun Doherty – He's serving his second term in the House and he's on the Election Law Committee.

Representative Shawn Jasper – He's Shawn Jasper. He's Deputy Majority Leader and he serves on the Election Law Committee. This is his ninth term.

Chairman Massey thanked them all for coming. They truly appreciated it. The meeting was going to be very informal. He thought they'd first of all maybe if any of the Selectmen have any issues they would like the Representatives to hear and then the Board will hear about what they think. Chairman Massey thought the primary concern ought to be those issues in Concord that have either anything to do with cost shifting, revenue sharing, etc., etc.

Selectman Maddox said he had minutes of the February 6, 2007 workshop that the Board had with the Representatives. Some of them are still with us. Some have moved on. We're trying to get a communication. If anybody sees the Selectmen good or bad almost every week on television, the legislatures all the Board does is see maybe an article in the paper once in a while by sky demolitia or whatever things are going on. The citizens don't really get to see other than Selectman Jasper, who takes his abuse here regularly. So four years ago when they had this discussion the items that Hudson wanted to bring forward was the third bridge wherever that may be going. The circumferential south corridor being able to get that line to be able to get that land to be able to do something locally here. Benson's is done. You can take credit for that. The last one was the retirement system. He thought there are still issues that need to be addressed. Unfortunately every four years is tough to keep track of it. Again gentlemen,

Hudson the 25,000 citizens there is some good and bad being on the border. A number of issues that are going on in Concord, and he knows that there's a change of guard and there's been that mentality to fix everything that was before. Again he thought some of the issues still linger on. Selectman Coutu has said many times that Lowell Road is our biggest concern as far as traffic. The only way we're going to fix that is get an east west route, getting some of that traffic off and the circumferential land is there. How do we move this forward and not just meet every four years and say it's the same. Selectman Maddox's question would be on those issues. Is there anything that they can look forward to on that list?

Representative Maltz said the Transportation budgets right now are something like \$100 billion in the hole. They're trying to figure out where to find the money to sure that up. He hasn't gotten far enough into the plans yet to know where, if any, where any bridges are planned. He knows they did build the airport connector bridge with a generous donation of 100 percent federal funds. Unfortunately just a wee bit far north for Hudson's needs for traffic litigation. There may be better information later but they just started working on the capital budget today.

Chairman Massey asked what Representative Maltz's sense was of the \$30 additional fee on licenses that was going to be used to take care of some of the critical construction issues in the State especially since there's a significant number of bridges in the State that have been red lined. Where do you think that's headed relative to rescinding it?

Representative Maltz said that law is already set to expire on June 30th. If you look at the RSA, it specifies that those fees run through June 30th and then July 1st are all gone. The Governor's budget does put them back in place. He thought the Republican leadership was likely to want to support that but that had to leave accounts for an estimated \$80 million of that \$100 million hole we're facing right now.

Representative Renzullo said the Republican leadership basically has underlined that no new taxes. That's pretty much what they're going to hold to it. They will cut. They will not tax. Do not expect that that tax will not be, as far as he was concerned, reinstated. There was talk of a gasoline tax. To his knowledge, that will not be taken up. They will be cutting. They have to. The taxpayers will not stand for any more new taxes.

Representative Maltz believed there are a few hundred red lined bridges to his knowledge. None quite as bad as a few out west that collapsed. Red line means they're inspecting every 6 months and based on what's happened out west, likely the very aggressive and reducing traffic should they notice deterioration. That is their priority in the Public Works Committee to start addressing the needs that they have in the infrastructure.

Selectman Maddox wanted to go back to the circumferential south corridor. Four years ago he said they'd like to see a bill put forward to say that any community that had land purchased by the State for a highway that had not been built for over 30 years, the community could buy that land for \$1 just so they wouldn't lose that land. He knows that Selectman Jasper and most of the Representatives know that Hudson's head up at zoning around that highway that's never gotten built. That land is sitting there from Route 111 to Lowell Road. There is talk that they're trying to at least do some engineering in the background to make it a road much like Albuquerque Road in Litchfield so that they could meander around some of the things that a divided highway couldn't. He's worried that in the enthusiasm to bring in monies that somebody sells off a piece of that and makes that whole roadway lost to Hudson. At some point, at some time, we're going to need to do something to get people from making Wason Road the circumferential highway. Selectman Maddox said he actually followed a truck because he must have got his GPS and said shortest route. He went from Stop & Shop to Kahills and right on 111. Again, that roadway is needed. If we have to do something even at the town level, he didn't want to see it lost. He's bringing this up because as Selectman Jasper will tell you anything, he is persistent. How do they do something there?

Chairman Massey said they contracted with the Nashua Regional Planning Commission about three ago. They did two things. About four years ago, they ran a model of the traffic coming in from 102, 3A, and 111. What they determined is no matter what they did on those 3 roads, we weren't going to solve the bottleneck at the bridge. The other thing is they contracted with NRPC two years ago to do a gross

estimate of what it would cost to build an Albuquerque Drive, or a Camp Sargeant bypass type road from the bridge to 111. He thought at the time the total estimate was about \$34 million, which they know is probably going to be subject to change. It gave some indication of the magnitude of the problem they're facing. Again just addressing what Selectman Maddox was talking about relative to what it would take to keep that preserved as an option for the Town.

Selectman Jasper indicated that he'd jump in and take the first stab at that one. Certainly you wouldn't have any problem getting the votes from the Hudson delegation but given that we're 13 from Hillsborough and 27 out of 400, he wasn't sure there'd be a lot of sympathy outside to do anything beyond. Sure, we'll sell it to you at market value. He thought that's where the Town of Hudson realistically is going to need to go is to start negotiations with DOT to do that. Maybe some sort of finding that it would be beneficial to the State but as we've seen when the Clinton administration came in and said we couldn't do that because of the wetlands there and we'd only be able to build at best a two lane meandering road to avoid the wetlands. He didn't know that that would rise to something that the State would support or contribute to. Just in the situation he was going to say all right before that land is gone, what do we do and work out a deal and present a bond to the taxpayers to buy the right of way. He thought realistically that's about all. Certainly there's not going to be any willingness that he can see to give an asset away to a community. There are not enough votes to make that happen particularly when the cuts are so severe. They'll talk some of the potential that's coming down the road he assumed a little bit later.

With the exception of the piece that goes from Lowell Road to the first wetlands, Chairman Massey said the rest of the land was landlocked. It's very narrow and it would be unlikely to have any true commercial value. Even building homes would be problematic.

Selectman Jasper said that was probably the good news for most of it except for that one piece of land between Stop-N-Shop and Wal-Mart. That's a valuable piece of commercial property. Certainly that one piece would be worth in excess of what he would expect the rest of it to be.

Since Representative Maltz said he was new and back when any of that happened, he was probably running around in shorts. He's a bit wet behind the ears unlike some of them who have in the House that long, how much money was the Town paid for? Selectman Jasper said it didn't come from the Town. It was all bought up by the State from private landholders and no Town property to the best of his knowledge was involved. Chairman Massey believed that a lot of the money that was used came from the Federal government.

Selectman Maddox said or at least a turnpike because he thought that was expected to be part of the turnpike system. There are a couple of private parcels that the Town now owns past 111 going towards 102. Again, they just want to make sure that they don't lose the opportunity. At the very least getting the first right of refusal doing something that gives them the ability to go to warrant at some point and say to the taxpayers you're complaining about Lowell Road traffic. The only real solution is being able to get traffic to 111 so they can go to 93 from Exit 2. That's the way to go. Again, they're just looking for help in being able to do something. If the four years later is going to cost, then they need to take that into consideration.

Representative Renzullo asked if there was a right of refusal in the law as far as sale of State property. He thought there was a right of refusal. He'd have to check the statute. As far as Chairman Massey understood, there are only two requirements. The first one is that the property has to be sold at market value and it has to be sold through a third party realtor operation. The State wouldn't directly as far as he understood be the seller.

Representative Renzullo said the town is notified of the availability of the parcel if he wasn't mistaken. Mr. Malizia thought for some reason they went through State agencies first. If they refused, then it would... Representative Renzullo said yes, then it goes through a municipality. Chairman Massey said it would still be at market value. Mr. Malizia said it would still go through a prescribed process. Chairman Massey said that part was right. Selectman Maddox said if somebody made an offer tomorrow, they wouldn't be able to get to a bonding situation for quite some time. Representative Renzullo said there is a

process they have to go to with the State and they have to declare it to be surplus. Selectman Maddox said that they did have some time and they needed to look at that.

Selectman Maddox thought the third bridge unless it's going to be a toll and is that considered to be a tax. If Representative Renzullo recalled, Dave Campbell had a plan and he didn't think anything came of it. He didn't think the State moved forward on that. It was a different way of funding it through private. Representative Haefner said it was private. It was paid for with the tolls from the Litchfield side or Hudson side. That got killed because of where it came down in Nashua. Reps. managed to kill that.

Representative Renzullo said there was an issue with a neighbor. There is nothing that he knows of as far as moving forward on that. He thought a lot of that has to do really with the economy. Right now he thought everything is, and John correct him if he's wrong, the State is kind of pulling in its horns as far as what it must do as opposed to what it would like to do. He thought that was in the capital realm as well as in the expenses. Representative Haefner said that best he knew that was not in the 10 year plan. Representative Maltz said most of the highway construction is being heavily financed by Federal funds right now. They're not even doing State matching on a lot of the grants to get more money. They're just going with what the feds. are allowing at least up until this point.

Representative Renzullo said not saying that come the following year they can't maybe do something once the pressure of the budget is off. Right now all concentration is really on the budget. You may not believe that by reading the newspapers or listening to the constant drum beat about all the so-called distraction, but it's not true. People are working diligently on the budget. That is 3 basic things: the budget, the budget, the budget. We are in a world of hurt as far as the shortage of finances at the State level. We have to do something and they will have to do it.

Representative Maltz said that goes back to the difference between the Governor's budget and what the house has pledged not to spend more than. What he was sure was of great concern to you the Governor's reduction of the pension sharing from 25 percent to zero. Representative Jasper can speak for the leadership on the position.

Selectman Maddox asked if that jumped back up. It was 35 and they did it to 30, and then 25, and then it was supposed to go back to the 35? Representative Jasper said there's been approximately \$47 million in the budget statewide for supporting retirement. The Governor proposes to take that \$47 million to zero so that the whole burden would go on the employers except that he is proposing that for Group 2, their contribution go from 9.3 percent to 11.3 percent and for Group 1 it would go from 5 to 7 percent, which would not make up a substantial amount of the cost. House leadership was committed to seeing that there is no pass down. However as a total dollar amount, he would suspect as you would see that there would be no more than what we are currently given. As the increases go along, more and more of that burden is going to be on towns. Representative Jasper's personal view is they need to get to certainly something like a 401K but short of doing that, they need to get it to a situation where the employees and the employers have an equal contribution because that brings people to the table. They know both our rates are going to be 20 percent. They wouldn't care if our rate was 30 percent and theirs was staying at 10 or 11. There's no incentive to make any changes but if they know as it goes up theirs is going to rise, then you get people to the table. He didn't know where that's going at the moment.

Chairman Massey asked where the House was relative to – back in 1987 the Federal government faced the same problem with their military pensions. At the time, you could retire at 20 years at 50 percent pension and at 30 years for 100 percent. In 1987, they passed the law that grandfathered anybody that had been in the service up to that point with anybody that entered the service after that they went from – they still got the same pension vesting but they weren't going to get paid until either 60 or 65. It had a significant difference in it. The reason why Chairman Massey thought it was important was when a lot of the pension programs were put in place, the average life cycle of somebody was probably 65 or 75. The fast growing population in the country right now is the 80 to 100 level. If you can retire at age 45 as an example and you're now looking at collecting a pension for longer than you worked by a substantial margin, that's a significant cost burden for both the State and the employers. He shared Selectman Jasper's ideas about

some form of cost cash account pension plan which a 401K is opposed to the define pension plan which is what we're dealing with right now.

Representative Jasper said the problem with that system for us right now is that we're in this system and it would be very, very expensive. We can do it but it would be very expensive because you'd have to take everybody who was now collecting from the old plan and you'd have to figure out a way to fund that. Where is the break off? We're in a \$3.5 billion deficit with just the obligations as they sit today as compared to 5 ½ billion of assets. It's a really huge substantial hole. That's one of the quandaries. How do you make that change and not bankrupt the towns in doing it?

Representative Jasper said one of the proposals that he's very confident will come out of the House will be that for Group 2 the retirement age will go to 50. Twenty-five years of service and 50 years of age and not be able to collect any retirement benefits until 55. The issue there is going to be the matter of vesting. He worked on this problem 18 years ago and the unions fought everything they tried to do 18 years ago, which was simply make it totally prospective. Just apply to people who were hired after July 1, 1984. That's all they wanted to do. The unions thought they were taking their first born somehow by doing that. We don't have that option of waiting another 20 years now. What the proposals are is anybody who is vested, and their definition of vesting is for the purpose of when you can take out what the town has put in is 10 years. Up to 10 years, you're not vested you walk away you take your contribution. The unions are claiming no. They're vested after probation. So they feel their vested in the system after they have reached their probationary period. They'll obviously fight that but that's going to be the battle. We can't fix this problem as he said if they try to wait 20 years. Other things that will happen are also going to impact people is they're looking at going to a 5 year average instead of a 3 year average, taking out overtime, duty pay so that your retirement is going to be based on your true salary not all the bump ups. There are other variations out there which would allow you to keep in overtime and go to a 5 year average but the payouts for instance – Chief Gendron when he had accumulated earned time and things of that nature, any bonuses that people would get would all be taken out. A lot of things in the works to try to get that number down to say that in no circumstances can your retirement be more than 100 percent of your base salary. That's another one. Those are all in the works and there will be comprehensive bills coming out. Right now the issue of insurance, which doesn't affect the town like Hudson or its employees because we don't contribute to health insurance for our retirees, that's primarily a State issue although there are communities who do contribute. That's a big issue as well. That's another one that's right now costing us about \$40 million a year and rising very rapidly. The issues are numerous and very little doubt that when they get done they'll end up in court over whatever they do.

Representative Renzullo said that the Speaker has set up 3 special committees made up primarily of senior people. One of them is on retirement that going through the retirement with a fine tooth comb. The other is education funding. Those are both big budget busters. The third one is redistricting which isn't but it's also a complicated issue. Those 3 committees are special that were establish just to address those problems.

Selectman Coutu said he appreciated the Representatives taking the time to come down here. He wished there were more people here besides them. Unfortunately some people couldn't make it for one reason or another. Representative Doherty you can chime in anytime he wanted to. He didn't want him to feel like he was left out. The Town of Hudson has tremendous value to its citizens because it has tremendous assets. One of those assets is the land which we were able to procure from the State, which is now Benson Park which is when finished and it will be an ongoing project or as it stands now, it's a park that all of the citizens of the State of New Hampshire would be able to enjoy.

Selectman Coutu indicated that we have two great and beautiful industrial parks with empty buildings. We have a great commercial corridor coming right off of Route 3. The problem with all of those assets is there are of no value if you can't get there. He can't emphasize enough that the problems on Lowell Road significantly impact where this Town is going to go in the future. Right now gentlemen based on what's he hearing, it's very dismal. Selectman Coutu understood and he applauded the Republican leadership for taking the initiative to want to cut spending in order to bring the budget under balance. We must be mindful as elected representatives of a District, in our District, comprises of Hudson, Pelham and

Litchfield. He firmly believed that you or he if he was serving in their position has an obligation beyond what the leadership wants. It makes great political rhetoric to talk about cutting spending and to get the tax rate under control, and to ease the burden on the communities. It makes more sense to him that as a delegation of 13 from our area, it behooves them to stand firm as a number. Thirteen is insignificant when compared to 400 but it's a bargaining chip. We need to address, and he's going to fight this as long as he sits in this seat – he's going to fight for this. We need to address the problem of Lowell Road and how are they going to do that? There's no money to build a corridor but there are other ways we can do it that are not going to cost a lot of money.

Selectman Coutu said they have a new Department of Transportation Commissioner, Commissioner Campbell, who in conversations that he's had with him is more than willing to sit down with this Town and he would hope with the Delegation from the State House which has a lot more to say about how things happen in the State and especially the Department of Transportation than we do. Wherever you see road construction going on in this State, it is as Representative Maltz has pointed out has been done with federal funding that's been available. Those projects that are being funded are those that are shovel ready. We have a great corridor. It's a figment of someone's imagination. It's there. He doesn't even know that it's even been put on paper except to say we own all this land and this is what we can do with it. What is wrong with putting pressure on the Commissioner to draw up the engineering plans and get this thing shovel ready? They're not committing State funds. We're getting it shovel ready. We didn't anticipate 3 years ago that 2 years ago there was going to millions of dollars given out in stimulus grant monies in order to create employment and to take care of infrastructure needs. If Hudson has a significant, the most important infrastructure need for the Town of Hudson right now is that corridor. We need that corridor. He didn't care how they get there. He thought that they as a delegation should make their voice be heard. He didn't care what Manchester gets, or what Manchester needs, or what Concord gets, or what Concord needs. That's all fine and dandy but Hudson has a need and the State other than selling us the land at Benson's at a significantly reduced price he might say, we've received very few benefits from State funding.

Two other areas that Selectman Coutu would like them to look at is speaking as a businessman and as one who is a strong advocate of doing what you can to bring any enterprise small or large into your community. The State of New Hampshire needs to look at business profit and business enterprise taxes that were instituted by Governor Lynch. Not one of his favorite pieces of legislation. He lost money last year. A considerable amount of money. He borrowed a considerable amount of money to keep his business open. This is not unique but he can relate to it because he is one businessman who has had to do this. Selectman Coutu is into his business now with a personal debt of a quarter of a million dollars that he's loaned his business. He took a significant loss last year not because they weren't doing things right because of the state of the economy. Unlike the State of New Hampshire, they're looking for other ways to generate revenue. He'll get to revenue generating in a minute. He thought they knew where he was going to go with that Representative Jasper.

Selectman Coutu indicated that business profit tax and business enterprise tax are simply stated they are payroll taxes. New Hampshire likes to brag that they don't have a payroll tax but yet the business enterprise tax is certainly based on your payroll. Five percent of your payroll is your business enterprise tax. Call it, mask it, and do whatever you want it's a payroll tax. We need to look at that. This is the flaw in the legislation that created both of those taxes. Business enterprise tax and business profit taxes are based on payroll and what your net profits are at the end of the year. If he borrows a quarter of a million dollars to keep his business open over a period of time whether its 1 year or in his case 6 years and he pays off that debt slowly, he's paying a portion of interest which is deductible against his expenses but all of the principal is not deducted. It's not deductible. You can't take your whole mortgage payment off your taxes. You can only take that portion which was interest and obviously the taxes on your property.

Selectman Coutu said the business profit tax and business enterprise tax the flaw in that legislation is that that money which he pays towards the principal which he put into his business is not deductible. It is a loss in the final analysis but as far as the government is concerned, that was extra money that he had. He didn't have to pay the loan he guessed. He should have just kept it in his pocket and just paid himself back. That

has created a problem in our State in terms of attracting industry and we need to take a look at that legislation.

[Selectman Coutu] The most significant problem other than that you're going to have to face other than having to cut the budget. It's fine to say you're going to cut the budget and we're going to cut services as a result. It's inevitable that you're going to cut services. Some people are going to feel the brunt of this. Some innocent people are going to feel the brunt of it. Some rich people are going to feel the brunt of it. It's going to be spread through the broad spectrum. What's also critical for them is to figure out a way to be able to maintain a level of services that makes sense for the State of New Hampshire. In order to do that besides cutting, you need to look at revenue generation.

Selectman Coutu submits to them as he's submitted to Representative Jasper that we need to get ahead of Massachusetts in terms of gambling. If we're not going to allow casinos in the State of New Hampshire, then you have alternative. He suggested to the Representatives that the lottery director that was recently appointed by the Governor is the former attorney for the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission and is well versed on what can and cannot generate money in terms of lottery. As we all know, Massachusetts is the most successful lottery in the country. New Hampshire doesn't have to take a back seat to Massachusetts. We never have and we should never take a back seat to Massachusetts. Keno (K-E-N-O) is a major significant income producer for the State of Massachusetts. What will Keno do for the State of New Hampshire? Keno will take a lot of gamblers to the Pines Restaurant just beyond his store on River Road. Go to the Lokai Restaurant in Dracut which is a good 7 to 8 miles from here. You go to Downtown Lowell and look at the New Hampshire cars that are parked in front of those establishments that are playing Keno every single day. What would Keno do to a small business like him? Keno would generate a profit, and they've already done the numbers on this, almost \$50,000 a year. He's just a little guy. \$50,000 a year. All he could have is a small Keno parlor. Think of some of the bigger restaurants and you know that the restaurant industry is struggling. What will that do? It will draw people into the restaurants. What kind of revenue does the restaurant generate for the State of New Hampshire? Meals tax. We can increase the meals tax. One impacts the other. Selectman Coutu thought that was a piece of legislation that the Representatives should give serious consideration to.

Selectman Coutu said second only, second only to looking at the problem that we have on Lowell Road and taking it more seriously that he thought that they have. We can't just willy nilly think that all of their problems are based on an escalating budget that the State has today. That's not the only problem. We have significant need in our community and the most significant – he can't say this enough – is alleviating the problems of traffic congestion on Lowell Road. We need to open that corridor so it's easier to get through town. It makes the town more inviting. More inviting brings in more industry. More industry brings in more jobs. More jobs bring in more people who will spend money. More money helps pay the bills and that's what we need to do. We need to not just think about cuts. We need to think about enhancing the revenue that this State can take in. We are building Benson's hopefully to attract people to come into our town to spend money. While they're here spending money, while they're here visiting Benson, they're going to be visiting our restaurants. They're going to be visiting our shops and its going to make our town that much more attractive. Selectman Coutu urged the Representatives to consider the primary need of the Town of Hudson. It is the corridor to alleviate the traffic and he wished they would give serious consideration to enhancing revenue for our State, and he urged them to continue their efforts to cut the budget. Let's not cut important services that are going to be required today and tomorrow. The prison population isn't getting any smaller, it's getting larger. The welfare needs of our State are not getting smaller. The need is getting greater. So please consider all of those. Again, he wanted to extend his sincere appreciation to all of the Representatives for coming here this evening and listening to them. With that, thank you Mr. Chairman.

Representative Renzullo said first of all the budget problem that we are in right here, right now they are looking at \$900 million shortfall. That's money that we have to have or we have to find a way. That's what the budget would be if everything that we're on the hook for now came to fruition. So we have to cut back in order to have revenue in – money going out otherwise we're in a world of hurt.

Chairman Massey asked Representative to put that in perspective. The \$900 million is what percent of the total budget? Representative Renzullo said the budget is \$10.7 billion. Chairman Massey said it was about 7 percent. Representative Haefner said that does include a lot of federal funds and that kind of stuff. What it is about \$5 million for the general fund. Representative Renzullo said the can got kicked down the road two years ago when all of this money came in from the federal government it didn't go to all just some of the shovel ready stuff. A good portion of this money went to fill in gaps, fill in holes, and fill in expenses. It didn't go into capital improvements. Not to the extent that people think. It paid expense money. That's why we're in such dire straights. That has to be taken care of and has to be taken care of between now and May. That's when we have to get it done. We have to have a budget before the end of this session. Chairman Massey wanted to stay on that for a minute because it was critical. If you downshift some of that \$900 million to the communities, you haven't solved the problem. All you've done is made someone else pay for the costs.

Representative Haefner said the commitment that leadership has said we will down shift no additional costs to the cities and towns. So no additional down shifting. However, the Governor's budget in fact does that. Representative Jasper said that was absolutely true. Here's the issue as we move along. The House will pass along the budget to the Senate at the end of this month. The cross over is the end of March. That's the commitment the House has made that when we send the budget to the Senate it will be balanced and there will be no downshifting, no tax increases. Then the Senate is going to get a hold of it. They're going to do what they will. Then they'll come together and the issue is going to be essentially a poker game at that point and the Governor will weigh in at that point there are going to be certain things that he will agree to or not agree to. What they learned today is that February which is an extremely small month for revenues was \$15 million off. The news was not good for revenues. While we've been hoping that there'll be additional revenues, although the Speaker has said that will all go to the rainy day fund or tax decreases – there's obviously the Senate to play there, but if April comes in – that's the month that really counts is April, if April isn't any better than what we're predicting there's not going to be any money to do anything else with. We're going to be in a real tight spot and we've got 3 parties at play here. That's going to be the interesting thing. Normally, and Representative Jasper said that's going to be the interesting thing, and he's seen it before and he didn't know if Andy may have, the rest haven't, that they've gone to a continuing resolution. We don't have enough money to go to a continuing resolution. We would have to go to a continuing resolution less about probably 10 percent, 12 percent, or something like that. It's going to be a real right fight. There's going to be a lot of sacred cows that are going to go on the chopping block between now and the end of June.

Representative Jasper said the problem with anything like what has been suggested is you can't build a budget around those numbers. Those are things you can do. You do them for good policy reason and say that all that money is going to go into the bank because we don't really know what it does. What they've seen happen with things like that before is people promise you the moon and you get a couple miles up and then what do you do? Tell them to take their money and go home. You should never build a budget around something that you don't have any real idea or any experience with. That doesn't move them along in this particular process.

Representative Lambert said he has spent the last 5 years sitting on your side of the table in Litchfield. When he started he didn't know anything about any of this. He's not that good at math but he can multiple a little. At a 20 percent increase in health costs every year he's been a Selectman, over 5 years, is a big number. When you go and you say over in the State side, they're seeing the same thing and these numbers aren't getting any smaller. How many employees does the State have like 28,000? Representative said about 12,000. Representative Lambert said even at 12,000 employees it's an enormous amount of money as an increase this year and we're going to have another one next year. There are things that people have to look at and they're talking about no sacred cows that says how do we go and get not only cost containment but reduce costs by finding new and better ways to reduce the cost of health care in this State by potentially opening it up to more competition or other things that will actually make a difference not only to you but to the employers and to make employment more attractive that are consideration for next year that really will make a difference to your ability to hire employees and cops. Those things have to be dealt with after we have taken care of the cuts and getting our real costs under control. It's that growth that is really scary because it's just not 20 percent of what it was 5 years ago every year. It's an increasing number. He

actually built a chart and he inserted the cost of health care at the bottom and you can just see the ramp of what its doing to everything else. If we don't get that under control, 20 percent increases over the next 2 years is a substantial number.

Representative Lambert said as they're looking at those budgets, looking at how do they go and find the underlying fix that is not just revenue and expense. Those are things that we're talking about in the hallways as well that didn't make the top of the list. Is that a fair statement? Representative Jasper agreed.

Representative Renzullo said on other things – on Lowell Road let's talk. Let's see what it is that you need. He didn't think that was on their list of stuff from 2007 was it? Selectman Maddox said yes because the real fix to get traffic off of Lowell Road is to use that circumferential. Representative Renzullo said that was something they can talk about. Chairman Massey said again just he might add, one of the solutions people have said is widen Lowell Road. If you look at the corridor, the number of structures that are very close to the right of way today you're talking about a significant taking of property in order to widen the road. That's why he thought the circumferential winds up being such a good solution.

Representative Jasper said the start to the circumferential is not in New Hampshire. That can't be permitted by the EPA currently. The only way they can that is through the feds. That's where they would need to start probably as a Town perhaps with some input from DOT. They have to get those permits. Nothing can be designed; nothing can be done without the permitting. We can build our own little meandering road perhaps because it wouldn't rise to the level that would need EPA permitting. It could be permitted through the State as a two-lane road. The question is will that really solve our problem and where do the funds come for that? Those would really be town funds at that point. He didn't think they're going to see a \$34 – \$40 million bond to make that happen. So if they're serious about saying we have to have a 4-land road here, we have to get through the feds first. That's the only way to do it. Realistically the only people that can help that are going to be our congressmen and our senators.

Selectman Maddox said, again, that roadway is land that is sitting there right now. All we're trying to do is protect it from. If something was to be developed on a very large 400 acre parcel in the south end of town, there may be monies that would be able to be used for that. If that resource isn't there is their concern. He talked to one of the representatives who isn't here and said just start building it as the town. Selectman Maddox said that was great but we don't own the land. The good thing is the last time 4 years ago it was Ds next to some of the people that were here. There are none of those. You're all theirs. You speak hopefully with one voice for Hudson, Pelham, and Litchfield. It's a regional issue that they need to solve. Again their concern is it being pulled out from underneath and not being able to utilize that. He thought what they're driving at is they can't build Lowell Road wide enough to be able to do this. They need that road. The study that was done said that if they built that even as a two-lane Albuquerque Road. It would take 50 to 70 percent of the traffic off of Wason Road. It would take 30 percent off of Lowell Road. Significant numbers by building this roadway. Again, Selectman Maddox knows it's not going to be built by the State but it is disheartening to know that this project was on the 10 year plan for 5 decades and got no where.

Selectman Maddox said that Lowell Road was on the 10 year plan for a number of years and it fell off for a whole bunch of reasons. It was disheartening to this Selectman to see that someone on the Senate side put in a bill that said put a road in Londonderry on the 10-year plan after we had gone through all of the hoops and ladders to see it just be as a piece of legislation to put it on there. He believed that has been killed but he was not sure. All they want is they built the Town of Hudson based on this roadway. It would be a shame to lose it. It would be shame to not have that resource to be able to do something for the Town of Hudson.

Representative Renzullo had a question. Has the Town made any inquiry with the DOT? Selectman Maddox said yes they have. Representative Renzullo asked what has happened. Selectman Maddox said they have met with them informally to go over the rough layout, how it would be done when they did the NRPC. They did meet with Nancy Mayville and a couple of other people up at Concord. They're not committing any monies. They're waiting to see also. Again, he thought there are 13 of you and hopefully

the ability to speak with one voice is much more driving. Many of you are now Chairman of various committees. How can we utilize that to best leverage the ability to do something with this property?

Selectman Maddox thought February 6, 2007 was the last time the Board saw the Representatives. He thought that good or bad, the Board needs to see more of them. Maybe not at this venue but whether they utilize HCTV has a nice studio that what he reads in the paper makes him crazy with the militia and all the other things that the legislatures are getting recognized for. He was sure that there's a lot of stuff that goes on in many of their committees that don't have that level of silliness. He'll call it what it is that really needs to get out to the public to know what's going on up there. He thought this was an absolutely great venue for them to tell the citizens because good, bad or indifferent, probably 60 percent of the people of Hudson watch this show at some point over its life to hear the numbers that you're talking about and not rely on just the sound bites that you might hear. Again, the Board is looking to the Representatives to get them more information. Luckily they have Selectman/Representative Jasper but there are so many things that are going on at the State House. He saw an e-mail today from our Fire Chief about some of the things that are being wiped off the map. The Planning Board used to be able to say if you put in fire sprinklers you don't have to put in cisterns which Hudson has found over the years to be a very costly and problematic system. Now they've taken that away from them to be able to do. Again, there are a number of things going on at all levels that we need to do a better job of communicating that up from the Town up to the Representatives and for them to get some information back to them other than the stuff they read in the paper. Thank you.

Representative Haefner wanted to make a couple of comments. He thought this delegation at least most of them know how important that traffic problem is on Lowell Road. He didn't think that goes by most of them there. He knows he's getting old but he certainly didn't recall there being an action item for 2007 for the legislative delegation to do anything. He thought they at that time were waiting for the Town to decide when they wanted to do that road. He did recognize getting up them but he just didn't recall that. If the Board wants to know things that are going on, he'll give them one that came through his committee today which doesn't affect the Town but it would have affected the school district. He had a bill in the committee and it was pushed by a lot of outside people to ban pesticides on school grounds. It was bigger than school grounds but as far as the people of Hudson were concerned, it would ban pesticides anywhere on school grounds. This was going to be the first step in many to banning pesticides in the entire State. They killed that today. It won't be an issue and it will go to the House in a week or so. He expected very well it will be killed. It was a complete banning of pesticides in school districts. It included State Parks.

Representative Renzullo said they keep going back to 2007 was their last meeting. Thank you. When was the next invitation? Chairman Massey was glad he brought that up Representative Renzullo. When he talked to the Board about having the delegation come, it was his fond hope that this would be a recurring quarterly get together. The idea at the end was that they would establish another meeting with the delegation on the first of June or so and have it literally an ongoing every quarter type of thing. Representative Renzullo asked if they could do that and that would be great.

Representative Renzullo said that they have been to Litchfield two or three times since they've been here. Chairman Massey said the Board would like to have them back.

Chairman Massey wanted to go back to the insurance. There are two things about it that he thought were being lost in the shuffle and nobody wants to address it. The first one was something that he saw in the paper this weekend. Something called Rossimer's Law effectively paraphrasing that if you build it, they will come. If you put the latest medical device in your hospital, you will find the customers to come and pay for it. There's the insurance that will pay for it. That's the problem that he thought nobody wanted to talk about. Insurance is something that a company decides they want to be in the insurance business and they sit down and say my pool of people is going to be this large. Within that pool, he's going to have his actuaries tell him statistically how many people will have a heart attack, how many people will have appendicitis; how many people will have a cough, etc., etc. They apply a cost to each one of those procedures. Then they divide that cost by the number of people that are going to be in their pool. They make money if actuarially they have fewer statistical repeats than they had planned on. This isn't free money. Your premium is based on what that actuarial department in the insurance company determined

was your risk pool. He didn't know where it stands today but the State of Oregon several years ago decided they were going to have health insurance for everybody in the State. They sat down and identified something like 1,000 procedures that you could do ranging all the way from a headache, to neonatal, or end of life care. Then they said they had this much money they could spend. They ranked the 1,000 procedures from 1 to 1,000. They started with their money and they went down from 1 and they ran out of money at 750, which meant that if you had the problems from 751 to 1,000, you were going to have to pay for it out of your own money. That's the problem he thought about the insurance. The discussion about how it's paid for is never made visible to people. It's somebody else paying for it.

Representative Maltz said it was even worse than that Chairman Massey. When he was going without health insurance a while ago and sliced a finger open very badly, he tried calling up Elliott Hospital emergency room, the Urgent Care in Londonderry and finding out what it was going to cost to have his finger sewn up and nobody would tell him. Eventually went to the Londonderry Urgent Care because it was in the evening and none of the billing people were at home to say how much stuff costs. They wouldn't tell him how much it cost when he got in there. They wouldn't tell him how much it cost when he left. He only found out how much it cost a few weeks later when they sent him a bill for \$1,000 to basically glue together a cut finger and give him a Tetanus shot. That was outrageous and he told them they committed fraud because they had known certain fixed costs when you walk in the door they assign a cost to you depending on how badly you're injured and they refused to tell him up front even though he repeatedly asked that. The problem is nobody in the system knows how much the services they're providing actually cost. It's up to somebody in some billing department to make up a number later. He thought more transparency and the cost of health care would be a tremendous asset for people who actually don't carry insurance or people who carry much less insurance than others who may be opting for catastrophic health care, so long as the government allows such health care options.

Representative Maltz since ever since the government started getting much more heavily involved in health care, the costs have such spiraled out of control. We have to find a solution to make the cost more transparent and encourage the people to become much more involved in learning what procedures cost.

Representative Lambert asked to stay on that subject for just a second. Representative Maltz is not the only person who has asked that question. After he started paying attention to the cost for health care, he started asking the question. He went in to get x-rays because he hurt his foot. He was at the hospital for the entire procedure from when he went to his primary care physician all the way through. He asked the question and no one in the entire value chain could answer the question for him except for someone who had a spreadsheet at the hospital in Nashua. They said to him after he had his x-rays taken that his less than 5 minutes in the x-ray room was going to cost him \$395 for 3 x-rays. It was over \$100. The problem with that is he has good health insurance. It's great but he's disconnected from the cost. He's completely unaware and so are most of the people who are on it. So they don't show around to make a decision. We have removed the competitive business from health care and in this state pushed it so far into the single payer and it's a co-payer model that people don't even value health care or health insurance. They don't treat themselves well enough to reduce the cost in the risk pool. When they fix some of that and give ourselves more options, the cost to the risk pools may go down substantially because people will start understanding that you should make decisions based on your contribution. It really is your contribution. The not knowing how much it costs drives the overall cost up for everyone.

Representative Lambert said this is happening not only in government, this is happening in business where we're seeing the cost in his small business the cost of health care goes up every single year at substantial numbers but the employees don't know and they don't care. The only time it affects them is when you change their co-pay. When we create more of that transparency, they will feel more accountable and people will start asking. Why are we seeing health care costs double in the last 5 years? What is it we're getting more? Why does it cost twice as much money to run a hospital? Why is it that someone who is actually out making minimum wage will spend more money in 1 visit filling out paperwork at the emergency room than they will make in 2 weeks? Our system is fundamentally broken with that disconnect and yet those hospitals will tell you that the cost is because they have to fund all of the people who aren't paying them. I'm sorry \$11 is just way too much for Tylenol.

Representative Renzullo said the center for public policy at the University of New Hampshire put out a study on hospitals and showed what the costs payback was for the various groups of people. Medicare and Medicaid pay approximately 70 percent of the costs for the hospital. Medicare is a little bit better than Medicaid but the break even point for the hospital is it's under 70 percent. It's 130 percent for private insurance. In other words, private insurances bill at a 130 percent to make up for Medicare and Medicaid. An individual who has no insurance is charged 209 percent of the break even costs for the hospital. That's at a hospital. They did the study at UNH and there was a segment for those who go in with no insurance and don't pay anything. One of the biggest hitters for rising health insurance costs is unfortunately the government supplied health insurance. It pays less than the actual break even costs for the hospitals. That data is available and if anybody wants it, he'll give it to them.

Selectman Nadeau said one of the things that Representative Lambert hit on was health care. Businesses are seeing the 20 percent increase but when he goes to look for what health insurance is available for employees for small business, it's very limited. Like Representative Renzullo said, the pool to get health insurance in the State of New Hampshire you have Harvard, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and he forgot the third one. He thought that it was something that the Representatives should look into is allowing more health care providers in the State to lower the costs. That would help businesses and people that are underinsured that could insure themselves because the cost would be reduced.

Selectman Nadeau said the other thing that Selectman Coutu said was expanding gambling. He thought that was something that after the budgets are all done it is something the Representatives should look at whether it be Keno or a place similar to Foxwoods. It doesn't have to be in Hudson but something they should look into because Massachusetts is looking into it and you have the other states around them. If you look at how many people go down to Foxwood or Mohegan Sun with New Hampshire plates, it's amazing. Not only the people driving down, it's the buses leaving Nashua to go to those places – Manchester to go down there. He thought expanded gambling should be look at to help the revenues in the State of New Hampshire.

Representative Renzullo said when it comes to gambling, you're preaching to the choir. They've fought long and hard with the entire delegation and they lost. It was a bi-partisan slap down. It didn't matter which side of the aisle you were on, people did not want it. No matter what, they could not convince them. As far as Keno, he thought it was a good idea and he liked it. He'll ask about it. Anything that will generate money, he had no problem with it.

Representative Renzullo said there is a very ill advised tax that was put on 2 years ago which was a tax on lottery winnings. Anybody who got in a W2G. That was at 10 percent and you couldn't even deduct your losses. That put anybody coming from Massachusetts maybe visiting the liquor store would not stop buying Powerball and stop buying the Millions because why should he buy it here and have to pay a 10 percent tax when they can go back to Massachusetts and not have to pay a 10 percent tax. They'd have to pay the normal income tax. Everyone now agrees that was a very misguided tax and if the Bill hasn't passed the house yet it will and he didn't think there will be any issue about getting it through the Senate. They have lost money on that.

Chairman Massey wanted to stay with the insurance for just a minute because Selectman Nadeau touched on it. If the State doesn't already allow it, has there been any consideration given to allow businesses to ban together to create a larger risk pool which would have the affect of lowering the rates? If you had 20 businesses in the local area ban together and buy insurance, their risk pool would be larger risk pool. The result they should have a lower rate. Has there been any consideration of allowing businesses to ban together in that fashion?

Representative Renzullo said he knows there is a bill in because he co-signed on it to investigate allowing towns to ban together to buy medical insurance. Chairman Massey said they're already doing that with Healthsource and Primex. Representative Renzullo said there was another bill in and this Bill was just to study that issue.

Representative Lambert said there is a bill which he believed was sponsored by Dan McGuire which allows for your business to start shopping outside the State. He didn't believe that that has been either passed or killed yet. The idea is that instead of having a risk pool of your local businesses to go find a risk pool of similar business from other States, which actually has a tendency to work very well when you have a younger industry business which really reduces the cost. So you have different options. Right now they're so limited and so constraint by our policies in the State and the inability to go out. Our health insurance coverage options in New Hampshire look pretty much like your car insurance options for Massachusetts for the last 20 years. That was pretty much no choice, no fault, and no worries. As soon as the competitive nature of insurance came into Massachusetts, the Massachusetts residents saw dramatic decreases in their car insurance costs. They think that the similar things could happen in New Hampshire when they actually open up medical competition.

Representative Jasper said there were certainly a lot of factors at work here. Representative Lambert is right. What we've done in New Hampshire is we keep saying well you have to insure this. You have to insure for this. You have to insure for that. Because we're such a small State, companies said we're not going to bother with New Hampshire. So all but three are left. That's what has happened to us. The flip side of that is the unfortunate people who suffer from some of those things are unable to get insurance at an affordable price. That is the downside of what we're doing. There are bills to allow us to cross State borders. There's a whole list of things that are being proposed to come off.

Representative Jasper said the one thing that they haven't touched on that drives medical care is the liability insurance that the doctors have to pay. This is 25 year old data that he's about to give them. When he was looking at this as a member of the Judiciary Committee as a freshman when they were talking about tort reform, the doctors came in and the general practitioners, not the big surgeons, were 26 years ago paying \$100,000 a year for medical malpractice. That certainly hasn't gone down. If you have to pay \$2,000 a week in insurance just to open your doors, no wonder its costing \$1,000 to have your finger stitched up. That's something they have to look at. People don't go to doctors because they're well and they just feel like it. They go there because they're ill and chances are something is going to go wrong. We have to do something if we're ever going to fix this problem to say you know what unless they cut off the wrong leg – a leg has a value because when you're looking at millions, you have a guy that's working at a job making \$50,000 a year and he's 50 years old. He has 15 years left and he gets an award of \$2 million, well that's just not realistic to the economic loss he's suffering. We have to start unfortunately saying there are some things here that are wrong but in the scheme of things, we can't take that money from everybody else and make you a wealth person because you had an unfortunate thing happen. We can make you whole financially, take away that doctor's license but those are the things they have to do. Those are the hard realities.

Representative Jasper said in this whole Obama care thing, what we were constantly pounded with was the uninsured, the uninsured, the uninsured. That's not a real problem in terms of the health of the country. Everybody gets medical care in this country. They never wanted to talk about people who were being denied medical care because it's virtually not happening. Everybody can go to a hospital and that's why the uninsured get billed at 200 and whatever percent it is. That's to pay for half of the uninsured who aren't going to pay anything on their bill at all. If you go to a hospital in Nashua, sure there are for profit hospitals that will probably turn you away but most of the hospitals are non-profit and they have to take you. It's not a problem of the uninsured in terms of people dying and getting sick. They're taken care of. That was the big fallacy in that thing. We have yet to really address the issue of the medical malpractice and the fact that that leads to so many more procedures that no reasonable doctor would prescribe because if you've missed something now, well then you're going to get sued because you misdiagnosed me. You missed this. In order to make sure that they don't misdiagnose you, you get \$10,000 worth of procedures that you don't need. We need to start addressing these things because there isn't enough money in this country to go around. We're all going to die sometime. Maybe we need to face that. There is no magic to this. We're going to bankrupt ourselves trying to make believe that we can make everybody well and do everything for everybody and we call all live to be 150.

Representative Maltz said one case in point he has a particularly bad vision. It's been 15 years or more since he started looking into Lasik as an option. In that time, technology has gone from using a scalpel to

cut open your eye and do some stuff to now having a laser. Then there's some wave form technology. The technology has been improving at a pretty good clip and the cost has been doing nothing but go down. The interesting factor of elective eye surgery is there's almost no insurance in the world that covers it. So it's an extraordinary competitive market. This has caused to go from \$3,500 an eye – he's seen some places and how reliable the ads are, down to like \$400 an eye.

Representative Lambert said Montreal did. You should check it out. Some of his students when he was teaching started doing it. That's where you go. You go to Montreal for the weekend, with the hotel, and you're back here for under \$1,400 rather than \$3,500 an eye down in Boston. You know why, because there's no liability insurance. So the doctors in Canada are free market doctors because it's not covered in the Canadian medical system.

Representative Maltz said same here. Even in this area he's seen advertisements for under \$1,000 an eye, \$500 an eye. He wasn't sure of all the places but 6 years ago he remembered it went from \$3,500 an eye, to \$2,500 and eye, to \$1,500 an eye and costs just keep going down.

Selectman Maddox wanted to get onto that a little bit, the licensing. Can you tell him where that sits? He knows that paper says barbers but he would like to know that the guy working on his eyes for \$400 an eye at least has a license. Chairman Massey asked if Representative Lambert introduced it.

Representative Lambert said he was in the room for the discussion. His name is not the first signature on it but he is a co-sponsor on it. He's gotten an enormous amount of calls. He can tell them exactly what they were thinking. That is New Hampshire is one the most over regulated States in terms of professional licensing in this country. When they started looking at it, you may or may not know that for somebody to actually be a licensed massage therapist in this State they spend more hours being trained than it takes to fly an airplane. Surprise right there. Yes actually the same thing with barbers. Chairman Massey said while they're training by the way, they're not legally allowed to accept pay. Representative said they can't accept a nickel. You can have your neighbor come over to your house and cut your hair and as long as they don't take any money, they can do that. If they take a single dollar from you in a tip, they have committed a crime for which they can go to jail. That is wrong. Representative Lambert said they went out and said where do you draw the line. They had a discussion and they threw out a whole bunch of things and said let's go and find the high water mark. Let's see who comes out to testify. The only people they got coming out to testify had the license and said they don't want anyone else in their business. You didn't hear many of the people who were going out and saying, "Hi I want to chose my manicurist properly" going out and saying, "We don't need a license". What they heard was don't let anyone else in our business because they're create too much risk. If someone who has a barber shop has an inspector come in, the present level of inspection is we come in, take a look around, does it look clean, is your license on the wall, check, thank you very much, and leave. The people who are professional court reporters, and there are less than 100 of them, all report to a specific department in the State. They tell them that they are cash flow positive because they raised \$14,500 a year in new income for the State. Very good. The problem is that the \$14,500 he can't even pay the person's benefits who actually manages the department never mind if there's ever an appeal.

Representative Lambert said that they have all of those little licensing departments and all the little fiefdoms, and we are sitting there paying these people and putting them on the retirement system and paying them for years and years to license what. What they did is they set out here are a list of professions which they didn't believe need to be licensed. There are no doctors on that list. The doctors, we want them licensed. The lawyers are going to be licensed by the court. They didn't touch the lawyers. The court reporters, however, the people who are actually going to take transcription for lawyers to do depositions, they thought that could reasonable a free market business. Now they'll tell you they must be licensed because they need to preserve the integrity of the profession but they don't say you need one of them to actually sit here for your town board. The Zoning Board of Adjustment makes sure that one of their people has to be there. It's only the lawyers. Lawyers are pretty smart guys. If they find somebody's not doing the job, they won't hire you any more. He didn't think that people needed to be licensed. If they can actually go and remove a bunch of the bodies that are licensing and managing this, he believed they could

reduce the cost and reduce the overhead for the State government and the long term liability in the pension system. Does that answer your question?

Selectman Maddox said to a degree. Again, he thought because he was in the business that was regulated, he understood some of the other side of that inasmuch that most people assume when they get a hair cut that person has gone through some training. They are licensed. They know a number of things that the lady cutting his hair – his neighbor coming over and cutting his hair may not know. He guessed it was for them to decide. Again, its one of those things that we as citizens only see a small snippet in the newspaper and you're not getting your message out very well. To that end, good or bad, you can see 4 out of the 5 of their pictures on the Town's website with their contact information. Would that be something that they could do on their website so that people could reach you so that if they wanted to give them that input other than coming up to Concord and saying you see my job but people that have concerns like him that said they may want that.

Representative Jasper said it was already on the State website. Selectman Maddox asked if people know who Hillsborough 27 was. Representative Jasper said here's the wonderful thing about the State website. You go on, it says find your legislator, you click on your town, and it gives you the list. Then you go to the individual legislator and it gives you their e-mail and telephone number if they provided one. Chairman Massey asked if you click on Hudson does it give you all of the 13 names. Representative Jasper said yes it does.

As far as Representative Haefner was concerned if you wanted to put it on the Town's website, he was okay with that too. Representative Lambert said please feel free. He's happy to e-mail the Town his picture and his details. Again, Selectman Maddox thought that if we have some of our staff going up to do some testimony, he thought it would be nice to be able to reach them in a uniform way. Representative Jasper thought the better thing would be to simply put a link to the State web site because there's so much more information there. You can find bills; you can do searches. Chairman Massey said they already had the link to the State. Representative Maltz said they could put a link to the Hillsborough 27 delegation page.

Representative Lambert would even say that if the other members would be willing, he would love to come out and meet the citizens of Hudson on a quarterly basis and not just saying have a meeting with the Selectmen. He'd happily sit on the other side and have people who want to come in and bring issues and say I have problems. Come talk to them. He takes calls all the time as he was sure everyone else does but because of some of his bills probably more than some. In case any of them were curious, tomorrow morning MSNBC at 10:30.

Chairman Massey didn't see any reason why you couldn't schedule this room and say I'm going to be here on the first Wednesday of every month from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. He thought that was great.

Selectman Maddox thought the four of them have the greatest respect for all the Representatives and work for even less than they do and travel further to get there to do it. Representative Lambert said there are five of them sitting up there. Representative Lambert said they heard their new Town Administrator on NHPR yesterday. At least somebody is listening to him.

Selectman Maddox thought what the paper gives them is the inflammatory stuff. He assumed that they're all armed and unlicensed. Again he's trying to get to the point that there's a lot things that our citizens just don't know. Yes they're probably not going to read all the bills. He did some of that and it's scary in some points when you read some of the stuff. Again, who's going to attack Hudson in a militia but he guessed somebody has a good reason for it. If that's yours please explain. They as Selectmen, and Selectman Jasper has a dual use here, is to try to get some input to them because the Board represents them. Some of the things they've talked about tonight; some of the things they talked about years ago. He's trying to foster up more dialog so that the average citizen whether they want Keno and maybe get some input into that who want to say they want people not to be licensed. There's input into that. Again he thought they could find a venue to do something here locally to facilitate that.

Representative Lambert said the other thing is they could make it so that technologically they could submit questions to a voice mail and they could answer. There's technology that he certainly has at his company that they have done. He would love to have a voice mail where people could go and ask questions and ask them all. Each of them has a different expertise and a different interest. So they could make it so somebody drops in a question and they'll get it out to all of them as well as e-mail. Sometimes it's awful hard to ask a question well in e-mail. A great quote he's heard about e-mail is "I'm sorry it's too long. I didn't have the time to make it shorter." Telephone calls are much more natural in terms of questions, dialog, and inquiry.

Representative Haefner didn't want anybody thinking though that they don't hear from their constituents because they do. He also gets 200 e-mails a day. He gets telephone calls. He was on the phone last night until 9 p.m. with several different people calling him on bills he was working on today. They do hear from their constituents. It may not be all of them but there are some that are active out there.

Selectman Coutu wanted to make a point relative to that. He sent out two weeks ago 7 e-mails to 7 members of the Senate. Only 1 gave him a response. It wasn't an answer. It was an acknowledgement that he received his e-mail. He thought that was very important to constituents. He knows he gets as a Selectman many phone calls and many e-mails weekly and he responds to every single one unless Selectman Jasper tells him not to answer that one. He does respond to every single one. The only Senator by the way who gave him an acknowledgement was Lou D'Allesandro. He thought that maybe it was something the mechanism he has instituted in his programming that automatically sends out a response. That means so much to somebody. He knows that it is time consuming but people want to know that somebody is paying attention to what they're saying because no matter how little they think it's important to them, they should acknowledge that. He thought it was good politics to respond.

To that, Representative Jasper said it is good politics to do that. They're essentially volunteers and getting hundreds of e-mails and when some of those issues come up as much as he'd like to respond to every single e-mail even from the people in the district, sometimes which just becomes so overwhelming that they wouldn't be able to do anything else in their lives. It tends to be only when he's asked a question that he will respond. If it's just "I would like you to support this Bill" sometimes he does take the time. It depends on his schedule. With the number of e-mails that they get every day, two days later those e-mails are so far buried that it's not possible to get back to them. For Senators it's even worse because their district is so large. There are 400 of them in the State. There are 24 of them for the State. They're just overwhelmed. Again, they don't have really any staff either. People should know its not that they don't look at them but particularly when they're getting a form e-mail, the only thing that is different is the signature at the end.

Representative Lambert said Representative Jasper sees the third one of those. He doesn't even see the name any more. He just goes "yes" he's seeing a lot of those. He's a freshman and he hasn't had to deal with this for years but he's not a committee chairman. He gets stuff. It's hard to tell if it even comes from your district. If he's one of the people that didn't respond to Selectman Coutu's e-mail, he completely apologized.

Representative Haefner said he received an e-mail one day and it listed a town where this person was from in New Hampshire and had a California zip code on it. They come from all over the country.

Selectman Coutu said one of the questions that he has asked of him many, many times and he has no answer. Why is it that Hudson, Litchfield, and Pelham have 13 Representatives and we have how many in the State? Representative Jasper said 400. Selectman Coutu asked why they couldn't narrow that down to 150 to 200 Representatives and streamline this whole operation, and pay them a little more money, and... Representative Haefner said he'd vote against it. Chairman Massey said you would have to change the Constitution. Selectman Coutu said it was not a matter of changing the Constitution; it's an awful lot of State plates that the taxpayers are paying for Representatives and free toll service.

Chairman Massey said he would like to wrap it up. He would like to encourage and since he won't be there he could maybe commit the Board that the first week of June they could have another meeting with the delegation. The Representatives said it sounded good.

Representative Jasper said he asked a question and he's going to give a brief one because nobody wants to ever vote themselves out of office. The other part, although this has come up in the House and has been voted on, the proposal has always been voted on. The proposal has always been to cut the House in half and double the Senate. Even if they were willing to cut our half of their positions, the Senators are never willing to dilute their power.

Representative Renzullo said he always figured it this way. It's awfully hard to corrupt 201 people. The bigger the legislature, the better off you are. The better off the citizens are. Chairman Massey said especially when you're not getting paid.

Again, Chairman Massey wanted to really express their appreciation for the Representatives coming. They look forward to more of those on an ongoing basis. Thank you all for coming and the Board will meet in June.

Without objection, Chairman Massey declared a 5 minute recess. The Board of Selectmen resumed at 8:44 p.m.

5. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Coutu – He had mentioned this to the Chairman earlier. Chairman Massey asked Captain Morin to come up and speak. Selectman Coutu said that he had a meeting with Captain Morin today. He had called him and advised him. As you know, he serves as a citizens member but also has been acting as a liaison for the Board of Selectmen with regards to the 9/11 Memorial which they were planning and Dave has organized that committee and has worked very hard and diligently in order to see that to its fruition. No site has been selected and there's been no commitment on anybody's part for a site. That's still in the works. However, he had been aware last week and he had said to Dave that he was somewhat concerned that we were being shunned in New York as a result of not having been allocated any of the steel in order to build a memorial. Selectman Coutu knows that the steel supply has been depleting considerably and when he saw last week that the Town of Dracut had received an approval, he said to Dave he had anticipated that they would get notice very quickly. All of this came to Dave's attention he believed yesterday. One of the communications was dated February 28th which was put together by the Port Authority.

Selectman Coutu said in essence what it is, and he'll have Dave give a general overview is they have now been given an opportunity to be able to pick up a piece of steel. In essence in order for Dave to do this, the Town has some responsibility with regard to the steel. That is we have to understand that this just isn't any piece of steel that's manufactured in this country. This is a piece of steel that comes from the site that was bombed in New York. That steel has significance and an important significance to all of us. They would like to be a part of the community that wishes to memorialize the incident that took place in New York. With that what's pressing is that the steel is going rapidly. There isn't much left. We have an opportunity to get a piece. Dave is here this evening is they have a letter from the Port Authority which they put together for Dave to present. Selectman Coutu said he has some concerns about the letter. The letter itself he has no concerns with it's the signature that he has a concern with. They would like the Board to put this on our stationery and send it back to them. The way they wrote it up is because they were communicating with Dave is that Dave Morin is making the assurances that are in the letter and he believed it should be the Town of Hudson through this Board authorizing the Chairman to approve this letter.

Selectman Coutu said he has read the letter. There is no problem with the content. Basically what it says is that we are going to recognize this as a sacred piece of memorabilia and we're going to protect it and then we're going to do what we need to do to set up the memorial. That's basically it. He gave the letter back to Dave and then if he wants to present it to the Chairman, and he wished that he would ask any questions. Dave can read the letter or pass it around. As Selectman Coutu understood it if the Board of Selectmen authorizes them to get the steel we have in place people that are going to go and pick up the steel and bring it to the Town of Hudson at no cost to the Town of Hudson. Mr. Morin said that was correct. They have talked to people for a truck to go pick it up. What he understood with the seal is that it is rather large pieces. Firefighters in Nashua got a piece and they had actually called over to Hudson to see if they wanted

to work with them because the piece was so large. So it's going to need a tractor trailer he assumed to bring it up.

Captain Morin thanked the Board of Selectmen for having him that fast to get them here tonight. He appreciated that. He wanted to give the Board a rundown of where they were at. They started back last fall and put together a committee with citizens that represented the Fire, Police, and Highway Departments. They had progressed pretty well. They had come up with a plan for a memorial to present but then they came stagnant due to the fact that they were concerned that they may not get steel because there were so many requests and the amount of steel that was available. They received the information on it today. There is not much left. There is a list of steel pieces in there. What's left of that steel on those lists he wasn't sure. If they got the letter, they are guaranteed some steel. Once the committee can move forward with the Board if they chose to move forward, they will get the committee back together and get this moving right along again. They had made some contact with the Benson's Committee to look at some sites but that again has stalled due to the fact that they weren't sure and they didn't want to move forward and then the snow came. So they hadn't gone any farther than that. That's basically where they are at right now.

If Selectman Maddox remembered correctly, they had a circular ring with the steel in the center and they were contemplating that on being a 15 foot piece of steel. This is now a 35 foot. Would that change your design? He was wondering how that would impact. Captain Morin said with what they understood reading the letter, they're probably going to have to change their design. Their original plan was to have the two pieces of steel to represent each tower but reading the letter, he took it as they were going to get one piece of steel. So they're going to have to make some changes. That was Selectman Maddox's question. If you're saying they need a tractor trailer, it's going to be 30 feet long. Could you cut it in half and do what you were doing or does it have to stay? Captain Morin said that they have a member on the committee that works with one of the metal companies in town and said he could help them any way they needed to with the steel. So that would not be a problem.

Selectman Maddox asked it wasn't precluded if you get a piece they allow you to do that. Captain Morin said no because that's what Nashua was going to do. Their piece was too big that's why they were asking them if we would like to have some of it. Chairman Massey said they can do it. As far as Captain Morin know yes. Nashua received their letter back in September.

In reading the letter and what is in there, Selectman Jasper thought it would be hard to change that to another signature. He thought it would be appropriate for the Board to allow that letter to be put on Hudson Fire Department stationery and to authorize Captain Morin to sign that agreement on behalf of the Town. He thought then they're going to get into other issues because it's all the way it's drafted. Selectman Maddox said it was to the Fire Department.

Captain Morin said the contact they had when it was through him through e-mails and that they've been going back and forth. That's why his name ended on that.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Coutu, that the Board authorize the letter from the Port Authority to be placed on Hudson Fire Department stationery and to authorize Captain Morin to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Town of Hudson.

The only question that is in Chairman Massey's mind is this going to be a memorial to the entire world or is it going to be specifically a memorial only to the firefighters who were involved with 9/11? Captain Morin said the plan was they were going to have the 2 pieces of steel represent the towers. There was going to be a granite block representing the plane in Pennsylvania. The memorial is shaped in a pentagon shape to represent the Pentagon. Chairman Massey said it was going to be for everybody. Captain Morin said yes.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Selectman Coutu asked Captain Morin when he has the letter done on the Fire Department's stationery that a copy be provided to the Town Administrator for our records. Captain Morin said he would take care of it tomorrow so they can move forward.

Chairman Massey congratulated Captain Morin. Captain Morin thanked the Board.

Selectman Coutu thanked Chairman Massey for allowing him to do that.

Selectman Maddox – He knows he's ranting to the choir but he will anyway. There was a thumbs that said that the Board didn't care about Hudson because they don't live here. The only requirement that really is required to be a selectman is that you're a resident. So they have to live here. Chairman Massey said that's the same person that blames the Board for the tax increase. Selectman Maddox said he understood. The other one was the fact that because the valuations today and all of that stuff. If they re-evaluated every year so that it's accurate, you're going to pay an awful lot of money to do that. Our system that Mr. Michaud uses has proven to be taking into consideration the market. Chairman Massey said the important thing was its standing up in court quite well. Selectman Maddox said they've been able to do that. Again he would love his house to sell for what his tax bill says its worth but that's not what your tax valuation – even if it dropped 25 percent, we still need the same \$21 million. It just means the tax rate would go up to reflect that. Again, obviously the Selectmen are not doing a good job of explaining some things. He thought since he had the horse he would get on it. Thank you.

Selectman Maddox indicated that hopefully HCTV will be replaying the candidate's night. Elections as amazing as this is, is in a week. The Novembers seem like they drag on forever and the spring ones seem to fly. Get ready.

Selectman Jasper – The only comment he wanted to make and it certainly was from the discussion they had last week and the action they took applicable to the Sewer Utility Committee. He's looked into things a little bit more. Selectman Jasper thought it was important for the liaisons to maybe the Water Utility as well, certainly Sewer Utility, and he's spoken to Selectman Coutu about this. Sometimes as they come onto boards and they see things they assume that's the way it's always been and that's the way it's supposed to be. That's how those things evolve. Particularly in the case of the Sewer Utility, the members of that Sewer Utility need to better understand particularly what they're charge is. In talking with staff and others, it seems that they feel that they're actually playing the role that is the Board's job to scrutinize the bills, and how those bills are paid, and what's going on here. In fact if you read the Code, they advise the Board on policy issues. They advise the Board on abatements and they make recommendations to them on those types of things and a budget. The Board has not asked them to review the monthly expenditures and critique those expenditures. That needs to be clear that if those committees get into that area, and Selectman Jasper thought how this unfortunate situation came up, it's just a matter of not understanding what it is they're asking them to do and to not allow them to go beyond what they've asked them to do. It's never proper for a board or a committee to overstep its charge. Certainly that's an issue he's having with some of the resolutions up at the State House that are demanding that the federal government do this, or the federal government do that, and things of that nature. The Board needs to be careful that they stay within their bounds as well.

Selectman Nadeau – Remember to go out and vote on Tuesday. It's very important as Selectman Maddox said. The other thing is he did see today the new recycle truck that is in Hudson. It is a dual stream truck where everything is glass and metal are in one and paper is in the other. As you look at the truck, it looks like it's a single bin. It's really divided and when it goes over its head, it is divided into two shoots. They talked about it last night at the meeting. He hadn't seen the truck. Today when he was driving around he ran into the truck and checked it out. It looked pretty interesting. Like Selectman Nadeau said when you're looking at it from the ground level, it looks like it is a single stream truck but it's really a dual stream truck. Just look forward to next month's letter from the Recycling Committee explaining the new truck and how it works. Things are looking exciting in the Recycling Committee so watch the meeting from last night.

To that end Mr. Chairman, Selectman Maddox said he was going to say it so he'll throw this in. There will be recycling bins at Election Day on Tuesday. Those people that have been waiting on the sidelines didn't want to jump in too early because it was not dual stream. Now is their chance. Again, one of the things he was hoping to push next year is to try to get that recycling number up and here's a way. If you've been thinking about it, there should be some bins at the Community Center.

Chairman Massey said they're also going to be able to sign up at the Town Clerk's office today but you'll be able to buy compost containers and little pots that you can keep in your kitchen to store your compostable materials that you can then take out to the bin. It's all going to be there. He thought the Recycling Committee was going to have a display at the elections to let them know about it. They're very inexpensive.

Selectman Nadeau said will have the display at voting on Tuesday but they will also be available on the web site to look at. They also have available rain barrels this year as a new item. You can pick them up when they come in at the Highway Department.

Just as an afterthought, Selectman Coutu said they were going to do something different this year after the election. They're going to have a live broadcast from the Community Center on Hudson Cable television. He'll be interviewing any candidate whose name is on the ballot and wishes to come over and tell them how the campaign went and how they feel about it. They'll be interviewing people who have warrant articles. He'd like to talk to the seniors about their warrant article. So he's opening the door to even committees in the town like the Recycling Committee if they want to come on and give a little plug for the things that they're doing. He and Mr. Inderbitzen are going to work together. He's going to announce the vote count and give vote tallies as they come in so that they can do a live broadcast. They're going to try it this year and see how it works out. Hopefully it will make for interesting television.

Chairman Massey – Had nothing.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Jasper, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HGTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Kenneth J. Massey, Chairman

Richard J. Maddox, Vice-Chairman

Shawn Jasper, Selectman

Benjamin J. Nadeau, Selectman

Roger E. Coutu, Selectman