

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting of the January 11, 2011 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Massey the meeting of January 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Selectman Jasper.
3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Ken Massey, Roger Coutu, Shawn Jasper, Rick Maddox and Ben Nadeau

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Donna Graham, Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Massey asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to address the Board on any subject.

Stuart Schneiderman - 2 Library Street in beautiful downtown Hudson. This week a committee of the New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions is meeting to review LSRs for this coming session. There are a number that involve land use that we're going to be focusing on. I would respectfully ask the Board of Selectmen for some guidance on which way they would like him, their representative, to act on various land use LSRs and bills.

For the record, Chairman Massey said LSRs (legislative service requests). What would those be that you would like the Board to give you some guidance on? Mr. Schneiderman said he was looking at about 100 of them. Perhaps he could just submit a list and if the Board wanted to look over them in the next day or so if you're not out shoveling tomorrow that would be helpful. Chairman Massey said if he had any that were a priority, if he could indicate those. Mr. Schneiderman said he absolutely will. He would be delighted.

Selectman Jasper said the problem with LSRs is that it is very hard to really tell the substance of them because they just come by title. He spent a day last week with a few people looking over all 1,100 of them. It was just a wonderful day. Without the bills being printed, it's very hard to give any real guidance. All we could do is look based on the title whether they thought it was something they had an interest in or not. To give guidance as to being yea or nay for an LSR is really imprudent and impractical until the bill has actually been printed. He thought the Regional Planning Commission may be ahead of itself. Last look which was this afternoon out of the 1,100 LSRs, he only had in his possession 107 printed bills. He thought there were about another 28 or so to be distributed tomorrow. So we're still way behind the curve on this. He didn't think this was going to be helpful as much as Selectman Jasper appreciated Mr. Schneiderman being here until they actually get the bills.

Chairman Massey said they could at least look at them and see some kind of a heads up. Mr. Schneiderman said there were some bills that have already been released. There are some LSRs whose title is extremely descriptive. Perhaps the repeal of the comprehensive Shoreline Act. He didn't think anybody would misunderstand what that's about either even if it hasn't been released as a bill. That is a land use concern. So that might be something that the Board of Selectmen may be able to give him some guidance on. He understood that there will be LSRs that the titles are just so nebulous that you won't be able to really do anything on those.

Chairman Massey asked when the subcommittee meeting with NRPC. Mr. Schneiderman said their first meeting is on Thursday the 13th. There is a subsequent meeting one week later on the 20th. Chairman Massey thought that given that probably the best they can do is probably the 20th to give him any input. Mr. Schneiderman said he would be delighted if you would. Thank you very much.

Chairman Massey asked if there was anyone else in the audience who wished to address the Board on any subject.

5. NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

- A. Planning Board - (2 vacancies, 2 alternates - 1 term to expire 12/31/11; 1 term to expire 12/31/12)

Stuart Schneiderman - will be in attendance

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to appoint Stuart Schneiderman as an alternate to the Planning Board with a term to expire 12/31/11.

Selectman Maddox said that Mr. Schneiderman is a colorful character and we want those in our town. He's learning as he goes along. He thought that Planning wasn't his forte. He even told us at the last meeting that he came to us

and that numbers were more his item. He has great attendance, interesting comments, and he thought again it brings a balance to the Board that we have the ability to get all sides. So he thought he'd be an addition to the Board.

In light of the fact that Mr. Schneiderman first approached the Board for a position, Selectman Coutu had made the comment that he felt that - he's going to skip what he said. He's going to refer to something that Mr. Schneiderman said. He specifically said he had a lot to learn and everybody does when they get appointed to various boards and committees. Selectman Coutu had to echo the remarks made by Selectman Maddox with regard to not so much that Mr. Schneiderman is a colorful character but more that he does lend a different voice, a different opinion. He does do his homework. He's noticed that, and his attendance has been great. He's there at every meeting. He attends most of our meetings. He's certainly shown an interest in our community. That's why we have a Board of more than one person. The differences of opinion are weighed very carefully by the majority of the members. I've never seen anything harmful come out of any of the meetings - any of their boards have held as a result of that balance that they have with regard to the numbers of people they have on the board. Selectman Coutu endorsed his nomination to the Planning Board and he felt that he will learn through the process and become an even better member of the Planning Board. Thank you.

With all due respect to Mr. Schneiderman, Selectman Jasper does like Mr. Schneiderman very much. They worked together at Benson's cleanup and he got to know him on a more personal level and enjoyed his company. He did have some issues with some of the things that he had to say when he was on the Planning Board. When he was in for an interview, he talked about the Zoning Board and how that committee was probably more suited to the way that he operates and it had measurable things that the variance had to be granted on and that the Planning Board was so much broader and so many different ways you could go. He thought that's what he saw in him sitting there. While he was sure he was going to be in the minority here, Selectman Jasper was going to vote against his appointment to the Planning Board again. I apologize and please don't take it that he has anything against him as a person, he just did not appreciate how Mr. Schneiderman saw things on the Planning Board. He thought they had to be very business friendly and more entered into a different direction perhaps than he saw Mr. Schneiderman. Thank you very much Mr. Chairman.

Just as a point of clarification, talk about colorful, Selectman Maddox said that he's the one that's always marking up the drawings with highlighters. His prints are all colored. It was an inside Planning Board joke.

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

Chairman Massey welcomed Mr. Schneiderman and he knows the drill. You have to get your nomination from Town Clerk's office or Selectman Maddox can do it tomorrow night if he shows up. Mr. Schneiderman asked if he needed to refile the financial form. Selectman Maddox said if nothing has changed, no. Chairman Massey asked Mr. Schneiderman to check with Town Clerk. Thank you.

B. Recreation Committee - (1 vacancies, 1 member term to expire 12/31/13)

Eric Horton - will be in attendance

Eric Horton - 58 Barretts Hill Road. This was his third interview for the third year. He keeps getting into these one-year slots. He's enjoyed his opportunity to work on the Recreation Committee. It's a good group of individuals. He thought the work that they've done has been very beneficial for the Town and especially for the children that participate mainly in the recreation events that are sponsored by the Committee. He's been for the past couple of years acting as the Secretary, however, Selectman Coutu has not told him that's its called a recorder now. He'll have to revise his language. He's been acting as a recorder. Mr. Horton's been participating in all the meetings and providing in put in all the decisions that are made. He's on the recreation subcommittee for the playground at Bensons. We just completed out report to the Recreation Committee with their recommendations. He thought they put together a nice report and he looked forward to having that brought up to the Benson Committee and see how that moves forward.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to appoint Eric Horton as a member to the Recreation Committee with a term to expire 12/31/13.

As your liaison to the Recreation Committee, Selectman Coutu can attest to the fact that Eric has been very active and has participated in many subcommittee activities with regard to recreation. He's been an asset to helping them develop programs and continue those programs that have been an asset to their Recreation Department and he wholeheartedly endorsed his nomination.

Selectman Nadeau would like to say that he's seen Mr. Horton at many of the events and he's always willing to help them out in different things. He'll be supporting his nomination.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Chairman before we move on to the next one perhaps to go back for a second, Selectman Jasper believed that Mr. Ulery had applied to the Planning Board. Chairman Massey said yes he did. Selectman Jasper said because he was not present, the Board did not appoint him. We do have another vacancy. He suspect that may be why Mr. Ulery is here. He was sorry that his name wasn't on the list.

Jordan Ulery - 37 Webster Street, Hudson. Chairman Massey told him to give the Board his information as to why he wanted to be on the Planning Board. Mr. Ulery said because he's a State Legislature, he also understood how this State has developed and how each one of the towns work within the broad structure of the State government. He also on ways and means understood the importance of the business development and laying down some basic guidelines for the development of both businesses and residential and recreation areas. Having had all 3 of those areas come before ways and means on the State level, living in town for the last 35 or 40 years, Mr. Ulery would like to spend some more time down here as his time is opening up more and more. This will give him the opportunity to give a little bit back to the community.

Before we have any discussion or comments, Chairman Massey was checking to see what the terms are. Selectman Maddox said the only one left is 2012. Chairman Massey believed there two openings at the moment. Right now the only alternate is Ms. Merrill and Mr. Schneiderman. The next one would be 2012. Any comments? Discussion?

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Jasper to appoint Jordan Ulery to the position of alternate to the Planning Board with a term to expire 12/31/2012.

Selectman Coutu said that Mr. Ulery is well known to our community. He has a sincere desire and he has proven so with his terms on the legislature to serve our community. He thought his knowledge and experience would be an asset to the Planning Board and he wholeheartedly endorsed his nomination.

Selectman Maddox said to Mr. Ulery the reason why they didn't automatically appoint him, and he knows that's been a discussion in the newspaper about Nashua, is again at least see who they are. When people say how could you appoint them in absentia at least if they didn't do a lot of talking but people can put a name with a face and we can do our due diligence. There was nothing against him last time, it was simply a function of he believed that every 3 years they get to come down and see them. Some people less than 3 years, but it's a case of trying to keep that continuity. It was nothing against the gentleman, it was the process.

Chairman Massey thanked Selectman Jasper for bringing it to the Board's attention because he knew they had said if he were to come, the Board would want to interview him. Selectman Jasper said the credit really went to Selectman Maddox who was just whispering in his ear.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

C. Sewer Utility Committee - (1 vacancy, 1 member terms to expire 12/31/13)

Leo C. Bernard - will be in attendance

Leo Bernard - 3 Bungalow Avenue. He's on the Water Committee and somebody told him it would be more interesting to learn about sewer since water goes right to sewer. He figured it would be a good learning experience. He's never seen a meeting and he is a sewer user.

Selectman Jasper indicated that Mr. Bernard may not have attended a meeting but all the times he's been in the control room he must have seen a meeting at least once. Mr. Bernard said they weren't television. Water and Sewer are not televised.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to waive the procedure and appoint Leo C. Bernard as a member to the Sewer Utility Committee with a term to expire 12/31/13, carried 5-0.

Selectman Coutu said the Sewer Utility Committee was meeting on Thursday evening at 6 p.m.

Chairman Massey said that they now have the following vacancies:

- Building Board of Appeals - 1 member
- Energy Committee - 1 member
- Nashua Regional Planning Commission - 1 alternate
- Recycling Committee - 1 member; 1 alternate

6. CONSENT ITEMS

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

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

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Multiple Veteran Exemption Applications - Map 216, Lot 014, Sub 083; Map 149, Lot 070; Map 174, Lot 182; Map 183, Lot 116, w/recommendation to approve

B. Water/Sewer Items - None

B. Licenses & Permits

- 1) Raffle Permit by Hudson Heat (HGSL) U-16 Softball
- 2) Raffle Permit by Jeanie Barkley Memorial Fund
- 3) Request to Solicit Funds by Hudson Girl Scouts
- 4) Request to Solicit Funds by Troop 252 Boy Scouts of Hudson
- 5) Petition & License for 1 New Pole (284/7-1) Vernon Street

D. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the December 14, 2010 Meeting

E. Calendar

01/12 7:00 Planning Board - Community Development Meeting Room
01/12 7:00 Budget - School - Public Hearing - Community Center
01/13 5:30 Sewer Utility Committee - BOS Meeting Room
01/13 7:00 Budget - Town - Public Hearing - Community Center
01/13 7:30 Zoning Board of Adjustment - Community Development Meeting Room
01/17 TOWN HALL CLOSED - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
01/18 7:00 Budget Committee Wrap Up - Community Development Meeting Room
01/18 7:00 Cable Utility Committee - BOS Meeting Room
01/19 5:00 Water Utility Committee - BOS Meeting Room
01/19 7:00 Council on Aging - Community Development Meeting Room
01/20 7:00 Benson Park Committee - BOS Meeting Room
01/20 7:00 Budget Committee - Community Development Meeting Room
01/24 6:00 Recycling Committee - BOS Meeting Room
01/25 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
01/26 7:00 Planning Board - Community Development Meeting Room
01/27 3:30 Trustees of the Trust Fund - Community Development Meeting Room
01/27 7:30 Zoning Board of Adjustment - Community Development Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Vote taken after Nonpublic Session on December 28, 2010

- 1) Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session, carried 5-0.
- 2) Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to hire Sam White as an Intern in the Engineering Department for 120 hours at \$12.50 per hour beginning January 3, 2011 through January 21, 2011, per the Town Engineer's request, carried 5-0.
- 3) Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to offer the Dispatch/Clerk position to Cheryl Beaulieu at a rate of \$16.82 per hour (Grade VIII, Step Minimum) effective January 2, 2011 per the Highway Union Contract, carried 5-0.
- 4) Motion to adjourn at 10:37 p.m. by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Coutu, carried 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Acceptance of donation by the Hudson Sno Men in the amount of \$100.00 to be put into the Recreation Donation Account

Chairman Massey recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Mr. Malizia thought the Hudson Sno Men have been holding on occasion meetings at the Old Oakwood Street recreation building so they've graciously donated \$100 in thanks. I recommend the Board accept it.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to accept the donation by the Hudson Sno Men in the amount of \$100.00 to be put into the Recreation Donation Account with the Board's thanks and appreciation, carried 5-0.

- B. Senior Center/HCTV Facility Warrant Article

For the Board's information Chairman Massey said at the wrap up session last week, there was some discussion as to whether or not the Town had the authority to erect this building and per the deed until we get the deed changed, we would not be able to construct that building as he understood it. At the moment our liaison to the State, Selectman Jasper, he believed was going to be meeting with the Governor's attorney this week to discuss it. The vote was 3 in favor of the warrant article by the Budget Committee, 3 against, and 4 abstained. His reading of the abstentions was that if they were to add certain language to the proposed warrant article that they would see fit to move it forward. Basically that language is on the back of the page which basically inserts the words located at Benson Park to add the language "contingency upon the approval of the State of New Hampshire, Department of Transportation". Mr. Malizia said the Board was free to amend that to something else. He put that on there because he thought it said it all. If you feel there's something better said, please feel free to edit it.

Selectman Jasper didn't believe that anybody but a fool would spend this money without the approval. He wasn't sure that language really satisfies what some of the members were looking for. He thought it should actually say...at Benson Park, "No funds shall be expended until the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation has approved the location." Chairman Massey thought it would be more appropriate to put it as the last sentence after the words "unreserved fund balance". Selectman Jasper thought that would be fine too. "No funds shall be expended until site location has been approved by the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation." Chairman Massey thought that would be even closer to what some members in particular had in mind.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to amend Warrant Article G to add the following sentence after the words "unreserved fund balance": "No funds shall be expended until site location has been approved by the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation, carried 5-0.

Selectman Maddox wanted to know how they were going to present something to the State until you do the drawings. Chairman Massey said the State Department of Transportation has two things. They have those drawings and they have the conceptual site plan. So they know where the building is proposed to be sited and they know what it basically is proposed to look like.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to forward the warrant article for the design of a dual use Hudson Senior Center and Hudson Cable TV Facility as amended by the Board of Selectmen on January 11, 2011 to the Fiscal Year 2012 warrant, carried 5-0.

- C. Wage and Benefit Increase for Non-Union Personnel

Chairman Massey said when the original budget hearing for the town was heard, the Budget Committee was not interested in seeing the money in the operating budget. They wanted to see it as a warrant article. As your representative to the Board, he conveyed the Board's position and told them that they wanted it into the operating budget and the reasons why. At the wrap up session, a motion was made by the Budget Committee to remove the planned salary increases for the management team and asked them to bring forward a warrant article and put the monies into a warrant article. Chairman Massey told them that he would bring it back but he was not going to be able to commit that this Board would want to do a warrant article. The question before the Board is how do you want to go forward? Right now the money is not in the operating budget.

Selectman Coutu said he and Selectman Jasper both attended the last budget meeting. They were both very impatient. He got up to the podium and reiterated the Board's frustration and articulated it very well. What he must

say is that Chairman Massey articulated from his perspective the Board's position quite clearly. We are the administrators of the Town of Hudson. With all due respect to our Town Administrator, they set the tone, the policies, and they also are very mindful and they have proven to be very conscientious about managing their budget. With Mr. Malizia as their administrator and minding the town treasury very well in terms of what they expend, and how it's expended, and keeping the Board updated is one of his strongest points. He appreciated that. The Board as the governing body of the Town of Hudson, especially this year, looked at this budget and did it due diligence. We went above and beyond. He'll have more to say about the Budget Committee later Mr. Chairman as he told him he would. Above and beyond and made sacrifices. They did not trim fat. They made sacrifices. They made sacrifices for one reason. It was not palatable to the Board to have an additional tax increase this year. On the Town side, we are not going to realize that. Selectman Coutu said they recognized that they have a growing problem with regard to the compression issue which is a serious issue. It is dealt with in the private sector and we need to deal with it in the public sector. He is not going to support a motion here this evening to forward a warrant article on the raises. They're minimal at best. He didn't believe they're going to realize any kind of a raise because aren't they all going to have to pay more in the benefits. Mr. Malizia said he wouldn't say all, but there are quite a few people that will pay more in benefits. Selectman Coutu said it was pretty much a wash as far as he was concerned. He's not going to have the Budget Committee dictating to them what they felt was in the best interest of a management style that they felt was in the best interest of the employees and to handle the suppression issue. Thank you.

Selectman Jasper echoed Selectman Coutu's remarks particularly when it came to his remarks to the Budget Committee relative to this. It's time for everyone to recognize that when the advisory opinion was passed at Town Meeting in 1994 that was a true Town Meeting. Those who voted on that were the people who voted on the final budget. At that time as there probably has always been were about 200 people at that meeting in all likelihood. That's just about always what it was. That was really a reinstatement of a motion that had been passed probably in the early 80s and then we went to the Town Council, and then we went back. Some time after that, we went on Senate Bill 2 where all budgets are acted on by all of the people who chose to vote. There is no longer the opportunity to get up at the ballot and talk about the warrant articles. They can do that at the Deliberative Session, but you can't do that for the people who are finally voting. When you look at the warrant articles, they're looking at a number and they're looking at 9 people, and they're looking at a number. That does not do justice to those 9 people. Those are the 9 people who are really making the Town work for all of us. It's time the Board stood up for them and say no. This was passed as an advisory under a totally different form of government.

It was asked of Selectman Jasper why don't you put a repeal on there. Number one he wouldn't recommend they put a repeal on it because first of all it's a different form of government. Second of all, its advisory only and in the third place, he felt very strongly that they have to look at the salaries of the people in relation to what contracts are approved and passed by the voters. Three years ago they went to the Budget Committee, they didn't put the raises on, and they put this delta in place so that whatever happened with the contracts would carry forward so that there was this 10 percent in many cases between the highest paid member of the union and the department head. It's not working the way we're doing it. We got into a mess then; we've gotten into a mess now and we need to just say this needs to come to a stop. We need to go to the Deliberative Session and make the amendments to put the money back in the line items where it came out and make our best case to those 200 people who will be there just as we would have had to do in 1994. Selectman Jasper agreed he will not support a motion to forward this as a warrant article.

Chairman Massey asked if it was a consensus that they do not forward a warrant article.

Motion by Selectman Jasper to direct the Town Administrator to provide the Board of Selectmen with the line item increases - Motion withdrawn by Selectman Jasper.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Coutu, authorize the Chairman to offer page 3 of the Memo as an amendment to the Town Operating Budget at the Deliberative Session.

Selectman Maddox said he did not get to see the Budget Committee meeting since he couldn't watch them. He kept on screaming at his television so he moved on. Kudos to you Mr. Chairman if you managed to stay through the entire thing. From his perspective, this is a case of we want good employees. We want people to stay with us long term. This is the kind of action that will hurt that ability. We want our department heads to be able to at least have a 10 percent delta above their highest paid employees. Why would anybody take the job with all the aggravation and grief for less money than their employees are making. This is just something that we should do. We have done in the past and he understood the concerns. This Board whittled their budgets down to facilitate being able to put some of this into the budget. He thought this was, again, a case of looking at the pennies and losing the dollars. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

D. Fact Finder Report - AFSCME Local 1801 Local 1801 Hudson Support Staff Union

Chairman Massey recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

As promised by the Mediator and as you are well aware, Mr. Malizia said they had a mediation session before Christmas. As promised, there was a Fact Finder report produced from that mediation session. You obviously have to weigh in on this whether you recommend or don't recommend this to the voters. It does go on the ballot. There is a warrant article that's been prepared so it does get forwarded along with the report. The report doesn't physically go on the ballot, but it's available for the voters. So you have the choice of either recommending this or not recommending this. Given that we just received it, Mr. Malizia tried to get it in their hands via e-mail early as soon as he could so the Board had time to look at it. This is the Fact Finder's report. If you recall, they did this with the police last year. It goes the way it goes. It goes forward to the ballot. Either you recommend or don't recommend. They Budget Committee will also have that same option Thursday evening he believed. They'll have to make a recommendation. There's a warrant article that's been prepared. Kathy Carpentier did a cost analysis based on the terms as they understood them. That's there for the Board to look at.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to forward the Hudson Support Staff Union Report to the Fiscal Year 2012 Warrant as "Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen".

Selectman Jasper appreciated the work that the Fact Finder did here but they can't look at this in a vacuum. They have to take into consideration the other union contracts. What he found particularly problematic here is the section that has any current employee continuing to get the buy out at the current rate and not opting down. That would continue as long as they worked here or until they were able to negotiate a successor contract. If nothing else in here were unacceptable to him that one portion on page 16 or 19 depending on how you want to read the page numbers here because they each have 2, makes this just unpalatable to him. For that reason, he cannot vote to recommend this.

To Selectman Maddox's second, and he's going to basically echo what Selectman Jasper just said, but for those people out in the television audience what the Board has tried to do is get a better handle on our medical costs through looking at how the plans are paid out. At present if you spouse has insurance with their employer, you can opt out of our insurance and get a significant amount of money tied to the highest paid plan that the Town of Hudson has. They as Selectmen can see that this is going to go no where but up. Unfortunately some union has to be first in that venture. We need to get this line item under control. To continue this when it was probably a nice benefit whenever we started 20 plus years ago, it cannot continue. The amount of monies that we're talking about are substantial. As much as he agreed with Selectman Jasper if that issue was not there, he could support this going forward. With that in there, it is just the item that they as a Board have decided that needs to slowly as they continue to work through the contracts be moved on and get a fixed price on that number rather than whatever the 3 best plan is. Unfortunately he too must agree to vote to not recommend it.

Selectman Coutu read this via e-mail. They were given a heads up by the Town Administrator by him providing them with an e-mail copy of the plan. He's somewhat confused by both Selectman Maddox and Selectman Jasper's positions. He's not saying that he disagreed with them. He probably needs further clarification. Having sat through a few of the negotiations this year, he found it disturbing that neither side seems to want to move on that particular issue. The fact is that negotiations are exactly that a point where two parties meet and they try to articulate their positions. They also need to be, Selectman Coutu felt, a little more flexible on both sides in terms of trying to achieve their goal. Sometimes you have to take the small steps in order to get to the bigger steps later. No one is moving. It seems to be a stumbling block in all of their negotiations. He saw this going on for years, nobody getting raises, they're just going to create more animosity. They're going to create an attitude within the workforce that is not going to be health for the Town of Hudson. Having read through the report, Selectman Coutu felt that having read several fact finder reports in the past, not just with the Town of Hudson but with others, he thought and he thought that was the direction Selectman Jasper was heading towards was to state that he felt that this was relatively fair report. He thought it lent some balance and an opportunity for them to reach some sort of a compromise with not just this particular bargaining unit but with all bargaining units.

Apparently Selectman Jasper who has a lot more experience than Selectman Coutu with the Town of Hudson and with this earned time issue, which he still finds complicating at times. He would be interested in the overall impact dollar wise and how does this apply to new employees coming in. Chairman Massey asked how does what apply. Selectman Coutu said he knew how the contract applies. Are there any constraints on new employees in this language? Did he miss something there or was that going to be everybody gets the same thing? Chairman Massey said there would be grandfathered individuals in the contract. If you accept the Fact Finder's report, there would be grandfathered individuals and the flex payments would be with the exception of new single person policies would be the bargaining unit amounts.

Going forward, Mr. Malizia said if you are an employee in this union hired after this July 1st, you would be capped at either \$50 for a single per week buyout, or \$100 for a 2 person, or family buyout. He believed that's what the Fact Finder states here. So going forward, those are the caps. If anybody comes on board the Town of Hudson after July 1, 2011 until something else is negotiated, those are the numbers. He believed page 16. Selectman Coutu said 150, 138 and 180. Mr. Malizia said the next part down says, "Employees hired after June 30th, \$50 and \$100." That's in perpetuity until something changes, i.e. through negotiations if it were to ever change. Those are the numbers for new people coming on.

Selectman Maddox said again they have seen this over the last number of years that the Town has this opt out policy that again he's sure when it was conceived was not a lot of money. Now you're talking about considerable dollars. Even by our plan, they're going down to \$2,600 for single and \$100 for a two person, and \$150 for the family. Mr. Malizia said that's what it would be for the current employees. That's what they proposed. Selectman Maddox said with a fixed rate such as that if you look at page 14 some of the other communities are doing it at a fixed rate - Manchester \$1,500, Rochester \$1,000, Salem \$3,500. Our numbers are still significant and you said we weren't willing to negotiate Selectman Coutu but this Board was the one that pushed forward to raise the family percentage that the Town paid to 60 percent wanting to, again, try to make that number better. So they've done a number of things. If you keep escalating the cost of health insurance, and that's nobody's control in Hudson, then they do need to look at - this is a benefit from 20 years ago that is significant in their budgets and will not be going down anytime soon if they do not curb this with some sort of fixed number.

Selectman Jasper agreed with Selectman Maddox. The problem here is that if you look at what the Fact Finder has recommended, it ends up someone who opts out of the family plan would get \$9,360 a year for not having our insurance, which is roughly about half of what we're paying right now. The problem is it has gotten out of control. We're looking at the family plan now costing about \$20,000 a year to the taxpayer. That's going up 16 percent a year. People have to understand that the only way that we can really bring these costs under control is when we all feel the pain and all work together to bring the costs down. The taxpayers can't bear 100 percent of the cost. It is unacceptable at this point for him to pay somebody \$9,300 for taking something that they have determined is they have a better deal somewhere else or they would be taking it from the Town. You couple that on the fact we were offering 60 percent, he thought that the - and Steve correct him if he's wrong - part of this is the Fact Finder or Arbitrator is recommending that they still do that.

Mr. Malizia said in two phases - 55 in the first year and 60 in the second year. Selectman Jasper said this pretty much was a one sided agreement to that. Then you look at the fact they were offering 0, 2 and 3 and the Arbitrator recommends 0, 3, and 3. We do have one bargaining unit that they have settle with on the insurance terms. He thought they have to press forward. As unfortunate as it is, they have to look at the economy. They talk about the unemployment rate and the government says it's under 10 percent. We're much better in New Hampshire. That's not the real unemployment rate. Every time someone's unemployment benefits run out, the government stops counting them as unemployed which is just plain nuts in his opinion. If you don't have a job and you'd like to have a job, you're unemployed - it's not rather you would like to have a job, if you are physically able to have a job, you're unemployed. What he's told is the real unemployment rate in the nation is 17 percent or so. If you looked at we're even half consistently half again better than the rest of the nation, we're still looking at an 8 or 9 statewide unemployment rate. This just can't continue on the Town side.

Selectman Nadeau said when they were talking about the contracts before, they all agreed that 0, 2, and 3 and where this is 0, 3, and 3, he's going to have to vote against this. The other thing is the flex benefits which they've always been talking about. He'd like to move the question.

Before you do, Chairman Massey would like to make his comments. First of all when you go into negotiations you usually put certain items on the table. In many cases there are package items that you put on the table. As you go forward when you have the packaged items, you may or may not agree on all of them. You may have some tentative agreements on some but they're all contingent upon the package. In his mind if you look at page 19, he believed the Fact Finder misunderstood the dynamics. He didn't believe they had a tentative agreement with the union on certain aspects of the health plan. It was a package. To say that we have agreed tentatively to some of them, he thought in his mind was not totally accurate.

Chairman Massey said the other thing that's missing out of the Fact Finder's report, and he couldn't find it unless Steve can point it out to him, he makes no recommendations on the opt down provisions that they were looking at. He only talks about the flex benefit, which is for those people who opt out of the program because they have coverage from another source. If you're talking the opt down, Mr. Malizia said if you looked at this section here, there are 5 folks currently receiving an opt down. He does reference that and he says those folks are grandfathered and it's not available in the future if you take some insurance but not all that you're entitled to. He does reference it. Selectman Jasper said it didn't change current practice. Mr. Malizia said the 5 folks that were in this situation it would be the same. It would not be available to any other employee. He does speak to that. Chairman Massey said he's using

flex payment. They do have the opt out and the opt down. On balance and again because of the whole issue they were looking at a package deal and the fact that they have 2 other groups that they have reached one from a contractual perspective and one that the Board has put into the budget process, Chairman Massey was not going to be able to support the Fact Finder's report. He didn't believe that the components of the package that were acceptable were acceptable only in the light that the other things were going to happen. He's not happy with what the Fact Finder had to say. He's especially as we said the 0, 2, 3 was kind of the threshold relative to what the current economy would expect. Equally important the Budget Committee has been turning down contracts that have in fact - he believed they turned the supervisors contract down because it had a 3 percent on the out year. Mr. Malizia said that was on the straw poll though. They did not look at the whole contract until after that straw poll. Chairman Massey thought they might have been able to reach some agreements but he didn't see it happening.

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

E. Petitioned Warrant Articles

Chairman Massey didn't believe they received any petitioned warrant articles. Mr. Malizia said this was put on in the event that they received a petitioned warrant article. Today was the deadline. We received none so therefore this item is not required. There's no action required.

Chairman Massey said they received Planning Board petitioned articles and those have already been...Mr. Malizia said Zoning has a different deadline. Their deadline has long passed. They're in the public hearing mode. This is for folks want to come in and either do a budget or some other item that the Board would vote on. They didn't receive anything like that.

F. Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

Chairman Massey indicated as the Board's representative at the budget hearings, the final number that the Budget Committee has forwarded to the public hearing on Thursday night is a decrease of \$222,631. The Board forwarded to the Budget Committee a budget of \$28,314,508. The key number that they want to look at is the Board of Selectmen approved a budget of \$28,283,391. The Budget Committee had a total of \$59,750 in cuts for a resulting number of \$28,223,641. That's what is going to be going to the public hearing the \$28,223,641.

Selectman Jasper asked to go to pages 5 and 6. It shows the Board of Selectmen approved 2012 with an estimated town tax rate of \$5.28. Chairman Massey said that was because the overlay got added to it. What Selectman Jasper was saying is then you look across to the Budget Committee approved, it says \$5.20. Then you go across to the increase line and it says it's a one cent difference. \$150,000 of that \$220,000 is non tax and does not impact the tax rate. So while \$220,000 would be an \$.08 difference. The real difference is \$7,200 which is not \$.08. He wanted to clarify. There's a calculation problem here. Pointing that out that the tax rate is \$72,000 that with the exception of the direction already give to the Chairman to amend the operating budget, that the Board of Selectmen support the rest of the changes made by the Budget Committee to the operating budget and not to the warrant articles.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Maddox, that the Board of Selectmen support the rest of the changes made by the Budget Committee to the operating budget and not to the warrant articles.

Where Selectman Jasper was going is you always have to pick your fights. The Budget Committee made changes he did not necessarily agree with within the operating budget. He did not see any of them to be onerous. He thought realistically that puts the real difference between where we're at and where the Budget Committee was at \$20,000 some odd dollars maybe a little less than \$30,000. He didn't think any of those things were worth fighting about. He thought they needed to pick one battle here in the operating budget being the department head raises. He certainly will support the warrant article for the increase for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector, which it appears the Budget Committee has not recommended at this point. Of course, he will support the senior center warrant article which he hoped that the Budget Committee will support afterwards. He didn't think they should be fighting over the rest of the issues. There are things that they can live with and if necessary make transfers if any of those areas that they cut from prove to be too severe.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

G. Dedication of Annual Report

Chairman Massey recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Mr. Malizia said generally the Board dedicates the Annual Report to a distinguished citizen, member of the community. He put a couple of names down for the Board's discussion and/or nomination.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to dedicate the 2010 Annual Town Report to the late Frank Nutting, Jr., and Fidele Bernasconi with the proviso that Frank Nutting, Jr., be listed first in the dedication.

Selectman Jasper said while the late Mr. Bernasconi and he did have many disagreements, even to the point that he was still writing letters to the editor against Selectman Jasper after he left town, he did serve this Town in the capacity of Town Councilor and volunteered many other good causes over the years. While he would prefer because of the high esteem that he held the late Frank Nutting, Jr., in as Selectman, Building Inspector, Fire Chief, and just general all around Mr. Hudson, at his time he think Mr. Bernasconi does deserve to have the Town Report dedicated to him as well. He did think that Mr. Nutting should have a higher prominence in that dedication.

Selectman Coutu certainly understood supporting and dedicating the Town Report to Frank Nutting. He didn't know either of the gentlemen but he knows some of the history of the Town and he was aware of Mr. Nutting's contributions to the Town of Hudson. If someone could share with him please, he tried to have a private discussion with Selectman Nadeau which was inappropriate he understood about other than owning a newspaper in this Town what Mr. Bernasconi's contribution was to the Town. Selectman Coutu has this image having lived in a small town, Woodstock, NH, certainly a lot smaller than Hudson when considered the total population was 1,200 people, he has sat in on some discussions on the purpose of dedicating the Town Reports and why they do so - why Towns in New Hampshire do that. He found that it was a refreshing tradition. It's unique. Probably not just in New Hampshire but it's unique to him coming from a city to see that done. He loved that tradition. He's always felt that it goes to someone who has contributed significantly to a community. Most importantly one of the things that you look towards is certainly someone who has worked diligently and very hard for the community. Not to be disparaging to Mr. Bernasconi's name, if someone can just enlighten him as to what his contribution was and why he would rank in the same dedication as the caliber of Mr. Nutting. He needs some enlightenment before he can support the motion.

Selectman Nadeau said that Mr. Bernasconi did a lot behind the scenes in a lot of different organizations in this town. He did a lot for the Chamber of Commerce, through the paper and through school events. His two sons were a couple of years younger than Selectman Nadeau but he did a lot with the high school. He did a lot with the community. He did a lot through the Hudson Litchfield News at the time when he owned it. As Mr. Jasper said many years after he left town, he stayed very active in the political arena. He was on Town Council back in the early 80s or 90s. He thought it was a very fitting dedication for what he has done for the community in the past.

Selectman Maddox said woe the person who died the same year as George Washington. Unfortunately they're comparing apples and grapefruits. Mr. Bernasconi on an average year would be certainly. When you're comparing him to Mr. Nutting who he's never met and only heard of the history, again, it's just a case of he did a lot of good things for the community. Unfortunately he's in the same year as a man who did a tremendous amount.

Selectman Jasper never thought he'd find himself in a position of arguing in favor of dedicating the Town Report to Fidele Bernasconi. However with that being said, they do not have a tradition of dedicating the Town Report just to one individual. If they did, the Board wouldn't be having this conversation in his opinion. Mr. Bernasconi also was a long-time member of the Hudson Planning Board. He served for a number of years as a member of the Planning Board. He didn't remember if he was one of the ones who was arrested or if that was just Andy and Marilyn (Chairman Massey said it was just Andy and Marilyn) but he was very...before we go any further just for the record, Chairman Massey said there was a certain case before the Planning Board and two members of the Planning Board decided on their own to go do a site walk and they were arrested for trespassing. They were doing their due diligence for the Planning Board. Selectman Jasper said he took that arrest as a badge of honor for those two not as a disparity.

Selectman Jasper indicated that Mr. Bernasconi also started HED Corp., the Hudson Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Malizia thought was instrumental in getting Sam's here. Selectman Jasper believed it was. They were actually very active under Mr. Bernasconi. He worked for then Sanders Associates and actually directed a lot of money from Sanders to HED Corp. and to other good causes within the Town. Certainly if it weren't a case where he was in with Mr. Nutting, Mr. Bernasconi would rank up there in terms of those who volunteered his time to the Town. Frankly, he and Mr. Bernasconi were actually good friends for a good many years. To this day, he had no idea what happened that he decided that Selectman Jasper was the devil reincarnate.

Chairman Massey was on the fence too. Thank you for your comments at the end. They did remind him of some of the things that too often people get recognized for what people see they do. Sometimes the people that you don't see doing things are just as valuable to the community as the visible ones. He thought Fidele was in many, many respects worked behind the scenes. Thank you for those insights Selectman Jasper.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

H. Designation of a Selectman to post the Town Warrant

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to designate Selectman Massey and the Town Administrator to post the Fiscal Year 2012 Town Warrant and Budget on or before January 31, 2011, carried 5-0.

I. Budget vs. Actual

Chairman Massey recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Mr. Malizia said they're 50 percent through the year obviously, December, so they're half way through the fiscal year. The one area he has a concern keeping a close eye on is legal and predominately its collective bargaining types of things. As you are well aware, they were trying to negotiate with 4 unions this year. That was protracted. As some of the Board was aware, they've had some grievance issues with the Fire Department Firefighters so those had to be attended to. It's still continuing to require funds. He does keep an eye on that account. The regular legal he thought they're past most of their tax cases. As you recall, they had a spade of tax cases that they were very successful on. Again, he does keep an eye on legal. He's not in a panic mode. He didn't think they needed to be and he and KC started to look at where they may get funds if they need to make transfers. Again, collective bargaining may cost some money this year. They tried to budget conservatively but sometimes these things happen and you have to deal with it.

On the revenue side, Mr. Malizia said they continue to track motor vehicles and interest. Interest was a little bit better last month. He thought they recognized a CD. There was a little bit of an up kick there. It's not looking as bad as it has. It's still not great. It's still not making a big killing out there in the interest world. At least they recognized some additional interest from either some CDs maturing or some other modest investments maturing.

Selectman Maddox directed the Board to page 12, motor vehicles. We're trending like we have for the last years that this has been compiled or right about the same number which equates to anywhere from 90 to 93 at the end of the year. We could be off by another \$150,000 the way its tracking today. Again, we need to be taking a look at that item. Right now it seems to be tracking right along where it was every year at 6 months. If you go across to the end if it continues the way it did, we are going to be (inaudible) significantly still even though they reduced the line item last year.

To that affect, Mr. Malizia said that it did seem that this December was a little bit lower than the other Decembers just for no reason that he could identify. He was curious to see when they see January did folks just defer. Maybe they spent a little bit more on Christmas and waited to register their cars into January. He wasn't aware people got rid of a lot of vehicles. He wasn't aware that they've reduced anybody's registration rates. That struck him as a little odd. He had no big explanation for it. December itself looked lower than all the other Decembers. Selectman Maddox said it was actually higher. Its 44 ½ as compared to 44, 43...Mr. Malizia said if he looked to the actual number of \$209,180. It had been \$288,940, \$281,926, and \$270,186 in previous years. It does appear to be a decrement in the actual number for just December itself. Selectman Maddox didn't think it made any sense. Mr. Malizia said it just seemed low. That's the numbers that the Town Clerk reported. [Selectman Maddox] At 209 if 44 percent of 288. Mr. Malizia thought they were doing a little bit better earlier. That particular month he didn't know if that was an anomaly, if people are waiting, or waited to defer some sort of registration to the beginning of the year. That month just looked odd to him. Selectman Maddox thought it was still something they should be very concerned about Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Nadeau said being out there in the car world, new car sales are just not where they used to be. A lot of people are buying used cars that are 2, 3, and 4 years old and registering those instead of leasing the cars. We used to see huge lease months and leasing is just not like it was 5 years ago with those companies with all the leased cars being registered here in Town. That's one of the things he's seen. Motor vehicle registrations have always concerned him. That's where he's been seeing a lot more of it go. A lot more people are holding on to their vehicles for 2, 3, and 4 more years where they used to trade them in every 2. It's just what he's seeing out there.

Chairman Massey has three areas. The first one is on page 3 under Community Development. The Building operations are at 75 percent of budget. The overall budget is a little over 50 percent. Mr. Malizia said they've encumbered Joe Bourque the Electrical Inspector. If you look, we put that commitment on the books whether they use all that commitment or not. They've actually in theory expensed the whole thing. It does skew the numbers. You'll see that with the trash too. We'll put the whole contract there so it will skew that number and because of the magnitude of the trash relative to the budget, it tends to skew the budget up a little bit unnaturally.

Chairman Massey said the next one was on page 4, Water - Administration, 70 percent. Again, Mr. Malizia assumed there was an encumbrance for the mailing service that's in there. Chairman Massey said the budget was only \$205,000. It wouldn't take much to move that. Mr. Malizia said it doesn't take much to move some of them.

The last one, just for information, Chairman Massey said on page 5 he talked with the Finance Director today. The land use change tax fund - that transaction occurs on June 30th of every fiscal year. You don't know until June 30th and it's going to be based on what was in the land use change tax collections as of June 30th the previous year. She didn't have an indication today as to how much was in that fund for this year. Again 50 percent goes to the conservation fund and 50 percent goes to the general fund. Mr. Malizia qualified that by further articulating that that's receipts and not just revenue. They recognize a

revenue when a transaction occurs. When you actually receive the money, that's when it gets transferred so they don't transfer more than they've actually received just to clarify.

On a good note, Selectman Maddox said the planning and building permits are at \$99,000 some odd through the first half of the year, which they budgeted \$100,000 for the entire year for building permits alone. So that avenue is at least going up. Mr. Malizia said there are some positives.

Chairman Massey thought Selectman Maddox was right. It bears paying attention especially to the motor vehicles as they trend for this year.

9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Jasper - He had a couple of things. The first is that today he went over to the Senate and testified on Senate Bill 1, which is the repeal of the "Evergreen Clause" in collective bargaining. He testified not only on behalf of house leadership but he did testify on behalf of the Town of Hudson. He trusted that was agreeable. After hearing the Bill, the Senate committee voted 4 to 1 to recommend the passage of the repeal. His understanding was that will go to the Senate floor next week and then will come immediately over to the House. You can see by making it Senate Bill 1 that it was of utmost importance to the Senate. He believed there were 17 Senate sponsors on that bill. There is no doubt that that will be repealed and Selectman Jasper felt confident that it will be in the House as well. Whether they have to go through a veto process or the Governor, they'll allow it to become law or sign it remains to be seen. Chairman Massey asked if it would be retroactive. Selectman Jasper said because there's actually no clause in contracts, it will just mean that that will no longer apply to any contracts. In affect, it will be retroactive because there's nothing there.

The other issue and Selectman Jasper knows that the Board has all had the opportunity to look at the wonderful artifacts that the archeologists found in test pits that they were doing to determine where utility lines could go in. That cost the Town of Hudson \$2,140 to find broken pieces of glass, pieces of asphalt, tinfoil, rusted nails, pieces of slate, clay pipe, and tiny pieces of bricks. It really makes him sick. That is what is in there and he thought they needed to try to make changes to that. To that end having brought this brought to the Benson's Committee, the Benson Park Committee does not wish to retain any of the artifacts for anything.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Coutu, that the Board of Selectmen gift the artifacts to the Governor of the State of New Hampshire to do with them as he wished.

Selectman Jasper said that this was a serious effort in terms of making the Governor aware of just what they're spending and what they're getting here. This is not an Indian burial ground. This is not a place where we would expect to find colonial artifacts or anything. This is what he would expect to find there. He was hoping that by the Governor seeing this, he would be willing to work with them to modify that. Selectman Jasper thought it was important that if they were to uncover something they'd bring an archeologist in. He thought given what they're finding and paying for, they could probably find a little bit of training for somebody in the Highway Department to recognize something that's significant. If they were to find something significant, they could bring an archeologist in. To have someone on site every time they're putting a shovel in the ground at that property is a total waste of money and hopefully they can get the Governor to see that by taking a look at what they've actually paid \$2,100 for. This was for a short period of time just digging test holes. Selectman Jasper has the invoice which he will bring with him to the Governor.

Selectman Maddox asked if Selectman Jasper was going to gift wrap those inside an invoice. He agreed. As long as the Governor is going to see how much that costs.

Selectman Coutu told Chairman Massey that they joked about it but he agreed with Selectman Jasper. He thought that this was necessary. It's symbolic in nature. They need to remind those who imposed all the mandates in order for them to be able to accomplish something positive within our respective communities. To impose the mandates that are a waste of money on the taxpayer needs to be recognized. Though this may be symbolic in nature, he hoped and he knows Selectman Jasper will certainly get his point across. He just hoped he didn't have to meet him in the bathroom to do it. He hoped he meets him in his office and the Governor is kind enough to allow Selectman Jasper to go into his office to present him the wonderful artifacts that they have. He thanked Selectman Jasper for offering to do so.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

That's all Selectman Jasper had for this evening. Although he wished everyone a very happy snow day tomorrow.

Selectman Nadeau - He had a couple of things tonight. The first one is just a reminder to all the residents to spread the word that there is a parking ordinance in the Town of Hudson which ends on April 1st on on-street parking. It goes into effect at 11 p.m. until 7 a.m. There is no parking on the streets. The police do enforce this just as a reminder. With the snow coming up, please be cautious and be aware of the plows that are out there.

Just as a reminder on the 17th, Town Hall will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day. That's all Selectman Nadeau had this evening.

Selectman Coutu - He had a couple of things. He wanted to thank the Recreation Director for providing him with a couple of notes for the public. Selectman Coutu was not able to attend Thursday's Recreation Committee meeting as a result of eye surgery which went well. He wanted to bring to the Board's attention that the 34th annual travel basketball tournament is this weekend. They'll be using Nottingham, Hills Garrison, Alvirne, Memorial School, and the Community Center. A total of 57 teams including 8 Hudson teams and 103 games will be played over the 3 day weekend.

Comedy night is January 29th at the Community Center. Tickets are still available though they are going relatively fast. The Southern Swing Dance classes started last Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center. The first week had 9 couples attend. So anyone who is interested can stop by Fridays at 7:30 p.m. Beginners are welcome.

Last but not least, something that Selectman Coutu and Chairman Massey have participated in, Over 60 Coffee Club now has Wii bowling. He got one for Christmas but he's working 117 hours a week so he'll never get to use it. Wii bowling was just introduced to the group of the Over 60 Club. They're having a good time and they bowl during the Coffee Club. He believed the Coffee Club is held on Tuesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. So that's available.

Selectman Coutu had hoped that Selectman Jasper was going to touch on the subject of the Budget Committee further. He'll take it upon himself to do so. Selectman Coutu said he didn't want to steal his thunder. He had already said he was going to. Selectman Coutu said Selectman Jasper got up and thundered himself the other evening.

Mr. Chairman and his fellow Board members, Selectman Coutu is not at all pleased with the process that he just witnessed this year with the Budget Committee. He can say that with all earnest. As he said earlier, the Board of Selectmen looked at their budget very seriously, very carefully, and they did it due diligence. The bottom line was that they were going to provide the taxpayers in these tough economic times some relief over the last tax bill. As a result of a communication problem, he didn't quite get to the number he thought they were going to get to. Be it as it may, they certainly afford and he's given this a lot of thought. He had a conversation with Selectman Maddox today - a lot of thought about coming in here and making a presentation tonight and try to find more money. We have not decimated the budget but our department heads are going to have to be a little more mindful this year about where they're spending their money.

With that, Selectman Coutu watched the Budget Committee make further cuts. As Selectman Jasper said, they have to pick their fights. They'll accept those cuts. It wasn't significant. It was about \$50,000. We were mindful of what the bottom line was. They achieved a goal that the majority felt that they wanted to get to and he thought they had arrived at. He's satisfied with where they are and leave it be as it may. One of the things Selectman Coutu found most interesting in the process is that when the Budget Committee reviewed the Selectmen's budget, we provide them with a 3 year history. As the Chairman of the Budget Committee stated when he's making a decision - and he might be paraphrasing but they'll get the point - he likes to review the history so he can make a decision on the basis of what was being spent and if you're asking for a lot more, then he can't support it based on the history. About 15 minutes later, the Chairman made a statement that he doesn't really look at the history and was somewhat inconsistent. The School Committee doesn't provide history. So how did they make their decisions relative to the school budget? What justice is there for the taxpayer? The school budget my good friends is coming in this year now with whatever the School Committee turned in to trim \$800,000 more than last year's budget. That represents something in the vicinity of \$.35 or \$.37 increase on the tax rate. He's heard a lot of arguments. A lot of people have come up to him and said to him well you can't cut it, it's for the kids. These are serious economic times. Though as Selectman Jasper has stated, we may be economically better well suited here in New Hampshire than a lot of other States, we know, all of them know people within their own community. Selectman Coutu and Selectman Jasper have had conversations relative to the fact that they're both businessmen and they're struggling. He was sure that with all the people that Selectman Massey knows in the community as well as Selectman Maddox and Selectman Nadeau, you know that there are people out there hurting.

Selectman Coutu felt that the Budget Committee did not do due diligence to the school portion of the budget. He can sit there with the school budget and come up with \$1 million worth of cuts tomorrow morning within 10 minutes just flipping through the pages that would make sense, that would bring relief to the taxpayers, and he thought that the Budget Committee did not do due diligence to the budget. To have a member of the Budget Committee say that the process did not allow him sufficient time to be prepared and they had to go through an entire deliberation the other evening is shocking to him. They go through budget deliberations here in this hall with every single department head. It's approximately a 2 or a 3 week process. Those meetings are televised. They're available on the web and he could have followed or any member of the Budget Committee could have followed those deliberations and could have watched them at any time. It's on demand. You can go in and pull up any repeat broadcast and watch what transpired during those deliberations that were held here. There was also the budget process that they went through, which was also available for that person or persons to watch and be able to acquire the information in order for him, or her, or them to make an intelligent decision as to where they wanted to go with the budget. That was a lame excuse.

Selectman Coutu felt that the Board lacked direction. He felt that they did not do due diligence and the voters are going to have the final say at the ballot. Two years ago they were not happy with the budget that the Town submitted and they all saw what happened. They voted for the lower number. Well they're going to have two numbers on our side. Our budget this year is lower than the default budget. On the school side, the number is going to be a lot higher than the default budget. The voters will make that decision. Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving him the opportunity to express his opinion on the budget process.

Selectman Maddox - He said it was tough to follow those but he will try. Has anybody changed their opinion, have any further comments to the Planning Board representatives in regards to the prime wetlands? They will be hearing that weather permitted. He believed that we should have the answer by 9 a.m. tomorrow. They should get it on the scroll on HCTV if it is in fact cancelled. There was some attendance at the last meeting. Unfortunately the notices looked the same and they got miss-posted at the paper. They're going to do another one tomorrow night after the one they had last Wednesday if anyone watched it. Interesting subject, Selectman Maddox was sure it's going to go in many different directions tomorrow night.

Since Selectman Jasper brought props, for those of you who have seen these in several places around town, Selectman Maddox showed another method to make people aware that there is something going on in town. Not only is it noticed in the newspapers but often by map and lot number. So unless you know those numbers, you're really not going to get a feel for what's going on there. With all the various LLCs, sometimes it doesn't click. Now it is a requirement that if you're going to be before any of the land use boards, you get to put some of these up on the property so that at least you know that this is coming before the Board. What the big white area is is to attach a paper and then stick something to stick over it so you could stop if you were really interested and know that that parcel is going before the Planning Board on X date for this. Again as you drive through your neighborhood and you see these, that's what it's about. For those people that said I see in the paper but didn't know what XYZ LLC at map, lot, I didn't know it meant that lot. They're trying to make it a better system of notification. Just a heads up.

As a homeowner, Selectman Coutu said he wants to do something that requires him going before the Planning Board. The Planning Board will send a representative out to post that sign on my property? Selectman Maddox said that you (the land owner) get to put it on. Selectman Coutu asked if he had to. Selectman Maddox said yes. [Selectman Coutu] There's a rule that says you have to put a sign on your property? Selectman Maddox said yes. It says that this property is coming before the Planning Board. Wouldn't you like to know that somebody down the street from you was going to put in a pig farm? Something is going to go on in the lot in your neighborhood. If you don't read those notices that are in the paper every week or whenever they're coming up, this would give you another indication. Yes, we are requiring that landowner to post these on the property. He thought they have to post one per so many acres. Selectman Coutu thought it was a good thing. He just didn't know that we had the right to do that. Chairman Massey said it was a Planning Board regulation. Selectman Maddox said they figured it would make it multi-purpose - it's being used by the ZBA and Conservation. Again if you don't know something is happening, this is just another avenue.

Next item. For those of you that know Selectman Maddox is known for his patience, the HVAC unit in the Community Development Meeting Room is still ongoing. He hoped to resolve it soon. It has been a joy that he is fascinated that being a Selectman doesn't really matter. He can't imagine some days being a citizen trying to go through the circular motion that has been involved in this. We'll see if it clears itself up shortly or if not, he'll expand on this.

Finally Selectman Maddox's last item - as the Chairman has so told the citizens of Hudson he is not running for re-election. A shame but he understood the reasons and he respected him for his decision. For all of you that sit out there and say I can do a better job than that, stop sitting on your hands. It is coming up to come down to the Town Clerk's from the 19th through the 29th. So you have 10 days to sign up to join this group. It is a challenge as you can see with budgets the way they are. Again with a good man leaving, he thought there was not excuse that he's an incumbent. It's a wide open field. He hoped people will consider their options, consider their involvement, and come out and register. Thank you.

Selectman Massey - He was going to mention that sign up for Town Elections start next Wednesday on the 19th. You have until Friday at 5 p.m. on the 29th to make your desires known. The following positions are open: a Selectman's position, which as Selectman Maddox has said is an open seat now; there are 3 Budget Committee openings; there's one Trustee of the Trust Funds. He believed there were a couple more but he didn't remember whether the Supervisor of the Checklist is up or the Moderator. As Selectman Maddox has indicated, this is your opportunity especially if you've never wanted to run because you didn't want to run against an incumbent for a Selectman's position, here's your chance to show what you can do.

Selectman Jasper said that there will be other elected offices open even on the Town side. There's usually the Ethics Committee, Trustees of the Trust Funds, Library Trustees, Cemetery Trustees. Chairman Massey said they should be on the scroll for the system too. Selectman Jasper said there are numerous opportunities to get involved.

The other thing Chairman Massey had was that Town Hall for all people who are out there who are listening, all Town departments will be operational tomorrow. If anybody feels that it's not safe to come in, they've been advised what they can do but the Town itself will be officially open for business tomorrow, including all the town departments which would be the outlying places - Police Department, Fire Department and the Highway Department. Selectman Jasper said the departments should be very busy tomorrow.

The last thing Chairman Massey had was a reminder that one of the members of the Police Department who people have known and loved over the last 20 some odd years is retiring. His retirement party is one Saturday, January 22nd, at the King's Court. He's referring to Officer Kevin Sullivan. He will be greatly missed by the Town. Sadly he had to report that Akim also passed away about 3 weeks ago. He believed the Police Department was going to do something relative to that as part of the retirement program. It was kind of a sudden thing. Officer Akim will also be greatly missed.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to enter nonpublic session under and RSA 91-A:3 // (c) matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person; and (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property and (e) consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the public body or any subdivision thereof, carried 5-0 by roll call.

After a five minute recess, Chairman Massey indicated that Nonpublic Session will be entered at approximately 8:50 p.m., thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public is asked to leave the room.

Open session is being entered at 9:02 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to deny the 2010 Tax Abatement Application relative to Map 116, Lot 017, carried 5-0.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:04 p.m. by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Maddox, 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