

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the February 9, 2010 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Coutu the meeting of February 9, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, led by Assistant Town Administrator Mark Pearson.
3. ATTENDANCE

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

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Mark Pearson, Assistant Town Administrator; Donna Graham, Executive Assistant; Police Chief Jason Lavoie; John Cashell, Town Planner; Doug Robinson, HLN Reporter; Brenda Collins from the Hudson Chamber of Commerce

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Does anyone in the audience wish to address the Board on any issue at this time? If so, please step forward state your name and address for the record.

5. NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

- A. Resignation of Bill McInerney from the Zoning Board of Adjustment

Chairman Coutu asked what the wish of the Board was. He has a copy of an e-mail that was sent from Mr. McInerney to Mr. Seabury. He didn't know if the Board had received courtesy copies prior to this.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to accept the resignation with regret, carried 5-0.

- B. Benson's Committee - (2 alternate members, 1 term to expire 12/31/12; 1 term to expire 12/31/13)

Ann Kinneen Desrosiers
Leo C. Bernard

Chairman Coutu advised that we have 2 alternate member positions available. One term to expire on December 31, 2012, and another term to expire December 31, 2013. The two nominees are Ann Kinneen Desrosiers and Leo Bernard. Ann if you're present could you please step forward.

Ann Desrosiers and she lives at 97 Pelham Road. Chairman Coutu knows Ann, so for purposes of disclosure, he wanted to let everyone know that he knows Ann. She's applied as an alternate member of the Benson Committee. Could you give us please a little bit of history about yourself and your interest in Benson's and what brings you here this evening.

Ms. Desrosiers' interest in Benson's basically started probably last May. She became involved with the Benson exhibit that was held at the library for 2 weeks. She got to meet Mr. Provencher, and she worked with Cindy and some of the other co-workers. She also worked at the booth at the Old Home Days. She's been to just about all of their cleanups and many openings. She's got to meet the committee members and the volunteers. They've been a great group of people, and she's enjoyed working with them, and she would like to continue on.

In terms of the ongoing work, the work that had been going on with the volunteer core at Benson's, did you actively participate? Ms. Desrosiers said yes, definitely. Part of the thing that she also enjoyed doing is she was taking photographs from the beginning and all the progress that had taken place. There's still more to be done. She's looking forward to continue on with the improvements and whatever else can be done at the park. For the record the reason why Chairman Coutu asked that question is obviously he's been there and he's seen her at the park, and he's seen her volunteer. He wanted to have it stated for the record.

Selectman Maddox's world famous - have you been to a meeting before? Ms. Desrosiers said she acted as a substitute once. She does watch at home. Selectman Maddox saw on here that she's a fifth grade teacher, so that may come in handy. [Ms. Desrosiers] That was the other thing. She grew up in Lowell, a city girl, and has been in Hudson for probably the last 30 years. She's never really walked in the wetlands.

So this has somewhat been an experience for her. Part of her curriculum does involve ecology and environmental science. She just sees so much potential for our own schools. She would like to open it up and even have people come in and see what they would like to use the facility for. Like she said, she does the wetlands even in fifth grade. Ms. Desrosiers was just fascinated just walking through the property and just knowing that we had it. There's a lot of potential there for our own schools.

Chairman Coutu thanked Ann and appreciated her coming forward.

[Chairman Coutu] The next applicant for a position as an alternate is Leo Bernard.

Leo Bernard, 3 Bungalow Ave. Chairman Coutu asked Mr. Bernard to give us a little bit of history as to why you would like to be an alternate member of the Benson Committee. Mr. Bernard said he tried to be a member of the Benson Committee but he didn't make it. He still wanted to be part of it, so he's trying to be an alternate now. He's been with the Town for 41 years, and he just wanted to try to help out as much as he can and much more as he can.

Chairman Coutu asked if he had ever participated in any of the activities at Benson's so far with the volunteer core. Mr. Bernard said no he hasn't. He's attended all the meetings. He's even asked Shawn a question once.

Selectman Maddox asked Mr. Bernard how many committees are you now on? Mr. Bernard is on the Recycling Committee, Water as the Acting Chairman right now because we haven't had a vote yet.

Of course it is our practice to wait two weeks, but Selectman Jasper wanted to make a comment and no aspersions towards either of the two applicants. But we did have someone else who was quite interested. As a matter of fact, the fact that he was not appointed because we just didn't have enough room was one of the reasons that the Benson's Committee asked for alternates quite frankly. That was Mr. John Leone. He tried to call his number - and he only found out yesterday that he had not applied, and it sounded like he was calling a fax number. Before we make the appointment, he would like to find out if perhaps he didn't see the fact that we were looking for alternates and give him the opportunity if he's interested to come in next week and be interviewed. He has been very active in the Benson Committee and had applied. So he just wanted to make that known. He's sorry that he was not able to get a hold of him. He didn't know what was going on with the phone number, but he'll make a more concerted effort if there's no objection on the part of the...Chairman Coutu said it was fine by him. It's open to anyone. We'll put these aside and we'll wait and see if there's a response within the next two weeks. If not, then we'll see what the decision of the Board is relative to these.

C. Zoning Board of Adjustment - (1 member resignation)

Donna Shuman

Chairman Coutu asked if this was the appointment of the person to fill the vacancy. Mr. Malizia said it was his understanding.

Donna Shuman, 71 Bush Hill Road. If you all remember less than a year ago, Chairman Coutu indicated that Donna Shuman has applied to be a member of the ZBA, and she was appointed as a result of her interest. She's played an active role. Though she's been an alternate and as a result of Mr. McInerney's resignation, she has applied to be a full voting member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Donna why don't you give the Board of Selectmen an overview of your relationship with the Zoning Board of Adjustment, and how it's been going for you, and why you're interested in moving to a full voting member position on the Board.

Ms. Shuman has enjoyed it a lot. She's learned a whole lot. She's seen too many members go by the wayside, which is very sad. We've had a couple of very good members that we've lost recently. She hasn't missed a meeting. She really enjoys doing it and going to all the classes. She thought she could fill a member's role without a problem.

Being the liaison to the ZBA meeting, Selectman Nadeau said he doesn't go to all the meetings but he does watch them at home. Donna has filled in on a couple of the occasions for the meetings. So he'd like to see her appointed to this position. Chairman Coutu too watches them Mr. Seabury because they are very interesting meetings.

Selectman Maddox doesn't watch them very often because they make the Planning Board look lively. Could you tell me how your feelings on how the new hardship rules that the State has now implied. How that has changed over the time that you've been on the Board? Ms. Shuman said that they haven't actually really exercised the new hardship rule yet. We've just been doing rehearings right now. So she's not sure how that is going to play out. Again, Selectman Maddox is just trying to get it from her side of the table. It sounded like it was going to be much easier to jump those hurdles. Ms. Shuman thought it will be.

Selectman Maddox knows they do mostly wait 2 weeks, but this is a position that this is not one of the ones we'd like to put people in without having some experience. Donna is going from the alternate position to a full member. Even if somebody was to come in, he'd be hard pressed. It really needs to come from within their membership so that they have the background that is necessary, the experience that is necessary. He would ask that we waive the normal procedure to wait until the end of the month and nominate Donna Shuman to the position.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to appoint Donna Shuman to the Zoning Board of Adjustment as a member with a term to expire 12/31/11, carried 5-0.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman Coutu asked if any Board member wish to remove any item for separate consideration please state so now. If not, he'll entertain a motion?

Motion by Selectman Jasper, 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 exemption applications -
 - a) Elderly Exemption - Map 175, Lot 034, Sub 012; Map 197, Lot 041; Map 190, Lot 034; Map 198, Lot 096; Map 175, Lot 034, Sub 021; Map 175, Lot 059; Map 198, Lot 110; Map 142, Lot 007, Sub 021; Map 216, Lot 014, Sub 044; Map 197, Lot 151; Map 147, Lot 017, Sub 002; Map 158, Lot 001, Sub 010; Map 152, Lot 049, w/recommendation to grant
 - b) Disabled Exemption - Map 178, Lot 013, Sub 010, w/recommendation to grant
 - c) Veteran Tax Credit - Map 124, Lot 059, w/recommendation to grant
- 2) Current Use Lien Release Map 206, Lot 31, w/recommendation to approve

B. Water/Sewer Items

C. Licenses & Permits

- 1) Request to Solicit Funds by Brownie Troop #60553
- 2) Hawker-Peddler License from Glenn Smeltzer in the interest of The Blushing Rose From 2-9-2010 to 12-31-2010
- 3) Request to Solicit Funds by Daniel Webster College - Silver Wings
- 4) Request to Solicit Funds by Merrimack Girl Scout Troop 10762

D. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of January 26, 2010

E. Calendar

02/10 7:00 Planning Board - Community Development Meeting Room
02/11 5:30 Sewer Utility Committee - BOS Meeting Room
02/11 7:00 Zoning Board of Adjustment - Community Development Meeting Room
02/15 Town Hall Offices Closed - Presidents' Day
02/15 6:00 Hudson School Board - BOS Meeting Room
02/15 7:00 Energy Committee - Community Development Meeting Room
02/16 7:00 Cable Utility Committee - BOS Meeting Room
02/16 7:00 Benson Park Subcommittees - Community Development Meeting Room
02/17 5:00 Water Utility Committee - BOS Meeting Room

02/17 7:00 Seniors - Community Development Meeting Room
02/17 7:00 Library Board of Trustees - BOS Meeting Room
02/18 3:00 Trustees of the Trust Fund - Community Development Meeting Room
02/18 7:30 Budget Committee - Community Development Meeting Room
02/22 6:00 Recycling Committee - BOS Meeting Room
02/22 7:00 Moderator's Meeting - Community Development Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Vote taken after Nonpublic Session on January 26, 2010

- 1) Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to authorize hiring Jamie Iskra as Police Records Manager in accordance with the Hudson Supervisors Association contract, Step 1, at \$53,006.00 per year, and to transfer Debra Graham from Records Clerk to Communications Technician effective Sunday, January 31, 2010, carried 5-0.
- 2) Motion to adjourn at 9:13 p.m. by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, carried 5-0.

B. Economic Development Presentation

Chairman Coutu recognized the Assistant Town Administrator Mark Pearson and any other person he wished to bring with him for the presentation.

Mr. Pearson thanked the Chairman. Tonight we have a short presentation lasting approximately 30 minutes from Mike Bergeron. Mike is from the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development. There is a series of things that he suggested that he wanted to go over with the Board tonight. We did notify the Planning Board, the Chamber of Commerce, and we tried to notify as many people as we could. Some of the topics that he's going to go over is how to retain and grow companies in Hudson, how to recruit new companies to Hudson, what companies are looking for when they are expanding, what factors take a town off the short list, and how to stand out above the competition. This is all in the spirit of the economic development that the Board has tasked staff to expand on. So with that, he'd like to defer to Mike Bergeron at this time and introduce him to the Board.

Thank you. Michael Bergeron. As Mark said, he's with the Department of Resources and Economic Development. The reason why he's here is a good testimony to Mark and his work. He read a press release on some of the activities you were doing here. He thought it might be helpful to build on those things that Mark is now working on to help the Town of Hudson in keeping the current base and growing and attracting new companies. Just briefly, the Department of Resources and Economic Development, also known as DRED, believe it or not - how about having an organization where you're called "DRED". He's actually in the Department of Economic Development, which is DED. Leave it to government to come up with short terms. So he's in economic development. We work with keeping companies in the State of New Hampshire and attracting new companies. We help companies to find federal contracts and also help with exporting. Also within our department we have force and lands. We have parks and recreation. We have tourism. So under one umbrella essentially, we have all the elements that would be necessary to keep the quality of life in New Hampshire whether it's the quality of our forests, great places to go on vacation, or the kinds of businesses that you might want to attract to the State. So we're lucky in the sense that this department has all those under one roof where a lot of states actually have them as separate agencies where they then fight for money and so forth. So it's great that the State is set up that way.

Tonight, Mr. Bergeron is going to talk about ideas to keep with the companies that you have here essentially, and ideas that might help you in attracting new companies. First a little reality check, just to remind everyone - not that you need to be reminded, but what the situation is today in that we have high unemployment around the United States and New Hampshire; we have high vacancy rates for both office and industrial space; and we have an increasing debt both on a national and local level. This is a photograph of a job fair that we did late last summer. We worked with WMUR TV and our office worked at organizing a job fair. We anticipated approximately 2,000 to 3,000 people. Unfortunately, 10,000 people showed up. Parking was supposed to be at the Mall of New Hampshire and the actual job fair at Southern New Hampshire University. The traffic was so bad, that the Governor had a hard time actually getting to the site. If you look at the people that are in this, the amount of people that are out of work and the types of people range from both very young right out of high school, to those baby boomers who had been to work a long time and now they find themselves in their late 50s, early 60s. So no one is untouched by this situation that we have both in New Hampshire and nationally. He always reminds himself that he's lucky to have a job

and that but for the grace of God, anyone could be in that situation. So it's an important situation that everyone in New Hampshire is facing.

In terms of history, in November of 2007, this is what the United States looked like in terms of unemployment. The color white to light yellow shows the least amount of unemployment. You can see on the west coast there's some purple, which means 7 to 9 percent of unemployment. You look at New Hampshire; New Hampshire was almost all within 3 to 4 percent unemployment - very low. At the time we had a challenge of attracting companies because they couldn't be convinced there was enough people to hire believe it or not. On the west coast you can see even back at that time, they had challenges in terms of unemployment. Now you fast forward to November and you can see what's in the black. The black is above 10 percent unemployment. New Hampshire is still, even back in November, an island surrounded by high employment. Now we continue to slowly catch up with the rest of New England. But we were the last to go in the recession, and we are still sort of an island in terms of unemployment. That doesn't mean that all those people you saw on that photograph doesn't mean that they all have jobs, but that we're still fairly healthy economy. This was November. Every month the east coast is getting darker and darker, and so isn't the west coast and the middle too. This story is far from over. We don't know exactly when it is going to stop.

Mr. Bergeron wanted to show this because he sees as an opportunity for the Town of Hudson. He went down - and just to give you an illustration of - there's a lot of vacant space in industrial parks in Hudson. This happens to be Hampshire Drive. You can go down almost any street and you're going to see signs from listing agents. That means that you guys are well positioned to attract companies that we're trying to attract. That is small family run companies that usually have 10 to 50 employees looking for free standing buildings somewhere between 12,000 to 30,000 square feet. He showed this because he worked with this company Molex when they first went to Hudson. Great, beautiful building. Now multi-tenant situation. Another great example that you can also incubate companies in buildings like this where they need office space and they're growing. He moved a company from Massachusetts to one of these spots here. A good example of the fact that you have the infrastructure for a lot of the opportunities that you're going to need. Where the weak link is that you don't have 150,000 to 200,000 square feet of manufacturing space that some companies are looking for. That's the reason why for example Benchmark wasn't able to stay here because of the vacancy in that market. That's a small market niche. Most of the people that we work with are in this type of a market. So that's great news for Hudson.

The national debt. The projection is that there's probably will be close to one trillion dollars in new taxes. Most of it is going to fall on individuals and families. The current US national debt is 12.3 trillion dollars. At that rate if it continues, we'll be paying double the taxes we are today, and our children will be paying 3 times the amount. If you look at what the federal spending is since 1970 and you look what the cost of household income, by far we are not even close at catching up with the cost of the national debt. You can see that red line right there shows you where the national spending is relative to the median income. There's quite a spread there. So why does Mr. Bergeron say that, because it's good to remember that business is not as it used to be. Those who think that you can do things the way you did last year are quite mistaken in that we are in a different world today both in terms of business and in terms of government. He just mentioned those previous slides to remind people that where we are today is very, very different than we were a year ago or two years ago. It's hard to say where we'll be a year from now. You have to do things differently. At the State level, we're doing things very differently than we would have because we could not have anticipated the situation we're in.

Having said that, the things Mr. Bergeron would like to stress is that the Town of Hudson needs to look at your current customer base. Do not spend time or money trying to bring in the big fish from out of state. That is unlikely to happen, and you'll waste too much of your time and energy. You need to look at the big ones that are in Hudson and find ways to make sure you keep them and allow them to grow. The current trends right now nationally, and that includes New Hampshire, is that there are substantial consolidations. Companies within New England are looking at options. They have to downsize. They're looking usually they have a plant in New Hampshire; they'll have a plant in Massachusetts or another state in New England. Sometimes they cross the United States and they come to the State and say why should we stay in New Hampshire. We cannot keep both office locations open. Prove us why we should stay in New Hampshire. You need to keep that in mind that the companies that you have here in Hudson now may stay and grow or they leave based upon the national and global pressure of spending less money with less people to do more amount of work essentially. So there's fierce competition. We get sometimes a situation where it's double or nothing where the company comes to us and their in New Hampshire - we're either going to stay and grow or we're leaving. So 80 percent of your growth is going to be from the Town of Hudson. You need to be visiting.

Mr. Bergeron has to say that Mark is doing a great job. First of all he's focused on the situations and opportunities that the State is offering with these economic revitalization zones. You have signs up. You realize there's an opportunity. You're taking advantage of it. He's organizing his approach to a meeting with businesses. So you need to continue in that way and to make sure that you're touching base - first of all you contact all of the largest employers in the State and you work your way down.

Ideas that might be helpful is to come up with an electronic newsletter. After you've met with companies in Hudson, annual recognition. In fact, I think you attended one of our annual awards. The State had an annual meeting and we recognized people within the State for doing a great job. The same thing could be done with companies within Hudson. You have awards. You recognize them for the great work that they're doing in the Town of Hudson and show them that you really care for their business. Groundbreaking, other opportunities, work with the Chamber, make new connections and try to keep that established relationship growing with companies.

You should also have a written checklist of approval process because lets say they decide to grow. They want to be able to come to ZBA, the Planning Board, they want to be able to understand who do they talk to, how long does it take. You'd think that would be obvious but not necessarily. Often times I go to towns with clients and they will say here's your zoning book. It's this thick. Have your attorney take a look at it. That's not how to look in the world we have today. Timeframes are hard to establish, but general time frames for every part of the step of getting approval assuming that the application is complete. There's something to give somebody an idea of how long it's going to take. He often uses this example. You don't want to be the Wizard of Oz and the hand behind the screen. You don't know exactly how long things take. You come back and they say oh yeah but we thought of something else that you need to do to go back again. That's not going to work in today's environment.

Another thing that is important in terms of what companies are looking for is speed in approval process within reason. They're looking for a way to eliminate companies. You'd think it's kind of intuitive they would look at you and say okay what are the things we like about Hudson. Well they're going to look at the list and say what are the things that would take Hudson off the list. The things that take Hudson and other towns off the list is they can't find a building in the right size or the right price. Now a days people know that the market is slow, but yet the vacancy for example good quality, high based spaced for manufactured for free-standing buildings is still tight. So a lot of companies come in and say - they try to undercut the price to the affect that they don't understand that the vacancy is pretty tight in some market segments. By contrast, the office market is fairly high in vacancy and there's more flexibility in negotiating prices.

Often times we lose transactions if we can't demonstrate that the taxes and exemption credits are not as competitive as other states within down south for example or out in the midwest. Sometimes the infrastructure if there's poor water or sewer infrastructure that could be a reason why a company may not come to a town. If the permit process is too slow. Often Mr. Bergeron sometimes if the town has a bad attitude. In this case, he can easily say that Hudson does not have a bad attitude. He's had great luck with for example Mark's secretary. You can get a lot from just contacting the town hall and see how you're treated. Do they return phone calls? What's their tone of voice? Are they helpful? He has to say that his interaction with the Town of Hudson at the staff level has been excellent.

But bad attitude can also mean boards because what happens is that most companies are interacting with selectmen, ZBA, and/or planning boards. Sometimes, he's not saying Hudson, but he does find some towns have in fighting within boards. A lot of the people grew up in the town. They know each other. They never forget either. There may be something that somebody did to somebody else, and it could be the other generation for that matter, and they have never forgotten. Now they're in one board and there's somebody else on another board, you can't let those things get in the way of a company who's either looking to grow or relocate to your town.

The other thing could be just poor customer service. What he mentioned before, return phone calls and e-mails quickly. Don't over promise what you can't deliver. Sometimes in people's excitement they say, "oh yeah we can do this. We can do that." Then they come back and realize they can't do that. If you're working with a site consultant who's looking at other states nationally, they will mistrust you from that point forward. Don't use voice mail. Mr. Bergeron finds this a lot with town and cities. You call up the town and you automatically get a voice mail. You don't get someone who answers the phone. Then you hit number 1, number 2, and that gets you to another voice mail of another department. That's too much layers. You need to be more up front with your customers in order to be able to service them. Think of ways to make it happen and smile. This is a simple thing and it doesn't cost money but when he brings companies to a town and he has to go to a meeting with them and he's before the board, sometimes people never smile. They don't even say we'd love to have you in our town. We think this is a great place for you. It's almost like the inquisition.

This is a sales presentation. You're actually trying to convince a company to come to your town. So think about that. He's had situations where he's got this type of a first impression. He went to a city one time and he had to knock on - first of all they have bullet proof glass, and kept knock, knock, knock, and he's trying to get the attention of the person on the other side. This woman would not look up. He will tell you that there are some companies that will go to a town unannounced to see how they are treated when they are not someone special. They're not known to be someone special. So that's important in terms of the overall customer service for both boards and for the municipalities. You'll have some people who work for a town maybe working for 25 years, 30 years, and they may forget that they actually are serving the taxpayer and that they have to review them as a customer service. As Selectmen, you are the leaders here. You set the tone of how you want customer service within your town.

He's also seen personality types, mostly on boards, what he call it the passive aggressive type. This is the person who smiles very nicely. He's very friendly and then when it comes time for the vote, they go no. You had no idea they did not like your project. They had no intention to ever vote. So hopefully you can communicate in advance that the company is going down the road path and that you can give them some indication of where you stand.

Things that can also get in the way is what he calls delay, delay, delay. The old paradigms before he showed them the first slides, southern New Hampshire particular had the luxury of dealing in minutia. You get before a board and they would spend so much time on the size of a sign, the type of bushes, the kind of grass. That's not going to fly today. Also, he's seen towns where he'll have a company come in that's a national company with a lot of money. All of a sudden the traffic study comes up. This is a traffic study that failed in the last 7 years or 5 years. But now we have a big money player that's come up to bat. So the town now shifts the burden from the town to the company and says well we really need a new turning light. We need new lights. We need this...and before you know it, they've added on another \$500,000 to a project that should have been planned by the town 5 years before that. Now they see an opportunity to shift the burden to a company who they think can afford to pay for it. That's not going to work in today's environment. So you need to think about your structure now and prepare taxpayers for the fact that you have some infrastructure that may need attention. Also you have to work out road blocks. If you find that there's a technicality about what you're doing now, can you find a way around it. He has the same challenges with working for the State. We have very little bit of funding. So we had to be more flexible in how we approach, try to make things work in an environment where there's very few resources. It happens at the State and it happens at the local level.

Mr. Bergeron calls this the food pyramid that kills deals. Really if you think about it, it comes down to people. It's usually envy. It's either a conflict of interest, pride, or revenge. Everyone has those issues for whatever reason but you have to get rid of them when you come to a situation where you think it's in the best interest of the Town of Hudson to not let that get in the way of history of what may have happened with other situations. Selectman Jasper asked if he could get the previous two slides blown up into poster and hang over in the other room?

[Michael Bergeron] So that may be interesting, what about bringing new companies into the State? Here's a fact of life. He's doing this for a living for sales calls every day. If he has 20 leads, he may come up with 5 active prospects. Five active prospects means to get one lead means probably 10 to 15 cold calls. Then you meet with the company to qualify them and that might mean 2 or 3 meetings and you'll get maybe 4 to 5 active prospects. Four to five active prospects means one possible transaction. So we have a large pipeline, but not a lot of that actually filter through. In today's environment, that's even more challenging. Therefore, you have to be different and stand out. At the State level, we hardly have any money for marketing. So we have to find ways to leverage the media to help us to get the word out. Here's examples - working with a company that makes Three Wolf Moon. He's really not familiar with the t-shirt, but apparently it's quite popular. They are a company in New Hampshire, and we have been working with them. They have decided to use this particular image as a way of demonstrating that economic development is now part of the Three Wolf Moon howl sort to speak. So we're using and working with a company that's in New Hampshire, a particular product that they make, and saying we'll partner with you and we will work together to get recognition for the good work you do and hopefully you'll be able to help us by giving us more recognition.

Another example is we call it "get big and rich in New Hampshire". Its part of our open invitation program for companies in Massachusetts. We invited companies through a contest to send it into DRED and we would select - it was 4 companies to come to Meadowbrook to see Big and Rich. They were picked up in a limousine that was donated by a private company that came up and were able to get back stage passes also donated. He wasn't sure if you've seen this group, but they're pretty crazy. They love Royal Crown. It was a great time to get people's attention. The Boston media picked up on it and we had leads as a result of that.

This is our latest one as of today - "Valentine Love Letters". When he got this, he said he couldn't believe his forehead is getting larger every time and shinier too he guessed. Basically worked with a company in Manchester that donated gift baskets. We sent 12 love letters to companies in Massachusetts. These were our prospects who showed interest in New Hampshire and then kind of waned and kind of lost interest. So we sent that out today. The Boston Herald picked up on it. This was their headline - "NH makes heartfelt pitch. Sends love letters to Massachusetts companies". They also had this on their page as well. What they did is they took inserts from our letter and we couldn't pay for that type of advertisement. What happens is that that gets much more leads than we would ever get by trying to pay for something like that in the media? So we're very creative in coming up with ideas. Mr. Bergeron has to give great credit to Steve Boucher who is our marketing guru to come up with these ideas. You guys could take that same model and work on a local level. You have so many great companies in Hudson that have excellent products that you could work together to come up with a unique plan, and we could help you in terms of getting the news out.

We've also done insurance at dinners. In Hampton, for example, Liberty Lane has a beautiful building that is listed for sale or for rent. We called them up and asked if they would mind if we just used your space for the night. It has all these beautiful paintings from the turn of the century, invaluable antiques, and we invite insurance companies from other states.

So some of the dos and don'ts. Remember that companies are trying to minimize their risk when they look at a town. Try to come up with a project opportunity to find some market, something to work with when he has a company that comes in. Treat them to dinner, do something special with them that might help in terms of attracting the company, have a written economic development plan even if it's on the back of a piece of paper of a two-year plan on what you think might make sense. Make sure you have the right information at the right time that can be in a timely manner.

Then also you have to leverage the social media. Nowadays companies are going to go right to the web site to look for information. They'll look at newspapers, and they'll look at kinds of forms. Mostly the web site. That's how they're going to focus in on site consultants and companies and where to look for information. These are examples of award-winning states that have web sites of 50,000 or below. So these really aren't states, but they are towns within Ohio, Florida, and Texas. This is Ohio on their front page. You notice what they're doing here is they're showing the quality of life balance between business and family. Mr. Bergeron personally likes pictures of people because he thought there's more of an emotional connection when you look at a web site and you see a person as opposed to buildings, and buildings, and buildings. So he liked that and he could see why they got an award for that.

This is Texas. Those who are looking at this at home won't be able to see the details, but what he liked about it was the map on the bottom. You see where it shows this particular town is in Texas relationship to the world. That's a great thing because not everyone is going to know where Hudson is. It's helpful to have something on the front page explaining where you are. Don't forget, you have to look at it through the eyes of someone who is not from Hudson. Even though you may think your minutes are very exciting to read, they may not be for everyone. It's good for those who can't sleep.

That's what he likes about this web site. This one is in Florida. Again, their front page notice how they have a map but also look what they're showing. They're showing families, business people and he thought that's a great way to demonstrate that emotional connection between the viewer and the town.

This is what the Town of Claremont does. Look how prominent economic development is. You can't miss it. This is the front page. Very simple and easy to see. You click on economic development and it has a key prominence on their web site.

The Town of Hudson, Mr. Bergeron thought, is off to a good start. It has a lot of information that is very helpful. What it needs is refreshment in terms of images. Taking some of those ideas about quality of life and business and what you have. The challenge is that towns don't have a lot of funds. So everyone is working with volunteer work and it's a real challenge. It's something to work on as time goes on. The economic development piece of that is good. He thought we needed more presence though up front so people know if they're looking to say why should I stay in Hudson for example. You can drill down and have testimonials and ways of demonstrating that.

Just to give you full disclosure, their web site is not that great either. We have a lot of work to do ourselves. Our challenge is that it's too busy. It doesn't talk enough about educational institutions. It doesn't navigate that well, and we have the same issue. We don't have a lot of funding. Our real estate data base is very old. It's not that useful. So those are challenges that we have. He completely understands the challenges of

money, but it's just something to keep in mind that there might be little tweaks that might be helpful that it won't cost a lot of money.

Other things that don't cost money - Facebook. This is social media. Believe it or not, Facebook is now accepted as one of the key ways to reach businesses. So he thought the Town of Hudson needs to look at it. He did out of curiosity look for that at the Town of Hudson. He did find companies that were related to the Town of Hudson. This is a moving company that he found on Facebook and he found a Kiwanis on Facebook. But he thought that the Town of Hudson should be there as well. Also Twitter. Twitter is also big and we're also at the State level connected with Twitter. Site consultants and companies are also using it as a way to look at communities and find out more about what's good about a community. This is an example. East West Mortgage is on Twitter. A lot of private sector businesses are now using social media. He thought that it's an opportunity for the Town of Hudson that won't cost much money.

Things that you could look at in terms of beefing up content. Most companies want to know the top employers in town, if it's an out-of-state company, a company profile which you could like at the state level, infrastructure data - good sites and building information that could be a link to the State, and a good map. We're glad to help in that.

Other things. Just keep in mind why do companies move to New Hampshire? Money, money, money. That's the first one now. Also they want to know if they have great labor within your area and also highway access. You have all these things. In terms of content, you want to make sure that your features and benefit focuses on those business issues. On the quality of life side, you have a where again in Hudson. You have excellent schools systems. You have excellent health care. You have a low crime rate because they don't look at Hudson, they look at the region. So you would leverage that information from a regional basis to demonstrate the benefits of Hudson. You have one of the best libraries he's seen around. You have so many benefits here that the quality of life is a great strength for the Town of Hudson.

Other first impressions. Dress professionally. Don't forget when you meet with a company you have a sales hat on. So you want to make sure that the person you meet with isn't an engineer. Nothing against engineers, but even someone who actually has a sales type of work and does it for a profession and understands that asking good questions is more important than talking and being able to know what's a key issue to a client and then servicing them. That's important when you have that first face for the Town of Hudson. Don't apologize for your weaknesses. Work on your strengths. Unfortunately when Mr. Bergeron went to Alvirne High he didn't do great in algebra and he never will. If you have a weakness, don't try to get an A when you're never going to get an A, but you know what your strengths are. Admit your weaknesses, but spend most of your money and time on strengths. Also, people work together. He finds that companies will go the local diner and they will listen and ask people who are working there what they think about the town that they live in. So everyone has to work together to make sure that there's a positive attitude within the Town of Hudson that you can get things done and not apologize for things that aren't your strengths.

He always uses the Town of Colebrook because Colebrook is very close to the Canadian border. He knows because when he has an 8 o'clock appointment, he lives in Litchfield, that's a long drive to get there for 8 o'clock. But they have high unemployment. Companies that leave and they don't get their vacancies replaced 10 years later, but yet they have this attitude it's not what the State's going to give them, they come to us and say we have a great idea. They come to us and say we have this idea. What do you think? They come up with ways instead of looking at what are you going to do for me, they say this is what we want to do for you. Mr. Bergeron told them it is so refreshing that they involve us and understand that it has to come from the people within your town. Otherwise that negative attitude will creep around the community and will come back to affect your ability to keep and grow companies.

So in summary, be business friendly, look at your infrastructure, continue to build on all the great work that Mark is doing, keep in touch with us, and we'd love to help out in any way we can. Any questions?

[Chairman Coutu] Let me just say, he's sure he speaks on behalf of the Board for an excellent presentation. You've given us a tremendous amount of food for thought. It's the direction that we have directed our Community Development to go into which is to market our community. We think that you've shown us all of the positives that we know exist here in Hudson, and that's what we're striving to do is to present those in a way that is palatable to the perspective industrialists or small business person who wants to come into our community. He wanted to say first hand Mark that he's very impressed with the work that he's done of late in terms of trying to achieve that goal and objective. He encouraged him to continue. He's very proud of what he's done of late and he doesn't mind sharing that with you at all. He's very, very pleased. Mike, he really appreciates him coming to the Town of Hudson. He knows that Mr. Bergeron has a great interest here being a former local himself and still living in the environs. He knows that he doesn't favor one community over the

other, but he knows that he shares his enthusiasm for success in developing our industrial parks and enticing small businesses to come in and those who are here to stay and prosper in our community. With that, Chairman Coutu opened the floor to any comments you might want to make.

Selectman Maddox hoped that we could get a copy of that PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Bergeron said he would e-mail it to Mark and he can afford it to the Board. Selectman Maddox said whether we get it to the department heads and to some of the boards, we can put it on our web site as a link somewhere under Community Development to be able to again - it flashed by rather quickly for some and for those who couldn't really see it on television it would be nice to have a copy. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

In closing, Mr. Pearson wanted to thank Mike for taking the time to come down here. He knows that he and Mike will stay in touch. They're going to look for anything that will help the Town of Hudson. He wanted to acknowledge that John Cashell, the Town Planner, has been instrumental in assisting him. It's really a joint effort of John, himself, and Sue at the front counter. We've involved her because she's the first person that people call and ask for information. We are exploring Twitter and Facebook, and we are looking towards implementing that if at all possible. He will keep the Board apprised of that.

Mr. Pearson also wanted to take the time to acknowledge Brenda Collins from the Hudson of Commerce. She's been very helpful, and also members of the business community who he's met with. Mr. Tate has come in to see him. Anybody that makes an appointment we get them right in, we talk to them, we listen to them, and we try to give them as much information as possible. He didn't think they've turned anybody away. He just wanted to close by saying that we have 2 companies in Hudson right now that are actively applying for the ERZ credit. He's had to write a letter for them that allow them to apply. It's a certification letter. So they're in the process right now. The signs are working. The web site is working. The networking is working. We've sent out over 300 letters to businesses in town, and we're getting good responses back from the. We're keeping track of people that are calling us back. We kept track of the web site hits. We've got an increase to the web site hits over previous timelines when the economic development site wasn't there. Mr. Pearson and John are working collaboratively with other people in other communities and networking. He and John tried to attend as many functions as they can. A lot of them are at night and they may even be out of town, and they've tried to cover those. In fact tomorrow, John has to be in Nashua while he has to be over in Salem for the Rockingham Economic Development. So John can't be in both places. He can't be in both places, but together they're trying to cover it. With that, Mr. Pearson wanted to thank the Hudson Chamber of Commerce and all the people behind him that have come for this presentation tonight and look forward to working with them in the future.

Chairman Coutu knows that Mr. Cashell is sitting behind Mark, but he wanted to make a point to say that at the last Planning Board meeting he happened to watch it on television. He hasn't seen him this enthused in a long time. He radiated. He was glowing and he was proud of the work that had been done in Community Development of late especially with the work. Though we're just scratching the surface of what we can do with our web site, but he thought he presented himself as one who is working with the Assistant Town Administrator undertook this challenge not knowing where it was going to lead to, and now you have this sudden enthusiasm and vigor to want to sell the community. Chairman Coutu thought it was important that we establish a strong linkage that government works with business and not against business and vice versa. If we can maintain that linkage and that attitude, we will be ahead of the tide when it comes to economic revitalization for our area and Hudson can lead the charge. He would like to think that Hudson is emulated by other communities rather than us trying to find other success stories to emulate them. He thought we're heading in that direction, and he personally wanted to thank you and Mark's entire staff for taking the bull by the horns and leading the charge and getting us this far in a very short period of time. Sincere expression of gratitude.

John Cashell thanked them for watching. We did have a very good meeting. The whole idea of all of this is really that it's coming together. We are facing some serious economic times. The group that's going to work the hardest are the people that have the most at stake. We've tried as a Planning Board to work as effectively as we can especially through these times with the Chamber of Commerce. He'd say that all of the development community that comes through the Planning Board. They really try the best job they can to be as objective, making sure that the zoning ordinances and the uses are being applied. We're just working as hard as we possible can. He is excited about it. Mark has done a tremendous job of pulling the staff together. We're working effectively with the Engineering Department. Gary's working hard. He knows you guys deal with them face to face. He's working as hard as he's ever seen him work, and he's been here for 7 years. There's just a genuine excitement. As Mr. Bergeron pointed out, that positive mental attitude that's exhibited by the most people that can possibly be obtained in a town hall really projects well to everybody out there. People say, "Hey it seems like a really good community. I'm going to spend some time and find out some more about it." He and Mark do travel around, and he thought the best experience that we've been

able to obtain recently is to see what other communities are up to. What are they doing for themselves to better their predicament with this economy? We're broadening our horizons so that we can bring those experiences back to town so that we can do a better job for everybody in town. It is a great community. He really enjoys coming to work every day and do what he can to help this community succeed in the future. This web site development really has been an exciting opportunity to put forward. Hopefully, we will have the best web site.

Chairman Coutu said he would be remiss too if he didn't acknowledge as Mark Pearson did the interaction that we now maintain with our business community and through the Chamber office. Brenda you know that he had sent her a personal thank you for her interaction with the Community Development office and for what she's putting up on her web site to help promote the community. If we can continue to work in that cooperative venture, and he knows that you and the businessman of which he's not officially a member of the Chamber, she'll get him there sooner or later he's sure, but as a business owner in the community, he's impressed with the linkage that we've established and her cooperation in helping to spearhead this drive. Mike you know first hand that a couple of months ago we were tip toeing and now we're starting to go by leaps and bounds, and we're making tremendous headway. He wanted to thank him, and his staff, and his office for the efforts and energies that you've shown towards the Town of Hudson and the cooperative nature in which you're working with us. Of course we all benefit whether it's Hudson, or Litchfield, or a Colebrook. WE all benefit by an influx of an industrial community that enhances our employment base and which in effect enhances small business profits, and solidifies a tax base, and provides sound stable economic revitalization within the State. So we're looking forward a continued relationship with you Sir.

Mr. Bergeron said to let them know how they can help for sure because we're here to make things better. Chairman Coutu would be further remiss if he didn't state that Selectman Maddox was instrumental in starting to spearhead the drive about our web site. As he said, he was very instrumental and he wanted to acknowledge that and express his gratitude for a crude awakening. You got everybody going in the right direction and he appreciated that.

Selectman Maddox asked for a 10 minute recess. Chairman Coutu declared the meeting in recess. It is now 7:58 p.m. and we'll be in recess for 10 minutes. We are now back in session at 8:09 p.m.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. 259B Webster Street - Reconsideration of Water Utility abatement denial

Chairman Coutu recognized Selectman Massey.

Selectman Massey said the Mr. Fleury believes that the Town erroneously is billing him for a water shut off. In July, the Water Utility reviewed his request for an abatement of the \$125 shut off fee. They recommended to the Board of Selectmen that it not be approved. In August, the Board of Selectmen voted to accept that recommendation. Mr. Fleury over the last several months has taken issue with that. He thought that he would like to make his case tonight as to why he shouldn't have to pay the \$125. So if it's the Board's pleasure, Mr. Fleury is here and you can hear his story as to why he feels that it's not an appropriate charge.

Chairman Coutu indicated that the Board has been presented a packet with several documents. To his mind does present the story. Is there any objection from the Board from allowing Mr. Fleury to make a brief statement as to why we should reconsider our decision? Seeing no objection, Mr. Fleury. Please state your name and your address for the record please.

Thank you. My name is Dave Fleury and I live at 259B Webster Street. The reason why I'm asking for this is that day on the 15th a letter was given to them about the water, but it was never shut off. He had company. As soon as he got that letter and he called the office and came in, he had turned on every faucet on the property. He has letters from 2 other witnesses that were there that day that the water never was shut off at any time of that business day. So we left everything running to double check. If it happened, he has no problem for it but it's something that never happened. As you can see his bills are paid up. Himself, his wife, Amy Buckley that's a resident of Hudson, Mark Levesque is also a resident of Hudson wrote their letters and the water was never shut off. So that's why he came back and wrote a letter because he has a letter of a meter reading. Something that's stating - prove that it was shut off. You guys gave him a letter that there is no proof. He's just going back. If it happened to you guys, somebody gave you a bill that is not true would you pay it?

Mr. Fleury came in November. Ann is aware of it and so is Valerie. He came in November and he talked to Ann. Ann told him that you guys took his monthly payment that he put on the memo of the check that's for

used water. She took my payment and put it towards the \$125 fee, which he was in dispute since July 15th. He feels that's not right. That's a question he has.

Chairman Coutu stated to Mr. Fleury that we have the gist of your presentation and why you want us to reconsider. He wanted to draw his attention if he might, Mr. Fleury, to this document which is from the Town of Hudson's Water Utility and he asked Mr. Fleury if that was his signature on the bottom of that document. Mr. Fleury indicated it was. Mr. Fleury asked if he talked to Ann. Ann is aware why he signed it because he gave her \$100 that day but he told her if his water is still running, then that doesn't work. He went back home and his water never stopped. So how can that be good if it never happened? If it happened, he has no problem. But the water never shut off. So when he spoke with Ann, he had to sign it so his water didn't get shut off. He paid \$100 there. He guessed what happened was he wasn't receiving the mail. The same thing happened with the Sewer Department. He didn't receive the mail. That's not your fault; that's not his fault but when he became aware of it, he likes to pay his bills. If he uses something, he pays it. He had to sign that so he could keep his water on, but his water never was shut off.

[Chairman Coutu] Mr. Fleury just beneath your signature dated on the 15th of July, Ann Inamorati's signature is also there. She signed it right after you did. In fact he would hope that you have read this when you signed it. You're acknowledging that your water was shut off by signing this and that the payment that you were making or the agreement that you were making was that it was in order to either get the water turned back on it would appear to him, and you're signature on the bottom of this letter is acknowledging from what he can see that your water was shut off.

That's why Mr. Fleury wished Ann was here because Ann knows what he said. As he signed it, he's running his water at home. He's going to go back home. He took it as it was going to be shut off. Okay. You came to me, you shut my water off. Okay. He went home and it was never shut off. By "you" Mr. Fleury, you don't mean me personally you mean the Town of Hudson. Mr. Fleury said exactly. You're correct - the Town of Hudson not you as an individual. Chairman Coutu said he didn't have time to run around shutting off water.

Selectman Maddox said that there's two questions in his mind. We have two documents - the disconnection spreadsheet that says it was shut off at 9:35 and a letter from Pennichuck who does all that type of work for us. It says it was turned off at approximately 9:30 a.m. Two different documents and Selectman Nadeau maybe you know, do they have the GPS on their vehicles? Selectman Nadeau said, "Yes they do". [Selectman Maddox] so we could actually go back and find out what vehicle was there in your driveway at 9:30 on the 15th of July if we really pressed the issue. His question is does your shutoff work? Maybe they turned off - you're 259B, could it have been 259A they turned off. Your water kept running but they sent somebody out to turn off the water. Again, there's some questions that he thought that from a water utility standpoint as far as was the right one turned off or is yours broken, but they sent somebody out there. There's 2 distinct areas here that show that Pennichuck sent someone out. They were physically there. If we had to, we could probably go to a third. They were there. They turned off something. Whether yours was actually the one they turned off, but we sent them out and that is for the disconnect fee. He thought that it's kind of obvious that's what it is. We paid Pennichuck.

Chairman Coutu asked what is the wish of the Board. Selectman Massey indicated that he's going to abstain Mr. Chairman. The reason he will be abstaining is because he's been actively involved with this since about September. So he thought it would be inappropriate for him to make a statement for the Board. Chairman Coutu said that Selectman Massey is our liaison to the Water. He's not asking he didn't make a statement; he'd just like to have further clarification because he was hoping to rely on your observations or comments. He didn't want to box Selectman Massey in. He's not trying to do that. If you wish to remain in that position, he's fine with that.

Selectman Massey will simply state the facts. You have before you the documents that show the monthly spreadsheet that the Water Utility Clerk maintains for shut offs, and they're shut off only once a month. On July it was the 15th. You have a letter dated January 15th from Pennichuck which he requested because he wanted to have Pennichuck verify that their records reflected what the Water Utility Clerk, and you have the document in front of you from the Water Utility indicating that Mr. Fleury did acknowledge and agree for a payment plan.

Selectman Jasper agreed with Selectman Maddox. Regardless of whether or not the water actually ended up being turned off, clearly it was supposed to be turned off. Whether the valve to his house is malfunctioning or whether it's mislabeled, the fact of the matter is that Pennichuck went out there and physically took the action to turn it off to turn it back on again. For whatever reason, the bill was not paid and this is the process. So if you never lost your water, well that was lucky in a sense. You never had any

disruption of service. The fact of the matter is you should have and in fact we paid for it to be shut off because of nonpayment. So he didn't see how there was any way that we can actually waive this.

If you look at number 17 on the last sheet of our page, Selectman Nadeau said the address is Tammy Court. Pennichuck went out and shut the water off at 10:52. A lot of time, and he's seen this being in the office a lot, Pennichuck will call in and say, "hey I just shut the water off at Tammy Court." Ten minutes later, the homeowner is down here at the window with a wad of cash in their hand paying the water bill. He could have been right up the road on Webster Street and they call him up and say that they just paid at Tammy Court can you please go turn the water back on. If you look at that one, they shut the water off at 10:52. They turned the water back on at 11:55. Just for a moment. Selectman Massey said that that did not indicate that that's the time it got turned on. That's the point in time that the bill was paid. Selectman Nadeau said, "Right". A lot of times they'll call the guy from Pennichuck and tell him right there to go turn it back on. A lot of times there's a point where the people come in and pay first thing in the morning and they're in the afternoon shut off. They still have to pay if Pennichuck was there and they happen to come in after work and paid the bill. If the water has been shut off, it's been shut off. Once Pennichuck goes there and sometimes they shut off the curb box, sometimes the curb box is broken and they have to go back and fix the curb box in the afternoon, they still get charged the disconnect fee. So he didn't think that we should be waiving the disconnect fee on this one.

Also on the spreadsheet, Selectman Maddox said you can see that he was here on July 15th. He was on Derry Road at 8:40, Abbot Farm Lane at 9:10. So he was in the area. He can't see any reason why he wouldn't have done it. All Mr. Fleury can say is he knocked at his door, handed him a paper, he got it, called the office, came down. He never came back to the house at all. We had company. He didn't come to his home twice that day he came once, knocked on his door, and gave him a letter. He called Ann, showed up, and he never returned back to his home. He had two other people other than him and his wife. He's the only one that came down to pay the bill. So there's 3 other people at the premises that they never returned back. Selectman Maddox said you're saying that he was there. He handed a piece of paper. So he was there. Again, did he turn off the wrong one is probably...Mr. Fleury said he didn't shut it off. He never shut his water off.

Chairman Coutu said Mr. Fleury is missing the point. The point was that it was a scheduled shut off as a result of nonpayment. Obviously up until that point, he didn't believe any effort was made to come into Town Hall to try to make the payment. So they went to your home. Whether they accidentally...excuse me, Mr. Fleury had to interrupt. That isn't true because a tree fell on his garage back at that last windy storm. He did call Ann and told her what was happening because he's on disability. He didn't ask for it, but it happened. A tree fell, hit the roof of the garage, the house ready to cancel. He told Ann everything but she didn't want to hear it, which he understood. Everybody has a different problem at every home. But he did report it. He had the attitude that who cares. Everybody has problems, which he understands. He was aware of it and he did talk to Ann. We weren't getting our mail. As you talk to the Sewer Department, they were aware he wasn't getting it either. Like he said, if it was shut off he wouldn't be here. He would pay it, but it was never shut off. He can't afford to pay for something that never happened. You wouldn't pay for it.

Chairman Coutu said we're paying you for it. That's the whole point. We are paying for it. We have to pay Pennichuck for the service call that has been recorded by them, recorded by our Water Department clerk, and attested to by the Pennichuck...Mr. Fleury said but here says your claim to it...Chairman Coutu said he has the floor. It has been attested to by our Water Clerk and by Pennichuck Water that they went there and did something. Whatever they did, they charged us \$125. The taxpayers of the Town of Hudson should not be responsible or the water service users of the Town of Hudson should not be responsible for paying for a service that was provided by Pennichuck because you were on a shut off notice as a result of nonpayment. You said that you didn't get the mail which indicated to Chairman Coutu when he was reading this when he first went through his packet several days ago that you were unaware that you owed money. Now you just testified that you had already called and at the Water Clerk's office to let them know that a tree fell and you were aware of it, and...Mr. Fleury said that was back in May...Chairman Coutu said and all the way through until July still nothing was done. So apparently that's why a shut off was issued. Mr. Fleury said it never was shut off. According to your documentation, Chairman Coutu said you're stating that you weren't getting any mail; you didn't know what your bill was...Mr. Fleury said he didn't. The mail didn't come to the house. Chairman Coutu said you know you're using water and you have to pay for it...excuse me, Mr. Fleury said he's been a resident for 25 years and always paid his water bill. He didn't know why he would say that to him.

What Chairman Coutu is saying is the Water Department has been charged for the shut off. Unfortunately it's as a result of your residence, and you're responsible for it. It would appear the consensus of the Board is that they are not going to reconsider their decision to deny your appeal. Mr. Fleury said he can't pay for

something that didn't happen. How come the water company why here is saying that they couldn't get the info. The water company they don't make mistakes? Selectman Jasper was wondering what document he was referring to. Selectman Maddox said he didn't see one that looks like that in his packet. Mr. Fleury read, "Unfortunately the water utility will be unable to grant your request for a meter reading on July 15th. The meters that were used by Hudson Water Utility and most other utility...." If they shut the water off that day, they would have a reason.

Selectman Massey said that one of the requests that Mr. Fleury made to the water utility was to prove to him that his water had been shut off. He requested a meter reading. It's pretty clear that you couldn't in September or October do a meter reading as of July 15th. As he pointed out to Mr. Fleury even had they read the meter on the 15th, it wouldn't have indicated whether the water was on or off. The meter is not a means of verifying yes or no as to whether or not the action was taken. Mr. Fleury wanted to add to that comment. If they stop a meter, you get a reading right there. So if they came and stopped it, like you said, the water company came up. If they stop it, they should be able to write the number down, right here to stop the meter, and then come back, but they don't have that.

Chairman Coutu indicated that a shut off and a reading are two separate transactions. They take meter readings at certain intervals. He's sure if they go and shut your water off and it's not time to read the meters, they shut it off, hope you pay it, they'll turn it back on, and whatever your schedule is for the reading with your neighborhood, that's when they would read it. Selectman Massey indicated that when they turn the water off, they simply go out to the curb stop and they turn the water off at the curb and then they go to the next site. They're not going up at the same time and reading the meters. That's exactly what Selectman Nadeau was going to say before Selectman Massey said it. When they shut the water off they don't go read the meter. They shut the water off at the curb. They use what they call a curb turn off box. It shuts the water off to your house or in that case if you said it didn't shut off, they might have shut your neighbor's house because you're at an A and a B. So you said the gentleman was at your house, handed you the paperwork. He was there. Mr. Fleury said yes, he was there but there was no shut off.

Selectman Jasper was going to say in terms of him coming back, he wouldn't notify you and since he's turning it on at the curb unless you're sitting there the whole time looking out the window...which Mr. Fleury said they all were. We were watching it all day. It was a day that we all sat around and watched everything and nothing happened. Regardless, Selectman Jasper said we have the documentation here. The fact of the matter is regardless of whether or not it happened, it should have happened. You incurred that charge because we were billed for it. So even it somehow nobody actually did anything, we got billed for it. At this late date, there's really no way to go back to Pennichuck and argue the point. That's what Mr. Fleury felt. You guys got charged for something they didn't do. Selectman Jasper said it would be very hard for us to believe too that they guy would actually come to your door, give you the notice, and then actually not perform the service. He thought it is possible that your curb stop is not working properly or that it's mislabeled and they turned off A instead of B. Either way, you had the benefit of having running water when you shouldn't have. Chairman Coutu said there's also the possibility they did shut it off and there was still enough pressure and water in the pipes that if they turned the faucet on some water may come out. It just absolutely doesn't go on at all. Selectman Maddox said if they're saying they're running water, again he's guessing it's either the wrong valve was turned off or there's a problem. Most time they know it turns X amount of times. They must know from experience four turns turns off a 1" valve or whatever they've got. His guess is they turned off the wrong house.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to uphold the Board of Selectmen's decision of August 25, 2009, carried 4-0-1. Selectman Massey abstained.

Just for the record Mr. Chairman, the reason why Selectman Massey abstained is he knew before he ever came here that he would not move to reverse the Board's position simply because of all the time he spent on this case over the last 6 months. Chairman Coutu told Mr. Fleury that the decision of the Board is not to abate and we're going to stand by our original decision on the basis of the evidence that's been presented here this evening. Mr. Fleury asked what do they do. He has evidence that it was never shut off. What do we do now? He's been disputing it for quite a long time. He's got to keep disputing it. What do we do? He can't pay for something that didn't happen. Selectman Maddox said maybe his esteem colleague across the table can answer this question. The fee is for the technician to go out and to turn of the water and then go back and turn it back on. So the vehicle was there. They went there. That's what it was for. That's what happened.

Selectman Massey said there's two pieces you have to be aware of. The reason for going to the property was because the individual's water bill was not up to date. In fact, in had been out of date for quite some time. So there was two pieces to it. There was in fact payment in arrears and the fact that the truck went

there. So it wouldn't matter whether he turned it on or off or not. He went there because there was a nonpayment of the water. Selectman Jasper told Mr. Fleury that he's going to have to realize that, and he didn't know the actual dollar amounts, that if you don't pay this bill you'll risk another shut off because we don't have an obligation to provide you with water if your bill is not paid in full. So you could risk another \$125 charge. At that point, he thought it would be the Board's position that we not work out a payment plan because we'd end up in the same situation. So we wait, turn it off again, and now you're going to owe us \$250. He didn't think that was in his interest. Mr. Fleury said right now the statement is still wrong. He only owes \$28.20 as of right now. The statement is still wrong because there's a \$125 fee in there that they paid for something that he wasn't paying for. He understood. His bill is paid up. He only owes \$28.20 according to \$125 that he's being charged for something that didn't take place. He didn't know. What do we do?

Chairman Coutu said the Town of Hudson Water Utility Commission is being charged for that fee, and we're passing that on to you as a result of...Mr. Fleury said they're being falsely charged. So what do we do? Chairman Coutu said he was sorry. Unfortunately there's nothing we can do. Get a hold of the billing clerk, Ann Inamorati if you're continually paying on your water bill try to make an arrangement to pay down on the \$125 fee. He's sure we can arrange something for you with respect to that and not force you to come up with the full \$125. Stay on top of the water bill and try to make arrangements to pay the \$125. We're only passing on to you a cost that the Town has borne, the Water Utility Commission has borne, and we need to be reimbursed. We paid it, and now the Water Utility users...Mr. Fleury asked why are they coming after him when they made the error at the water company. Chairman Coutu said because they were going to shut off your water anyway. Whether they did or didn't, they went there and provided a service. They went to your home and we paid that fee. Mr. Fleury said they didn't provide the service Sir. They didn't. Chairman Coutu said he wasn't there. He did see whether they turned it on or off. Mr. Fleury said he pays his bills here. Something happened. He's not going to go into what happened at his household. That's no the purpose of this meeting, but a lot did happen last year. We took care of our problem.

Chairman Coutu understood and a decision has been made Sir. He's sorry that it didn't go in his favor, but that is the decision of this Board. Selectman Maddox thought, and would hopefully Mr. Fleury will agree, that we try to work it out. He's sure that the water utility clerk - there's a process. We don't just turn people's water off. There's a whole lengthy process. So this wasn't a month behind, two months behind, three months behind. It was a process. When you go in and work with them, the Water Utility Committee sits with these types of questions all the time. So we try to work with people. He thought what he has to get over is the man handed you the letter. He was there to turn off your water. If he didn't, he thought at some point we need to check to make sure that your valve does in fact work. But we got charged, you got charged, that's the bill for the water shut off. Whether it actually happened or not, we'll never know. The vehicle was there.

- William Tate - Mr. Chairman if I could interrupt for a minute. He asked to be on public session earlier with the Board's secretary. He wanted to know if it was on the agenda or it isn't. Chairman Coutu said that public session was held and you weren't here to make...Selectman Jasper said he was here. Mr. Tate does have a hearing aide. He may not have heard you.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to allow William Tate to speak.

Mr. Tate didn't mean to interrupt. Most people know he doesn't hear well. He speaks loud but don't hear well. My name is William Tate. He's a past resident of the Town of Hudson for the last 60 years, and he moved out of here about 3 years ago. He has local business here. He's here speaking on the economic development. He own local business establishments here and have employees within this town for 40 years or more. He's been involved in politics - inside, outside. He's been on the Planning Board. What he brought to the Board is something that came from Jim Michaud, which is the commercial industrial tax base. He believes the Board had it in front of them. He wanted to speak after economic state development was here.

If you look at his computations down half way through, from 99 to 2009 we have a 41 percent decrease in commercial and industrial tax base. He's been really familiar with commercial industrial development and business functions within this community over a number of years. He thought it was very important that the Board of Selectmen relay downward. You really are the figure heads and the leaders whether we believe in some of you, and some we don't, whatever. He's not pointing any fingers. Selectman Massey said you can point all you want Mr. Tate. Mr. Tate said you really are. A serious economic development thing came about 15 - 20 years ago. Some of the people that are here were there. It just blew up in smoke. He's very supportive of a real strong economic development push within the community and even further than that nationally and state wide. He'd like to support this, but he just wanted to show this document. This is the soul that is really happening. Mr. Tate thought it kind of gets on the wayside here. You really need to organize and get some businesses to speak to you or speak to your representatives and to relay to you the concerns or way out of the crisis we're in. We're in it. We kind of know it better than you guys do because

we've been in it, and we've been 15 rounds before. We have to bob and weave a lot; we're a lot older now. It really concerns him and he came to this Board - many of the members he knows here. They've been here a long time. They've been on different boards and he's been on some boards with them. He thought it was really important. At 63 it's really not for him it's for the people that have worked for him from fathers, to sons that are still working for him and partners he's taken to people that have been with him for 40 years. It's important. Their livelihood depends on what we do as a town and what this nation does. If you want to get the grass roots, this is grass roots. There's only 5 of you. You're just seedlings. He just hoped that you're thinking of your constituents when you're dealing with whatever is going on here. There's a lot of people out of work, losing homes, and he means it seriously. Some people he's helped out that sometimes just a little bit gets you over the hump or keeps you going for another day or so. He just wanted to state that. He would have rather stated that after the other. He's sorry. He didn't hear. He brought his ears with him, and he didn't hear either.

The Board thanked Mr. Tate.

B. Telecommunications Technician - Police Department

Chairman Coutu recognized Police Chief Jason Lavoie. Good evening Chief and welcome.

Chief Lavoie thanked him and the Board for having him. We recently received a resignation from one of our dispatchers. He'd like to request the Board's permission to post that and try to hire someone to fill that vacancy. The dispatcher's position we currently have two assigned to every shift. We really feel a need to maintain it. When he says four per shift, that's not completely true. On late nights, we don't have two. We have the one from roughly 3 a.m. to 7 a.m.

Chairman Coutu said he now remembers receiving her resignation. It was effective when? Chief Lavoie said she's working through this week. She gave a two week notice, and February 14th he believed is her last day. Chairman Coutu asked and this process could take how long Chief. Chief Lavoie said it all depends. By contract that the union has, he's required to post it for 5 days inside with your permission. The contract says 5 days it has to be posted for at least. Once the posting is done, he'll set up a date to hold interviews. He does have some part-time staff now that is very interested in turning full time. They've made that clear to him for a long period of time. We've recently talked to them in light of the resignation, and that still holds true today.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Massey, to advertise for a full-time Telecommunications Technician at the starting rate of \$16.78 in accordance with Police Union Local #3657 contract effective July 1, 2009, carried 5-0.

Since the Chief is here already and Selectman Massey was going to do it under "Other Business", with the Board's indulgence, he would like to bring up now as opposed to later. The Chief informed Selectman Massey on Saturday that he has the opportunity to apply for a grant for alcohol compliance. It's an annual project that he does. Unfortunately, the deadline for applying is the 18th, which means it's not going to be enough time for us to act before our next meeting on the 23rd. So he's asked him to briefly tell the Board what he wants to do and to see if the Board would like to approve the application of the grant.

Chairman Coutu recognized Chief Lavoie for that purpose.

Chief Lavoie stated that for years, and years, and years we've been doing this. Everyone here is familiar with alcohol compliance checks that we do. We're looking at continuing with that process. It's been very successful. In 2008 we did all the restaurants and all the stores in town that sell alcohol. We only had one establishment that was not in compliance. That's excellent. Our goal is to have 100 percent compliance, but we only had one that did not comply. That's great but its programs like this that help keep the kids away from the alcohol, etc. to keep them safer. Parts of our plan are to continue with that process as well as sending officers into the stores, make observations. Recently we've partnered with the school system and you may be familiar with the HITS dance or the HITS program that took place over the last couple of weeks. We're working jointly with that. This money is to continue towards education and try to deal with establishments not selling alcohol to minors.

Selectman Maddox said that he was sure that you've all seen it. We've seen a real influx of businesses applying to the State for alcohol. So he thought there's probably a lot of new businesses that are coming on line. He's probably seen 10 in the last 2 or 3 months. It's been a lot that we've gotten from the AD Edwards - the compliance - because he sends one to the Town. So there's probably a lot of new facilities that may not

be - they went to the school for the training, but he thought it was good that we follow up behind them and make sure that they are as good as the other ones that obviously did very well.

The other question for the Chief is when someone fails twice in a row, what is the procedure? Chief Lavoie said luckily to his knowledge that has not happened yet even though the last 2 or 3 years anyway. That is the penalty system that is dealt with by Chief Edwards. They handle all that as far as the penalties that are getting post.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to authorize Chief Lavoie to apply for the NH Department of Justice Grant in the amount of \$8,129.37 enforcing underage drinking law, carried 5-0.

C. Public Hearing/Robinson Pond Chemical Treatment Program

Town Administrator Stephen Malizia stated that the Conservation Commission has applied for a grant similar to the one they applied for last year which was for Ottarnic Pond. This year it's for Robinson Pond. It's for the chemical treatment for Milfoil and Fanwort. The cost of the treatment of the pond is \$47,775. They're looking to get a grant from the NH DES in the amount of \$14,332.50, which the remaining balance of \$33,442.50 will be paid out of the Conservation Commission fund. So what basically we're looking for is a public hearing and then after that to accept the grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services in the amount of \$14,332.50 and to authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the certificate from DES. So the public hearing would be the first requirement.

Chairman Coutu declared a public hearing on Robinson Pond Chemical Treatment Program open at 8:50 p.m. If there's anyone here who wishes to speak on the motion on the Robinson Pond Chemical Treatment Program, please step forward. Seeing none, is there anyone wishing to speak in opposition? Seeing none, Chairman Coutu declared the meeting closed at 8:51 p.m.

Just as a point of reference, and Selectman Massey realized at the Town Deliberative Session that he was off by one. The State every year takes all of the water bodies in the State and ranks them in terms of their need for invasive species management. They then take the amount of money that they have and they start going down the line and when they run out of money, that's when they stop awarding matching grants. Last year, the Town of Hudson - Ottarnic Pond was 14th on the list and Robinson Pond was 16th on the list. They stopped the funding at 15. For whatever reason, they came back to the Town this year - the Conservation Commission, and told them that they did have some additional money. Instead of the 50 percent matching grant, it was only going to be 30 percent. Because in truth the Conservation Commission believes it is important to do this, they came to the Board about a month ago and asked permission to apply for the grants and it's now come back before the Board to accept and approve the matching funds. The money will come out of the conservation fund.

Last year when we did Ottarnic Pond we limited boat use. Selectman Nadeau asked if this was a different process that they use in here. Selectman Massey didn't believe it was a different process, but we didn't get any indication when the DES personnel came to the thing that they believe - he didn't believe water craft are not allowed on Robinson Pond. Is that correct Selectman Jasper? Selectman Jasper said they are. If you recall, Ottarnic Pond was so badly infested that they felt the only way to effectively treat it was by totally shutting off the boat traffic. What he can gather from that is Robinson Pond is not at the level that Ottarnic was. Again, Selectman Massey said none of the discussions with the DES suggested that they - he remembered last year them saying to the Conservation Commission that you need to restrict the water traffic. They did not do that this year. Selectman Nadeau didn't see it in these notes, and he knew that Robinson Pond is...Mr. Malizia believed it's deeper too where Ottarnic is much shallower. Selectman Jasper said probably a lot better water flow through the pond as well.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to accept the grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services in the amount of \$14,332.50 for the Robinson Pond Chemical Treatment Program, with the balance of \$33,442.50 for a total cost of \$47,775.00 to come out of the Conservation Fund, and to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to sign the certificate from DES for the treatment process.

Selectman Massey said this is another reason why the creation of that capital reserve fund is so important. This is a \$47,000 item, and he believed that we spent about \$60,000 total between the State and the Town last year for Ottarnic Pond. In other business, he will be talking about something else that's going to help in this program. For the time being, he thought this is an important issue for water quality in the pond.

Being a user of Robinson Pond and many other ponds in the State of New Hampshire, Selectman Nadeau does agree with this. A capital reserve fund is a good idea. In this memo here, it says that we should provide a multi-year plant control which is recommended. He does know that a lot of ponds in the area not just around here but in the Lakes Region, they are now going with a 3 to 4 year plan to control Fanwort and Milfoil because it is a very invasive species. Once you get these in your water bodies, it really does ruin the swimming and the water use canoeing and stuff because of the Fanwort and Milfoil. He does think that getting a capital reserve fund is also a very good idea so that we don't have such large expenditures at one time, and we're lucky that the Conservation Commission is willing to do this for us this time.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Just to follow up so that we keep the topic alive, Selectman Massey said both Ottarnic Pond Association and Robinson Association are working on multi-year plans now for the control of these species. Point of fact, they've learned from the NH Lakes Association that they are going to be eligible for a matching grant. At the moment, they will be coming to the Board on the 23rd. He just has to check with the Town Administrator whether it's going to be a town application or these organization's applications. Basically what it is going to be is to have the town invest in a "diver assisted suction harvester". What it allows you to do is take a scuba diver and go into the water and root out the infestation at the root level. The plan is to do Ottarnic Pond this summer and to do Robinson Pond next year. The thinking is that if we go down this road, ultimately we may have to do less of the herbicides because with this you can spend a little more time pulling the stuff out at the roots. The reason why this is all critical as he learned last night at the Conservation Commission, Robinson Pond and Ottarnic Pond are considered by the State to be source points for these two invasive species. That's why they came to the Town and asked them if they would be interested - the Lakes Association would they be interested in applying for this grant.

Chairman Coutu asked if any of that stuff could be turned into a salad because he's sure Selectman Nadeau would find a way to use it. Interesting enough, Selectman Massey said it is able to be composted and can be used on dry land as compost because again, it appears that the seeds only germinate in water. They do not germinate on dry land. If there's anybody that's going to be looking for ways to have compost, this might be one way to do it. Selectman Nadeau said they're working on it at the high school. It will be something that he might be...again; Selectman Massey thought the follow up on what Selectman Nadeau said, both of those 2 associations are actively looking now at a multi-year plan for managing these two extremely invasive species. Chairman Coutu hoped we could get it under control. It seems to be an ongoing problem.

D. Budget to Actuals

Chairman Coutu deferred to the Town Administrator.

Town Administrator Stephen Malizia said they looked at the budget to actuals through December at the last meeting, and we were able to turn the crank and get them through January for this meeting. He knows we looked at motor vehicles and interest - nothing much has improved there. From expenditure perspective, we're about 58 almost 60 percent of the way through the year. We're within reason on the expenditure side and we kind of look at pretty thoroughly last time. He didn't see anything right now on the expenditure side that causes concern. Revenue side obviously motor vehicles and interest. There really isn't any.

However, we have tied up some of the money of the Treasurer - part of it is tied money in CDs which we recognize the interest when they mature. There's some varying lengths there but the climate is still pretty poor. We've inquired to other banks. It's not any better. As least as Mr. Malizia understood it, the Treasurer and the Finance Director have tried to look around and maybe entice another bank to get the Town's business and there's no enticement at this point.

If Selectman Massey might follow up on that. He talked with the Treasurer on Saturday at the Town Meeting and she indicated to him that she would love to have been able to get the same kind of interest rate for the Town that the Trustees of the Trust Funds apparently were able to get on one of their CDs. It appears that the bank did an oops when they gave that rate to the Trustees. Mr. Malizia said Ocean State Bank - they somehow got a deal and we couldn't get the same deal. Chairman Coutu said a conversation with Mr. Lathrop with regard to transferring some of the funds. That was a good mistake for us. Selectman Massey said it was a good mistake. It was like 3 percent that they got and the best that you're going to get from any of the banks right now is around .03 percent.

Selectman Jasper's comment he wanted to make is just as sort of an update. Representative Jean Chandler was a prime sponsor to a bill to restore the rooms and meals money to the towns and cities. That was a total of \$5 million. He was successful in getting that through the house. Once it will go in the Senate who knows.

Selectman Jasper was the prime sponsor of the bill to return the \$25 million from the revenue sharing to the cities and towns and that failed. Of course they said to him, look what happens when we send in the B Team. It wasn't good thinking on his part. He should have taken the one with the lower amount. He doubted that the other will make it through the Senate. At any rate, we've got some other bills that are being heard to try to lower the tax and fee increases that were done in the middle of the night last year. So far not surprisingly we're not having much good luck. We can take some solace that our revenue picture is looking much better than the State's.

Just to clarify, Mr. Malizia said we are getting the rooms and meals. We're just not getting any increase in rooms and meals. So for the public out there, it hasn't totally disappeared. We're not getting any increase. He believed the State upped that rate and didn't...Selectman Jasper said what it was we went from 8 to 9 percent and normally we would have gotten a percentage of that increase, and we didn't get any of the percentage in the increase in the rooms and meals. Just so people know, Mr. Malizia said we are getting what we originally got for last year. Selectman Jasper thought the rooms and meals tax is underperforming anyhow.

So, again, Mr. Malizia said we continue to monitor and provide you with the report but we can't make people register a car or apparently we can't beat the banks enough.

Selectman Massey said there was some indication in the paper this weekend that the Senate was unlikely to pass either one of those. Selectman Jasper said they're only going to get a chance to kill one of them. The other one we killed in the House. Selectman Massey said the other sad news in the sense that it now means that there's a serious shortfall is that the Supreme Court ruled against the State of the use of the insurance funds to the tune of \$112 million. Selectman Jasper said that was a bad decision to go after it. We tried to tell them stealing was wrong.

Selectman Maddox just noticed in our revenue one thing is very flush. The sewer base charges and the sewer consumption charges are at 75 percent. Mr. Malizia said we would have billed $\frac{3}{4}$ of this through January.

E. Alvirne High School Internship Program

Chairman Coutu recognized Assistant Town Manager Mark Pearson. With regard to this, Selectman Maddox had requested Mr. Pearson to look into it as a result of a suggestion that we look into an internship program and working in conjunction with the high school. Selectman Maddox felt that perhaps it would be very useful for the Community Development office to take advantage of this program. You've provided us with some documentation as to your research Mr. Pearson and if you'd give us a general overview please do so.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pearson followed up with Alvirne and inquired about the program and received a guideline of what they expect, which is attached to the cover letter. Both what we should expect from the program and what the program should expect from us. The applicant for this program was selected by the school. In this case, she did offer to send more than one but he told her why don't we start off with one to see how it works. She provided him with an applicant that's 16 years of age and a junior at Alvirne, and is enrolled in the Academy of Finance program. He interviewed the candidate and described some of the proposed internship work that would fall within the guidelines of the school. If selected or if we're allowed to move forward with the application and to have this intern come in, the intern would work a total of 135 hours unpaid until the end of the school year. The hours that the intern would work would be 3 afternoons per week between the hours of 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

As far as the work in the Community Development office, he thought it would be fundamentally unfair to just have the intern working on the scanning project which would be just unstapling papers and just doing exclusively that work. He thought he'd mix it up a little bit. He did explain to her that he would expect that she would do some of that, but he didn't think the intern would be learning anything to take staples out of papers, and paper clips off papers, and prepping files. So having said that, the staff is working on also that project in their time as time allows. He thought the intern would work on that some of the time and then he would try to expose the intern to other things in the office to help out which could free up the staff to work on the scanning project. It may help out in the sense that it's one more person to do some other tasks in there and a little bit of shadowing, and certainly the intern would benefit greatly from that experience. Chairman Coutu said he was sure she has some computer skills and she'd be adept to be in a position to be able to understand what's involved in sending out form letters if the names and addresses are provided, or she can get those ready for signature, and things of that nature. He appreciated him looking into it, and he appreciates your interest in wanting to partake in this.

Chairman Coutu thought it serves two purposes. Though it is not going to augment your staff tremendously, it is another body that can do some of the functions to free up some of your staff. And two, it affords us an opportunity to create a linkage with our school department and to offer, in this case, a young lady an opportunity to get in touch with the real world of work in the office environment. With that, he would entertain a motion to allow Mr. Pearson to contract with Alvirne High School for the hiring of a student intern for the rest of this school year. That would be the motion. He wanted it done with the understanding that we allow Mr. Pearson to use her skills and talents and whatever he can teach her at his discretion for his needs to service the needs of the Community Development Department.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Jasper, that the Board of Selectmen authorize an agreement with the Alvirne High School Internship Program for an unpaid intern at the Community Development Department for eighteen (18) weeks or 135 hours to the end of the 2010 school year.

Again, Selectman Maddox thought this is a chance for us to partner with the schools to see how this works out on a basis with the Community Development Department, but he would also like to see him utilize this person to maybe back fill some of the things that John is doing so that he can spend more time on the projects that we're trying to push him towards. So some of the paperwork if you will for the Planning Board to get set up. He thought this person would be great to be able to package up some of that information for the Planning Board packets, assemble that, work with that type of thing so that John could be out doing other things that we want to bring more positive into the Town. He thought this was a great idea. He's glad whoever thought of it came up with it. Selectman Massey asked if he was tapping his own...Selectman Maddox said no. It actually came from the Chairman.

Selectman Nadeau was glad to see that we're thinking outside the box and that we're working with the high school with the intern programs. He was lucky enough when he was at Alvirne to go through the intern program and do something similar to this except his was in the floral business. He went to work for a flower shop. His actually turned into a 12 year career in a flower shop. He liked to see this more into other departments maybe one at a time. This time it's in your department. Next time maybe finance. Next time maybe a marketing person that could be working on marketing the program of economic development. They have an excellent marketing program at Alvirne. Maybe we should be looking at that as our next one that they could work on a program for us to market the industrial parks and other areas in town. Maybe we can work with the landscape department to have an intern work with Kevin's guys when it's time to do the spring plantings and working in the Town Common and stuff. When he was in Alvirne, we had a couple of guys go to landscape companies and they were more in the 17, 18 age bracket. But they did it over the summer. They did their 135 over the summer, which could help out Kevin in the Highway Department. So he thought this was a great opportunity that we should be looking into for other departments in the town.

Just so you know Selectman Nadeau, Chairman Coutu said we're not restricted to just one at a time. We can apply for more than one. We want to keep it within something that's manageable for our community. Those are excellent ideas, and he hoped that department heads hear your message and hear the call and are encouraged to apply to do exactly that.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Coutu thanked Mr. Pearson for looking into that, and good luck with training that individual.

9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Maddox - A couple of things. It was brought out during the DRED presentation that monies for if we had to send someone to travel or meals or something, he thought we do have that \$17,000. He thought we should give the Town Administrator latitude to expend money from that account as him and the Assistant Town Administrator and the Town Planner see fit. Reasonable. Pick a number - \$200 or under. Mr. Malizia said he will never overspend your money. Chairman Coutu asked if he was talking about the economic development - the \$17,000 in there minus...Selectman Maddox said minus a \$1,000. He was just saying that they shouldn't have to come to us. There needs to be a certain amount of latitude that if a company was interested in coming here or they wanted to meet at Logan Airport in Boston, we need to be a little flexible in being able to do things. The Town Administrator knows our frugality. He didn't see him going to Las Vegas. He's just saying to be able to do some things on the fly to be able to facilitate moving this forward Mr. Chairman, some latitude needs to be given to the man that we put in daily charge.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Massey, to authorize the Town Administrator to expend monies from the Economic Development Donation Account monies for needed purposes to economic development.

Selectman Massey wouldn't preclude, but he would think that depending on the circumstances some longer distance travel might make sense. On that case, he would think the Administrator would bring it to the Board for approval. He wouldn't out of hand say don't go to Vegas, but he thought the Board as a whole should make that kind of decision. In general thought what Selectman Maddox is talking about makes a great deal of sense. Selectman Maddox said there's a show property owners or reps in the New England area, or some sort of expo for businesses, monies to be able to sign up or to have a booth, or whatever we need to be able to do to keep pushing this forward. Again without having to come back here and ask for \$89 or whatever, he thought the Town Administrator knows our frugality. He's not worried about running out of money any time soon but to give them some latitude. Mr. Malizia said we'd still do the PO system anyway. Like he said, the limits that are in place would still be observed. He can't imagine off the top of this head something would be over \$1,000 out of the gate. But if it were to be, it goes through the Chairman anyways. So we'd just follow those rules.

Chairman Coutu said as long as we follow the rules. He wasn't going to support this motion because it scares him.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

The next thing. Selectman Maddox said that the gentleman did say was to be faster. So one of the things that Planning Board did talk about at its last meeting was trying to be faster, to be more nimble. One of the things we suggested was that staff bring plans to the Planning Board as a conceptual. Don't spend a lot of money having engineering done. If you already have an existing site plan and you were taking over a building and you just wanted to change the driveway, or add a loading dock, mark up the existing one, come in under conceptual, and see what the objections are, see how fast it's going to go, and try to be cutting down the time would still doing our responsibility to do what the Planning Board is supposed to do. Again, to try to push staff towards utilizing this mechanism of conceptual review so that, again, the applicant doesn't spend hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars to find out that that may not be something that is going to fly. He thought the Planning Board is also moving towards trying to do some things that will facilitate a speedier turnaround.

The next thing Mr. Chairman - red lights. The Police Chief has informed him they have done a number of directed patrols watching for people running through red lights. It's going to be a problem some day. It's happened out here at Library and Ferry a number of times where people have gone through red lights. The Police Department has done a number of sessions of directed patrols and the numbers are quite high. He thought it was like four dozen citations, a whole lane yards at a couple of different intersections. Again, he knows we're all in a hurry but this isn't Massachusetts. You don't get to go through the red lights for three cars going after the red light. It's just amazing how you see the cars going through. Somebody is going to get at the end of Exit 2 people going to Rodger's obviously, they're just screaming right through there. If somebody pulled out, it would be ugly. So kudos to the Police Department for trying to work on that issue amongst many of their others.

The last thing Selectman Maddox has is we had Deliberative Session. There was the last item. The item about the Radziewiczs. He didn't want to get into that per say, but he does want to get into the fact that he did call the Assistant Town Administrator/Community Development overseer to say that he certainly hoped that he has policies and procedures in place that the comments that were made would not happen today. People get phone calls returned. People get answers in a timely manner. We put more things in writing. Mr. Pearson assured him that that is the case. So it was disheartening to hear some of the comments. If it happened, don't know, but from this point on Mr. Pearson has assured him that if you come to the counter, you're going to get treated professionally and courteously. You will get answers. It may not be the one you want, but you will get an answer. Again, it was kind of disheartening Saturday to hear some of those. But folks we made some changes and he thought that this is one of the things that Mr. Pearson knew right from the get go that we were looking for more customer friendly/customer service avenues. He thought that is being done. If it is not, his telephone number is in the book. All of our numbers are in the book. The first stop is at the Town Administrator's. If you feel that you're not getting answers and getting treated the way you should be, and then go to him. But if he doesn't or you don't feel like he's the person you want to talk to, we're all available. So Mr. Chairman, again, it was disheartening to hear on Saturday but he hoped that that is not going to be the case ever again in Hudson.

Chairman Coutu knows he wanted to speak on something that Selectman Jasper that he said to earlier. He wanted to just comment on that directly and in all fairness to Mr. Pearson is that when this incident was taking place, it was during the transitional period and prior to Mr. Pearson coming on board. Mr. Pearson is now the head of that realm and as you say if people are unsatisfied with the service they're getting at the desk, and he has not heard any complaints, but if that should be the case and someone feels that they're being given the run around or mistreated, they are to get a hold of Mr. Pearson first and try to resolve it with him and bring their complaint to them. If they feel that they're not being satisfied, then their other avenue is either the Town Administrator or any one of us as you say. We're visible and we're on the web page and our addresses and e-mail addresses and phone numbers are there as well as being listed in the book.

Selectman Nadeau - I have a couple of things. The first one is he talked to Kevin Burns the Road Agent. The American Legion and he have talked in the past over the Town Common where the firing squad is. They've always complained that it's uneven and the grade is off, and the guys are always standing at different angles. They wanted to make a pad of some type over there. We've talked about it in the past. We've never done anything with it. One of the things a few people have come up with the idea of is making a pad out of bricks similar to the walk way that goes to the gazebo and maybe around the flag pole so when we put the wreath there that if its muddy, rainy there's something that we can actually put there. The Legion is willing to somehow come up with the funds whether to sell the bricks like they do at the high school or fund it themselves to make a pad for the firing squad and around the flag pole so that there is a place to put the wreath. Mr. Burns said he had no real objective to it as long as it was flush and easy for him to mow over and that it wouldn't make any maintenance problems for him. He told him that being in the landscape field that he could assure him and help him out with that that we could come up with a plan that would work for both parties. Selectman Nadeau was just wondering what the Board thinks of it and if they have any objections to it. Chairman Coutu thought it was a great idea. A great scouting idea too as well. They did the brickwork at St. Kathryn's. They did an outstanding job up there at the stations. Selectman Nadeau said we do have a Boy Scout troop, so that's something that he can look into that. Chairman Coutu and Selectman Massey said it would be a great Eagle Scout project. Selectman Massey said that was how that project at St. Kathryn's was actually funded. The scouts sold the bricks. Chairman Coutu said the library was funded with the selling of the bricks.

Selectman Nadeau said another thing that he went to this week and Selectman Jasper was also there was Alvirne's Farm of Distinction. They got an award from the State of New Hampshire Department of Agriculture for being a Farm of Distinction. They'll have a new plaque hanging out in front of the barn. We thought that it was going to be a longer process to get to it. You have to meet certain standards and criteria. So it's a nice thing to know that the Alvirne Farm is a Farm of Distinction in the State of New Hampshire. There were videos of different farms, and they showed pictures of all the farms in the area that got it. The one that was close to us actually was in Goffstown. There was a blueberry farm and it happened to be somebody he went to college with. So that was kind of interesting.

The other thing is going back to the Highway Department with the snow storm coming up tomorrow, the parking ban that we have until April 1st is no parking on the streets from 11 at night to 7 in the morning.

One of the other things is, and he didn't know if he touched on it in the past meetings, but the Highway Department had the County prisoners come up and give a face lift to the Highway Department. They cleaned up inside, painted the walls, and that was one of those things that was very low cost to the Town but very effective for the Town to have done. So we've used them in the past to do work at the Community Center. They've painted that before. So it's one of those great ideas.

The other thing is before he forgets, when we were here at one of our meetings, one of the applicants withdrew his name from being on the Benson's Committee. That was Mike Pitre. He said that he was interested in being on the Buildings Committee. He didn't know if you've tried coming in contact with him. But he does remember him stating at the meeting and his name has been brought up before at other meetings that he was interested in being on the Buildings Committee. He would hope that was one of the people that he contacted. That's all that he has for the moment and he'll wait until you go into the Benson's.

Selectman Massey - He had two things tonight Mr. Chairman. The first one is he had correspondence with the Director of the Able Network. They have yet to locate a suitable applicant for the senior programs position. They continue to work. In light of that and in a conversation that Selectman Nadeau and he had a couple of months ago and he just touched upon it tonight. They can provide people for all sorts of work. So it's one of those areas where again the department heads if they have a need for some type of individual, and we're talking now anybody that's going to be selected is over 55 years old. That's who this organization is funded to support. They can provide at their cost people to come to town. One of the ideas as an example that Selectman Nadeau mentioned to me was they could be the people that keep all of our

equipment clean. They could wash the cars and the trucks, paint them, etc., etc. So it might be something that the department heads if they see a need where it would be nice to have this type of effort that we could work with the Able Network to provide that type of person. Selectman Jasper said that's not necessarily full time work. Selectman Massey said its 20 hours a week. Selectman Jasper was wondering as the police liaison we're going to be hiring someone full time from the ranks of the part time dispatchers; he was wondering if this might be something that might be appropriate for some of those. It would seem like that may be an area that has the potential and then to grow into something. Selectman Nadeau said what they do in Nashua is they do clean the cars for the Police Department. They do maintenance in the buildings. At the police station they clean and stuff. They help out the staff that's already in place there. What Selectman Jasper just said was it could be a good position for someone to start out with in that we're not having to train them. It would be a good idea if the Chief could look into that with you if that would work for him. Selectman Massey said he would talk with him.

One other thing. It was prompted by the presentation we had here on the economic development to have our processes published. He was just wondering if it wouldn't be appropriate to reconvene and reinvigorate the small committee that was put together with personnel from the Planning Board, the Board of Selectmen, and the Community Development to come up with the flow chart if you will Selectman Maddox for how you get through the Planning Board process. We haven't met on the committee now in 6 months. So he thought it might be worthwhile to reconvene and see if we can't jump start that and get it done. Chairman Coutu said he would leave that to him to work out with the Community Development Director and see what you can come up with, set up some sort of an agenda, and have a meeting. It's a great idea. We need to show that we're going to work with them and expedite the process as you...Selectman Maddox said to at least explain the process. One of the things we heard from the Chamber representative that came was that they just didn't understand. They didn't have a problem with the process if they understood it. Selectman Massey said he was an active participant in helping with us.

Selectman Jasper - Thank you Mr. Chairman. He'll touch on his other things before he goes into Benson's. The comment that he wanted to make relative to what Selectman Maddox said, and it was really touched on in a couple of the slides that was shown. He alluded to the fact that we should make posters out of a couple of them. We are in direct competition particularly when it comes to industrial space with Nashua. What he constantly hears is how well the Planning Board process works in Nashua. Without trying to cast aspersions to our Planning Board because he thought it's a culture that's developed, but he thought we need to change that culture and get the Planning Board away from what he considers micromanaging in a lot of areas. One of the things that really jumped out was the trees, shrubs, and the plants. That was mentioned. That's something that he often noticed and seen with our Planning Board is that they feel they own the property and they get to tell the property owner what to plant. We have certain regulations as to how much is green space, and there may be some other regulations as to trees. He thought we needed to recognize that a property owner has certain rights. If you're trying to screen from a neighbor, then there are certain things that are appropriate. That, again, to a large degree should be what does the property owner want to do. We need to look at does it meet the regulations. When the plan gets to the Planning Board, the regulation should have been met. This should not be a long, drawn out process because we have professionals to look at this. With all due respect to the Planning Board, most of them are not professional engineers or certified landscape architects, or anything like that. So the Planning Board needs to back off from some of that. As our representatives there, he thought the two of you should attempt to foster that if the rest of the Board agrees that we need to make the process as easy as it is in Nashua. He thought Nashua does have a good process. We have a very good Planner in John Cashell and that he is very able to make sure that the regulations are met. He would just hope that we would try to work to do that and recognize the property rights of people. Somebody may say well there's not enough trees there, that should be the property owner's right. If he doesn't want to have a tree on his property, nobody should tell him. Green space is green space. The purpose is not to get into a debate but to look at that. If we want to attract industry, we have to make this a process where am I going to spend a month in Nashua or 3 months in Hudson. They're going to go to Nashua.

Selectman Maddox said are you then saying you're willing to hire 3 more people. Nashua has 6 people in their Planning Department. You're absolutely right. They make it a much shorter on camera time because there's a lot more staff doing all that minutia. You're absolutely right. He's just saying that you're talking that the Planning Board ends up looking at plans more detailed than they should but from history. Maybe that is something we need to look at. All he's saying is they have a lot more people to do it in a month than we do in our 3. Selectman Jasper said that may be true and maybe there are ways around that. Applicants we can say if you're willing to pay for the review from professional staff that we hire, that's one way of doing it. The other way of perhaps doing it, and one thing that he noted over the years, is that somebody will come in the Planning Board will make all these comments, come in and correct them, and then somebody will make a new comment. He thought at some point you have to have closure. You either studied the plan and

recognized the issues, or you've lost your opportunity. Unless it is something that is blatantly doesn't meet the regulation, that's the thing that he has noticed over the years is - you solved all my first 10, now I have another 10, and then you come back and oh well I have some more. That's one of the problems that he has seen. Selectman Maddox was just saying that again they have staff that have the time to do that. The applicant moves the building for whatever reason that opens up another hole. He doesn't disagree with him and he thought that one of the things that Selectman Massey and he are hopefully going to be able to do is to push that conceptual so that they're not spending a lot of time to get that first bite of the apple and then get sent away after they've spent \$10,000 on a drawing. We can hopefully move this through faster. Heard your comments and he thought that, again, it's something that the Chairman of the Planning Board has talked about trying to move those things through.

Selectman Massey thought there is two other pieces of this. The first one is if you're familiar with the Town of Hudson and its site plan and zoning regulations, Nottingham Square went through he believed in just 2 meetings. The developer knew what was going to be asked and for the most part, the first meeting the majority of the stuff was done. That's a huge development. So he thought the other thing that maybe we need to talk to the Planner about is for newbies or people that seem to have problems getting their stuff through is to have a little more talk about what they need to do with their plans in order to get them through. We have in some cases 6, 7 months.

Selectman Maddox thought that maybe this intern program is something that we might want to foster deeper and harder to see how they do with helping John Cashell so he could spend another hour with an applicant, especially one of the new ones to get him past those hurdles. The frustrations that the Planning Board has is staff because they are so thin. Now it's been quiet as far as development, missed some of this stuff that's in the regulations. The Planning Board picks it up and then it sends it back. So if there is a more complete review internally, then probably the Planning Board time would go down. He thought they are all things we need to take a look at. Chairman Coutu said also to use the Able program. Selectman Maddox said that may not be a bad idea.

[Selectman Jasper] Also he thought they've all seen the e-mail and the pictures from the Fire Department with the damage to the bumper of the ladder truck over at the five alarm fire in Nashua. It was very impressive the work that our staff did to straighten that bumper back out again. When he saw that and then he saw what they did, that was very impressive. A lot of departments would probably just leave it like that until the retired the truck, but that's one of the many good things about our department. They do take pride in our apparatus. That bumper will be replaced.

He started out with a request. The first one is:

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to authorize the expenditure of \$225 from the Benson fund for the purchase of 18 pieces of 4X4X8 pressure treated posts, stain, and paint to complete the sign trail project with the labor and the actual signs being donated.

Selectman Massey thought that this was being done - the 2 Eagle Scout projects are for the town forest and Musquash. Selectman Jasper said in this case, the actual signs themselves are going to be done by volunteers. We do need to have the posts and stain. At this point, we have it set up that virtually every dollar needs to come here. He wasn't sure if we should revisit that at some point. It seems like a bit of a waste of our time to be nickel and diming. That's up to you. Chairman Coutu is not going to oppose the motion, but he would think that considering that we have 3 companies in the area that provide lumber that somebody could have made a phone call and probably got one of them to donate the posts. We had said initially and he watched the meeting - he heard everything, watched everything - he didn't like getting thrown under the bus but we'll get to that. He would think that somebody could have made a phone call and he's not going to name the 3 companies. Two of them are national chains that are in Nashua and we have one here in Hudson, he didn't think any of them have every been approached and to make a small contribution of something of that nature to help with the signs, he thought it was very nice - a great effort on Dick's part to find somebody that is going to use some sort of a wood laser to carve the names in the signs. That's great. He's not going to hold up the project because of \$225. He will be supporting the motion.

Mr. Chairman, Selectman Jasper said it's easy to say that. He'll tell them that he's one of the - people ask him well when are you going to run for this? When are you going to run for that? He said he's never going to run for anything else except Selectman and Rep. because he despised fundraising. He personally despises asking anybody for anything of monetary value. That wasn't a criteria that we said we're going to appoint you to the Benson Committee if you're good at going out and asking for contributions. So he really didn't think it was a fair criticism to say well we didn't go out and ask. The Benson Committee is an advisory committee to the Board of Selectmen. That's what we appointed them. That was the charge. We didn't

appoint a committee to raise funds on behalf of the Town, and essentially that's what this is. He'll cover a little bit more of that.

Chairman Coutu said some of the people who serve on the committee, one of the things that they said was that they were not reluctant to calling people if we needed stuff, and they would do so. A lot of it is going to have to be volunteer because we're going to keep draining this fund - \$200 at a time there's going to be no money left. We're going to be out trying to do some fundraising on our own. Dick did a good job in finding somebody to do the signs, he's just saying we ought to have a group of volunteers to just do that - solicit and see if we can get people that aren't afraid to make phone calls and solicit. Anyway he heard his comments about they can't be all to everything. They're an advisory board to the Board of Selectmen. You are absolutely correct. We can't expect them to do all of the work, and he understood that, and he appreciated those comments that he made at the meeting. At least those.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

[Selectman Jasper] The park plan. The Trails Committee has been working and things have been moving along. The Building Committee, and to answer your question, he'll have to look at the e-mail list because what he did was he just copied and paste, and sent out an e-mail. He has this very long list of people that signed up for the Benson Committee. He sent out for the Building Committee an e-mail saying we would have sort of an organizational meeting/informational meeting. It will be next Tuesday next door. At the moment, he thought he'll be the only one there because he's only had one reply from probably the 20 people that were on the list. He said he was not able to attend that night. So he's got a couple of people whose e-mails were bounced back that he's got to try and get a hold of. This just continues to be a very busy time for him. At least we're done with budgets now. When he can, he will make those calls.

We had a long discussion about the opening. There were two schools of thought. One we should have a date of opening. He was opposed to that. He said that we can't do everything. He came to the Board a few weeks ago and said we need somebody to be able to be a liaison to get some of the things done. He said to the Committee if you folks want to take on all the responsibility to doing all the leg work that needs to be done, then yes we can say here's the deadline to open. There were no volunteers for that. So there is a subcommittee of the main committee working right now to work off that list that we brought and was approved to the Board in the fall about the things that need to be done. We've made some good headway on those. Some of those things were probably dropped off. There may be a few that have to be added. We're going to come back to this Board right after the next meeting in March and give you a list of deliverables that the committee can do, and the timeline that we can, and then the committee is going to say Board of Selectmen here are the things that you need to take responsibility for. We're telling you what needs to be done, now you have to figure out how to pay for them and how to get them done. So that's what you'll be seeing. You can say no we don't care, we're going to open the park anyway, or yes, we're going to get them done. At that point it becomes the onus on the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Coutu indicated that he and Selectman Maddox have had a conversation with regard to the last meeting of the Benson Committee. One of the things that you mentioned was that you had requested that a person to be assigned as the liaison, and he didn't want to misquote him, matter of fact he won't quote you. He'll probably take a little bit of it out of context, but the impression that he left was that we didn't take any action. Nothing happened. Well that's not the way it was left. The way it was presented was we asked the Town Administrator to bring it up at the next staff meeting, which was the following day and for him to report back to us. So we didn't just drop the ball on it, that's the way you presented it. But we didn't drop the ball.

So he'll tell him what he did. He had a conversation with Selectman Maddox, and he took it upon himself to seek out a volunteer and he spoke to Dave Yates. He had a lengthy conversation, an e-mail, and then he called him, and we had a lengthy conversation with regard to his entertaining the idea of becoming the municipal liaison. He would report directly to the Board of Selectmen, but he would interface with the Chairman of the Committee and not have a bunch of committee members going off on a tangent to him and occupying his time all day long. He is the Recreation Director, and he has other responsibilities. He is willing to be the liaison for the Benson Committee through the Board of Selectmen. However, and in all fairness to him and he agreed with him, he would like an opportunity to sit down and discuss it with us. He felt that rather than have him come between the 5 of us, it would be best if he met with you and Mr. Schibanoff if you could set something up with him and explain to him what you would expect him as liaison to do, then you would report back to us and let us know what agreements or what you worked out, and whether or not it's palatable to us, then we've established that connection between our municipal government. Like Dave said, he can't sit there and write out a whole bunch of purchase orders. Chairman Coutu said we have a Town Administrator. It's a simple process. He can write them out. So if he can write

them out, anybody can write them out. He's willing to entertain it, and he would agree to do it. Obviously if it's not going to take away from his chores.

In terms of what are we going to accomplish, some of the things that we've got to look forward to in the summer time - who's going to open the park in the morning. We have 2 people that we are assigning that we've made a commitment to hiring to augment the Highway Department staff, that are going to be going to Benson's every day, and their shift starts at 6 a.m. They could certainly unlock - they're going to have to go in there anyway to do some work. They might not be doing chainsaw and stuff like that at 6 a.m., but they can open the park at 8 a.m. Then as far as assigning somebody to close it at night, now these are the kinds of things that Mr. Yates will take on as a challenge and get done for you.

Selectman Jasper appreciated that but to that he thought this is a 365 day park not 5 days for 14 in the week. Who opens it is going to have to be a decision that the Board makes. The Benson Park Committee is going to come back to you and recommend essentially what he thought is 6 a.m. until dusk. The Board is going to have to figure out how that is accomplished. What's also very important here because you people touched on this subject as a result of having brought Dave in - the Recreation Department Chairman in, and he talked about developing a playground, Chairman Coutu said that is going to become an intricate part of our recreation program anyway. We're going to develop more than just a playground there. He'd like to see our Recreation Director totally involved in committing to seeing this project through and to have a better feel and understanding of what we're trying to achieve so that we can integrate the Benson Park vision that we have for passive recreation and the use of our recreation in town and make it a joint venture between the two. So he thought it was a good fit for the Town. He thought it was a good fit for Benson's, and he thought it will solve that problem that was raised the other evening. Again, he's not committing Dave to the project, he's just saying that in all fairness to Dave that if you would arrange to meet with him, and Mr. Schibanoff, and see if you can work out some of the details and then bring it back to us. He thought it may solve that problem.

Selectman Jasper said that's pretty much it. Certainly there's a lot that's going to need to be done. We'll see what happens.

Selectman Maddox said if Mr. Yates is the person that we're going to utilize, he thought we should use the same process we just used with the Community Development - Economic Development fund. He didn't think this Board needs to decide whether we spend \$200. There's procedures in place, there's tracking of where the money goes. He just didn't think this Board needs to have - and you've done it because you had to, but he thought if there's a person at that level - a town employee, they just go through the PO process and get it done. If the money runs out, we worry about it then, but they know what the budget is. They're getting guidance from the Benson's Park Committee. He just didn't think Selectman Jasper needs to be put in the position of coming in every meeting to ask for some monies - \$100, \$180 a year. We have enough staff in town to be able to deal with this.

Chairman Coutu agreed. That was one of the reasons why Selectman Jasper had proposed initially that the Benson's Committee had been looking for a liaison that's affiliated with the government. We can handle it that way, and we don't have to deal with this stuff every meeting. Everything is going to be vetted through our Town Administrator anyway. So he concurred. Selectman Nadeau thought the idea of having the Recreation Director be our liaison is a very good idea, and he's familiar with the PO process, he's familiar with grants and as we saw tonight, DRED is part of the parks program. Maybe they have funding that we don't know about that would be something that he can look into. So he thought it's a very good idea and a good way to go.

Selectman Massey wouldn't support a cart blanche - he would be more in support of establishing a not to exceed number of say \$5,000 in total. We still have an obligation to complete the work on the office depot. We still have an obligation to complete the work on the barn. If we don't put some limit on the amount of money that can be used for other incidental expenses, we're going to wind up in the hole. He thought that the idea was great, but he didn't think that once we get past \$5,000 that it should then come back to the Board for a review. Chairman Coutu said when they get down to fine tuning what we would expect from the Recreation Director, please bring that up. He would agree with that, and he thought Selectman Jasper would agree with that as well so we don't just spend a ton of money.

Selectman Nadeau said Selectman Massey just jogged his memory of something that happened this fall, and he was wondering if it was done there. We signed a contract to have our buildings weather tight and he did not see any work done on the Haselton Barn or on the train station to have it weather tight by Shadan. Did that every happen? Selectman Jasper said no. He thought what happened unfortunately we got so late in the season that it got bitterly cold. Luckily we've had one period of rain, but the rest has been snow. With

those shingles and the tar paper wouldn't really be appropriate to have them up there trying to make those repairs. He's hopeful that perhaps - he didn't know if he's had any conversations with him, but he was thinking probably late March early April when things start to warm up. Hopefully he'll be able to get up there. Certainly not until the shingles become workable again. Its unfortunate it didn't happen, but it just got too cold. It's still an open purchase order, which is good until the end of June. He'd like to see him get something done there before we get into the rainy season. You haven't talked to him at all. Selectman Nadeau said we haven't expended the money either have we. Mr. Pearson said he has a deposit. He does? [Chairman Coutu and Selectman Nadeau]. Selectman Jasper said that was the contract we gave him. Since then, he wouldn't have wanted him up there because it would have done more damage to that roofing material. You can't touch asphalt shingles in this weather that are brittle trying to fix. You could roof brand new ones, but when you're trying to...when you're trying to patch, it's a very difficult thing to do in this weather.

While we're on it another subject that came up the other evening, Chairman Coutu said he knows it's a hot potato Mr. Pearson and he knows he's trying to shy away from it because you're so involved with the Community Development, there was a question raised with regards to the signs that we were going to get within a week or two. Can you tell him what ever happened to the signs? They say they were never put up. Did we ever receive them? Did we ever pay for them? The signs on the no hunting, no trespassing, no fishing, no whatever? Mr. Pearson said that came in on the first snow storm. They were delivered while they were plowing the streets. You had asked him at that previous meeting, and it was two days later. He actually thought it was going to be a week or so. Kevin called him the next snow storm back in December. The signs are there. Chairman Coutu asked if they were in storage. Mr. Pearson said he was going to put them up as soon as he could. He's not going to find fault that he didn't put them up yet because he's probably had a lot of challenges with the weather and so forth. He assured him he would put them up. We did ask him to put the economic development signs up first right away. Chairman Coutu said it generates money for our community. Good idea.

To that, Selectman Jasper said at this point he could put the signs on appropriate trees and fences. When we put in the economic development, there was a lot of snow cover and there probably wasn't two inches of frost in the ground. You wouldn't get a post in the ground in most places right now no matter what you did. It is deep right at this point. Chairman Coutu thanked Mr. Pearson. He just wanted to make sure they did have the signs, so they're in. He did understand. He's not finding fault with anybody. He understood that the elements are a factor. He understood that. That was something that was the other evening.

Selectman Coutu - Another thing that was raised the other evening, and you brought it up and it had to do with the restoration of the railroad station. One of the remarks that you made, and again he's not going to quote him directly, was that we were ready to spend money to hire a clerk of the works but we weren't doing anything about a liaison. The fact of the matter is unless he's misunderstood the process on the railway station, we have money set aside specifically for the railway station refurbishment program, and relocation of the railway station. He thought there was sufficient monies in that project that would afford us an opportunity to hire a clerk of the works. If the person who was chosen is the person that he's thinking that we should be hiring because he's proven himself to be very good at it, he could save us a considerable amount of money and certainly enough to cover the small expense that would be incurred by him putting in part time and not necessarily full time hours. He's willing to do so, and he thought they knew who the person is, providing he reports directly to the Board of Selectmen. So that's something for you to think about. It isn't that we're ready to spend the money. The money is there.

Selectman Jasper responded to that - a clerk of the works is one thing. He probably misspoke to some degree and in some level of his frustration. We're not to the point of hiring a clerk of the works because we don't have a plan for the clerk to look over. The clerk of the works is not an engineer. A clerk of the works is somebody who oversees what has been approved. Unfortunately at this point, we had put out an RFP and we had a proposal from one group. We never acted on that. That's probably appropriate given the circumstances. As far as he knows, we're still from that company waiting for the finished project on the deliverables. Mr. Malizia said we sent them a follow up letter to find out where it is. We have not paid anything, but he did send a letter saying where is the deliverables. Selectman Jasper said this is where we need to have somebody he thought on town staff at this point be responsible for at least finding somebody to do that work because we have to engineer the basement. There are conduits and things that we need to find that we may be able to reuse. Then we have to have the overall building plan. That's beyond the clerk of the works. We're just at a standstill because the committee doesn't have the ability to do. He didn't have the ability to do it. He didn't know what's going to happen with this railroad station because somebody has to take the bull by the horns and say we need a plan. Frankly, his hair is a little singed. He's very hesitant to go any place on anything with what he spent the fall doing. He's just sitting back and waiting and hoping that somebody else recognizes that there are things that are going to have to be done to do anything with that

train station. He's assuming that we did get the extension but if we don't do it this year, we won't. Mr. Malizia said the extension is in the works. He's not aware of any impediment. Selectman Jasper said certainly if we don't do it this year, it's not going to happen. So we can hire a clerk of the works, but there's not going to be anything for him to do.

Chairman Coutu said we can't keep putting this off. It is not our fault that it's not getting done. No proposal has been brought before this Board. We were thrown under the bus on that one as well. It's like we're not doing anything. It's not that we're not doing anything, no one has given us direction what to do. He's ready to go with the railway station. Selectman Jasper said Mr. Pearson was working on that and then he thought the message came through loud and clear stop. Selectman Massey thought that Selectman Jasper is correct. A clerk of the works is somebody who is charged with making sure that a plan is implemented according to the specification. What we need is to have somebody put together the engineering drawings and the things that have to be done to complete that project. He didn't know at this point if that would have to be a town employee or not or whether we would hire somebody to do that. Basically we're talking about somebody that would do a site plan with all of the appropriate construction things. He didn't know why that money couldn't come out of the grant money. The question he has is he didn't think the Benson Committee needs to come forward with that proposal, he thought that we just need to say we're going to appoint somebody to put together the plan and present it for final completion. Chairman Coutu said to get it done. Are there restrictions where we want to put the railway station? Are we going to need to go before the State? Selectman Jasper said no. The Benson Committee made a recommendation. When you say get it done, that's fine. We have to make that someone's responsibility. Chairman Coutu said to ask the Town Engineer what can be done. We have a town engineer on staff. Why don't we ask Gary if it's too cumbersome for him what would he recommend that we do.

Selectman Maddox said it's been a while since he's read the document. He believed it was almost 15 percent of that 300,000 that was committed to engineering. So he thought what we need to do is not put the Town Engineer into that swamp but to either have Mr. Yates if that is the person that's going to be in charge of that with the assistance of the Benson Park Committee some criteria. We need to send this out to engineering firms. The basic concept is there. It's a train station that has to be refurbished to a certain standard. We want to put it on a foundation in X location. What is it going to take? Chairman Coutu still would want to have it before we send it out. That may be the appropriate method is to send it out, but he'd still like to have it vetted by our Town Engineer first to look at it and see how complex it is. If he says he can do that in a weekend - he didn't know.

Again, Selectman Jasper is a little hesitant to go down this path. Utilizing the services of our Town Engineer is good. But let's not reinvent the wheel. The Assistant Town Administrator has put a lot of work into background and understanding what the requirements are of this. This should be a joint venture between the two of them. Otherwise, we're just wasting town staff because we're saying well we don't want the Assistant Town Administrator involve in this, but he's the one who put out the original RFP. Maybe it's a matter of putting that one out again to a different world, but let's not pretend that that didn't happen and we've invested that time in there. He's just saying it's a tremendous waste of time if we say we just got our backs up against the wall and we don't want to him to have anything to do with it. So we'll have somebody else learn this from ground zero. He's probably just assume stay away from the whole thing because he and I have both been burnt in this process. His goal is not to waste taxpayer's funds.

Chairman Coutu said in light of the last Benson Committee meeting, he wants to take the train station, put it on a track, and move it. We'll do it any way that we can facilitate it as quickly as possible before the funds run out. If it requires Mr. Webster as part of the community development team, if it requires sharing knowledge with Mr. Pearson, he will state here publicly to get this train station done this year and not lose the funding. He's not going to find fault with Mr. Pearson sharing whatever he has with our Town Engineer to get this thing done this year or it's not going to get done. We're going to lose \$300,000. Selectman Maddox said also that person we're putting as the Benson's person also needs to be tied into that. Mr. Pearson said that \$205,000 is the grant from the State and he thought the balance is \$68,000 from the Town. So it's \$273,000 or something like that. Chairman Coutu asked Mr. Pearson if he understood what - he's just trying to straighten out all the negatives that he heard the other night as we were being thrown under that bus. This Board is not acting and he wanted to make sure that we're taking steps here this evening - we're committing, we're committing to a liaison and getting that out of your hands. He can appreciate the work that he's done on the train station. He knows he's put some effort - do you see a problem with working with our Town Engineer and going over whatever has been prepared up to now, and the plans of where we wanted to relocate it, and what excavation is going to be done, and then have Gary look at it and see whether it's something he can do or if we can contract it out and what it would cost to contract it out, and have him come back to us or you come back to us with him and present the proposal. Make a commitment and get this

done this year. Mr. Pearson said he'll share everything he's done so far with anybody that you want him to share it with.

Selectman Massey said the only other thing that we have to cross the bridge on are we going to have to go through the site plan approval process. Chairman Coutu said no, not in the historical district. When we get to that point, Selectman Jasper said we should just vote to exempt it from the provisions of whatever. We're citing a building. Then if you open that up, you're now going to send the whole Benson Park plan to the Planning Board. He didn't think so. Selectman Massey just wanted to make sure they all understand. He knew they can vote to exempt.

Selectman Maddox said you'll have a no vote on the RSA 674:54 motion. That's so be. The other thing he thought they do need to do is have some sort of site plan to know where your utilities are. Maybe this has already been done. We were talking about doing some test pits to see if where you want to put it works as opposed to somewhere else, where the utilities line up. He knows there was a question where the closest sewer pipe was. So he thought some of that needs to be done Mr. Chairman. You can't just say we're going to wheel it on to some rails and there go you. It needs to have some site plan type of work done to be able to say there is electricity under ground at this point. There may not be. There may be conduits that could be used. Where is the closest sewer connection? Before we lock in a location, he thought they needed to know where your utilities are to that end.

Selectman Jasper had his hand up because he was going to say that's going to be part of it. We're going to have to work with the Highway Department on this because when we're doing the water and sewer, we need to do this for the office and the train station at the same time. They're right there. If that means running it downhill or running it out on Kimball Hill Road, that's got to be part of this how to bring the utilities in. When he refers to the conduit, there's a big conduit that runs from the location that we're going to put the train station at down to the gorilla cage. We want to make sure we can utilize that at the same time. There may be some others that run some place else. That one is probably the only one that's going to be utilized because it's a four inch. That has to be planned. If we put the foundation in and then after say it's too bad and by the way do we want to run all the utilities into the cellar of that building and then over to the office building and wherever else, let's plan for that up front. He thought as far as the train station, it's pretty much - needs to be out of the Benson Committee plan as far as that part. He didn't think the Committee was even interested in.

Chairman Coutu said it was their responsibility as the Town to get it done. He didn't want to lose the money and lose the opportunity in doing what he was supposed to do in restoring a historical structure because whether we lose the money or keep the money, we use the money this year or lose it; we still have a responsibility to that building. So then it's going to cost the taxpayers. So let's get it done. The point here was to do it as calmly as he possible could considering his condition to let you know that you can take the message now, he hoped, back to the Benson's Committee that we are being responsible and we're going to work with the Benson's Committee and we're going to get these things done.

Selectman Maddox said we haven't been responsive. Should the Board for whatever reason vote to exempt from 674, Selectman Massey said that does not mean we don't do a site plan. All you're doing at that point is you're exempting yourself from going to the Planning Board for site plan approval. We will have to do a site plan. That's a given. It has to include all of the things that Selectman Jasper talked about. Exemption from 674 doesn't say you don't do a site plan, it just says you don't go to the Planning Board for approval. Chairman Coutu asked Mr. Pearson in the process of his review of the railway station plans, had you started putting some RFPs together? Mr. Pearson said yes. Selectman Jasper knows he threw the Board under the bus. He didn't start out to do that because he's been thrown under a whole fleet of them in the last 7 or 8 months. That's why Selectman Maddox didn't want to see him keep coming in and asking for money. There's a procedure in place. He didn't disagree. Pick a number that we're all comfortable with \$3,500. When you've expended that you show us what you spent it on and you'll have a tough time getting any more. At least we don't have to come in and ask for \$200.

[Selectman Maddox] Number two, you need to get the meeting with Mr. Yates done so that he thought he needed to be involved from day one on this whole deal with the train station so that he's going to have that overview. He's going to work with the Town Engineer. He's will work with whoever the clerk of the works is as it goes along. He can't have to come in 3 months in. So this needs to happen sooner rather than later. So he knows that he's being pulled in 100 different directions, but he thought this is one you need to put right at the top. Selectman Jasper said that was fine. Chairman Coutu didn't want this to become a full time job for Mr. Yates. He has other responsibilities. Selectman Jasper said the Board is going to assign to him and is only going to be the one essentially assigning things. The Committee may ask him to look into things and get information...Chairman Coutu said through its Chair. Selectman Jasper yes but the Committee will ask

the questions that the Chair will ask to Mr. Yates. You're not going to have any problem with any of the current members doing what happened in the past.

Chairman Coutu said the last thing on Benson's, and this has nothing to do with anything that you've said, he's just going to relay what his conversations with the Governor's office. He spoke to the Governor's Council and he said that the Department of Transportation is entertaining one of three options for us. He told them that he wants it in writing so that we have it concrete and in paper. As you are aware, the location of the Red Barn is an approved construction site. We could begin construction tomorrow morning on the senior center if that's where we wanted to locate it. We don't need any site approval from the State. It's a constructible area, and that's what we were told at the meeting with the Governor's people up in DOT. So that still stands.

The other thing is the site that we had selected will require a plot plan. They want to see its exact location and the dimensions of the land that we're going to use. Not necessarily the footprint of the building, they want the exact location. That may have a fee attached to it. They may want a trade off of the value of that portion of the land to allow us to construct there. The third alternative was to select another site in another area, which didn't make any sense to him. He thought he said to Jeff, who's the Governor's Councilor, he said, "Jeff I don't want to just see a letter saying that these are the alternatives. If there's a price tag, he wanted to know what that price tag is. We told him approximately 3 acres. If they can't figure out what they think is the value of 3 acres, what difference does it make if it's 3 1/2, or 2 1/2, or 2 at this point. Come up with an assessment of an acre of Benson's Park and then we'll determine whether or not we even want to do it before we consider going 2 1/2 acres. So he wanted to see a dollar value attached to that proposal." So we might want to revisit the Red Barn situation. The problem there is the parking access. There's a lot of negatives to going there. He agreed with him and we just filled the damn things. Selectman Jasper thought it's specific too. You can recreate that and now you're looking at a multistory building. Chairman Coutu said the foundation is half built. Selectman Jasper said you're looking at probably a much more expensive foundation because you've got walls there that are 20 - 25 feet high. It's a whole can of worms than a 10 foot wall.

What Chairman Coutu wanted people to know is that, again, we didn't drop the ball on that. It's not political fodder. Again, it's a process. We have to go through the process we're dealing with never having done on time. DOT - this was something they told us that they thought we'd have at least something tentative within 30 to 45 days, and here we are. Two and half months later, and he's just getting a call now. We're not going to drop the ball on this. We're going to stay on top of it. He knows Selectman Jasper contacted Jeff. He told him he spoke to you. Selectman Jasper said he didn't tell him any of that. He said he was still waiting to hear. Chairman Coutu said he'll be jumping on you just like he does anyway. So he told him to go ahead and do it. He had his permission. Selectman Maddox said we paid \$180,000 for 162 acres. So it's like \$1,027 an acre. What's the problem?

The only other thing Chairman Coutu wanted to bring up, and he didn't want to bring it up, he will yield to Selectman Massey. In light of an e-mail we received this afternoon is there anything you wanted to say about the Police Department. Mr. Malizia said he told him, but he had not read it yet. Selectman Massey said he did not read it. He said we understand that the police union voted 29 to nothing to accept the amended contract language...Selectman Maddox said no. The decision at the Deliberative Session. Selectman Massey said so 29 to nothing. If the citizens vote to approve it, then we will have an agreed upon contract. The reason why Chairman Coutu wanted to bring it now in light of the fact that they did have a formal vote and they voted unanimously for it was that they said they were going to do it, and they did it. They said they would agree. So he wanted to show that we acted in good faith, and they responded in kind. So he wanted to highlight that.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:25 p.m. by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Jasper.

Selectman Massey has a copy and he would ask that we distribute to all the Board, but we also post it on the web. This is the final report from the company that did the treatment at Ottarnic Pond. It has a complete history of what they did, what they accomplished, and it has all the information DES wants. Should we make a copy for all the Board members and then potentially post it on the web too he thought.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Recorded by HGTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Roger E. Coutu, Chairman

Kenneth J. Massey, Vice-Chairman

Shawn N. Jasper, Selectman

Richard J. Maddox, Selectman

Benjamin J. Nadeau, Selectman