

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Workshop Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2009

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Roger Coutu at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by the Board of Selectmen.

3. **ATTENDANCE**

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

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director; Mark Pearson, Assistant Town Administrator; Patti Barry, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Kevin Burns, Road Agent; Jay Lavoie, Chief of Police; Gary Webster, Temporary Town Engineer; Lisa Nute, IT Director; Dave Yates, Recreation Director; Deputy Fire Chiefs Neal Carter and Rob Buxton; Torrey Demanche, HFD Executive Secretary

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Michael Trusdell, 3 Watts Circle, said he addressed the Board on February 24, 2009 relative to the town's cable TV, commending the Board on providing the funding and effort put forth into the program. He also, at that time, praised the good work done by the Facilitator, Jake Nazarian. Since then, he has put a lot of time into creating a sports talk show, bringing on high school kids, interviewing community leaders and filming Special Olympics. However, a couple of weeks ago, he learned that Jake was no longer the Facilitator, which was very upsetting and he was wondering what happened. He researched the meeting minutes and finds the whole thing confusing. He felt like for someone who was interested in doing something for the community, there was no direction. He felt there was a lack of communication between the Cable Committee and the Board of Selectmen and Jake. He didn't know the details, but he thought that Jake was contagiously enthusiastic. He had a strong vision and was a passionate teacher for the students that went through his program, and he put in hours. He watched Jake when he filmed "*Are You smarter than a Fifth Grader?*" show. The next day, he was filming basketball at the high school. Mr. Trusdell said now they don't have program, and he doesn't have anyone to go to and it's not just him; there are a lot of people who have been involved in this and they don't have a go-to person. He's talked with Mike O'Keefe a few times and traded e-mails with him, but he's having trouble getting studio time to finish up the show that he and Frank Girginis have put together. He asked the Selectmen to put some structure back in place so cable programming could continue moving forward. The meeting minutes indicate that there is miscommunication all over the place and he didn't understand why they couldn't have all gotten together and worked it out so they could have continuity and accomplish what the Board wants to accomplish and, at the same time, have a good program. As a confused citizen, he wondered what the plan was, what was next for the program.

Selectman Massey thought Mr. Trusdell said Mr. Nazarian was "contentiously enthusiastic," and asked if he meant "conscientiously enthusiastic." Mr. Trusdell said he had said, "contagiously enthusiastic." What he meant by that was the people who took Jake's class—and he could only interpret there was some issue between the Board and Jake—Jake was contagiously enthusiastic. He was always encouraging them, allowing them to make mistakes and working with them, helping them to produce programs. That's what he meant by his statement.

Selectman Jasper said there was no point in trying to get into the details of what went on. It's over and done with. The Board does have a plan of having someone in place, who should be contacting people. Within a short period of time, they should have another Facilitator in place who will be able to work with folks like Mr. Trusdell. Things just did not work out between the Board and Mr. Nazarian. Mr. Trusdell asked if the same 45 hour framework was going to be in place, or if they would get beyond that. Selectman Jasper said they are waiting for a plan from the Cable Committee and they want to see what that plan was. They were anticipating an increase in the hours, but they did some other things in the meantime, which supposedly were going to reduce the number of hours that were necessary. At this point, they are waiting to see what that plan is and what they anticipate. The pay was \$27 an hour, but it was never the Board's intent to pay somebody \$27 an hour to operate a camera and to be on site, doing the filming. There were a number of issues, many of which were known to people who watched the meetings—it just did not work out.

Mr. Trusdell said from the meeting on February 18, the last minutes from the Cable Committee, and it talked about a plan being put in place. He asked if there was any timeframe for the establishment of that.

Chairman Coutu said he wanted to cut the discussion short, adding that some of it would become clear when he reads some of the motions that were made during nonpublic session at the Board's last meeting, March 24, 2009. The actions that were taken by the Board of Selectmen were taken as a direct result of conflicting views with regards to what the Board anticipated the Facilitator would do, and what was expected from him. He has been a member of the Cable Committee as the liaison and he will maintain that position because he has an enthusiasm for public access television for the town. The problem that existed between the Cable Committee and the Board of Selectmen is that there was no set plan put in place, or adopted, to give guidance to the direction with which the Cable Committee was going to go with public access television. That plan has since been written and re-written and finalized at the Cable Committee's last meeting. That plan will be brought forth to the Board of Selectmen for approval. They also hoped to have a facilitator in place by that time. He knows that Mr. Trusdell is interested in developing and producing a sports show. The first attempt was relatively good and he was impressed with the swimming and going to Hampton Beach. It was a good production on Mr. Trusdell's part. The Selectmen have employed a person, who will be available to the citizens upon calling Mike O'Keefe, who will put them in touch with each other and he will facilitate Mr. Trusdell being able to access equipment and continue with the production, effective tomorrow. He was sure Mr. O'Keefe was watching right now and he'd take direction from this. He was sorry that Mr. Trusdell was inconvenienced for a short period of

time, but it's the Board's intent to continue with public access television and to have it available to anyone who wishes to produce local cable programming, and Mr. Trusdell is one of those individuals who has come forward. The town appreciates it because that's the purpose of public access television. At the last meeting, Selectman Jasper said he wants to see a plan put forth and he wants cable programming to go in the direction the people want to take it, and that's the real vision here and what they want to see transpire. He will do what he can to facilitate Mr. Trusdell being able to access the equipment and continue with his production and make available to him a person on staff who will help with the editing of the production. He asked if that was alright. Mr. Trusdell said that was fair enough and thanked the Board for the time.

5. MINUTES -- Board of Selectmen's Minutes of March 24, 2009

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to approve the Minutes and refer to file, carried 5-0.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on March 24, 2009

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to hire the 2009 summer staff, contingent upon need, effective May 23, 2009: Mathew Brownrigg and Lauren Chesnulevich a Counselor II at \$9.25 per hour and as Counselor III's at \$9.75 per hour, Millie Buttrick, Ralph Carpentiere, Jess Destramp, Frank Girginis, Andrew Gora, Jenna Lambert, Derek Lee, Michele Martineau, Larissa Miller, Allison O'Donaghue, Thomas Scurini, Vinnie Scurini, Quinn Sendall, Sean Sendall and Debra Smith, as recommended by the Recreation Director, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to hire Thomas DeAngelis as Babe Ruth Baseball Director for the fee of \$600 and Cindy Holton as Ladies League Softball Director for the fee of \$600, effective April 1, 2009 and Kimberly Malley as Summer Program Director for the fee of \$5,500, effective June 1, 2009, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Jasper, that under the Hudson Community Television Facilitator Contract, Paragraph IV, Term, §Early Termination, the Facilitator is hereby terminated with a 60-day notice. Upon certification by the Facilitator that all Town equipment in his possession has been returned, all keys to Town property in his possession have been returned and all his personal items have been removed from Town property, payment for the 60 days (90 hours) shall be rendered to the Facilitator with notification that his services are no longer needed, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to hire Jimmy MacIntosh as a Senior Camera Operator at \$14 per hour, effective immediately, carried 5-0.

Motion to adjourn at 10:03 p.m. by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, carried 5-0.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Default Budget

Chairman Nadeau recognized the Town Administrator and Finance Director to discuss the default budget. Mr. Malizia said the town would be operating under a default budget for FY2010 since the voters rejected the operating budget back in March. The town has never operated under a default budget before, so he thought it was important to meet with the department heads to understand the implications and explain what the default budget actually was, and to meet with the Board relative to the same—to look at the areas where there may be shortfalls and where there may be opportunities to correct those shortfalls. The package he prepared for the Board takes them through the default budget. They take last year's budget and make adjustments for either one-time items and/or contractual obligations to come up with a default budget. At some point during the budget process, the Board of Selectmen did approve the default budget number that is on the ballot. Hudson has been an SB-2 town since '96 or '97, and this is the first year the budget has not passed. In essence the budget is comprised of several funds—the General Fund, where the property taxes come into play. It's the big fund for the town. The Sewer Fund, the Water Fund, the Library Fund and the Conservation Fund also tier up under that Operating Budget category, so when they look at the bottom line, there is a default budget of \$26,886,556 which is a \$48,504 bottom line reduction from the proposed budget. However, because they have different funds, some funds made our and others didn't. One of the funds that has less money is the General Fund, which includes Police, Fire and Highway, as opposed to the Library Fund, which is separately run by their own Board of Trustees. The town collects money on their behalf and remit it over to them. The Sewer and Water funds are funds where the expenses are borne by the users of them. Sewer users pay a sewer rate fee and the same with the water users. They pay a water fee. When all of the funds are combined, it's a \$48,000 delta between the proposed Operating Budget and the default budget. The Sewer Fund has more money than it asked for, based on some capital reserve items and the General Fund has a shortage of approximately \$304,000. That might not be a big number to some folks, but they are operating under level-funded budgets, so he thought it was important for everyone to understand and discuss what the implications of that may be. The point was to get the packet out to educate and make sure everyone understood where the money is. When they look at the default budget during the budget process, it's basically a bottom line. They can see what went in, what came out and what got adjusted. The packet information showed the information in the "fund family," so it's important for everyone to understand it.

Mr. Malizia said Kathy Carpentier was able to take the default budget and break it down by departments, which indicates the pluses and minuses between the default budget and the submitted budget and they can see where the shortfalls are. Some of them are pretty simple to explain, such as the Board of Selectmen/Administration, which has a \$91,000 shortfall. In the 2010 budget, they budgeted the Assistant Town Administrator, but in the default budget, which was last year before that position was hired, that money was in the Planning Department. Because this is the default, versus the regular budget, he doesn't have the liberty of going back and adjusting the previous budget. There are some others that are not so simple, but the bottom line is the \$304,000 differential between the Operating Budget and the default budget.

Continuing, Mr. Malizia said he met with the department heads several times to look at their budgets to see where problem areas may be, based on the default budget they will be operating under. They also looked at areas where there may be opportunities to transfer money. (Page 12 of the handout in the packet.) The Town Engineer's position has been vacant for the last year and, based on the workload of what they see coming up, they can probably go another year with that position vacant. Mr. Webster has been doing an outstanding job as Acting Engineer. There are some monies in the water, sewer and general funds to hire someone on a contract basis. They also have the ability, if a development comes in, to charge them fees for engineering and that would pay for that outside consultant type of work. In the Community Development Department, the Board removed the funding for a position, but with the default budget, that position is back in, so the Board may want to still do that, thus saving about \$49,000. Another example is the legal budget. In 2009, there was \$150,000 for legal. Next year, the Board budgeted \$135,000. Using the default budget, the amount is back up to \$150,000 but there's no reason why they can't operate with \$135,000. When the department heads looked at the funding, they saw some areas where there were things they could do without, but if certain transfers are made, they will be able to cover those things they identified. He wanted to make it very clear they are not adding anything to the bottom line of the default budget. It's a zero sum. They are going to be operating with \$304,000 less. This just transfers money around. It does not add to anything; it does not increase the budget; it's not coming from somewhere else. They are just looking at things realistically, at areas where they can transfer money out of to pay for things that are needed.

Selectman Jasper said he didn't understand why the Police Crossing Guards were there because he thought that item was in the default budget. Selectman Massey said the Police Department has a \$190,000 shortfall. The default budget for the Police Department is \$190,000 less than what the Selectmen and Budget Committee approved and the voters did not. The Police Department is saying they can make up that \$190,000 by not filling the position of the patrol officer that the Board hasn't authorized advertising for and, if they are not able to effect any transfers, then their priorities are to eliminate the crossing guards and three of the six cruisers that are in the budget. That's how they get to the \$190,000. He's not saying those monies weren't in the budget. They are in the default budget, but he's got \$190,000 he has to figure out where to take it from. That's the way they should look at all of these. Everything on the left side is in the default budget, but because the total default budget is about \$304,000 each department said if I have to make up the differences, this is what my recommendation is going to be in order to stay within the \$304,000. Selectman Jasper and Mr. Malizia said that wasn't quite right. Mr. Malizia said if you go to Assessing, in the fiscal year 2010 budget, the Board of Selectmen added \$30,000 to the Assessing budget in anticipation of defending the town's values for commercial property. That is now gone in the default budget. It's zero. They have nothing for that. In looking at this exercise, he said zero was not good, but 30 was probably too aggressive, so he considered 15 as a place holder for that activity, should they need that. That wasn't in the default budget, but it was in the operating budget.

Selectman Jasper said from what was said, he was extrapolating that the IT position in the Police Department would be filled. Selectman Massey said the budget money was in there. Mr. Malizia said Chief Lavoie feels it's an important enough position that he plans to make a case to the Board to fill the Information Manager position. They clearly understand that because of the constraints, the patrol position would not be covered. They don't have to go out July 1st and do all of this, but he wanted to put it in front of the Board so everyone understood where the departments were coming from and where the funding sources may be for those important issues that they need to deal with. They are working with \$300,000 less in the operating budget; they are not looking to add anything. They are just looking to possibly transfer money—reprioritize money.

Selectman Maddox said these were interesting choices and maybe they need to be more demanding. He didn't want to take out things that are going to cost them downstream. Not fixing a roof, which has been delayed through this year, to wait another year to get it into the budget is only going to cause more problems downstream. It didn't make any sense to not do that. There were other things on the list that they need to look at. He'd rather see them look at the overtime budgets and see if there are monies to be saved there before he summarily says to transfer all of this money. It's a nice starting point, but not where he wants to go.

Selectman Jasper wasn't sure Selectman Maddox has a clear understanding of what's actually happening, but he can speak only to the Fire Department in detail. The Fire Department has lost the \$114,000 and in order to make that up, there will have to be a number of reductions and some of that will be in overtime accounts. The Chief does have a great deal of detail on that, but even after all is said and done, living within that \$114,000, these are the things, the \$59,000 that the Chief would like to be able to accomplish and what the Board needs to do is to decide how much of that they feel is appropriate. Selectman Jasper feels comfortable with the list--roofs, the AC unit, the rescue boat, the software upgrade and the façade at Robinson Road. While they talked about the IT and the software upgrade, he's forgotten much of the detail, so he can't explain it. The others, they are all pretty aware of. There are severe reductions that have been made in most of the departments. Highway got more, but that is transferred over and things of that nature. He didn't know if the Chairman was going to entertain more questions, or if he was looking for the Board to approve to get the discussion going so they could talk about the various pieces. If so, he would so move.

Chairman Coutu said he wanted to continue with the discussion, since all of the department representatives were present. Hopefully, they could reach a comfort zone on what they want to achieve. He wants to make sure there is a clear understanding of what each column represents. The column to the right is where they will identify monies to offset the shortfall that exists as a result of going to the default budget. The left hand column are items that would have to suffer, as a result of the shortfall, but they've been identified as priorities and where they would like to see the monies transferred into, to make sure they do meet these areas that they feel are a critical need at this time, which includes fixing the roofs, the rescue boat and several other items.

Selectman Massey said it was helpful to keep some things in mind. The first thing is the Board doesn't have to make a decision tonight. What they have before them is a set of priorities that the department heads have said if I have to stay totally within my budget, these are what I'm suggesting to the Board of Selectmen would not be done for next year and it's up to the Board to decide one of two things—either fine, let's not do them, or we'll move money around. Whether they do them or not, the money that's on the right is on the default budget. It's just a question of where it gets spent. He spent a lot of time with the Police Department because he had a hard time understanding things. The monies on the right are already in the budget; the monies on the left are the current departments' priorities of where they would cut in order to meet their default budget. If the Board decides they want to put some of those back in, it would be to transfer monies out of the accounts on the other side. They talked about this during the budget cycle and during the deliberative session. No matter what decision they make relative to either this set of priorities or a refined set of priorities, the tax rate for next year is going to be based on the default budget and the only way the tax rate will change from what they said it would be is if they take more money out of the general fund. They all know how Selectman Jasper feels on that and he is pretty much in agreement. The tax rate is going to be based, whether these suggested changes are put back in or left out, the tax rate won't be affected. The second thing is, at least in two of the cases, in the case of the \$15,000 for the Robinson Road station project, back during the budgeting cycles agreed that if there is enough money in the unexpended balances in June, they would do that project. Selectman Jasper said that was the flat roof. Selectman Massey said so that's the \$17,000, but because they couldn't guarantee there would be any money at the end of June to cover that, they also put that money into the budget, so if they wind up with a surplus, that's why they don't need to make the decision tonight. If they wind up with enough money in June, the \$17,000 comes out of this set of requirements because they will have done it. The tax rate is not going to be dependent on these choices and there are some items in the budget that, if they do it out of the planned surplus, if it's there this year, it won't need to be on this list.

Selectman Jasper said the tax rate, to a large degree, may depend on what the Legislature does because of the funds they are talking about taking out of revenue sharing, etc. That's what bothers him on the tax rate. As a result of what the voters did, the tax rate will be lower than anticipated, but as a result of what the Legislature may do, it may be higher than they planned.

Selectman Maddox said the Fire Department budget, by default, was down \$114,000. Here, it only adds up to \$59,000. He asked if the rest of it was going to come out of... it would have been much easier if they had shown what the department was taking out. This looks like a straight transfer. There is money in the funds on the right to be able to offset all of the shortfall. (Speaking over each other.) Selectman Massey said this took him almost an hour, so he understands where Selectman Maddox was coming from. The Fire Department needs to find \$114,000 in cuts to their approved budget that was not... the budget that the Selectmen approved and the Budget Committee approved has got \$114,000 more in it than the budget that they can work with. They have to find \$114,000 in cuts. They've identified \$59,400 in this set of items before them. Selectman Jasper said the Fire Department Administration has identified the \$114,000 of cuts. What they have identified includes all of the \$59,400. They are saying if they can get any money back, these are the priorities, which leaves approximately \$54,000 that will still have to be reduced from what was approved by the Board and the Budget Committee and that would come from various line items. He's sure all of the departments have those details, but they don't have them in front of them. If the Board was to approve this, the Fire Department would still have to reduce lines, such as overtime and anything else to make up the \$54,000. They've tried very hard to avoid doing anything that's going to cause long-term harm to the departments. Not doing roofs and things like that is long-term harm and that's why they put things like that back in. There are some hard choices that have to be made, even with that \$59,000 going back in.

Chairman Coutu said the department heads were in attendance to address any concerns. He and Selectman Jasper had the opportunity to meet with Fire administration to go through their budget, so they understand that department's request.

Selectman Maddox said he wanted to see 12-A. He wanted to see, of the \$114,000 in the Fire Department... all of the departments went down X amount... this looks like a dead swap. There is no shortfall. It's \$326,000 on both sides, but math isn't his strong point. If they show they had \$114,000 worth of cuts they made, but the \$60,000 they want to put back in... Selectman Jasper said he's got to look at that number and then go back to Page 8 and look at that number. They lost \$114,000; they're asking for \$59,000. Selectman Maddox said he wanted to see how they got to the \$114,000 in the cuts... Selectman Jasper said it was right there. They could get into the detail of each line. Fire Suppression probably wouldn't take a \$50,000 hit; there would probably be some transfers from other lines that would go in there to offset that. That detail exists, but don't say they replaced it all because the bottom line is there is approximately a \$55,000... Selectman Maddox said he'd try again because he's slow... if he at least saw where they got that from, and then they wanted to put this back in, if there was Page 12-A for all of the departments, and they don't need to go through their department or any department, he's just saying, to him, the \$326,000 offset by \$326,000 looks like they've found money in the budget to wipe out all of the shortfall.

Chairman Coutu understood where he was coming from, and in order to accomplish that, he recognized Deputy Buxton. Selectman Maddox said that wasn't what he wanted. He wanted to see where all the departments took their monies from. He needed to see the page. Chairman Coutu then recognized the Finance Director for the explanation. Selectman Massey

interjected, saying there was a piece that was missing that might help Selectman Maddox. Remember, they are not changing the default budget with any of the stuff on Page 12. The default budget is \$304,000 and nothing that happens on that page changes that amount. At the macro level, what they are really looking at on the left side is not \$326,000 in cuts; they are looking at \$326,000 plus \$2,000 from the IT Department, plus \$50,000 some odd thousand from the Fire Department, \$70,000 from... the number 326, in terms of total cuts, is bigger than 326. Chairman Coutu said that muddied the waters and asked the Finance Director to continue. Selectman Massey said because there was \$54,000 in that one department that's not going to get covered by the default budget, based on what they are recommending. \$70,000 won't be covered in the Police Department. What Selectman Maddox would like to see is here is my operating budget, here's my default budget and here are all the line items that I added up to get to the 114 and 190 and here's the ones I want to put back in. Selectman Maddox thanked him and asked if that was available.

Ms. Carpentier said it was, adding that the department heads didn't create the default budget. Working with the Town Administrator, they took out one-time adjustments, added in contractual things, etc. She added it up line by line, so there are many lines that are going to be changed anywhere from \$1 to \$10,000 by one-time items. She couldn't sum it all up by a page called 12-A. You can go right down the columns and see that a lot of the numbers are the same, but some have changed, and it can be traced right back to the sheet on how they came up with the default budget. The Fire Department was off by \$114,000; it's all over the place. The Chief will have to operate his budget without \$114,000 next year, but he'd like to get certain priorities addressed, and with this, he'd still manage with \$55,000 less than what he was granted in the default budget.

Selectman Maddox said he was getting a better picture of what she was trying to tell him, but if he was sitting at home... the 326... if he was sitting at home, he'd be saying they didn't cut anything, but I know they did. He's not trying to pick on the Fire Department, but they need to show somehow that they did get down their \$114,000 and now they want to put this back in. Maybe it's too big a report to give them right now, but if there is a document for them to read in General Read... he didn't want people to think they just transferred money from all of the items on the right and the default budget is all funded. There are additional cuts. Selectman Massey said that was exactly right. There were zero cuts in Solid Waste.

Selectman Jasper said he thought he could help because he just did the math. If you go to the departments that lost money, a number of departments lost a total of \$552,000. The loss to the Fire Department, the Police Department, non-departmental, Recreation Department, Town Hall, Assessing, IT, and add up all the losses of the various departments, it comes up to over \$1/2 million. There were some departments with pluses, so of the \$1/2 million, they are looking to transfer around 326 to make up approximately 326, still leaving to those departments a loss of \$220,000 to the various departments. That's the bottom line. That's why it looks like they are transferring more money than they lost, but the reality is the loss to a few departments was far greater than the total loss. Selectman Maddox said if that was a summary sheet, he'd be a lot quieter. He needed to see there was \$114,000 worth of cuts and trying to put money back in, but they still have a minus \$58,000, or whatever it is – but KC will make it happen. He just thinks people watching on television are going wait a minute, I see smoke and I don't see the mirrors. They are transferring \$26,000, but that's not happening here. He's trying to get to the bottom line. What is still being... from each one of the departments. Selectman Jasper said \$225,000. Selectman Maddox asked where. Mr. Malizia said that's why they are discussion it, so people see that this is a process, a very serious process and it's not intended to mislead anybody. Selectman Maddox said not mislead, confuse. Selectman Massey said it's new ground that has never been plowed before.

Chairman Coutu said the citizenry has to understand they've approved the budget, they know what the bottom line is and they have to live within that budget. In terms of where the cuts have to be made in order to manage and provide the services the town has become accustomed to, there are several items that have been identified as priority items that the departments would like to see fulfilled. When you go to the default budget, people have to understand that in the budgets, there were positions that were funded, but not filled, so the money is there and some of that money can be transferred in order to meet the needs that the department heads have felt are a priority, if the Board approves it. What they have before them is a working document and it's up to the Board on how to satisfy either seeing something accomplished with it, take it home and digest it some more, or take some action this evening by authorizing the transfers.

Selectman Maddox said they need something in the interim; this is a start, but he's not ready to make transfers because he wants to see what cuts the Police Department did make. The crossing guards are something that should be put back in, but if the IT thing is the trade-off, he wants to see that. Without knowing what they've left in for the cuts, he didn't see how he could say OK, one's better than the other without that document.

Selectman thought that should be an easy document to produce and perhaps the way to do it is to allow them to put the money back into the document that they give and show, even if they accomplish the transfers, where the negatives still exist. He asked Selectman Maddox if that satisfied him because that would be easier to look at than to say, well, if we didn't put this money back in here, if we just allow this in, here are the negatives, you can then create your own new negatives if you want by simply pulling the money out rather than trying to do 10, 12 different line items to get to the same thing.

Selectman Massey said he thought he knew exactly what Selectman Maddox wanted, and he would support it—a single sheet, 12-A, that for each department would show the total amount of money that they don't have and what those items are. As an example, the Fire Department has \$114,000 less that they have to spend. On sheet 12-A, it would show the \$114,000, where those cuts were coming from and an asterisk beside the cuts that they would like to have put back in by transferring money. The second thing to keep in mind is, and he's not certain about a couple of them, but in looking at the right side, you got the Town Engineer position, the Community Development Secretary, the legal budget, the Moderator and the Budget Committee. The Community Development Secretary was not funded for FY10, so it's money that if they don't do anything, is

going to sit and, at the end of the year, they'd have a surplus of \$49,000. If they don't hire the Town Engineer for the whole year, that money is already in the default, but if they don't fill the position, that's available. They already took \$15,000 out of the legal budget and that was one of the departments that had plus more money in the default than they had, so in summary, if they saw sheet 12-A that showed the department, how they added up all of the numbers that get them to whatever the number is and then put an asterisk beside the ones they are recommending from their priorities they would like to see offset by transferring out of the right-hand side. That's what he would like to see.

Ms. Carpentier said to go right down the report because almost every line item is different. To get up to \$114,000 she has got to go through every line item in every department. Film development went from \$129 to \$193. Selectman Maddox said he wanted to see only \$1,000 or greater. Ms. Carpentier said it would still take more than one page. Selectman Jasper said to get there, they'd have to almost produce another whole budget and he was wondering if that's the level of detail they want. It could be simple. They all have the budgets that were approved by the Budget Committee and if they simply then said, because most of the departments are going to transfer as much money back because they are going to have to fund most of the lines at the levels that were approved, if they simply had a summary of where, at the end of the day, the negatives would show up. For instance, overtime. Say they approved in Department X \$200,000, but in order to meet the default, it's going to be \$180,000. You would show there would be a \$20,000 reduction in overtime from the submitted or Budget Committee approved 2010 and so on down the line, which would then probably be just a few lines in each department, so they'd know where the actual reduction was. Selectman Maddox said he just wanted to see something other than... not realizing that it added up to over \$1/2 million. He wanted to see more detail to be able to explain beyond... Selectman Jasper said when they get done with all their transfers and compare that to what was approved, if you see where the negatives are, that should be a relatively few lines within each department. Chairman Coutu said for the bulk of the Fire Department, it came out of overtime.

Selectman Massey said he was operating under a misconception, so he wanted to go back to see if he understood it because they may be doing something at the micro level that they need to do at the macro level. If he understood what Ms. Carpentier just said, the new budget is not just grossed up. She actually went down line by line, sub account by sub account, and took the default number and put it in there, and the number at the bottom of each department, it added up to the default dollars. Ms. Carpentier said that was correct. Selectman Massey said if they get down into the weeds, looking at \$10 for film and \$30 for whatever, they are going to get caught up. They need to stay at the macro level and it is worthwhile. They have already identified some of the macro levels that they are suggesting that if they want to make the transfers. They are not talking about adding money. They are simply talking about moving money from an account that's not going to be spent next year, or potentially not going to be spent, to an account that could be spent. That's why that thing about the 326 kind of, he could see where the confusion was because they were talking \$304,000. What they see on the left side of Page 12 adds up to what Selectman Jasper was talking about, the total amount of money that has got to be found in the budget somewhere, either by not doing something or by transferring. He was where Selectman Maddox was, but he didn't want to see spending \$10 for shoelaces instead of \$10 for socks. That's why it could be done, maybe on two pages.

Chairman Coutu said considering the request that is being made in order to have a clearer understanding of where the shortfalls are, and considering the document she would have to produce, how much time would it take her. Ms. Carpentier said a day, but the information is already right there in the report. She started with the operating budget as Column One, what they asked for in FY10 and what they got in default 10. Every single line item is already right there on each department. It would be the same size as the actual versus budget report they get every month.

Selectman Jasper said they were creating a mountain out of a molehill because all the Board should be concerned about... and it shouldn't be 'you' that does it. It has got to be the department heads telling them when they do their transfers within their own departments, what are their lines going to look like compared to what was approved by the Budget Committee and the Selectmen. That's the difference. What the default budget comes in at is totally irrelevant because nobody is going to be operating on a line by line default. They are operating on a gross default budget and they are going to make their transfer to the lines they need to operate for the fiscal year. Let each of them come in, and they are primarily worried about police and fire, the two big ones. If they come in and show the Board the difference in the particular lines—overtime, patrol, suppression, etc.—here's where we are going to lose the money, that gives them what they need. The Board looks at that and says OK, here's how the department is going to operate for the year. All the rest of it is totally irrelevant to anything, and then they can say they agree. In this case, they shouldn't be losing crossing guards, so they'll put the \$56,000 in. They come in and tell the Board, within their losses, how they would operate the budget if that's what they had to stay with, and then the Board fills in the holes, where appropriate. That's all they need, probably a sheet per department, done by those two department heads, primarily. They are making this a lot more complicated than they need to.

Chairman Coutu said he couldn't agree more. Clearly, the default budget is the budget they are going to operate from. That's what the voters voted. They can't spend a dollar more, but when you compare that with the budget that the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommended to the voters that was turned down, the general operating fund is going to have a shortfall of \$304,508. For the purpose of transparency, the department heads, the Finance Director and the Town Administrator provided them with a document that shows areas they feel should be a priority and should be financed and budgeted in order to have these things completed. Those departments that are most adversely affected are the police and fire, according to this document, IT, Solid Waste and Assessing. All they are going to do is transfer monies that are budgeted in the default that they have no intention of spending in order to meet those areas that have been cut out of the budget that they feel are a priority and would like to have filled, which comes to \$326,000. That \$326,000 against the \$304,000 is almost a match.

Selectman Jasper said that's where the confusion is. They've got to look at that 326 against the 551. Chairman Coutu said so there's another \$200,000 that's cut somewhere in the budget. For them to get into it line by line... if they can't trust their Town Administrator and the Finance Director and department heads to make those cuts without having to come to the Board about the fact they budgeted \$20 for shoelaces but they will only spend \$10, how finite do they want to get? They *are* making a mountain out of a molehill. The department heads have done their homework, reviewed by the Finance Director and Town Administrator. The Board is being presented with a list of critical items they'd like to see monies transferred to cover.

Selectman Massey said Chairman Coutu touched upon something that they don't want to lose sight of and that is they have traditionally, once they've approved a budget, given the management discretion of how to spend money inside that budget to the departments, holding them accountable to what they committed to do for the year. If they had to spend \$10 for shoelaces because they didn't have enough money in the shoelace account, they didn't spend \$10 in the socks account, but the Board never got down to that level of micro-managing their budgets. What he is looking at, and they're still on the kind of thing that would help somebody, especially if the Board is grappling with it, and the issue that Mr. Malizia has talked to them about is transparency, is what the departments have basically, what they are looking at on the left side of the document on page 12-A is the departments have said I am going to live with my default budget, but if there is discretionary ability to move funds in areas they know they are not going to spend this year, here are my department priorities for where I would like to restore some of those cuts. We won't be increasing the default budget, we'll simply be moving monies from areas where we don't plan to spend to areas... you may ultimately disagree with their priorities, but that's what they are there for. This is what they say their priorities are in order for them to move forward. Finally, as he keeps going back to, no matter what they do with giving them all or none of their priorities of where they have established where cuts could be made, they are not going to change the tax rate by that decision. The citizens are going to see the same tax rate and he recognized what Selectman Jasper was saying. He heard some stuff last night at the School Board that started to make him get really excited. They are already saying they may not have the money for portable classrooms because they've got how many millions of dollars they are grappling with right now in a budget shortfall, so they are looking at where they are going to take it from. He still thinks that at a macro level, seeing if they take any one of those and identify the major areas that they were going to come up with the money from, would be sufficient, would add up to the departments' projected cuts. Using the Fire Department, they got \$59,400 of cuts they've already identified because that's basically what these are. They are cuts they'd like to see put back into the budget via the transfer, not be adding more money to the budget. What's not on that sheet and what Selectman Maddox is asking to see is that other \$54,000.

Selectman Maddox said all he wanted to see is the departments have located those monies. If you took the \$190,000... the Police Department's budget was defaulted short \$190,000. If they put the monies they want back in, the 116, that means they have cut only \$73,000. What was that? That's all he wanted to see. They said they were not going to fill a patrolman, and hopefully the IT, now adds up to more than 73, so obviously one of those, or both of those are back in the budget that he feels is necessary, but yet they have to make the decision whether they wipe out crossing guards to get to there. That's what he's looking for, but he just thinks there is some opaqueness to how that number if there at the \$73,000.

Chairman Coutu asked if the Finance Director could produce a document that would give a more definitive explanation of where monies are being cut within each department. Ms. Carpentier said yes, with the help of the departments. Selectman Jasper said the only ones that really matter are the ones requesting money transfers. If they are not requesting money back in, they will live within their budgets.

Selectman Massey thinks they can accomplish what they want and stay at the macro level if all they saw were that these items, the priorities, and for the department, the total dollars in the operating side, line 200 and up, total dollars that are going to be taken out and the total dollars that are going to be taken out of the 100 accounts, so it would be the macro, you'd see they'd take X dollars out of labor and X dollars out of operating expenses, and that would give them what Selectman Maddox...at that level, he'd see what their priorities for wanting to stay are and where they are going to make up the rest.

Chairman Coutu asked if Ms. Carpentier could have that for them for the next meeting. Mr. Malizia thought the next agenda was going to be very full, and not quite sure they needed to do it at that time. Chairman Coutu agreed that there was no rush. (Talking over each other.) Selectman Massey thanked all of the department heads for doing the work they have done on this. Ms. Carpentier asked if May would work. Chairman Coutu said that would be fine; they have till July 1 and beyond. Selectman Jasper said they could drag this out forever. Chairman Coutu announced that the horse was dead. He thanked all of the department heads for coming and for providing their input; it was appreciated. Silence is golden.

8. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Massey said the Police Department had an outstanding community activities program with their blood drive. They exceeded their goal by 10%--299. Kudos and thanks for the participating businesses.

Selectman Jasper said he spoke to Steve awhile back about the audit report because there were a couple of deficiencies in there that needed to be addressed. He forgot when they said they were going to talk about them. He thought it was at the workshop. Mr. Malizia said there wasn't a date specific, just at 'a' workshop. Selectman Jasper said he wanted to bring that up, that if they haven't looked at that, there are some things they are working on, but they need to follow up on that audit report, perhaps for the May workshop. They could talk about how those things were corrected and what they need to do, etc. It's important to be aware of what's going on there. At least on the surface, they were of a concern to him.

► The revenues at the present time, the budget that is supposed to be voted on tomorrow, the majority version has about \$50 million still in loss of revenue sharing to the towns versus what the Governor had proposed. The Republicans will be putting forward an amendment to fully restore that, but they also expect to lose in that effort. Still got a long way to go and still have much to be concerned about on the town level with the budget that's being proposed. The Republicans are doing all they can to see that the towns are made whole.

► Over the weekend, the train station and office building were broken into again. The odd thing is the alarms did not go off. The alarms were smashed. However, when he got there and saw that the buildings were wide open, he went in with an officer and the alarm in the main room of the office did go off while they were in there. Very strange. When he was there, he noticed that they have to take charge of the roofs, which are badly leaking. Those two roofs need to be a priority. He's not sure... the material on the train station... they've got to find out, according to the grant, which they have and there are monies available through that grant, they can do the roof with the building sitting right there because it's not going to hurt the roof when they relocate the building. But they have to find out the materials to use to comply with the grant and the office building has wooden shakes on it. He didn't know that was necessary, but they are going to have to check with Historic Resources what they can use for materials. They need to get town staff working on that, find out what materials they can use of those two buildings and get going on that ASAP. In one area in the office, between... there must be an alcove area and there was a flat area or something, but there is a gaping hole in the building right there, so that's something they need to get going on. He asked if there was general agreement, if they could get Steve to get the appropriate people or resources to find out what they can do to get those roofs done as soon as possible.

Selectman Massey said he was going to say yes, but recommended, especially since, if he understands it, some portion of the monies could lapse before the end of this calendar year, if they don't encumber, and he would think it would be worthwhile to hire a consultant, an expert to come in and give them a cost to do everything Selectman Jasper said and put together a proposal and take the money out of the Benson's account. Selectman Jasper said the problem is the train station is under a different grant that shouldn't be affected by that. Mr. Malizia said they have until the end of the calendar year for that grant. Selectman Jasper said in terms of the money that's lapsing, they need to talk to DRA and say wait a minute, we just got a hold of this in January. Mr. Malizia said DRA won't give an opinion, but they can talk to the auditors and get them to let it ride for another year. DRA will never ever commit to anything in writing, but he'll talk to the auditors and show them the evidence they just concluded the transaction and asking for their indulgence for one more year. Given the nature of the encumbrance, he hoped they would grant the town that for one more year. Selectman Jasper said at this point, they need to leave it to Steve and Mark to get proposals for the roof that will comply with the terms of the grant and the deed. Mr. Malizia said they could find the information they need for the roofs and perhaps bring it back so the Board understands what they are looking at because before putting together an RFP, he wants to make sure they are all working under the same parameters. The train depot may be one kind of material, where the office building may be something totally different. Selectman Jasper said, at this point, there are two parts to the office building. The roof that is currently just shakes. The other part is the part with the tiles, which will be a more extensive project and the tiles shouldn't be done until that facility is much more secure. They may have to do another temporary tar paper on that part, which will be inexpensive until they are ready, but they need to do the other roofs permanently.

Selectman Maddox said (the previous speakers) got ahead of him because he was going to speak on Benson's. It's great that they want to do all of this, but where are they with the committee? They should be asking them where they want to go with some of this, as far as expenditures. They also need to document these buildings. They talked about it when they were going to get them. Now that the weather has finally cleared enough to be able to get some cameras in there to take some pictures of what the buildings look like when they took possession of this is important, and an accounting. He's seen numbers kicking around of \$350,000, most of which is for the train station. Some of it's from the Shepherd's Hill account, an accounting of what monies they have because there's nothing in the FY10 budget for Benson's, so whatever monies they have today is what they will have to work with. Where are they going with Benson's? The two things they definitely need to get... whether they have HCTV make it a special, Benson's as we got it, and then have that as a record, some pictures with still cameras, but also the Benson's Committee and what monies they have. He then deferred to Selectman Jasper.

Selectman Jasper said in terms of the roofs and the Benson's Committee, he didn't think the Benson's Committee was in a position, at the moment, to do anything because of the restructuring they talked about, having the subcommittees would be the Building Committee, which they clearly don't have. He forgotten where they are with advertising and asked if they've advertised. Mr. Malizia said on next week's agenda, there are either eight or nine applicants. Selectman Jasper said this committee was sort of a holdover, but keep going because they are going to transition in, but they are not really in a position to make recommendations to the Board, at this point. He told the committee that the Board of Selectmen is going to have to take control of the roofs because by the time they go through this back and forth, they are going to have major, major problems.

Selectman Maddox said maybe they can temporarily fix them for now. All he was asking was how much money they have, and if they spend X amount of dollars on the roof, and have no more money for anything else for the next two years... Selectman Jasper said that's what they've got to find out, but the train station is part of the grant, and that's the biggest roof. Selectman Maddox thought that was a tile roof. Selectman Jasper said no, there's an asphalt roof on there now and if they can replace it with an asphalt roof, fine. He didn't know what the old train stations have because, intuitively, tells him when you had steam locomotives, you didn't put wooden shingles... it probably originally did have slate. It doesn't have slate on it now, so do they need to go back to slate as part of the grant? Can they go to the faux-slate, or do they have to go to real slate? That's part of the grant, part of what they have to figure out. The other building, the roof square footage isn't a lot more than the size of this

(Selectmen's meeting room) room, so that's not going to be huge, huge dollars, even if they have to go back to wooden shakes on that. It's still not going to be huge dollars because it's just not that large.

Selectman Maddox said once they take the roof off to start putting shingles on it, who knows what they're going to find. But, again, they need to find out how much money is in there and where they are going to go with this. Putting a roof on a building just gets them a new roof on a very old building and takes away monies from other things. Selectman Jasper said they've got to get the prices to find out, and that's the first step.

Selectman Massey asked if they were going to get closure on going out... he thought they had agreed that they were going to have a professional videographer document those so they had a professionally produced document and he thought they agreed they would do it as soon as the snow was gone. It would be his expectation that they authorize the Town Administrator to engage the services of a videographer. Mr. Malizia recommended using Lisa Sasser because she/they did the barn and are most familiar with the property to take photos and put them in a document. They've done the barn, he thought. Selectman Jasper said they may want to have the property videotaped, but buildings need to be stills and they are only talking, at this point, Haselton Barn, the train station and the office building. That's all they really need to have stills of. He agreed that they ought to get that done and find out if what they have on Haselton is sufficient. If not,

Motion by Selectman Jasper to authorize Steve (Town Administrator) to enter into an agreement with an individual or company

Mr. Malizia said most likely, it will be Lisa Sasser, who is intimately familiar with the property. Selectman Jasper said he didn't want to tie in anyone.

to document the condition of the buildings, as required by the contractor, seconded by Selectman Massey, carried 5-0.

► Selectman Maddox said hopefully, the Planning Board can put some money into the General Fund. The Assistant Town Administrator is working on some items that over the years, the work has been done and it was never taken out of the various agency accounts. It was paid for by General Fund monies, and hopefully, they can put some of those monies back in this year.

Selectman Nadeau said for all of those who had damage during the ice storm in December and need to get rid of their brush, the Highway Department will be opening the landfill every Saturday in April, from 8:00 – 2:00 for *brush only*, except for the last one at the end of the month, when they can bring their other stuff. It's there, and people can go there on Saturdays and get rid of the brush only and it will be scrolled on cable TV. Mr. Malizia said for those with internet access, it will be on the web page.

► He thanked the Alvirne students and the teachers and Bryan Lane, the Principal, and the Vocational Director who went out on Saturday and did a year cleanup for some of the Seniors in town, who had a lot of branches and stuff down. He thanked the Highway Department for their help in letting them dispose of the branches and material.

► Saturday, April 18, they will have the annual Rabies Clinic, put on by the Hudson Junior Woman's Club, at the Animal Control Facility at 6 Constitution Drive, across from the Police Department. People will be able to register their dogs there, which they have until the end of April to do. Vaccines will be available for dogs and cats for their rabies vaccines from Dr. Conte at Hudson Animal Hospital, next week, April 18.

Selectman Coutu recognized Police Chief Jason Lavoie and Assistant Town Administrator Mark Pearson.

Mr. Pearson said they have a time-sensitive issue on applying before a certain deadline for a certain grant that just became available. They were before the Board to get permission to apply for the grant because the deadline is April 14. If the Board was so inclined to go forward with authorizing this, they would have only a week to apply.

Chief Lavoie said the grant was part of the COPSMORE grant that was recently put out and would allow them to fill the current vacancy in the department. This grant would pay for that position for the next three years. Currently, the money is in his budget, and remains in the default budget, but the benefit of this grant, should it be awarded, is that the money for that position could go back to the town and the grant money would be used to pay for the position for the next three years. The only condition is that in the fourth year, the town fund the position.

Selectman Jasper said what was unusual was that before, it always had to be a new position and he asked about the eligibility requirements. Mr. Pearson said there is a pre-qualifying thing on line they can fill out. Both he and Chief Lavoie have researched this and he wanted to comment on this. In the past, they wouldn't let towns supplant a position, but they can with this one. They can supplant for the next three years and they will pay 100% of the cost for that new officer, and his benefits. Chief Lavoie said not a new officer; they can pay for a position that currently... the Selectmen aren't funding this new position. (Talking over each other.)

Chairman Coutu said as part of the stimulus package that was passed, in the COPS Grant, and he read it in the Boston Globe, that this is the first time in the history of the COPS Grants that they provided monies to save jobs, not just to create new jobs. Under the Reagan administration, they were creating 30,000 or 300,000 new police. This is to create or save jobs, so they are allowing them to do that. The only question he has, and since (Selectman Jasper) has been here since 1492, he would know more about the budget process. The position that they are going to fund is an existing position in the budget. If they supplant

that position with federal grant monies, how does that affect their overall... that position in the budget? If they are approved for the grant, it would be funded for the next three years. Does that position just disappear out of the budget? Is it just a line item?

Mr. Malizia said if it was appropriated in the budget, you would show corresponding revenue on the revenue side as receiving money. If you saw the expenditure, you'd see the revenue. Year four, you'd see the position, no revenue. Chairman Coutu said it is a position that exists presently. Mr. Malizia said they're not adding any positions, per the docket that he already has.

Motion by Selectman Jasper to authorize the Police Chief to apply for the grant, seconded by Selectman Nadeau.

Chairman Coutu said the motion was to authorize the Police Department and Assistant Town Administrator apply for a grant, under the COPS program to fund for one full-time police officer for three years.

Selectman Massey asked the Chief if he was able to determine whether there is a stipulation that if you accept the grant, you will also agree to no layoffs for the three years. Chief Lavoie said he didn't see that yet, but in the past, that has been the condition. Mr. Pearson said he's done some preliminary reading--and he had a thick package, which were all of the qualifications. They are committing to staffing not dropping below the level that you will have with that officer. For instance, they would make a commitment that there are 47 positions in year one, two and three and then in year four, the town will pay for that 47th position. It's not adding anything new to the Hudson police force they don't already have. It's just going to fill that vacant position because of the default budget this year. In essence, in years two and three, if they were going to fund that position with no default situation, it's a plus to the town for the salary for those two years, realizing they need to keep that number of officers on the force. They have to maintain the number of full-time positions on that force for four years, three of which are paid for, and the fourth year, the town pays for. This is a unique opportunity because it is supplanting the budget, which wasn't allowed under former grants.

Selectman Massey said if the application is approved, then the town has made a commitment for three years. With the uncertainty in the economy, is that a risk worth taking? The Board needs to have that discussion. Selectman Nadeau said he didn't see crime going down in the next three years. He asked if they were applying for just one person, or if they could apply for the current one they have and a new one. Mr. Pearson said it's directly tied to a position that has been cut from the budget in this bad economic time, or positions that are in anticipation of being laid off. If some other department is facing layoffs somewhere of five or 10 officers, a big department, they could apply to not lay those people off and they would supplant their budget. In this case, they have one vacancy by virtue of the default budget, so in this case, it's only the one position.

Selectman Maddox said while he didn't disagree that it's a concern, this is only to apply. If they get it, it's a discussion they should have. This is only to apply, so he sees no harm in seeing if they even get to that point. Then they will have a vigorous discussion, much like the budget earlier. To apply makes... how can they not go for it at three years paid, with benefits.

Selectman Massey said under general circumstances, that's a great argument by Selectman Maddox, but if you apply, then turn it down, what does that make them look like, unless, when they find out that the circumstances for accepting it are more onerous than they had thought in the beginning. That's what he'd hang his hat on, on that basis. To apply, then say no, we don't want the money, just because they don't want to do it, is not a good position to be in. It puts needless work on the Chief to write the grant, to go forward with everything he has to do. He will support the motion, but only on the basis that, at the moment, the details they have would suggest it's not going to be a problem. If when they find out what they have to do in order to accept the grant, that's another discussion they can have.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

► Selectman Coutu said he was fortunate enough this morning to be invited to a breakfast in Nashua to honor the heroes which were nominated by the Red Cross. The Governor was there. Two things he hasn't given up on are Benson's and the Seniors. He received a communiqué as a result of a letter that he had sent to the Governor with regard to Benson's. He had asked them to research the stimulus monies to see if there were any available for them through stimulus because he felt, with the Master Plan, they certainly were in a position to do some work on Benson's, without having to go through a planning process. They thoroughly researched it and there are absolutely no monies available through the stimulus package. However, the rules on the stimulus funds are changing every day, and if there's a loophole, the Governor will try to identify some monies and make them available to the town. In the interim, there may be some monies in the Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance. If so, Chairman Coutu will be advised of the application process and he'll pass it on to the Town Administrator. Bill Degas is the head of the Trails Bureau, DRED Program and there are monies available there, as well, . Between the town of them, they will be able to get some funding for Benson's. He spoke to the Governor at the breakfast very briefly and he suggested that he wanted to take Chairman Coutu up on the offer to come into town and walking Benson's and having breakfast or lunch with some of them. He received a phone call this afternoon from his office, and he recommended the Governor's Council, which does road meetings in the summertime, and Governor Wiedzorek, who is this District's Councillor, if he could be convinced to hold a meeting here, the Governor would like to have the meeting held in the open air, under a tent at Benson's... give an hour for the Benson's Committee to make a presentation. The new committee will be in place by then and maybe give him a short walking tour and let him see what they have and the amount of land they have and he would certainly entertain coming and doing the meeting here and taking the tour of Benson's and having lunch under the tent. He didn't think they could formalize a breakfast under the tent, but they could probably have some pastries and coffee. He's sure they can get some businesses in town to do that. Selectman Jasper asked who was going to pay for the tent. Chairman Coutu was sure he could get one donated.

▶With regard to the Seniors, it is his intent... he received from some of them the committees they wished to be assigned to. The one he can confidently announce tonight is that Selectman Massey will continue to be the Hudson's Senior Council on Aging representative. The Seniors had two warrant articles on the ballot this year, one for the appropriation of \$50,000 per year into a building fund and the other was for a part-time Senior Director, and that was turned down by the voters. However, he was going to give Selectman Massey something to do some research and to work with the Seniors, the Able Program, which is Senior Community Services Employment Program, which will allow them to hire fully funded, benefits and all, through the Federal Government, one 20-hour a week person for up to four years, with no conditions attached whatsoever. They, as a government agency, cannot apply, but the non-profit agency may. If Selectman Massey reads that in detail, as he did, that person, as part of their training, would have to be a senior that is hired because it is a seniors' program, can work out of Town Hall, or wherever they designate, more likely the Community Center, so that would be their 20-hour a week person, paid by the federal government for up to four years.

▶Chairman Coutu applauded the School Committee and Randy Bell for their expeditious response to the kindergarten issue. He thinks they will have that behind them in short order and the citizens of Hudson will be proud of the direction they are undertaking in order to meet the court order to provide kindergarten in the town. Selectman Maddox questioned the court order and asked if he missed something. Chairman Coutu said the courts ruled that the suit had no muster and they have to have kindergarten on the basis of the legislative action that was taken to mandate kindergarten statewide. Selectman Maddox said it's not a court order. Selectman Massey said that was right; it was a ruling by the court that the School Committee opted not to appeal. Chairman Coutu said as a result of a court decision, they will have kindergarten.

▶Congratulations to Hudson's Joey Jordoin, a student at Bishop Guertin. He was selected by the Lowell Sun as the Indoor Track and Field All-Star. They don't want to be messing with Joey because he's a black belt in karate. They are very proud of Joey and are glad he was designated as an all-star by one of the local daily newspapers.

▶He took Selectman Jasper's suggestion in regards to having the School Committee have a liaison representative here and the Board of Selectmen having a liaison representative with the School Committee. He contacted School Chairman Rodgers and asked him to communicate with him as to whether or not he would be in accord and how he would address that and Selectman Massey has indicated an interest in serving in that capacity and after exchanging e-mails over who was meeting when so they don't have a conflict. He hoped that would become a reality, having brought it up some time ago.

▶Chairman Coutu wanted to reach out to the youth in the community. He noticed in the last election, a bus came down with over 40 students to come to vote on election day. He thought there was a lot to be said about the students who made the effort to come and vote and the town's elections. He wanted to reach out to the younger people to let them know they have a golden opportunity to become part and parcel of town government. There are several openings on several boards and commissions and welcome their applications. They would like to see some of the younger people represented on some of the boards and commission. They lend a whole different perspective to the way things are done in government and it gives them a golden opportunity to learn a lot more about the government.

▶Chairman Coutu said yesterday was Selectman Nadeau's birthday, so he had something for him. Happy Birthday, Ben.

▶To the citizens of Hudson, be they of Christian faith or Jewish faith, he wished them all a Happy Passover and a very Happy Easter. He reminded everyone in town that the spring season is upon them. Children will be out playing in their yards and running out in the streets. He's had a lot of complaints about a lot of speeders in private neighborhoods and asked them to slow down and be cautious and be aware of the children. They don't want to see anybody get hurt.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Massey, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HGTV and transcribed by Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant.

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