

**HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Minutes of the December 2, 2008 Workshop Meeting**

6:30 p.m.—Attorney Client Session.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Nadeau at 7:10 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**, led by Selectman Massey.

3. **ATTENDANCE**

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

**Staff/Others:** Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Stewart Schneiderman

4. **MINUTES**

**Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2008 (budget presentations)**

*Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to approve the Minutes of 10/27/08 carried 5-0.*

5. **DISCUSSION ITEM**

Budget to Actuals (Not available this early in the month.)

6. **OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN**

**Selectman Massey** said he didn't have anything.

**Selectman Coutu** said today Hudson Cable Television was officially announcing that if the viewers go to [www.hudsonstv.com](http://www.hudsonstv.com), this link will take them to the HCTV web site, which will allow public access to program scheduling, streaming files and podcasts. The current system allows for on-demand streaming to most previous meetings and programs in the system. They will be assessing the equipment and costs associated with live streaming, which would allow people to watch programs as they run on the access channels. This is one of the most positive steps to date HCTV has taken. As time goes on, hopefully, they will be able to have more programming in previous broadcasts put into the library for people to research.

**Selectman Maddox** said he didn't have anything.

**Selectman Jasper** *Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to censure Selectman Maddox for his comments and some of his interaction with the Hudson Police Department.*

Selectman Jasper said he had more specifics. There were the incidents the Chief brought to their attention last week having to do with CALEA. There were also a number of documented comments that were disturbing relative to ride-alongs. While he might respectfully disagree with Selectman Maddox, he supports Selectman Maddox's right to make all the comments that he has made, but he did not agree with the venues that Selectman Maddox chose to make them in. He preferred not to have to go into all of the comments, but if necessary, he would. He was taking this action as a realization they have a responsibility as Selectmen to behave appropriately at all times and when they are acting as Selectmen dealing with employees, realizing that their words and actions have more far-reaching consequences than they may realize and they have an effect on the morale of the department. They may appear, at times, to be acting or speaking on behalf of the entire Board, when that is not the case. As they enter into this time of significant change in the Hudson Police Department, moving into a new era from Chief Gendron, who has been heading up that department for many years, it's important for the Board to send a strong message that they support the police and not undermining the morale and the programs of the Police Department. While he made the motion with a heavy heart--and he spoke to Selectman Maddox face-to-face last night to let him know that he was going to make this motion--he did not take this lightly. For the good of the town, it was necessary to send a message, although nothing more than a slap on the hand, saying please be careful of how you interact and what you say because it does have far-reaching consequences.

Selectman Maddox thanked Selectman Jasper for the heads-up, saying he was a stand-up guy. Selectman Maddox said he was turning red and wanted to argue all of this and debate all of this, but he was going to do what he believed was the correct thing to do and accept, if it is the will of the Board, the censure from the Board for comments he made, rather than getting into a long dissertation about who, what, when and where because it would be counterproductive to the Board's ability to work as a unit to deal with some of the very complex issues that are coming before them. He wanted to, but he believed it is better to take his lumps, if that is the Board's decision, learn from his mistakes and move on, rather than getting into something that wouldn't benefit the community--and that's who they are there to serve.

Selectman Coutu said Selectman Maddox's remarks indicate that he's also a stand-up guy. Selectman Coutu said he stands by the comments made by Selectman Jasper. He, too, will support the censure, but he does so with a heavy heart. He's come to know that Selectman Maddox genuinely cares about the community and didn't think that any of them doubt that. He agreed with and echoed the comments made by Selectman Jasper. The venue wasn't the right place and it wasn't the right time. He

knows that Selectman Maddox is vociferous and makes his points known, but he is a stand-up guy. Selectman Coutu knew that Selectman Maddox's comments, although may have been taken in a disparaging way, he was sure they weren't intended that way. What Selectman Jasper was trying to say was that, as officials, they need to learn that lesson which he was told when he first came on the Board: "You're a Selectman; you're out there and visible. Remember that you have to be accountable for your actions at all times. People are going to see you. You're going to be noticed." He respects what Selectman Maddox just said and, as the result of those comments, he has a greater respect for him and the fact that Selectman Maddox is willing to take the slap on the wrist, which is the intent, but it's also a warning to the rest of them that they need to be mindful of who they speak to, when they speak and exactly what they say. There is a proper channel to vent, and that was not the right place, so he will support the censure.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0, with one abstention by Selectman Maddox.

Selectman Jasper said he wanted to echo Selectman Coutu's remarks with regard to the character of Selectman Maddox and appreciated they didn't have to get into a long debate. He understands Selectman Maddox may disagree with the conclusions, but Selectman Jasper thanked him for not dragging this out. Hopefully, they all can learn from this because it can be a lesson to all of them that they need to be mindful of how they conduct themselves and what they say, even if they don't think it would be taken as seriously as some people take it.

**7. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Massey, to enter Nonpublic Session under 91-A:3 II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee, carried 5-0 by roll call vote.

Chairman Nadeau stated that nonpublic session was being entered into at 7:30 p.m., thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session would be listed on the Board's next agenda.

Open session was entered into at 10:24 p.m.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 10:25 p.m. by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Jasper, carried 5-0.

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

**HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

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Benjamin J. Nadeau, Chairman

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Richard J. Maddox, Vice-Chairman

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Kenneth J. Massey, Selectman

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Shawn N. Jasper, Selectman

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Roger E. Coutu, Selectman