

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the April 8, 2008 Meeting

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Nadeau at 7:01 p.m. in the Selectmen's Office at Town Hall.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**, led by Library Director Toni Weller.

3. **ATTENDANCE**

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

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Jim Michaud, Assistant Assessor; Fire Fighter Pat Robertson; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Smith; Andrea Perreault; Michael Settanny; Ryan Halliday, TEL; Tom Tollefson, HLN

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Proclamation for National Library Week, April 13-19, 2008

Toni Weller, Library Director, was asked to come forward to receive the proclamation for National Library Week, April 13-19, which Chairman Nadeau presented to her, stating that it would be posted on the town's website—or people could read it at the library when they go in during Library Week.

5. **NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

Recycling Committee (2 Members, terms to expire 12/31/09 and 12/31/10)

Michael R. Settanny, 5B Yale Court, said he lives in a condo complex where they have big dumpsters for trash, but there is no recycling, and he feels that is a problem; he'd like to help people be more aware of this. Selectman Jasper thanked him, saying this was an issue that needed to be addressed. This was a great opportunity to develop recycling within the condo communities in town. Selectman Coutu echoed those remarks. There aren't many people that, seeing a problem, address it to help resolve the situation, and the community, as a whole.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to waive the procedures and make the appointment tonight, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to appoint Michael Settanny, with a term to expire 12/31/10, carried 5-0.

6. **CONSENT ITEMS**

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to approve the Consent Items, carried 5-0.

A. **Assessing Items**

- 1) Veteran Tax Credit, Map 217/Lot 028/Sublot 001, w/recommendation to deny.
- 2) 2007 Abatement, Map 203/Lot 132, w/recommendation to approve.
- 3) Veteran Tax Credits (Map 133/Lot 018; Map 168/Lot 068/sub 022; Map 149/Lot 001/sub 024); Elderly Exemptions (Map 154/Lot 005; Map 174/Lot 230; Map 178/Lot 013/sub 011; Map 173/Lot 037; Map 147/Lot 017/sub 033); Disabled Exemption (Map 125/Lot 011) w/recommendation to grant.

B. **Licenses & Permits**

- 1) Request by Friends of Alvirne Swim Team to hold a fundraiser on April 26, 2008 at SAM's Club
- 2) Request by Avon Walk for Breast Cancer to hold a fundraiser at SAM's Club on April 19, 2008
- 3) Request by the Half Moon Sober Festival to hold a fundraiser at SAM's Club on April 20, 2008
- 4) Request by Campbell HS Friends of Music to hold a tag sale at Market Basket on April 19

C. **Acceptance of Minutes**

Board of Selectmen's Minutes of March 25, 2008

D. **Calendar**

4/09 7:00 Planning Board in CD Mtg. Rm.	4/17 7:30 Budget Committee in BOS Mtg. Rm.
4/10 5:30 Sewer Utility in BOS Mtg. Rm.	4/21 6:30 School Board in BOS Mtg. Rm.
4/10 7:30 ZBA in CD Mtg. Rm.	4/21 7:00 CIP in CD Mtg. Rm.
4/10 6:30 Recreation Committee @ Oakwood	4/22 7:00 Board of Selectmen in BOS Mtg. Rm.
4/14 7:00 Conservation Cmsn CD Mtg. Rm.	4/23 7:00 Planning Board in CD Mtg. Rm.
4/15 7:00 Cable Committee in BOS Mtg. Rm.	4/24 1:00 Trustees Trust Funds BOS Mtg. Rm.
4/15 7:00 Library Trustees in CD Mtg. Rm.	4/24 7:30 ZBA in CD Mtg. Rm.
4/16 5:00 Water Utility in BOS Mtg. Rm.	4/28 7:00 Recycling Committee BOS Mtg. Rm.
4/16 7:00 Hudson Seniors in CD Mtg. Rm.	4/28 7:00 Green Team in CD Mtg. Rm.

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on March 25, 2008

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to hire Alison Shupe and Lisa Terwilliger as Tennis Instructors at \$13 per hour, James Stanton as substitute Tennis Instructor at \$10.50 per hour, Kimberly Malley as Summer Program Director for \$5,400, effective June 1, 2008; Thomas DeAngelis as Babe Ruth Baseball Director for \$600 and Cindy Holton as Ladies League Softball Director for \$600, effective April 1, 2008, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Massey, to hire Matt Petrovic as Web Design Intern in the IT Department, effective 3/30/08, at \$14 per hour, not to exceed \$4,000, as recommended by the IT Director, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Massey, to extend the probationary period of Firefighter Glen Bradish to 9/4/08, as recommended by the Fire Chief, carried 4-1. Selectman Maddox voted in opposition.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to hire Corey Morin as Call Firefighter, a non-exempt position w/an hourly rate of \$7.50, effective 4/1/08, as recommended by the Fire Chief, carried 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discretionary Preservation Easement Application (RSA 79-D), Smith Farm property, 3 Gibson Road, Map 179/Lot 30

Assistant Assessor Jim Michaud and Mr. Thomas Smith were recognized. Mr. Michaud said the Board had a memo dated April 8, and the Town Administrator gave the Board additional backup material today from the Town Attorney in regard to something new for the town—a discretionary preservation easement. The Legislature passed this four or five years ago, with the goal of helping property owners preserve barns. He has been talking with Mr. Smith for over a year, sharing information and gathering documentation. There are a lot of things for the Board to consider. The Attorney's opinion gives a good layout of where the Board should go. The Board has to act within 60 days, and a public hearing is required, but it doesn't have to be approved—but some action needs to be taken, to either approve or deny. They've had other forms of discretionary easements that applied to land only; this one applies to both agricultural structure, plus the land underneath. He said Mr. Smith could address why he applied for it. Mr. Smith felt as though they fit the criteria. They may be the last working farm in town, so it seemed like a good idea.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to send this to a public hearing on April 22, carried 5-0.

Selectman Massey asked what the Board must do to be prepared for a public hearing. Mr. Malizia said Attorney Buckley provided a document used in Merrimack for a similar discretionary easement. The Board may want to consider going to view the barn from the street and filling out the checklist. After the public hearing, the Board can discuss their individual results to formulate a vote. Do they want to grant the easement? Do they want to grant it at a percentage? Mr. Michaud's memo explains it. The key document is the "score sheet" that Merrimack used—or the Board members may develop some other criteria.

Mr. Michaud said some criteria must be met. The agricultural structure has to be 75 or older, and it is, which was determined from town records. It has to be an agricultural building, and it is. Thirdly, is it a public benefit, is a scenic enjoyment to the public? That's up to the Board to decide. There are 68 towns in the state that have been granted agricultural structures preservation easements. Londonderry is one of them. There is an awful lot of paperwork on this, but the intent is to help property owners preserve these structures and as they improve them, not be taxed out of the fact they are improving them. Selectman Jasper believed that the barn meets all three of the criteria. If the Board grants this, it will be some small benefit to the Smith family in helping them continue as the only private farm in town. The other farm is the Alvirne Farm. No one else is farming for a living as a full-time occupation. The Board should do what it can to preserve what little rural character they have left.

Mr. Coutu said he is familiar with the Smith family and its contribution to the community. He asked Mr. Michaud what the criteria was to determine a percentage. The document in the agenda packet showed three levels of percentages. Mr. Michaud said those were just examples; the Board could pick any number they wanted, or none at all. Mr. Coutu asked if the other towns indicated how they arrived at a percentage. Mr. Michaud referred to the Attorney's memo, the Abatement Evaluation section that assigns a value to certain criteria. He went to the DRA today and they did a presentation on the town of Dunbarton and they also arrived at a similar point scheme, based upon percentages, not points. Mr. Coutu asked, if the discretionary easement is granted, what the conditions were to preserve the barn, and how long it lasted. Mr. Michaud said 10-years. If, within that period, they change the use of the property, there are penalties to be paid. There's also other conditions, such as the property not be allowed to go fallow. The deed itself lays out what the responsibilities are of both the town and the taxpayer. There are conditions of what to do during that 10-year period. Selectman Coutu asked Mr. Smith if it was his intent that the barn would exist as is for the purposes for which he is presently using it. Mr. Smith said it was their intent and they have no intentions of doing otherwise.

Selectman Maddox thought all of them need to visit (the barn) and he didn't disagree about using the point system because they need to have something to base this on, so everybody with a barn that was used for agriculture 25 years ago, but is now sitting there, they need to be prepared to justify what they did. Mr. Smith believed it said it has to be in agriculture use now and he didn't think there were a lot of those. Selectman Maddox said it said "had been," not that it still is. He read from Mr. Michaud's memo: "...the Board needs to determine if the barn structure is currently or formerly used for agricultural purposes." They need to have a set criteria that they use consistently. What he's seen from the lawyer would give them the basis on how they came up with a point system. Mr. Michaud said there are about 53 barns at least 75 years old in town, so they do want to be consistent.

B. Request by Professional Fire Fighters, IAFF, to hold MDA Boot Drives on June 7, July 19 and August 2, 2008.

Fire Fighter Pat Robertson said last year was the 10th year in a row that Hudson was top dog. Nobody came close to knocking them off. It's amazing how generous people in town are. He brought with him a plaque that the town who raises the most money receives. Hudson has won it so many times, it is all filled up; they will have to give them a new one this year. It is hanging in the Fire Department if anyone wants to look at it. MDA always gives them nice things as a way of thanking the department for what it does—even though they do what they do because they love helping the kids. The dates they chose stayed away from graduation, the Fourth of July and Old Home Days. Several towns have adopted their safety measures, including Londonderry, who is having their first boot drive. He commended the Board of Selectmen, who put those procedures in place. Selectman Jasper

said it wasn't an easy process getting there. FF Robertson agreed, but by working together, they came up with a great system. Selectman Maddox asked FF Robertson to list the safety procedures that they use. FF Robertson they wear yellow fluorescent safety vests and they put up giant construction-type signs that say "MDA Boot Drive Ahead. Caution. Fire Fighters in the Road." They make sure everyone is over 18. The Explorers help out by cooking hot dogs and they all have to have permission slips signed by their parents. Even some Selectmen help out—and they have to follow the same procedures.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to approve the dates for the MDA boot drives at the Chase/Derry/Ferry Streets intersection, provided all of the same safety precautions are used as in the past, carried 5-0.

C. Acceptance of a Donation of \$3,624.56 by A-1 Self Storage for replacement of Equipment destroyed during a Fire

Selectman Coutu it appears the insurance company is paying the owner, who was turning the check over to the Fire Department. Selectman Jasper said it is possible that this was part of the deductible, and he was making the town whole.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Massey, to accept the donation, with the Board's thanks and appreciation, carried 5-0.

D. Engineering Services Water System Storage Analysis and Hydraulic Modeling

Town Administrator Steve Malizia said the south end water tank was recently completed, the looping was done and also the Wason Road booster station. Given those new items on line, it's prudent to prepare a model and flow analysis to get a baseline of the water utility. The last time they did this was seven years ago, and that model indicated the problems in that end of town. In light of that, it was recommended to baseline it so that going forward, should they need to make improvements in the system, they know where to make them and what to do. He and Selectman Massey have discussed this and solicited Pennichuck to submit something, as they are the operations contractor, but they declined, based on the lack of technical personnel and resources available. They will supply data, but at this point, the recommendation is to go with the consultant they have been using, Weston & Sampson. Town staff is familiar with their work, as they have been on these projects, as well as others. It's not imperative to do this, but it is prudent for proper management of the water utility. Major upgrades have been done to the system and they are probably looking at more major upgrades in the next year or two, so it's a good idea to baseline. It will help the Fire Department plan/pre-plan for various events, it will ensure they are providing the proper flow and fire protection in the south end.

Selectman Massey said they looked at what it would take to rehab of the Gordon Street water tank, and on the basis of that examination, they are looking at over \$100,000 to repaint the inside of the tank. A key element of this modeling would be to determine if they can take Gordon Street off line. That's another critical reason why they should be doing the modeling now. Selectman Maddox asked how long this would take to complete. Mr. Malizia said about 3 months. Selectman Massey asked if the contract would be under the town's terms and conditions. Mr. Malizia said yes. Selectman Coutu asked if the monies for this model presently exist. Mr. Malizia said every year, they put in an allowance in the engineering fees account. This year, it was \$40,000 because they anticipate that engineering work will be done, so this is a budgeted line item for purposes such as this. It is part of the Water Utility rate and not coming from the general tax rate. Selectman Jasper said the paperwork says that the evaluation would be completed within 10 weeks.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to award a contract to Weston & Sampson for the Engineering Services Water System Storage Analysis and Hydraulic Modeling in the amount of \$15,100 with the funds to come from Water Utility account 5592-225, Water Utility Operations and Maintenance Engineering Fees carried 5-0

E. VFW Post 5791 Loyalty Day Award

Town Administrator Steve Malizia said on Loyalty Day, the VFW presents an award to a fire fighter, police officer and a town employee and has asked for the town's nominee. He solicited the departments heads, and received two responses. Last year, Priscilla Zakos of the Highway Department was the nominee, the year before was Kathy Voisine of the Town Clerk's Office, another year was Richard Melanson of the Highway Department, who served in Iraq. This year, there are two candidates—Bill Oleksak from Community Development, who has been with the town for 20 years, and Vin Guarino, who works in IT. Selectman Massey said since the criteria is loyalty, and in light of the fact Mr. Oleksak has been with the town for 20 years, he recommended that he be the Board's nominee. Selectmen Jasper, Maddox and Nadeau concurred. Selectman Coutu said that wasn't the direction he was heading, but he respected the opinions of the other Selectmen, so he sided with the majority. His preference was based on the memos that were provided, not just longevity, but they are obviously both outstanding gentlemen.

F. Budget vs. Actuals Summary through March 2008

Town Administrator Steve Malizia said it appears they will make it through the rest of the year. Kevin has kept an eagle eye on his budget and there is approximately \$10,000 in his overtime account. Unless they get a big snowstorm, they are in reasonably good shape. The only concern is possible spring flooding. Two years ago, FEMA money help offset that, but Kevin is not allowing any overtime unless it is an emergency. They aren't doing any street sweeping or any other activities on overtime. Selectman Jasper said while there were an extraordinary number of snow events, the bulk of the plowing time occurred during working hours. If it was nights and weekends, they would have been in big trouble. Selectman Massey said several areas were identified where monies could be found, if they need to do so—4140, \$3,000; 5200 Legal, \$20,000; 4191, \$10,000; 5940, \$50,000 in the discretionary fund and approximately \$20,000 plus from the monies they had allocated for Green Meadow consulting, which is the \$25,000 encumbered under the prior year; if push comes to shove, 4619 Conservation Commission—he will talk to them on Monday night to find out what they are going to be encumbering. All in all, it looks like they have a little over \$100,000 in funds that could be used, if push comes to shove.

G. Liaison Assignments

Chairman Nadeau said a couple changes need to be made. He will be the alternate to the Budget Committee, not Selectman Jasper and he will be the CIP liaison, because Selectman Maddox is the CIP liaison from the Planning Board.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to appoint Selectman Coutu as the member to the Budget Committee and Selectman Nadeau as the alternate, and Selectman Massey as the Planning Board alternate, carried 5-0.

Selectman Massey said in the spirit of helping, he'd take over as liaison to the Sewer Utility Committee. Selectman Coutu asked how often the met. Selectman Massey said they meet monthly on the second Thursday at 5:30. Selectman Coutu noted that he was given three committee assignments on Thursday nights, so that's why they are trying to arrive at a solution. He will attend the Sewer Utility meeting this Thursday, and the ZBA meeting, which starts at 7:30. The Recreation Committee, which meets Thursdays, as well, is willing to make an adjustment to accommodate him, after this week. They are aware of the things he'd like for them to discuss. For now, he will keep the three assignments. Selectman Jasper said he'd take over Sewer Utility, but not at 5:30; they'd have to change the time. Selectman Coutu said he'd attend this Thursday and would make a decision afterwards.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to approve the Board of Selectmen liaison assignments, as amended, for the upcoming year, carried 4-1. Selectman Maddox voted in opposition.

9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Capital Improvement Program Selectman Maddox said last night was the first CIP and this Board has had some issues with the process. Now is the time to work on it. The Board should be looking at what they want to make for changes. There has to be some reality to it. Rec came in and they wanted three fields at \$100,000 a field, but nothing to back up how they are going to do it, what it was really going to cost, if it could be done in the next fiscal year, etc., so they just need to look at how they are going to address how this works. Is there a way, statutorily, they could put it out to three years? How do they make it so department heads realize it's a process that needs to be done. If it hasn't been on the CIP for at least one cycle, are they going to support it? He didn't know if the Board wanted to put it on as an agenda item for the workshop next month and kick it around, or at some other point, what everyone wants to see come out of this. The School Department has sent people sometimes, but not others. The Budget Committee hasn't sent people because they don't feel it's important. How do they make it? Have a discussion with those two groups to see how to make it work? Not only so they can collect impact fees, but so the town can see where their future expenditures may very well come from. He didn't know how the chairman wanted to address that, but thinks it is something that needs to be resolved in the next few months so they can get the next cycle going in a much better manner.

Chairman Nadeau said at the School Board meeting last night, they were appointing someone. He'd call the district tomorrow. Either he or Selectman Coutu, when attending the Budget Committee meeting, can ask if they are going to work on the CIP process this year.

Selectman Massey said the CIP is the mechanism by which the town can collect impact fees for developments and without the CIP, the town is not able to impose these fees on developers. It's critical for two reasons: a) it gives the citizenry an idea of what the capital needs are for the town over the next X number of years and, b) it enables them to help pay for the infrastructure that developments create in town.

Recreation Selectman Maddox said timing is everything. Two days after the Board met with the Recreation Committee, he was talking with Kevin Burns and probably \$100,000 comes out of Kevin's budget to support Rec. He has two men spring, summer and fall doing fields and maintenance, etc., plus additional manpower, as needed. They need to keep in the back of their minds that it's not just the \$160,000 they saw line itemed last week, but another \$100,000 that goes into it—which brings him to his next item.

The Money Pit (Skate Park) They've all gotten e-mails from Highway, now that it's skateboard season. Anything that is breakable has been broken. The trash is excessive. They need to ask the Recreation Committee what their plan is for dealing with this. Highway doesn't need to spend every day policing the area. This is going to be a non-stop expenditure of monies and he is told a lot of cars have MA plates on them. If they keep this open, they will be spending money for no reason. Selectman Jasper said it appears from the flurry of e-mails, the Rec Committee will be dealing with that tomorrow night. They should go along with the idea of ceasing its use as a skateboard park and put in a couple portable basketball hoops. If the damage and debris continue to pile up, then they have to do something else with it. It's unfortunate that the few ruin it for the many, but they can't put a lot of resources into this; it's a constant problem.

Selectman Massey said he was surprised to find out they can physically turn the camera. The fact that it was mounted in a way they can't get at it—he didn't know why they spent the money. They should either take it down, or it should be mounted in a way that it can't be tampered with. Mr. Malizia said someone climbed on the roof to do that. The camera is mounted on the peak, and there's only one way up there. The ingenuity is astounding. Selectman Massey agreed that its usefulness as a skate park has diminished to the point that he concurred with Selectman Jasper; see if it can be used as a basketball court. Mr. Malizia has asked Dave Yates to see if grant money was used before they arbitrarily close it. Selectman Massey said yes, according to Rhona Charbonneau. Mr. Malizia said if they close it, a percentage of money may have to go back. Selectman Jasper said if those were county incentive funds, he didn't think it was a problem.

Selectman Coutu said he was pleased to see that the town of Hudson took the initiative to expend funds for something that would be beneficial to the youth of the community. Too often, they hear that not enough is being done for the youth and they have too much idle time on their hands. Here was an attempt by the community to appease those who say that small communities don't do enough for the youth. He had occasion to go to the skateboard park with the Recreation Director last week and he was appalled to see that locks were broken, the gate was open, someone had climbed the pole and turned the camera, rubbish was strewn about, and the board ramps were piled on top of each other—a total disrespect for community property. This belongs to the community as a whole, not to the Board of Selectmen, the Recreation Department, or to any small group in the community, and to show that kind of disrespect tells him that no matter what they do

for the youth within the community, unless it is self-policed by that group of youth, they will never have anything that the youth, as a whole, can really enjoy. They are not in a financial position to be able to police this 24/7, and they all know too well the history of that park last year. As much as he encourages them to do what they can to provide for the youth, if this is going to persist, he would join in saying they should shut it down because it has become a money pit and he sees no way out of this. The best alternative, at this point, is to put a basketball court there. This has been abused in the past and it was opened just a week ago, and it is already being abused. This is going to be a constant problem, not only for Kevin and his crew, but the Police Department has to respond there. This is a total disrespect for the community and for what they try to do for the youth. If this is the response they get, then just shut it down.

Selectman Maddox said he'd like to hear what the Recreation Committee recommends. They might be willing to commit some resources before they close it; they should hear what they want to do. He didn't think the Board wants to spend thousands of dollars to maintain this, unless they are willing to spend it out of their budget, rather than the Highway's. He'd like to hear what Rec would recommend, now that they've heard the Board's position.

Chairman Nadeau said he'd be going to the Rec Committee meeting Thursday night and will talk to them about it, along with some other things. Hopefully, they can get some resolution. He noticed a resident in the audience with her hand raised, so he recognized her.

Andrea Perreault, 143 Kimball Hill Road, said unless she misunderstood and misread the website, she was under the impression they were going to talk about the \$300,000 surplus. Mr. Malizia said the public hearing will be on the 22nd. Ms. Perreault said the website said they were going to talk about it "semi." Mr. Malizia said if anyone has comments, they can e-mail the Selectmen. Ms. Perreault said or come to this meeting, and that's why she was here. Several Selectmen said it's on the 22nd. Ms. Perreault said she has only positive impact on this; it's a good thing. Selectman Coutu said some people might not be able to come to the public hearing, so they can e-mail the Selectmen directly. Ms. Perreault said the e-mail links do not work. If you link on to the link, if she wanted to write to any one of them, they do not work, and the IT Department should know that. It does not work for any one of them. Even with the Town Hall, the hours are wrong; they don't say they are open the second or last Thursday of the month, or whatnot. She pays attention to that. She's a town citizen and she relies on that because, as a gentleman had said, it's a bedroom town. She works in Massachusetts, she lives here and has lived here for many years, and as long as she has access to that, but she can't link on to Mr. Maddox, or Mr. Jasper or Mr. Maddox because it says the page cannot be found, and somebody should look into that.

Selectman Coutu said they noted her findings and will take necessary action. Ms. Perreault said she only has positive impact on that. Selectman Coutu said she was willing to come and speak on the 22nd. Chairman Nadeau said she was here now, if she wanted to speak. Ms. Perreault said it's a great idea. She embraced Mr. Nadeau on taking the \$300,000 surplus into the roads. In all honesty, she embraces that. It needs to be done. Otherwise, taxes will be raised. It makes complete sense. It's a no-brainer. Why would they not want to do that? She didn't have any idea who Mr. Burns is. She reads about him. She has seen him speak. The man obviously knows what he's doing. As far as her being RNR, which is resident/non-resident, she didn't know if they understood that, when she files taxes, but when she goes to Wason Road, she shops at Stop & Shop, she shops at Market Basket and she shops at Sam's. She doesn't go in and out of town in that area. She goes in and out of town, back roads, through Pelham and Windham to hook on 93 because she works in Massachusetts, but yet that road is a nightmare and she encourages them to pave it. That is a no-brainer. She also highlighted a couple of areas where he says the projects are overdue. She agrees with that to no end and--\$300,000—her, living in a home with two adults, having four 30-gallon barrels of trash. She is ashamed of herself that she never had one 30-gallon barrel of trash because now that's what she has. She never realized what she was throwing away, so this is incredible for this town. It's just so positive. The whole thing is positive, as far as the trash, the money that came from the trash, Nadeau, who Jasper apparently encouraged to make the motion... she couldn't be happier for that. That is the way they need to go. She heard Maddox for the last few years say that they need Internet access. Hopefully, the woman in charge of the town office, personally, she'd like to see her have better hours. It's a wonderful thing she's doing. She supports all of them in what they are trying to do, as far as moving forward. She believes it could just benefit all of them, as a town and as people.

Selectman Jasper said, as a point of clarification, the Town Clerk's Office is the only office opened on the first and last Thursday of the month, not all of Town Hall. Ms. Perreault said, as a professional, and as an employee, that to stay home, to spend \$8 on a dog license, to sit home and wait for them to open is crazy. Now that they have these wonderful hours, she thinks that either they benefit the employees that work there and have them work different hours so they are open once a week, as a consistent basis, she thinks it would only benefit the town. It's a no-brainer. Selectman Maddox said she was preaching to the choir, but the Selectmen don't control what the Town Clerk does. That's an elected position and she is working towards doing the best that she can, but those hours are set by her, not by this Board. Ms. Perreault said she was beyond impressed with her, but she has only been here for less than a year, so she is just speaking now to say that it would only benefit the town because a gentleman that ran against her said it was a bedroom town and he was absolutely right, because people that live in this town sleep here. So, either you're up in the morning or you're home at night, so one day a week, rather than the first, the second, this, that and the other thing, it would be beneficial to the town to open that up. She means no disrespect.

Selectman Jasper said that's going to be dictated by usage, and most everything can be done by mail, including dog licensing. Ms. Perreault said if you want to change your political stance, you have to go see the town supervisor. Selectman Jasper said they have Saturday sessions. If they are overwhelmed on Thursdays, he's sure she will open more, but the town isn't going to put a lot of resources into being open when nobody is here. That will be a determination made by how many people demand the services. That is a service organization, and hours are determined by the demand. Ms. Perreault said his point was well taken, and she agreed with him.

Chairman Nadeau said they'd forward her comments regarding paving for the next meeting, and keep them in mind.

Upcoming Budgets need to be Lean Selectman Jasper said it's hard to predict where the economy will be when the next budget kicks in, but things are becoming more difficult. All of the people he does business with are talking about how things are slowing down. They're going to have to send a very strong, clear message that the budget they adopt next year, if there isn't a dramatic turnaround, is going to be

very basic, just meeting the services—no new employees, programs or anything. They are going to have to be very careful. Fuel prices are going up and heating fuel is unbelievable. They're still a few months away, but they need to keep it in the back on their minds.

State FFA Convention Selectman Jasper said he and his family had the opportunity to act as judges at the State FFA Convention. Both he and Ben were members of the FFA when they were in high school. For the last two years, the event has been held at the Mt. Washington Hotel. The FFA is the only youth group that is allowed to have use of the Mt. Washington Hotel. The person in charge of the events came to the Mt. Washington Hotel from the previous site of the convention and she was so impressed with the conduct of the FFA members that when she got her job at the Mt. Washington, she sought them out. Parents or judges had a great rate of \$119 a night for a triple occupancy suite. Alvirne did extremely well, as they usually do. The forestry team placed first and will be moving on to the nationals. There were too many students who did well to name them all, but he did want to mention Michael Buxton, the son of Tim, who is the chef at Checkers and the nephew of Fire Deputy Chief Rob Buxton, won numerous awards and really was impressive. Brendan Jackson, who moved to Hudson a few years ago was also very impressive, winning the extemporaneous speaking contest, using his experience and how being a part of the FFA vocational program had helped him. It was a very moving story and without that program, one has to wonder what might have become of him, hearing how he felt when he was thrust into moving to Hudson. He is going into the Army and is hopeful he'll be able to take off that week of the national convention because he'll be representing NH in extemporaneous speaking. There were many impressive young people there, conducting themselves very well. They can be proud of the youth of Hudson and how they performed at the state convention.

Public Hearing on \$300,000 Surplus Selectman Massey thought it would be beneficial if on April 22, Mr. Burns brought a prioritized list of how he's going to spend. Not only the \$400,000 already in the budget, but the additional \$300,000, so people can understand where that is going to go. Even with \$700,000, they aren't going to be able to do everything that needs to be done. Mr. Malizia said that information was provided last week. Selectman Jasper said he asked Mr. Burns to do that back when he was still Chairman—what he'd be paying in the 09 budget and what additional streets he would do with the \$300,000 in 08.

Signalization Project Selectman Massey wanted to re-notice everyone in town that effective the week of April 14, Continental Paving will begin the construction work at the corner of Library and Central Streets to re-signalize and realign that intersection so it's less of a 45° turn and closer to a 90° turn, going left turn on Central Street. Dig Safe was out there today, and KeySpan was marking their properties.

Ice Cream Social Selectman Massey said May 1 at 7:00 at the Community Center was the Volunteer Appreciation Ice Cream Social. He e-mailed all of the committee chairmen and will call those who don't have e-mails. This is to thank all of the volunteers in town for their time and service to the town. Selectman Coutu said he'd be there.

Unity Breakfast Selectman Coutu said they've made tremendous headway with the Unity Breakfast, thanking Town Administrator Steve Malizia for the work he did in getting this organized. He's spoken with Mr. Rogers of the Seniors group, Dave Yates and members of the Recreation Committee. He's had a good conversations with some of them with what he, as a member of the Board of Selectmen, would like to see happen but, it's up to them to work together. There has been quite a bit of communication between the Seniors and the Recreation Department in the past week, a lot of bantering back and forth. Mr. Rogers may be at the Recreation Committee meeting this week, which is a big step in trying to unify both groups and he thinks they will see the reverse, with someone from the Recreation Department attending one of the Seniors' meetings. The Unity Breakfast will be at Checkers Restaurant on Friday, April 25 at 9:30. They invited the Chairperson and three designees from the Recreation Committee, the Chairperson and three designees from the Seniors, the Recreation Director, the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Malizia said he already made a standing reservation for 16. Selectman Coutu is glad they were able to put this thing together. It's going to be a very light agenda. A lot of conversation has transpired; now, it's up to them. This will get the ball rolling, giving them an opportunity to meet each other and talk about what direction they feel they would like to go in and how the Selectmen can best help them achieve that goal.

Alvirne HS Wrestling & Decathlon Team Selectman Coutu applauded Evan and Seth Carter for their outstanding performance with the wrestling program. Oftentimes, they hear about the negative things with teens and overlook the individual efforts kids put in. Even and Seth have made Hudson very proud with their performance and have been designated as all stars by a newspaper in Massachusetts, which made him proud to be from Hudson. He is also proud of Alvirne's decathlon team, which won their 10th consecutive title this year. One of the kids is his neighbor, and he is very proud of their achievement. They should all be proud of the Carter brothers and the decathlon team.

Recreation Department Update Selectman Nadeau said Comedy Night is May 10. The mother-son Reptile Night is at the Community Center on April 18. Thanks to an event at Alvirne this past week, Cabaret. They do a wonderful job at the high school.

10. **NONPUBLIC SESSION**

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to enter Nonpublic Session under 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him, unless the employee affected has a right to a meeting and requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted; (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee; and (c) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the body or agency or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his membership in such body or agency, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled, carried 5-0 by roll call vote.

At 8:35 p.m., following a 10-minute recess at 8:25, the Board entered Nonpublic Session, thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken after the Board enters open session will be listed on the next agenda. Nonpublic session was terminated at 9:40 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to hire Kyle Janco as an intern in the Engineering Department at \$13 per hour, and Adam Goudreau at \$12 per hour, from May 27 through August 22, 2008, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Massey, to assign Gary Webster, Civil Engineer, to the position of Acting Town Engineer at the minimum salary, Step 1, \$68,026, effective April 9, 2008 and until a Town Engineer is hired, carried 4-1. Selectman Maddox voted in opposition.

Motion to award a temporary stipend to Elizabeth Holt, Administrative Aide II in the Engineering Department, in the amount of \$1.00 per hour, effective April 9, 2008 and until a Town Engineer is hired, carried 4-1. Selectman Maddox voted in opposition.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Massey, to adjourn at 9:45 pm, carried 3-2. Selectmen Massey and Coutu voted no.

Recorded by HGTV; transcribed by Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Benjamin J. Nadeau, Chairman

Richard J. Maddox, Vice-Chairman

Kenneth J. Massey, Selectman

Shawn N. Jasper, Selectman

Roger E. Coutu, Selectman