

**HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Minutes of the January 22, 2008 Meeting**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Shawn Jasper at 7:00 in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**, led by Chairman Shawn Jasper.
3. **ATTENDANCE**  
**Selectmen:** Shawn Jasper, Ben Nadeau, Ken Massey, Rick Maddox and Doug Robinson  
**Staff/Others:** Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Shawn Murray, Fire Chief; Tom Tollefson, HLN
4. **PUBLIC INPUT**  
Chairman Jasper noted that there was no public present.
5. **NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

- A. **Conservation Commission** (2 alternates, terms to expire 12/31/09 & 12/31/10)  
J. Helene Wherry
- B. **Energy Committee/the Green Team** (1 member, term to expire 12/31/09)  
J. Helene Wherry

Chairman Jasper said Ms. Wherry was interviewed by the Board on January 7, and she was to get back to the Board or the office to let them know whether or not, after attending a Conservation Commission meeting, if she still wished to serve, but no one has heard from her, so the Board would take no action on this tonight.

6. **CONSENT ITEMS**

*Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to approve consent items A-E, as noted or appropriate, carried 5-0.*

- A. **Assessing Items**
  - 1) Veterans Tax Credit applications (409 Elmwood Dr., 6 First St., 420 Elk Run, 21 Amanda Dr.) w/recommendation to grant.
  - 2) Abatement Application, 204 Central Street, w/recommendation to approve.
- B. **Water/Sewer Items**
  - 1) Ref. No. S-08-03 Abatement Applications (S-UTL-08-02 -- 6 Sutherland Dr; S-UTL-08-03, 13 Wildwood Terr; S-UTL-08-05, 2 Hayley Ct.) w/recommendation to approve.
  - 2) Ref. No. S-08-03a Abatement Application (S-UTL-08-06 – 3 Whip-Poor-Will) w/recommendation to grant.
  - 3) Ref. No. S-08-03b Abatement Application (S-UTL-08-04 – 21 Sutherland Dr.) w/recommendation to deny.
- C. **Licenses & Permits**
  - 1) Request for a Girl Scout Cookie Sale at SAM's Club on 2/16 and 3/2/08.
  - 2) Request by U12 Litchfield Arsenal Baseball Team to collect monies at Market Basket for fundraising purposes.
- D. **Acceptance of Minutes**  
Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Minutes of January 7, 2008
- E. **Calendar**
  - 1/23 First day to declare candidacy for office
  - 1/23 9:00 Joint Loss Meeting in CD Mtg. Rm.
  - 1/23 7:00 Planning Board in CD Mtg. Rm.
  - 1/24 1:00 Trustees of the Trust Funds in BOS Mtg. Rm.
  - 1/24 7:30 ZBA in CD Mtg. Rm.
  - 1/28 Last day to post the warrant
  - 1/28 7:00 Recycling Committee in BOS Mtg. Rm.
  - 1/28 7:00 Energy Committee/Green Team in CD Mtg. Rm.
  - 1/29 6:30 School Board in BOS Mtg. Rm.
  - 1/31 7:00 ZBA in CD Mtg. Rm.
  - 2/01 Last day to declare candidacy for office
  - 2/02 9 a.m. Deliberative Session of Town Mtg @ Comm Ctr
  - 2/04 6:30 School Board in BOS Mtg. Rm.
  - 2/05 7:00 Board of Selectmen's Workshop in BOS Mtg. Rm.
  - 2/06 8:30 am, Highway Safety Committee in CD Mtg. Rm.
  - 2/06 7:00 Planning Board in CD Mtg. Rm.
  - 2/09 School District Meeting at Community Center
  - 2/11 7:00 Conservation Commission in CD Mtg. Rm.
  - 2/12 7:00 Board of Selectmen in BOS Mtg. Rm.
  - 2/13 7:00 Planning Board in CD Mtg. Rm.
  - 2/14 5:30 Sewer Utility in BOS Mtg. Rm.
  - 2/14 7:30 ZBA in CD Mtg. Rm.
  - 2/18 Presidents' Day—Town Hall Closed

2/18 6:30 School Board in BOS Mtg. Rm.  
2/19 7:00 Cable Committee in BOS Mtg. Rm.  
2/20 5:00 Water Utility in BOS Mtg. Rm.  
2/20 7:00 Library Trustees in BOS Mtg. Rm.  
2/20 7:00 Seniors in CD Mtg. Rm.  
2/21 7:30 Budget Committee in BOS Mtg. Rm.  
2/25 7:00 Green Team in CD Mtg. Rm.  
2/25 7:00 Recycling Cmt. In BOS Mtg. Rm.  
2/26 7:00 Board of Selectmen in BOS Mtg. Rm.  
2/27 7:00 Planning Board in CD Mtg. Rm.  
2/28 7:30 ZBA in CD Mtg. Rm.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on January 7, 2008**

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to hire Mitch Gannon, Stephen Jarry, Scott Larose, Peter O'Sullivan, Christopher Scurini, Brian Surette and Donald Williams as Call Firefighters at \$7.50 per hour (a non-exempt position), effective 1/13/08, as recommended by the Fire Chief, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to hire Danielle Dubowik as a Call Firefighter, a non-exempt position, with an hourly rate of \$10.50, effective 1/13/08, as recommended by the Fire Chief, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to authorize the Fire Chief to hire full-time temporary Call Firefighters from the pool, at probationary rate on an as-needed basis, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to adjourn at 9:33 p.m. carried 5-0.

**B. Good Neighbor Agreement with the Greater Nashua Continuum of Care**

Chairman Jasper said this item was taken up on January 7, but deferred to tonight, at the request of Selectman Maddox. Selectman Maddox said this is where he will take hits for being against Mom and apple pie. He went on the web site to read the 33 pages and he was uncomfortable signing the agreement. He wasn't sure how many other Selectmen were able to do that. He knows they do a great thing but wasn't sure about it and, as he's said many times at Planning Board meetings, the devil is in the details—trying to give tax breaks for developers to build workforce housing, or changing zoning, or any number of things that are in there. He's a little concerned about jumping in, so he won't be able to support this.

Selectman Robinson said he wouldn't be able to support this, either. The representatives at the last meeting were not able to sufficiently sufficient backup to the Board backup. He has questions regarding funding, and about how much would come to Hudson and their participation in such endeavors, such as the Anne Marie House. He was hoping they'd be present tonight so they could have further discussion. In their absence, he'll have to vote no.

Selectman Maddox asked if he could offer a compromise and moved that, rather than all of them signing this pledge, a letter from the Chairman could be sent, saying the Board of Selectmen thanks them for their hard work and supports many of the items contained in their plan, or something of that genre . What are they getting themselves into? It's more than what he wants to do. He thinks what they do is a great thing, but he doesn't see them wiping out homelessness by 2012—it's been around since Year One. But he would like to see them do something on a positive note. Chairman Jasper asked if that was a motion. Selectmen Maddox said he hoped someone would wordsmith it better than him, but yes. Chairman Jasper said they could wordsmith a letter and bring it forward for the next Board meeting. Selectman Maddox said basically saying thank you for your hard work; we appreciate what you do and we support many of the ideas contained within your 10-year plan.

Chairman Jasper asked the Town Administrator to take care of this. Selectman Maddox said he'd give Mr. Malizia the paperwork he got from the Internet. Chairman Jasper said this would be put off until the next meeting. Selectman Robinson said he did a little bit of homework today with Kathy Wilson. On the brochure, the organization has 39 different organizations they are affiliated with. The town of Hudson has affiliation with 29 of the 39, already in place, so the town is doing an outstanding job with the homeless. Signing this agreement would not be in their best interest at this time. Chairman Jasper said this would appear on the next agenda with a letter for the Board members to consider.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Liaison Reports**

**Selectman Nadeau** said there was a lot of excitement in the Rec Department over the past weekend. They had the annual invitational tournament put on by the Hudson Rec Department, with 51 teams from the surrounding area, from fourth grade to eighth grade. Hudson had eight teams there. The Hudson fifth grade boys, sixth grade boys, sixth grade girls, the seventh grade boys and the eighth grade boys all placed first in their divisions. The Hudson fourth grade girls' team placed second in their division. Comedy Night is Saturday at the Community Center. Tickets are on sale at Town Hall or at the Rec Center on Oakwood. Tuesday mornings is the Over 50 Coffee Club at the Rec Center.

**Selectman Massey** said when they hired the part-time water clerk, one of the things they hoped would happen would be to go after the delinquent accounts. That was a major function that wasn't able to be done with just one individual. On May 31, 2007 they had 580 active delinquent accounts with a total of \$287,199 due to the Hudson Water Utility. Thanks to the efforts of Jennifer and Adele in the Water Utility, as of December 31, they are now down to just 231, so more than half of the accounts have been brought to date and, through their efforts, they've collected \$97,956. After the next Water Utility meeting, the Board will probably see a request for a change in the operations manual that will give a little more ability to manage delinquent accounts by shutting off their water. There are some provisions in there for protection and when they would do it, etc., much like they have with the sewer.

The south end water tank, which completed the three south end improvement projects—the booster station on the Stop & Shop property, the looping of the line on River Road, and the 950,000 gallon water tank, which is on line. As of this morning, it has been cycled through at least once, so they know they can draw the water down and fill it back up again. He expects at one of the meetings in March, they will be getting the recommendation from the Town Engineer to remove the moratorium that is in effect. Kudos especially to Gary Webster, the town Civil Engineer and Town Engineer Tom Sommers for their efforts, especially at the very end, because it was the last 2% that was exceedingly difficult to get finished. Selectman Maddox asked if Selectman Massey has seen an increase in water pressure, since he lives in the south end. Selectman Massey said the Civil Engineer said it would probably take two, three cycles for the system to understand what's going on before they might see a significant change. Normally, if he has water on on one outlet in the house and you turn on another, there is a noticeable change in the pressure, and he didn't see that today. Chairman Jasper said the real test would be if there was a fire and the Fire Department starts drawing on that, there will be pressure. Selectman Massey said that was one of the major reasons for putting the tank in there, to increase the fire suppression capabilities in the south end.

**Selectman Maddox** said the Planning Board had an interesting case with the petitioned warrant article that's coming before the voters for 51 Burns Hill and something that should probably go to the Board's legislative liaison inasmuch as the Planning Board couldn't really ask any questions and expect any answers because the last day to make a decision was the night that they saw it. Maybe the legislature needs to look at the SB-2 towns, which may not have been accounted for when the deadlines were put in place. Maybe the legislature can look at it because there needs to be some amount of time in between when the last date to have the petition in and when it has to go to the approving agent, the Planning Board, to be able to have one cycle of questions because they have to make a decision that night and put everybody in a precarious position. He hoped Selectman Jasper would take away that item for future action in the legislature. Other than that, the Planning Board is now getting back to its usual schedule, which has slowed down dramatically. They have four items tomorrow night, nothing huge, just typical business. Watch on television; it's always interesting.

**Selectman Robinson** said the town Assessing Department wishes to inform residents that the deadline for applying for a veteran's property tax credits, elderly property tax credits, disabled property tax exemptions, blind property tax exemptions or current use applications for the 2008 property year is April 15.

The IT Manager and Finance Director will be attending a "Charge It?" seminar on Thursday, February 14 relative to municipalities accepting credit card payments. If any member of the Board would like to attend, they are welcome.

The Highway Department has had some problems this winter with some of the equipment, specifically, one of the loaders that loads sand and salt into dump trucks. He publicly thanked Dick Tate, who loaned the town his loader for the purpose of using it in the yard, and using it as it needed to be used for the snowfall. He and the Highway Department thanked Mr. Tate for his generous donation of his loader to help out the town of Hudson during a very difficult time of getting all that snow. Selectman Massey thought it would be very appropriate if a letter was sent to Mr. Tate by the Chairman. Chairman Jasper said he'd see that that was done.

Selectman Robinson said he sent an e-mail to the Road Agent, asking for the recycling results, and where they are after the first six months. He put together a brief PowerPoint to show the residents where they are with recycling for the first six months. Is it working? Is it not working? The budget for recycling for this year is \$1.7 million. The recycling involves the Hudson population of about 25,000; it's curbside pickup. It has bulk pickup as you throw and it also involves the landfill on West Road. In the months July through December, 3,504 tons of trash. What does that look like? A boat? Each one of these boats weighs 100 tons, so how much does 3,504 weigh? 35 of those boats. The next time you go by a marina and see one of those big tankers, they have 35 of those boats they threw away in trash. That will give you an idea of how much trash the town generated in the last six months. They recycle 1,414 tons of trash, or 28.75%. That 28% has remained more or less consistent between July and December. Looking at last year and this year combined, they went from 5,500 tons to 3,500 tons and they've recycled nearly three times as much as in the past. The total cost of the program this year is \$820,000 and it comes to a reduction of 2,800 tons of trash, an increase of 722 tons more of recyclables. How much is 722 tons of trash? It's three locomotives and each one of those locomotives weighs 200 tons. At the end of the year, they'll see how many locomotives they have. The town of Hudson is doing a great job at this point in time with these numbers and the program. Keep up the good work with the trash.

Selectman Massey asked if the \$860,000 for six months was correct. Selectman Robinson said yes. Selectman Massey said if you were to extrapolate that, it would be \$1,720,000 which is more than the current contract, so where are all the savings? (Talking over each other.) Selectman Robinson said maybe that was last year's number he had up there. Selectman Massey hoped so. He thought they were looking at a (talking over each other). Selectman Robinson said he might have copied down the number wrong. Chairman Jasper agreed that something was wrong. Selectman Massey asked Selectman Robinson to get

that number for them. Selectman Robinson said he would. Selectman Maddox said as the liaison to the Recycling Committee, he hoped maybe they could work out something for the March election, to have some pamphlets available. Selectman Robinson said that is already done. Selectman Maddox said so people can see what can be put in and that kind of stuff. Maybe they could put some samples together. Selectman Robinson said they've done a great job putting a program together for the deliberative session that's coming up for both of them, with materials and signage. They've worked really hard to put this together to put out an informative meeting so folks will have a better understanding of how to recycle. They've done a good job. Selectman Massey said it would appear, from the numbers they were looking at, that they've obviously lost some out of town customers—tongue in cheek—because the total tonnage is down significantly from last year. What they originally thought about, it looks like is the case. Chairman Jasper agreed; people brought stuff into town because it was free.

**Selectman Jasper** said after a spurt of several fires, which the Fire Department did a good job of containing, unlike some of the surrounding communities lately. Engine 1 pump is being totally rebuilt, which should extend that engine's life.

Things are continuing to progress with the Library. It turned out that there was quite a bit of paperwork that went back and forth. At one point, the Rodger Brothers were in Florida, and by the time the paperwork got to Florida, they were back here, so it was close. The stocks did come in, but had not been converted to cash. They are still developing a plan on how to go. There has been some discussion about what to do and how to commit. He recommended to the Library Trustees to make sure this project goes out in such a fashion that it's done in phases, that if they have to wait for the third payment, there isn't a problem with stoppage and with the first two payments, that a complete shell, closed in, looking like a finished library from the outside, can be built. The last thing they want to see is waiting until all three payments come in before they start. That's not going to work well for the Rodgers, who want to see this up and running as soon as possible. A shell of a building isn't a bad thing if it's weather-tight. That's where they are headed and that will protect the town and accomplishes the goal. Things are progressing along well there.

Selectman Massey said his understanding was they shouldn't be committing any... Chairman Jasper said he was correct. Selectman Massey said he wanted to finish, to get the point across. He had no doubt, and appreciated what the Rodgers Brothers have done, but he is hearing now that stock is involved. Chairman Jasper said stock is being immediately transferred, but hasn't been converted to cash. Selectman Massey said if they got in this morning at the beginning, they would have lost a significant amount, but that's not his point. Chairman Jasper said this was the end of the year that it was transferred. Selectman Massey said his real point was if, for whatever reason, that third payment is not able to be made, through no fault of the Rodgers Brothers, but they can't foresee what is going to happen in January 2009, they are stuck with a building that has no authorized funding to complete. Chairman Jasper said as the discussions have gone on with the Library Trustees, as long as that building bears no liability to the town, if you have a building that is enclosed and 65% – 75% finished, then there is no harm, no foul, and as long as the contracts are awarded in such a way that they only award the contracts according to the funding that is available. Worst case scenario, there is a building that is roofed, done, finished, windows, but not able to be used, the town of Hudson has expended no money and then the town, in the worst case scenario, could make the decision whether they wanted to finish that one third, or wanted to let it sit there, at least they would be that far along. The point has been made they don't want to put the town in a situation that would be any liability in terms of contractual obligations. Selectman Massey asked when the second... Chairman Jasper said it's due this month. He hasn't been to a meeting this month, or talked to anyone this month. Selectman Massey said they would have two-thirds of the money to start. Chairman Jasper said that was correct, and the architect said that was more than enough to do the shell and the fit-up and probably to go fairly far along on the interior roughing of the walls, the plumbing and all of that.

Selectman Maddox asked, to that end, the Chairman to clarify that it will not be the Library Trustees, it will be the Board of Selectmen that actually signs the contract; it's going to be a town building. Chairman Jasper thought it was the Library Trustees. The only money the Selectmen have control over is the sale of the properties, whatever it ends up being.

Legislatively, Chairman Jasper met this afternoon with Lindsay Johnson, who is the Governor's Special Assistant for Citizen Services and who is also involved with the Department of Transportation, and he spoke with her about the town's problems with DOT and Benson's and Stop & Shop. He needs to get another complete packet together on both of those, a chronological listing of where those started. She will review it and then they'll see where that goes, but he's moved on to the next step of the Governor's Office. He thinks the Board was copied on the letter from the Division of Historic Resources, saying thank you for your letter regarding Benson's project, then telling them about the grants, matching dollars, and the total given out for all the grants is \$88,000. The Haselton Barn is maybe \$1/2 million. He didn't find that letter helpful at all and it certainly didn't speak to the town's concerns, so they are moving on to see what they can do.

Selectman Massey wanted the viewing audience to know the issue with the ball field is not with the company Stop & Shop; it's with the property behind Stop & Shop. Chairman Jasper said this has been with the State of NH and nothing that Stop & Shop has done or is doing that is causing the problem.

On a bill that was heard in his committee today, Election Law, he found out something he should have known, but really didn't and, apparently, nobody else did, is that, as Selectmen, when they are running for re-election for Selectmen, they can work the polls; they are not prohibited from working the polls because they are performing the duties for which they were elected to do. There is a bill that has come in to take that to the next step. All this started in 1972 and the interesting thing is that Paul Bergeron, who is a State Rep from Hudson, at the time, and is now City Clerk in Nashua, came in to testify on the bill and Jim Splane, who was also one of the sponsors or supports of the bill that stopped anybody from doing anything, have now realized that it's very difficult to get people to work the polls. Nashua had a situation where one of the ward moderators

didn't even show up for the presidential primary and they were scrambling at the last minute and Paul has realized he has got all of these qualified people who can work elections, but they can't because they're running for State Rep, or something else, so the bill that is in will allow an election official, who is running for another office, to continue to do their job as election officers, except counting ballots, and they may modify that a little bit to deal with handling ballots, which was always a problem for him and why he stopped running for Town Moderator, because every time he had a big election, a state election, he was on the ballot... the whole thing is very convoluted but, at any rate, that will be helpful but he thought it was important to note that if they run for re-election, they can continue to work inside the polls. Right now, they could even count ballots, which he would always step away from, but that will probably change so they can just do their job, they can oversee, but not handle or account ballots. That's important, because as they all know, things get hectic and they need the hands.

**B. Fire Department**

1) **Public Hearing, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b, to accept a \$8,000 grant issued through the Homeland Security Grant Program**

Fire Chief Shawn Murray said the Fire Department has been offered an \$8,000 grant from the NH Department of Safety towards their radio interoperability program. The grant award is a continuation of the grant program they participated in in 2004 and 2005. They are seeking to use these funds to convert their current voting Simplex system to a voting repeater system, thereby improving reception capabilities of their mobile and portable radios. While the current digital upgrade has provided improvements to their radio transmission and reception capabilities, they are still experiencing issues related to reception and transmission in those areas of town that are limited, due to the topography. An evaluation of this problem by a radio vendor, other than the original installer of the equipment, determined they had the capability to create a repeater system with the current digital base radio stations. The only necessary additional equipment that is needed is a pass/reject duplexer and the costs associated with licensing, engineering and installation of that equipment. This has been a very successful digital radio program and, to date, they have been awarded approximately \$450,000 in equipment and funding for this project. This request would further improve their radio system to provide safer communications and would be similar to what the Police Department is running for a repeater system.

Chairman Jasper opened the public hearing at 7:36 p.m. and asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak on this item. There being no response, he closed the hearing.

*Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to accept the grant in an amount up to \$8,000 from the NH Homeland Security Grant Program, which will be used to convert the current simplex system to a voting repeater system, as detailed by the Fire Chief in his memo dated January 10, 2008.*

Selectman Maddox said the Chief has sat in that chair and smiled at him and many times has said this was the end of the needs for the radio program. Will this be, now that they have a different radio vendor... he guessed he was just... why wasn't this caught during the first \$450,000? Chief Murray said during the first part, they tried to duplicate what they had and felt, based on the advice of the first vendor, that the current system they had was, with the voting receivers around town, was actually going to do what they thought it would. The second vendor came in and looked at the digital radio equipment and told them they could do far better with it than the original one, so it is his hope this will put them where they need to be. Selectman Robinson said this was a *grant*. Selectman Maddox said not to go there; they are taking it out of his left pocket and putting it into his right.

*Vote: Motion carried 5-0.*

2) **Public Hearing, pursuant to RSA 31:95-e, to accept a donation of a First InterComm Unit, valued at \$5,500, as part of a regional grant awarded to Souhegan Mutual Aid Association from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program**

Fire Chief Shawn Murray said the Fire Department was recently notified that they are eligible to receive a first responder interoperable radio unit, as part of a regional grant within the Assistance to Firefighters Grant. The Milford Fire Department sponsored a regional grant, as part of their membership in the Souhegan Mutual Aid Association, which consists of 22 towns. There is a new device out there called the First InterComm device was developed initially by BAE for the military. The device is a radio unit that digitizes and transmits radio signals through a mesh network. Other InterComm devices receives the digital message and converts it to the radio frequency of those particular radio users. The unit allows fire, police and other agencies to communicate across different radio band frequencies including UHF, VHF, low band, high band and digital radio frequencies. He said he provided a brochure describing the radio system, attached to his memo for the agenda packet. These units are cutting edge technology and they are just beginning to do the final production on them. The approximate value of this unit is \$5,500 and includes the installation of the unit. The initial unit will be installed in the Deputy Chief of Operations' command vehicle. Should they go Mutual Aid to the town of Milford, or anyone in Souhegan, this unit will pick up the other mesh networks. For example, Milford works on a low band frequency, but Hudson is high band, and they will be able to pick up their radio frequencies and communicate directly with them. From the town's perspective, in the future, when these devices evolve more, and when more grants come out, they will potentially be able to tie in the Highway Department to the emergency management communications and

interoperability, simply by installing one of these devices in one or two of the Road Agent's units and be able to communicate directly. They can't now because of the Highway Department being on low band and the Fire Department being on the higher bands.

Chairman Jasper opened the public hearing at 7:40 and asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak on this. There being no response, he closed the hearing.

*Motion by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Massey, to accept a First InterComm unit, in an amount up to \$5,500, as awarded from the Assistance to Firefighters' Grant program and as part of a regional grant awarded to Souhegan Mutual Aid Association, as detailed by the Fire Chief in his memo dated December 31, 2007.*

Selectman Maddox thought the whole \$450,000 was to make all of the radios interoperable between departments so they wouldn't need this magic box in between. It did, digitally, between Fire and Police, but the weakness in that whole system is it cannot cross frequencies from a digital spectrum. That's a weakness of digital interoperability. Police and Fire can communicate, and they can communicate regionally and statewide with other departments, but there is a lot of difficulty with the low band type, so that's one of the few low band frequencies left that they're still trying to convert over. Selectman Maddox thought the interoperability was bringing everyone up to one band of frequencies so that if you went to Milford, you were able to communicate. Chief Murray said the problem is they are still low band. It's the band width issue. That's not something that will happen overnight with them. That's why this piece of equipment was introduced. Selectman Maddox they are going to put this in the Deputy's car. If it becomes problematic, he asked if they can just unplug it and go back to what they had. Chief Murray said yes.

*Vote: Motion carried 4-1.* Selectman Maddox voted in opposition.

**3) Request to hire Call Firefighter—Support Role**

Fire Chief Shawn Murray said he was before the Board to request approval to hire a part-time person in a support role in order to assist the department in a number of divisional areas with tasks and projects that often result in the inefficient use of resources. Examples include having to send chief officers and other personnel for the delivery and pickup of fire apparatus when repairs are needed, sending a staff person for the processing of criminal and motor vehicle checks in Concord, retrieving everyday supplies related to building, maintenance, cleaning and automotive; conducting minor building repairs, administrative support, support at larger incidents and emergencies and other assignments that he feels would allow the better use of other staff and resources. His proposal asks for the ability to utilize a firefighter position for 10-15 hours per week. They have up to 30 call personnel, authorized by the Board of Selectmen in 1997. The recommended rate is \$10 per hour for this position. It would be advertised and a requirement would be that it is a Hudson resident, with a CDL. The overall goal of this initiative is to improve work efficiency, with an anticipated reduction in use of overtime.

*Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to authorize the hiring of a part-time person in a support role in order to assist the department in an effort to reduce overtime costs.*

Selectman Robinson asked if the Chief had money in his budget to afford \$152 a week, 52 weeks a year. Chief Murray said yes. Selectman Massey said he did not support the motion because a call firefighter is just that; somebody who is trained to respond to fires. They have an operating premise in town that when you add a new position to the town, it requires a warrant article to go before the voters. This is a slippery slope, to take an administrative function and attempt to fill it with a call firefighter because, at some point, why wouldn't they do all the other jobs with call firefighters and never have to get voter approval for the positions? He sees this as an administrative function, not a firefighting function, so he will not be able to support the motion.

Chairman Jasper said a number of years ago, when they had a command trailer—which has now been converted to something else—there were people who were in these positions and were paid out of the call line, as he recalled—specifically Ray Parker, who retired as a call firefighter, but continued to act in a support role—and this is something he believes very much should be done. If they have people willing to provide support roles—fill air tanks and do things of this nature—it's important to have a Board-authorized call firefighter. What Ray did was actually build the command trailer. He spent countless hours setting up that command trailer and other assisted him in that job, as well. This isn't anything different than what has been done in the past.

Selectman Maddox said he was halfway in between. He was under the impression they were going to take call firefighter A for a certain day and go do X, Y & Z and then maybe two days later they'd need someone, so they'd call in firefighter B to go deliver a truck somewhere. He didn't know this was going to be a position, per se. He asked for clarification. Chief Murray said there are times when, if a call firefighter was available, they've done that in the past, but there are times, too, when they've got younger people working somewhere else that they can't get someone, so if he had the ability to have someone in the position of 10-15 hours a week, such as someone who is retired or that's not working another full-time job, like some of the firefighters are. They do try to use the current call force when they can, but that's not always possible, if they are working full-time somewhere else.

Selectman Nadeau said if this is authorized, they are going to hire somebody 10-15 hours per week, every week. Chief Murray said not necessarily; the 10-15 hours per week was a parameter so the Board wouldn't think he was trying to hire someone part-time, 30 hours per week. Chairman Jasper said this was truly an on-call basis. Some weeks, they wouldn't work at all, but other weeks, they might work more than 10 or 15 hours, but it would average out to no more than 10-15 hours per week. Chief Murray said that was correct.

Selectman Robinson said hypothetically, the ladder truck broke a strut and it would have to be taken for repair to the Massachusetts facility. This person would drive the truck down there, rather than have a fireman drive it down. Chief Murray said yes, or he may chase them down there to bring them back, whereas now there would be two firefighters doing it. Selectman Robinson said, in reality, they are saving money by offsetting the wages because it has to be done anyway. Chief Murray said for motor vehicle checks, he has to send a staff officer up to Concord. He would use this person for those types of things.

Chairman Jasper said this will do two things—free up staff time and help reduce overtime. Chief Murray said a primary goal this Board wanted him to do was to find some way to reduce the overtime costs.

Selectman Maddox said he applauded the Chief for getting the call force up to 21; that's a real testament to the department and the people who volunteer for that job, but like Selectman Massey, he has a tough time jumping from a call force person to almost another position. He had a tough time believing this wasn't a new position. Chairman Jasper said they have to look at what they charged the Chief with doing, and that was to look at innovative ways to reduce his overtime, and this is one of those things. He has a call budget that is \$75,000 for, essentially 30 people; they have 21. Call people have done this role in the past. This is quite consistent with the mission of the call department. He encouraged the Chief to look at other people who could provide support roles. In the past, they've had people just come in to drive a pickup truck with an air trailer behind it and fill bottles at a major incident. People who might go to the station and act as pilots for companies coming in. There are a wide variety of things they can have people do within that budget, provide a support role, that don't necessarily have to act in a firefighting role. It's important to realize that every time they take a firefighter and put him into one of those roles, you're taking them from their primary job of fighting fires and dealing with emergencies. It's not necessary to have someone who is fully geared up and ready to do some of these tasks. He encouraged the Board to support the motion because it's not expanding what the department is doing; it's not expanding the budget. It's moving resources around and truly going to save money in the overtime account, which the Board cut. This is going to be less costly than overtime. It would be sending the wrong message to the Chief to cut his budget, tell him to look at things differently and, when he does, he is told not to do that. If this isn't what the Board wants, then tell the Chief what they *do* want. The Board has an obligation to the Chief to tell him how to save money in the overtime account, if they don't approve this request.

Selectman Robinson said he was going to support the motion. They number one charge they've given the Chief is public safety, through the proper use of his resources, which is his manpower. Who is going to do what when for the safety of the public? If he has the ability to use a call force individual (a) because he knows the person to begin with, (b) he's passed all the tests and (c) he has the trust in that individual to do it, he applauds the Chief's initiative and his foresightiveness to do this. The Chief is able to save the town money and he's not creating a new position as Selectman Massey feels; he is just asking to reallocate resources. He absolutely applauded the Chief.

Selectman Massey said they hear the individual is probably going to be a retired individual, which suggests they won't be a firefighter. This is essentially an administrative function and to call it a firefighter is just a means of achieving it without having to create a position. Nothing he's heard tonight suggests to him that this is anything other than an administrative position and, as a town policy, they've always had a requirement for voter approval to create a new position. As much as he can appreciate what everyone is saying about the efforts to reduce overtime, this is not the way to do it.

Selectman Maddox asked for a point of clarification. Will this person be a call firefighter? Chairman Jasper said not in the traditional sense. Selectman Maddox asked if this would be one of the 21 call firefighters. Chairman Jasper said there are 30 authorized positions within the ranks of call firefighters. What the Chief is requesting is to take one of those positions, however you want to look at it. They've never gone to the voters to hire call firefighters in his recollection because it's not a regular part-time position. They've gone to the voters for regular part-time positions, 20 – 30 hours per week, and that person has worked those number of hours per week. This is an on-call basis. It may be no hours, 10, five; it's a support role. And, traditionally, people in support roles are on call firefighters. It may well be somebody, and it may well be somebody who has retired as a firefighter, but they are no longer going to act in a true firefighting capacity. For a long while, when people were giving him a hard time about his beard, he was called a provisional firefighter; he wasn't allowed to fight fires, so to a large degree, he was on the engine running the pump or doing something else. They have had people who have been in support roles and they need to expand their thinking a little bit and realize that people who are available in support roles that are needed within the Fire Department, they should encourage that to happen. That's what the Chief is asking for, here. He's thinking outside the box.

Chief Murray reminded the Board that he took the call firefighter position because there are 30 of them, but they do have one part-time dispatch position and he gave up another dispatch position to Assessing, so he's not trying to

create a position; he's trying to reallocate them. He could come in and ask for a title change on the part-time dispatcher they don't utilize. Selectman Massey said if that's what the Chief would propose, then he wouldn't have any objections because that is an authorized position that he hasn't filled, but he cannot support the creation of a new position and they shouldn't call the individual a call firefighter, if they are going to do it. Equally important, he would ask the Chief, the last time they had this, he mentioned that the Police Department has a similar need and they found an individual who was willing to volunteer their time, with no compensation, and they do much of the same things they are talking about. If they are going to do it, they should call it what it is, an administrative function, and not use the call firefighter classification to get around it. If there is that half-time dispatcher position that is unfilled, then they should use that position, reclassify it as an administrative aide. (There were several "no" responses.)

Chairman Jasper said it's not an administrative function. Selectman Massey said he didn't know what they want to call it, but in his world, this individual would have been called a "go-fer." Chairman Jasper said the motion is to authorize the hiring of a part-time person in a support role in order to assist the department in an effort to reduce the overtime cost, and they ought to go forward with the motion.

Selectman Robinson asked if this person would also attend the monthly training for call firefighters. Chief Murray said not necessarily, unless the training officer needed him in a support role. Selectman Robinson asked if during a fire, this call firefighter help out when necessary, doing what call firefighters do. (Talking over each other.)

*Vote: Motion carried 3-2.* Selectmen Maddox and Massey voted in opposition.

**C. Designation of Liaisons to speak on Warrant Articles at Town Meeting**

Town Administrator Steve Malizia put together the list, based on the liaison assignments, which the Board agreed to by unanimous consensus.

**D. Revised Warrant Article relative to the sale of Town Property**

Town Administrator Steve Malizia said Attorney Buckley forwarded the town's warrant to DRA, who recommended that this article be revised, adding more explicit language.

*Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to forward the revised sale of town-owned property warrant article to the 2008 Warrant, carried 5-0.*

**E. Petitioned Article – Resolution to Discuss Tax Options**

Town Administrator Steve Malizia said a petition came in after the Board's last meeting, which is going on the ballot. He thought it had been included in the packet and apologized that it wasn't. The question for the Board is whether or not to recommend it. Chairman Jasper said without speaking to the merits of this article, said Town Meeting has always been about actions that the town could take, and if they encourage these types of things, they can literally find themselves bogged down at Town Meeting, with 10, 15 referendum items clogging up the ballot. The Board needs to take a stand against these types of things; these are not appropriate things to be on the warrant. He urged the Board to not recommend.

*Motion by Selectman Maddox to not recommend the petitioned warrant article, seconded by Selectman Massey.*

Selectman Massey asked the Legislative Liaison to introduce legislation at the state that would allow a "no position" designation, as opposed to approved or not approved. This is one of those classic situations where he agrees with the Chairman. Petitioned warrant articles should be the sole purview, where they don't involve money, of the petitioners. He finds that no approved is the lesser of the things he'd want to say. Basically, he wants to say he has no position on this article. If he has to take a position, it is in favor of the motion.

*Vote: Motion carried 5-0.*

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

**Selectman Nadeau** said he had no remarks.

**Selectman Massey** said over the last few weeks, he's had occasion to be in other cities and towns and the work Hudson's Highway Department has done, in particular, keeping the major sidewalks open, is outstanding. He wanted to applaud the entire Highway Department because they've worked long hours and this has been a particularly hard winter. The citizens of Hudson should be very happy with what they are seeing, especially when looking at neighboring towns.

He asked the Chairman if he ever met with the Trustees of the Trust Funds on the issue of potential conflict of interest. Chairman Jasper said the meeting is Thursday at 1:00. The last meeting was cancelled.



**Selectman Maddox** thanked the people at the other end of the cameras for coming down and voting. It was a raucous time on occasion. They ended up with 8,500 voting. To those that said they need to have multiple polling stations, they just need to make people aware that only every four years during a presidential election do they see anywhere near these numbers. Last year was a banner year for the local elections, and they got up to 3,500. The Community Center works very well for those elections. He wanted to shout out to those people with last names starting with E- H, they won, hands down. That line was out the door all day; it was amazing how that line, for whatever reason, was the busiest. There are some things they need to do, and they've talked privately; they need to get together with the Moderator, the Town Clerk and adjust for November because if history repeats itself, there will be an even bigger crowd, so they need to look at making some modifications to how the flow goes, how the tables are set up, but understand this is a once every four year predicament. To tell people they are going to vote in two different places would be a challenge as to which one do I go to, whatever, so the Community Center works very well for all but the presidential. Again, he wanted to thank people for their patience. Everybody, for the most part, has a smile on their face for most of it. A thousand people registered on voting day. Kudos to the Supervisors of the Checklist, going through that process with 1,000 people was Herculean work. The did it as quickly and efficiently as possible. Sitting at the table with people coming up just... democracy is a wonderful thing, even when you're working 12 hour days.

**Selectman Robinson** dittoed Selectman Maddox's remarks. Folks from the Town Clerk's Office worked until 4:00 a.m., getting their records straight and finalizing all of the stuff they had to do. He also thanked the Highway Department, who were there the day before to clean up from the snowstorm and, as remarkable as it was, he was informed that 30 parking places were sacrificed because they just couldn't get the snow off. The folks who parked at the skate park, it was tough getting in and out, but the Highway Department did a superb job getting that snow out of there as fast as they could.

He echoed the Chairman's remarks regarding the Haselton Barn and the letter they received. They made their feelings and intent on the barn quite clear to the state. Hopefully, they can have that separated from the rest of the property and continue with taking that land.

**Selectman Jasper** thanked both Selectmen for their remarks on the elections. They used to have three polling places and the logistics were very difficult. Nobody ever figured out where they were supposed to vote. Having served as Moderator during that time, one hall would be packed with lines out the door and the other halls were empty. When you divide up your resources, it makes it worse—and they have a difficult enough time getting people to work. Those who think there should be more polling places should be contacting the Moderator and volunteering to work. In November, they will divide the checklist into 10 equal sections. In the last election, there were eight sections. Instead of having people try to get out the front doors, they will be going straight out the side doors and won't be mingling back in the crowd. That will also help with the congestion in the hall. He has had a conversation with the Moderator on how they can improve the flow. This was an unusual election in terms of the number of people voting, but all in all, when you are dealing with that many people... he didn't hear anyone say they had to wait in line more than 20 minutes and people around the state were in line for an hour or more. Regardless of any glitches, Hudson ran a very efficient election, running 600-700 people an hour through the polling places and that's remarkable.

On the code enforcement status sheets, he was very unhappy with the changes that were made because now all it says is "resolved." What does that mean? It doesn't tell him anything. Shed without a permit, resolved. Is the shed gone? Or was there a permit? He didn't know what happened to the other form, which he found to be much better. The only problem he had was that he was trying to track to see if things carried from one month to the other, and he never got to the point of really being able to determine that things were carrying on until they were resolved, but at least when they were resolved, he knew what the manner of resolution was. This is worse. Selectman Robinson thought the Chairman was looking for the detail pages versus the cover sheet, and he has the ability to go in and give the detail pages for each one of the items. Chairman Jasper said that's what he was going before. Selectman Robinson said this is MuniSmart; he was using the Excel program before. Chairman Jasper said the information he was getting was less complete than what he had before. Selectman Maddox said and some of those were questionable, whether they were zoning violations.

Chairman Jasper said they had an unusual situation in town where a resident's well went dry out on Holly Lane and they need to hook up. It has been stubbed out and ready to go, but they are going to have to have the expense of having it hooked up and done. There is a betterment assessment that is supposed to be paid all at once. In the sewer assessment, there is the ability to pay over a period of time, so the Town Administrator has worked up an agreement to give these people the ability to pay off the betterment assessment by the end of the year, which is \$3,657 with 6% interest. It would be paid by the end of 2008.

*Motion to authorize the Chairman to sign an agreement to allow a time payment of the water betterment assessment for 10 Holly Lane by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Massey.*

Selectman Massey asked if this was the connection fee, the fee you pay in order to get access to the water system. Chairman Jasper said yes. Mr. Malizia said these folks have paid the application fee, which covers all of the inspection costs. They are paying a plumber and a contractor to get the pipe, which was stubbed out last year on Holly Lane, as part of the whole Compass Point project. They are paying to have that connected to their home. This is the access fee, which is in the Code, similar to the sewer access—they are buying into the capacity of the water utility. Because this utility didn't have all of the language that the Sewer Utility has—payment agreements—these folks came in Friday and asked for help, saying their well just ran dry. They are just trying to help this homeowner by allowing them a time in which they can pay. Attorney Buckley prepared the agreement that will be filed at the registry. A lien will be put on the property, which guarantees payment, and it has the terms. The reason it is before the Board is because it's not a part of the policy procedures yet. Selectman Massey asked if this was something he should take back to the Water Utility and ask the committee to come up with a policy. Mr. Malizia said they might already be working towards that. Selectman Massey said other people on Holly Lane, Hunter Lane and Colson may want to connect and they may want to do the same thing for them. Mr. Malizia said they'd probably want to offer some sort of arrangement, which they have done for other individual homeowners. Selectman Massey thought that would be warranted, in this case.

Selectman Maddox said some of this money goes to the developer that ran that. Mr. Malizia said no, it does not because Holly Lane is the town's. From the terminus of Holly Lane, it goes, but not Holly Lane, itself. Selectman Massey said Holly, Hunter and Colson are not going to have to pay—none of that money is going to... (talking over each other).

*Vote: Motion carried 5-0.*

**10. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

*Motion by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Massey, 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; (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community, carried 5-0 by roll call vote.*

Chairman Jasper stated nonpublic session was entered into at 8:35 p.m., thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon exiting nonpublic session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. Nonpublic session was terminated at 8:45 p.m.

*Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to approve the inclusion of the IT Specialist and Police Prosecutor's positions in the Hudson Police, Fire and Town Supervisors' Association, effective February 1, 2008 at the classification levels agreed to during the contract negotiations, carried 5-0.*

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion to adjourn by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Robinson, at 8:47 p.m. carried 5-0.*

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

**HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shawn N. Jasper, Chairman

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Benjamin J. Nadeau, Vice-Chairman

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Kenneth J. Massey, Selectman

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Richard J. Maddox, Selectman

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Douglas K. Robinson, Selectman