

**HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Minutes of the January 7, 2008 Meeting**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Shawn Jasper at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Selectman Doug Robinson.

3. **ATTENDANCE**

**Selectmen:** Shawn Jasper, Ben Nadeau, Ken Massey, Rick Maddox and Doug Robinson

**Staff/Others:** Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Paul Inderbitzen, Moderator; Sean Sullivan, Director of Community Development; Mary Febonia and Beverly Doolan on behalf of Greater Nashua Continuum of Care; Norman Martin; J. Helene Wherry; Andrea Perreault; Shawn Murray, Fire Chief; Neal Carter, Deputy Fire Chief; Rob Buxton, Deputy Fire Chief; Tom Tollefson, HLN

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

No one in the audience wished to address the Board on any subject at this time.

5. **NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

A. **Conservation Commission** (2 alternates, terms to expire 12/31/09 & 12/31/10)  
and

B. **Energy Committee/the Green Team** (1 member, term to expire 12/31/09)

J. Helene Wherry, 37 James Way, said she moved to Hudson about a year and a half ago. She is currently on a family leave from a teaching position in Dracut, where she is an earth science teacher. Her background is biology and education. Over the years, she has done many types of things, but what she feels she can bring to this is her experience in science, earth science, and her ability to get the word out to people and help educate the public about the importance of conservation, which is the one she is more interested in. Chairman Jasper asked if she was willing to serve on both. Ms. Wherry said she wasn't sure how many people would apply, so if one didn't work out, she'd do the other one. She was willing to serve on both, if the need is there, but she prefers the Conservation Commission.

Selectman Maddox asked if she has ever attended a Conservation Commission meeting. She said no. Selectman Maddox said the land use boards get a lot of homework, go on field trips, etc., and sometimes people sign up and then find out it's too much work. He likes to see people attend meetings first before they are appointed, so they know what they are getting themselves into. Selectman Massey said the next Conservation Commission meeting is Monday, January 14 at 7:00 in the CD meeting room. He suggested they defer this to give Ms. Wherry an opportunity to attend that meeting. Chairman Jasper said this would be deferred anyway, because the normal procedure is to appoint on their second meeting of the month. After Ms. Wherry attends a meeting, she can call any of the Selectmen or the Selectmen's Office to indicate whether or not she was still interested in serving on the Conservation Commission. Ms. Wherry said OK.

6. **CONSENT ITEMS**

Selectman Maddox removed A-1 from the consent items.

Motion by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to approve consent items A-E, with the exception of A-1, as noted or appropriate, carried 5-0.

A. **Assessing Items**

1) 2007 Property Tax Abatements (Map/Lots 144/22, 175/164, 182/153-001, 190/8, 205/ 103, 217/47, 242/81, 247/147, 256/9, w/recommendation to approve.

Selectman Maddox asked what the Board intended to do with these gores—the slivers of land, which came about as the result of the recent remapping project. They didn't make any sense to him. In some cases, the land was worth \$200, up to \$3,300, so it's tough to say how big those parcels are. He wondered what the intent was. Chairman Jasper said because there are no owners, they become the town's, to clear the record. He supposed the intent was to sit on them until some wants to buy them, or in this case, he thinks they can split the baby down the middle if these have to go to auction. Mr. Malizia said the town doesn't technically own these little slivers of land, but technically, no one else does, either. They've been issuing tax bills to "owner unknown," which is a waste of time and paper. If someone wants to come forward and claim title, he didn't think anyone would stand in the way but, at this point, issuing tax bills on property that nobody has asserted a legal ownership of, doesn't make sense. Selectman Maddox said he didn't remember seeing these before. Mr. Malizia said the bills have always gone out, and the pile has been pretty thick. The Assessor has whittled things down to these, which is a minimal number. At some point, there were about 80 of these properties. Selectman Maddox asked if the intent would be to just absorb these until someone came forward to say it was theirs and, if they could prove it, the town would have to deal with it. Chairman Jasper said that was his understanding.

Motion to approve the abatements, as recommended by the Assistant Assessor, by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Massey, carried 5-0.

2) Tax Deferral Application, Map 173/Lot025/Sublot 054, w/recommendation to grant.

- 3) Veteran Tax Credit Applications, w/recommendation to grant (31 Shoal Creek Road, 22 St. Laurent Drive, 66B Kienia Road, 4 Granite Hill Road, 14 Tessier Street, 231 Abbott Farm Lane, 12A Doveton Lane, 4 Leor Circle, 20 Sunland Drive, 135 Highland Street, 8 Pinehurst Street, 12 Hopkins Drive, 45 Adam Drive, 25 Stonewood Lane, 513 Abbott Farm Lane, 2 Bush Hill Road, 7 Stoney Lane, 16 Richman Road, 1 Loop Road).
- 4) Disabled Veteran Tax Credit Appls, w/recommendation to grant (10 Daniel Webster Dr; 9 Par Lane).

**B. Water/Sewer Items**

**C. Licenses & Permits**

**D. Acceptance of Minutes**

- 1) Board of Selectmen's Minutes of December 11, 2007
- 2) Board of Selectmen's Minutes of December 18, 2007

**E. Calendar**

- 1/08 State Primary, 7am– 8 pm, Community Ctr
- 1/08 Last day to accept petitioned warrant articles
- 1/09 7:00 Planning Board in CD Mtg. Rm.
- 1/09 7:00 Budget Committee at Community Ctr
- 1/10 5:30 Sewer Utility in BOS Mtg. Rm.
- 1/10 7:00 Budget Committee at Community Ctr
- 1/10 7:30 ZBA in CD Mtg. Rm.
- 1/14 7:00 Conservation Commission in CD Mtg Rm.
- 1/15 7:00 Budget Committee in BOS Mtg. Rm.
- 1/16 5:00 Water Utility Committee in BOS Mtg. Rm.
- 1/16 7:00 Library Trustees in BOD Mtg. Rm.
- 1/16 7:00 Senior Council on Aging in CD Mtg. Rm.
- 1/17 7:30 Budget Committee in BOS Mtg. Rm.
- 1/21 6:30 School Board in BOS Mtg. Rm.
- 1/21 Martin Luther King Day – Town Hall closed
- 1/22 7:00 Board of Selectmen in BOS Mtg. Rm.
- 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 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.
- 2/01 Last day to declare candidacy for office
- 2/02 9 a.m. Deliberative Session of Twn Mtg @ Comm Ctr

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on December 18, 2007:**

1. Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to give \$250 merit awards to HPD Executive Secretary Dorothy Carey, Animal Control Officer Jana McMillan, Lt. William Avery and Lt. David Bianchi, as recommended by the Chief of Police, carried 5-0.
2. Motion by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to hire Amanda Boucher as Fire Dispatcher, effective January 6, 2008, at \$13.95 per hour, probation step, in accordance with IAFF Local 3154, as recommended by the Fire Chief, carried 5-0.
3. Motion to adjourn at 10:04 p.m. by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Massey, carried 4-1. Selectman Massey voted no.

Selectman Robinson wanted the record to reflect that, relative to the motion made by Selectman Massey that he seconded on the \$250 merit awards, the awards were part of the budget by the Chief of Police that were already approved through the process.

**B. Public Hearing regarding bonding of a proposed warrant article for \$964,902 for the design and construction of a Senior Center addition to the Hudson Community Center.**

Chairman Jasper opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m. and asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak to this item, which was the method of raising the bonds, not to the merits of the center itself. Andrea Perreault asked for a clarification. Chairman Jasper said it was to the length of time the bond should be sold, the manner in which the bonds are sold, etc., nothing to do with the actual construction itself or the building. Mr. Malizia said state statutes require the Selectmen to hold a public hearing on the bonding, in case anyone had any questions on the method of financing. The public hearing for the budget will be on Thursday with the Budget Committee at the Community Center; this hearing is only a legal requirement to satisfy the question on bonding. Ms. Perreault asked if this article would go forward. Chairman Jasper said yes. Mr. Malizia confirmed

that, saying it would go on the ballot whether or not it was recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee because it's a petitioned article. It will be on the ballot.

There being no further comments, Chairman Jasper closed the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Robinson, that the warrant article go forward, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Jasper said they didn't want to belabor this, but he did want to comment on it because there was some misunderstanding as to his position. He has been in favor of a senior center, but he is not in favor of this proposal. He didn't think it meets the spirit or the letter of warrant article as it was voted on because that was to have an addition and renovations made to the Community Center. If that was determined to be not feasible, then the feasibility study should have come back and said that; it shouldn't have gone on to a totally separate item. He also understood they were going to be looking at replacing the things the Seniors lost during the summer. They didn't lose an office or a commercial grade kitchen. His understanding of a kitchen was different from their understanding of a kitchen. Tomorrow, people are going to realize they don't have enough parking at the Community Center, as it is. That is going to become crucial. People think they can create more parking. He believes they can, but didn't know if they can create enough to replace what is lost or not is a question that should have been answered first, not after. Tomorrow, they are going to see they don't have enough parking for an event, such as a presidential primary. Taking away ¼ of the parking is not a good solution. That's a stand-alone building. That building footprint can be put any place else, so they haven't wasted any money, if that is the desire, but there's no need for it to be located in the parking lot. He cannot support this. He understands the Seniors will be coming forward to offer \$200,000 to offset the cost of the bond. There may be some other things that can be done, but tonight the Board has to vote on the recommendation, as it is here, and none of those things address his primary concerns. This was a year ahead of itself. It was a feasibility study and once the feasibility was decided, they should have gone to the next phase—the Planning Board to see if the Planning Board would accept it. He apologized for opening the Board up for a lot of debate, but this is a very important thing. Late last week, he asked the Town Administrator to talk to the Highway Department about moving as much snow back as possible. He didn't want it to look like they were trying to not have parking there; they moved as much snow as they possible could. There are other steps to take before this proposal was something they could even consider. Knowing what they know now, it's not responsible to recommend this. He assumed Selectman Massey would want to speak on this now. Selectman Massey said everything that needs to be said has been said.

Vote: Motion failed, 2-3. Selectmen Massey and Robinson voted in favor.

**C. Petition for Eminent Domain taking, 60 & 64 Lowell Road**

Sean Sullivan, Director of Community Development, said before the Board was a petition and request to hold a public hearing on February 12 to commence eminent domain taking of property at 60 and 64 Lowell Road. With the assistance of the Town Attorney, he attempted to negotiate with the property owner, but have been unable to reach an agreement.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to accept the petition submitted by Sean Sullivan, Director of Community Development, pursuant to RSA 31:92 to acquire land for the construction of a sidewalk along a portion of Lowell Road in the town of Hudson, NH and send it to a public hearing on February 12, 2008, carried 5-0.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Liaison Reports**

**Selectman Nadeau** said he didn't have anything to report.

**Selectman Massey** said it's nice to know when other communities recognize something one does well. He read the following into the record from the City of Manchester to the citizens of Hudson. "I am Det. Lt. Nick Willard of the Manchester Police Department. I am the lead investigator into the homicide of Manchester Police Officer Michael Briggs and all Manchester-related crimes involving the defendant in that investigation. Said defendant was recently convicted for committing an armed robbery of a 7-Eleven in Hudson, which is right across the street from Town Hall. Additionally, three others were charged in the 7-Eleven robbery, two of whom have also been convicted and a third trial is pending. The convictions were due, in large part, to the outstanding work of the Hudson Police Department." He listed the individuals as Lt. Dave Bianchi, Sgt. Tad Dionne, Office Allison Cummings, Officer Kevin Sullivan, K-9 Akim, Officer Rochelle McGowan, Officer Michael Gosselin, Det. Sgt. Charles Dyac and Det. Matt Solari. In conclusion, Lt. Willard said, "For Chief Richard Gendron running an agency in which the supervising officers are professional, highly skilled and take obvious pride in the work they do, he is to be commended for running a great department, one in which the Town of Hudson should take great pride. In closing, I commend the Hudson Police Department and the officers listed for their dedication to duty. The department has represented the Town of Hudson admirably and the town should be very proud of their accomplishments and thankful for their professionalism. Personally, I am honored to have had the opportunity to work alongside them and will forever hold the Hudson Police Department in high regard." Selectman Massey said the town sees that dedication continued in the recent armed robbery at the Subway on Lowell Road. One of the officers had the presence of mind to think the robbers had cased the establishment. Sure enough, as a result of looking at the video, they were able to solve the case and three people have been charged.

**Selectman Maddox** said (the polls) are going to be crowded tomorrow. It appears there are going to be record numbers (voting), so he asked people to show patience. It will be a challenge at times, as people are trying to register. Everyone wants to do their civic duty, so show some kindness in the parking lot. He estimated they will have well over 6,000 which will be a challenge, at times. Everybody is welcome. It's going to be an interesting, beautiful day, they say, so he hoped all will go well.

The Planning Board is going to be moving forward with the Capital Improvement Program. In the past couple of years, the Selectmen have failed to take a motion to do that, which he will bring up under Other Business. It looks like construction is slowing down, so hopefully, the Planning Board can get to those things on its to-do list, much like the Selectmen. There is a long list of things they wanted to do, and it's already 2008.

**Selectman Robinson** thanked the Highway Department; kudos to the guys who worked long, hard hours keeping the roads clean and safe. He respects the hard job those guys do and he thanked them.

**Selectman Jasper** said, as a follow-on to Selectmen Robinson, luckily there hasn't been a snowstorm for a week now. Only a quarter of the way into the budget and they've already spent 50% of the winter maintenance budget. Things are going to be tight but, luckily, they are doing very well with the solid waste contract, so it doesn't look like they will be in any danger of having to cut into any other programs or services to meet the snowplowing needs, but it could eat into that money that was not planned on being spent.

The Fire Department has been busy with fires the last couple of weeks. They've done a fantastic job of knocking them down. One of the house fires was because of wood ashes because people put them in cardboard boxes. It doesn't take much of a spark to get that going. In 1947, they lost 10,000 baby chicks when somebody put hot ashes down a woodchuck hole and burnt 50 acres. People have to be very careful with what they do with their hot ashes. The fire on Able Street this weekend was in one of the storage buildings where, apparently, there were a lot of solvents and flammable items stored. While there was a lot of damage to a number of units, the Fire Department did a good job of knocking that down and keeping that from spreading. They have been very busy, but doing an excellent job. Congratulations to the Fire Department for their hard work.

**B. Greater Nashua Continuum of Care**

Mary Febonio, the Homeownership Director for Neighborhood Housing Services, and Beverly Doolan, Director of Marguerite's Place, gave a PowerPoint demonstration to explain the program.

During the presentation, Selectman Massey asked for a definition of homelessness in this context. He thought the numbers would have been lower because he didn't consider people in transitional housing as being homeless. Ms. Doolan said they consider people in transitional housing as homeless because they are not in permanent housing. They look at three stages—emergency housing, transitional housing and permanent housing—and if you're not in permanent housing, you are considered homeless. Ms. Febonia said the number would be higher, if they took into consideration the people who are "couch surfing," going from relative to relative or friend to friend, saying one night here and one night there. Selectman Robinson asked, of the 144, how many were from Hudson. Ms. Doolan said they didn't have that figure, which is difficult to come by because there isn't a shelter in Hudson. Someone may be from Hudson, but they would be counted as part of Nashua, if they are staying at the Soup Kitchen shelter. Selectman Massey said Hudson has Ann Marie's house. Ms. Doolan said that is transitional housing, not a shelter. Selectman Robinson interjected that he did a story on this about a year and a half ago, and the number of displaced persons from Hudson was 30, at that time. (Presentation continued.) They meet the first Wednesday of every month, upstairs at City Hall.

Selectman Robinson asked what the average time was a person spent in transitional housing. Ms. Doolan said by definition, the maximum stay is two years. Ms. Febonio said besides rehabbing places for people to live, she teaches a first-time home-buyers' seminar and does credit counseling. The agencies rely on each other and share information.

Selectman Maddox said the things they do are great, but he wanted to know what they were really looking for if the Board signs the agreement. Were they looking for a Selectman to be a liaison? He was wondering what they would be committing the town to, if they sign on to this program. Ms. Doolan said nothing, specifically, that is tangible. If the town had someone that could make that commitment, good. It's just agreeing that the town believes in these services. This is a much bigger issue in downtown Nashua. It's not asking for any financial support. It would be great if more people attended the meetings, but it's not a requirement. It's like it would be great if more residents attended town meetings. It also helps when they apply for their funding as one big bunch of organizations, they get to tell the federal government that it's not just Nashua; they can say they are serving a wider, geographical area and people know about them and support them.

Selectman Massey said he felt somewhat the same as Selectman Maddox. He asked if no transitional housing would be needed in 2012, if they are successful in what they are doing, or if the goal was to get into a position where they would be minimizing that. Ms. Doolan thought they would always need some transitional housing; it would be great if they didn't have any on-the-street homeless. They will always need a shelter. It's not that they won't have folks in that position, but they are looking to seriously decrease that, especially for families. Selectman Massey said if the Board executes the agreement, and nothing happens, what's the point? What are they *really* looking for from the town? Ms. Doolan said it's just a commitment that everyone is on the same page and are working towards getting services for the homeless and at-risk homelessness. Each town shouldn't have to create all of the services themselves.

Selectman Robinson said the town was blessed to have Kathy Wilson, who does an outstanding job helping those people in the community who need help, working through the various agencies. The town actively promotes that activity. If the Board signs the agreement, a Selectman would be expected to attend a meeting once a month. Ms. Wilson already "cooperates periodically with the Greater Nashua Continuum of Care in completing the HUD required inventory of homeless." That's part of her function. To share information and data to help evaluate the progress in ending homelessness, that's always something she does. Of the four bullets (in the brochure), they are asking of the town to attend meetings because they are already doing the other three. Ms. Noonan said then this is just putting it in writing. (Talking over each other.) Ms. Febonia said it doesn't have to be a Selectman that attends the meeting; they could assign someone else, and they don't have to attend every meeting. They all have full-time jobs, and she doesn't make every meeting. No one is going to get their wrist slapped for missing a meeting; it's not a requirement.

Selectman Maddox said he was a little gun shy and didn't want to sign on until he looks at the plan, just to make sure he can do that. He hoped they would get together with the cable people and put some on this information on TV so the citizens can be made aware of it. His biggest question was, since this goes until 2012, if the Board could sign a contract and commit other boards. Chairman Jasper didn't think there was anything in there that was legally binding on the town. He didn't think the town would be sued for not attending a meeting. Selectman Maddox asked what if the plan says if they don't enough money from the feds, the towns will have to make it up. He thanks they do a good job, but wants to see the plan first.

*Motion by Selectman Maddox to defer to January 22, seconded by Selectman Robinson, carried 5-0.*

**C. Waiver of Fee for use of Community Center for LGC's Local Officials' Workshop on May 13**

*Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to approve the request to waive the fee for the Local Government Center to use the Community Center to hold an Officials' Workshop on May 13, 2008, to be coordinated by the Town Administrator.*

Selectman Robinson asked what budget this was going to come out of. Mr. Malizia said it wasn't budgeted, so he didn't know. He thought it would be around \$200. It's not something ever budgeted for the Selectmen. Selectman Massey said he was opposed to the motion. It was not a good precedent to provide coffee and donuts to an outside agency for something that is within the purview of the LGC to provide. Policies are meant to be flexible, but the basic policy for the Community Center has been that only civic groups within the town of Hudson are able to use it without paying a fee, so he didn't feel compelled to waive it for an outside agency.

Selectman Maddox asked what day this was, and if the Community Center would be occupied by the Seniors on that day. Mr. Malizia said the schedule was checked and it was available that day. Selectman Maddox disagreed with Selectman Massey, saying this was information for the likes of them, and they can use all the help they can get. This is bringing it right to Hudson, so they don't have to transport themselves to Concord. He is sure they can find the money for bagels and donuts. He didn't think that was an issue. Hudson is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest community in the state, so not providing some refreshments to bring training to local government officials sets the wrong tone. Chairman Jasper said he echoed those comments.

*Vote: Motion carried 3-2. (Selectmen Massey and Robinson voted in opposition.)*

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

Chairman Jasper recognized Town Moderator Paul Inderbitzen, who was in the audience and wished to speak to the Board, to find out who was going to be at the polls tomorrow. There are a number of people who normally work the polls that are unavailable, for one reason or another. They might need extra help, especially in the evenings. The Assistant Voter System is working, although no one has ever asked to use it. There will be an election exit poll conducted by a media research group, who sells the information to all the media. It is a paid position and done by townspeople, coordinated by the Juniors and the Community Club. The Secretary of State said they could be inside, so he gave them a table. Girl Scouts will be taking orders for cookies and the Seniors will be selling their T-shirts.

Selectman Maddox said they were hearing there would be record numbers tomorrow. In the last presidential election, the voters were four-deep. If there are going to be extra tables, they would have to be by the two exits so people can divert people out the side doors on the front. At times, it will be hectic with new voters trying to register, change party affiliations, or whatever else they may be doing. It will be crazy, trying to have an exit poll. Mr. Inderbitzen said it will be a little tight, but thought they'd be OK. They can move things around, if necessary. The time in the booth should be much shorter because they'll be checking off only one or two things. The turnaround time should be pretty quick. This will be his and the Clerk's first election, so they will be learning and he would appreciate any assistance or suggestions.

Selectman Robinson thanked Mr. Inderbitzen and said, during the last election, there were some "communication" issues regarding children going into the voting booth and the bridge petition. He asked if there were any new rules or things folks should be aware of. Mr. Inderbitzen said being a federal primary, he disallowed putting up posters for Town Meeting, but he's not aware of any new rules. People will have to take their little kids in with them because the town doesn't provide day care services. The law says you can't go in with anybody, but he didn't think the state would object if a two-year old goes in with a parent. He can't see being that restrictive; they just haven't modified the law. Some voters will be upset because they were registered as an independent and didn't change back after they voted at the last election. Some people may be very upset when they can't vote the way they want, but that's the law and there's not much he can do about it.

Selectman Maddox asked him to explain that process. Mr. Inderbitzen said if you are an independent and you want to vote either Republican or Democrat, you can take one or the other, and your designation will then be changed to whatever ballot you take. After you exit, if you go to the Checklist Supervisors, you can then ask them to change you back, and there is a form that has to be filled out. A lot of people didn't do that; they just left, so that means they are on this checklist as either a Democrat or Republican—and they can only take that ballot when they go through the primary. The Supervisors will have two extra people working with them, and there will be a lot of people registering there because during a presidential primary, they always get a lot of people registering at the polls. There may be a lot of upset people, but they don't have a choice. They'll just do their best to make it as easy as possible for them.

Selectman Nadeau asked what people need to bring with them in order to register. Mr. Inderbitzen believed they ask for some form of identification, usually a driver's license or a utility bill, but that is a question for the Supervisors of the Checklist. Selectman Maddox said, at the last presidential election, that line was enormous, with a lot of confusion. A driver's license would be the best thing, but if that isn't current, then a utility bill with a Hudson address, showing they live at that location. At the last election, that was a lengthy process because there was a lot of people in that line. Mr. Inderbitzen said for the November election, he plans to emphasize to the Supervisors that they really publicize in the paper the fact of the voting signup days, and what they need to do, saying if they plan to register at the elections, plan to stand in line and try to make things little more public. The post the notice of their meetings, but they should probably be a little more pro-active, so he will help them with that so they don't have that many people registering that day. If people need to stand in line, they need to stand in line.

Selectman Robinson said, for the folks at home, if you have not already registered, you will need proper identification to register. If you are registered, just go to the line, pick up your ballot and vote. Another little... to the state level, about birthdays being required, giving your birthday. Chairman Jasper said it's not required; it's requested because of many name duplicates. It's a means of checking to see if you are who you say you are. It's requested but not required for people who are re-registering. He thinks it's a requirement now for people who are registering.

Selectman Massey plans to be there all day. Rather than wait until the presidential election, he thought the Supervisors might want to try a dry run for the primaries in September. Mr. Inderbitzen agreed. They need to make people aware that if they are not registered, they need to do so. They can do that at the polls, but the lines are usually long.

Selectman Robinson said he had to work until 5:00, but will get there as soon as he can; Chairman Jasper and Selectman Nadeau said they'd be there all day; Selectman Maddox said he'd taken a vacation day to be there, but that got cancelled today, so he will be there as soon as he could.

Selectman Massey said for the presidential election in 2004, they held the polls open an extra hour because of all the lines. Mr. Inderbitzen said they have to close the polls, based on the ordinance the Board passed, at 8:00 p.m. However, anybody in line gets to vote, even if someone is walking across the parking lot. Everybody who wants to will get a chance to vote, if they get there before 8:00.

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

**Selectman Massey** said when they were debating the new solid waste contract and looking at the potential for a surplus, they decided they would return that surplus to any unexpended balance to the general fund. As a result, he proposed that before the Highway Department uses any of the monies out of the Waste Management line item, that they come to the Board, and the first place they look for help is in the contingency fund. That's the reason for the contingency fund, for those types of operations and he wants to be very clear that there was, in fact, a savings in the solid waste contract and that they did return it. Chairman Jasper said he was mixing up two fiscal years. This was not the year they made any promises. Selectman Massey said when they were talking about the potential, there was some discussion about using the money for highway. (There was a back and forth disagreement.) Selectman Massey said given the fact there is the potential for the need to have the Highway Department come to the Board for expenditures, that the line item for waste management not be the first place they look, that they look at the Selectmen's contingency fund, which is the reason why it was created, to handle these types of expenditure.

**Selectman Maddox** said, as he alluded to earlier, it has been brought to his attention that the Board of Selectmen need to authorize the Planning Board to prepare the CIP.

*Motion by Selectman Maddox, that in accordance with provisions of NH RSA 674:5, the Board of Selectmen authorizes the Planning Board to prepare for the town of Hudson the fiscal year 2010 Capital Improvements Program, seconded by Selectman Massey.*

Selectman Massey said the critical reason for having a CIP is it is the mechanism by which the town can collect impact fees for the various activities that come before the Planning Board, so everybody that's on it should participate.

Chairman Jasper said he was going to vote against the motion because it speaks to 2010 and the way they are doing it is useless in terms of anything except allowing them to collect impact fees. Nobody takes it seriously. It is structured in such a way as to become pointless. The statute allows a five year plan, and that's what this plan ought to be—a five year plan for things the CIP thinks the town should be doing within a five year period of time, maybe not even ranking because that's not as important. Perhaps they should meet every three years to review that five year plan. That becomes something that is meaningful, something they can say because of the grants that are available here and things that are happening here, this year they can do the things that are in the pool of projects. Otherwise, they are wasting an awful lot of staff time. If you always do what you always did, you will always get what you always got, and what they

are getting is a document that is just eating up way too much time for no reason other than impact fees and they can accomplish that goal and be more productive.

Selectman Maddox said rather than have a negative in this, what the Chairman was saying was he should withdraw his motion and he will bring the Board some sort of plan and, as a Board, they will move towards developing a better CIP program. Chairman Jasper said it's up to the Planning Board how they want to do it. He just didn't want to see it go up to 2010 and thought the motion ought to be a little broader, to authorize the Planning Board to develop a CIP program and encourage them to look at a new methodology whereby they have a five year plan to be updated every third year. Selectman Maddox said he was just trying to clarify where the Chairman would like to go, so he will keep his motion like it is, and make a subsequent motion to request that the Planning Board go in the direction of a multi-year program.

Selectman Massey said he distinctly remembers that that plan is at least three years. There are projects listed... Chairman Jasper said it is, in terms of listing many years out, but the problem is it includes the 2010 component, and then it ranks them, but if you look at what they actually accomplished, none of those things happened. He was suggesting that, rather than doing that, they ought to say they are creating a plan that says here are the things that we think need to be done in the town in a five year period, and then allow budgeting to determine which of those things need to get done. Right now, the projects and ranking are deemed not important, but if they say they've looked at the departments and into the future and start developing an idea, and start picking things out, what might have ended up on year five is now done this year. There wouldn't be a particular year; there would be just a group of things that are suggested be done within a five year period. What they are doing now is a total waste of time and energy. Nobody looks at it, and the department heads have to put in a lot of time doing it. The Selectmen don't pay any attention to it when they do the budgets, and the Budget Committee doesn't either—and he didn't even know if they get copies of it. Selectman Nadeau said they didn't even go (to the meetings) this year. Chairman Jasper said the way it's being done is totally pointless. It's a long range planning tool that isn't being done right.

Selectman Maddox said he was going to double-back on the Chairman and say he was the very person who says the Board shouldn't make long-term decisions because the boards are going to change—and he is saying exactly the opposite on this. Chairman Jasper said they wouldn't include any years in there; they are just saying within the next five years, they think that (for instance) the fire station needs to be renovated; Central Street needs to be reconstructed; etc. without and rankings to the list of projects. Then the Selectmen would look to see what the CIP and the departments put on that list, then they decide if they are going to do any, some or none of them, and that goes into the budget. Then the next Board comes along, and they pick out their five or six projects. Now they've done three and maybe have 15 left on the list. Because of other changing things, the CIP committee comes along and says they are going to look five years into the future, so every three years, they start with a whole new slate. Some of the things may be obsolete, and others are added in. Now, they go forward with a group of things.

Selectman Maddox said he never sees Hudson taking on five things that probably average \$1 million apiece. Chairman Jasper said Selectman Maddox may be right, but now, they are not using it—they are not even looking at it and they aren't paying any attention to the rankings. They need to look at a new system and he thought that was pretty much agreed on. He's had conversations with department heads that are very frustrated over this process.

Selectman Robinson said he supported Selectman Maddox because at least this gets it off the dime, gives it some teeth and moves it in a specific direction. It may not be exactly what the Chairman chooses at this point in time, but it's something and it's a direction. It can be adjusted as it moves along. Chairman Jasper said that's fine, but that's the same thing they've always done. It's not a new direction. It's as Selectman Maddox pointed out, the Board is supposed to authorize this action on an annual basis, and they haven't. It has gone forward anyway and this changes nothing.

Selectman Massey said the process is broken in that the voters, the citizens elect this Board to make the decisions on how to fund and run the town, so the bottom line is, regardless of what the CIP committee comes up with in the way of rankings, it's the Selectmen has have to make the decision on what's important. It's easy for somebody who is not held accountable to say A, B & C are the way it should be done, but when the Board meets, it may turn out the D is the most critical from its perspective. They need to do the project, but they have to recognize that in the final analysis, what gets done gets done because the Board of Selectmen has to make an informed decision on ability to pay and the needs of the town, and that may not map 100% to what the CIP committee thinks are the priorities. He has always felt the Selectmen are the ones responsible for what happens and to have a department go to an outside forum to promote what they think needs to be done, without any input from the Selectmen, is where the disconnect occurs. What the department heads do should be done in concert with the Board of Selectmen, looking at the overall picture. Last year, the workshops were a great thing, but the problem is the workshops started in May and the CIP has to have this project done by June. They need to keep the CIP going because if it is stopped, they run the risk of never starting it again, then look at the ways, in the next six months, to fix the piece of it that needs to be fixed, which are the statutory responsibilities of the Board of Selectmen.

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

Selectman Massey asked for a consensus of the Board for the Chairman to send a letter to the School Committee, requesting that they participate in this, this year. Chairman Jasper said that's the job of the Planning Board, so he didn't think the request was appropriate. Selectman Massey said they have not participated for the last two years in a row. Selectman Maddox said they did put a proposal before the CIP, but they did not send a representative there. Chairman Jasper said that was indicative of the fact that the system is so broken and it's being seen as a total waste of time. Selectman Massey said the Budget Committee hasn't attended because the meeting nights conflict with theirs, as led to the first meeting. Chairman Jasper didn't think it was appropriate for the Selectmen to send a letter to the School Board because it's a Planning Board process, not the Selectmen's. Selectman Maddox said he could bring that up at the

Planning Board meeting and asked that the Town Administrator put the request to look at the CIP process on the list of projects, maybe as a workshop item with Community Development. He didn't have any particular love for the program they have now because he believes it to be a wish list reviewed by people that aren't elected. There are some flaws with it, but there are some good people trying to do the best they can with the system that's in place. It's contingent upon the Board of Selectmen, with the Planning Board, to fix some of the items the Chairman brought up.

Continuing, Selectman Maddox said it's 2008, and he's just as grumpy as he's ever been. The Board of Selectmen was told in 2006 that the VAX would be unplugged December 31, 2006. Here they are, January 4 of 2008, and they are celebrating the fact they unplugged the VAX. He is just befuddled, which is the nicest word he can use—only in government can a plan be put forth to the Board of Directors/the Board of Selectmen, and a year goes by and it's still not done. He is not sure that is a failure of the Selectmen or the system, but there was no celebration on his part on failure to get it done in the time it was said it would be done. It's another great year.

**Selectman Robinson** said there are some in the room who have been a Selectman for four years; the IT Department has been up and running for 10 months and in that time, they have unplugged the VAX. The failure of government comes into play, for those who were in charge as to why that did not get done. The IT Department is moving ahead. They've installed fiber optic cable and are doing a great job. For them, getting off the VAX was a big deal. And the Fire Department is collecting Christmas trees. Donations are being accepted for the MDA fund.

**Selectman Jasper** said he echoed Selectman Robinson's comments about the IT Department. People who are in IT now were not in the department in 2006, so the people who made the promises aren't there. The people who has been hired to do the job took care of the job in good time, considering everything they had on their plate. It was a long process, but there was a lot going on in the interim. There's no one left to hold accountable for that.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Massey, to forward to the warrant any petition that is received by the close of business on January 8 that has been validated by the Town Clerk's Office as having the required number of registered voters' signatures, carried 5-0. Selectman Massey volunteered to post the warrant no later than 1/28/08.

10. **NONPUBLIC SESSION**

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to enter Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee: (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: (e) Consideration/negotiation of pending claims/litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the body/agency/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.

Chairman Jasper stated that Nonpublic Session was being entered into at 8:43 p.m., thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon re-entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. Nonpublic Session was terminated at 9:30 p.m.

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 January 13, 2008, as recommended by the Fire Chief, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to hire Danielle Dubowik as Call Firefighter, a non-exempt position, with an hourly rate of \$10.50, effective Jan. 13, 2008, 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.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to adjourn at 9:33 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