

**HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Minutes of the June 26, 2007 Meeting**

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Attorney Client Session

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Jasper at 7:37 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by former Selectman Kathleen MacLean.

3. **ATTENDANCE**

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

**Staff/Others**: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Chief Richard Gendron; Police Lt. Bill Avery; Deputy Fire Chiefs Neal Carter and Rob Buxton; Marilyn McGrath; Leo Bernard; Joe and Kathleen MacLean; Howard Dilworth, Jr; and Tom Tollefson of HLN.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Marilyn McGrath said she was present to encourage the Board to appoint Terry Stewart to the Planning Board's open position. Terry served on the Planning Board as the Selectmen's liaison when she was on the Board of Selectmen and she did an excellent job. She was thoughtful in her decision-making, she asked pertinent questions, she was concerned about the effects of any development on the town and she was a real asset to the Board, and she would be an asset today.

5. **NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

**Planning Board** (1 member, term to expire 12/31/07; 1 alternate, term to expire 12/31/08)

1) Terry Stewart (interviewed June 12, 2007)

2) Brion Carroll (current alternate, term to expire 12/31/09; interviewed June 12, 2007)

3) William Cole (current alternate, term to expire 12/31/07; Selectman Robinson read letter on June 12, 2007 that was submitted by Mr. Cole.)

Selectman Maddox nominated Terry Stewart for the member position to expire 12/31/07. Selectman Massey nominated Brion Carroll.

Selectman Maddox said he would echo Ms. McGrath. Terry served for about six years as the Selectmen's rep on the Planning Board. She had excellent attendance and knowledge of the town. He was not voting against anyone; he was voting for someone who would be able to step into this position and move forward.

Nadeau	Carroll
Massey	Carroll
Maddox	Stewart
Robinson	Stewart
Jasper	Stewart

Chairman Jasper declared Terry Stewart the new member of the Planning Board.

6. **CONSENT ITEMS**

No one removed any items from the consent agenda, but Chairman Jasper noted that there is no Budget Committee meeting in July.

*Motion to approve the consent items by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, carried 5-0.*

A. **Assessing Items** (There were none.)

B. **Water/Sewer Items**

Sewer Utility Abatement, Ref. No. S-07-10, S-UTL-0714, 9 Rosemary Court, Acct. #5613, w/recommendation to grant.

C. **Licenses & Permits**

Block Party Permit by Dana O'Gara, 8 Richman Road, on July 21, 2007, with a rain date of July 28, 2007, from 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. at 7, 8 & 9 Richman Road.

D. **Acceptance of Minutes**

1) Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of June 5, 2007

2) Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of June 12, 2007

E. **Calendar**

6/27 7:00 Planning Board in CD Mtg. Rm.  
6/28 1:00 Trustees of the Trust Funds BOS Mtg Rm  
6/28 7:00 Open Space Meeting in BOS Mtg. Rm.  
6/28 7:30 ZBA in CD Mtg. Rm.  
7/04 Holiday, Town Hall Closed  
7/09 6:30 School Board in BOS Mtg. Rm.  
7/09 7:00 Conservation Cmsn in CD Mtg. Rm.  
7/10 7:00 Board of Selectmen in BOS Mtg. Rm.  
7/11 9:00 a.m., Joint Loss Mtg. in CD Mtg. Rm.

7/11 7:00 Planning Board in CD Mtg. Rm.  
7/12 5:30 Sewer Utility in BOS Mtg. Rm.  
7/12 6:30 Rec Committee @ Oakwood Facility  
7/12 7:30 ZBA in CD Mtg. Rm.  
7/16 7:00 Recycling Committee in BOS Mtg. Rm.  
7/16 7:00 Energy Committee in CD Mtg. Rm.  
7/17 7:00 Board of Selectmen in BOS Mtg. Rm.  
7/17 7:00 Cable Committee in CD Mtg. Rm.  
7/18 5:00 Water Utility in BOS Mtg. Rm.

7/18 7:00 Library Trustees in BOS Mtg. Rm.  
7/18 7:00 Planning Board in CD Mtg. Rm.  
~~7/19 7:30 Budget Committee in BOS Mtg. Rm.~~  
7/23 6:30 School Board in BOS Mtg. Rm.  
7/24 7:00 Board of Selectmen in BOS Mtg. Rm.

7/25 7:00 Planning Board in CD Mtg. Rm.  
7/26 7:00 Open Space in BOS Mtg. Rm.  
7/26 7:30 ZBA in CD Mtg. Rm.  
7/30 7:00 Recycling Committee in BOS Mtg. Rm.

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on June 12, 2007**

Motion by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to hire Alicia Stott in the Recreation Department as Substitute Counselor/Robinson Pond gate person at \$8.50 per hour for the 07 summer season, effective 6/17/07, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Massey, to upgrade Amy McMullen’s part-time position in the Assessing Department from Secretary to Administrative Aide, effective June 17, 2007, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to hire Danielle Dubowik and Gregory Rich as firefighters, in accordance with IAFF Local 3154, at an hourly rate of \$14.16 per hour, effective July 1, 2007, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to adjourn at 9:56 p.m., carried 4-1. Selectman Massey voted in opposition.

B. **Hudson Senior Council on Aging--Senior Activity Center Addition**

Selectman Massey this before them was a brief scope of what the Seniors consider to be the needs for the building. They spent a considerable amount of time reviewing the parking issue at the Oakwood facility, now and for the future, and concluded that 35-40 parking spots would not be sufficient. Therefore, they are back to Plan A, adding on to the Community Center. In the Board’s packet was the proposal that would be sent to any interested firm to bid on doing the architectural feasibility, and it would be based on Item #1 under scope of service, that the addition would include an assembly hall, a game room, a lounge, two offices, a storage room, a kitchen, two bathrooms and in terms of how the building would be utilized, an assembly hall to accommodate 200 people, and the lounge, the game room, the kitchen, etc., would be a total of 50 people, for a total capacity of the building of 250 people, and that the addition would be ADA-compliant. Most everything else is predicated on the schedule on the first page of the proposal, which is that if the Board approves the action tonight, they would post the RFP and seek to have the finalists at the Board’s August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, at which time the Board would consider awarding the design contract, with the delivery date of a set the rendering of the facility and the cost estimates, including cost escalators for the first meeting in November.

Chairman Jasper said he was dismayed. The Community Center holds 450 people; 250 is over half again the size of that building. He always thought they were looking for something to accommodate the maximum number of people that they needed for an event during the summer, which was Bingo, and that was for about 100 people. That could be accommodated in a relative small area. With an addition for 250, they’d now have a building with a capacity of 700. They will end up taking away so much parking, there won’t be enough for 450.

Selectman Maddox said the proposal was brilliantly written—and kudos to Ken if he wrote it—but he was confused with the addition of an assembly hall for 250 people. He thought they were going to use the existing assembly hall, and build around that. The proposal sounds like a separate building attached to the 450-person capacity assembly hall. He didn’t think that’s what they were going to do. Selectman Massey said if they were going to do this to accommodate the senior population in town, the facility has to deal with the summer programs. They can change the number of the building, but the size of the facility has to handle the Bingo crowd. They were also looking at this for the future, not just what their needs are for today. Chairman Jasper thought that’s why they said this was a stop-gap measure to give them something in addition to the hall. The Community Center is not the ideal place for a summer program. They are beginning the process of building something out at the pond. With a small addition, Oakwood was going to be suitable, having a capacity of around 100 people. Now, they’ve gone two and a half times. The issue at Oakwood was the parking, but now they’ve created a building going well beyond their Bingo needs. He envisioned an addition that had room for 100, and perhaps a small lounge and kitchen facilities. Now they’ve gone on to something else and it’s like 50 lbs. of potatoes in a 25 lb. sack on that site.

Selectman Massey asked what the pleasure of the Board was. Selectman Maddox said this should be reworked to take the assembly hall, the offices, the storage room, the kitchen and bathrooms from the existing facility. Those would all still be there in the existing Community Center. Selectman Massey said but they can’t use them during the nine weeks during the summer. Selectman Maddox thought this was a two-pronged approach. They were going to be looking to put the Seniors in this building exclusively, at the same time they are building something for the Rec programs—in conjunction with. He agreed with the Chairman; they are building another building off the side of this, and they will run out of parking very quickly. Selectman Massey said he could see scaling back the assembly hall to 150 people, but the issue about what else is in there is so it can be self-contained, especially because during the summertime, none of those facilities are available to this group, which was precisely the reason why they went looking for a new place. For those nine weeks, they don’t have access to these other services.

Selectman Nadeau said the people he talked to said Oakwood would work for them. Everyone seemed pretty happy for two or three weeks, while they were looking at it. If the biggest problem is parking in the summer, the schools are not in session

at that time. If they use the Community Center the rest of the year, they can use Oakwood for the summer. When the town has an election, this are already problems with parking. During a primary or presidential election, that place is a madhouse. If they take away so many parking places, where will they have voting? He can't see such a large addition going in there. Selectman Massey asked if they'd consider a smaller addition, adding that the issue is parking.

Selectman Robinson asked how many parking places this would take away. Selectman Massey said they won't know until they do the feasibility study. Tonight, the Board would not be approving the building of a Senior Center; they've be approving a contract to do a feasibility study for adding on to the Community Center, and the cost. Based on what comes back from that contract would determine how and when a warrant article would get submitted to the voters to actually do a construction project. Chairman Jasper said the problem is that if they go out to get a feasibility study on a building that is so large that it's not feasible, they might as well take the \$15,000 and throw it around. More people would benefit from that, except for the one person who got the contract because, at the end of the day, the site would be rendered useless for the primary need, which is the election. If they put on such a large addition, they would probably remove 25%-30% of the available parking.

Selectman Massey said they need to separate the issues. Do they need a facility? If so, what size and where? At the Board's discussion two weeks ago, he had a clear understanding that the Board did not consider there was enough parking at the Oakwood facility to meet the Seniors' needs, so that put them back to the Community Center. If that is still what they are talking about, they are talking about two things: what the addition has, what its needs are, and how big it is. If they start with the needs, from the premise that the current situation does not allow the Seniors to utilize the bathrooms and the kitchen facilities in that existing facility. That was the reason for putting a self-contained kitchen and bathrooms in. The Bingo is not accommodated in the summer in the existing building. That is the reason for the assembly hall. If that's the needs, all they are really going to be talking about is how big it should be. It's the Board's decision on the size. What they are talking about is what the future holds for the senior population, not just their current needs.

Chairman Jasper said he agreed, but they have to look at that building being available for the Seniors on a regular basis and what they are talking about is an area that, either now or in the future, could be made more homey. The problem is they don't have the ability to give them the big hall for two days a week during the nine weeks in the summer. He envisioned that they were going to have one room that was about 100 people. Since Town Meeting, he has consistently said there is only one place it could go; go out the width of the garage, down to the block part of the building. That is quite a few thousand sq. ft. and it doesn't substantially impact parking. He thought that's what they were looking at, and then determine what they can fit in that to make it work. He agreed that they would need a small kitchen and a bathroom. They could partition off part of the garage for storage. There are still two rooms for their offices; they continue to use one of them. While that may not be the most convenient, they have to have some short-term sacrifices, keeping an eye on the long-term goal of getting the Rec out of their entirely.

Selectman Maddox said he totally agreed with Chairman Jasper. He thought they were always talking about an addition the width of the garage. If they approve this proposal and increase the capacity by 250, now the capacity is 700, they are taking away the parking they would need from a building that size, so they would keep going in circles. He hoped to have the conceptual, rough for the Rec Center at Robinson Pond, hopefully, for their workshop on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, that will tie in with that. They ought to design this like they know what they need to do. Putting a separate kludge building on to Community Center for the Seniors, while trying to run the Rec program in there is just not going to work. Most of the parking lot is already taken up for the summer program; most of it is barricaded off. The only place to park is across the street. He agreed with the Chairman, putting the addition on, knowing it's going to totally become the Senior Center, at some point. Selectman Massey asked if he meant the entire building. Chairman Jasper said yes, for most of the activities. The Board has stopped renting it out, so there is the occasional election, blood drive and things like that. The primary use is going to be for Senior activities. Selectman Massey asked then why do the addition? Chairman Jasper said because of the nine weeks in the summer. Selectman Massey said that's an awful expensive nine weeks. Chairman Jasper said it's also not very conducive to a permanent senior center, in there is not a lounge area. Maybe you don't get everything you want right away, but you have a room that later on, you can partition or turn into a couple lounge rooms, or something more homey. You're going to want more bathrooms in that building, anyhow. That's why he didn't have a problem with a kitchen; they don't need an industrial kitchen. They could have a room with a TV, a card table, and maybe in the big room, a pool table. Things that will be there permanently, as part of a senior center drop-in area, where people can congregate. You can't do that in the main hall, and they can never do that there. That's what his long-term vision was and what he thought everyone was looking towards. Selectman Massey said they're not that far apart, except for the size. Chairman Jasper said it's huge.

Selectman Massey said it's not clear that they can add on to the left side of the building, and it's not clear that, economically, they can add on to the right side of the building because whether or not there is asbestos on that property. Part of the feasibility study is going to determine that. There are a lot of issues, but what they are debating is the size of the building addition. Chairman Jasper said that's the most important thing about a feasibility study. Selectman Massey asked if cutting back the hall to 100 people would change his thinking. Chairman Jasper said his thinking is that footprint because he didn't know what that will hold. His idea was to determine the square footage and then determine what they could put in there that makes sense. He didn't know what would prevent them from adding on to that side of the building, but that's what the feasibility is about. If they do anything other than that, they are really increasing the cost because they are, essentially, building a stand-alone building.

Selectman Robinson said everything in Item 1 is consistent with what the Board has discussed when they've met with the Seniors. The Seniors need a place to call home. The only thing inconsistent is the number of people. There was a significant amount of discussion at the last meeting about how much room the Seniors need for the number of people who come. Some research was supposed to be done on other communities and what they were doing and whether or not their programs were growing. That information was supposed to come back to the Board. At that meeting, Selectman Maddox voiced concerns about 10 years from now, with the Baby Boomers, and if they were planning far enough in the future. He asked if this was information coming back to the Board that, yes, they need to plan for 200 people for the future. If it's a need for the future, in response to Selectman Maddox's concerns a couple of weeks ago, the Board is being given the information it asked for.

Selectman Massey said it was the estimate of growth for the future, but if they were talking about the Community Center becoming de facto the Senior Center, with the addition being there, then they could clearly cut back the size of the assembly hall. The only question is if they leave out the assembly hall, what are they going to do for the period of time until a Rec Center is approved to accommodate the nine weeks in the summer? The Seniors have a legitimate right to that building in the summertime and the fact that the Board has seen fit to do otherwise doesn't negate the fact that the money that helped build that facility clearly had a stipulation on it that said a dispassionate observer could look at that building and say yes, there is a senior center there. For nine weeks, they can't make that statement. This issue isn't about the Rec Center. It's about making whole the Seniors. At this point, he wouldn't have any difficulty scaling back the 200 to 100, if the idea is, over time, that it's going to become permanent.

Selectman Maddox said he would be enthusiastic about taking \$80,000 from the Rec monies that the Planning Board collects and putting into a Senior fund and stop that argument that has just made them go around in circles for no good reason. That money has been used for a senior center and the nine weeks is unfortunate, but as the town grows, they need to make adjustments. That is an argument they are going to have to work around. They have it most of the year and get good use out of it. Community centers are trying to help out the town. He hoped they would reverse engineer; go out to the facility and measure to find out what that "X" square feet is, and fit the needs in that space. Chairman Jasper said he and Howard paced it off, but didn't remember what they came up with. The Senior Center and the Rec Center need to be partnered together to make this whole thing work.

Motion by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Maddox, that Selectman Massey continue with this process, to distribute the RFP, with the stipulation that the assembly hall will accommodate 100 people versus 200 people. (See revised motion below.)

Selectman Maddox said he seconded the motion in order to allow discussion, but he wasn't going to vote for it. They need to decide what they want to do and making that 100 is still kluging it onto the side of the building, beyond what he thinks needs to be put there. He'd like to see this changed to reflect utilizing the office, storage room, kitchen and bathrooms that exist and only putting on the items that are going to be on that addition new, but the other stuff would be existing, and still kind of cover this. Selectman Massey asked what they would do about the nine weeks. Selectman Maddox said build a Rec Center, hopefully, with the support of the people who understand what they are trying to do.

Selectman Robinson thought a feasibility study was to do exactly what Selectman Maddox suggests; take what is existing in that building and see how it could work for the Seniors. That's what he thought the voters voted for. He amended the number down to 100 because the Seniors said the largest number of people they have for line dancing is 80. This gives Selectman Massey and the Seniors a starting point. It gives them direction and the opportunity to finally land a home in the town.

Selectman Massey didn't think that if you have an addition, and you have to use the bathrooms and the kitchen and the storage and the offices in the other room that it really is going to work very well. In his world, that's going to become a crupper. They are talking about a facility that, if it's done properly, would not require a lot of heat and electricity because, if this is done properly, the assembly hall, as an example, would be on a separate heating system from the rest of the building, so when you are not using the assembly hall, it doesn't have to be heated or air conditioned. You would never have to, under those circumstances, except when they have big events, have to have the main building either heated or air conditioned in the winter and in the summer. The addition has a lot of pluses to it, relative to being able to be self-contained and allow them to have their programs that they can co-exist with other programs, simultaneously. He didn't think what they were asking him to go back and do is, that the only thing in the room is a lounge and a game room, that that's a viable option. He will take what the Board asks him to do and go do it, but in his opinion, that's not a viable option.

Chairman Jasper thought they were going about this backwards. They've got \$15,000 for a feasibility study. Feasible to do what, where? What they should be doing is asking how big a building, and where, and if it is feasible to do that. Frankly, anything is feasible with enough money. They ought to be saying, here is the footprint. Now, is it feasible, within that footprint, to accomplish the goals that the Seniors are looking to accomplish? He can see putting in a kitchen and the bathrooms. Seniors shouldn't have to walk 200' to get to the bathroom. He thinks they ought to say, look, here's what we want to study. We want to see if an addition can be put onto the side of that building, running the width of the garage, down to the block end of the building, and even if, in its first life, it isn't set up as a lounge—maybe they just get the kitchen and bathroom the first time, and have to make do with some of the other things, but then, when they get to the next phase, which is an off-site Rec Center, now you don't have to worry about having a room for 100 people; now all they need to worry about is having a lounge area. So, maybe they would want to have a couple lounge areas, and they could put up walls very easily, as they do all the time. He didn't know what they were going to get somebody to do for \$15,000 if they just say, look at this and study it to death. They can spend \$15,000 and never looked over here. It just doesn't make sense. In his opinion, the first

place they need to look is off the side. The motion says a room for 100 people, which is the goal, at this point, but they need a little more direction—see if they can get a room for 100 people, with what else in that area? He is confident they can, but he didn't think the direction was quite clear enough.

Selectman Robinson said he was in favor of the building—you've got a lounge area, the offices, the self-contained bathrooms. If he didn't explain himself properly, he was in agreement with what he (Selectman Massey) wanted them to do, but maybe less people inside the building. If they need a bigger area, they go into the Community Center, at this point. Selectman Massey said if that was the Board's direction, he can go back and work with the Seniors on that. That's doable.

Selectman Maddox said they are laser-looking at the problem today. They need to look at the vision thing. As they all get grayer and older, they need to take part in the Senior programs. Basing it on today's numbers is not a good idea. The basic concept the Board has understood is they need to do something for the Seniors. He wasn't disagreeing with Selectman Massey, or Selectman Robinson. They will argue about the nine weeks until it gets fixed, but how are they going to do that, and not just looking at today. They need to look at the vision thing. They really believe they need to have a separate facility for Rec and a separate facility for Seniors. He can't see this building attached on, trying to be self-contained, while there is a basketball game going on in the main building. He couldn't see the parking working—all the things that are going to go on. If that's what they are going to do, they should just find another plot of land and put the Senior Center on that. They need to look at utilizing the building for all of its positives. It does have a good-sized industrial kitchen that has a good sized room that can be used for multiple things. Putting the addition on is just to enhance that, when they get to the final step.

Selectman Massey said he wanted to know from each member of the Board what he was going away with. Selectman Robinson said his motion. Selectman Massey asked if it was his motion as he (Selectman Robinson) described it, in sync with what he (Selectman Massey) said. Selectman Robinson said yes. Selectman Massey asked if that was Selectman Nadeau's understanding. He didn't want to go off and do something, only to come back and find out the Board had different expectations. Chairman Jasper said it needs to be defined a little bit more, and they ought to concentrate on that one area because the other problem—and they have to assume these are going to have to co-exist, due to the way things go in Hudson, for a few years. Putting the addition off the east side of the building creates a huge problem because that's where the kids play in the summer because that's where the shade is, and where the ice is in the winter. He didn't think they've agreed that it's feasible to put the addition on the west side of the building, but that's the only thing that ends up being feasible, particularly when you think of the kids. With the kids playing over on the other side, you can't have the Seniors driving in and parking there. They would totally screw that up.

Selectman Massey said he would come back with a revised concept, assuming that the building is going to be on the left side, facing the Community Center, if that's the will of the Board. Selectman Jasper said that's what he'd like to see. Selectman Maddox said that's not what the motion says. Selectman Nadeau asked if they were going to spend the \$15,000. Chairman Jasper said no, they were just going to come back with a new proposal. Selectman Massey agreed, saying the town hasn't been authorized to spend a dime.

Selectman Robinson said he'd revise the motion so that Selectman Massey proceeds with this project, looking at the Community Center for the possibility using a feasibility study to build on to the Community Center, on the left hand side, looking at the building, the west side, for the purpose of what is listed (in the proposal) to accommodate 100 people, versus the 200 people. Selectman Maddox agreed to the revised motion, which carried 5-0.

#### **Insurance for Hudson Senior Council on Aging**

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Massey, to approve payment of the \$500 insurance bill for the Hudson Senior Council on Aging to use the American Legion hall for the summer, carried 5-0.

Selectman Massey said no matter what the Board does about the addition, the Seniors will be displaced again next year, so they should include this insurance amount in the budget for next year.

Motion by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Massey, to change the Order of the Day to take up Items 8 B & C carried 4-1. Selectman Maddox voted in opposition, saying they should follow the agenda.

#### **C. Town Clerk/Tax Collector**

Selectman Nadeau recused himself and left the room.

Chairman Jasper said they have seven applicants. He asked the Town Administrator to work with the Town Clerk and the Finance Director to give an overview on qualifications. At this point, they probably want to set up a process for interviewing the seven candidates, which he believes is what the Board wants to do, and when and how they want to do that. He asked Steve to prepare some questions relative to that job, which has been done in years past. It's important for people who work on a day to day basis help with the questions to get to the heart of the matter. His recommendation is that they would interview at the next meeting. He asked if the Board wanted to appoint that night, or wait to the next meeting. It should be done by the workshop meeting. If they hire someone from the outside, it would be appropriate for them to have a couple weeks notice, rather than less than a week. This person is going to have to take over the position no later than July 30.

Selectman Robinson said he'd like to invite all seven applicants to the next meeting for the purpose of interviewing for the position of Town Clerk/Tax Collector. He suggested that they have questions prepared ahead of time so each candidate is

treated equally, and he suggested that those who are not being interviewed not be present in the room when the others are being interviewed, so they can treat each candidate with respect and dignity. Selectman Maddox agreed, saying he didn't think, if your name was A, you should be punished. The candidates should be picked at random, while the rest of them are off in another area, so they don't hear the questions. They would have two minutes to make a presentation to the Board, and the Board has 10 minutes to ask questions of each individual. At the end of all seven, they take a vote to whittle it down to three and then decide if they do the next step right there. Or, do they go from all seven to the one? They might want to go more in depth with the three finalists.

Chairman Jasper said they should get in depth during the interview process and he was reticent to put time limits on the questioning and answering. This is an important position and they need to take the time to do it as completely as they can. He agreed with the other suggestions and having the other candidates wait upstairs during the interview process is appropriate. At that point, they make their decision. Whether they want to ruminate on that for a week or so is up to the Board. They will have a pretty good idea that night; things will be fresh in their minds. They will have an opportunity to go into nonpublic to discuss the appointment so they can talk. That has been discussed with the attorney, and he said they could do that in nonpublic. At that point, if after they deliberate for awhile and find they can't make a decision, they can put it off. He didn't see the point of getting it down to three and then re-interviewing. That was where he was going with trying to narrow it down, but after he thought about it and talked with some of the members about it, it seemed like the best thing to interview all seven candidates.

Selectman Robinson said they should have a point system in order to take personalities out of the game, so they do it subjectively. Have a rating scale of one to five, and a matrix, much like the Police Department, Fire Department and like they did with IT. They would each do a rating on each individual, hand it in and add up the scores. Chairman Jasper said they can't make an appointment that way. They are going to come out and vote and it's not going to be they added up the scores and divided and this person got the most points. The Board has to make that decision themselves.

Selectman Maddox said the reason he was pushing for reducing it to three and coming back to whatever number they feel comfortable with is because they don't do this very often and they are probably going to learn some things as they go through the interviewing process round with the seven. They might want to go back because they might learn something from the third person they didn't ask the first two and they want to be able to go back and make sure they have all of their bases covered because, again, they don't do this very often. Again, he'd like to be able to say they have additional questions. They may say it is very short and brief, but at least if they knew that was the process, they might say no, they've asked all the questions they need, but if they set that up as the process, they would go to three, and then re-interview, if the Board so decided, but they knew that there could be that setup. All he's saying is they might learn on the very seventh person they never asked the other six about X. It would be nice, when they go back through, to be able to do that. That's all he was looking at. Chairman Jasper said the Board can do whatever it desires on that point.

Selectman Massey said, in practice, that might be interesting, but in point of fact, with the example that Selectman Maddox gave, that if the seventh person triggers a set of questions, then in all fairness, they'd have to bring all seven back. They would end up with a circular interview process. They are all fairly knowledgeable about what the job is going to take and the set of questions, if they get framed properly, should elicit the right responses from each of the seven and they should be able to make a determination, if they are able to discuss and debate in nonpublic. He thinks they can do it in one fell swoop. If, during the discussion, they find they cannot, they could make a secondary motion to cut it back to three people and bring the three finalists back... or four, or one, or whatever it is.

Selectman Maddox wanted the record to show that if the candidates are not there for the interview at the next meeting, then they are disqualified. He didn't want to drag this out, waiting for people to be present. He wanted to make it perfectly clear that that's the intent. The next meeting will be the interview for this position. Selectman Massey thought they should draw the names randomly, so it's not the luck of the draw that you're alphabetically the first one that gets asked questions. It should be random, who goes first. They shouldn't alphabetically interview the candidates; they should put their names in a hat and draw them out and interview them on the basis their names were drawn. Also, he thinks it would be appropriate for the candidates not be allowed downstairs during the interviews; they should be upstairs because they have filming going on. Chairman Jasper agreed they must be upstairs in the hallway.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to interview all seven candidates for the position of Town Clerk/Tax Collector at the Board's meeting on July 10, and that there be questions drafted by the Town Clerk and Town Administrator for the Board to ask, that the interviewing of the candidates be a random draw from the hat and that all candidates to be interviewed shall remain upstairs during the interview process and that the Board would deliberate in nonpublic and reserves the right to make its decision at that meeting or the subsequent meeting.

Selectman Maddox said he'd like to add that failure to be at the next meeting disqualifies that person from the interview process. Chairman Jasper said he hesitates to put that in there, just in case there is a death in a family or some extenuating circumstance. They ought to handle that on a case by case basis. They are going to be invited to be present and if they can't... they know what the motion is, if they are paying attention. If someone had a death in the family the night before, he would want to give them a little leeway. He'd rather play that one by ear. Selectman Maddox acquiesced, saying it was strongly indicated that having a bowling tournament that night isn't a valid reason for not being able to be present.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to hire Cecile Y. Nichols as consultant to the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office at the rate of \$25.19 per hour, effectively July 1, 2007 through August 31, 2007 and to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to sign the contract between the town of Hudson and Cecile Y. Nichols.

Selectman Massey said it doesn't indicate the amount of money and where the money is coming from. Mr. Malizia said it's coming from the Town Clerk's vacancy. Chairman Jasper said it will have no budgetary impact. Selectman Massey said they could potentially have another vacancy. Mr. Malizia said as far as the hours go, it depends on how long it takes her to close out the books, up to 40 hours a week, but it could only be 10; to be able to support the close out of the year and any audit exchange that needs to go on because the auditor will be here in August. Selectman Massey added an amendment to the motion, and further to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to sign the contract, on behalf of the Board. Chairman Jasper said that was part of the motion already.

Selectman Nadeau rejoined the Board and took his seat.

Selectman Robinson asked if the Deputy would be taking over for Cecile on July 1, at the rate of that office. Mr. Malizia said no; the Deputy gets paid what the Deputy gets paid. Chairman Jasper said they didn't do anything about an increase in salary. Selectman Maddox asked if it says in the motion where the money will come from. Mr. Malizia said from the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's budget, but that wasn't included in the motion, 5030. Selectman Maddox wanted to ensure it wasn't coming from contingency. Chairman Jasper said the only way money can be taken from contingency is to specify it. They do this all the time with money for contracts. They don't always specify where it's coming from.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

**D. Employees Earned Time Fund**

Town Administrator Steve Malizia said he and the Finance Director looked at the budgets. About a month and a half ago, there was a request to ask for money from the Trustees for the earned time paid out to employees who have left the employ of the town. The Board deferred action until they looked at it to determine if the budget, itself, could handle that, as opposed to drawing down the fund. Based on the analysis he's seen, it appears they will end the year with at least a \$200,000 surplus, so it is not necessary to seek reimbursement from that fund. It is better to let the money sit in the fund so that it will draw more interest so if they truly need it, it will be there and, hopefully, they won't have to raise as much next year to replenish the fund. At this point, his recommendation is to do nothing. If something should change, they could still do it at the first meeting in July, but he didn't anticipate anything would change.

Chairman Jasper declared a recess at 8:57 p.m. The meeting resumed at 9:05 p.m.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Liaison Reports**

Selectman Nadeau said the Recreation Department's summer program is underway. For Finance, the auditor came in today for the preliminary audit.

Selectman Massey said with the Highway Department, the Wason Road booster station is fully operational. Pennichuck and the Engineering Department are working on a plan to decommission the Compass Point booster station. He misspoke at a previous meeting. The Wason Road paving is not substandard. What was substandard was the trenching that was done to put the pipe in the ground because it wasn't compacted properly, so they ended up with a washboard. As a result, the Town Engineer is working with the Wason Heights developer to fix the problem.

He visited the South End water tank site, and it looks like a stovepipe. The walls are up and are being sealed. They expect to put the dome on right after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and they are still on schedule for it to be operational in September 2007. It is hard to see it from off-site.

The Barretts Hill upgrade, which was a new water tank, a new distribution line and a new booster station is going to be discussed as part of the engineering workshop this summer, in anticipation of a warrant article for March 2008 to bond the cost of those upgrades.

The state has declared the Pelham Road culvert site a dam, so they now have to have an emergency action plan for the facility and, as part of the work CLD is working on, to come up with an engineering design to fix that defective bridge, that most people see as a culvert. They will also include the emergency action plan, working with the Engineering Department.

Relative to the Library Street-Central Street signalization project, the town has completed the work it needed to complete in order to go out to bid. They need to get a municipal agreement with the state DOT. Until they say go, it can't be put out to bid. Mr. Malizia said that agreement just hit his desk today, but he hasn't had a chance to review it all—the construction details and the cost share. Selectman Massey said this was a federally-funded project, so a lot of state and federal guidelines have to be met before they can put it out to bid.

They are in the process of having an assessor tell them what the value of Dick's Auto property relative to the Lowell Road sidewalk project so the town can continue with the eminent domain proceedings. Because of the work that is going to be done on Derry Road this summer from Highland Street to McDonalds and the anticipated construction on Library Street and Central Street, the work on the Lowell Road sidewalk project will be in 2008.

In the Police Department, Officer Sullivan and "Officer" Akim have successfully been re-certified as a police unit.

Firefighter Jack Gagliardi, Priscilla Zakos from Highway and Officer Cassie Dabilis were honored by the Wattanick Grange as employees of the year for their civic support.

Selectman Maddox said he's been in discussions with the Fire Chief in regards to the Local Emergency Management Planning Committee that hasn't been very active. They are going to get it started up again, with Deputy Buxton on board. He went to a seminar recently in Manchester in regards to health issues, but it tied into this. Being a border community and the size of the town, there are some things they need to be looking at in order to be prepared. That's one of the things that committee needs to look at. Hopefully, they will get some coordination from the School Department because a lot of the things will probably be tying them into that. This is something that has finally come back up that has been dormant for a number of years.

Relative to NRPC (Nashua Regional Planning Commission), he attended a meeting the other week. NRPC encompasses 12 other communities, and another community wants to join. Somewhere along the line, Hudson fell off the map with the amount of commissioners they can have on that Board. They originally had four, and now there are three. Something went awry. They said they were talking to the Town Administrator and the Community Development Director, so they will have to talk about this off line. It's a group that can benefit the town. It is becoming more than just a DOT thing. It's looking at more things regionally. Hopefully, that will benefit Hudson and the entire region.

Commuter rail actually looks like it may be going somewhere. The Legislature authorized an oversight board to oversee the entire state's rail system. What they are looking at now is going from Lowell to Manchester, which is what he said should have happened. Originally, it was going to go from Lowell to Nashua. It will only be single track, but the cost will be the same from Lowell to Manchester as a double track from Lowell to Nashua. It's moving forward and something the state has decided to take seriously, now that they have that commission. They can look at liability, which was the biggest issue with the whole rail system. They are actually looking for something to happen within the next couple of years. There was some concern about the development that's going to go on the old Packard site, where W. R. Grace was, but at this point, they are looking at a couple of other sites in Nashua.

Selectman Robinson said the Assessing Department is continuing to address property owners' questions regarding tax bills. It is continuing to manage, follow-up and follow-through on the work being done by the three contractors, who are now conducting the assessment activities. A lot of the properties within the town are 15% - 16% under the current real estate market, so he's working diligently to bring those homes up to the correct value.

The Cable Committee has purchased new hardware, authorized by the Board of Selectmen, so there will be some changes on Channels 20, 21 & 22. There will also be a flat screen TV outside the Town Clerk's Office for bulletin information.

During Old Home Days, the Recycling Committee will have a booth and they will be showing the video that was created by the Cable and Recycling Committees. A member of the Recycling Committee will be making a 4 x 8 poster, displaying the information on recycling, statistics, etc. The committee was seeking authorization to use the town seal for that. Chairman Jasper said it could be, without objection from other Board members. (There was none.) Selectman Robinson thought a thank you letter to the Cable Committee was in order because Jimmy and Mike worked did an outstanding job on the video. Chairman Jasper said it would be taken care of. Relative to recycling, plastics are now one through seven, so that's good. This is the last week to "stack it high and watch it fly." If people have trash they want to go to the dump, this is the week to do it because effective next week, the totes will be used.

The renovation project downstairs at Town Hall for an IT area is in progress. The jail cell doors have been removed and three offices have been constructed. It was a joint effort between Finance and IT. IT now has an area to be able to work on PC's. It allows two offices, one for Finance and one for IT. It will also allow for extra desk space. Three bids were sent out—Mason Electric, BDL & P. M. McKay. Mason was the lowest, so that is who they went with. If a PO is under \$10,000 the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator can sign the PO. Relative to coming off the VAX, on July 9, MuniSmart will be here to have a combined training session for Community Development, Engineering and Finance. Community Development needs to correct their agency fees, adding that he may not be using the right terminology. The Sewer Department has capital assessment fees that need to be adjusted and Finance is working on what to do with the archived information, especially having to do with payroll. IT is working to see on what other communities have done.

Robinson Road has received a computer and it is being outfitted with Comcast, and in the process, IT found that the town has been paying for a 56k line that hasn't been used in that station for three years, so IT has saved the town \$9,000. A PO has been cut for the document imaging machine, as well as for the software. The monies were encumbered for that. It looks like that will be a go for next month. That effort has been a huge concern for the IT Department.



A Letter to the Editor that appeared in HLN relative to Highway. Normally, he wouldn't address this. It's OK to call a Selectman incompetent, but when someone refers to town staff, it's hard to refer to them as incompetent and arrogant and it is not just. The letter that was written was filled with misinformation. It refers to the trash cans in Hudson as being smaller than the ones in Nashua, but Nashua has a different contract. What do you do with the extra trash if you have a family of three or four? He suggested they watch the video on cable television and it would show exactly what to do with it. The letter refers to leaves and grass being picked up. The town hasn't picked up leaves or grass for seven years, and there is a law against that, which prohibits the collecting of grass with trash. If that is what that individual has been doing, they probably don't want to do that any more. Thumbs Down about plastic recycling is wrong. The Road Agent had answers to the various questions that have been going into the Thumbs column. The town is accepting one through seven, which is most of the plastics that are out there. Plastic bags from the supermarkets are not allowed. If anyone has a question regarding recycling, the Highway Department, please call that department. The Road Agent and his staff will be more than willing to discuss any questions with anyone who calls, or he will go speak to that person personally. The Highway Department works very hard for the town. He read a letter written by the Nottingham West Elementary School, which is just one of the examples of what the Highway Department does. "I would like to take this time to commend the Highway Department for going above and beyond in the work they have provided, the installation of the new playground at Nottingham West Elementary School. The work the Highway Department accomplished for all of us is tremendously appreciated by students, volunteers, PTO Playground Committee and the surrounding community. The grant was given to us from DCYF made this dream come true. I especially want to thank Jeff Farrentino and Kevin Hussey of the Highway Department, under the direction of Kevin Burns, for their great work. These guys from the Highway Department are out there every day, such as our fire professionals and our police professionals, and they deserve our thanks and our respect for everything they do for the town of Hudson."

Selectman Jasper said he didn't have anything to report.

**B. Encumbrances** (This item was taken up prior to 7 C & D)

Finance Director Kathy Carpentier said this is done every year at the Board's last meeting in June. She had asked department heads and committee chairs if they had any encumbrances that won't be complete by June 30. They have a legal obligation to encumber the funds because there is a contract and a PO. Her request was to encumber \$2,494,929.15 with the bulk of that being from warrant articles—the water bond, Benson's.

Chairman Jasper was concerned that they were encumbering an awful lot of money for a project that, right now, doesn't exist. He never felt they needed \$100,000 for Green Meadow, and now are carrying \$98,000 forward, and \$25,000 which they will probably be spending. He is not sure they are going to need this at all; he's not sure they ever needed it, but he's really sure they're not going to need \$98,000 for Green Meadow. As they've learned and heard, most of the things they need to have done, the developer has an obligation to pay for. While \$50,000 is more than they need, he'd be willing to support carrying that amount, but not \$98,000. That is totally unnecessary, but the Chair is not in a position to make an amendment.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to amend the total encumbrance from \$2,494,929.15 to \$2,446,929.15, a reduction of \$48,000 from 5110-252, Board of Administration, Green Meadow Development, Other Professional Services.

Selectman Massey agreed with the Chair, that in this case, they know that most of the fees they would have been looking at for Green Meadow would have been incurred by the developer. This is a reasonable amount to leave encumbered. Selectman Maddox didn't have as clear a crystal ball as some of the others seem to have. They don't know what is going to happen. They've asked for a number of things from VHB, and they haven't a clue as to what those prices are; what it will take to build the roadway from 111 to Lowell Road. This money will revert to the general fund if they don't spend it, but to take it out now, in his opinion, is a little too early, without knowing what they might need to do. Taking that \$50,000 away is just setting them up for a problem.

Chairman Jasper said, without a plan, keeping \$123,000 in reserve is irresponsible, as well. With what they are doing with the \$25,000 and \$50,000... Selectman Maddox thought the \$25,000 was almost all spent. Mr. Malizia said they have a purchase order, but didn't have any expenses against it. Selectman Massey asked why they weren't encumbering that. Chairman Jasper said they are, under Other Expenses. Selectman Massey said they have plenty of time during the budgeting cycle to take care of any new project. This money was put into this fiscal year's budget for Green Meadow. Given they don't have any plans for how long they would use it for any other thing, it is not appropriate to move it to another purpose. Chairman Jasper agreed.

Selectman Nadeau referred to 5940-298 Other Expenses, the \$25,000 and asked if they had any bills against that. Chairman Jasper said no, that's what Mr. Malizia was saying. There is a purchase order, but they haven't been tasked with anything. The billing that was done was paid for by the developer. Mr. Malizia said the \$2,000 was for the web page, which came out of the \$100,000. Selectman Nadeau asked if the \$25,000 needed to be encumbered. Mr. Malizia said the Board had discussed, at previous meetings, to ask VHB to do various tasks, which would take that money. Chairman Jasper said he's not sure they need to encumber any of the \$98,000, but he was comfortable with the \$25,000. He was trying to strike a balance between what he thinks they ought to do and what the Board might be more inclined to do. Selectman Robinson agreed with Selectman Massey. The money was held for Green Meadow and Green Meadow is no longer there. It should go back to the General Fund. Chairman Jasper said he'd be comfortable to not encumber any of the \$98,000 but the motion is for \$50,000.

Vote: Motion failed, 2-3. Opposed were Selectmen Jasper, Robinson and Maddox.

Motion by Selectman Maddox to encumber the not-to-exceed amount of \$2,494,929.15 did not receive a second.

Motion by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Massey, to encumber the non-to-exceed amount of \$2,396,929.15.

Chairman Jasper said this motion takes out the whole \$98,000 for Green Meadow. Selectman Maddox said he was going to jump up and down louder and harder. The rest of the Board must know something he doesn't. Over the next year, who knows what could happen here? As much as they think they can charge the developer for everything, they cannot. They might decide to split that. There are any number of things that can happen on that site. This gave them the ability to maneuver. They are now taking that all away. The \$50,000 was bad; this is terrible.

Chairman Jasper said this is a site that has no plan pending and they have \$25,000 and a \$50,000 contingency. This is money that belongs back to the taxpayer. If they don't have money to do things, and there is something that needs to be done, maybe somebody has to wait if they're not willing to pony up. They heard good, sound advice from the attorney. There is nothing he can think of related to a development that they cannot ask the developer to pay for. If it's caused by the development, then they have a responsibility to pay for it.

Selectman Robinson said it was prudent of the Board, at the time, to put \$100,000 in. When there is a plan on the table, if the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen want to put it in for next year, or the following year, they can do that during the upcoming budget season. There is nothing on the table—no plan, no direction. The Friels are out there and are going to sell their property. The Board should return \$100,000 to the taxpayers. Selectman Maddox said there is a plan on the table. It's a preliminary one, but they keep saying they are going to move forward, just like W/S was vaporized. They are going to continue on, so there is a plan on the table. They are not taking this from the taxpayers; they are just putting it in a different account. If they don't spend it next year, it will still go back to the taxpayers. Taking it out this early must mean the other members have better crystal balls than he does. Chairman Jasper said he was never in favor of putting it there, to begin with, so he is totally consistent.

Vote: Motion carried 3-2. Selectman Nadeau and Maddox voted in opposition.

C. **Fire Department** (This item was taken up following 8 B, but prior to 7 C & D)  
Deputy Fire Chief Neal Carter and Deputy Fire Chief Rob Buxton were recognized.

1) **Facilities Study Funding**

Mr. Malizia said there was a discussion a couple of meetings ago regarding the Fire Department's facility funding. He reviewed with the Chief, Deputy Chief and Finance Director the accounting. Based on the projections at this point, it appears that the town will end up with a positive surplus at the end of this fiscal year of approximately \$100,000-\$130,000 including funding that study. They've also accounted for the earned time piece, which is an item he will speak to later. In reality, the funds are in the budget to do the study the Deputy Chiefs are here to talk about, which is what the Board wanted them to take a look at. With the \$98,000 taken out of the encumbrances, that will leave them around \$200,000 that they know of.

Chairman Jasper said since the Fire Department had a meeting with the architect, he asked for an update. Deputy Chief Carter deferred to Deputy Chief Buxton, who is handling that study. Deputy Buxton said on June 5, the Board voted to start the facilities study. The following week, they entered into negotiations with Pacheco Ross and signed a contract with them. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, they started with a stake holder's meeting and they jumped in with both feet and started with their site assessment and the programming portion of the contract. They will be back again on Thursday, doing the finishing work on the site assessment, starting with the outside of the structure and the site plan and working their way through the structure. That will probably take place around 10:30 through the better part of the day. They will be in and shown around the facility. They've been provided with all of the associated documents they requested in order to conduct the study. It's in-process, and they hope to have it for the end of August to be able to be used for budgetary purposes.

2) **Exceptional Citizens' Week 2007—Camp Fatima**

Deputy Carter explained that last year, the Chief volunteered, along with other members of the department, to do a foam display, which is used to put out forest fire and cover up hot spots out in the woods. It is like a big bubble-bath, and the kids really loved it last year, so they called and asked the Chief to come back again this year.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to authorize the Hudson Fire Department to participate in Exceptional Citizens' Week 2007, held in Gilmanton, NH on Monday, August 13, 2007 and, further, the department will give a demonstration and provide special needs children an opportunity to meet firefighters and Explorers, carried 5-0.

D. **HCTV Facilitator Contract** (taken up after 7 D)

HGTV Chairman Mike O'Keefe said this was a continuation of the current contract, with a small adjustment in a rate of pay. That is all that changed, along with the dates. The service the facilitator has provided has been excellent and he didn't see any reason to change, at this point.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to renew the contract with the current HCTV Facilitator, James McIntosh, effective July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, at a rate of \$23 ~~\$22 per hour through October 31, 2007 and~~ at \$22.66 per hour from November 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, as recommended by the HCTV Committee.

Amendment by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Massey, to change the salary to \$23 even, effective July 1, 2007.

Selectman Robinson said his reasons were twofold. He had asked Mike to check into some other communities to see what the competitive rate was for this position, with Jim's experience, and the price range is \$45,000 to \$60,000 annually, based on a 40-hour work week. Jim is currently earning \$44,000 if he was to work a 40-hour work week. His wages come from the utility fees, not from the taxpayer. The increase is based on a 3% increase, consistent with other wage increases within the town. The increase is more than appropriate. Selectman Massey asked about the staggered dates. Mr. O'Keefe said the reason for that is he started in November, and not at the beginning of a fiscal year, so the increase was prorated. He wouldn't have a problem if the Board set it to July 1, to be consistent; they do have the money in their budget for this increase. Selectman Massey said people are hired throughout the year, but when it comes time for the July rollover, everybody is treated as if they were on the payroll on the same day, so it's well worth it to make this effective July 1, not November 1.

Vote: Amendment carried 5-0.

Selectman Maddox said he voted for the increase because people at home need to realize this is a contractor; he is not a town employee, so there are no benefits. Jimmy is here at all hours, working all kinds of events. He is a great person and has really helped the Cable Utility Committee take this entity and really start to fill up a lot of screen time. He applauds his work and thinks this contract is well deserved.

Vote on the amended motion carried 5-0.

**E. Application for Dance Halls and Entertainment Places of Assembly**

Town Administrator Steve Malizia said a number of years ago, Town Meeting passed this ordinance and it references a form that was never created. At this time, a form has been drafted, which individual Board members approved on June 21, 2007 and is before them now for formal approval. Chairman Jasper said there was a need for this form last week, so the Board sort of gave approval to it.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to re-affirm approval of the form that was given tacit approval by individual Selectmen on June 21, 2007, amending it by adding the map and lot number to the application.

Selectman Maddox said a couple of things needed to be added—map and lot number, because that's probably how they're going to be able to track things, such as whether there is a site plan. None of that is referenced, as well as the capacity of the facility. There are a number of technical things he thinks they would want to add on, only for the fact that this doesn't really tell you... and sometimes there are changes to facilities or some of these facilities are old enough that they don't have a site plan, at this point. What is the capacity of that space? What are they looking for? He would make some technical changes to it, as far as what information they were looking for.

Chairman Jasper said he could understand the map and lot, but the capacity might be something figured during this process, which he thought was under the purview of the Fire Department because to have a place of assembly to begin with, you'd need to have a permit. If you're going in the first time, you might not know that capacity. Selectman Maddox said that should be on the site plan. Dance halls are not something they see a lot of, but he was just saying he thought they would want to know what the expected capacity of that site was. How would they be able to enforce it if they didn't know what that was? Chairman Jasper said each location has a capacity on its place of assembly. If they want to put this off and bring the Fire Chief in to have that discussion... he was hesitant to do anything like that at this point without really understanding all of the nuances of that. He could see adding the map and lot number, something the Zoning Administrator could put on. A lot of times a tenant isn't going to have a clue. If you're the landowner, you can look on your property tax bill. If you are a renter, you're not going to have a clue what the map and lot number is. The Zoning Administrator can probably access that information more readily than anyone else to find out if it's in compliance.

Selectman Nadeau thought another line could be added to indicate the map and lot number. Chairman Jasper asked what that was going to do. A street address does a lot. He knows the street addresses of all his property, but he didn't know either the map or lot. Selectman Maddox said, hopefully, when digital imaging comes in, that's how everything is going to be tracked—by map and lot number. This would go in a file by Map x, Lot X, Sublot x. He believes that's how everything is going to be tracked. Selectman Massey agreed with Selectman Maddox, and on the same line, they would indicate if the site plan was approved or not approved because that would give the Board of Selectmen information relative to whether the license ought to be granted. Chairman Jasper said that's one purpose for the Zoning Administrator having to sign off. If there wasn't a site plan, he would recommend denial, and state the reason why. Selectman Maddox said a lot of those places don't have site plans. Chairman Jasper said that's a determination for the Zoning Administrator—whether it needs one, or if it's compliant. Selectman Massey said map and lot number would be sufficient.

Chairman Jasper asked for a motion to amend the form by adding the map and lot number to the application, with the notation stating office use only, so the applicant knows he doesn't have to fill that in. Selectman Massey so moved, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, carried 5-0.

Vote: Amended motion carried 5-0.

**F. Acceptance of a \$1,000 donation from Wal-Mart to the Police Department for Community Policing**

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to accept the \$1,000 donation from Wal-Mart to the Police Department, with the Board's thanks and appreciation, carried 3-2. Selectmen Maddox and Nadeau voted in opposition.

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

Selectman Nadeau said he had none.

Selectman Massey said he drove around town yesterday with the engineering staff, and some of the work that the Highway Department is doing is absolutely outstanding. He echoed a lot of the remarks Selectman Robinson made earlier, such as the work on Bush Hill, near Flying Rock Road to know what kind of work the Highway Department is doing. He commended them and recognized the entire department for the work they do throughout the whole year for the town.

Selectman Maddox said he saw an article in Thumbs in the HLN, someone discussing the police craftily picking off people for overdue registrations for the money. That's not the reason they were there. They were there at the request of a number of citizens, he being one of them, because of people speeding through the red light at Greeley and Central. They were not there to collect money because even if they do issue a ticket, that money goes to the state. The town doesn't get any of that. Whatever fines there are goes to the state; that wasn't the intent. Their intent was to educate the citizens and visitors from a Commonwealth to the south, that speed through that light. He has been sitting at the intersection, waiting to take a left on Greeley on many a night, and has seen cars go by him, screaming through. Someone is going to get seriously hurt, being T-boned by running lights in town. The Police Department, at the request of a number of citizens, went out for a week and they had two arrests, 25 citations and 52 warnings. There was a considerable amount of activity at that one location. It wasn't the intent to pick out money through lack of inspections of registrations. It was purely a safety issue.

And here's where he gets his reputation for being negative--a number of things on the proposed encumbrances that drove him a little insane. He called their attention to the IT Department for spending \$700 for chairs. The Planning Board got new chairs for \$99. They didn't hire new people; they already had chairs. This is the kind of thing that makes government look bad, with \$800 hammers. Why they need \$700 chairs is beyond his comprehension. But that was just a warm-up for the 98 and 95 and Selectman Robinson did a good job of filling in that that price was half of what the other contractors were, so he didn't know what they were doing down there when there were already two existing offices for IT. He was torqued to an extent about the whole IT thing, as they all know. He won't get into that whole thing about hiring and spending \$1 million he didn't think they needed to spend. He was just saying that the \$12,000, in his estimation, was right about the number he was told it would take to get them off of Seresc and have their own internal e-mail. Instead, they get chairs and offices, and that's why he is torqued. That is just the kind of inappropriate spending for IT. If they had that money to build offices and buy \$700 chairs, they should have taken the e-mail system and put it into practice, something that is needed.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to direct the Town Administrator to cancel the two purchase orders for the three chairs, one at \$712 and two at \$602.50.

Selectman Maddox said if the Planning Board can sit on \$99 chairs for four hours at a whack, for the most part, he didn't see why they need to start this practice of \$700 chairs. It just sets them up for, much like the Administrative Assistant. This is just going to become a cascading event.

Selectman Robinson said one his favorite lines in life is, "seek to understand before you are understood." If Selectman Maddox picked up the phone and called Lisa, or if he took the time to go down and visit her and see what is going on in IT firsthand, he might have clarity as to the actual needs. Before Selectman Maddox proceeds, perhaps he should give her a call or send her an e-mail or set up a time to see what is going on to see what those needs are.

Selectman Massey asked the Town Administrator's thoughts on the chairs. Mr. Malizia said he saw them just like the rest of the Board did. He didn't approve them because it's not at the level he needs to approve. Those people are here a lot, sometimes at 10:00 when he drives by Town Hall. That is part of their work station, whether anyone agrees or disagrees. It's part of what they do. Personally, he didn't need that type of chair, but he tended to get up and walk around a lot. It wasn't something that rose to the level of getting his approval. He believes that if people feel they need something to perform their jobs, that's something they believe they need. They hire professionals to assess the needs of their departments. In the past, they spent more money on chairs in the dispatch function, which are manned 24/7 by different people. The chairs were on the state bid list; he's sure there is a whole range of chairs on that bid list. If someone believes that's what they need to perform their function, and their function is something that causes them to be here a lot more than eight hours a day, working at their computer doing code and keeping things running, it's not without the realm of having a work station that is comfortable for them.

Selectman Massey said he spent 35 plus years in the IT world and one of the most uncomfortable things to have to deal with is a chair that, after a couple of hours, becomes extremely tiresome, hard on your back, and in many cases, just plain uncomfortable. The chair he has at home was sold to him by his company for \$1 because they were downsizing. Anyone who worked at home was about to buy three pieces of furniture for \$1 apiece. He bought a Steelcase chair that would cost \$1,000 out on the open market today. He lived and worked in that type of a chair for over 20 years and he was gratefully to be able to take it home. Every time he sits in the chairs in the

Selectmen's meeting room, he cringes because they squeak, they rattle, and they tilt. There is some justification to a chair that's geared to a type of individual that does the type of work that these individuals do.

Selectman Robinson didn't know if the chairs were purchased for folks with special medical needs. If that is the case, accommodation would have to be made. Ms. Nute told him today that by using the government bid price, they saved about 20% - 25% on the chairs. Selectman Maddox said he didn't disagree, but wondered why, then, they bought \$99 chairs for the Planning Board. They went to the office surplus store and got \$99 chairs. They are not the greatest chairs, but they are better than what's in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. It sets the tone that, in his mind, instead of getting e-mail for the town, they are getting nice chairs and new offices, when there already were offices for IT. All of the employees are existing employees that just moved to a different place. They all had chairs.

Chairman Jasper asked where the offices were. Selectman Maddox said Cathy Hawkins had an office and so did John, across from the cells. Chairman Jasper asked if he wasn't part of the discussion a couple weeks ago when they talked about the fact you couldn't close the door or open a filing cabinet in that cubicle, and this Board approved the whole process they went through with those offices, and one of the offices was at the Police Station because they didn't have three employees here. Lisa Nute had an office at the Police Station, but she doesn't work there any more, so they didn't have three offices here. Selectman Maddox asked if all three IT people were going to be sitting in this building. He thought one was going to be at Police/Highway. Chairman Jasper said no, the department is based here. This Board approved the plan. Selectman Maddox said he must have slept through that because he did not remember it. Chairman Jasper said they had a diagram and an explanation, and they approved the whole thing. Selectman Maddox said he must have been missing from that meeting. Chairman Jasper said he thinks the Board approved the bids, as well. Selectman Maddox said he thought it was a waste of taxpayer dollars, but the motion wasn't going anywhere, so they should move on.

Chairman Jasper said that was fine, but Selectman Maddox has been opposed to this whole thing and now, to a certain degree, he has personalized it, which is unfortunate, and now he's opposed to three people having a chair. The Planning Board is three times a month for four hours, whereas the employees are here eight hours a day, five days a week, 50 weeks out of the year, and that's a lot more hours. The chair he was sitting in was very uncomfortable. He hasn't enjoyed sitting in it, which he has been doing since 6:30. Most of these chairs squeak, which is very distracting; they list to one side, which is not comfortable. Yeah, they can buy cheap chairs, but they are paying people \$66,000 a year—which Selectman Maddox does not approve of—but when you look at this, the scale of this, it's ridiculous. This should have been brought up during the discussion on the encumbrances, not after they already approved it. He should have pulled the money out for those things at that time. Selectman Maddox said he gambled, and went the wrong way.

Chairman Jasper said Selectman Robinson made an excellent point—if Selectman Maddox went in to ask about the chairs, and why they needed \$700 chairs instead of the chairs the Planning Board got. The Selectmen are the managers of the town; the face of this town, and they hire the people who work here, and morale is very important, and the support of the Board of Selectmen is very important. Having Selectmen who are willing to go and talk... and what Selectman Maddox was doing reminded him of *Thumbs Down*. It's not anonymous, really, but it's not helpful at all. These are approved budgets. He didn't know if the chairs were in there or not. The Fire Department and Police Department Dispatch chairs are expensive. He is sure there are days on end when IT people will be sitting in their chairs, writing programs and doing whatever it is they do. The Board shouldn't sit there and trash when people who work for the town are doing, without being fully informed and having a rational discussion. This is just throwing hand grenades, and it's not helpful. Selectman Maddox said he would respectfully disagree. He has a right, as a Selectman, to do what he believes is the right thing, and he didn't have the luxury as much as Chairman Jasper does to come in to Town Hall. He saw this in his packet and felt that this was wrong, plain and simple. He made a motion, and they would see where it goes.

Chairman Jasper resented Selectman Maddox's statement, saying he didn't come in to Town Hall a whole heck of a lot. He wasn't in here all the time, at any stretch of the imagination. He has seen Selectman Maddox in Town Hall as much as he's been in.

Selectman Massey called for a point of Personal Privilege, saying they were getting personal. Chairman Jasper said that was the whole point of this; he was right. For Selectman Maddox to say he had the time to do this was not appropriate; Selectman Maddox could not judge how much time he has. Selectman Maddox said he didn't say Chairman Jasper. Chairman Jasper said yes, he did. Selectman Massey moved the question.

Vote on the motion to direct the Town Administrator to cancel the contracts on the three chairs failed 2-3. Voting in favor were Selectmen Maddox and Nadeau.

Selectman Maddox wished everyone a great Independence Day.

Selectman Robinson said he didn't have anything, after he said they were having fun now.

Selectman Jasper said he just wanted to reiterate what Selectmen Massey and Robinson said about the Highway Department, and the comments in the paper. It really is unfortunate that *Thumbs Down* exists at all because it allows people, who don't take the time to find out what the story is, and who don't have to put their name to it, to go out and just slam people and departments. It's unfortunate. There are a lot of good people, volunteers and employees, who try to do the very best that they can. Nobody is ever perfect, but when you really look into something, you find that there is a total different side to the story. He asked people to try to remember that the Selectmen are available and the department heads are available. If someone sees something they don't like, or have a question about, pick up the phone and ask the question. Don't sit down and type out a *Thumbs Down* and do damage to the morale of people who are trying to better this town. Nothing was ever bettered by people being attacked.

During the past week, the speed trailer was down by his house—not that he requested it to be there—and it was a pleasure to have it there. He asked them not to take it away, but it is moved to different places around town. You could hear the cars coming down Old Derry Road, racing their engines, until they saw the speed trailer, and saw how fast they were going. The cars would then slow right down. They didn't hear too many cars squealing their tires during the week the speed trailer was there. A lot of people just aren't thinking about how fast they are going. Once they realize that, they slow down. The police told him that everywhere they put the trailer, they get the same reaction. People love having it out there because it slows down the traffic. A couple times, he was going a little faster than he thought he was, even if he wasn't racing his engine like some of the cars were. He wished there was enough money in the budget to buy about 15 more of them and put them around town—but it also takes a lot of personnel time because they have to bring them back every night and charge the batteries, then put them back out. There is a lot involved with that, but they are a great thing.

Motion by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Massey, to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter to the state, approving the appointment of the Deputy Town Clerk as Interim Municipal Agent for the town of Hudson, carried 5-0.

Chairman Jasper said the Chairman of the Recycling Committee had put in a request for the Board's liaison to that committee act as a voting member, because they are down to four. Selectman Robinson said that wasn't something he cared to do at this time. Chairman Jasper said they'd just let that one lie.

10. **NONPUBLIC SESSION**

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Robertson, to enter Nonpublic Session under 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him, unless the employee affected has a right to a meeting and requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted; (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee; (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 that Nonpublic Session was being entered into at 10:02 p.m., concluding the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering public session would be listed on the Board's next agenda. Nonpublic was terminated at 10:36 p.m.

**Open Session Votes**

◆ Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to hire Sheri Macpherson as a full-time Telecommunications Technician in the Police Department, at \$16.64 per hour, effective July 1, 2007, in accordance w/Police Union Local 3657, as recommended by the Chief of Police, carried 5-0.

◆ Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to hire Larissa Miller as a Counselor in the Recreation Dept. @ \$8.50 per hour for the 2007 summer season, effective June 27, 2007, carried 5-0.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Jasper declared the meeting adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

Recorded by HGTV/transcribed by Priscilla Boisvert  
Executive Assistant

**HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

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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