

**HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Minutes of the March 27, 2007 Meeting**

6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Attorney-Client Session

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Richard Maddox at 7:05 p.m. at in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

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

3. **ATTENDANCE**

**Selectmen**: Rick Maddox, Shawn Jasper (arrived 7:15 p.m.), Ken Massey, Ben Nadeau and Doug Robinson

**Staff/Others**: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Fire Chief Shawn Murray; Deputy Chief Neal Carter; Police Capt. Jason Lavoie; numerous police officers; Brian and Patti Mason; Leo Bernard; Howard Dilworth; Jim Stafford-Rogers; Ryan Halliday, TEL

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

A. **20 Year Employee Recognition Presentations – Hudson Police Officers Paul Balukonis and Greg Katsohis**

Chairman Maddox presented Certificates of Appreciation and a monetary gift to the two officers after he read the following into the record:

Paul Balukonis—Master Patrol Officer Paul Balukonis began his law enforcement career with the Hudson Police Department on April 07, 1987; He ranked 4<sup>th</sup> when he graduated from the 79<sup>th</sup> NH Police Academy; Officer Paul, as he is known by all the kids in town, is one of the very first certified DARE Officer in the State of NH. His present assignment is the School Resource Officer for the Elementary Schools in the Town of Hudson. On weekends you can find Officer Paul on the ski slopes with Elementary Students serving as a chaperon; Officer Paul enjoys working with children and has served as School Resource Officer in the Elementary School, Middle School and High School; When Officer Paul is not in the schools, he assists the Support Services Bureau with the Department Accreditation program; Officer Paul holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Maine. He also serves as a mentor for other School Resource Officers and newly trained DARE officers in the State; Officer Paul and his wife Shelby have two young daughters: Julia and Lauren and reside in Hudson.

Greg Katsohis--Master Patrol Officer Greg Katsohis began his Law Enforcement career with the Hudson Police Department on April 07, 1987. He ranked 5<sup>th</sup> when he graduated from the NH Police Academy; Officer Katsohis is assigned to the Patrol Division and to the Mountain Bike Unit. Part of his duties as a Bike Officer was to provide Bicycle Safety Rodeos for the children of Hudson; For many years Officer Katsohis served as the Neighborhood Community Policing Officer at Fox Hollow and Elmwood Village; Officer Katsohis also served a brief stint in Detectives in 2006 and did an outstanding job investigating several major cases; Officer Katsohis holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Rivier College; Officer Katsohis and his wife Deborah reside in Hudson with their children Benjamin, Elizabeth and Sarah; After 20 years of dedicated service to the town, Officer Katsohis has submitted his retirement effective June 01, 2007. He will be missed and we all wish him a happy retirement.

B. **Recognition of Retirement of Patti Mason from the Hudson Fire Department**

Fire Chief Shawn Murray presented Call FF Mason with a shadow box which contained her badge and patch, after reading the following into the record. "Tonight, I am here to recognize the service of ff/EMT Patti Mason, who announced her retirement earlier this year as a Call FF. Patti started with the Hudson Fire Dept. in December of 1984 and also served as the Fire Department's Executive Secretary from February 1990 to May 1998. Patti obtained a number of certifications while serving as a FF and EMT, including FF Level I and Career Level, Hazardous Materials Awareness, Decontamination, Hazmat Operations Level of Training, Incident Command System and Arson Awareness. She obtained her National Registry of EMT-Intermediate level and received a number of awards and citations for her work with the department. In 2003, she received the Fire Chief's Award for her dedication and service to the Department. Patti also received the Unit Citation from the NH Committee of Merit and a Rescue Class I Medal for her life-saving efforts when she, FF Sulin and FF Telgen saved the life of a local citizen who was bleeding profusely from a cut artery. Patti has also served as a member of the department's Honor Guard Unit for many years. As Fire Chief, I am proud to have worked with Patti over the past five years, and express our sincere appreciation for her service in protecting and assisting the citizens of Hudson."

C. **Jim Stafford-Rogers** said he was representing the Hudson Council on Aging, and congratulated Selectman Robinson on his appointment. Mr. Rogers said, as a co-chairman of the Council on Aging, he recommended that a Selectmen be appointed to sit on the Council, to assist with the upcoming redress of the hall and to assist them in other ways to iron things out, and to put things forward in a more timely and better manner to serve the seniors in town. He didn't know if a formal request was needed.

Chairman Maddox said assignments would be done very shortly, so it's something they could talk about—noting that Selectman Jasper had entered the room, explaining that Mr. Stafford was asking about a Board liaison to the Seniors.

D. **Leo Bernard, 3 Bungalow Ave.**, asked what was going to happen with Benson's, with Commissioner Murray stepping down. He asked if they were going to be starting all over, or if it would continue.

Chairman Maddox said one of his goals in the next three years was to constantly bring up that item. What they talked about was that at the second meeting of every month, there will be an update to the citizens of the three DOT projects they felt were important—the third bridge, the land between Lowell Road and 111 and Benson's. The petition upstairs has about 500 signatures that can be distributed to various people. This is an item they need to keep in focus and he thanked Mr. Bernard for coming in. This is one of those things that gets pushed to the back of the shelf because there are 100 other things. If they don't keep it in the spotlight, it will just go away. He hoped to keep focused on this item as they go forward in the coming year, sending letters to whoever, maybe putting a number across the bottom of the scroll, with a contact person and their e-mail address—whatever they want to do to keep public awareness. Everybody thinks Bensons belongs to the town, but it does not. There are a couple of items the Board wants to talk with DOT about, and maybe even invite the new Commissioner, once they get settled. Selectman Jasper, as the governmental liaison, can bring those people down and they can, hopefully, work out a dialogue so they can move those three projects forward.

5. **NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

**Letter of Resignation from Doug Robinson from the Ethics Committee**

Chairman Maddox acknowledged receipt of Selectman Robinson's resignation from the Ethics Committee and thanked him for his years of service. There are now two vacancies on that committee. Although this committee appoints their own members, the Selectmen need to advertise for the positions. Chairman Maddox said he would send a letter of thanks to Mr. Robinson.

6. **CONSENT ITEMS**

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Massey, to receive the consent items, A-D, carried 4-0.* Selectman Robinson abstained because of Item B, saying he was not a member of the Board at that meeting.

A. **Assessing Items**

- 1) Requalification of Disabled Exemptions (155 Highland; 311 Abbott Farm Lane; 3A April Court; 72 Mobile Dr; 105 Highland St; 9 Sandalwood Rd; 20 Highland St; 5 Sunflower Path; 12 Village Lane); Elderly Exemptions (32 Merrimack St; 120 Dracut Rd; 7 Rhona St; 23 Rena Ave; 153 Old Derry Rd; 29 Winnhaven Dr; 9 Power St; 6 Coll St; 3 Iris Path; 21 A St; 6 Alpha St; 7 Krystal Dr; 101 Robinson Rd; 120 Central St; 155 Highland St; 22 Third St; 20 Rena Ave; 1 Cummings St; 8 Sunland Dr; 11A Twin Meadow Dr; 83 Highland St; 4 Ridgecrest Dr; 33 Krystal Dr; 2 B St; 15C Roosevelt Ave; 17A Holly Ln; 23 Alvirne Dr; 83 Ferry St; 3 Hunter Ln; 4 Travers St; 327 Fox Hollow Dr; 20 Highland St; 7 Water St; 10 Meadowlark Dr; 15 Frenette Dr; 4 Hemlock St; 40 Bush Hill Rd; 47 Lexington Ct; 27 Mobile Dr; 104 Webster St; 5 Sunflower Path; 51 Barbara Ln; 6 Grigas St; 149 Belknap Rd; 2 Waubeeka Springs Rd; 59 Lowell Rd; 10 County Rd; 9 Amanda Dr; 12 Oak Ave; 19B Oakwood St; 139 Greeley St; 135 Dracut Rd) w/recommendation to grant.
- 2) Credits/Exemptions. Veterans (50 Campbello St; 12 Forest Rd; 21 Roy Dr; 3 St. John St; 4 Oban Dr; 3 Lampron St; 531 Fox Hollow Dr; 57 Bowes Cir; 20 Blueberry Ln; 10 Sutherland Dr); Disabled (59 Lowell Rd; 2 Fairway); Elderly (9 Westchester Ct; 20 Williams Dr; 18 Cottonwood Dr) w/recommendation to grant.

B. **Acceptance of Minutes**

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of March 12, 2007

C. **Licenses & Permits**

Pawnbroker's License for Cash Converters, 77 Derry Rd, w/recommendation by the Chief of Police to approve.

D. **Calendar**

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| ▶ <u>correction</u> 3/28 7:00 Planning Bd Community Ctr | 4/16 6:30 School Board in BOS Mtg. Rm            |
| 3/29 CTAP Meeting in BOS Mtg. Rm                        | 4/16 7:00 CIP in CD Mtg. Rm                      |
| 4/02 7:00 CIP in CD Mtg. Rm                             | 4/17 7:00 Cable Committee in BOS Mtg. Rm         |
| 4/02 6:30 School Board in BOS Mtg. Rm                   | 4/18 5:00 Water Utility Committee in BOS Mtg. Rm |
| 4/03 7:00 Board of Selectmen Wksh BOS Mtg. Rm           | 4/18 7:00 Library Trustees in BOS Mtg. Rm        |
| 4/04 7:00 Planning Board Workshop CD Mtg. Rm            | 4/18 7:00 Senior Council on Aging in CD Mtg. Rm  |
| 4/09 7:00 Conservation Commission CD Mtg. Rm            | 4/19 7:30 ZBA in CD Mtg. Rm                      |
| 4/10 7:00 Board of Selectmen in BOS Mtg. Rm             | 4/19 7:30 Budget Committee in BOS Mtg. Rm        |
| 4/11 8:30 am Highway Safety Cmt in BOS Mtg. Rm          | 4/23 7:00 CIP in CD Mtg. Rm                      |
| 4/11 9:00 am Joint Loss Prevention in CD Mtg. Rm        | 4/24 7:00 Board of Selectmen in BOS Mtg. Rm      |
| 4/11 7:00 Planning Board in CD Mtg. Rm                  | 4/25 7:00 Planning Board in CD Mtg. Rm           |
| 4/12 5:30 Sewer Utility Committee BOS Mtg. Rm           | 4/25 7:00 Open Space Committee in BOS Mtg. Rm    |
| 4/12 6:30 Recreation Cmt at Oakwood Rec Ctr             | 4/30 7:00 CIP in CD Mtg. Rm                      |
| 4/12 7:30 ZBA in CD Mtg. Rm                             |  |

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Votes taken after NPS**

*Motion by Selectman MacLean, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. carried 5-0.*

**B. Public Hearing on Adopting Fee Schedule for Parking Violations**

Chairman Maddox opened the public hearing at 7:18 and asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak on this issue. There was no response, so he closed the hearing.

*Motion by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to approve the proposed Fee Schedule for Parking Violations, as recommended by Chief Gendron in his memo dated 12 March 2007, carried 5-0.*

**C. Lenny Smith Central Fire Station Facility Study**

Fire Chief Shawn Murray and Deputy Chief of Operations Neal Carter were recognized. Chief Murray said, as a result of the July 2006 workshop, the Board of Selectmen wanted requests for proposals to conduct a facility study. They initially asked for a study of all of the Hudson Fire Department facilities. They also talked about a station location study at that time, but the Board directed the Fire Department to come in with a single facility study of the Lenny Smith Central Fire Station. In the Board's packet was a proposal to get cost estimates for an architectural firm to do a property condition assessment on Central Station. They would look at the structure itself, life safety elements, ADA compliance, mechanical, electrical and plumbing elements, etc. Selectman Jasper also asked them to include, as part of the proposal, the potential costs for a second floor addition to the ladder bay and to have a feasibility study of incorporating an elevator into that section of the building, which would be contiguous with Town Hall.

Selectman Robinson said he realized he was the new kid on the block, but as he was doing his research on this project, he looked at the minutes from January 31, 2006 and, at that time, there was a future needs discussion, and a motion was made by then-Selectmen Cole and Stewart, that the Fire Department be directed to develop an RFP for the purpose of soliciting a comprehensive facilities study, including, but not limited to an evaluation of the current structural, mechanical and energy efficient configuration and livability conditions for each of the three fire stations, and that vote carried 5-0. He asked if that study was ever done, if that vote was ever complied with. Chief Murray said no, it wasn't done because, after the July workshop, the Board's direction was to focus on Central Fire Station. Selectman Robinson asked if it was procedurally correct, to go in the opposite direction of a vote of the Board. Selectman Jasper said it was probably a technical mistake; the motion probably should have been withdrawn. On the other hand, one Board can't really bind another Board to action. That's the problem with trying to do any long-range planning in government. As soon as things change, things change. Once the Board took the action it did in July, there is no need for it to take any further action. He and Selectmen Nadeau weren't even aware that that motion was made because they weren't part of the Board at that time.

Selectman Robinson said he was having a problem with authorizing spending money to have a study done because in January '06, the Board was also presented with issues and now it is being asked for authorization for the Fire Department to do something that's already been done, from what his research has revealed. Tours have been given to Selectmen of the facilities, showing the problems. He asked if they were just duplicating effort, spending money for something that has already been done. If they know all of the problem areas, are they all still sold on the idea of refurbishing Central Station versus all the facilities?

Chairman Maddox said this was not the same thing as taking them on a tour; this was asking for an engineering firm to come in to look at the structure of the building, the electrical circuits—things the Selectmen couldn't tell. That station is 55 years old and it needs to have some work done to it and they are looking to see what those costs will be, what the hidden items are—the roof, the HVAC system, etc. They need to look at all of these various issues as the total building. Because of the proximity to a huge number of housing units in this area, there will be a fire station. Whether it will be the Central Fire Station in five years, it will still be a fire station. They need to find out what it will cost to look at that because maybe there needs to be a new station, if it will cost that much money.

Selectman Jasper said it's nice to look at all these things, but sometimes they need to deal in reality a little bit more than they sometimes do. This town is very, very reluctant to spend money on bricks and mortar, so to go out and do this study and have it come back and say you need three new stations, in reality they are talking millions and millions of dollars. The school district didn't get \$175,000 maintenance building; the town didn't get a library, even with the support of the Board and the Budget Committee. If people see the trucks running out of the stations, they aren't going to approve a new one. The only way to move forward is to do so realistically. He was in favor of doing this. He didn't recall, budgetarily, where they were or where they were going to get it. In July they talked about it, but didn't know if they put anything in the budget to actually do it.

Chief Murray said in the previous year when they started looking at this, they were towards the end of the fiscal year and didn't have any money. Tonight, they are looking for approval from the Board and then find out what the study will cost and, if there is any surplus left in his budget for this year, they would try to do it then. Selectman Jasper said that was a reasonable plan, and working on one building is the way to go. While Burns Hill has space issues, Central has space and age issues, which need to be addressed. If the Town is going to move forward, they need to do it piece by piece. Time and time again, when they try to move forward all at once to make up lost ground, they end up at ground zero. This is a reasonable and logical way to go.

Chairman Maddox said this needs to be a two-pronged approach. They know that station needs to be looked at, but a siting study wouldn't be a bad thing, and get a price to do that. Tomorrow, they are addressing Green Meadow, which

is still crawling forward. It would be nice to know what those needs might be so that, if there was a question, they could answer it as to what their needs might be.

Chief Murray agreed with Selectman Jasper that it would be crazy to think they could do this all at once. As they go back in their research, there has been one attempt at trying to locate stations by former Chief Carpentino, which he did by knowing where most of the runs are. Chief Murray said knowing the work that has to be done at Lenny Smith Station itself, he agreed with the two-pronged approach. Through an architectural firm, they should finally determine if the stations are where they should be, and at the same time, begin looking at all the facilities so they can develop a long-term plan. They know from their own experience that geographically, within a two or three mile area, the three stations should be there, but they really don't know, because of the change in demographics, the increased population, he didn't know if they were in the best spot. They all know about the gridlock around town. He assigned the Deputy to look at some of those issues. Deputy Carter said Selectman Jasper raised a valid point; they are definitely playing catch-up in the Fire Department, and are lacking and several issues in the fire stations definitely stick out. Central Station is too small for the current apparatus they have. The modern apparatus is wider, longer, heavier and taller. It's time they look to see if it is in the right place. If it is, they can put money into it, but at the end of the day, they still have a 55 year old building.

Selectman Robinson asked if the Chief was saying he thought the two-pronged approach was the best. It will set them in a positive direction to determine, once and for all, where the stations should be because of the changing demographics. They would get a real good sense of the cost to take care of the stations. Selectman Robinson referred to the July 18<sup>th</sup> workshop, which said "Chairman Maddox said the Board had a copy of the updated issues facing the department's facilities," and went on to say that, "it shall assess the current station location configurations in relation to anticipated fire and public safety requirements through the year 2025 and shall provide recommendations and cost estimates relative to station relocation, as applicable, and RFP to be sent to the Board for its consideration." That motion carried 5-0. Also, on the 18<sup>th</sup>, the record shows that Chairman Maddox and Selectman Nadeau took a tour, and that was the date they presented the issues with Central Station.

(Start Tape 1-B)

. . . we are putting the cart before the horse, and a siting study needs to be done first. To spend money to tell them a station may never get used again for all the repairs it may need, or may not, the place the fire station needs to be, based on demographics, now that the changing dynamics seems to be the word for the night. Selectman Robinson said it sounds as if they do all of this together, they will be working together in the same direction, based on minutes from previous Selectmen's meetings and workshop minutes have indicated.

Chief Murray said he didn't disagree. The problem they've run into the past few years is when the Board changes, the direction may change because of other priorities. He'd like to start down the road to build a picture of where they need to be. Selectman Jasper said, in terms of location, one of the things they agreed to and authorized, and he believes it was at the workshop, was the firefighters union has a program that would allow them to put the data in, which would give the location of the majority of the calls. In terms of going out and doing a location study, they agreed at that time that that was the best starting point, but he hasn't seen any of that data so he doesn't know what has happened. Intuitively, they've got to think about the three facilities they have right now and realize they are extremely large capital improvements. Realistically, no town has ever replaced three fire stations at once. Central Station is located on the corridors—111, 3A & 102. If that station is moved, time is increased to get to other parts of town. Right now, they are not fighting traffic going through town, just traffic going out. If Central Station is moved, that would automatically put the other two stations in the wrong geographic locations. That is just a common-sense fact. Frank Nutting placed the other two stations in a very simple manner. He took a compass and point the point on Central Fire Station and spun the compass around on a 3-mile radius within the boundaries of Hudson. He then started going around town and putting the compass so that there would be overlap, but covering as much of the town as he did. He geographically covered the town, except for a corner of Bush Hill, near the Pelham Border. At that time, there were only one or two houses there. That covered the ISO rating, based on having a fire station within three miles of your home, you get a better insurance rate. If they want to keep the ISO rating, and are concerned about response times, the only other way to do this is to build more than one fire station. It can't be done by moving one station. That is the simple, geographic reality. What they don't know is where the majority of their calls are, but those of them who listen, know that most of them are along the corridors. That's where most of the populations center is—the apartment buildings, the condos. If Green Meadow comes in, the opportunity exists to look at something there because, with two million sq. ft. of retail space, there will undoubtedly be a lot of calls for service. For years, they went after combined dispatch and proposals were turned down. He wanted to see them move forward and the only way they can get approval and move forward is by dealing with the reality that they have—they have three stations in three different locations—and he didn't think somebody can show that they are not able to get the majority of their calls from one of those staffed stations within a reasonable period of time. Two of the stations are staffed and there will be daytime staffing at the other one, so what are they missing? Where is it lacking? He didn't think they'd find that is the case because it's a three mile radius; pretty simple math. They can't do much different than that. Hudson's reality is they aren't going to build three new stations; frankly, they are not going to build one new station. Central Station is over 50 years old and needs upgrades, but Nashua is still operating one that is well over 100 years old on Amherst Street. They have to decide how they want to configure things—have two engines out of here? What do they do? They talked about a rescue pumper, and about a second story. There are other things they can talk about, such as getting the weight room out of there, the mechanics room out of there and opening up the square footage. There is a lot of square footage on that first floor, but it's not correctly utilized right now in terms of apparatus because of other needs, and those other needs need to be addressed to figure out how

they get those someplace else in order to gain the square footage. Otherwise, they can say anything they want about building a multi-million dollar station, but as long as people are looking at a building that's in good shape, that everybody knows is functional, it won't get a 60% approval in this town. That's a cold, hard fact. Look how long it took to get a police station.

Chairman Maddox said he keeps hearing, "build three stations," but he thinks they are looking to see if the stations they presently have are located in the right places. This could take 20 years to happen. They've talked repeatedly, and it's been on the CIP that something needs to be done at the Burns Hill station. All the siting study will do is give some guidance as to where they could be located for the need. Selectman Jasper said they talked about this program that exists; they were told they would be given the raw data so they could color in a map and take a look at that—and they are still waiting for that to happen. He does not believe they need to spend any money to determine where their calls are. Chief Murray said they didn't start the IAFF process because it was only discussed in July; there was no consensus. If the consensus of the Board is to go forward with it, they are ready to go.

Selectman Massey said they were straying from what they were to discuss tonight. Regardless of what they do, they are a minimum of four to six years away from seeing any new facility. That's the reality. Very few bond issues ever pass on the first time. The immediate problem is the 55-year old building that probably has a lot of issues that they might not even be aware of. Just last week, when the wind blew off a corner of the police station, they found that there were internal problems on the eaves. They need to go forward with this engineering project to determine what the condition of the building is, done in two parts. Recognizing they may find out that the cost to bring it up to current standards would be equivalent to building a new station, they should see the things that could be done to make it better, and then the total cost, if it's less than replacement. They can flap their jaws about the feasibility study and everything else, but the bottom line right now is the look at the problems that exists in a 55-year old building and address that. Everything else will come in due time. They can't afford to wait much longer on the Central Street station.

Deputy Carter said Selectman Jasper brought up a valid point, but when Frank Nutting was the Chief 40 years ago, the demographics were a lot different. The population has grown a lot, and it has shifted. Maybe 30 years ago, those stations were in good positions, but they didn't know if that was true for today. That's the reason they are looking for a study, to find out that information, and determine the needs of Central and Burns Hill stations because they both need a lot of work and/or additions. They are asking to expand the feasibility study to include the stations and maybe a location study, also.

Selectman Robinson wanted the record to show that he was not advocating the building of three new fire stations, or even suggesting that. The buildings were built in the 50's, 60's and 70's, and the demographics of this town, at that time, was a lot different than it is now. Today, there are 190 miles of road; he didn't know what they had back then. He agreed with Selectman Jasper that they have to deal with the reality of today, but they do not know what that reality is. He was suggesting that they use the IAFF tool to come up with a study of the fire stations and, from that, they can make a determination of the direction they should go. That's all he was suggesting at this point in time.

Selectman Jasper didn't disagree with that. He had no idea at all they had not approved it. He thought they had a consensus in July to move forward with the study. Tonight is the first time he was hearing the Chief said he felt he lacked direction from the Board and he wished somebody had come back to the Board to ask what it wanted to do. Frankly, until tonight, he hadn't given it any thought because he assumed it was being taken care of on staff level, with no additional action needed by the Board of Selectmen. He was disappointed to hear the Chief say he felt the Board had not given him direction. He said Selectman Robinson had just read that the vote was five-oh, and the last thing he wanted to do was quote serious matters from memory. Chief Murray asked if that was the Cole motion. Selectman Robinson said yes, it was. Chief Murray said the IAFF issue was never put into a motion. The July workshop brought them to the three-station feasibility study, and then the Board changed direction in January. They discussed the potential to use the IAFF for the study, but there was never a consensus or vote taken to go in that direction because a couple of the Board members had some questions on the process. He is ready to go with the IAFF study and move that forward, upon direction of the Board. Reading from the July 18<sup>th</sup> minutes, Selectman Robinson said, "Chief Murray said he was all set with the IAFF, but to reiterate the Central Fire station comprehensive study to include the possible expansion of ladder bays. . .". Selectman Nadeau asked if there would be a charge for the IAFF study. Chief Murray said no, except for maybe a meal because they provide each other with information.

Chairman Maddox said he wanted to back up a little bit. One of the things they should be looking at, before they put X amount of dollars into the Lenny Smith Central Station, it may not be the Central Station. They may find that it would be better to house some of this equipment in another station, and refurbish this one completely different than it is configured today. He didn't know what the elevator was about. Selectman Nadeau said they've talked about this in the past, years ago, putting in an elevator where the Planning Board room is and the fire station, with the second floor on the fire station so the elevator would connect the second floor of the fire station with the second floor of town hall. Instead of using the problem lift, there would be an elevator. Chairman Maddox said there was no second floor to Town Hall. Selectman Nadeau clarified it was the basement and first floor, and then the second floor of the Fire Department. Chairman Maddox said that still wouldn't get people down to the Selectmen's meeting room, unless they were snaked through the Finance Office. Selectman Massey objected, saying the public should never be routed through the financial offices, but they were really getting far afield.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to come back to the Board with a cost proposal for an engineering project to determine the renovation costs to Central Station, consistent with the Chief's memo of March 21, 2007.

Selectman Jasper said they need to clear up that which apparently was not clear. Chairman Maddox said that would be the next motion. Selectman Jasper said if they are going to do this, it's fine if, when they get the proposals, it's going to say it's going to cost X number of dollars. By that point, they also ought to be looking at the information from the union study to see if the stations are close. If the study says the stations ought to be half a mile this way, or ¾'s of a mile there, and he didn't see how it could be much different than that, if they stay with three stations and not go to four or five. They need to look at the data, but it would be silly to look at this and then wait for the study because then the bids would be no good. They need to be in concert.

Selectman Robinson asked how long it would take to get the IAFF report back to the Board. Chief Murray said it depends on their schedule, but he'd start on it right away, if that was the Board's consensus. Selectman Robinson asked if it would be more prudent to do the study of the whole shebang first and then do the study of the Central. He asked what the Chief's professional opinion was. Chief Murray said he couldn't see why they can't sent out the RFP for the Central Station facility study. They will come back with a cost proposal for them to come and study it. That's really what they are looking for, and then they will at least know what it's going to cost. If it's cost prohibitive this year because funds aren't available, they will have to budget it for next year, but at least they will know what they'll be charged to look at Central Station.

Selectman Jasper said while that might not be a bad idea economy-wise, if they are looking at using monies that may be left over at the end of the year, they would have to know what that amount of money would be by the end of the fiscal year to be able to encumber it, so they would need to be sure that this proposal came back in advance of June 30. Otherwise, they miss the budget cycle.

Selectman Massey hoped they would include in this RFP the cost benefit analysis of renovation versus replacement. Chief Murray said that was in the proposal.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Selectman Robinson asked if a motion was needed for the Chief to get the IAFF study done. Chairman Maddox said it wasn't necessary to make that motion, if there was one already laying around. The Chief knows the direction of the five Board members, and they aren't going to change for at least a year. Chief Murray said to consider it done.

**D. Stop & Shop Ball Field**

Town Administrator Steve Malizia said the Board had information in their packets on the Stop & Shop ball field. When Stop & Shop was built, as part of the site plan approval, there was to be a ball field constructed on state property adjacent to the supermarket. The town received tacit permission from the DOT that prior to engaging and moving forward, Board members thought it would be prudent to talk to Stop & Shop to see if that field could be constructed somewhere else because there was some feeling that the field might be short term if a limited access highway gets built, or if the mall comes in and the land over there is sold. The town had sent correspondence on numerous occasions to Stop & Shop, soliciting their opinion or looking to have a dialogue with them to see if they would be amenable to constructing a field elsewhere. Stop & Shop declined to respond. Recently, Stop & Shop's attorney contacted the town, seeking to receive back \$75,000 of a \$100,000 escrow account, as they were under the opinion that the time limit for the construction of this field had expired. In reality, the agreement that was signed with Stop & Shop doesn't quite say that, according to the town's attorney. The town's attorney says no, if the town directs Stop & Shop to build a field here, you have a certain period of time to build that field afterwards. He asked if the Board wished to move forward with the project of a ball field at Stop & Shop, or did it wish to send something to the Planning Board, etc. He asked what the direction of the Board was, adding that the bottom line was Stop & Shop has not been amenable to putting the ball field anywhere else. It seemed the town should get what it signed up for in the site plan, and have the ball field constructed on the property adjacent to Stop & Shop.

Chairman Maddox said, having sat on the Planning Board, the town got approval to put a ball field back there, contingent upon getting approval from the state. After some help from Rhona Charbonneau and a number of phone calls, the town has a letter from the DOT Commissioner at that time, giving the town approval to use the land. Former Chairman Massey wrote two letters; he has written two letters to Stop & Shop, with no response except for the latest one from Stop & Shop's attorney, saying they want their money back. Chairman Maddox said he wanted the town's ball field. He thought this should be sent back to the Planning Board to tell Stop & Shop they are in violation of their site plan and they need to fix it. They can write to them, but they would just be 'flapping their jaws,' as Selectman Massey said earlier. He had hoped Stop & Shop would work with the town because he can understand they wouldn't want people coming and going through their area, but they are just ignoring the town. After four letters from the Board of Selectmen, someone should have gotten back to the town. If that's doesn't work, there's nothing like a letter from the Planning Board, saying, 'we want to review your site plan,' to get their attention. They could have been using the field for the last two years. This is foolish. The state may sell that land; it may be a problem down the road, but if they use it for 10 years, it's better than not using it at all. They should find out the person to talk to and sit down and have a

meeting with these people; do what they need to do, and then the second step is the hammer, they get to go back to the Planning Board because they are in violation of their site plan.

Selectman Massey said he didn't know how he could top that; however, things have changed in the two years since Stop & Shop was built, and the thing that has changed is the possibility they could see an extensive development on the south side of town. He'd be reluctant to commit any more monies to that area because they are trying to make the case that they need to have a limited access road between Lowell Road and 111. To put a ball field there diminishes that argument, to some extent. They need to keep the feet to the fire that what they are looking for is building a road there and putting \$100,000 or more into that property, at this point, even though it's not the town's money, he didn't see that it's a good use of the money, especially since they'd get used to having the field there. If it's taken away, what do you do with the program you've built up, based on the field being there. You're going to be looking at that point in time of relocating the field somewhere else, so at this point, given that the emphasis is to try and get that road built, he would not be supportive of going after Stop & Shop to build a ball field behind their facility.

While Selectman Robinson agreed with Selectman Massey's argument about the road, he pointed out that construction of it has been discussed since the 50's. They were told by the DOT that it was a dead issue, that it would not be built, that there are issues on the land. It was thought that maybe development of RiverPlace might be able to help the town out with that road. Those are discussions down the line, but Stop & Shop has put \$100,000 on the table for the town to have a ball field for the kids, so the town needs to play hard ball with Stop & Shop and get the ball field built. Selectman Nadeau agreed with that rationale. Whether the Planning Board sends a letter to Stop & Shop, or maybe move the ball field to a different section of their property where it won't impact the limited access road, being the Rec Committee liaison, this comes up every month—the lack of space for ball fields. If they are not going to see RiverPlace for another 10 years, and not looking to build a road down there for another 10 years, that's 10 years they can use a ball field. They need to do something with Stop & Shop.

Selectman Massey said while it may sound nice that Stop & Shop is in violation of their site plan, the facts of the matter are the reason that field has not been constructed is because the town, not Stop & Shop, has been reluctant to do something on that piece of property because when the state said yes, you can go forward. . .

(Start Tape 2-A)

and reiterate with the state that, yes, they gave permission, but it's a conditional one. It's not going to be a permanent process. If the state ever decides to dispose of the land, then the ball field is gone and the money that was put into it is a sunk cost, not to be returned. It's not Stop & Shop's problem; it's the town's problem.

Selectman Jasper agreed with Selectman Massey, but added they appear to be in the minority. However, sometimes direct communication is the best way to deal with a situation like this. There isn't anyone who necessarily wants to see the ball field built in that location, mainly because something else might happen there. They may find that one of the necessary things to do would be to construct a full interchange at Lowell and Sagamore, to eliminate the light so there would be a cloverleaf going in, with a fly-over, so to put in an athletic field that may not have any long term use doesn't make a lot of sense. Selectman Jasper offered to make direct contact with Atty. Hollis, who he's known for over 20 years, and talk to him about the situation, to see if they can do something else. The numbers from VHB three years ago was \$68,000 but there's an inflation factor. If Atty. Hollis agrees to let the town have \$75,000 to build a field someplace else, the town would be in better shape than having a field built at Stop & Shop that might be gone in three to five years.

Chairman Maddox said that was fine, if that's what the Board wanted to do, but so far, the town has not received any contact with them. There is a site plan that stipulates a ball field will be built. They could still build it and still put the highway in, but that's up to the engineers. He didn't disagree that a field could be built at Freedom Field, with a sign saying, "Donated by Stop & Shop." That way, everybody wins, but to date, the town hasn't received any correspondence. The Planning Board has the teeth for this item because of the stipulation of approval. Selectman Massey said Stop & Shop can always come back and say, "tell us where to build it; tell us we have the right to build behind there, and we'll go do it," and the town has never told them that. It's not Stop & Shop's problem; it's the town's. He supported Selectman Jasper's suggestion. Sometimes a face-to-face is better, and if the question could be put to them, "field donated by Stop & Shop," that goes a long way.

Selectman Nadeau also favored Selectman Jasper's suggestion. Put this off for a month so Selectman Jasper, and maybe another Selectman, can go talk to Atty. Hollis to see what they want to do. If they can negotiate \$68,000 and build another field at Freedom Field, great, with "donated by Stop & Shop," on the field. He asked if he should make a motion to that effect. Selectman Jasper didn't think they needed a month, just to the next meeting. At that point, they can determine where they are at. Chairman Maddox said Selectman Jasper could make a phone call and hoped he would get some response, but in looking at the packet, there were years of letters, with no response from Stop & Shop, with the exception of a letter from their attorney, asking for their money back. They can argue about who is responsible for doing whatever. Ultimately, they've spent two years without a field that they could have been using behind Stop & Shop, which would probably cost \$125,000 because they put up a retaining wall where the roadway was supposed to go, so they've got some real issues to build access to that field. The town just wants a field, and it was something they agreed to. He didn't think they wanted to hang this on, "well, we didn't get approval;" they have approval. If that wasn't transmitted, that is just splitting hairs. He hoped Selectman Jasper can get a hold of the attorney to get a dialogue going. Selectman Robinson also supported Selectman Jasper's suggestion. This has been going on for five

years now, so it would be prudent to allow for this opportunity. Get a commitment from the attorney or Stop & Shop of what they are going to do with the land and revisit this in two weeks.

Selectman Massey said one last thing to help Selectman Jasper, who might point out to Atty. Hollis that the only access that they have in order to build that field is to the west side of the building, which is going to have a very long ramp. Rather than having traffic traipsing down through there, it would be a lot easier for them to put the construction on Freedom Field. He didn't think they really wanted that ramp. Chairman Maddox said they put up a retaining wall, like it was never going to happen. There was a little bit of bad faith there, but maybe they can fix it. The town is motivated and will keep following up on this on the agendas where this is going to be an action item that's not going to go away. Selectman Robinson said they owe it to the kids.

Chairman Maddox said they wouldn't need a motion; they would just wait unto the next regular meeting (April 10, 2007) for a report from Selectman Jasper.

## 8. **NEW BUSINESS**

### A. **Public Hearing/Acceptance of a \$5,000 Donation from PSNH to Benson's**

Chairman Maddox opened the public hearing at 8:14 and asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak. There as no response, so he closed the hearing.

*Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Massey, to accept the donation, with the Board's thanks.*

Selectman Nadeau asked if there was a capital fund for Benson's that this goes into. Mr. Malizia said it would be a donation account which is separate, by law, from a capital reserve fund. Selectman Robinson asked why PSNH was making this donation. Selectman Massey said PSNH went before the Conservation Commission to request a wetlands incursion for the new power line they are pushing through the north end of town, and it was determined they had actually encroached on the wetlands. The Community Development Director was able to convince PSNH that a donation of \$5,000 was a better option than a \$1,000 or \$2,000 fine—and PSNH agreed, thinking that Benson's would be the best place to target the money. The wetlands incursion wasn't that great, but it was one, nonetheless.

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

### B. **Mileage Reimbursement Rate**

Town Administrator Steve Malizia explained that the IRA occasionally adjusts the mileage that employees can submit reimbursements for when they use personal vehicles for town business. Given the price of gas, the town likes to stay somewhat current with the IRS.

*Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to amend the Personnel Policies, §VIII Training, sub-§ B, Travel, to increase the mileage reimbursement rate from \$0.445 per mile to \$0.485 per mile, effective April 1, 2007, carried 5-0.*

### C. **VFW Post 5791 Loyalty Day Award**

Town Administrator Steve Malizia said annually, the VFW awards a Loyalty Day Award to a member of Police, Fire and town staff person. In the past, they've honored individuals, such as Gary Webster, a civil engineer; Richard Melanson, a mechanic at the Highway Department and who also served in Iraq; and last year, Kathy Voisine from the Town Clerk's Office. In looking at the roster and what folks do, he was proposing two names—Donna Staffier-Sommers, who is the Sewer Utility Clerk and is a valuable asset to the customers, and Priscilla Zakos, who has been a long-term Highway employee, dealing with dispatch and helping to keep that operation running smoothly.

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to forward the name of Priscilla Zakos to the VFW.*

Selectman Jasper said Donna Staffier-Sommers is a well-deserving employee, as well, who has been here nine years. Priscilla Zakos has one of those jobs where nobody ever sees you and nobody ever appreciates you. She is down at the desk in the Highway Department, answering the phones and he is sure she gets a lot of irate phone calls over the years—mailboxes down, sand, trash, recycling issues—and it's probably short of a miracle someone would stay in that position for nearly 20 years. This is a very small recognition they can help to give her and it's appropriate.

*Vote: Motion carried 5-0.*

### D. **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for upcoming Year**

*Motion by Selectman Robinson to nominate Shawn Jasper for Chairman, seconded by Selectman Nadeau.*

*Motion to close the nominations and elect Selectman Jasper by acclamation by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Robinson, carried 5-0.*

Selectman Jasper nominated Ben Nadeau.



Motion to close the nominations and appoint Selectman Nadeau as Vice Chair by acclamation by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Massey, carried 5-0.

Chairman Maddox declared a recess at 8:21 p.m. and was called back to order at 8:29 p.m.

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

**Shawn Jasper** thanked the Board for their confidence in electing him Chairman; he truly appreciates it. He is in his 13<sup>th</sup> year as Selectmen, and he was first elected Chairman 23 years ago this month—and now has a lot less hair, a lot grayer and has put on a few pounds, and he tends to be a lot calmer than he used to be. Hopefully, he can stay that way, and that is his goal for the year, to continue the example that Selectman Maddox has set in running a dignified and efficient meeting. While this Board hardly ever agrees, they have always been agreeable when they disagree. That is one of the most valuable things they can do for the town, to be a Board that knows how to behave in a civil manner and knows that politics should not be personal, that it should be about issues and policies and those issues and policies should never affect the relationship that they have with the people they serve because they are all there to serve the public, not to serve their own interests or egos.

Last night, he was not a very calm individual when he opened up his calendar and was looking at the various marriage bills and saw an amendment that was being offered to the Right to Know Law and when he went to that amendment, his blood pressure skyrocketed. He got on the phone and started talking with members of the Judiciary Committee and none of them could disagree with any of the points that he was making. Tomorrow, he will go to the floor to speak against the amendment. There has been a state commission on the Right to Know for five or so years, and they have not been able to come up with agreements and a number of bills were filed. There was one that was not terribly unreasonable, although he had issues with it, but the Judiciary Committee has amended that bill in such a way, and not one member who he had spoken with disagree when he put this forward. It is so restrictive, that if there was an emergency in this town, and if he was to call each Board member in sequence and ask if they could meet tomorrow night at 7:00 for an emergency meeting, he would be violating the Right to Know Law. They would no longer be able to have contact about any matter which they have anything to do with, outside of this room in a public meeting. They would not be allowed to e-mail each other, even if they were to put an e-mail in a public document, with questions, comments, concerns, or anything. As happened this summer when there was a fire at West Road, and three of them happened to be there, if the Chief said, "I need this resource and I don't have the ability to sign the purchase order, will the three of you be willing to sign the purchase order?," they could not look at each other and say, "I'm OK with that." The only way that could be accomplished would be for the three of them to physically separate and for the Chief to come to them individually to ask if that was alright. The paranoia has gone to the extreme, that they believe there is so much violation of the Right to Know Law that all communications have to be cut. The Budget Committee wouldn't be able to go to breakfast before the deliberative session and have anyone say, "What do you think will happen with Article 27?" They can't discuss anything, even in an advisory capacity, which is what the Budget Committee does—none of those things would be legal. Some people told him they would fix it in the Senate and then put it back, but that's not the way the legislature should do business. They should be in the business of passing reasonable legislation. It's reasonable to say, in terms of legislation affecting municipalities and school districts and budget committees, this is the most unreasonable piece of legislation that he has ever seen, and it's on the calendar with an 18-0 vote to recommend its passage. On the floor, he is going to say he will have to make a decision, if this were to become law, as a Selectman—would he do his job as a Selectman for the good of the people, or would he obey the Right to Know Law? They all know he has tried very hard to obey the Right to Know Law. He's left meetings when he's thought it was improper; he's objected to phone polls and things of that nature in the past. He has no difficulty saying that he would violate the Right to Know Law because if they are not able to exchange ideas, and if they are not able to say, "Hey, I just went over Barretts Hill Road, and it's a mess and we need to pave it. I'd like you guys to go take a look at it." If he can't even say that to two Board members, there is no way he can do the job. The only other way they could do that is to literally meet every night to have discussions about what's going on. This is a travesty. With an 18-0 vote, he's not confident that he will be successful, but he is certainly going to make his case on the floor of the House tomorrow—House Bill 377, and it's the amendment that's the real problem.

**Doug Robinson** thanked everyone who ran for office of Selectman. It was a very respectful race. They talked when it was all over and they stuck to the issues and showed each other grace and respect and, for that, he's extremely thankful. As he sits there, representing those who voted for him, those who did not vote for him and those who did not vote at all, the trust and the faith placed in him is humbling. No other word describes the feeling or the sense of responsibility. His thank you list is long, so he grouped them—first, the citizens of Hudson. To those who said yes, to the placement of his signs on their property, thank you. To the neighbors of those who had signs on their property, he is sorry for the winds and the elements, which may have blown his sign on to their yards. If they'd like him to come by and pick them up, give him a call and he will be more than happy to come and pick up his signs. Thank you to all the town employees, all the town unions, and all the local organizations who invited him into their organizations and offered him the opportunity to speak to them. Finally, he thanked his 'three L's,' Len, Lynn and especially Louise. They kept him grounded, focused and heading downwind. He received a wonderful grounding congratulatory letter a couple days after the election, and the message said, "Let it make no difference to whether cold or warm, ill spoken or praised, if you are doing your duty. Now let's get to work." He thanked everyone, saying, "Now let's get to work."

**Ben Nadeau** thanked the Junior Woman's Club for the great job they did at voting and the dinner afterwards. It was very good. One of the ladies asked him to mention that they have a Rabies Clinic on April 14, 10 – 1, at the Animal Control building, across the street from the police station. The rabies vaccination for either a cat or dog is \$10 and people can register their cat or dog at that time. For more information, contact Debbie Dunn at 594-0332. He congratulated the Police Department on a great blood drive, collecting 248 usable pints, and thanked everyone who supported it.

**Ken Massey** said he wanted to follow up on Mr. Stafford-Rodgers' comments. He always thought that once the article for the \$15,000 project for the potential Senior addition to the Community Center was passed, that they need to appoint—and it used to be there, but for whatever reason, it fell by the wayside, a liaison to the Hudson Seniors group and the first task that liaison should do would be to work with the Seniors to write a statement of work that would be used as the basis for engaging a design engineering firm to determine the feasibility and the costs for constructing the addition. He hoped the new Chairman would see fit to appoint that individual to create the position and they, as a Board, would consider that a mission for that individual as a first step because, in his mind, if they are going to put this on the warrant article for next year, then the work has to be done by August-September time frame, at the latest. The key is to write the statement of work that describes what it is they want to see that would include the costs, etc.

In thinking about the fire, at some point in the near future, in April or May, they are going to be doing the vehicle replacement plan... (Mr. Malizia said it was not scheduled for April)... at the May workshop, they need to look at the vehicle replacement plan because one of the comments he had from the Chairman of the Budget Committee was, in the absence of any vote by the Selectmen, it was never clear to the Budget Committee that that was a formal plan of the Board. To him, it is a plan and for whatever reason, if they don't do something in one year, it doesn't mean they don't need it. It just means it gets put into the next year's plan, or they make adjustments as every year goes by. In thinking about the vehicle replacement plan, it also strikes him that they are long overdue in town for a complete inventory of assets, primarily the buildings and major capital components in those buildings. Right now, the town would be hard-pressed to add anybody to this building. They've been doing only the typical painting, etc. At some point, they need to have a plan, going forward. He's well aware that any plan is subject, but at least they've put a stake in the ground as to what the future capital needs of the town are. They need to start putting a little more emphasis behind the Capital Improvement Plan that looks, not only at things they typically have been looking at in the last few years, but actually look at the building and capital that goes into them. It may be too ambitious to try to look at that in May, but they have to start somewhere. They can't continue to use bandaids without, at some point... maintenance delayed is expensive when you have to come back at a later date to do it.

(Start Tape 2-B)

**Rick Maddox** referred to the other four people who ran against him, saying he thought the town has a good group of people, willing to put down that dollar and sign up. He was very proud when they were asked repeatedly, at Candidates Night, the Seniors, etc., where they stood on RiverPlace and, to a person, they all said they could not because they could, at some point, be a Planning Board rep and understanding the responsibility of objectivity, they all stood that ground. It would have been much easier and more expedient to say, "I'm the one that's opposed to it," and made a few votes, but they all, to their credit, stood there and said, "I cannot answer that question." It was not ducking, as implied; it was doing as they should be doing.

The Planning Board will be at the Community Development Center tomorrow at 7:00 to discuss, with the developers of RiverPlace, the procedure that is going to be followed and what needs to be done, as far as procedural issues are. It will be televised so, hopefully, people can catch that. Just the first of many, many items. Selectman Massey said, in case anyone watching is under any misconceptions, there are not going to be given any procedure that is any different than what any other developer who comes before the Planning Board is required to do.

Selectman Jasper thought it was important, in that Selectman Maddox indicated to him that he'd like to continue as the Planning Board representative, where that goes with a term, Selectman Maddox's term has expired. To avoid any possible future problems, it would be appropriate for the Board to appoint him as the Board's representative to the Planning Board.

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectmen Massey, Nadeau & Robinson, to appoint Selectman Maddox as the Board's representative to the Planning Board carried 4-0.* Selectman Maddox abstained, but added he appreciated the vote.

Selectman Jasper wasn't sure if the alternate goes with the term. Selectman Massey said it is the same. Selectman Jasper said then Selectman Massey, as the alternate, is all set. He has another year.

Chairman Maddox said spending 13 hours standing out in the parking lot at the Community Center, along with Selectman Robinson and the others, they got to meet 300, 400 people that came over and it definitely was a concern what's going on in the town of Hudson. At the Planning Board meetings lately, there have been a number of items before it where, in his opinion, they are trying to put five pounds of stuff in a two pound bag. The Board should be guiding the liaison—him—that that should not continue. They really need to look at if the regulations say you need to be X amount from your lot line, just because you'd like to get more parking, you're going to park on the lot line is unacceptable. They shouldn't be waiving regulations just so more could be put on a lot. Some of the lots they've seen lately have been creative, at best. With businesses coming town that are trying to fill up their lot, that's not what the townspeople of Hudson want. They also wanted to stop the growth. One of the things that will do that is for everyone to follow the regulations. He was looking for some sort of guidance from the Board as to what they would like that to be.

Selectman Jasper agreed. One of the things that has always bothered him is the idea that, somehow, every piece of land is buildable. The fact of the matter is there are a lot of pieces of land that aren't buildable and, for centuries, that has been recognized through the sales price of swamp land and, previously, very hilly terrain. It went dirt cheap because you couldn't do anything with it. Now they are blasting out and creating monstrosities, such as what was created on Flying Rock Road, where back yards are nothing but ledge. It's atrocious, and on the other side of the road, they put in a fence and it's a sheer drop-off. These types of things shouldn't be allowed. People don't have the right to take land that is not suitable to be built on properly and make a lot of money on it, at the expense of, ultimately, the people who come later. In terms of granting variances, if there is a situation where there is a 15 side setback, and there's nothing over here but a road, and there's a house over here, you say alright,

we'll put 15' over here, and let you go right up to the line over here, that's a good tradeoff. That fits within the spirit because it gives something to somebody over here, and there needs to be recognition that there needs to be a tradeoff. It can't be, "Oh, I can't build on it if you don't give it to me." If it's not a buildable lot, that should be reflected in the assessment of that piece of property. Everybody does not have an innate right to fill in a wetland to get someplace else, unless there is an equitable tradeoff. What does the townspeople get for giving up this bit of the zoning requirement? That would be his directive, that when these things are granted, it be in return for something else that has a value to the future of the town.

Selectman Robinson said standing there from 6:30 in the morning until 10:00 at night, they probably had 400, 500 people walk across the street and talk to them, and the number one concern was the growth of Hudson. Yes, there was a lot of conversation about the proposed RiverPlace, but that was just part of what the residents were saying. It's the growth in the town and controlling the growth properly.

Chairman Maddox said the Planning Board has done well with residential. There is an ordinance for growth, but for the commercial-industrial, there hasn't been anything and they need to look at, at the very least, enforcing the zoning and regulations they presently have and maybe change some of them. Some of the parking numbers are off, but those are the things they need to look at and, hopefully, they will do a better job of slowing down some of the accelerated growth, just to get it on the lot. He said he would take the directive, adding that the other members didn't say much, but there was a lot of nodding. Selectman Massey said he was waiting to hear from everyone else because he was the Planning Board alternate. Chairman Maddox noted that he hasn't missed a meeting in three years.

Chairman Maddox said 'follow up' was his next item. He tried to do this with Steve and a calendar, but it's tough to do. Since he will be sitting in a different seat, he will have more time to write stuff down, so he's going to try to start following up on some items, and keeping an action list. They tried doing that, but he is going to try doing it again. He'll put it on his calendar and just keep reminding them that they need to follow up on this. The study they talked about with the Fire Department is perfect example that kind of got away from them. They just need to do a better job. They say stuff and they need to write it down and follow up. He has a calendar and some forms and is ready to rock and roll.

Relative to the Right to Know Law, the present e-mail situation bothers him, and he didn't think they were going to get off of the e-mail system they presently have for awhile. He is going to start sending a copy of everything that he sends out to Priscilla, and he doesn't send a lot out because he doesn't think it should be done that way. Everything he sends out will be copied to Priscilla, so it will be on the town server and that's a policy they should take as a Board, at some point, so there is a record of it. There isn't a lot of discussion among them; the most that happens is that someone sends a question to them and they answer it and send it to everybody. He just wanted everyone to be aware that, from now on, he will be cc-ing Priscilla so it does go on to the system.

Chairman Maddox said his next subject was the Board's workshop meetings, and he hoped the new Chair would continue with them. They heard from the Budget Committee and the citizens that they better understood how the Board got from Point A to Point L because there was a lot of discussion, not simply a budget marathon, where they raced at high speed. The workshops, as much as they are a grind sometimes and another night away from their families, they gave the Board more time with the department heads; it gave information to the citizens; and it gave some paper documentation for the Budget Committee. The Board's record this year with the voters was much better because they explained things better, they took the right tact, as far as taking things some things off in order to put forward a plan that worked. It worked will last year and hoped it would continue.

Chairman Maddox thanked Selectmen Massey, Jasper and Nadeau for the past year, saying being chairman was an interesting position. You get to be in charge of a meeting that you are always constantly spinning your head to make sure you're being fair to all of the people who want to speak. He hasn't been able to speak near as much as he would have liked to, so good-luck to Chairman-elect Jasper. In that all of the Board members respected each other, it made it a lot easier. He hoped that would continue. It is much easier to have a dialogue with a group of people that are listening than those that are just trying to find a way to shoot holes in it. They are always going to disagree, and that is a good thing. He's said all along that three-to-two votes are not a bad thing. They show there is a difference of opinion, that there are people thinking in other directions. This group, for the last year, has been a pleasure to be the chairman of and he thanked all of them, including the recently departed Selectman MacLean.

Selectman Jasper asked Priscilla to put blank liaison sheets if Board members' mail slots. As soon as they return are returned to Priscilla, she can get them back to him. He has spoken with most of the members about that, but he wanted to try to get as many people in the places they want to be as possible and he expects they will be calling when things overlap so they can be worked out. He didn't just want to say, "here's what you're getting." He wanted people to be comfortable because they don't do as good a job as they could if they are in positions where they don't want to be. That's his first goal; make those as pleasant as possible.

**10. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

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

Nonpublic Session was entered into at 8:59 p.m., thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon exiting from nonpublic session will be listed on the Board's April 10<sup>th</sup> agenda. Open session was entered into at 10:47 p.m. and continued with Lisa Nute.

Chairman Maddox said they seem to be back-filling high paying jobs at a lot of hours. He could not justify 120 hours at big dollars. Lisa said with the VAX, you turn it on and everyone has a dummy terminal on their desktops, and it runs. There is very little maintenance to that and very little overhead. There is a lot of overhead with Munismart and there are different applications for every user; there are different levels of permission per user; there is a whole lot more to it and more overhead. The same thing with IOC. There are projects pushed out so far because there is no one to do it.

Selectman Massey said they were thinking about moving this out to the workshop on April 3. Chairman Maddox said they were all kind of fried and he didn't want to make a snap decision. Selectman Massey said to keep in mind that the VAX is a dinosaur. The cost of maintaining it goes up every year; getting parts is going to be a problem; and to find IT personnel that can manage a VAX today is not there. (Talking over each other.) Chairman Maddox interjected they may discuss contracting the work. Lisa said she checked and it will cost, at a minimum, \$112,000 and it will be several different people that they will have to run background checks on. To keep Vin Guarino, it would be \$125,000 for the year, but they might be losing him shortly. She might not be able to hang on to him unless she has something to offer him. Eagleview would be \$150,000 and they wouldn't be getting what they could get. (Squeaking chairs and rustling paper masked dialogue.) Selectman Massey said they would need both a criminal background check and a financial background check because of the work they'd be involved in.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to hire following 2007 Summer Staff, effective May 26, 2007: Counselor I--\$8.50 Matthew Barry; Counselor II--\$9.00 Mollie Buttrick, Lauren Peterson, Thomas Scurini, Jenna Lambert, Quinn Sendall, Keith Thibault; Counselor III--\$9.50 Rachel Bailey, Jaelyn Bergeron, Ralph Carpentiere, Frank Girginis, Katelyn Ives, Derek Lee, Michele Martineau, Sean Sendall, Debra Smith; the following summer Counselors in Training, effective June 1, 2007--Matt Brownrigg, \$6.75; Luren Chesnulevich, \$6.75; Courtney Collishaw, \$6.75; Kerri Wesson, \$6.75; Alison Shupe and Lisa Terwilliger as Tennis Instructors, effective June 3, 2007, at the rate of \$12.75 per hour; and the following 2007 Program Directors: Thomas DeAngelis as Babe Ruth Baseball Director for the fee of \$600, effective April 1, Kimberly Malley as Summer Program Director for the fee of \$5200, effective June 1, Cindy Holton as Ladies League Softball Director for the fee of \$500 effective April 26, and Dave Yates as Men's League Softball Director for the fee of \$500 effective April 26, carried 4-1. Selectman Maddox voted in opposition.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Robinson, to change the status of the Recreation Department's part-time employee, Susan Kaempf, to permanent, effective April 1, 2007, at \$13.00 per hour, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Massey seconded by Selectman Robinson, to hire Jennifer Riel as part-time Water Utility Clerk at \$13.32 per hour, Step 1 of the Admin & Support union contract, for 30 hours per week, effective April 15, 2007, as recommended by the Finance Director, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to waive the six-month probation requirement for Firefighter Toby Provencal, effective March 27, 2007, as he has met all of the probation requirements while serving as a temporary firefighter for 17 months, as recommended by the Fire Chief, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to hire Michael Mulcay as temp firefighter, a non-exempt position @ \$13.73 per hour, probation step, in accordance with IAFF Local 3154, as recommended by the Fire Chief, carried 5-0.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Selectman Robinson, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to adjourn at 11:00 p.m., carried 5-0.

Recorded 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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Richard J. Maddox, Selectman

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Kenneth J. Massey, Selectman

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Douglas K. Robinson, Selectman