

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the January 2, 2007 Workshop

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Richard Maddox at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**, led by Selectman Kathleen MacLean.

Following the Pledge, Chairman Maddox called for a moment of silence in recognition of the death of the 38th President of the United States, Gerald Ford.

3. **ATTENDANCE**

Selectmen: Richard Maddox, Shawn Jasper, Kenneth Massey, Kathleen MacLean and Ben Nadeau

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Howard Dilworth, Jr., Budget Committee Chairman.

4. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. **Redefine Charge to the Solid Waste Study Committee**

Selectman Massey recommended adding one more item, under #3, to Chairman Maddox's mission statement. In the contract, there currently is approximately \$800,000 for the tipping fee, which is the cost of disposing of solid waste. For every ton sent to the waste disposal facility, the town pays \$73. Approximately 25% of that tonnage would reflect about a \$200,000 decrease in the cost of tipping, if they were to recycle that much. His expectation is to set a goal for a three year commitment to reach 60% recyclables, with some interim goals, such as 20-20-20, with the committee responsible for managing it. Mr. Burns thought 60% was realistic and it would result in about \$400,000 savings on the contract. To make recycling work, they need to have a goal, which should be part of the committee's charge—manage the goal and have programs in place in that would help the citizens be motivated to work towards that goal.

Chairman Maddox said the town does not have the money necessary to catch up on paving the roads. At \$400,000 a year, it will take 87 years to finish all of them. Perhaps they could take the savings realized from the solid waste contract and use that for paving. Tying them together may be that motivation Selectman Massey referred to. They could come up with something clever, like the *road to recycling*. He thought that 60% might be too ambitious and suggested starting with 40%, which is way above today's 11%. Also, the bins would not be sufficient to hold 60% of the recycling. Selectman Nadeau said they were told they could use their old trash cans, putting stickers on them to indicate co-mingled, plastic and aluminum and paper/cardboard, instead of the smaller bins.

Chairman Maddox said those are the kinds of things the committee needs to be looking at. He is looking more at where they will be when this contract is over, because five years will go by very quickly. If they can fill the vacancies on the committee by February 13, the members can get started because the contract will start in July.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to reconstitute the Solid Waste Study Committee as the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee, which shall consist of seven voting members of the town, with a 3-2-2 year membership cycle, (3 members, 09; 2 members, 08; 2 members, 07) and the Road Agent shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of the committee.

Selectman Jasper didn't think the Road Agent wanted to attend every meeting and, if he is a member of the committee, an even numbered board is not a good thing. Selectman Massey said he talked with Mr. Burns, who preferred not attending on a regular basis, but Selectman Massey pointed out that it might involve compensatory time. He didn't see Mr. Burns as a voting member, which was, by consensus, included in the motion. Selectman MacLean asked if the members consisted of a Selectman and if they were a voting member. Selectman Massey said the Selectman should be a liaison, much like the Water and Sewer committees, which was the consensus of the Board.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Selectman Massey asked if they should include a Selectman liaison. Chairman Maddox thought they should, to make sure the committee was going in the right direction, unlike other committees that have been established for some time.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman MacLean to create a Selectman liaison to the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee, carried 5-0.

Selectman MacLean thought this was only an advisory board. Selectman Massey saw this committee as physically making the recycling program work, with some guidance by the Board of Selectmen, through the liaison. Chairman Maddox read his mission statement that he drafted for this committee:

1. Work with the Selectmen and the Road Agent to look at Hudson's long term needs and options in regards to our solid waste "program".
 - a. New technologies
 - b. Regionalization
 - c. Other cost containment ideas

2. Work with new contractor to:
 - a. Get information out regarding the new contract/process
 - b. Work with the schools, cable, civic groups to spread the word on the recycling effort.
 - c. Cross-pollination of ideas
 - d. Educate people on how to dispose of electronic/hazardous waste
3. Monitor
 - a. Contractors performance
 - b. Tonnage versus prior years
 - c. Recycling progress
 - d. Citizen issues
4. Long and short term recycling goals
5. Recommendations to Board of Selectmen

Chairman Maddox said the committee will flesh out all of #1; he didn't know what the new technologies could be. He also didn't know if regionalization would work, but that's some thing the committee could look into. Right now, this committee has a clean slate. At this point, he can't fathom all of the things the committee could be looking at. Selectman Massey said these were excellent points and would give the committee a purpose, for the long term, which the existing committee sadly lacked because they were focused on doing business as usual every time the contract was up for renewal. Chairman Maddox said, with reference to 2-b, maybe the new contract has some ideas they haven't even thought of.

Selectman Massey said he'd like to add a multi-year recycling goal, to be established by the committee. It was decided that would be #4. Relative to tonnage vs prior years, Chairman Maddox said this ties in with Selectman Massey's recycling goals. The Road Agent will take the brunt of the citizens' complaints for the first couple of months, as things work out.

Selectman Nadeau said they need to consider electronic waste, such as monitors, TV's, VCR's, etc., which is becoming more of a problem because of mercury levels. He had gone to a solid waste seminar and learned that was one of the biggest problems towns are facing. If people can fit them into their trash barrels, it won't be good for the environment. Selectman Jasper said they already can take those items to Nashua certain times of the year. They can be disposed of, for a fee. Selectman Massey said it's the first Saturday of every month from April through October. They also have one in the summer on a Thursday night. Selectman Jasper said the committee can educate people as to what is accepted. Mr. Malizia said he has gone over there and there are two lines—one for electronics and one for hazardous waste, where the guys with the white suits get your stuff. Chairman Maddox said maybe a collection point for electronics could be set up at West Road. Selectman Jasper said educating the public as to the items that are accepted in Nashua, with and without fees, and the schedule, needs to be added into the mission statement.

Chairman Maddox said maybe #4 could be education, providing stuff on the web so they can fill out the form in advance, or whatever needs to be done. Selectman Jasper thought the contractor would probably be more than willing to work with the town in getting that information out because it will be to his benefit not to find that type of material in his waste stream. He felt that should be "d", under #2.

Chairman Maddox said #4 could be goals, some sort of measurable metric on the percentage the recycling becomes and what needs to be done to improve it, or whatever. He'd like the Board to commit to turning some of the savings into the paving program. Selectman Jasper thought goals were appropriate, but not including the pavement program as part of the mission statement. He thinks just including short and long term recycling goals would suffice. He'd also add #5, which would be to make any appropriate recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Maddox said that worked for him and the establishment of this committee will work for the betterment of the town. Two people who had applied for this committee notified the office that they were still willing to serve on this board, even with a redefined charge—Connie Owen and Michelle Bolton. Selectman Nadeau said Ted Luszey was chomping at the bit to get going.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Massey, to adopt the mission statement, as amended, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Massey, to appoint Michelle Bolton, Ted Luszey and Connie Owen to the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee, terms to expire 12/31/09, carried 5-0.

Motion to readvertise for the four remaining seats by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman MacLean, carried 5-0.

Selectman MacLean nominated Selectman Nadeau as liaison. Selectman Jasper said if Ben didn't want to do it, he'd volunteer because he was the liaison to the Highway Department. Selectman Nadeau said he'd stay with it.

Chairman Maddox said this isn't something that will happen overnight, but as this committee looks at the technologies in other communities, they can get up to a reasonable number, but 11% is pathetic, and it will affect the bottom line. He checked to see how much more paper he can recycle at his home that, right now, goes into the trash stream. He's hoping that all of the residents will also take a second look. Selectman Massey said all of the people he has talked to, who had a concern about this new contract, when they realize the amount of trash they are throwing away that is actually recyclable, and that the 75 gallon tote will be adequate, most of them begin to see the merits of switching to the

new program. Not many people will be in love with the bucket, itself, but when they realize that a lot of stuff they are throwing away today could be recycled, it changes their thinking about the size of the container and the ability to manage it. Chairman Maddox said the town was paying all this money for recycling, and it was all going in the same hold. This contractor seems to have a real commitment to changing that, so everyone needs to change their thought process to become more environmentally savvy.

(Start Tape 1-B)

B. Direction for Budget Committee Liaison, Selectman MacLean

Chairman Maddox said Selectman MacLean was looking for some guidance because the Budget Committee was going to be doing wrap-up this week. Selectman MacLean said Thursday night was wrap-up night for the Budget Committee for the town. When the Board approved the \$15,000 warrant article for the feasibility study to enlarge or modify the Community Center, the Budget Committee's first straw poll defeated the article. Budget Committee Chairman Dilworth thought a CDBG might be available for that type of thing. Other people voted against it because other studies have been done, but they end up being ignored. There was an architectural design done on the small Rec Center, but that has gone to waste because no one is thinking about that. The name Cynthia May came up, the former Associate Town Planner, who by word of mouth from someone, who told someone, who told someone else, that she already had a plan for that; a study had already been paid for. Because it was only \$15,000 the Budget Committee thought the money could be found somewhere else in the budget, that it should just be put in the budget and not made a warrant article. The Budget Committee asked that the Selectmen remove that article. She told the Budget Committee that the people who suggested this article asked the Board, if the Board did not recommend it, to let them know right away so they could petition it—but, she rationalized, even if the article is petitioned, the Board and the Budget Committee would put their approval or non-approval of it on it, anyway. Chairman Maddox asked what the straw poll was. Mr. Malizia said two in favor, seven opposed.

Selectman Jasper said the Board put this article forward on behalf of the committee that they formed. After the wrap-up, there may be some article he will ask the Board to withdraw because they already have too many on the warrant. This is not one of those; it is being put forward for a purpose and it will behoove those who are in favor of this to push for it, and \$15,000 is a relatively small amount, but not something they would normally put in the budget. This is for a new purpose, a new direction, and it's appropriate to put it in warrant article form. It shouldn't be tucked someplace in the budget. It's a Catch 22 when people say they've had studies before that haven't gone anywhere because people didn't like the results of the study and didn't vote for the project. He didn't think there were monies voted to do anything with the Rec Center. Mr. Malizia didn't recall that, either. Selectman Massey said they did come forward with a proposal, but it didn't receive a favorable recommendation from the Board of Selectmen because of what they were planning on doing, which was adding on to the Oakwood Ave. facility with a butler-type building. Selectman Jasper said some preliminary work might have been done, but he challenged people to show where they actually put money into something and then just abandoned it. They put money in for the library, but the voters said no. Cynthia May was the Assistant Town Planner and he didn't know of any monies that were put in to do a study. Howard Dilworth was a driving force behind pushing for a site plan done on the Community Center before they started talking about doing anything else with that building. That's the only thing he can think of that Community Development might have been involved with--getting that site plan done. There was always talk about expanding that building, but Howard was always adamant that they needed a site plan first, which did get done. He assumes Cynthia May and Mike Reynolds were involved in that. Chairman Maddox said no, it was after they left because he saw it at the Planning Board.

Chairman Maddox asked what the Board's guidance was. Selectman Jasper asked that there be an agenda item for January 9 to review all of the warrant articles, in view of the Budget Committee's recommendation, and make a decision on each of the ones that have not been recommended by the Budget Committee as to whether or not they pull them. The School Board has been doing that for a number of years, which put them in a much better situation in terms of getting priority items through, and the Board needs to be careful in picking their fights. A discussion ensued about logistics of warrant articles. Chairman Maddox asked for the guidance of the Budget Committee Chairman.

Howard Dilworth said what the Budget Committee was recommending was the budget, which is all of the warrant articles. State law and DRA is pretty insistent that things are done on a gross budgeting basis; it's the whole soup to nuts that is placed on the MS-7 form, which DRA's form for towns that operate with a municipal budget committee. The Budget Act actually spells out that in towns that have a budget committee, it shall prepare the budget on forms provided by the state, which is the MS-7 for towns and MS-27 for school districts. Chairman Maddox said it appears that the 9th was the last day the Board could pull something.

Mr. Dilworth said, as food for thought, relative to Article A-D, if on the 9th, the Board chose not to put that on the warrant, to bear in mind that the 9th is also the last day to submit petitioned articles for towns operating under SB-2, with a March election. If the Board withdraws the article on the 9th, it doesn't allow anyone the opportunity to submit a petitioned article—and that wouldn't be a good thing to do.

Selectman MacLean said it looked like the article wasn't going to be recommended by the Budget Committee, unless someone changes their mind. She asked if the Board should decide on that now, so if it is pulled, it will give the people time to submit a petitioned article. Selectman Jasper thought that was appropriate that, regardless of the recommendation of the Budget Committee on the warrant article for the \$15,000 study for the Community Center, that the Board not pull that warrant article, and he so moved. Selectman Massey said he'd second it, but felt that,

procedurally, the motion should be to reconsider their previous vote, and then to vote against the motion. A vote "no" would be to leave the article as recommended by the Board of Selectmen, which was his and Selectman Jasper's intention. Chairman Maddox agreed that was the best course of action. Selectman MacLean said either way, it was going to go on the ballot, either as the Selectmen's article or as a petitioned article, with probably the same recommendations from the Board and the Budget Committee.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Massey, to reconsider their vote on sending A-D to the warrant failed 0-5.

C. BOS Meeting Schedule for 2007

Selectman Massey said March 13th needs to be changed to March 12 because March 13 is town elections.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to adopt the Board of Selectmen meeting schedule for 2007, as amended, carried 5-0.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. carried 5-0.

Recorded and transcribed by Priscilla Boisvert
Executive Assistant

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Richard J. Maddox, Chairman

Shawn N. Jasper, Vice-Chairman

Kathleen R. MacLean, Selectman

Kenneth J. Massey, Selectman

Benjamin J. Nadeau, Selectman