

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the December 26, 2006 Meeting

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Maddox at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Howard Dilworth, Jr., Budget Committee Chairman.
3. **ATTENDANCE**
Selectmen: Richard J. Maddox, Shawn N. Jasper, Kenneth J. Massey, Kathleen R. MacLean and Benjamin J. Nadeau
Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Sean Sullivan, Director of Community Development; Fire Chief Shawn Murray; Sue LaRoche; Richard Turcotte; Andrea Perreault; Herb Simpson; Jim Barnes; Mick Regan; Vincent Russo; Phil Cassista; Brion Carroll; Howard Dilworth, Jr.
4. **PUBLIC INPUT**
Jim Barnes, Chairman of the Planning Board, spoke in favor of Planning Board alternate, Richard Turcotte, who was applying for a membership position. Mr. Barnes said Mr. Turcotte has been an alternate for about a year and has been an active participant.
5. **NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS**
 - A. **Building Board of Appeals** (1 member, term to expire 12/31/09)
 - B. **Cable Utility Committee** (2 members, terms to expire 12/31/09)
Steve Boucher (incumbent member) (interviewed 12/12/06)
Jeanne Johnson (interviewed 12/12/06)

Motion by Selectman MacLean, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to appoint Steve Boucher and Jeanne Johnson to the Cable Utility Committee, terms to expire 12/31/09, carried 5-0.
 - C. **Conservation Commission** (2 members; 1 alternate, terms to expire 12/31/09)
Robert Haefner (incumbent member) (interviewed 12/12/06)
Sandra Rumbaugh (incumbent member) (interviewed 12/12/06)
Phil Cassista (interviewed 12/12/06)
Jeanne Johnson (interviewed 12/12/06)
Thomas LeBlanc (interviewed 12/12/06)

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman MacLean to appoint Robert Haefner and Sandra Rumbaugh to the Conservation Commission, terms to expire 12/31/09, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to appoint Phil Cassista as the alternate, term to expire 12/31/09, carried 5-0.

Selectman MacLean asked for Selectman Massey's reasoning for choosing Mr. Cassista over the other candidates. Selectman Massey said it was a toss-up between Mr. Cassista and Mr. LeBlanc; he didn't have any specific rationale. He was really concerned about filling the zoning alternate position. Selectman MacLean hoped whomever wasn't appointed would apply for that one.
 - D. **NRPC** (Nashua Regional Planning Commission) (1 member; 1 alternate, terms to expire 12/31/10)

Brion Carroll (incumbent alternate) said he has served on the NRPC for a number of years as an active member and would like to be appointed to the member position. Selectman Massey asked if he would consider an alternate's position on the ZBA. Mr. Carroll said his preference was to serve on the NRPC and the Planning Board, saying those two boards are closely related. Chairman Maddox said Mr. Carroll asked a lot of good questions at the NRPC meetings and agreed that he would be a good candidate for the ZBA. Mr. Carroll said he'd leave the choice up to the Board. Chairman Maddox said the difference between alternate and member on this board was negligible.

Bernard Manor (interviewed 12/12/06)

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Massey, to appoint Brion Carroll as the member and Bernie Manor as the alternate to the NRPC, terms to expire 12/31/10, carried 5-0.
 - E. **Planning Board** (2 members, terms to expire 12/31/09; 1 member 2007, term to expire 12/31/07; 1 alternate, term to expire 12/31/09; 1 alternate, term to expire 12/31/08)

George Hall (incumbent member) (interviewed 12/12/06)
Vincent Russo (incumbent member) (interviewed 12/12/06)
Richard Turcotte (incumbent alternate, applying for member position) said he has been an alternate for the last year and has found it to be interesting and a lot of fun. He looks forward to the on-going projects and hoped the Board would vote for him. Chairman Maddox said over the past year, Mr. Turcotte has "found his voice." It takes a certain amount of time for a person to get their sea legs, getting to know the players and how the board operates. Over the past

couple of months, Mr. Turcotte has become more of a member, asking a lot more questions. Chairman Maddox then read the following statement, submitted by Bill Cole, into the record:

It is my understanding that Mr. Richard Turcotte has recently made application for the vacant member seat on the Planning Board; term to expire 31 Dec 2007. Mr. Turcotte and I presently serve as alternate members of the Planning Board--the 3rd alternate position remains vacant. Mr. Turcotte was appointed to his present alternate position on the Planning Board in December of 05. By virtue of his length of current service on the Planning Board, he is recognized as the senior alternate. Therefore, I have no doubt that the Board of Selectmen would agree that it is only proper that Mr. Turcotte be elevated and appointed to fill the member position currently vacant. As a member of the Board of Selectmen that originally appointed Mr. Turcotte to his current position on the Planning Board, I continue to have the same high level of confidence in Mr. Turcotte's ability, dedication and integrity that I had at the time of his initial appointment. I have no doubt, whatsoever, that Mr. Turcotte will continue to serve in an outstanding manner, ensuring that the well being of the community and its citizens is the focus of his every action. With that in mind, and with the Board's indulgence, I would take this opportunity to withdraw my application for the vacant member position on the Planning Board, and respectfully request the Board of Selectmen's favorable consideration of, and unanimous support for, the application of Mr. Richard Turcotte.

Brion Carroll

Jeanne Johnson (interviewed 12/12/06)

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to appoint George Hall and Vincent Russo as members to the Planning Board, terms to expire 12/31/09, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to waive the waiting period and appoint Richard Turcotte to the member term on the Planning Board, expiring December 31, 2007, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to appoint Brion Carroll as an alternate member to the Planning Board, term to expire 12/31/09, carried 5-0.

The Board decided the best course of action was to re-advertise for the alternate positions.

F. Recreation Committee (2 members, terms to expire 12/31/09)

Mick Regan (incumbent member, reapplying) said he has lived in town for about 40 years and has served on the Rec Committee for 13 years. He enjoys working with the youth and they are doing more with adult activities, such as Comedy Night, and they are talking about doing dances. This is an under-the-radar position, which he enjoys.

Jeanne Johnson (interviewed 12/12/06)

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to appoint Michael Regan as a member to the Recreation Committee, term to expire 12/31/09, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman MacLean, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to appoint Jeanne Johnson as a member to the Recreation Committee, term to expire 12/31/09, carried 5-0.

G. Sewer Utility Committee (2 members, terms to expire 12/31/09; 1 member & 1 alternate, terms to expire 12/31/08)

Donald Gowdy (incumbent member) (interviewed 12/12/06)

Catherine Valley (incumbent member)

Michele Bolton (interviewed 12/12/06)

Bernard Manor (interviewed 12/12/06)

Jeanne Johnson (interviewed 12/12/06)

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to appoint Donald Gowdy and Catherine Valley to the member terms to expire 12/31/09, Michele Bolton to the member term to expire 12/31/08 and Bernard Manor to the alternate position, term to expire 12/31/08, carried 4-1. Selectman Nadeau voted in opposition.

H. Solid Waste Committee (2 members, terms to expire 12/31/07; 1 member, term to expire 12/31/08)

Michele Bolton (interviewed 12/12/06)

Jeanne Johnson (interviewed 12/12/06)

Connie Owen

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to defer this to January 2, 2007 so the charge can be redefined, carried 4-1. Selectman MacLean voted in opposition.

- I. **Water Utility Committee** (2 members, terms to expire 12/31/09; 1 member, term to expire 12/31/07)
Leo Bernard (incumbent member) (interviewed 12/12/06)
Ray Rowell (incumbent member) (interviewed 12/12/06)
Ed Thompson (interviewed 12/12/06)
Jeanne Johnson (interviewed 12/12/06)

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to appoint Leo Bernard and Ray Rowell to the member positions, terms to expire 12/31/09, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to appoint Ed Thompson to the member position, term to expire 12/31/07, carried 5-0.

- J. **Zoning Board of Adjustment** (2 members & 1 alternate, terms to expire 12/31/09; 1 alternate, term to expire 12/31/07)
Brad Seabury (incumbent member) (interviewed 12/12/06)
Mary Ellen Davis (incumbent member) (interviewed 12/12/06)
Jeanne Johnson (interviewed 12/12/06)

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to appoint Brad Seabury and Mary Ellen Davis to member positions, terms to expire 12/31/09, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Massey, to re-advertise for the vacant positions carried 5-0.

6. **CONSENT ITEMS**

Motion by Selectman MacLean, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to receive items A – E, as noted or appropriate, carried 5-0.

A. **Assessing Items**

- 1) 2006 Property Tax Abatements, Copper Hill Subdivision, Map 223/Lots 43-2, 43-3, 43-4, 43-5, 43-6, w/recommendation to approve.
- 2) Veterans’ Tax Credit Applications, w/recommendation to grant (926 Fox Hollow Drive, 51 Riviera Road, 45 Riviera Road, 46 Lexington Court)

B. **Water/Sewer Items**

- 1) Sewer Abatements, S-07-07a (S-UTL-07-05, 121 Lowell Road, Acct. 1315, \$104.76; S-UTL-07-06, 216 Pheasant Run, Acct 4552, \$28.57) w/recommendation to grant.
- 2) Sewer Abatements, S-07-07b (S-UTL-07-07, 18 Sycamore Street, Acct. 1336, \$109.53; S-UTL-07-08, 25 Forest Road, Acct 1907, \$70.24) w/recommendation to grant.

C. **Licenses & Permits**

Request to collect monies at Market Basket on February 3, 2007 by the Litchfield AAU 12 U Arsenal Team to help finance a trip to Cooperstown, NY in July ’07 for a baseball tournament, which includes Hudson youth.

D. **Acceptance of Minutes**

- 1) Board of Selectmen Minutes of November 28, 2006 (deferred from 12/12/06)
- 2) Board of Selectmen Minutes of December 5, 2006
- 3) Board of Selectmen Minutes of December 12, 2006
- 4) Board of Selectmen Minutes of December 19, 2006

E. **Calendar**

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|--|--|
| 12/27 7:00 Budget Committee--BOS Mtg Rm | 1/11 6:30 Recreation Committee @ Rec Ctr |
| 12/28 1:00 Trustees Trust Funds BOS Mtg Rm | 1/15 MLK Day—Town Hall closed |
| 12/28 7:00 Bgt Committee in BOS Mtg Rm | 1/16 7:00 Cable Committee in BOS Mtg Rm |
| 1/1 New Year’s Day—Town Hall closed | 1/17 6:00 NRPC hearing C-TAP--CD Mtg Rm |
| 1/2 7:00 Board of Selectmen in BOS Mtg Rm | 1/17 5:00 Water Utility in BOS Mtg Rm |
| 1/3 7:00 Planning Board in CD Mtg Rm | 1/17 7:00 Library Trustees in BOS Mtg Rm |
| 1/3 7:00 Budget Committee in BOS Mtg Rm | 1/18 7:30 Budget Committee in BOS Mtg Rm |
| 1/4 7:00 Budget Committee in BOS Mtg Rm | 1/22 6:30 School Board in BOS Mtg Rm |
| 1/8 6:30 School Board in BOS Mtg Rm | 1/23 7:00 Board of Selectmen in BOS Mtg Rm |
| 1/8 7:00 Conservation Commission CD Mtg Rm | 1/24 Filing period opens |
| 1/9 Last day for petitioned warrant article | 1/24 9:00 a.m. Joint Loss in CD Mtg Rm |
| 1/9 7:00 Board of Selectmen in BOS Mtg Rm | 1/24 7:00 Sr Council on Aging--BOS Mtg Rm |
| 1/10 7:00 Budget Committee in BOS Mtg Rm | 1/24 7:00 Planning Board in CD Mtg Rm |
| 1/10 7:00 Planning Board in CD Mtg Rm | 1/25 7:00 Open Space in BOS Mtg Rm |
| 1/10 7:00 Benson’s Committee in BOS Office | 1/25 7:30 ZBA in CD Mtg Rm |
| 1/11 7:00 Budget Committee Public Hearing @ Community Center | 1/29 Last day to post the Warrant |
| 1/11 7:30 ZBA in CD Mtg Rm | 2/2 Filing period ends |
| 1/11 5:30 Sewer Utility in BOS Mtg Rm | 2/3 School District @ Community Center |
| | 2/10 Town Meeting @ Community Center |

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on December 12, 2006

]Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to hire Karen LaRoche as a police dispatcher at \$15.36 per hour, effective December 31, 2006, in accordance with AFSCME Local union contract, carried 5-0.

]Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to hire Erica Coleman as a part-time police dispatcher, a non-union position, at \$15.36 per hour, effective December 17, 2006, carried 5-0.

]Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to award \$250 merit bonuses to Lt. William Avery, Jana MacMillan, Lisa Nute and Dorothy Carey, as recommended by the Chief of Police, carried 5-0.

]Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Massey, to deny an abatement, Map 157/Lot 13, carried 5-0.

]Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Massey, to adjourn at 12:16 am, carried 5-0.

B. Second Public Hearing on Ordinance O06-03 Hazardous Condition Ordinance

Town Administrator Steve Malizia explained that this was before the Board for its second public hearing, in accordance with the RSA's and a legal opinion. and will be before the Board on January 9, 2007 for consideration of adoption.

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

C. Remarks/Proposal by Selectman MacLean on OPAC

Selectman MacLean read the following into the record, saying the key to triumph lies in the first syllable:

After the last meeting, I have given even more thought to the course of action the Town of Hudson, we the Selectmen, should take with reference to the Older Persons Advisory Committee (OPAC) study. While I understand there is discontent among the Senior Council on Aging over the actions of past Boards, that is not a reflection on this Board and this Board needs to do what is right NOW. Ancient history should not play a role in preventing us from moving forward with what is in the best interest of the whole community right NOW. OPAC reports that a committee and a staff person is a priority in establishing the first steps toward a Town wide Senior/Adult Program in Hudson. I believe that Selectman Massey's motion from November 28, although then, not perfectly defined, is that step in the right direction that we, as a town need to embark upon. That motion stated to all Seniors in town that we, as a town, embrace them and recognize their population to be growing and in need of activities which encourage socializing as well as physical and mental activity. The commitment on the part of the Board of Selectmen is to work with the active Seniors in town so as not to duplicate efforts or expenses, yet try to expand the programs to include more than just the small group that are presently involved. With a goal such as this in mind, the future is bright and possibilities are limitless. Therefore:

I move that the board of selectman authorize the establishment of an "Adult Activity Committee," seconded by Selectman Massey.

We can craft the outline of the committee to resemble the Cable Utility Committee. The only thing the motion does this evening is to start the process in establishing and defining the role and the tasks of the committee. The details will come before the board for a vote at a later date. An action such as this is taken with the best of intentions and it will require team work and cooperation. If the town embarks on such a project, and there is little or no support or participation from the seniors or other adults in town, then that will send a message loud and clear that these town sponsored programs are not needed, and therefore a town sponsored facility is also not needed. The Board of Selectmen are well intentioned in asking the help, and cooperation from all seniors in town, in fact all adults in town to make these programs successful and fruitful...the potential is there for success! If these programs fail it won't be for lack of effort on the part of this Board. I feel confident that I am promoting the common good when I say: Before a facility is created at the expense of the tax payer it must be warranted by the number of participants involved. Establishing a successful town sponsored program is the first step in justifying a town sponsored facility. Therefore I would appreciate your support on this motion.

Selectman MacLean added that this motion did not contradict the article that has already been put forward. If it passes or fails, these two can work side by side for a common goal.

Selectman Jasper said, while Selectman MacLean's motion was well-intended, he disagreed with it at this time. He and Chairman Maddox had some discussion about this, following a recent Budget Committee meeting, hashing around some ideas on how to move forward. Everyone must be in agreement first. One definition of leadership that he likes best is the ability to get a group of people to go where you'd like them to, and by the time they get there, they think it was their idea all along. This should be put on hold for a workshop meeting and invite the Rec Committee and Council

on Aging so they can discuss the vision is and how they can arrive at a common goal. Trying to pull the train isn't the most effective way of doing things. This may be what they end up with, but it should be in a more agreeable fashion. Selectman MacLean said this committee could help give the direction they are looking for, rather than taking up a lot of the Board's time. This group could hash things out and then come back to the Board with recommendations. Selectman Jasper didn't think this should be the Board's mission; it should be helping those whose interest this is do what they want to do. The Board shouldn't be viewed as the parent, telling this group what they are going to have—and that is how a lot of people are viewing this issue. It should be on more equal footing. The Board doesn't have a clear idea of where it wants to go.

Chairman Maddox said, for about 40 minutes, Selectman Jasper bludgeoned him to the conclusion that they need to have a plan. He didn't think Selectman MacLean's suggestion was a bad thing, but he realized there is an organization out there, and the Board ought to ask that organization what it is willing to do, as part of the senior program they are trying to set up. They don't want to duplicate effort, but is this organization willing to take non-members for line dancing? What are the programs that all citizens of Hudson can participate in, without having to join that group? The Board needs to have dialogue with them to find out what they are looking at, before they set up another group. If that organization is willing to do most of the senior programs, maybe that is the way they should go, for now; Selectman Jasper did a pretty good job of bludgeoning him to that conclusion. If they are not going to get the support of the people that are doing the programs right now, this will probably fail. Serious dialogue with the Hudson Senior Council on Aging must be had to hear what they are looking for, collectively, so the Board will know what the opposition to this plan is and what they might be duplicating. He totally understood and supported the principle, but if they didn't do this extra step, they are just going nowhere.

Selectman Massey explained his rationale for throwing his support behind Selectman MacLean's recommendation when she approached him on it. She went beyond a group structured only for seniors; this proposal is for adults in the community and would encompass far more than just the senior population. With either 30% or 60% of the adult population being overweight, there is a crying need for the adult community to refocus on the things they learned when they were in gym class. The town currently provides some activities for the adult population, but there are far more things they could take advantage of, and this committee would help pull that together to make sure all segments of the adult population would be serviced. Chairman Maddox asked, when they have the discussion with the Older Persons Council on Aging and members of OPAC, if Selectman Massey thought they should include the Rec Committee. Selectman Massey said he wasn't supporting the Chairman's conclusion they were doing the wrong thing, so he wasn't prepared to say what they should do. He was supporting Selectman MacLean's motion and hoped it passed.

Selectman Nadeau wondered if this was something they could talk about at their workshop on January 2, inviting the other groups. Chairman Maddox thought that was an excellent idea, after they see where they are going here. He'd like to see a discussion that brings some of the parties to the table. He then recognized OPAC committee member, Andrea Perreault, who said they weren't getting much accomplished by just discussion what they were going to do. There is a disconnect between OPAC and the Hudson Senior Council on Aging. Neither she, nor anyone in the room, could speak confidently on what the final decision would be, so she votes for a workshop.

Vote: Motion failed, 2-2. Selectmen MacLean and Massey voted in favor; Selectmen Jasper and Maddox voted in opposition; and Selectman Nadeau abstained.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Massey, to invite the Council on Aging, OPAC and the Recreation Committee to the Board's workshop on ~~January 2~~ April 3, 2007, carried 3-2. Selectmen MacLean and Jasper voted in opposition.

(Selectman Nadeau's original motion did not include the Recreation Committee, but he included that group, after Selectman Jasper said it should be.) Selectman Jasper was confused about OPAC; he didn't think their charge had been extended. They were an advisory committee, which was going to go away, anyhow. To invite a group that is not part of the long-term picture confused him. Chairman Maddox said if the Board can't agree with who should be at the meeting, certainly more discussion is needed. OPAC are Hudson citizens, who put in a lot of hours. They were the Board's eyes and ears, going out and doing a lot of the research and dirty work that the Board didn't have time to do, so they should be invited to the table. Selectman Jasper said he was OK with that, but was confused on what their status was. Selectman Jasper said they should put the call out for all people; this is a big issue in town, and all people who are interested should attend and speak during public input, including OPAC. Chairman Maddox said they should have a discussion between the groups before they open it up to the public. Selectman Jasper reminded Selectman MacLean that a camel is a horse designed by a committee. The more people you get involved, the more difficult it becomes to come to an agreement. What they need is a workshop with the three groups mentioned in the motion because many members on OPAC are members of the Council on Aging. Once they have a work product, then it's appropriate to open it up to public input and then they can fine-tune it some more. Selectman MacLean said OK, but she had no idea what that camel thing was all about.

Ms. Perreault didn't want to be disrespectful to Selectman Jasper, but the members of the Senior Council on Aging who were on the OPAC are no longer there, for whatever reason. There, obviously, is some animosity there. She didn't think the workshop would consist of 100 people, but the Board of Selectmen and the people who were already assigned to OPAC—probably less than 20 people would be in the room—who could discuss OPAC's findings, just to see where

they go next. She thought OPAC would be dissolved by now, but when Selectman Massey had asked them to stay on board until March four to six weeks ago, they agreed to do that. However, there was a conflict of interest with the Hudson Council on Aging and, at the 18th hour, they decided to be part of the other group and not OPAC. As a citizen, and having a 72-year old Mom who lives in town, she was concerned about what they are going to do. She thinks a workshop would be better than live TV. She didn't want to be argumentative; she just wanted a solution to a problem that appears loud and clear.

Chairman Maddox said they weren't going to fix this problem this week or next week. It would take some time to reach a final solution, and they were looking to get all parties together. Selectman Massey said if they were going to have this workshop a week from tonight, they need a structured agenda. If they don't, it's going to be a lot of people making a lot of comments and statements. They could have the three groups each make an observation of how they think the Board should move forward, and out of that, craft the next response. Just to have people come and talk without a structured agenda wouldn't get them anywhere. They should ask the groups to take the same amount of effort to come before the Board with a presentation, like the department heads did. This isn't just a program for seniors; it's for the adults of this community, covering a wide range of ages, but it doesn't start at age 65.

Selectman Jasper said the Board was spending half their time talking about this subject. In all his years in town, there has never been a hue and cry for them to do anything about this subject. He didn't even know how it came about. It seems that someone on this Board had an idea that this problem existed and wanted to deal with it. Now, this subject is taking up an inordinate amount of time. The Selectmen are supposed to be worrying about police, fire, roads, trash pickup and those types of things. There is an extremely small group that seems to have an interest in this subject. He is ready to tell the Board to do what they want, have their special meetings, but he wanted this to be a Board of Selectmen that governs the town. He didn't want to become the host for a big party. This isn't what he signed up to do. He didn't run for office to figure out how everyone should spend their free time. He's tired of talking about this every week.

Selectman MacLean agreed 100%, saying she was hoping her motion and the conceptual idea of this committee would solve. The committee could go off and create something and advise the Board. If nobody wants to participate, then nobody is going to say the Board of Selectmen didn't hear them. The Board is giving as much as they can; it is making an effort. It won't reflect negatively on the Board. If it succeeds, it will be because of the hard work of the people involved. Her motion was designed to take it away from the Board, but the motion failed.

Chairman Maddox said, in answer to Selectman Jasper's question, he was the one who caused this. The Board was looking for a place for the seniors, such as the Oblate, which is what started it. They were looking for a vehicle by which they did something for the seniors, much like they do for the kids in the recreation program. Because it had such a long and varied history, it has grown a life of its own, but that's no reason to give up and walk away. Where they are headed is probably where they should have headed a couple meetings ago, but this is government. It never goes exactly the way they want it to. He thought having a workshop with those three groups to find out where everyone wants to go was what they should do. He agreed they shouldn't be tying up the Board's time talking about this, that it should be discussed at a workshop. He just didn't know if everyone would have time to prepare a presentation, as Selectman Massey suggested, if they hold it on January 2. Perhaps they should move it to the February 6th workshop.

Selectman Massey said the Board was discussing this because, back in April or May, the Board asked a group of people, called the Older Persons Advisory Council, to address many of the issues that the Chairman just mentioned, and they put together a magnificent document about the needs of the town, and they came forward with three recommendations. The first recommendation was rejected by one organization. That organization went forward with a warrant article, and he supported it, but the Board can't lose sight of the fact that there was a group of dedicated that were made up, not only of the Council on Aging, but other folks, such as Ms. Perreault, and Selectman Nadeau, as Chairman, and they produced a document that was a roadmap that shows where they think the town should be going. For intents and purposes, the workshop would be how to implement those programs. But the problem right now, as Selectman Jasper rightly said, there's no consensus on the community on what to go forward with.

(Start Tape 2-A)

Selectman Jasper agreed that January 2 was too early, and on February 6, the only thing they should be discussing is how they are going to be handling their warrant articles for the deliberative session on the 10th. Chairman Maddox said they also have the legislators in that night. Selectman Jasper said Selectman MacLean has already come to a conclusion. (Talking over each other.) "Conceptual...The committee would consist of 7 members in three year alternating terms: One from the Board of Selectmen; One from the Recreation Committee; One from the Council on Aging; Four members at large. The committee would be tasked with (but not limited to): 1. Developing activities which involve and are related to, but not necessarily exclusive of the senior age group population; 2. Consider other organizations in planning and implementing activities; 3. Develop policies for participation and appropriate fees; 4. Develop a job description and stipend range for the facilitator; 5. Oversee the work of the facilitator; 6. Act as advisors to the Board of Selectmen. When the facilitator is hired, it may be expected that the responsibilities would include (but not be limited to): 1. Work as Liaison for the committee and the population at large; 2. Plan activities including advertising and scheduling; 3. Coordinate volunteers for activities; 4. Maintain records of participation and revenue; 5. Make suggestions to the committee for improvements and budgetary needs." Continuing, Selectman Jasper said they are going to put themselves in the situation where, if this passes, they've given this group a charge, they are going to come back and argue about hiring a facilitator at \$100,000 a year, or whatever. The problem is that they ought to let this type of thing develop the way everything else in government develops—from the people. A group getting

together and saying this is the vision we have and we are going to petition to do this and let them put it on the warrant and let them do it. The Board of Selectmen's job is not to create new government programs. It's to do that which the people have decided needs to be done. There isn't any decision out there, by the people, directing the Board to create this new level of programming and servicing. He is at the end of his rope, at this point, on this whole thing.

Selectman MacLean said her idea was conceptual; it was just thoughts of how it might work. They can come back and decide exactly how it might be. This was just an example, something to think about or consider. Selectman Massey said they were getting away from the subject, which was to have a workshop. Selectman MacLean said she was against that. Selectman Massey asked if Selectman Nadeau was amenable to changing the date in his motion from January 2 to April 3. Selectman Nadeau was, saying by then, they will know whether or not the warrant article passed.

Vote: Motion carried 3-2. Selectmen Jasper and MacLean voted in opposition.

Chairman Maddox said this will continue on April 3, 2007. Selectman Massey said the Board should first come to a conclusion about the OPAC group. Does it exist, or do they need to extend its mission? Chairman Maddox said it has no mission. At this point, they are citizens that are interested. Selectman Massey said he accepts that. The Older Persons Advisory Council did what it was charged to do; it produced a document. Chairman Maddox said they know who they are and the Board knows who they are.

D. Code Enforcement Update

Chairman Maddox said he put this on the agenda because it's on the cusp of 2007. He'd like to see the reporting a little cleaner and neater. Selectman Jasper said the last code enforcement update he got was in November, for October, but none since—perhaps because his e-mail address has changed. Chairman Maddox said the form he sent over was manipulated a little. His intent was that they wouldn't have to go past the first six columns to find out if there was a violation; the tracking was to the right of that solid line. Everything seems to be getting mashed around, but he understands there is a software program that may resolve some of the problems. He'd like to start the new year clean and neat, hopefully moving this to where he knows where he is supposed to go and the Board knows where he is going.

Community Development Director Sean Sullivan explained that the current reporting method could be improved upon and, in fact, they were looking at a new software tracking program in order to be able to do just that. In the meantime, they are doing the best that they can. They contacted every town/city that directly abuts Hudson about code enforcement issues. Hudson had over 120 code enforcement actions, so far, in calendar year 06. No town directly abutting Hudson has had that many code enforcement actions take place. Yes, the reporting can be better, but considering all of the code enforcement activity taking place in Hudson, they are above all of the other abutting communities. When and if they get the new software, it will make the reporting a lot more user-friendly. He asked to whom the Board would like the reports sent to. Perhaps some day, they can be put on the web because they are public information. Presently, they are distributed to the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Planning Board and the Zoning Board by the Code Enforcement Officer, under Mr. Sullivan's supervision. The bottom line is the job is getting done; they just need a better way to let the Board know that. That's a goal for '07.

Chairman Maddox said he put together that document with drop-down menu boxes so he didn't have to type in junk car every time. Now it doesn't link the way it was supposed to and there are a number of problems with it. He didn't think picking up real estate signs is something that should go on a line item. That's just a function of the job and possibly ratchets up the 120 code enforcement actions. His hope is that the clear tracking would help win court cases for the town. They could show that everyone was being treated fairly and consistently. It would also give the Board of Selectmen a clear indication of what was being done. To that end, it has gotten better, but it still needs improvement. Mr. Sullivan said there have been nine code enforcement court issues this year and eight out of nine have been resolved so far, with the town being victorious in all eight. Hopefully, it will be nine out of nine in another few months. Chairman Maddox said that speaks to the tracking process that is being followed. His intent is not to make everyone's life miserable, but to balance between a reasonable approach and enforcement. Rob is doing a good job, but his administrative skills need improving.

Selectman Massey said not only did the town win those court cases, but the town's attorney's fees were awarded, too. One case was won at the Supreme Court level. It's a testament to the people in Community Development, as well as the Planning and Zoning Boards. They are providing a service that is defensible and the courts are supporting those decisions, all the way to the NH Supreme Court. They are on the right track with this reporting system.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Sherburne Road and Dracut Road Intersection

Community Development Director Sean Sullivan explained that the Highway Safety Committee was recommending this course of action because of the safety concerns in this area. The committee is chaired by Road Agent Kevin Burns and consists of the Chief of Police, Fire Chief and Planning Board member George Hall. About a week before the committee's meeting in December, a crash had taken place at this intersection. An abutter has asked what he could do to express his concern and desire for a flashing light at that intersection, so he was invited to the meeting and he attended. After hearing from the abutter, the committee discussed the issue. The Chief of Police provided accident data relating to that intersection. The Highway Safety Committee recommends the following traffic improvements: posted speed limit in Sherburne Road by reduced from 40 mph to

30 mph; that a raised island be installed on Sherburne Road near the intersection of Dracut Road; and that a flashing LED light be installed at the intersection, with red facing Sherburne Road and yellow facing Dracut. If someone is unfamiliar with that intersection, it appears that Sherburne Road continues across Dracut Road, which in reality is not the case. The accident data, including one fatality, and input from people in the area leads the committee to recommend that something be done. Administrative efforts have been made by the Town Engineer and Chief of Police in the past, requesting a meeting with NH DOT, who came out. The State then did install a larger-than-usual stop sign, but the striping never took place, the island that was agree to never took place, and the blinking light was something the town wanted, but the state did not agree to. The town is at the point now where they would like to elevate it to the next level, which is why they are asking for the support from the Board.

Selectman Massey asked if a light, as opposed to a blinking light, would be better. Mr. Sullivan said that was discussed, but that might be more expensive and NH DOT governs Dracut Road. A flashing signal might be more cost-effective to mitigate the problem. Selectman Massey said he has traveled that road on many occasions, and if you're not prepared for that intersection, traveling west on Sherburne, it's very possible to overshoot. Sherburne and Dracut are raceways. He is sure that vehicles don't obey the 30 MPH speed limit and on Sherburne, which is posted at 40 MPH, people are doing at least 50-55 MPH. It's imperative that the Board supports the Highway Safety Committee in this matter.

Selectman Jasper agreed that this was a problem. One of the sticking points, which was a touchy subject, in general, was that state law sets the speed limits at no less than 35 MPH in all areas outside of the urban compacts of town, unless there is a traffic or engineering study. The other problem is that judges are reluctant to issue tickets unless they are going 10-15 miles an hour over the speed limit, which creates a problem. He asked if Sherburne was under town control. (Inaudible.) The backup information the Board had on accident data didn't give him any idea on how this intersection rates in relation to other intersections in town. Before he is ready to say the Board needs to do something, he would need to see that information, as well as what the town has done and what has the town asked the state to do in other areas. Is this the worst intersection in town, or just the most noticeable one? It certainly is a problem, and something ought to be done to mitigate it, but they need to ask the questions that are likely to be asked of the town.

Chairman Maddox said when that parcel was before the Planning Board, a number of residents said a lot of people go halfway up from Sherburne into Dracut before they realize that the road ends—a great potential for accidents. All three recommendations require the state to do something. He was surprised there wasn't a chevron there. Selectman Massey said on the other side, where the new house is, there is now a reflective banner with chevrons. Chairman Maddox said, at the very least, they should try again. Selectman Massey said his understanding is that the individual is receptive to changes being made at the intersection because it could mitigate cars rolling into that driveway. Nothing will prevent it. Chairman Maddox said a letter could be sent, but with their funding issues, even for a blinking light, it has to go through quite a process. He didn't understand why follow-up wasn't done regarding the raised island. If they can't post a 30 MPH speed, maybe post a sign that says "stop ahead." Coming up Sherburne Road, especially with the setting sun, you cannot see. Maybe they should see about doing what they can now, and then do the research to get the data they would need.

Selectman MacLean said they should definitely send the letter to get the ball rolling. If they have the answers to the questions ahead of time, that's great, but as a Selectman, she has learned that NHDOT takes their time on things. As Chairman Maddox says, NH DOT stands for "Never Have it Done On Time." Selectman Massey said Selectman Jasper probably captured some of the main points, but if they at least get the request in, they've made it clear to the state that they consider it an area that needs to be worked on. They have taken a look at some of the other intersections in town, and they are already doing something about one of them, which he will talk about later. Even if they only put up additional signs, it would help people to understand that there is a dangerous intersection ahead because cars are traveling far in excess of the posted speeds on both of those roads. He supported sending the letter, with the full understanding the state may not do anything. At least it will be in the queue for action.

The consensus of the Board was to authorize that a letter be sent to William Lambert at the NH DOT Bureau of Traffic and the district Legislators, in an effort to seek assistance with needed traffic improvements at the Sherburne Road and Dracut Road intersection. The Town Engineer is to work with the neighbors in the area to see if there are additional chevrons they can put up, and check with the Road Agent to see if additional signage can be installed to make people aware that the road ends.

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

Ben Nadeau had no remarks.

Shawn Jasper didn't have any remarks, but recognized a gentleman in the audience, who identified himself as Dennis Couturier of 146 Belknap Road, a department commander with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. It is his goal to supply every fire station in New Hampshire with three teddy bears that can be given to children, who have suffered some sort of trauma, as a means of comfort, something for them to hold on to. Mr. Couturier said he wanted his community to receive the first teddy bears.

(Start Tape 2-B)

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Massey, to accept the teddy bears, with thanks, carried 5-0.

Selectman Jasper wished everyone a safe and prosperous New Year.

Kathleen MacLean has had the privilege of representing the Selectmen on the Budget Committee this year. Deliberations continue, but this far, things have been going well and the budget, for the most part, has been well received by the committee. She thanked all the department heads and the Selectmen for their work on the budget and for making her job easy, relatively

speaking. On December 25th, Christians all over the world celebrated the birth of the Savior and on this, the first day of Christmas, she extended her best wishes to all the people of Hudson for continued blessings on them and their families and on this wonderful town. Merry Christmas.

Ken Massey thanked all members of the town family for the work they do, many of whom toil behind the scenes, some of whom are never seen by the public. The town, in general, is very well run and they have to thank the Town Administrator and all of the department heads for that. Things just don't happen; they happen because of the dedicated group of men and women. Since he is the liaison for several departments, he wanted to call out their significant accomplishments for the town. The Community Development Director has already taken all the things he was going to say about that department, but they did achieve some major successes in the Engineering side of the house.

The biggest problem facing the town in the water utility was the south end. They have now completed the looping of the water system in the south end, which means that if the water main breaks anywhere in the southern end of town, no one, except between the two mains where the break occurred, are going to be without water because they will simply route the water in the other direction.

At Stop and Shop, the building is up. The trim is going to be white instead of cream, but they are hoping to get the roof on this week in order to make it more weather-proof. They anticipate the pump will be in sometime in January. Near Wason Road, the intake pumps and outtake pumps are already up and ready to be attached.

The final piece of that puzzle, the south end water tank, but bids were received. There were two. The project will be on the Selectmen's agenda for January 9, when they will have an opportunity to review the bids and award it. The bid will come in below the original budgeted amount, so given all of the other unanticipated items, primarily, the acquisition of the land, they will probably be within the original bond estimate of three years ago. A very important part of the town's infrastructure is well on its way to being completed.

The year 2006 was extremely stressful and time-consuming effort on the IT department. They have not had either a full-time manager or support person. They filled in for the year, trying to figure out the best way to go forward with the consulting company and a contract person. Given all of the circumstances, he could report to the Board that they have achieved more than he would have expected. They haven't achieved everything and they will not be able to pull the plug on the VAX on December 31, but all of the critical applications are off the VAX now. The last one that remains, which is significant, is the sewer billing system. Because they weren't able to get that done in October, the first time they could take it off the VAX was for the January bills. As an example of the caliber of town staff, the Sewer Utility Clerk worked late on the Friday she was leaving for vacation in order to get all of the work done. However, unbeknownst to her—or to anybody—there was a timeout on that program that would not allow it to run past 6:00 p.m. During her vacation, she made repeated calls back to town to make sure things got done, so he especially wanted to call out the work that Donna Staffier-Sommers did. She is just one example of the dedication they find in their town employees. He also wanted to thank the Town Administrator, Steve Malizia, and as everybody knows, you cannot possibly get things done in any operation without a person like Priscilla Boisvert, so he thanked her, as well.

Relative to the IT Director's position, they received 19 resumes, three internal and 16 external. The Town Administrator, the Finance Director and he reviewed the 19 resumes and narrowed it down to seven—three internal and four external. Interviews are being scheduled and the plan, right now, would be to have the top three candidates that are interviewed come to the Board of Selectmen either on the 23rd or 6th for the final interview. All seven candidates are being notified of the interview process. They hope to have this person on board by February 15 or March 1. Thanks to a lot of hard work, they may be coming to a great point. The foundations have been laid.

Selectman Massey thanked his fellow Board members for making his year a pleasant one and he looks forward to next year.

Rick Maddox advised everyone to get out the popcorn because he was going to be a while, and wanted to do a little trash-talking. He thanked everyone for their letters and e-mails to him. In his three years as Selectman, this item has generated more input to him than any other. Change is difficult. Human beings don't like change. He, personally, would have preferred staying with the current trash hauler because they can drag stuff to the curb and somebody will take it away, but he was elected to this Board to lead. They looked at the expense if this contract was to continue. It's getting harder to find a permanent site for burying trash, and it's not going to get any cheaper as they move forward. Kevin Burns is going to work hard at making the new contract work. There will be some issues and some problems that they will have to work out. If 20 people signed up for Solid Waste, it wouldn't be a bad thing. As much as they think this is a five year contract, if things don't go well, he'd like to know what Plan B is. Five years slides by quickly. This plan is meant to do a couple of things, such as more recycling, which will ultimately save the town money and keep the taxes in line. At the elections, when they had the totes at the Community Center, he polled probably 1,000 people during the day and probably 80% said this was probably the best thing. A few even said to open up a transfer station. Today, Kevin Burns said Windham, which has a transfer station, pays more per citizen for their trash removal than Hudson does. They are hoping to talk to Hudson to see what they might be able to do. There is a lot of things the Board is doing right with this. It won't be perfect, but he asked the people to work with them. If someone feels strongly, get on the Solid Waste Committee and work towards doing a better job with the trash issue. The Board didn't do this cavalierly. They looked at all of the options. With recycling, they will take wet newspapers and cans that weren't completely clean, but the contract says the opposite, so he asked Kevin to clean up some of those issues. The goal is to try to better manage the cost. This Board needs to work on the collection fees, which are \$30 an item and Kevin said he'd work with people. If there are large families, where two totes just won't work, he said he'd work with them. There's some flexibility to some of this, but the goal is to think about how

much they are throwing away and try to recycle where they can. They can even take their old barrels and use them for their recyclables, rather than using those square bins that everything blows out of. He thanked everyone for their input. Change is going to be difficult, but hopefully, it will be for the benefit of the town.

Relative to town growth, again, nobody likes change. Everybody wanted the Piggly Wiggly, but it went away. Thompson's Market was a stalwart in town, but as businesses make business decisions, they move on, and this town is a very attractive place for business to come to, right over the border, with a great roadway system. Some have suggested the town have a moratorium, but that can't happen. It is blatantly not doable, but the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board will do whatever it can to do the best job of containing that growth that they can. Good people came before them tonight; good people, wanting to work hard for the town. Having spent the last 10 years on the Planning Board, they look long and hard at a project and, most of the time, it's done for the betterment of the town. Growth is sometimes painful, but it is going to happen. Hopefully, it will be done in a manner that's as beneficial to the town as possible. He thanked the people who came before the Board during the last two meetings and volunteered, and those who sit on the boards. The paid staff is a great group of people, doing the best for the town, but there is an unknown number of people that citizens mostly don't see, sitting long nights at board meetings. The Planning Board will work hard on growth issues over the next year. They will not just simply rubber-stamp a plan. They looked at a plan for Lowell Road the other night, and denied it. Lowell Road is getting busier and busier and backing gas tankers out into the roadway is something that just can't be done anymore. This isn't the Hudson of 1972 anymore. He applauded the people who volunteer their time to help the citizens of Hudson. He wished all of them and all of his fellow Board members a prosperous and happy New Year.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman MacLean, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to enter Nonpublic Session under 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him, unless the employee affected has a right to a meeting and requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted and (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee, carried 5-0 by roll call vote.

Nonpublic Session is being entered into at 9:00 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 January 9th agenda. Nonpublic Session was terminated at 10:05 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to seal the nonpublic session minutes carried 5-0.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to adjourn at 10:06 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