

**HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Minutes of the October 23, 2006 Budget Presentation Meeting**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Maddox reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall that was recessed from October 18, 2006.

**2. ATTENDANCE**

**Selectmen:** Richard J. Maddox, Shawn N. Jasper, Kathleen R. MacLean, Kenneth J. Massey, Benjamin J. Nadeau

**Staff/Others:** Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director; Cecile Nichols, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Tom Sommers, Town Engineer; Richard Gendron, Chief of Police; Police Captain Don Breault; Police Captain Jason Lavoie; Lisa Nute, Police Information Manager; Howard L. Dilworth, Jr., Budget Committee Chairman; Bob Haefner, Cemetery Trustee Chairman; Tim Quinn, Conservation Commission Chairman; three Girl Scouts from Troop 812, Ashley, Katherine and Makenzie and their leader, Kristen

**3. BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

Finance Director Kathy Carpentier said the Board had asked the Fire Chief to hand out something on staffing for Warrant Article P, and that was one of the handouts. Chairman Maddox said Selectman Jasper had the questions relative to EMT's versus Paramedics. Mr. Malizia said the difference was close to \$6,200. Chairman Maddox said they would discuss it later.

Ms. Carpentier said the next handout was a quote for a Hyundai Santa Fe from the Community Development Director. When he had requested a Ford Explorer, the Board had asked him to price out a Santa Fe. Selectman Massey said the quote was for a 6-cylinder; they should look at the cost of a 4-cylinder. Mr. Malizia said then they should also look at a 4-cylinder Explorer, in order to compare apples to apples. Chairman Maddox said there isn't a lot of difference, whichever vehicle they end up getting in regard to that line item. Selectman Massey thought it would be around \$4,000. Selectman MacLean said they can budget a total amount, but they don't have to say which make the vehicle is. Mr. Malizia said it was the Board's discretion, once the money has been appropriated.

Ms. Carpentier said she was asked to look at gas and diesel prices for consistency in the major departments. Chairman Maddox said the Board has to decide which number they want to carry. Selectman Massey said, just before the meeting, he and the Finance Director ran some numbers. If they do \$2.20 for everything, it's a net change of minus \$321 for all five of those accounts, but they can talk about it when they get to those areas.

**Cemetery Trustees 5025**

Bob Haefner, Chairman of the Cemetery Trustees, appreciated being moved from last week to tonight. He officiated a wedding last Wednesday and the bride is leaving this week for Iraq for a year—so they couldn't move the wedding. Also, he didn't get any communication this year on the Cemetery budget. He stopped in one day to see KC and found out when it was scheduled. Ms. Carpentier said the letter was sent to the previous chair; the records have been corrected.

Mr. Haefner said the budget was put in at last year's numbers, but he was asked to amend that. All of the money they had last year, they don't need, with the exception of buying a fence. He proposed reducing the budget by \$2,500 and then adding the fence back in, which is \$6,500. Relative to the fence, they had money in the budget for the last couple of years to put a fence around the Poor Farm Cemetery. It had been encumbered twice. This year, they still didn't have the fence, but they weren't able to encumber the funds any longer. The Poor Farm Cemetery was overgrown, with a lot of brush in there, and it had to be cleared before they could put up the fence. The Highway Department did the cleaning, and Kevin wasn't about to get his equipment in there in the spring because the ground was so wet, so he wasn't able to do it until July. By then, the money for the fence had been returned. He was proposing an increase to \$9,500, but reducing the headstone repair to \$3,000 from whatever was there, and add in the fence.

Selectman Massey asked if the \$4,500 in there for this year was just for headstone repair, or if that included money for the fence. Mr. Haefner said it did not include money for the fence. That money was separate and had been encumbered for two years, but that money was lost on July 1. Selectman Massey asked if the \$4,500 was only for headstone repair. Mr. Haefner said yes, that was the intent. Selectman Massey asked if he was proposing to cut that back by \$2,500. Mr. Haefner said by \$1,500 and some other small stuff they are cutting back. Some of that \$4,500 for this year will be used in spring for headstone repair, but he is also using \$1,300 right now to put a monument on the Poor Farm Cemetery, which has been ordered and should be installed within the next three or four weeks. That amount is in addition to what has already been spent. Mr. Haefner said that should leave them with about \$3,000 for '07 that they intend to do headstone repair with in the spring—and there are a bunch of them that need repair. Chairman Maddox asked the Finance Director to do the math for them. Mr. Haefner said for '07, there is \$5,685 minus \$1,100 which leaves them with \$4,500 minus the \$1,300, which leaves them with \$3,200. Chairman Maddox said he was looking at 252 Other Professional Services. Mr. Haefner said that was right, so it leaves them with less.

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman MacLean, for a total budget of \$9,675 for 5025, per the following: 215, \$75; 233, \$20; 238, \$10; 252, \$9,500; 303, \$20; and 340, \$50, per the handout material, an increase of \$3,990 carried 5-0.*

**Police 5600**

Police Chief Gendron said the Police Department is certainly aware of the request by the Board of Selectmen for the 3% mandate, and they can appreciate it because of property taxes. At the same time, they would ask the Board to take into consideration, as they discussed during their workshop meeting, they are dealing with a lot of criminal activity in the streets. In preparing the budget, a lot of the items they are requesting will allow the Police Department to continue to provide that public

safety that the residents expect and, at the same time, protect the officers with the necessary equipment they need to perform their duties and responsibilities as police officers. Their operating budget is increased \$19,251 over last year's, which represents a 2.5% increase from last year, so they are under the 3%. He asked the Board to consider where they were geographically and the confidential e-mails he has sent to the Board. They seem to be seeing an influx of criminal activity, coming across the bridge from Nashua and from Lowell and, occasionally, from Manchester. On some days, they are faced with some big-city crime that they are trying to keep under control.

**Police Administration 5610**

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to decrease 223 Uniform Cleaning from \$10,600 to \$8,000.*

Selectman Jasper said this was based on the historical spending. Chief Gendron said he has to budget that amount, per the union contract, even though they don't spend it. Selectman Jasper said the money has to be available, but they don't have to budget it. If it comes to that, so be it, but it never has.

*Vote: Motion failed, 2-3.* Selectmen Jasper and MacLean voted in the affirmative.

Selectman Jasper said they should have a conversation about the contractual obligation, which says they will provide up to \$200 per person for cleaning, but the contract does not mandate what they budget. They are not spending anywhere near that. It doesn't mean they have to budget it; it just means that if somebody comes in, they have to provide them with that much cleaning. If it's not coming to that, and it hasn't for the last three years, what are they budgeting that much money for? It makes no sense to him.

**Police Facility 5615**

Chairman Maddox asked about 208 Telephones. He thought when they went to the new cruisers with Verizon Wireless they would be seeing a savings. Chief Gendron said they are. If they went with the radio system, they would have spent over \$80,000 right off the bat, but they didn't do that. The Verizon mobile units are included in there, and they are paying over an eight year period. If that added it up over the eight years, Verizon is cheaper than the radios.

**Police Communications 5620**

Chairman Maddox asked if someone was coming out of here and going into records. Chief Gendron said they did that in the form of a warrant article. The money is already budgeted, but not the benefits. Chief Gendron said they have 80 hours set aside for part-time dispatch. They are recommending taking 40 hours and make it a full-time dispatcher and under the warrant article, ask for the benefits portion, which comes to \$21,814. Then they are asking to take the remaining 40 hours and convert that into a full-time clerk, between Support Services and Prosecution, which would be another \$21,814 in benefits for those two positions. If approved, they would eliminate part-time dispatch. It sounded like a good concept initially, but it just isn't working. This type of job must be done on a regular basis, or the proficiency is compromised.

Selectman Jasper said he was having a hard time with the math. The Chief had 40 more hours budgeted in dispatch than he needed. Chief Gendron said they took someone out, making them do a multitude of other work, including some clerical. Selectman Massey said, in looking at the employment head count, the Chief currently has seven full-time dispatchers and five part-time, two full-time records clerks and one part-time. His understanding is they will wind up with three full-time records clerks, and zero part-time. Chief Gendron said he currently has two full-time record clerks. The part-timer that Selectman Massey was referring to comes under the records division, but they are really an IT person—it's John Beike. He's not actually doing records; he's doing IT. Selectman Massey asked where the 40 hours were coming from. Chief Gendron said there won't be any part-time dispatch. Right now, he can have as many as he wants, as long as he stays within the 80. They are constantly training dispatchers to work eight or 16 hours per week, and the next thing, they don't want to work two weeks straight, etc. Selectman Massey said so they are going to take those 80 hours and use 40 for a full-time dispatcher and 40 for a records clerk, and they will end up with eight full-time dispatchers and three full-time records clerks. Chief Gendron confirmed that was correct.

Chairman Maddox said the \$77,000 in part-time salaries would go into full-time salaries, and \$40,000 in benefits would be added for the two positions. Chief Gendron said that was correct. Selectman Massey said they would be taking those five part-time dispatchers, converting the hours into one full-time dispatcher and one records clerk, and adding to the budget, if they were to do that, a total of \$43,628. Chief Gendron said that was correct. Chairman Maddox said his information showed six part-time dispatchers. Chief Gendron said it varies, as long as he stays within 80 hours a week.

Selectman Nadeau asked if the overtime would go up for the full-timers, if they do away with part-time dispatchers. Chief Gendron said he couldn't see why because it's the same amount of hours. Part-timers are not covering any over-time; they are working a shift. Selectman Nadeau said they are pulling dispatchers out of dispatch. Some dispatchers are doing clerical work, right now, so they are just putting them where they belong, putting the responsibilities where they are. Selectman Jasper said overtime usage would go up because they'd have to cover for sick and vacation days. Chief Gendron said under the contract, part-timers cannot work overtime. Full-timers get first shot at it. Selectman Jasper said but they would have one more full-timer now to cover, so they would have to cover those two weeks, or whatever, with overtime. Chief Gendron understood why he came to that conclusion, but it all depends on if it's an overlapping shift, or the end of the day, in which case, they would go without. He didn't know if it would be 100% coverage, but it's possible there will be a few days. Selectman Jasper said they've probably got enough money in the budget for that. Selectman Massey said they could take the money from the uniforms line.

**Warrant Article J, Records Clerk**

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to forward Article J to the warrant, a conversion of a part-time to a full-time records clerk, a net increase of \$21,814 carried 3-2. Selectmen Jasper and Nadeau voted in opposition.

(Start Tape 1-B)

**Warrant Article K, Police Dispatcher**

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to forward to the warrant, Article K, to create an additional full-time dispatcher by eliminating 40 hours of part-time dispatching, with an increase of benefits of \$21,814.

Selectman Massey said in the last three years he has been on the Board, every time they turn around, a part-time dispatcher comes and goes. They need to be able to count on dispatchers; they can't be forever training people, which minimizes the efficiency of the operation. At some point, they still need to be talking about the combined dispatch function because, when they do that, they wind up with a much better usage of everybody around and it would cut to the issue of overtime. He would expect to see a decrease if they had all of the personnel in one room. This is one step in getting to that point.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Selectman Massey said, as an interesting comparison, and they shouldn't really totally look at their neighboring community as a perfect example, but it was reported in the Telegraph this summer, the Nashua police force, across all of their departments, has 24% overtime. The Hudson Police Department has 7.22%. In Fire, the Nashua Department has 34% overtime; Hudson has 24%. The one that was really interesting to him was the Public Works—30% in Nashua; 15.96% in Hudson. For Sewer, 18% vs 12%. In putting in perspective what they are spending on overtime, it struck him that Hudson's numbers are certainly now skewed significantly from their neighboring community and, in fact, it's significantly lower. Chairman Maddox said those comparisons were between a city and a town. Selectman Massey said he already prefaced his remarks by saying that, but when he looks at the difference, you can't explain that just on the basis of a city versus a town. Some of it is the way the Town is managed.

**Police Patrol 5630**

Chief Gendron said they are paying \$1.76 for gas. It can be reduced, but he wouldn't want to reduce it more than \$20,000. Selectman Massey said, as he mentioned before, if they change all of the numbers, the overall net reduction is \$320.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to decrease 5630-304, Gasoline, by \$12,000 from \$100,000 to \$88,000, carried 4-1. Selectman Jasper voted in opposition.

Chairman Maddox questioned 402 Automobiles, saying there was a \$30,000 jump. Chief Gendron said that was for a van for the Crime Scene Team and the Special Operations Unit. They want to replace a 1990 Ford van, the box truck given to them by the Fire Department. Since the workshop, he's had to do some electrical repairs, which cost \$600 and there will be more to come. He passed some pictures around, showing the deteriorating condition of the van. There is so much rust building up, he didn't even know if it would pass inspection again. Every time there is a critical incident emergency, this van goes out. It is also used by evidence techs. He'd like to buy a ¾-ton van. Last week, he attended the International Association of Chiefs of Police Exhibition in Boston, and they had several vehicles on display. As much as he'd like to get one of those, it's much too costly—about \$100,000 for a mobile command vehicle. He didn't think they needed something that elaborate. He'd like to buy a van from a regular dealership. There is a company in Manchester called Custom Creations, who will specialize in building the interior of the van to what they need and are looking for. Dover did one and Nashua did a bomb squad truck. For the money they spent, they got a good deal. He thinks \$30,000 will get them what they are looking for. He will try to get some money from Homeland Security to outfit the interior, which could need an A/C unit on the roof. He talked to a dealer today, and this amount is in the ballpark. He was looking at a Dodge Sprinter. UPS and FedEx trucks run them.

Selectman Massey asked the Chief to explain what this vehicle would be used for. Chief Gendron said it's a multi-purpose vehicle, used by three different teams. Any time the Special Operations Unit, which most people know as a SWAT Team, is called into service, and they respond to eight different communities, as part of a regional team, that vehicle is used. The reason why a van, or vehicle of that sort is preferred is because when there is a call, they have five officers assigned to that team, they will load up that vehicle and while en route, they are getting suited up and ready. When they arrive at the destination, they are ready for the need for which they were called. It is also used by evidence techs and lately they've been using it quite a bit. Any time there is a robbery and they have to call the evidence team to go out and collect evidence, they use it. Recently, it was used at the 7-Eleven. All the evidence is stored inside that vehicle, all the equipment is brought down there, so it serves that purpose. Also, for any serious motor vehicle crashes where they expect felony charges or a fatal. That vehicle is taken out and has equipment in it—generators, etc., equipment to lock in the site for the crime scene. It is used by three different teams; it's not solely for one use. Sometimes the current vehicle doesn't even start; other times, the lights are messed up on it and they don't work right. The rear lights don't work. That van needs to be replaced, and soon.

Selectman MacLean asked if the van has ever not started when they needed to go out on a call. If so, what did they do? Chief Gendron said yes, and they usually grab any other vehicles and fill them up and take off, but it's a hindrance, because they have to take out all of the equipment from the van and load it into another vehicle, and all of that takes time. When they are called to a crime scene or to an accident scene, time is critical. When they are called to a hostage situation, time is very critical, and they are losing precious time getting there by unloading and reloading equipment.

Selectman Nadeau asked if drug forfeiture money could be used to purchase the van. Chief Gendron said no; they already have a van in existence, so the Feds would look at it as supplanting the budget, and they cannot do that. It's like asking to buy new

cruisers with drug money. They can't do that. The Feds would pick up on that when they do the audit. Selectman Nadeau asked if they could get rid of the current van, and then get a new one. Chief Gendron said he would not sign that check because that was kind of sneaky, saying he believed that would be an illegal use of the drug funds. Selectman MacLean said she was actually thinking the same thing as Selectman Nadeau. If they went a year without a van, then they wouldn't be replacing it. They could say it got cut and they really, really need one. Selectman Jasper said oh, what a tangled web they weave. Chief Gendron agreed, saying it might sound creative, but he didn't think he'd look good in a striped suit with numbers on the front of it. If they did something like that, and a year later, the Feds said what they did was wrong, then they'd have to find the money to put it back in. Otherwise, the Town would be liable.

Chairman Maddox didn't think they'd get the vehicle they want for \$30,000 but knowing what the Chief buys cruisers for, there might be a chance with his wheeling and dealing. Chief Gendron said it's at least a start. He won't get it if it doesn't work. Chairman Maddox suggested he look at some others in the area to find out if something like that would work for Hudson.

**Police Investigations, 5640**

Selectman Massey wanted to call it out to the Board's attention because he's sure other people might take a look at it and say it's not in the budget, and why, but if they look at 411, there is a \$4,500 request for new disks technologies. This is not just a single hard drive. It's several drives, strung together so they act as if they were one. Without going into a lot of detail, which they can do at a later point, he said that certain investigations would have gone much faster, had they had this device in the Town's inventories. As a result, he is convinced they need to spend this money. He'd be glad to share why that is so, at a different time, but it would be inappropriate in a public forum. Suffice it to say investigations would have gone much faster, had they had this technology because it allows them to capture information, at its source, without contaminating the source.

**Warrant Article M, Drug Officer**

Chief Gendron said when he was at the Board's workshop with the Police Department, he explained some of the issues they are facing relative to drug activity in the community, with the influx of heroin coming into the area. There have been two drug overdoses with heroin. They are also concerned with the increased use of meth in New Hampshire. The very first meth lab was in Hudson, which wasn't discovered until there was a fire, by which time the people had moved on to another community. They currently have one drug officer at the task force. All of the information they are developing out on the street on drugs, he is handing down to a detective, who are already overbooked with what they are dealing with, between regular crime, evidence, Internet crime, etc., it makes it difficult to coordinate between the drug officer. Ideally, they'd need to hire an officer in detectives to deal with the drug activity in Hudson, working with the Drug Task Force, so they can control the amount of drugs coming through the community. This needs serious consideration if they want to seriously fight the drugs coming into Hudson.

*Motion by Selectman MacLean, seconded by Selectman Massey, to forward Article M to the warrant, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen.*

Selectman Jasper believes this is a position they should have, however the Board just approved converting two other positions and \$30,000 for a vehicle. In looking at the retirement in this budget, the increase has got to be in the neighborhood of \$75,000 for the Police Department. The Selectmen's job is to manage the budget and they've got to keep the bottom line in mind. So far, they are not doing too much to move to that. They started out with 10% and are still real close to that. They risk getting the whole budget turned down if they go in asking for too much. He realized that a lot of it is warrant articles, but they risk losing all of them if they go in for too many.

Selectman Massey said he, reluctantly, was not going to vote for this. When he looks at the priorities in the Police Department right now, the dispatcher is the number one priority. As he said before, he was managing to his own number, and he was sure Selectman Jasper were going to come out the same way, but as much as he thought they might use this, as they definitely have some drug problems in this area, maybe it's time to think about bringing their officer home and let some other communities contribute to the Attorney General's Task Force. Chief Gendron said he is working cases in Hudson, but if the Chief needs someone to do undercover work, he has at his disposal 20 officers to help out, but it would help to have a contact person in Hudson, as well.

Chairman Maddox said he was going to vote for this because it's one of those long-term things they won't see a benefit for this year, or maybe three years from now, but as they see more and more drug traffic through Town and more drug use, wherever it may be hiding. He probably won't support the two officers that will be coming further downstream, but he believes this article will reap benefits in the future for the Town of Hudson.

Selectman MacLean said if they compared this to the dispatcher warrant article and the clerical warrant article are just shuffling hours around. Of course, it's more money, but those are covered, anyway. This, to her, would be a far higher priority. If it's about the bottom number, maybe someone could vote to revisit the other two and rethink those, if it's one or the other. She thinks this one is more important because it's a new position, which the others are just a restructuring.

*Vote: Motion failed, 2-3.* Selectmen Maddox and MacLean voted in favor of the motion.

In light of Selectman MacLean's comments, Selectman Massey said he'd hold open the option to revisit this on November 6. Chairman Maddox said at the rate they are going, everything is going to be open that night. Selectman Jasper said, with that in mind, he'd like the Chief's input because he probably won't be present on November 6. Chief Gendron said yes, he would be present. Selectman Massey said all of the department heads should be alerted that it might be prudent to be available on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

When they finish tonight, they will be through reviewing all of the budgets. He anticipates that on November 6<sup>th</sup>, they will be looking at the number they want to send to the Budget Committee. If they are going to make any changes, it is likely they will be made down. The department heads should have the opportunity to provide input, but it would be optional for them to attend.

**Animal Control 5650** -- No discussion; no change.

**Police Information Services 5660**

Chief Gendron said this is where the phone system is, 403 Small Equipment. They will be replacing a 12-year old phone system. The current system allows them no opportunity to grow and it is in failure. Voice mailboxes are getting messed up and they just can't do anything with this phone system any more. A new system would allow them to install a T-1 line and save them around \$2,500 a year. They should replace the phone system before they end up having major issues with it. Chairman Maddox said his concern is that it is done in concert with the Town. Lisa Nute said that has been addressed.

(Start Tape 2-A)

Selectman Massey said it includes the Fire Department and the Highway Department, so it's not just the Police Department and Town Hall. Selectman Nadeau said that was his question, whether they were all going to be compatible. He was told yes. Selectman Nadeau asked if the T-1 line was in the budget. Ms. Nute said it was in 403. They project it will save them money because it will reduce the number of lines they currently have in the Police Department, and the same thing will happen in the other departments. They need that capability to do caller ID, which they need in dispatch. Through the T-1 and the software, they don't need all the separate lines like they have now—a line for the attorney's office, a line for the crime line, a line in administration, records, etc. It's all one line now, so that's why they project a minimum of \$2,500 savings.

Selectman Nadeau asked how much was in the capital reserve fund for the information systems, or if they were just getting started with the \$5,000. Ms. Nute said it was established last year with \$5,000 and \$5,000 would go in every year. It is general enough so they can use it for IT projects, but the operating system upgrade is what they foresee is the very first thing they need, and what they are budgeting for. Selectman Nadeau asked when she should that would happen. Ms. Nute said probably within two, three years, they will begin moving the Police and Town, either together or shortly thereafter, to this operating system. Selectman Nadeau asked how much that system cost. Ms. Nute said the last time they did an operating system upgrade, it was around \$19,000 for the Police Department, so it would be in that ballpark, depending on what Microsoft would charge for that.

Selectman Massey said this is one of those items that the new IT Director would be required to do, put together a Town-wide plan for the entire hardware/software plans, which would include when and how to switch from the existing, in this case, either Windows XP Pro for the desktops and Windows Server 2000—if that was the right nomenclature—which would be replaced by whichever the server technology for the next release of Microsoft is going to be. He would echo Lisa's comments. This does not schedule to be released as a desktop until sometime early next year. They missed the Christmas season this year. He doubted if the server technology is going to be any time next year; at least he hasn't heard that it is. The earliest would be in the '09 budget, which would give the IT Department plenty of time to put together a comprehensive plan for the future. Chairman Maddox said they are still in BETA 2, at this point, and just about to release to limited distribution. Selectman Massey said what they are talking about right now is the desktop devices, not the server.

**Police Support Services 5671**

Chairman Maddox said on 403, he thought they were building up a capital reserve for those items, as opposed to putting them in the budget. Chief Gendron said a couple of issues have developed since then. Last week, he and Captain Lavoie met with some representatives from Sig Arms, who is the manufacturer of the weapons they carry right now, based out of Exeter, NH. They are coming in to work out a deal. The Town stands a good chance of swapping out their weapons for brand new ones, if they want to. The deal is available until the end of November, if they commit to it. It's not firm, but he thinks they could make a swap for all the weapons they have for the newer weapons for around \$9,000 which is incredible. If they do that, he'd still recommend doing a capital reserve so that seven, eight years from now, when they have to replace the weapons, the money is there and they aren't scrambling for \$60,000. If they can pull this off, he plans to come back to the Board with this deal they shouldn't pass up. Just like trading in vehicles, now is the time to do it. The only other thing they'd have to do is change the holsters because they wouldn't fit. The weapons they'd be looking at are a double action firearm; it can never be fired in single action. It's a safer weapon and they want to make sure they keep all NH officers in Sig Arms. Capt. Lavoie will get them in ASAP so they can firm up the numbers so the Board can make a decision.

Selectman Massey said the Chief did give him a course on firearms safety and he can definitely say a double action pistol is significantly safer than a single action pistol. Chief Gendron said, if this deal goes through, the Board can remove \$750 from that line because there would be no need for them to buy springs. Selectman MacLean asked if the trade would happen soon. Chief Gendron said it would have to happen in this budget. They'd have to look at doing away with something in order to pull this off. If they can make this swap for \$10,000 - \$12,000 for holsters and all, it's worth it. Selectman MacLean asked if he was talking about the '07 budget or the '08 budget. Mr. Malizia said the '07 budget, the one they are in now. Chairman Maddox agreed that it can get confusing—they are in '06, working out of an '07 budget, but talking about '08.

**Warrant Article R, Police Vests**

Chief Gendron said during the workshop, they talking about bullet-proof vests that needed to be replaced every five years to ensure they work properly and for the safety of the officers—and they are not cheap. They are looking at about \$60,000 to replace all of the vests in the department. At the workshop, it was suggested they start putting money aside for this purpose.

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to forward Article R to the warrant, as recommended, carried 5-0.*

Chairman Maddox said this is the type of planning that makes sense. Selectman Jasper asked if the Selectmen were agents to expend. Mr. Malizia said if that was the Board's direction, that's the way it would be written. Selectman Jasper said that would be his direction.

**Warrant Article S, Weapons Replacement**

Selectman Nadeau asked if they could change this number, once they get the new weapons, so it's not so high. Chief Gendron said this is for a capital reserve to put \$7,500 aside each year for an eight-year period for replacement. If he replaced these weapons in the 60-07 budget, they won't have to replace the weapons until 2014. Selectman Jasper said but that doesn't change anything; it's still an eight-year cycle. He asked how old their current weapons were. Chief Gendron said approaching eight. Selectman Jasper said the deal before them only makes this plan work better. Chairman Maddox wanted to see this reduced to \$5,000. They are getting a good deal now and they are doing better than they ever have in the past. Discussion continued on the rationale of this article.

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to forward to the warrant, as recommended, with the Selectmen as Agents to Expend, carried 4-1.* Chairman Maddox voted in the opposition.

**Crossing Guards 5672** – No discussion; no change.

**Police Prosecutor 5673**

Selectman Massey shared with the Board his due diligence on the Police Prosecutor, by going to a court session on a Friday. The judges and County Attorney all said that it is necessary for a town to have an experienced prosecutor—not someone at Step 1. At the county level, they are getting their first increase to Step 2 within six months and within a year to 18 months, they are up at the same level the Town is paying, but they are willing to do that because they are looking for the trial experience in order to go into private practice. Also, there are over 20 county attorneys, so the experienced ones act as mentors. Rationale continue. Both judges he spoke with emphasized that it would not be in the best interest of the Town to hire an entry-level attorney because they would not have a mentor. One of the judges felt that Hudson needed two attorneys, based on the caseload out of Hudson. The Town needs an experienced trial attorney, not someone just out of college.

**Warrant Article N, Two Police Officers**

Chief Gendron said they are under 1% on their operating budget, including the \$30,000 for the van. During their workshop this summer, the Police Department made the Board aware that it's time to hire more police officers. They have 45 sworn officers now, but have not added any new positions, new patrol officers, since 2002, which was funded through a COPS Grant. Each year, they are required to do a manpower study. The FBI puts out a ratio for the northeast, and that number came up to 16 officers, but when they did the manpower study of true numbers—how many calls they want on, how much time was spent on them, etc.—they came out with 6 police officers required. Obviously, they are not asking for that, but they are asking for two. Part of his duties is to train future managers and supervisors. Within the next three to four years, there will be a void, once again, in the top level, some retirements, and they need to prepare people for the future. This will allow them to do that, to give them the training they need and to provide career development within the organization versus sending people out to various training sessions. By moving police officers into detectives for three, four months and then back out onto the street, they become better police officers, more aware of what to look for and how to interview individuals. That's some of the reasons why they're seeing more drug arrests. There is a void in the legal division. He has been called on the carpet twice at the court, saying they are not holding up the court for Hudson any more. An officer in a training capacity over there to do arraignments—simple things—is a good training ground for them and allowing the prosecutor to handle the trial work. When it comes time for promotions, it provides him with the opportunity to look at well rounded individuals for those positions.

Selectman MacLean asked when he'd ask for more officers, if he got these two. Chief Gendron said it depends on what happens in Town, but if it stays at the level it is, they could probably go another four years before asking again. Selectman MacLean asked if he usually hired by two. Chief Gendron said they are going to do another recruiting process in March because he suspects there will be one retirement. Officers may want to leave for another agency, whether it is State, Federal or somewhere else. So far, they haven't had anyone leave for awhile, which is good. If these two positions are approved, and if the drug officer is approved, they will hire right at that same time. They are already receiving inquiries from people who want to come to Hudson to work—for the first time. In the past, they've been a training ground for other people. In the last go-round, he had five good candidates and it killed him, but he had to call other agencies because he was only hiring two.

(Start Tape 2-B)

Selectman MacLean thought the voters should decide this issue, and if safety and peace of mind is what they want, they should be the ones to choose whether or not to spend the money.

*Motion by Selectman MacLean, seconded by Selectman Massey, to forward this to the warrant, as recommended.*

Selectman Jasper said if Selectman MacLean didn't want to make the tough decisions, she shouldn't have run for Selectman. This is their job, to make recommendations to the voters. If the people want something, they can always petition. It's not like the Selectmen are thwarting the will of the people to make a decision. It's up to the Board to recommend what they think is fiscally prudent, in this case. Discussion continued. Selectman Massey explained that he would not vote for this one, either. The need may be there, but he's not comfortable adding this one in, keeping the tax rate in mind.

*Vote: Motion failed 1-4.* Selectman MacLean voted in the affirmative.

Chairman Maddox declared a recess at 8:38 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:46 p.m.

**Town Clerk 5030**

Town Clerk/Tax Collector said her operating budget was kept under the 3% and asked if there were any questions. Selectman MacLean questioned why the postage was so much. Mrs. Nichols said there is more volume. They've gone from 1,200 to 2,200 registrations monthly for mail-ins and property taxes are up higher. Dog letters have also gone up quite a bit. Chairman Maddox asked what the total percentage was. Mr. Malizia said it shows 4.7%, including everything. Selectman Jasper said the postage line showed a huge increase, from \$24,000 to \$34,000. Discussion continued.

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Massey, to decrease 5030-238 Postage by \$4,412 from \$34,412 to \$30,000, carried 4-1.* Selectman Nadeau voted in the opposition.

**Warrant Article L, Assistant Town Clerk**

Ms. Nichols said this is probably not the right title, but Kathy Voisine is considered an Assistant Town Clerk, but she can't be deputized because she doesn't live in Hudson, so she can't sign any of the vital records or anything that comes in that needs the signature of the Town Clerk. The Deputies can sign, but she cannot. That is the only difference. Whether it is an Assistant or a Deputy Town Clerk, the workload is all the same; they all work out at the front. She read a statement into the record, justifying her request, saying they need to be proactive and not reactive. With this position, they will be better able to serve the public. The volume of customers and workload makes it impossible to keep up with all of the demands placed upon them. The majority of the workload is in motor vehicle registrations—about 90% of the work. When taxes are due, that 90% doesn't go away. They still have to give 100% for the taxes. That they have time on their hands is a misconception. All work, including filing, vital records, notary, mail-in registrations, licensing of dogs, voter registration, etc., take up the rest of their time. The volume of work is increasing and the phones are a big problem because they are constantly ringing. People want their information now, which upsets the customers at the windows. No one is happy about that, and it is getting harder and harder to keep up with the work. When she started in 1988, they had about 18,000 people in Town. In 2005, there were 24,600 people—and they are still growing. She hasn't requested extra help for at least 15 years. This is a critical time for the department and it's imperative to have informed personnel, who have the ability to train and an understanding of the overall workings of the office. There are at least three, and possibly four, staff members who are eligible for retirement. Anyone who comes into that department has to be trained by the State. They cannot do any registrations until the State says they can. She had a temp come in at one time, not understanding the law, and she was reprimanded, saying they could lose their license to register customers, if they are not State-certified. The job takes up to a year to learn because of all the different aspects of motor vehicles. She hoped for a positive recommendation from the Board. Her staff works hard, and they are dedicated and loyal and give 100%.

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to forward to the ballot, as recommended.*

Selectman Jasper cannot recall ever seeing a request from this office for additional staffing. Every time he is there, there are lines and everyone in there is busy. It's a busy office and they bring in almost all of the money, in one way or another. As much as he hates to, this is something they need to do.

Selectman MacLean wondered if these kinds of transactions will be addressed by the new IT people coming on board, with an updated web site, and be a little more state of the art. Maybe some of these things can be addressed by people not having to come into Town Hall. She thought that was one of the goals of their new IT director. S. Carpentier said they will still have customers coming in. It's the customers who think something is wrong are the ones they are dealing with; 90% are paying through the mail. That's where you need face to face customer service support. Selectman MacLean asked if there would be room for another person in that office. Ms. Nichols said there is a desk available where Kathy sat. Anybody coming in will learn the front desk, and then someone will answer all the phone questions, because they can't keep up with them. They had to stop their service because people were calling in to leave a message, and they couldn't keep up with them. Now, the phones just ring and they get to them when they can. Anybody who buys a new vehicle will not be able to go through the Internet; they will have to come in to the office. Regardless of whether or not something can be mailed in, people want that personal service.

Chairman Maddox said he wasn't seeing any options and thought there might be some technology they could be looking at, such as voice mail, so people don't have to be on the phone constantly, or new people don't have to be hired. Some of the easier stuff can go to the web site. He'd like to see other options, before just hiring another person. He asked if she has looked at other towns with similar sized operations, what they are doing, how many people they have, some of their solutions, etc. Ms. Nichols said to be honest, no she has not; she hasn't had the time to do that. There is so much work to do behind the scenes, whether there is a customer out front, or not. An automated phone system may help a little bit, but there still will be people who want individual service. The lines are continuous; they are always there. There is no break. If they think they have five minutes, all of a sudden 20 people show up. It is getting bad.

Selectman Nadeau asked about getting a part-time person to handle the filing, answering the phones, and all of the other things, with the exception of motor vehicles. Ms. Nichols said she thought about that but believes they really need someone who can handle motor vehicles. The Town is growing and they are bombarded with registrations, on top of taxes. She wouldn't ask if she didn't think the need was there. Selectman Nadeau said a part-time person wouldn't be a long-term fix, but just to get by until they see if the new IT person can help, or the new phone system will help. Ms. Nichols said she was asking for a full-time person because they need it; they are busy. She has two or three people, within a year or so, will be gone—including herself—and they need someone who will understand the job. They can't do that with a part-time person because that person will have to take courses and go to Concord. Discussion continued. Selectman Jasper didn't see how a phone system would help when they are

talking about an office which is just one room. Discussion continued. He said Cecile is an elected official, and as such, this is something they should respect. She has continuously had the confidence of the voters, more often than most of the other elected officials in that period of time. They should show an elected official the courtesy of making the case to the Budget Committee.

(Start Tape 3-A)

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

**Warrant Article F, Salary Increase for Town Clerk/Tax Collector**

Mr. Malizia said he put in a 3% increase for this elected position, which is not covered by contract or any other document. Traditionally, he has prepared a warrant article for her increase. Selectman Massey asked if 3% was what the Town Clerk wanted. Ms. Nichols said yes; she didn't want anything more than anyone else. Mr. Malizia said that number was consistent with the other non-union personnel. Selectman Massey said because this was an elected official, she should be shown the courtesy of putting something different from the department heads on the ballot, if that's what she wants.

Motion by Selectman MacLean, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to forward Warrant Article F to the ballot, carried 5-0.

**Information Technology 5330**

Ms. Carpentier said she and Lisa Nute worked on the IT budget together, trying to come up with the future goals. At the workshop a couple months ago, there were some items they wanted to put forward, which are incorporated in this budget--update the Town web site; convert the operating system to XP; replace and upgrade the phone system, which includes Fire, Highway and the Town; and exchange mail. There is a significant increase in the salary line items. Until the positions are filled, they don't know the benefit package. Ms. Nute said the temporary IT employee and the consulting firm also provided input in this budget, who have seen the issues on a day to day basis. This includes what they hope to do in the future, i.e., consolidate between the Police Department, Town Hall, DPW, etc., and the budget addresses the infrastructure and the foundation that all the equipment and applications are sitting on. They found some deficiencies, left by the previous IT manager—things that could be and have been done better. This addresses everything to make that a solid foundation in the infrastructure.

Chairman Maddox asked for Selectman Massey's input, who said he believed this was the appropriate budget for this year. For FY09, all of the IT costs in the Town would be identified in a single place, but not in a single budget because they still need to charge each cost center for their contributions, but they need to see the total cost of IT for the Town, and that would be one of the charges he would be expecting from the IT Director. When the budgets for next year are prepared, there should be a summary of all IT components throughout the entire budget that they could look at.

Selectman Jasper referred to the salary item for the two people to run the computers--\$183,517 is incredible. There has got to be a better way. Selectman Massey asked what that would be. Selectman Jasper didn't know, but that is an awful lot to run the computers. Selectman Massey said they do more than run the computers. Selectman Jasper said that's essentially what this is doing—keeping the computers up and running and whatever programming is necessary. Selectman Massey asked what another option would be. Selectman Jasper said contracting. Selectman Massey said they are currently paying \$6,000 a month for a contractor, and they are basically keeping the status quo, and that's just for one individual. Selectman Jasper said that's only \$72,000 a year. Selectman Massey said that's only for two days a week. Selectman Jasper asked what they were building here. The system is staying up and running at \$6,000 a month. They are looking at almost \$15,000 a month for two people to run the computers when they are maintaining the status quo at \$6,000 a month. The roof isn't falling in on the computer system. Selectman Massey said \$6,000 is supplemented by the consulting firm at \$1,100 a week. They are paying about \$10,000 a month for "status quo." They've moved a lot of stuff off the VAX and on to MuniSmart, and a lot of other things—and status quo shouldn't be acceptable. IT ties into every revenue brought into this building. They've touched on a plan for the future and they are moving in that direction. They have one person in here 35 hours a week, at about \$1,100 a week and one contractor in here two days a week at \$6,000 a month. Discussion continued. Selectman MacLean approved of it, agreeing that status quo is not acceptable. She hopes, finally, they will be technologically sound.

Ms. Carpentier said they were charged with coming in at 3% and that's what they tried to do. The operating expenses are 3.1%. They took the pool of money and tried to address the issues. Relative to the salary, there are unknowns at this point. Maybe they can get three or four people for that amount. It's up to the Board and the director needs to bring it forward in the future. This is a budget, something to move them into the future, not a salary they're offering someone.

**Engineering 5585**

Tom Sommers, Town Engineer, said 103 Temporary Salaries, was for two interns for about three months, which has been put into the proper categories, and some FICA. Engineering Fees went down because they moved the money around because that's where the money for the interns came from last year. He then brought a situation to the Board's attention, the deterioration of a culvert headwall over Second Brook on the downstream side of Pelham Road. Because it involved money, the Board might decide more investigation was warranted. (Reference memo of October 23, 2006 from Tom Sommers, P.E., Town Engineer, to Steve Malizia, Town Administrator, Pelham Road over Second Brook, Culvert Headwall Deterioration.) After a lengthy discussion, Chairman Maddox stated this was an issue for another meeting, following Mr. Malizia's assessment that after the winter, they can look at available funds, and perhaps do this effort with existing money instead of putting it off another year.

(Start Tape 3-B)

**Solid Waste 5555**

Mr. Sommers said the \$199,500 is the final closure of the Burns Hill landfill. He had a proposal from GZA, which outlines the cost for this, which he handed out to the Board. He hasn't talked to the Road Agent yet about the possibility of the Highway Department doing about \$20,000 of the work—rough grading on the top of the landfill. They have on-going monitoring for the



West Road landfill, which has to be done yearly, and needs to be reported to DES at the State. On Burns Hill Road, they have ground water monitoring inspections and reporting. The estimated cost for the contractor's cost is \$78,000 for supplies and installation of topsoil, which has to be put on the top and in places on the sides to finish it off. \$20,000 in rough grading is also included. Because the Town has been cooperative with DES, they have not required that this be closed out to the same extent they would normally require, which represents a savings of about 70% for the Town. Over the past two, three years, he has been predicting this was coming. Discussion continued. Selectman Jasper felt that most of the work could be done by the Highway Department. Mr. Sommers was concerned about them going on the side slopes, if there are leachate issues. They pay a premium when there are liability controls in the contract. Selectman Jasper said they could look at how it's being done very carefully. Mr. Sommers said they could divide this over two years, cutting the request about in half, and see how it is going. Mr. Malizia asked if some agency would require some progress report. Mr. Sommers said they have indicated they are reasonably satisfied with the progress the Town is making, since a pilot planting program has been started out there. Discussion continued.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to decrease 5555-264, Solid Waste Management, by \$89,500 from \$199,500 to \$110,000 carried 5-0.

#### **Sewer Utility 5561**

Howard Dilworth, Vice Chairman of the Sewer Utility, joined Tom Sommers at the table. Sewer Utility Chairman Bill Abbott was not able to attend because he teaches a class on Monday evenings. Mr. Dilworth said until it doesn't work, the sewer is one of those services that goes unnoticed. There are more than 5,000 sewer users in Town, with the majority being residential customers. The system also handles commercial and industrial users and some of them require special services, such as the industrial discharge program, known as IDA. Hudson does not have its own sewer treatment plant, but owns 12.58% of the Nashua Wastewater Treatment Plant. Hudson is responsible for 12.58% of any capital costs associated with the plant, which he will discuss in 5564. The Sewer Utility is a stand-alone entity that is part of the Town budget, known as a special revenue fund, in that the revenues raised from the sewer users equals the amount of money appropriated to run the system. No property tax dollars are used to fund the system.

#### **Sewer Operations & Maintenance 5562**

Mr. Sommers said in 403, \$50,000 of that was for two new replacement generators for two pumping stations, noting there is a pump station reserve, and that's where the committee wanted that to come from.

#### **Sewer Capital Projects 5564**

Mr. Sommers distributed a handout, which were the recommendations from the committee. Mr. Dilworth said they've been trying to build up the reserves for the Wastewater Treatment Plant reserve fund because, at some point, Nashua is going to expand that plant, and when they do, Hudson will be responsible for 12.58% of the capital cost. They put in \$100,000 and then \$200,000 and are up to \$300,000 and hoping to put a little more in, and then they got handed a surprise from Nashua. They have been doing some work over there on their treatment plant that they didn't tell Hudson about and, as a result, they found out about it when they got a bill for several hundred thousand dollars. What they were initially proposing was to increase the Wastewater Treatment Plant fund to \$400,000 this year, but as result of the information they got with the ongoing work in Nashua, they requested that 450 Reserves, which is listed as \$450,000, be changed back to \$300,000 and that 624 Nashua Sewer Treatment Plant, listed as \$150,000 be changed to \$300,000. The \$150,000 which is currently in there, would continue to be offset from the Sewer Capital Assessment Reserve Fund and the other \$150,000 would be offset from fund balance.

Mr. Sommers referred to his handout and said Hudson was not substantially aware of three projects. They were aware some rehab was being done, but not at the amount they are seeing. When they got the information, he had to scramble to recalculate a budget. They also have a deficit in this year's 2007 budget that will likely need to come from reserves, in order to pay it. They aren't ready to recommend payment of that yet; they want the backup first, which they are still waiting for—but he thinks they will have to pay it, but they won't be in a hurry, given the fact they weren't alerted to it in a reasonable, timely manner. The primary clarifier rehab was a major project at \$4.4 million. Hudson was billed approximately \$314,000. The total cost, 12.58%, is \$442,816, after a 20% State grant. The remainder will be due this fiscal year, and a little bit next fiscal year. The north generator replacement, which they haven't started doing yet, will be \$201,280. The watering upgrades, which is further out in 2009, is the same amount. The third number is fuzzy, but that's not a budget figure yet. Discussion continued, with Mr. Sommers speaking from his handout. In 2007, it looks like they will have a deficit for 5564-264, Nashua Wastewater Treatment Plant, of \$261,000 and they will have to figure out, as they go on through the year, how they are going to pay for that. Possibly, it could be pay for by other lines that they under expend, or from reserves. In 2008, he is looking at the last payment of the primary clarifier rehab, and half of the north generator replacement, as part of that, plus the Town's portion of the sludge digester and other capital expenses, coming out to \$300,000, which they recommend being paid from surplus. Mr. Dilworth said they are thankful they got the bill now and not after Town Meeting.

Chairman Maddox said this might be a subject for discussion at a Board meeting. As the Sewer Commissioners, the Selectmen should tell Nashua it would be nice to project out over the next few years what the Town can expect in costs. Selectman Massey said the Sewer Utility recommended that the Board of Selectmen schedule a regular, on-going meeting with Nashua's sewer commissioners, to avoid any future surprises.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to decrease 5564-450 Capital Reserves by \$150,000, from \$450,000 to \$300,000, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to increase 5564-624 Nashua Wastewater Treatment Plant by \$150,000, from \$150,000 to \$300,000, carried 5-0.

Discussion continued between Selectman Massey and Mr. Malizia relative to figures, what should be accounted for where, expenditures, revenues, etc. Mr. Dilworth said the committee has been taking money out of the fund balance and applying it to the wastewater treatment plant capital reserve fund—taking it from one coffee can, putting it into another. That's the \$300,000. They have been using \$150,000 from the Sewer Capital Assessment fund to pay for the sludge digester and a few other things. They hoped to go to \$400,000 for the Nashua Wastewater Treatment Plant, but that won't be possible because that would create such a large increase in the budget, they didn't think that was a palatable thing to do.

(Start Tape 4-A)

Mr. Malizia said because the expenses and revenues still tie out, they haven't added any money to the expense side of the equation, they are taking \$50,000 from the Capital Reserve Account for the pump station repairs; the next line down, the \$150,000 is for the sludge digester payment, etc., unchanged. So the \$400,000 from the fund balance, some of that would be going back into the reserve fund, and the balance of that money would go towards the payment of these unplanned expenses. Because they haven't changed anything, that's the intent when they put this revenue budget together. They didn't add any expenditures, but they have the same number on both sides of the equation. This accomplishes that. Selectman Massey agreed, saying he was off on his numbers.

**Warrant Article X added, Nashua Wastewater Capital Reserve Fund**

Mr. Dilworth said this came up awhile back—the committee requests the Selectmen again place on the warrant an article relative to adding the purchase of extra capacity to the existing purpose of the Nashua Wastewater Capital Reserve Fund. This article failed only by eight votes this year. The Nashua plant is also going to be treating their storm water runoff, in order to comply with the clean water mandates. The committee was hoping the purpose of the capital reserve fund could be expanded to include the possible purchase of additional capacity, as well as paying for an expansion of the plant.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to forward Article X to the warrant, to add to the purposes of the Nashua Wastewater Treatment Capital Reserve Fund to include purchasing additional capacity. Selectman Massey said the Selectmen are the agents to expend, so they have to be clear that when the article is written, it preserves the ability to pay for the current assessments to that and allows them to also buy additional capacity and retains the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. Selectman Jasper said he'd rather see the verbiage before voting on it. Mr. Malizia said it's the same as last year, but Selectman Jasper didn't know if it met the same criteria voiced by Selectman Massey. Mr. Malizia asked if he was correct in that the intent was to do exactly what they did last year. Selectman Jasper said Selectman Massey threw out a whole bunch of stuff that he didn't know what it meant. Chairman Maddox said they need to have that meeting with Nashua to find out their intent and make sure there are no more big surprises coming downstream, etc. He didn't think they needed to do this tonight. Mr. Dilworth said they weren't asking that; it was just brought up for the Board's consideration. Selectman Massey said they have to be clear when they talk to the attorney because his understanding is they wouldn't be able to pay for the existing capacity, the way it is worded. Chairman Maddox asked if the Sewer Utility was going to forward this article to the Selectmen for an upcoming meeting. Mr. Dilworth said they could do that. Mr. Malizia asked for clarification of existing capacity. Selectman Massey wanted to be absolutely certain this time. Mr. Malizia said the attorney vetted this last year. Selectman Massey withdrew his motion; Selectman MacLean withdrew her second.

Chairman Maddox said this would be something for another meeting, with input from the Sewer Utility Committee. Selectman Massey said the committee's recommendation is to put it back on the warrant, so they need to make sure the language is drafted to preserve the existing conditions of the capital reserve fund, adding one additional condition. Chairman Maddox said the horse was starting to die, so it was time to move on because they still had a lot of things to cover. Chairman Maddox said this would be addressed in the next several meetings.

**Water Utility 5591**

Mr. Sommers said the Finance Director could probably speak to this as well as he could. Mr. Malizia interjected that he could, too, since he did most of it. Chairman Maddox said the bottom line was a 2% change. Selectman Jasper was confused by the backup. (Talking over each other.) He questioned the legal fees. Mr. Malizia said there were costs associated with the Pennichuck situation in Nashua, since Hudson does have a stake in that. Selectman Massey said they are also paying for the south end water tank fees. It was noted by the Finance Director that some of the backup verbiage would be corrected relative to line 218.

Selectman Jasper said the hydrant rental numbers have gone up over the years, but the payment in lieu of taxes never has. Mr. Malizia in the last two, three years, the hydrant rental has stayed the same, as has the payment in lieu of taxes. When they did some of the transition, and got some of the numbers from the consultant to do the whole water deal, they weren't totally accurate. They haven't changed the hydrants but they haven't changed any of the fees, either—the rates are the same, and they are pumping more water. The fees will be kept the same until the Board votes otherwise. Chairman Maddox said that's something they should be looking at in June, to see where they want to put this, at some point.

**Water Operations & Maintenance 5592**

105 Salaries Overtime is a new line, which is for the Highway Department, when they are out at night with Pennichuck, fixing things. Mr. Malizia said that is a more accurate accounting, along with 340. This takes into account all the negotiations and/or contracts they've done with Pennichuck, along with an escalation factor, based on the CPI, which is negotiated. They are accounting for all of their recent contract changes. Mr. Sommers said, for the record, although he didn't expect in this fiscal year

to do it, he expects in the next fiscal year after this, to have to deal with the tank painting at Gordon Street, which will be a significant capital expense, in his opinion. They will know more about that in the June timeframe.

**Water Supply 5593** – No change.

**Water Debt 5594** – No change. (Kudos to the foresight of the Town Administrator, which enabled the Town to refinance the original bonds, resulting in significant savings.)

**Water Capital Projects 5596**

Mr. Sommers said this is the completion of the Wason Road project, which will be done with the Highway Department. This is the cost for the materials to do three side streets.

**Conservation Commission 5586**

The Finance Director said this cost center was level funded; there was no backup. Committee Chairman Tim Quinn an item came up after the budget was in, relative to including interns--about 250 hours. They also had a request from the Ottarnic Pond-Robinson Pond people to continue with the lake host programs and the water testing. The herbicide treatment this year for Ottarnic Pond is nasty at \$25,000 because they have to deal with fanwort. Last year, they treated milfoil, and it worked. The pond is in worse shape today than it was two years ago. The proposal is to take that money out of the conservation fund and not from the taxpayers, but they need the Selectmen’s authorization to do that. Mr. Malizia said they’d have to put in a corresponding revenue to accomplish that transfer. Chairman Maddox said the Finance Director was the only one who had the adjustments, so they were at a disadvantage.

Chairman Maddox declared a recess at 10:30 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:40 p.m., at which time Mr. Quinn explained the adjustments. Discussion continued--how to account for grants, etc. The Chairman thought they should wait until tomorrow night to firm up this budget instead of trying to wordsmith it tonight. Back and forth discussion continued on the numbers.

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Massey, to add to the bottom line of the Conservation Commission, \$53,855 to be distributed as appropriate by the Finance Director, with a matching revenue from the Conservation Fund to be added to the Town revenues, carried 4-1.* Selectman Maddox voted in opposition, not because he opposed the program, but he didn’t like trying to do math in the middle of the night.

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to add to the same budget, Line 102 Part-time Help, \$7,150 (one intern, 13 weeks at 40 hours a week, at \$13.75 per hour) and Line 108, FICA at \$547 for a summer intern, carried 4-1.* Selectman Massey voted in opposition.

(Start Tape 4-B)

*Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to take that amount from the Conservation Fund to fund the summer intern carried 5-0.*

**Finance 5300**

The Finance Director said there were two items extra items as backup, not included in the budget, in order to keep it under the 3%, items that she raised during the workshop meeting. She needs an extra \$3,500 to do the fixed inventory review and \$4,900 for a summer intern--\$12.50 an hour, 30 hours a week for 12 weeks.

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to add those items to the appropriate lines in the budget--5310-252 from \$1,000 to \$4,500 an increase of \$3,500 and \$400 to 102 for a new total of \$4,900, carried 5-0.*

**Accounting 5320** – No change.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion to adjourn at 11:00 p.m. by Selectman MacLean, seconded by Selectman Massey, carried 5-0.*

The remainder of the budget review will be taken up at the Board’s regular meeting on October 24, 2006, under Other Business.

Recorded and transcribed by Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant

**HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard J. Maddox, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen R. MacLean, Selectman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shawn N. Jasper, Vice-Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth J. Massey, Selectman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Benjamin J. Nadeau, Selectman