

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the September 11, 2006 Meeting

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Richard J. Maddox at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Fire Chief Shawn Murray.

3. **ATTENDANCE**

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

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Kevin Burns, Road Agent; Jim Michaud, Assessor; Shawn Murray, Fire Chief; Tom Sommers, Town Engineer; Howard Dilworth, Jr; Eric Estavez, Pelham; Doug Robinson, HLN

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Presentation of 20-year Certificate of Longevity and \$50 gift certificate to Tim Lamper of the Highway Department. Tim and his wife, Christine, live in Manchester. Tim started working for the Highway Department September 22, 1986 as a truck driver. He is currently the Town's traffic technician. Road Agent Kevin Burns accepted the certificate on behalf of Tim, who was not present.

Chairman Maddox asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board on any issue. There was no response.

5. **NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

There were handouts from two applicants—Dennis White, 11 Mountain View Drive, who applied for a membership position to the Building Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Cable Committee, NRPC and ZBA. Bill Cole, 12 Fairway Drive, applied as an alternate to the Planning Board.

A. **Planning Board** (1 Alternate, term to expire 12/31/07)

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to waive the Board's normal waiting period and nominate Mr. William Cole to the alternate position on the Planning Board.

Selectman Jasper said he really thinks they ought to interview the candidate before doing that. While they all know him, he certainly has a well-known special interest in the area of planning and Selectman Jasper is not so sure it would behoove this Board to make an appointment without really exploring that and making sure that this isn't a case of someone wanting to be on a board because of one particular issue that he feels strongly about. That's bad policy. He's not saying that's necessarily the case, but the candidate is not present and the Board has not spoken to him.

Selectman Nadeau said the other person who has applied for the position has also expressed an interest in a couple of the other boards, but Planning Board, also, as the alternate.

Chairman Maddox read a note that Priscilla had put on his desk prior to the meeting that Mr. White said he attended a ZBA meeting about five years ago in conjunction with his job. He travels a lot, but he can make arrangements if he knows ahead of time. Tonight, he is in Cleveland.

Selectman MacLean said she could appreciate what Selectmen Jasper said, but she has total confidence in Mr. Cole that he is fair and would do a fine job. He, obviously, has an interest in more than one thing in the Town, being a Selectman for years—and he has the best interest of the Town at heart, so she would be prepared to vote for him.

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

Chairman Maddox asked if Selectman Massey had another motion. Selectmen Massey said he didn't know the other individual and hoped someone else did. No one did, so Chairman Maddox said he'd be invited to the Board's next meeting. Selectman MacLean said chances are he will be voted in, anyway. Chairman Maddox pointed out that Mr. White indicated he wanted to serve on a number of different boards.

B. **Sewer Utility Committee** (1 Alternate, term to expire 12/31/08)

C. **Zoning Board of Adjustment** (1 Alternate, term to expire 12/31/07)

6. **CONSENT ITEMS**

Selectman Jasper removed Item B.

Motion by Selectman MacLean, seconded by Selectman Massey, to accept Consent Items A, C, D & E, as noted, carried 5-0.

A. **Assessing Items**

1) Current Use Lien Releases, Sparkling River Condos, Map 156/Lots 5-1, 5-4, 5-5 & 5-17, w/recommendation to approve.

- 2) Yield Tax (Timber) Abatements, Map 112/Lot 1, 133R Robinson Road; Lot 3, 46R Kienia Road, w/recommendation to approve
- 3) 2005 Abatement Application, 8 Hampshire Drive, Map 221, w/recommendation to approve
- 4) Current Use Lien Releases, Map 144/Lots 24, 24-2, 24-4 thru 24-9, Lawrence Road & Hudson Hills Drive, w/recommendation to approve.

B. Water/Sewer Items

Sewer Utility Committee recommended that the existing sewer rate be maintained for FY07 because the rate is stable.

Selectman Jasper said the only reason he pulled this off was because he thinks it is important to note, for the public, that the sewer rate will not be changing, but will be staying at the same rate because it's being well managed. In fact, the last time there was a change in the rate, it went down. Selectman Massey said that was two years ago. Mr. Malizia said it went down the year before that, too. Selectman Jasper said people need to know that some rates do go down, or at least, remain stable, and this was one of them. Selectman Massey said one of the other indicators of why the utility committee wants to keep the rate the same this year is there is an interest in building up the Nashua Waste Water Treatment account because of the anticipated contribution in the next several years to that facility by the Town. When you look at all of the income, it's slightly more than the expenses. The committee felt it was prudent to maintain the rate this year.

Motion to approve consent item B by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman MacLean, carried 5-0.

C. Licenses & Permits

Raffle Permit for Hannah Dustin Quilters' Guild, May 2007, to benefit David's House & NE Quilt Museum

D. Acceptance of Minutes

Board of Selectmen's Minutes of August 22, 2006

E. Calendar

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|---|--|
| Sep 12 Primary—Community Center-7am–8 pm | Oct 10 5:00 School Bd in CD Meeting Room |
| Sep 13 7:00 Planning Bd-BOS Mtg Rm | Oct 11 5:00 School Bd in BOS Meeting Room |
| Sep 14 5:30 Sewer Utility-BOS Meeting Rm | Oct 11 7:00 Planning Board in CD Mtg Rm |
| Sep 14 6:30 Recreation Committee @ Rec Ctr | Oct 12 6:30 Rec Committee @ Rec Center |
| Sep 14 7:30 ZBA in CD Meeting Room | Oct 12 5:30 Sewer Utility in BOS Mtg Rm |
| Sep 18 7:00 Conservation Cmsn-BOS Mtg Rm | Oct 12 7:30 ZBA in CD Meeting Room |
| Sep 19 7:00 Cable Committee-BOS Mtg Rm | Oct 14 5:30 HFD's Medals & Awards Night, VFW |
| Sep 20 5:00 Water Utility-BOS Meeting Rm | Oct 16 5:00 School Board in BOS Mtg Rm |
| Sep 20 7:00 Library Trustees-BOS Meeting Rm | Oct 17 7:00 BOS in BOS Meeting Room |
| Sep 21 7:00 Democratic Cmt--CD Meeting Rm | Oct 17 7:00 Cable Committee in SCR |
| Sep 21 7:30 Budget Cmt--BOS Meeting Room | Oct 17 5:00 School Bd in CD Meeting Room |
| Sep 25 6:30 School Board in BOS Mtg Rm | Oct 18 7:00 BOS in BOS Meeting Room |
| Sep 26 7:00 BOS in BOS Meeting Room | Oct 18 5:00 Water Utility in CD Mtg Rm |
| Sep 27 7:00 Planning Board in CD Meeting Rm | Oct 18 7:00 Library in CD Meeting Room |
| Sep 27 7:00 Seniors in BOS Meeting Room | Oct 19 7:30 Budget Committee-BOS Mtg Rm |
| Sep 28 1:00 Trustees Trst Funds--BOS Mtg Rm | Oct 19 7:00 Democratic Comm-SCR |
| Sep 28 7:00 Open Space--BOS Meeting Rm | Oct 19 5:00 School Bd in CD Meeting Rm |
| Sep 28 7:30 ZBA in CD Meeting Room | Oct 23 7:00 BOS in BOS Meeting Room |
| | Oct 23 7:00 Conservation Cmsn-CD Mtg Rm |
| Oct 02 6:30 School Board--BOS Meeting Rm | Oct 24 7:00 BOS in BOS Meeting Room |
| Oct 03 7:00 BOS-BOS Meeting Rm | Oct 24 5:00 School Bd in CD Meeting Room |
| Oct 04 9:00 Highway Safety--CD Meeting Rm | Oct 25 7:00 Planning Board in CD Mtg Rm |
| Oct 04 7:00 Planning Board in CD Meeting Rm | Oct 26 7:00 Open Space in BOS Mtg Rm |
| Oct 09 Columbus Day -Town Hall closed | Oct 26 7:30 ZBA in CD Meeting Rm |
| Oct 10 7:00 BOS in BOS Meeting Room | Oct 31 6:00 – 8:00 Trick or Treat in Hudson |

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Vote taken after Nonpublic Session on August 22, 2006

Chairman Maddox read the following: "Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to hire Jared Weisenborn as a full-time Communications Technician in the Hudson Police Department, effective Aug 27, 2006, at \$15.36 per hour, in accordance with the Police Union Local 3657 Contract, carried 5-0."

B. Tank Industry Consultants—Agreement for Professional Services (Gordon St Water Tank)

Town Engineer Tom Sommers said TIC are specialists in doing the preparation work for the rehab of the steel tank that is at Gordon Street. The Board already approved him going forward to them prior to this—about eight months ago. Now that they have the money, they need to move forward. There are three parts. The tank evaluation is fairly detailed. They will empty the

tank and go over it with a fine tooth comb, inside and out. He also added in a life cycle cost analysis. Given the fact they are putting up a new tank in south Hudson, and the fact their other consultants are looking at the overall storage capacity, he wants to make sure they are getting good value for the rehab that they are going to have to do with this tank, eventually. If the life cycle analysis says to go forward, he will come back to the Board to talk about it. If it doesn't, there are the preparation specifications for actually going out to bid to bring in a contractor to actually do the painting, at which time, he would expect to use these folks to oversee that, on behalf of the Town, since this is such a specialty, well beyond his knowledge of painting. That is why he has made the recommendation he has made. They won't go into the third item until after he comes back to the Board, relative to the life cycle, but he would like to be under contract with them, so they can move forward, without having to worry about moving forward, at that time.

Chairman Maddox asked why they wouldn't just do the first two and then, depending on what they say, he can come back for bid consideration. Mr. Sommers said he'd like to get this all done this fiscal year, and if he comes back too many times to ask for more things, that will add to the delay. If the life cycle costs say don't do it, he will be back before the Board because he's not thrilled about having to paint this tank. The actual painting of the tank will probably be a very expensive item—well over \$100,000. Some experts are saying up to quadruple that number.

Selectman Jasper asked how old the tank was. Mr. Sommers said it was put up in the mid-80's. The problem with steel tanks is they start to corrode over time and this won't be the end of rehabbing this tank. Selectman Jasper said Hillsborough County has one that was put up in the 40's. Mr. Sommers said the problem is starting to show up a lot more now with rehabbing them because the price has gone up so much. Pennichuck Water Works just rehabbed theirs over in Amherst, which he thinks was around \$800,000 but it was much higher in the air than this one is, and all that counts. Chairman Maddox said the first year he was on the Board, someone gave them a report that said they needed to put additional X, Y & Z in and wondered if that was a precursor to this, or if that was just another evaluation for the water tanks. The thing that stuck in his mind was they said a second egress was needed, in case of fire, and he couldn't figure out how you could have a fire in a water tank. That's the only reason he remembered that report. Mr. Sommers said there was an overview look at this as part of the vulnerability study they had to do a couple years ago, but he didn't remember any talk of fire access. Emergency access, but not fire access. The big issue is if they have lead paint, but he suspects they don't. Chairman Maddox asked if there are other costs that were being carried in another line for draining it down, mucking it out, etc. Mr. Sommers said, hopefully, they could obtain ladders from the Fire Department and they will work with Pennichuck Water Works, who will know how to drain the tank down. The Town has a standard contract with them, and this easily fits within it. It's not going to cost massive dollars doing that.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to enter into a contract with Tank Industry Consultants (TIC) for the detailed evaluation of the Gordon Street Water tank, a life-cycle cost analysis of the water tank, and the preparation of detailed technical bid specifications for the water tank painting project, in the not to exceed amount of \$18,525, carried 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed revised Warrant Article for Veterans' Tax Credit

Assessor Jim Michaud said the last time the Veterans' Tax Credit was adjusted was at the 2005 Town Meeting. The State Legislature has allowed a range of tax credit from \$50 to \$500. The Town has been at \$300 for 2005 and 2006. Last summer when he looked at the area communities, the average was \$300. This year, he looked at the same communities and the average is closer to \$400. He had given the Board a memo, showing what the tax rate impact was of going from \$300 to \$400 and from \$300 to \$500. In the past, they've made \$100 increments, going from \$100 to \$200 and then from \$200 to \$300. It is the option of the Board if they want to make a \$200 jump and go to \$500. At the deliberative session, the voters can change the amount the Board sets, if they want to. Tonight, the information was simply informational. The Board has a letter from the VFW Commander, asking that it be raised to \$500. It is a value-based decision.

Chairman Maddox said so the people at home know what they are talking about, the present 2006 rate is a \$300 deduction, which has a tax impact of 14¢ or, on an average home, an impact of \$38.64. By going to the \$400, the impact will be 19¢ and the average homeowner would pay \$52.44. If they went to \$500, the tax impact would be 23¢ and the average homeowner's bill would be \$63.48. Presently, Londonderry is at \$400; Nashua is at \$400; Pelham is at \$500; Litchfield is at \$300; and Windham is at \$250.

Selectman MacLean asked if this amount could be amended at the deliberative session. Mr. Malizia said yes. Selectman Jasper said he'd like to see the impact be under 20¢. It's getting a little rich. They are essentially giving \$1/2 million of actual cash credits to 1,000 residents. That's not to say they aren't deserving, but at \$60, it's asking the average person quite a bit. If the Board puts in \$400, the voters can amend it down, up or keep it at that amount. This is a middle ground and a reasonable place to be. He had forgotten that they raised the level so recently.

Selectman Massey said for the people listening, they should clarify that a veteran, under this provision, is someone who served under certain time periods that are denoted in the RSA's. Just because someone was in the service does not qualify them for this credit. Generally, the periods are the First WW, Second WW, Korean War, Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, etc. If someone served during those times, not necessary in the theater of operations, they qualify. If they didn't serve during those periods, even if they were in those areas at a different time, they don't qualify.

Selectman MacLean said it was a shame that everybody who served didn't get some kind of a credit. Many people have signed up for the same duty and same risk and same chance that they would be called to give their life by serving their country and just because there wasn't a conflict, they didn't go. On balance, they are probably happy about that, but she felt it was too bad that not all Veterans aren't qualified for some kind of tax credit. Chairman Maddox thought, for a minute, she was running for Congress. Selectman Massey said this might be an opportunity to ask the State Delegation to look into leveling the playing field on this and, as it has been pointed out by other people, you don't have to be in harm's way to be in this category. You simply had to have been in the military during the time period involved.

Selectman Jasper said that was a debate this year, and that issue does come up. They have to think about the balance. If they made every Veteran eligible, the economics of it would be such that they would probably be looking at a \$100 credit to have the same impact on the tax rate because there are so many people who have served. The balance has been struck and that is to do something for those who served in those periods. He can understand the argument, but then they would get into a lot of paperwork for the Assessor to figure out who really was in harm's way. Nothing is as simple as it seems.

Chairman Maddox said Mr. Michaud's memo said there were 1,046 qualified Veterans in Hudson, which is a good number of people that are eligible under whatever statutes are being used. Selectman Jasper said they have 9,000 residential properties and there are a number of households where there are double benefits, so there are some people actually seeing \$600 off their bill, but it's probably not an awful lot. If they started doing that for everybody, and they are talking a third of the Town, it will be a big impact for a lot of people.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, that a Veterans' Tax Credit Warrant Article be placed on the ballot for 2007, revising the tax credit amount of \$300 to \$400, carried 5-0.

(Start Tape 1-B)

B. Acceptance of a \$3,500 donation by the Nash Group to the Police Dept for the COPS Card Program

Motion by Selectman MacLean, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to accept this donation with the Board's thanks and appreciation, carried 5-0.

C. Water Utility Policies & Procedures—Water Main Extensions Acceptance and Ownership

Selectman Massey said the Water Utility Committee reviewed this at two meetings in a row, primarily as a result of the Southern NH Medical Center project on Route 102 because, at that time, Mr. Sommers realized that there was no official policy. So, he drafted one and the Town Attorney has reviewed it and it passed muster. The Water Utility recommended that it be adopted as a standard provision for any future entity that opts to pay to extend the water line on their dime. It ensures the Town would own and operate the resulting water main extension and would be responsible for approving the design and construction of the extension.

Chairman Maddox referred to the third bullet down, "Final inspections of hydrants, gate valves, curb stops and other mechanical devices by PWW," and said "PWW" should be changed to "operations contractor," because PWW might change over the years. Selectman Jasper said it won't for the next 15 years, or so. Chairman Maddox said they don't write these very often. Selectman Massey said it also may turn out that they might change their name, so he will make that notation. Chairman Maddox said the second chance was under #4, "Notice of Water Main Acceptance, Exhibit A," that the word "Form" should be included after "Acceptance," so they would know that's what they were talking about. It wasn't until he found Exhibit A that he knew what they were talking about.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to approve, as recommended by the Water Utility Committee, and as amended by the Board of Selectmen., carried 5-0.

Selectman Massey said the committee is working very hard on the rules and regulations and the policies for the Water Utility and the Board, in the near future—three or four months—see a set of policies and procedures for the entire Water Utility that the Town can adopt. Chairman Maddox said that will be a great start for a lot of the other operations. Hopefully, they are being put into a format they can put on the web site. Selectman Massey said they are in Word format, so they will be able to put on the web. They can probably convert them to Adobe Acrobat.

D. Solid Waste Contract

Road Agent Kevin Burns said he was present to talk about the future of the Town's solid waste program—trash. He wishes he could pull another rabbit out of his hat and say they aren't going to have another increase for another three years, but he's pretty much out of rabbits. Right now, they pay \$1.65 million for the solid waste program, which includes recycling, eight days at the landfill and leaf pickup. In talking to the two major contractors, if they continue with the level of service they are providing now, they are looking at about \$2 million a year. That is a lot, but the Town hasn't had an increase in six years. If the Town had incremental increases, if they had gone out to bid yearly, they would have been looking at less than 4% per year. Fortunately, they have gone six years without an increase. The Town provides a very high level of service to the residents. They basically take whatever is brought to the curb. Cleanups are very popular. Recycling is expensive and not everyone does it. About 12% of the trash is recycled at a cost of 18% of the budget. He asked for direction from the Board because he needs to come up with a figure for budget season and then prepare bids, etc. He tried to find alternatives and listed a few for the Board. The way it is currently being done has been done for a long time, and change is difficult for the residents. This service is something the residents are

used to seeing and if it is changed drastically, it will probably not be well received—but this is something the Board will have to decide.

Chairman Maddox said \$1.65 million wasn't something people could relate to and asked if Kevin could break it down. Mr. Burns said they have 9,000 customers and it breaks down to \$182 a year, per household, or about \$15 a month. Chairman Maddox said a commercial service would cost homeowners about \$35 a month; Mr. Burns said in some towns, up to \$60 a month. Chairman Maddox said the Town gets a great deal because the contractor picks up at every household on every Town-approved street. Selectman Jasper said the \$2 million needs to be put in a different perspective. The total Town budget is in the range of \$26 million. If they back out the sewer and water, they are down to \$18 million. In looking at the total budget, \$2 million out of \$18 million is a huge number, because that's what ends up on the tax rate, because the water and sewer doesn't. \$2 million is what makes up the tax rate for the Town. A huge number. A \$350,000 increase, or more, in one year, if they stay with the status quo, is a big impact on the tax rate.

Selectman MacLean asked if a drop-off recycling center somewhere else was being proposed, if that was eliminated from curbside pickup. She asked if that was something the Town would have to build, maintain and staff. Mr. Burns said no, it would be a sectionalized dumpster that would either be at the Highway facility or at some other place. There wouldn't be any cost, except for the rental of that container and the dumping fee. It would have to be supervised, or else everything will end up in it. If it was at the Highway Garage, it would be available during their operational hours and probably had additional Saturday hours, and they would have to hire someone to watch it.

Chairman Maddox asked Mr. Burns to explain the waste barrel that he brought with him, and how it fits into the mix. Mr. Burns said it was a 96-gallon tote. One of his suggestions, in order to get a handle on the tonnage, would be to supply every residence with a tote and whatever could be fit into that was what would be taken every week. It would eliminate the stops that seem to go out looking for trash to put on the side of the road. There are some amazing stops in Town. It puts a little bit of control on the volume and would mean the elimination of bulk pickup. Right now, Hudson is about the only town around that does it for free. Bulk items would become pay-as-you-throw, like appliances. The contractor would have to be called and arrangements made. That would also lead to people reusing stuff or giving it away. He just bought a new refrigerator and the company he bought it from took his old one away for a penny. This would eliminate the man on the back of the truck, so the savings for labor would be about \$100,000 a year. For bigger stops, people can buy an extra container for about \$50 and the Town could set the rate for an annual fee of about \$250—what it costs the Town per pickup. They would get an annual sticker that says they paid for it and the contractor knows to pick up the second tote. The Town would supply the basic service of 96 gallons, but anything over that, the residents could buy additional capacity. If they change to this system, there will be some complaints. People won't know where to store it, or how to store it. It will be too big for some people, but they do sell smaller ones. Some of the condos could have difficulty; some of the people who would have to bring them to the end of their private streets would have problems with them. It's not an easy solution, but it is an option and, with the high prices, he wanted to give the Board some alternatives. This, combined with eliminating curbside recycling, would be about \$1.7 million, which would be a fairly modest increase.

Chairman Maddox said because of the up-front cost, this would have to be a five-year contract. Mr. Burns said yes because the contractor would supply the containers and would have to buy the specialized equipment to handle them. Either contractor would want a five-year contract—and the Town has to prepare bids that people will bid on.

Selectman Jasper said in terms of recycling, he had a preliminary conversation with a representative of the Boy Scouts about the possibility of them manning a location on a Saturday. He asked if it was feasible for them to manage that, in return for the income generated from the recyclable items. He thought that would be an excellent way for this to be handled because the Town isn't making any money on recycling now, but they are paying an outrageous amount. It would give the Scouts the ability to generate some money for their good activities and eliminate the need for the Town to have to hire someone on the weekends. From the State level, people say there are communities that make money on recycling. Hudson is the 10th largest community in the State, so if there are programs out there, you'd think that someone would have come forward with it. From talking with the Road Agent, some of the stuff being recycled probably isn't even being recycled, that there isn't the market for most of it. What they should be recycling are things there are a market for, to begin with. All they are doing is making themselves feel good to the tune of \$200,000 a year, right now. This is something they should explore, rather rapidly. It's an issue that's going to continue to haunt the whole State. There are no new landfills in the process of being permitted, in the entire State. There are only a couple being permitted for expansion. It's going to be a big issue and they really got to get people thinking about doing other things. People will be looking more to selling things at a yard sale or contacting Good Will or Salvation Army for furniture and things like that. There's an awful lot of good things that are thrown out. He put a bureau out last week, a day early, and two guys came by, picked it up and put it in their pickup truck and were gone in 30 seconds. There is an awful lot of that going on. He sees a lot of people looking for that kind of stuff, so those people could, perhaps, advertise that they are picking up all this furniture. They have to do something and this doesn't seem like an unreasonable way to do it. It almost seems like some places are bringing things in from someplace else, because there is so much trash. There are some problems with this for some people, but a lot of people could use a smaller container and all they would have to do is do a survey through the HLN and have people fill out a little form, saying their street address is such and such, and they'd like a smaller tote.

Selectman MacLean said people could also utilize consignment shops, as well, and they are nice places to shop at. There is even one in Hudson, now, which is a good thing, adding that she has no affiliation with it. She asked if Mr. Burns considered the possibility of the Town buying its own trucks, which might be cheaper than hiring a commercial trash company, who operates by making a profit. Mr. Burns said the companies that pick up the trash also own the landfills.

Selectman Nadeau asked if Selectman Jasper's suggestion about using the Boy Scouts was feasible. Mr. Burns said absolutely, but there will still be costs involved. Renting the container will be \$100 a month or so, and dumping the recyclables will cost \$35-\$40 a ton, so there will still be a cost involved. So, if the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts or Little League Baseball wants to do it, have the parents an adult there to supervise and they get to take the aluminum cans, that would be perfectly acceptable to him. They don't need to pay a full-time Highway Department employee to sit there on Saturdays and control it—but it does need to be controlled. Selectman Nadeau asked if paper and all that stuff was paying now. Mr. Burns said not that he can find. For instance, they are smashing recycled glass and using it to cover the landfills, so it is still going in the landfills because there's no market for it right now; neither is there a market for plastic. There is a market for paper and for aluminum. He knows of someone who has been in the industry for years and his theory is if you look at all of the energy used to recycle, they are probably hurting the planet more than if they didn't recycle. There are trucks driving all around, picking it up and all of the energy used at recycling plants, turning the recyclables into something usable again. Are they helping or hurting the environment by recycling by creating another business opportunity? However, the Town needs to recycle because a lot of the trash goes to Massachusetts and they have a law saying that, in order to use their landfills, they have to have some sort of recycling program.

Selectman Massey asked if daily pickup was an option. Mr. Burns said yes, but there would be only one bidder, so they would set their own price. Selectman Massey asked what they were paying to have the large items picked up. Mr. Burns said bulk items were included in the rates; it's based on tonnage and all mixed in with the regular trash. Selectman Massey said he'd like to see two bids. On that would use the five-year program, and the other would be the current set-up, without the curbside recycling and an estimate of how much they think the heavy item tonnage is. They could then make a determination as to whether or not they wanted to put that on a pay-as-you-go basis, the same way they do with the appliances. They are looking at a very large increase, even with some of the options they are considering because the cost of fuel is one of the governing items. People would be less apt to put things out on the curb if they had to pay to dispose of them. Mr. Burns didn't think they could get an answer on how much the bulk items are because they don't track it. It all gets thrown in the back of the same big truck. Selectman Massey asked if the Town estimated the amount of the tonnage in the bid. Mr. Burns said yes, the total tonnage of what is hauled away, based on the previous year, which includes the bulk items that are thrown in the back with the rest of the trash. No one really has any idea of what percentage of the trash the bulk items are. Selectman Massey said he would like to see two bid specs—one with this option and one as it is today. He didn't have an issue with a community organization doing the curb recycling, but if they are going to do it, they should put it out to bid every year, or cycle through the organizations on some rotating basis because singling out one organization and letting them have to contract, ad infinitum, doesn't seem to be fair. The larger issue is the policing problem. If the Town has to haul it away, they would have to guarantee that there are no non-authorized items being put into the system. He thinks it would be worthwhile getting a cost for both items.

(Start Tape 2-A)

Selectman Jasper said in the last two years, only two haulers have put in reasonable proposals. Mr. Malizia said there were three or four several years ago, but they may not have the necessary muscle equipment; there were only two major players. Selectman Jasper said they keep going back between Waste Management and BFI, like a ping-pong ball. Selectman Massey though Pinard, who does Manchester's pickup, might be big enough. Mr. Burns said he's seen their trucks, but he wasn't familiar with them. Mr. Malizia said they haven't put in a bid, up to now, anyway. Selectman Jasper said all he intended to do by talking to a representative from the Boy Scouts was if there would be an interest, but they could look to see if there were organizations interested, and it would only be fair to cycle through the rotation on an annual basis. He sees the Town just providing a location for them, and they would run their own facility, without the Town's involvement, other than making everyone aware of it.

Kevin said, since he is the person who deals with the people every day on this, as the one who gets the calls, he had a recommendation. Most people are already upset when they are told they have to pay to have their appliances picked up. They feel that the cost should be covered by their taxes. He feels that pay-as-you-throw will be very unpopular with the taxpayers. People like the service they are getting now and if it costs \$200 per household per year, it's a great deal. The big number is frightening, but if it is boiled down per household, it is puts things in perspective. Looking at it from the bottom up, it's not unreasonable to pay \$200 a year for someone to come by once a week and pick up your trash, run the landfill for you, pick up your leaves and take your couches away. Looking at the big number at the top, looking down, it seems unreasonable because it's a big figure. This is one of the best services that the Town provides. The contractor is running a fleet through the Town every day, and it's expensive—but it's a good service to be providing to the people. If the program is changed too drastically, it won't be well received. He feels that curbside recycling could be eliminated, because a lot of people aren't doing it, anyway, and they would save \$200,000.

Chairman Maddox said he'd like to leave it as it is and eliminate the curbside, but they still have to look at the details of how they are going to run the program in a manner in which is fair, but useful, not having everything under the sun dumped at the recycling center(s). If everyone has to drive to the Highway Department, people in the south end of Town may spend more money driving than they'd get in the recycling money. Some of those details need to be worked out. One of the benefits of Hudson having anything and everything picked up is they are not seeing it dumped in a conservation area, for the most part. He thinks the totes would be problematic on some of the roadways and driveways. He finds himself agreeing with Kevin.

Selectman Jasper said he'd concede that point, but if they eliminate curbside recycling, they have some time to figure it out. They could have two locations with two organizations per year, potentially, running the sites on Saturdays, or they could just do it at the Highway Garage. If they decide not to do curbside recycling, they can figure that out, but it doesn't affect what they are doing in terms of the contract. They should, at least, go on a fishing expedition to find out what they would say if the Town wanted to tag the big items. He didn't know how they would define what a big item is. Mr. Burns said with a tote, if it didn't fit, it would be considered a big item. If they don't go with a tote, it will be difficult to define. He has problems now with people interpreting the letter of the law as opposed to the spirit of the law. If someone sees one shingle being thrown away, the whole barrel will be

refused. The guy on the back of the truck is always changing because they have a hard time keeping employees. Selectman Jasper asked about requiring people to put things in a bag, a 55-gallon commercial bag. If the trash isn't in a bag, it won't be picked up. There must be some other happy medium. On a regular basis, they see people with a lot of furniture being thrown out. It could happen that people from other towns bring their things over to Hudson to throw away because it is being done for free. Kevin said if they don't take things at curbside, it will end up at the landfill on cleanup days, and a ton is a ton either way. Selectman Jasper criticized Kevin for bringing in so many options, then arguing against them.

Selectman MacLean asked how long they would be locked in, if they could stay with the program as it is now for about a year, but eliminate the recycling, so they could look into how to do other things better. Kevin said he could put out a bid for one year, if that's what the Board wanted, just backing out the recycling portion of it. Selectman MacLean said it would also give them a year to inform the public of other options and maybe get more feedback from people. Maybe they can have a dial-in set up so people can call in. A year contract would give them time to see how other people are leaning.

Selectman Jasper thought they've done better by bidding a three-year contract. Kevin agreed, saying the Town is locked in to a price and the contractors try a little harder because they want it. What they have been doing is a two-year contract, with the third year at the option of the Town and every year, the Town exercises that option. Selectman Jasper didn't want them to do anything other than that.

Chairman Maddox thought Kevin could bring the tote to the Community Center for the election tomorrow. They can all take turns to point it out and take an informal poll. Selectman Jasper said he was under no illusion that people are going to like it because they aren't. Selectman Nadeau said he likes it. Selectman Massey said to drive down Amherst Street and they would know why people don't like it. If the tote isn't sitting on the curb just right, it is not going to get picked up. There is just one person in the truck, the driver, and he won't get out of the truck if the mechanical arm that scoops up the tote cannot pick it up.

Selectman Massey asked when trash pickup was started. Selectman Jasper said it was 1985. Selectman Massey said in 1985, his recollection is they were paying \$25 a month for a private hauler to come in and pick up the trash, or \$300 a year. That \$300 was only going to go up every year, and it was non-deductible on your taxes. Because they now do it inside the Town budget, that same \$180 is a tax deduction, if you itemize. Relative to the large items, Goodwill or the Salvation Army have very clear guidelines on what they will and will not pick up. If an appliance is much beyond five years old, they won't accept it. Furniture has got to be in fairly good condition, or they won't pick it up. Most of the stuff that people tend to throw out isn't going to meet their definitions, anyway, so they are right back to what Kevin was talking about. They will either pay for it at the curb, or they will pay for it at the Saturday landfill. He thinks they should go with the current program, without curbside pickup, and then they start talking with the various organizations in Town over the next nine, 10 months, on the recycling piece of it.

Selectman Nadeau said when Nashua went to the totes, each household had the option of the 96-gallon size, or a smaller size, the 56-gallon size. In Nashua, they don't use the mechanical arm on all streets, just where there are no obstructions. They use a regular truck and a guy will pick it up, put it on the hook and put it back. He likes the tote because it's easier, more uniform and cleaner. Kevin said both contractors would go with the mechanical arm truck because they are trying to eliminate the employee on the back that has to wheel the cart over. Robinson Pond Drive is almost a mile long, and trash trucks won't go in there. People will have to figure a way to get "old Betsy" a mile out to the end of the street every Thursday morning. Chairman Maddox said he was just thinking of his own house, which is up on a hill, and he was just trying to picture Eloise and "old Betsy." He believes it would be problematic. He thinks they are better off going with what they have now, less the recycling.

Chairman Maddox asked what the individual Board members wanted to do. Selectman Nadeau wanted to go with bins. Selectman Massey wanted to keep the contract as is, without recycling. Selectman MacLean liked the bin because she was the trash hauler at her house, but thought the Road Agent's recommendation made sense. Selectman Jasper said he talked himself out of his original position and felt they should stick with the current program, minus the recycling.

Selectman MacLean agreed with what Selectman Nadeau said about the neatness of the bins. Sometimes, on trash day, there are heaps of trash in front of people's houses. She'd prefer to make one trip with a tote with wheels than wrestle the standard trash barrels out to the curb every week. Selectman Jasper said if Kevin is off by a substantial amount on the \$100,000 difference, if they see a substantial increase beyond what he is projecting, they would have to re-evaluate their position. He didn't know if they want to go out just to get the numbers and bid it both ways—like Selectman Massey stated earlier in the discussion. Selectman Nadeau said he'd like to see it bid both ways. Chairman Maddox agreed, saying there was no harm in seeing the costs of doing it just the way they are now, without recycling, and with the bins, without recycling.

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to direct the Road Agent to prepare bid specs for the solid waste contract that would continue with the same level of service, but would eliminate curbside recycling and, as a second option, utilizing the totes, without curbside recycling, carried 5-0.

Chairman Maddox declared a recess at 8:21 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:32 p.m.

E. Public Hearing on the receipt of a Hillsborough County Incentive Grant in the amount of \$8,000 to the Recreation Department to install an irrigation system at Jette Field II.

Chairman Maddox asked Selectman Nadeau to speak to this, as the Recreation Director was not present. Selectman Nadeau said this is what Mr. Yates was talking about last week, the money from Hillsborough County.

Chairman Maddox opened the public hearing at 8:34 p.m. and asked if anyone wished to speak. There being no one, he closed the hearing. Selectman MacLean asked if this was going to cover part of the cost, that the rest of the funds would come from a Planning Board account. Mr. Malizia said it was somewhere around \$11,000. This grant would pay for \$8,000 and then Mr. Yates would approach the Planning Board for money out of the Rec fees that have been collected from the developer.

Motion by Selectman MacLean, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to receive the \$8,000 grant, carried 5-0.

F. Receipt of a donation to the Recreation Department from Elite UK Soccer Training for \$122.50 and \$150 from Drama Kids of Merrimack Valley.

Town Administrator Steve Malizia said these were standard, pro forma donations that these two groups have made to the Rec Department that were involved with the summer program

Motion by Selectman Nadeau, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to receive the two donations, with the Board's thanks and appreciation, carried 5-0

G. Authorization for the Fire Department to apply for the FY07 Pre-disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant Program

Fire Chief Shawn Murray during May of this year, the Town experienced a flooding event. One of the significant areas of flooding involved the area by County Road bridge and the road of T-bones Restaurant, as well as Pelham Road, due to the outflow under the bridge. It literally washed away a driveway and did extensive damage to that culvert. He received notification of a potential pre-disaster mitigation grant program that may assist the Town. These grants provide funds to communities for hazard mitigation planning and implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event. Historically, these two areas that he identified pose the greatest problems during flooding events. Both he and the Town Engineer feel that the Town could benefit by this grant program to provide funding to complete a study to look at ways to alleviate a bottleneck and overflow of the County Road area, which extends over to T-bones. The study would provide a comprehensive assessment of the properties located along that corridor, which is along Second Brook, to determine if any retention areas could be built to reduce the potential for flooding. In addition, Mr. Sommers has suggested that they need to study the integrity and needs to repair the Pelham Road/Second Brook retaining wall and embankment, which currently is in a serious state of deterioration. There is a copy of a report from CLD in the Board's packet, which describes that inspection that was completed in August. Typically, these grants feed off each other. They do the initial study and, if there is value in it, you reapply for the money, or some of the money to offset the cost of what needs to be done to take care of the flooding problem, or fix the embankment and wall. This is initially to know the Town would be interested in the grant and to notify them the Town will apply for it and what the scope of the project would be, if they did it.

Chairman Maddox said right after the flooding in May, he went down to look at some of the houses after some calls had come into the Selectmen's Office. Government is glacial, but they are trying to move in that direction. As more and more parcels are developed, this will only happen again, so they need to do something, and this is an opportunity to get some cost sharing from the State.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to authorize the Emergency Management Director and Town Engineer to apply for the Pre-disaster Mitigation Competitive (PDMC) Grant Program to study potential mitigation solutions to flooding in the County Road area, including properties along the Second Brook and also to study and obtain costs to repair/replace the current retaining wall on Pelham Road at Second Brook, carried 5-0.

(Start Tape 2-B)

H. Ladder #2 Engine

Fire Chief Shawn Murray said unfortunately, he had bad news for the Board. Recently, Ladder 2, the 1995 HME Smeal was experiencing excessive smoke coming from the exhaust when it was idling. It was evaluated by New England Detroit Diesel to determine if there was something wrong with the engine. NE Detroit Diesel found that oil is leaking by the rings and seals in the engine, which could lead to severe engine damage and failure. They did a complete evaluation and brought forth three options for the Board's consideration, from a Band-Aid fix to a complete engine replacement. The Band-Aid fix would cost \$12,550 which includes patching or repairing the engine, disconnecting and removing all components, using some rebuilt/some new parts, and hopefully when they get in there, down to the ring level on the engine, that's enough to keep it going. The second option was an in-frame overhaul of the engine. They tear the engine apart within the frame itself, which includes factory rebuilt components, cylinder heads, connecting rods, cylinder kits, thermostats, and re-coring of the radiator with new hoses and clamps at a cost of approximately \$28,650. Of course, the prices are subject to change because after disassembling and inspecting the cylinder block, crank shaft and cam shaft, if that damage has gone down to that level of the engine, there will be an additional cost to replace all of that. The third option is to replace the engine with a factory rebuilt engine and this one has a factory Jake-brake on it. It also includes a new radiator and re-core of the radiator.

Last year, the ladder truck went to Nebraska because of a stabilizer problem and he's not so sure the engine problem wasn't acerbated by the drive out there and back. He called the Local Government Center, who insures the ladder, to see if there was any possible claim for that, but as of today, he has not heard back from them. The ladder and hydraulic system is in good shape. When they repaired the stabilizer, they had to move the main ladder off the body and that hydraulic part was given a good going over. The ladder does not have a pump on it so that's not a factor in a refurb of it. If they were to invest the money into replacing the engine, they could essentially buy some more time, between five and ten years. That's not a definitive time, but he thinks they

could extend the replacement of the ladder out at least that long. The body of the ladder is in fairly good shape. Any body work that would have to be done over the next few years would, hopefully, be cosmetic.

He had a discussion with Chairman Maddox earlier in the week and he asked the Chief what else would be looked at if they went to the extent of refurbishing the engine. Chief Murray said today, he was given a quote of approximately \$5,750 for them to go in, while they had the engine out, and rebuild the transmission, if it needed it. They would go through the whole transmission system. If it was in good shape, they would change the filters, put the oil back in and go from there, but if they thought there was any work needed, then they would do the rebuild, at a lower cost than it would be if they put the engine back in. The only additional cost, if the Board chose to do it, and he thinks it would be a good investment, would be a five-year 200,000 mile warranty on the engine for an additional \$2,000.

Selectman MacLean said the warranty was for one year for \$37,000. She asked if it was a five-year warranty they could buy for an extra \$2,000. Chief Murray said there was a whole list of warranty options, anywhere from two to five years. Selectman MacLean asked if they were going to go out to bid to other companies, or if this was the only company that did things like this. Chief Murray said, in this case, New England Detroit Diesel is very familiar with Detroit diesels. They have worked on fire engines, apparatus and these particular engines, so they are very well versed with the fire service, itself. The department has used them before and they have a very good reputation, so he asked the Board to go with New England Detroit Diesel.

Selectman Nadeau asked how often the ladder truck is used and if it goes out on every box alarm. Chief Murray said yes, it goes out on box alarms and it is used whenever it's needed, depending on the situation they are faced with and where they have to use it. Selectman Nadeau asked what would happen if they just drove the truck the way it is and did nothing to it. Chief Murray said the engine will either suffer severe damage, or will fail. Selectman Nadeau said and then they could do the rebuild. The Board could bring this truck back home and let it go until it needs a rebuilt motor, if that's what they want to do. They can bring the truck home tomorrow and drive it for the next two years or they could drive it for the next eight months—they don't know. Chief Murray said it's burning excessive oil and it does have some oil leaks. Detroit Diesel told them that if they go for the in-frame rebuild, then they don't want it driven because they will do more damage to the engine. They said if they go with the engine replacement, they can drive it for the couple weeks it's going to take them to get the rebuilt engine and all the parts ordered and in. Then, if it fails, they know they've got a new engine coming in, and they would deal with it then. It is blowing oil by the rings and it is leaking, to some extent, so it's just a matter of time when it is going to go.

Selectman Jasper didn't think that was a good option for an emergency vehicle. At some point, they all know that this is going to go, so that's not the level of service they ought to be providing the Town. They could be in the middle of a call and the truck, literally, could go. He didn't want to be a part of that. Essentially, they would be getting a new block. This engine is 12 years old and they know the mileage on it. If they get a rebuilt, and they do a good job, but they are paying another \$9,000, essentially, for a new block. He was wondering why the Chief felt the extra money was worth it when, essentially, they end up with a rebuilt when they are done, if they go with the second option.

Chief Murray said Firefighter Mallin, who is doing the mechanical work, spoke with Detroit Diesel (the vendor). Selectman Jasper said there is a difference of \$10,000 that's going to go to the vendor, so when he's saying to go for the more expensive option, he always tends to be a little suspect. Chief Murray said if necessary, they could do more research. He then read the e-mail from the vendor regarding the two options. "The engine needs to be torn apart to verify that the heads are not damaged so that they can be machined. If the heads are no good, new ones will need to be ordered at an additional cost. In addition, New England Detroit Diesel will inspect the short block, the crank, camshaft, engine block to verify all the remaining engine components are serviceable. There is no guarantee that the components will not fail, even after the rebuild. If new parts are required, there will be an additional cost. Once all the components are visualized to be good, all the parts for the rebuild will be ordered and it will take approximately three weeks. This option will save about \$12,000 over option three, but it only provides parts and service warranty for six months to one year, with no extended warranty available, like on the rebuilt. A re-cored radiator is included in the \$28,000 price tag." Chief Murray said that would need to happen, regardless of the engine work.

Continuing, Chief Murray read, "On option three, this involved installing a remanufactured and tested engine. Installation time is the same, about three weeks, but because we will not be reusing the old engine, the truck can remain in service until the rebuilt engine arrives, with no tear-down delay. The new engine is covered by the one-year parts and service warranty, which is extendable up to five years. Like option two, all other engine components will be removed from the engine and installed on the new one and, additionally and the radiators re-cored." That's why the price tag is around \$37-\$40k. For the additional money, they are getting an engine that they've gone through completely, with no concern about lower engine parts or the block going out on them afterwards. Selectman Jasper said that only works if they take the extended warranty because the remanufactured engine by itself just comes with a one-year warranty. It's somewhat of a crap shoot. The question is what does the warranty cover? He's seen some warranties that cover things, but they didn't cover the labor, and guess what! What's the most expensive part? It always ends up being the labor, so it depends of what it covers. If they get an extended warranty that only covers parts, it's probably not worth it. That truck has low mileage on it, he's willing to bet, for a 12-year old vehicle. Chief Murray confirmed that it does. Selectman Nadeau asked if the Chief knew what the mileage was. Chief Murray said he didn't. Selectman Jasper said he'd need to be convinced they'd be better off to spend the extra. He's betting that if they had a pretty poor track record, they wouldn't be doing this.

Chairman Maddox said he'd like to see them go for option three. If they've got the engine out, they can take the transmission apart for another \$5,700 on a \$1 million piece of equipment that they can get X amount more life out of, it's better to tear it down. There's no pump on it; they've already said the ladder is in good shape. They might be about to move this piece of

equipment out by X number of years by doing the full upgrade now. Check the transmission, replace the engine with a rebuilt that they can get a warranty on, and then put this thing back in service for another 10 years. It's not a lot of money, but if they gamble, what does that buy them? If the engine is already out, they can tear it right down and look inside—do everything they need to do to put this thing further out on the replacement schedule, yet have a reliable \$1 million ladder truck.

Selectman MacLean asked if the in-frame overhaul on option two if they take the engine apart and fix all the parts and put back all the old parts, sort of fixing what is already there, using all the old parts. Chief Murray said no, they are putting new parts in, but they don't go as far as the block or the engine, itself. Selectman MacLean asked if everything was replaced with option three, 100% of it. Selectman Jasper said no. Chairman Maddox asked if he could answer better than the Chief. Selectman Jasper said he was just going to point out that Selectman MacLean could read it. The engine will be dressed with the original components, i.e., alternator, starter, fan hub, p/s pump and air compressor, so they do reuse original components of the engine in both cases. It appears the main difference is you get a whole new block and pistons. Selectman MacLean didn't understand what a block is. She was surprised she was the only one who wanted to see another bidder. What is another bidder gives them a much better price, with a longer warranty? If they warranted their parts and labor at a much better price, there's no harm in looking into it.

Mr. Malizia asked if there were other qualified vendors, bidders or dealers. Chief Murray couldn't think of any that immediately for fire service apparatus. New England Detroit was the only one he's ever dealt with when it comes to Detroit engines. With a rebuilt engine, they'd put a Jake brake on the engine, itself, which would take some of the load off the brakes on the apparatus. In the long run, that may help having to replace brakes so often on that truck. There is no Jake brake on it now, just disc brakes. Selectman Jasper said they have a PR thing with Jake brakes because they are very noisy, recalling the request by Brox to haul at night. They are always told, "no Jake brakes." A number of years ago, they had a truck in the fleet that had Jake brakes and people couldn't wait to get away from that. Chief Murray said the new truck has one, but it has three levels—low, medium and high—so it can be adjusted, somewhat. Selectman Jasper asked if it would be on this one, too. Chief Murray said yes.

Selectman Jasper said he agreed with going over the transmission. He asked if that was not an option if the engine is not taken out; they can't do the same work on the transmission, unless they get a new block? Chief Murray said no, he thinks they can. They just say it's less expensive when they got the engine out. Selectman Jasper said but they'd be spending a lot more money to get to that point. Chief Murray said that was right. Selectman Jasper said he certainly agreed that, while they got it there, it would be a good idea, but if it is going to cost \$2,000 more to do that... he's just not convinced it's worth \$8,900 for, essentially, just a new block on a low mileage truck. Detroit diesels are built to go a million miles. When they put Detroit diesels in a commercial truck, people go cross-country with them, and they are expected to last a million miles. This is a much harder service than driving from here to California because they are doing short, quick runs, which is tough, but he has a hard time believing that the block is no good. If they'd been noticing this problem for a year, then he'd think maybe they'd done a job on the pistons, but he doubts that, at this point. Tear it apart, look at it... what have they lost? Another three weeks, if they tear it down and start looking. They are going to look at the block and say alright, we've got to replace these pistons, which they can still do, or the block is no good. Essentially, a block is either good or no good. Chief Murray said they could do that, but it will cost extra. Selectman Jasper said it is, but he was looking at a difference of \$9,900 and what extra will it cost to pull the transmission out while the engine is in there? What's the difference there? What do they come out with for a total package? He knows they don't want to wait a long time, but the ladder was out of service for quite awhile when it was out in Nebraska.

Selectman Massey said there were several points to consider. When they were doing the workshop on the Fire Department, they did discuss of taking some of the apparatus and doing an upgrade to extend their life, so there is some merit on being reasonably sure that if they spend the money, their risks are less than if they just do the in-frame work. They also don't know, based on the quote, what the cost of the additional parts would be. If they think they are good, but they really aren't because they don't do an extensive lot of testing on the parts, then they may be in the same problem. He is still inclined to think doing a complete upgrade would make sense, but he hasn't heard anyone say where the money is coming from, even for the \$12,000 because the Chief's budget for this year is pretty thin. Chief Murray said, unfortunately, out of his budget now and, if towards the end of the year, he might have to request the Board consider contingency money to take care of whatever shortfall he might have in his budget. Selectman Massey asked if the Chief has looked at his budget at the moment and come up with some indication of where the money might come from. Chief Murray said there are a number of areas—there is a vacancy in the Training Officer's position since July 1, and other areas. There is money in various line items, such as maintenance money in large apparatus. Selectman Massey said if the Chief would have to write a bid spec if he was going to bid this out and, if so, what he estimated the cost would be, or if he would simply take the truck to another dealer and have them provide an estimate. Chief Murray said they could probably do either. Part of the issue is that once someone starts tearing it down, and they run into issues, that has got to be paid for. Selectman Massey said if they don't go to bid on this, then they are going to have to waive the Town policy on purchasing, which requires a competitive bid over \$25,000. Selectman Jasper said no, this wasn't a purchase; it was a repair. Selectman Massey said it was still a purchase; they are purchasing a repair service, and the Board would have to waive the bidding procedures. He was still aligning with the Chairman's thinking on this, that if they are going to extend the life of this apparatus, they should do it right and option three, along with the transmission and any other things that when they are working on it would be appropriate for an extended life, would be the way to go. Yes, \$10,000 is more than the \$28,000 but if they get 10 additional years out of it, that's only \$1,000 a year. He was in favor of option three.

Selectman Jasper said there was a point being missed, and maybe he is not capable of making it, and maybe he's off the mark on his point because he is no mechanic, but he believes that when it comes to a block, the only thing he's ever heard that happens to a block is the block is cracked and it's gone. There is virtually nothing else that happens to a block. Some engines have sleeves; you can replace the sleeves. You got a crankshaft; that's got to be repaired. All the components that are going to be, and can be

replaced, they can do in-house. They can get a price on the worst case scenario if they get in there. They'd know it if they had a cracked block.

(Start Tape 3-A)

It's not like they can do anything to a block besides clean up. He may be wrong, and he's not guaranteeing this, but he thinks they don't have enough information and there is just an assumption that somehow getting somebody else's block is a wonderful thing. He has never heard that in any conversations he's had with anybody dealing with blocks. For a \$10,000 decision, they need to talk with somebody who has a little more expertise than they have sitting around this room tonight on what the difference is. They certainly ought to have the transmission looked at while they are there, and if that's an extra \$1,000 not having the engine pulled out, that's fine, still saving \$8,000. What's the worst case scenario? Again, this is not a high mileage truck, so there is probably a lot of reusable components. Again, Detroit diesel engines are made for extremely long life and high mileage. They are not talking about a car engine that they expect to get 10-12 years out of, or 100,000. People run these things routinely in excess of ½-million miles, which are a lot of hours.

Chairman Maddox said also, that vehicle drives around Town, which it did for the first 10-12 years of its life, then they drove it to Wisconsin and back, probably on the highway. Who knows what damage occurred? For \$12,000 the difference between putting in a refurbished block and the warranty, they have a vehicle they could probably push out 10 years. They've taken it apart and stripped it all down; they have a truck they can, hopefully, put into service and extend its life and if that's the case, why couldn't they take the money out of the capital reserve for vehicle replacement, because that's really what they are doing—extending the life of that vehicle by X amount. Mr. Malizia said they can't do that. It can only be a new vehicle.

Selectman Jasper said he thinks they accomplish the same thing with the in-chassis rebuilt. They still get that extra 10-12 years. That's why he's saying for this kind of money, and he's not trying to convince them that he has all the answers, but he's saying they should get someone in who does, and who can really make a good case, one way or the other.

Selectman Nadeau said he was leaning towards #3, but he thinks they should bring the truck back, drive it, look into their options, put it out to bid, if that's what they want to do, but if they are looking towards extending the life of the truck, and he is leaning towards #3, bring the truck home, decide what they want to do, drive it now because they aren't going to do any more damage if it's just oil. Add more oil.

Chairman Maddox said he'd want to talk to the mechanic at the Highway garage. He'd probably be able to answer this. Mr. Malizia said a Fire Department mechanic would probably be better qualified. Chief Murray said the do a good job, but they don't have the level of expertise that they have at Detroit Diesel. They also use a dealer in Londonderry, who could look at it, if that's what the Board wants. Have someone else look at it and get that question about the block answered, and go from there.

Selectman Massey knows that Detroit Diesel has a significant reputation in the trucking industry. He asked if the Chief was referring to the Cat dealer that was on 102 or 111 in Londonderry. Chief Murray said no, it was DDA in Londonderry; he didn't think that was a Cat dealer. Selectman Massey asked if there were enough differences between a Detroit diesel and a Cat that somebody who is an expert on a Detroit diesel wouldn't necessarily be an expert on a Cat, or if they were interchanged in the repair shops. Chief Murray guessed that, overall, a diesel engine is a diesel engine. The question is what they of diesel engine, if it's matched up to the transmission, the gear ratio, etc.

Selectman Massey said he would not be at all supportive of bringing this truck back. The last thing in the world they would want to happen is to put it on the road and have the engine seize in the middle of a call. At that point, they could call on Mutual Aid, but the aim is to get the equipment to the scene as fast as possible. To knowingly put a piece of equipment on the road that has the potential of not making it is not good, sound management practices. He would not support bringing it home until it's either in-frame fixed or engine replaced.

Selectman Jasper didn't support putting it back on the road until they decide what they are going to do, even to drive it around to other places. He's not as concerned about who fixes it. They have to have a certain level of comfort with the mechanics and the company that is dealing with a \$1/2 million or \$1 million piece of equipment. If anybody has been on Wason Road this summer, they know what a low bid can get you. He wanted to hear somebody who is familiar with rebuilding engines that can tell them, with some certainty, why they should expect that doing option two would not get them to, essentially, the same place. Anything can break at any time. What you do get for \$2,000 is a warranty. Is it parts and labor, or is it just parts? They spend \$9,000 more and then \$2,000 more, and if they only get the parts warranted, they really haven't done anything for themselves. He hopes the Board is at least willing to look at that. In the meantime, the Chief may say the worse case scenario is.... and looking at the transmission is.... and now they are down to a \$3,000 difference anyhow, then he will say OK, he's convinced. He didn't have enough information to make a decision tonight.

Selectman Nadeau said they should bring the truck for a second opinion to DDA in Londonderry. Chief Murray said to start, he could take more in depth to New England Diesel, before they bring the truck all the way back up here. He has not problem bringing it to another vendor to look at, too. He didn't disagree with Selectman Jasper. If they can find out the core issue and maybe there is something they can do. He's not a diesel mechanic either, but if it's the issue or the core or the block only, then he'll find that out.

Selectman MacLean said once they get an opinion from a mechanic of what might be the best course of action to take, then if it was her car that needed this engine work she would definitely want a second opinion, so she would vote that route, too.

Selectman Jasper said going to another Detroit dealer is fine, but there is also a cost they need to be aware of. They've got the truck at one place and they are quoting a price. If they pull that truck out of there now, they will send a bill. If they leave it there, he assumes the quote will include the fact they've already looked at it, and they've got to have some labor in there. It may or not be back together right now. He suspects it's probably not back together and they probably couldn't go down there tonight to pick it up and drive it home. Chief Murray didn't think so, but they are waiting to hear. It's not torn down or anything. They did some evaluation work. He spoke to the service manager today. Selectman Jasper said they'd need to know what the price would be for the work done to this point, if they pull the truck out and send it someplace else. If they bring it someplace else, and the Town doesn't have them do the work, they are going to send a bill, too, and all that becomes more expensive than they might think.

Selectman Massey thinks knowing the difference between an in-frame and a replacement, given that it's a \$12,000 difference, they should get an opinion as to what they get for the rebuild that they don't get for the in-frame, so he would support Selectman Jasper's position that they get a second opinion, but on balance, given they've had a relationship with this company, it probably wouldn't make sense to take it to another place because they run the risk that if they drive it and the engine seizes, they get the problem that one or the other is going to bill them for the work and when all is said and done, what they might have said with the in-frame, they might have gotten the replacement done at this location.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to authorize the Fire Chief to come back to the Board on September 26, with a comparison of the in-frame versus a rebuilt engine and what the benefit to the Town would be if they go with a rebuilt over the in-frame.

Selectman Jasper wanted to be clear that the opinion should come from someone who doesn't have any financial interest in this particular transaction. Selectman Massey said it might be possible to contact customer support at Detroit Diesel themselves, and just pose the question to them, but he'd leave that to the Chief to figure out. He agrees with Selectman Jasper, that no financial interest in the outcome would give them the best possible information.

Selectman MacLean said, besides the Chief coming back with that information, the way the conversation is going and the questions that come up as they go along, she hoped maybe they would have a mechanic present, either the Fire Department's or the Highway Department's, someone that has a little more knowledge than the Board does, even though they might not be an expert in this particular engine. Chief Murray said, with all due respect to their mechanics, they are really firefighters who schedule the work or do minor repairs. That's why he didn't bring them tonight; he didn't want to put them in a position of having to make decisions about diesel engines and fire trucks. When you put the two together, it's a unique combination. It's not just the engine, it's the systems within in them, and that's where the complications come in.

Selectman Jasper said the only way to get somebody in here is to pay them. To him, the Chief clearly wants the best job done and isn't like, Oh, boy, I want a brand new block in there. He didn't really care; he won't be opening up the hood and staring at it in admiration on a regular basis. If the Chief talks to somebody who he has confidence in, he thinks the Chief understands the questions, and comes back to the Board with the answer, that will be good enough for him. Chief Murray said OK, he'd do that.

Chairman Maddox said democracy is a wonderful thing that goes in circles some day, but that's how they make a decision. He thinks the Chief should find out from Detroit Diesel what it is going to be the additional cost if they do the in-frame for the transmission—and what the value would be of the Jake brake, so they are not comparing \$12,000 as just being a new block. If it is \$1,200 more to do the transmission and \$1,000 for the Jake brake, then that has brought it down to \$8,500, or whatever. They need to look at this as the long term for this piece of apparatus. They are going to get a Jake brake, a better warranty and know that engine is done for the next 10 years, hopefully. If they went with the in-frame, what is their potential exposure and what is their additional cost and the Jake brake breakout. That's his thoughts.

Selectman Jasper said those are all good thoughts, and they led him to another thought. He knows what a Jake brake does, and it takes the strain off the mechanical braking system, putting the strain on the engine, but he wondered if a Jake brake takes any life off the engine. It would almost seem like it would. Any time you put strain or stress someplace, it has got to take some life off that. Is a Jake brake, necessarily, the way they want to go with this because he thinks the strain is now being put on the engine.

Selectman Massey said he didn't pretend to be an expert, but his understanding that Jake brakes were invented precisely to extend the life of the engine and the transmission. The unfortunate outcome of it, however, as Selectman Jasper has indicated, they make a lot of noise when they are engaged and most people are scared when they hear this huge noise coming up behind them—which is the Jake brake. He would make sure the question is posed correctly, though. The Jake brake was intended for long-distance hauling and he would want to make sure that if it's there, it gives them the braking capability on short hauls, that it's not something that would be under-utilized. Chief Murray said their new engine has a Jake brake on it, and it is used for short hauls or short stops when it is coming down inclines. Overall, it saves wear and tear on the brakes. They have three settings, or they can be shut off. They've had conversations with the drivers, instructing them to keep in mind that at 3:00 a.m., they don't need to have the Jake brake on, coming back down Ferry Street on the way back to the station, or places like that. There are the three settings on them to reduce the time the Jake brake kicks in. Chairman Maddox said when they were coming back from the Nine-eleven ceremony tonight, they came into the parking lot, and it engaged. You hear it and know it's a Jake brake. After the Chief comes back at the next meeting, with answers to their questions, the Board can make their decision after they weigh everything out.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

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

Shawn Jasper reminded everyone that tomorrow is State Primary day but, more importantly, for the Town of Hudson, they are voting on a zoning issue and encouraged everyone vote yes, as recommended by the Planning Board. It's very important for the Town of Hudson.

Kathleen MacLean said she'd echo what Selectman Jasper said about people coming out to vote. The Nine-eleven ceremony tonight was a very beautiful--so nice to see so many people there. She thanked everyone who came and who participated, including Cable TV people.

Ben Nadeau thanked everyone for going to the Nine-eleven observance. He had a prior commitment, a meeting, to go to, but he will watch it on Cable TV. He reminded everyone to go out and vote tomorrow.

Ken Massey said it's nice to know that people do watch their meetings, even if they are not in the audience. He was contacted by a member of the Hudson United Soccer Club, who would like to engage the Board in a discussion as to some mutual aid project to do the second field at Freedom Field. If the Board has no objections, he will initiate the conversation and find out what they have in mind and bring it back to the Board for discussion and action. (No Board member had any objections.)

Rick Maddox said the Nine-eleven ceremony will be played repeatedly. There was a good turnout and he thinks 6:30 p.m., prior to the Selectmen's meeting, may be the way to go. At least, for next year. The people there represented Hudson, as part of a larger fabric. Perhaps it is one of their duties, as representatives of 25,000 citizens of Hudson, to stand out there to observe Nine-eleven.

Tomorrow, Primary Day, the Selectman should be there, at the very least, for opening and closing, with the exception of Selectman Jasper, who is on the ballot as a State Representative. Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. Selectman Massey said he'd be there. Selectman MacLean said she would be there, with the exception of 3:00 – 6:00 because she has students. Chairman Maddox said he'd be there, taking a vacation day from work for this. Selectman Nadeau said he'd be there.

He wished Selectman MacLean an early happy birthday for September 13—who will be 29 again.

10. **NONPUBLIC SESSION**

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

Nonpublic Session was entered into at 9:35 p.m. Chairman Maddox stated this concluded the televised portion of the meeting and that any votes taken after Nonpublic Session would be listed on the Board's next agenda. Open session was entered into at 11: 14 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Massey, to seal the Nonpublic Minutes carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman MacLean, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to hire the following people for the 06-07 basketball season: Ed Peterson as Instructional Program Director for the fee of \$900; Dave Yates as Basketball Director for the fee of \$2,100 and as Teen Basketball Director for the fee of \$750; Ceff Torres as Assistant Basketball Director for the fee of \$1,500; and Patricia Barry as Basketball Administrator for the fee of \$500, carried 5-0.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 11:15 p.m. by Selectman MacLean, seconded by Selectman Jasper, 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