

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the August 9, 2005 Meeting

6:30–7:10 p.m. Labor Relations Session, pursuant to RSA 91-A:2 I (b) (Closed to the public)

1. CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Massey at 7:15 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Hudson, NH Town Hall.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Chairman Massey.

Following a moment of silence to honor Ann Seabury, who passed away this week, he said prayers tonight are with Brad and his family, as we mourn the loss of a friend and a colleague. Ann was a very visible and supportive member of the community and there probably is no one in Town who hasn't been, in some manner, shape or form, touched by Ann. They should always remember the things Ann did for the community, including her infectious laugh, her enthusiasm or her love of the library. He pointed out that her former seat at the Selectmen's table was vacant, out of respect. Ann was a member of the Board until last year. They all recognize goodness when they see it and, in his mind, Hudson is a better community for Ann having passed through it. As the Town shares the loss with Brad and his family, they can remember the good things that were accomplished by Ann being here. As they say goodbye to her, they should focus on the good things Ann brought to the community. He concluded by saying, "Ann, goodbye. May you rest in peace and sleep with the angels."

3. ATTENDANCE

Selectmen: Kenneth J. Massey, Teresa Stewart, Richard J. Maddox and Kathleen R. MacLean. (William P. Cole was away on business.)

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Richard Gendron, Chief of Police; Police Captain Ray Mello; Mike O'Keefe, Cable Committee; Ted Luszey, Howard Dilworth, Jr., Leo Bernard, and Bob Haefner of the Budget Committee; Ben Nadeau; Elise, SUN

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Massey asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board at this time.

Beth Raymond from the Alvirne Adult Day Service Program was present to express their gratitude and thank the Selectmen for their support by including them in the budget. She distributed thank you packets to the Board members, which included a newsletter that goes out to about 100 residents who participate in the program or in their Personal Care Services program. In June, they had a fun dance and some of the pictures, made into a collage, were included. Chairman Massey asked her to give a brief summary of what they are doing at the Day Care program. Ms. Raymond said the Adult Day Care Services Program is offered through, and located at Alvirne High School, five days a week. They are part of the school system curriculum in the Webb Palmer Voc Tech School. The students who attend the Health Occupation class get a LNA (Licensed Nurse Assistant) at the end do their practicum at the Adult Day Care. There are at least 20 students a year for the two-year program. Attendance has gone up to about 22 now, with about a third coming from Hudson. Chairman Massey said from what he's seen of that program the two times he was there, it is something the community can be proud of.

5. NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Sewer Utility Committee (1 member, term to expire 12/31/05) (There were no applicants.)

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to receive Consent Items A-E, as noted or appropriate, carried 4-0.

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Yield Tax Warrant and Certification of Yield Tax Assessed, Map/Lot 115/003 and 191/118 w/recommendation to sign.
- 2) Current Use Lien Release/Remainder Excess Land, Map/Lot 147/7, w/recommendation to approve.
- 3) 2004 Abatements, 22 Friars Drive and 13 & 17 Hampshire Drive w/recommendation to approve.

B. Sewer/Water Utility Items

Sewer Capital Assessment Recording and Release Fee increase from \$16.50 to \$29, to approve, as recommended by the Sewer Utility Committee

C. Licenses and Permits

- 1) Raffle Permit for Presentation of Mary on October 22 to benefit field trips/enrichment programs—1 week resort accommodations; \$500 cash; \$250 travel credit; \$150 cash; penny sale; theme baskets to approve
- 2) Block Party Permit for Cardinal Drive on August 20 from 3:00-10:00 p.m., with a rain date of August 21, noon to 4:00 p.m. to approve
- 3) Petition and Police License, #9AAN5X (Gowing Road) w/recommendation by staff to approve.

D. Acceptance of Minutes

Board of Selectmen's Minutes of July 26, 2005

E. Calendar

8/10 7:00 Planning Board in CD Meeting Room
~~8/11 6:30 Recreation Committee @ Rec Center CANCELLED~~
~~8/11 7:00 Sewer Utility Committee in BOS Meeting Room CANCELLED~~
~~8/11 7:30 ZBA in CD Meeting Room CANCELLED~~
 8/15 6:30 School Board in BOS Meeting Room
 8/15 7:00 Conservation Commission in CD Meeting Room

8/16 7:00 Cable Utility Committee in BOS Meeting Room
 8/17 6:00 Library Trustees in Ferry Street Annex
 8/18 7:30 Budget Committee in BOS Meeting Room
 8/19-21 Old Home Days at the Hill House on Derry Road
 8/23 7:00 Board of Selectmen in BOS Meeting Room
 8/24 5:00 Water Utility Committee in BOS Meeting Room
 8/24 7:00 Planning Board in CD Meeting Room
 8/25 7:00 Lower Merrimack River Committee at NRPC
 8/25 7:00 Open Space Committee in BOS Meeting Room
 8/25 7:30 ZBA in CD Meeting Room
 8/27 Boot Drive @ Ferry/Derry/Chase Street Intersections

Chairman Massey added that Ann Seabury's wake will be Thursday from 4:00 – 8:00 at the Dumont Funeral Home on Ferry Street and a Mass of Christian burial will be at St. John the Evangelist on Library Street at 10:00 on Friday, the 12th.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Amendment to the Cable Utility Policy and Procedures Manual

Selectman MacLean said this was the item she raised at the last meeting—the inclusion of “DVD” under the Technical Standards section, as they are now accepting DVD's. Selectman Maddox raised a concern of how the revision would be tracked, since there was a notation at the bottom of the page indicating it was revised on 3/22/05. Chairman Massey asked that to be changed; Selectman MacLean indicated that it would be.

Motion by Selectman MacLean, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to amend the Cable Policy & Procedures Manual, HCTV Technical Standards, 4 & 5, to include the term “DVD,” as recommended by the Cable Utility Committee carried 4-0.

B. Cable Guidelines

Chairman Massey recognized Selectman Maddox, who raised a concern that the Board hadn't drafted any guidelines or standards for the technical support person to strive towards. Selectman Maddox said that was his question back in June, at which time the Chairman said he'd put it on the agenda, so here it is. Chairman Massey asked if any of the Selectmen had any suggestions as to how they might approach the September 13 meeting. Selectman Stewart said she hadn't seen any improvement from June to now. She saw Selectman MacLean's music students, a very lovely show with a lot of talent and she gives her a lot of credit, but she didn't like seeing the bookmobile schedule scrolling on three channels 24/7—not that she sits at home, watching cable television 24/7. The Selectmen had all received a copy of the Union Leader article about the gentleman in Raymond—and that was all done by volunteers. There is talent out there. The Police Department and Fire Department have access to a lot of PSA's that could be put on the Town's channel. If the school doesn't want to submit anything, put a picture of the school up there. Maybe people will get tired of seeing it and submit something. Same thing with public access—put up a picture of Library Park. She hasn't seen any improvements, and that is her major point. Chairman Massey asked Michael O'Keefe if the committee has any thoughts for any suitable guidelines. Mike said they didn't specifically raise that issue in their discussions. They felt that that was the Selectmen's issue because they were the ones that put that stipulation in the contract. There actually has been more programming on the system. They aired two concerts from Alvirne, two drama productions and will shortly air the Police open house tape that has been edited. They recently did the parade. There is also new equipment in the building that will be in place shortly that will give a new look to the bulletin board; it won't be the same blue scroll. Selectman MacLean and Selectman Maddox put together a 2½ minute promo that will begin airing tonight to encourage the public to get involved, submit tapes to get more programs on the system. There will be additional improvements over time. The new contract didn't go into effect until July 1, about a month ago. Selectman MacLean said because people don't sit around 24/7 looking at those channels, they were hoping that when the first monthly activity report is submitted to the Cable Utility Committee, it will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen and they can review what is actually being done. It's not due until the 10th, tomorrow. The goal of the Cable Utility Committee is to keep the Board informed of what has been happening. The three channels shouldn't air the same things. Once the new equipment is up and running, that will be an improvement. A lot of the things they are talking about is not the cable provider's job to go out and solicit programming from people; it's not his job to go out with the camera and produce programs. When something is handed to him, he makes sure they are aired and makes sure the equipment is working and all of that. She hopes the Police and Fire Departments know that all they have to do is hand the PSA's in to HCTV and they will be aired. The Cable Utility Committee—not the service provider—is going to be working at Old Home Days this year and it is also working on a letter that is going to every organization in Town, making them well aware of what is available to them and all of the opportunities that are available on HCTV to promote their organization and their activities. They can't do out with cameras and produce things themselves; they have got to implore people to please get involved. Bring them in. It's not up to the Cable Utility Committee or the service provider to go and produce these programs. Chairman Massey said they've heard a recurring theme and now is the time to start the implement making a clear differentiation between the public channel, the education channel and the government channel. If the education channel has no material from the School Committee, then have a slide show of all the schools. That is an immediate need that could be implemented. By September 13th, they will have two monthly reports of the activities of the cable operations, so they will be in a good position to see what has been done. It would be worthwhile for the Cable Utility Committee to identify what has been done as an increased activity. For instance, Representative Renzullo has provided the committee with a set of tapes on some of the legislative activities that have been going on in Concord. One of the things that keeps coming up on a repeated basis is the lack of differentiation between the three channels. He asked the committee to give that a high priority to implement. Selectman MacLean agreed. She wondered whose job it was to go out and take pictures of the schools in order to provide a slide show. Should they let the school know that their screen is going to go blank if they don't provide the Town with something? Chairman Massey said the Cable Utility Committee should be working with the School Department to get that kind of material on to the system. Selectman MacLean asked whose responsibility it was to go out with the camera and take the photos. Chairman Massey thought it would be the responsibility of the

School Department, but it would be the responsibility of the Cable Utility to promote that and work very hard to get them to do things like that.

Selectman Maddox thought this was an answer in search of a question. He didn't vote for this back then, and he probably won't vote for the extension in September. He thinks they are all trying to wiggle around to get an answer that isn't there. They are going to know what it is, but don't have a matrix to give the person an idea of where they are supposed to be going. Now they are asking who is going to take the pictures and how to get more programming on the system. That's what that person was hired to do. There is a partnership with the schools and the Cable Utility Committee. It's going to be an interesting meeting on the 13th of September. He is fascinated with this discussion, the way it's going around in circles. He thinks they need to come up with something. It's unfair to the provider to say whatever they are going to say without giving some guidelines. Chairman Massey said they are directing the Cable Utility Committee—and there should be two activity reports by September 13, which will be a clear set of things that have happened and how that compares to what had been done. Selectman Maddox said that's not the contract they are discussing. They are discussing the provider, whatever the title is they made up. It's not the Cable Utility's job to do that. That's within the scope of work of this consultant/provider/whatever. How do they measure that. Chairman Massey said the two reports that individual will be making out will give them a good indication of that measurement. Selectman MacLean said another important thing to measure when they review it is the cost to the cable subscribers. Whatever they have on the channels, are they getting their money's worth. Are they getting what they are paying for? That's the big issue for her. She expects to get good service for their money.

Chairman Massey said there are some ideas that have been identified as needing addressing. It will be up to the service provider and Cable Utility Committee to address those issues. He is hopeful and on a positive note right now because he has heard some things are happening. He thinks the work that Selectmen Maddox and MacLean have done to produce a promo will help. He will leave it at that until they revisit this again.

C. Police and Fire Department Details

Town Administrator Steve Malizia said the question arose at the last meeting on whether or not the Town picks up the cost of police and fire details. He spoke with the administration of both departments and the only time the Town picks up the cost is for annual Town Meeting, which includes the deliberative session, voting session and elections, if the Moderator requests a detail. When the Fire Department is at the football games, they bill the school for that. From an administrative perspective, there are no records that the Town waives details for any organization, other than Town Meeting. Selectman Stewart said she has seen thank you notes for the K-9 units that have gone to block parties. The Chief said that was done on-duty. If Officer Sullivan is working that day, he goes out.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to deny the request to provide a donation from the Town of Hudson in the form of a detail police officer for the evening of August 26, 2005 carried 4-0.

(Start Tape 1-B)

D. Combined Dispatch

Selectman Stewart and Police Chief Gendron were recognized. Chairman Massey noted that Fire Chief Murray was out of Town, or he would have been here tonight, as well. Chief Gendron said it is his understanding this is a priority project for the Board of Selectmen during this budget season. He and the Fire Chief met with the Motorola representatives relative to equipment and how to make this transition happen. This project was put on a back burner last year, opting to go with Homeland Security grants to procure radio equipment for both Police and Fire. The Police got roughly \$200,000 and Fire got over \$400,000. The Police Department is still trying to procure frequencies. Once they get the FCC approval, they will make the migration from UHF to VHF, which will put them on the State-wide system. In the meantime, they have been trying to work out the logistics on combining police and fire emergency dispatch. Last week, the two Chiefs met with Selectman Stewart to discuss how to proceed. The first issue is the building construction. They did a conference call with the architect who designed the police facility, to get his input. He offered two suggestions. Option A would be for him to draw a conceptual plan that would be brought forward to the Board of Selectmen, Budget Committee and then to the deliberative session. That plan would cost about \$20,000 with \$10,000-\$12,000 back in credit, if the Town was to go forward with the project. A second option would be for the architect to draw a completely detailed set of plans and put the project out to bid, secure construction costs and bring it before the Selectmen and Budget Committee with the understanding these are projected costs for 2006. The down side of that is, if the project isn't approved, a ton of money will have been spent, just to put it on a back burner. Going with Option A, the Chief can provide rough figures, based on the most recent construction costs of a police facility—Londonderry, NH. The two Chiefs and Selectman Stewart are recommending that option to the Board and he was looking for some direction on how to proceed with the project, the construction phase, and to identify where the money will come from. Selectman Stewart said the Chief presented everything in a nutshell. She thought the funds would come from the salary lines, where some money should be available as a result of upcoming retirements.

Selectman MacLean said she was looking at the CIP report and it showed that there were already three studies done on a needs analysis; the Chief already knows what is needed. Chief Gendron said the architect would design the facility to match what the other studies said. The most recent study was RCC, which says it would benefit the Town to combine police and fire dispatch. It doesn't go into detail of how much actual, physical space is needed, based on population needs. The architect will project the best size, based on certain criteria and would be part of the conceptual drawings. Selectman MacLean said perhaps she has the Chief on too high a pedestal, but she thought he would already know how much square footage is needed, because \$20,000 is a lot of money. Chief Gendron said he has a rough idea, but he not an expert. He would recommend a four-person console, but to know how much space is needed, what is going to go in the ground, how to build it, what has to go into the walls to make it soundproof, what has to be done to be in compliance with various codes, etc., an expert is needed. Chairman Massey said it's safe to say the two Chiefs know what they need, but in order to translate that into a plan, they need the services of an architect. Selectman MacLean asked if the current dispatch center would be expanded. Chief Gendron said yes.

Selectman Maddox expressed surprise that, in view of the three studies recommending the same thing, that nothing has been done to date. He thought a professional drawing was needed, but the price tag was awfully high for a 200 sq. ft. addition. Chairman Massey said the price includes more than an architectural drawing; it also includes furniture, equipment, training and transitional needs. Chief Gendron said he and the Fire Chief would be able to handle the training needs and transition. The needs analysis study is about \$2,000. They are talking about part of a police facility that is very sophisticated. It's not just office space. There is a lot of detail work and, because they are adding on to the existing police facility, with the roof line the way it is, it will be pretty tricky fitting it in. It's not just a basic drawing. If they are going to sell this major project to the Selectmen, the Budget Committee and to the people, they need a drawing that will answer people's questions. He didn't want this project to crash and burn because they weren't prepared.

Chairman Massey said, to put things in perspective, \$20,000 is only \$10 a sq. ft. Selectman Maddox said the cost is just to draw the thing. Chairman Massey said this would provide a base estimate of what it would cost to construct this, so included in the cost would be an estimate, because if they are going to go to the voters with a plan, they are going to have to have a warrant article that identifies the total cost. Typically, this type of contract would give a reasonable estimate, plus or minus, of what current construction costs are. If they approve this tonight, he asked when the company would have the materials available for the Board. Selectman Stewart said about 60 days. Chief Gendron said no more than 90. Chairman Massey said if they are going to have it for budget season, they will have to have it by the last week in October, which is when their budget hearings are. Chief Gendron thought that was workable. Chairman Massey said that was a little less than 90 days, and in order to give the Chiefs a little cushion, they would want it in no later than October 10, which will give them time to review it. Selectman Maddox said they have to move forward with this, but he is having a hard time with the price tag. He asked the Chief if there was a mid point because they don't need to know every conduit. Chief Gendron said he is going to do more than just a sketch of the inside and the outside. He's not going to do conduit detail at this stage, unless they choose the other option. Architects are not cheap.

Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to expend the funds necessary to conduct a needs analysis study and to prepare conceptual plans in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 and to obtain costs related to training, radio equipment, furniture and transitional needs, as recommended by the Fire and Police Departments carried 4-0.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Request by Police Department to apply for Grant for Speed Trailer**

Police Chief Gendron was recognized, who yielded to Captain Ray Mello, since he is the one who worked on this project. Capt. Mello said \$7,500 is in their budget, which was approved for the purchase of a speed awareness trailer, which is a proven effective tool for speed enforcement and safety issues. The State Highway Safety has promised a \$6,000 grant. Between that amount and the money in the budget, they will be able to purchase the \$13,500 trailer.

Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to authorize the Police Department to apply for a NH Highway Safety Grant in the amount of \$6,000 carried 4-0.

Selectman MacLean asked if the Board was going to authorize the expenditure of \$13,500 to purchase the trailer. Chairman Massey said no, that when the grant is received, the Board must hold a public hearing, then they could authorize the purchase.

B. **Public Hearing on increasing Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Digital Mapping Fees**

Town Administrator Steve Malizia said in July, the Board discussed raising GIS fees to specifically go towards future GIS activities—flyovers, topographical updates, etc. His recommendation was to increase the fees charged to individuals or firms to purchase tiles in digital format. In order to do that, they need to hold a public hearing.

Chairman Massey opened the public hearing at 8:00 p.m. and asked and asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak on this issue. There being no one, he closed the hearing.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to approve the increase in the Digital Mapping Fees, as outlined in the public notice advertised in the HLN on July 22, 2005, carried 4-0.

C. **Joint Committee Meeting**

Selectman MacLean said everyone received in their packets her proposal that came out of the Joint Committee, but they also received a handout tonight, which clearly states the intention for membership, so she didn't know how that would be handled. The Joint Committee thought that maybe two members of the public would be a good addition. She was also going to request a Board of Selectmen alternate which, according to the handout, looks like there were supposed to be two members of the Board of Selectmen, anyway. She'd like to talk about that before any motion is made. Chairman Massey asked if there was any discussion. There being none, he asked for the following motion, which was made by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Maddox, for discussion.

The Board of Selectmen disengages from the Joint Committee and will re-establish communications with the School Board, as to the future direction of any joint activities.

Selectman MacLean asked the reason for that motion. Chairman Massey said the committee seems to be heading down a road that is far removed from the original intent in 2002, which was to create an ad hoc committee, on an as-needed basis, not as a permanent entity, and that the direction would be clearly under the management and control of the Board of Selectmen and the School Board. Based on what he has seen coming out of the committee over the last two weeks, he is led to believe that the scope has been exceeded. Shame on him for not being more clear in the beginning when they were starting to reform this, as to what the objectives were. They need to step back, take a deep breath and reconnect with the School Committee as to what and how to do this. He didn't think that expanding the committee, or the committee as it's currently constituted, is going to achieve the objectives that was originally established in 2002. Selectman MacLean

thought the Joint Committee was an ad hoc committee, which would probably show up in the charter, when it is presented to the Selectmen, to make sure they are on the right track—which, if they don't meet, they will never get on. It (2002 Minutes) says this committee would provide a good opportunity for the three boards to sit down—not just two—School, Town and Budget—to sit down and identify areas that could possibly have cost savings and greater efficiency. Then it goes on to say this could be a long-term joint committee between the three boards to constantly review such efficiencies. She is not sure where the Joint Committee that met August 2 fell off the tracks because, to her, they are doing just what they are supposed to, and at great service to the taxpayer. She can't believe they'd want to pull out of it. Chairman Massey said when he sees an e-mail from a member of the committee, directed to the school and department heads, requesting an infinite amount of information, with a deadline of two weeks, to be directed to a single individual, that's not the workings of a committee and that's why he is saying it has exceeded, in his opinion, its usefulness and it needs to be refocused by having the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen re-engage each other, which has not been done at this point. The Two Boards have not met on this issue. This has been something that got started, at his suggestion three or four months ago. He takes full responsibility for not having been clear on what he thinks it should have been. At this point, they need to step back, take a deep breath and re-examine what they really want to do in this area. Selectman MacLean said those questions were not directed to one person, at least on the school side, and to the library people. She asked how the Joint Committee could have conversations about the subject, if the questions are not answered, which the Board of Selectmen, particularly the Chairman, said was a great idea to discuss and address. Chairman Massey said he believes it is time to take a deep breath and re-engage with the School Board directly and to reaffirm what it is they are trying to do. The only way they can do that right now is to disengage from the current committee and re-think how they are going to do this. Selectman MacLean said, if that's the case, she wants to be on record as saying she thinks that is a great disservice to the taxpayer.

Selectman Maddox said, as the Library liaison, he would be remiss in not asking why they aren't invited because they spend \$800,000 taxpayer dollars. Chairman Massey said that would be something the two boards could discuss because, in truth, the Library is, essentially, a separate statutorily designed operation and only by State statutes are their budget inside the Town's budget. The Town has no control over the Library. Selectman Maddox said he wasn't talking about control. They don't control the School Board, either. This is a meeting with agencies that spend tax dollars to try to work out solutions to various items within the scope of the budget—IT, fuel, etc., whatever it is they are looking to save money on. A department that spends \$800,000 should also be on that list. Chairman Massey said the fact they are having that discussion right now reinforces his concern that they are going down a path that they haven't fully explored in terms of what it is they want to accomplish, how they want to accomplish it and who and where that is going to happen. Selectman Maddox said he attended the Joint Committee meeting briefly and he thought it is a difficult, even daunting, task for them to try to look at the whole big picture, which none of them do, because each only looks at their portion. These people were tasked with looking at various options, and he was hoping that it would be more productive. If the Chairman was saying that by the use of one e-mail, they are going to step back, he's not sure he wants to jump on that one person making a request. It was probably the excitement of trying to make a difference, not realizing that it takes government awhile to get there. He couldn't see the big hang-up.

(Start 2-A)

Selectman Stewart said, for the time being, their focus should be to meet with the School Board. They could get more things done more quickly if the two boards meet directly. Selectman MacLean said she keeps hearing about the School and the Town, but the Joint Committee was formed from three groups. To exclude the Budget Committee is not a good idea because the Budget Committee knows the School's budget, which they go through page by page, just as they go through the Town's budget. They are the middle that know what the right hand and left hand are doing. To exclude the Budget Committee would be detrimental to the progress they are trying to make. Chairman Massey said he was not suggesting that the Budget Committee be excluded from any future activities. He was suggesting that what they were talking about were Town and School activities that are being done that might end themselves to an economy scale by having a single point of contact. Some of the ideas that have been brought out in the past have already happened, but the only two entities in Town that can make something happen along those lines are the School Board and the Board of Selectmen. The Budget Committee would be a valuable asset to have, but they are not in a position to make the decision to have a joint action that involves the School Department and the Board of Selectmen. Selectman MacLean didn't think the Budget Committee was under that impression for one nano-second. Selectman Maddox asked to hear the motion again. Chairman Massey asked the Recorder to read it. She said, "The Board of Selectmen disengage from the Joint Committee and reengage with the School Board to reaffirm their purpose and objectives." Selectman Maddox didn't understand the Chairman's concerns, but this was going to end up going in a circular motion.

He offered the following amendment, seconded by Selectman MacLean—"for 60 days."

This puts them on hiatus, but does not disband them, nor take them away, to show that the Selectmen will get together with the School Committee and move forward. They need an impetus and disengaging is a nice word for saying we don't want you any more. They need to say, "What are we going to do?" "Give us a reason to do it." And 60 days gives them more than enough time. The disengagement should be for a 60-day period. Selectman MacLean asked, if by the Board disengaging from the committee, it meant that she could not go to the meeting. If they were disengaging the Joint Committee, to stop it, that needs to be a separate motion. Chairman Massey said, if the motion passes, the Board of Selectmen would not be involved in any of those activities, and would not necessarily support any of the activities of such a committee, since it wouldn't have the endorsement of the Board. Selectman MacLean asked if they could still meet. Chairman Massey said anybody can meet on any subject, but they would unlikely get the support of the Board to do anything because they wouldn't have the support of the Board, at that point. They were supposed to be discussing the amendment, which was to put a hiatus of 60 days for any activity of the committee. Selectman MacLean said that's different than the original motion. Chairman Massey said it's the amendment that's on the floor. Selectman MacLean said to put a hiatus on any activity of the Joint Committee is different than disengaging from the Joint Committee. Chairman Massey said if the amendment passes, and the main motion passes, the Board of Selectmen will not be involved with the Joint Committee for at least 60 days. Selectman MacLean said but the Joint Committee can go ahead and meet, as planned. Chairman Massey said they can do anything they want, but they will not be a duly constituted committee of the Board of Selectmen and, therefore, they would have no authority to engage the Board and its departments with any activity.

Selectman Stewart asked if the Chairman was able to get in touch with Chairman Alukonis. Chairman Massey said no, and that's another concern of his. Over the past week and a half, he's tried to contact Mr. Alukonis three times on this issue. To date, they haven't had any communications, which leads him to believe that, before they go any further, they need to have a meeting of the two boards and have a clear understanding of what it is they want to accomplish and only then does he think that any kind of activity can come out of that. It may turn out that you don't need a committee to make something happen. You may need members of the committee and staff members for a specific subject matter, but the fact he's been unable to get ahold of Chairman Alukonis, and the fact that he didn't see that they have a clear and stated purpose for the meeting—and he struggled with the word disengage, but to him they have the same meeting--to effectively sever the relationship so they could start from scratch and reconstitute the activity. Selectman MacLean said it seems what the Joint Committee is trying to do is what the Selectman asked them to do, and now that they are doing it, people are saying it can't be done. They have the opportunity for it to be studied to see if it can be done, and now they don't want to do it. It seems very strange to her and she didn't understand it.

Vote on the amendment failed, 2-2. Selectmen MacLean and Maddox voted in favor; Selectmen Massey and Stewart were opposed.

Vote on the main motion failed, 2-2. Selectmen Stewart and Massey were in favor; Selectmen MacLean and Maddox were opposed.

Chairman Massey said he has already instructed the department heads not to respond to any request from this committee until the Board of Selectmen and the School Board are clear on what it is they want to do. He viewed what was being asked for as nothing but a fishing expedition. The Board could vote to overturn his decision, if they so desire. Although the committee exists, he has instructed the department heads that, until they hear further from the Board of Selectmen, not to respond to the specific request made. Selectman MacLean said it sounded like the Chairman made a unilateral decision. Chairman Massey said it absolutely was. If the Board chooses to overrule the Chair, they are free to do so. Selectman MacLean said they were in a Catch-22 situation. Chairman Massey said if he is overruled, his decision would not stand. Selectman MacLean said if he hadn't already done that, he probably would not have gotten permission to do it, so it wouldn't have happened; but because he did it, he might not be overruled with four people, so his action stands, where it shouldn't have in the first place. Chairman Massey said that was possible, adding that he would accept a motion to overrule the Chair's decision. Selectman Maddox said he was trying to shoot skeet in the dark. Without knowing what was requested, without a copy of that e-mail, he didn't know whether or not he would be able to support the Chair. He has no ability to guess whether or not the request was unreasonable. Chairman Massey said there were actually two memos. The first one requested any and all materials from the Finance Department relative to purchasing, accounts payable, accounts receivable and any other documents that might help in determining the course, and it was to be directed to a single individual. The second one directed a request to all department heads for any and all information relative to IT infrastructure, including the number of servers, the number of routers, the number of PC's, any and everything across the entire spectrum, and to deliver that to that single individual—not to the committee, to that individual—with two week's notice. Selectman MacLean said that's not exactly true because it was supposed to be delivered to her, the liaison. Chairman Massey said that's not the way the memo read. Selectman MacLean asked if people aren't supposed to know how many servers the Town has. If they don't know how many servers they have, they won't know how to address things. People who work for them are supposed to know what programs they are running and how many of this and that they have. Chairman Massey said yes, they are, and that's part of the budgetary process. Selectman MacLean said exactly and that is what the Joint Committee is trying to do, at the request of the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Massey said if there was no motion to overrule the Chair, they should move forward.

Motion by Selectman MacLean, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to overrule the Chairman's unilateral decision. Selectman MacLean said the Chair shouldn't have made that decision in the first place. Selectman Maddox said the Joint Committee has great possibilities to be able to look from above, where the Board gets tied into the departments they oversee. The Joint Committee would be able to look at the Town as a whole. It concerns him that they may be too aggressive, but that's just from enthusiasm, so for the Board to just shoot it down is troubling. It's not a bad thing, but if something good comes out of it, if the Board does start meeting with the School Board and with the Library, because they do expend tax dollars, it may be the better outcome of this. He'd like to see the alternative. At the very least, they are doing something. Maybe not to the likings of the time frames that the department heads were given, but from the questions asked, that's not a bad thing to know. Chairman Massey said, typically, if somebody said their objective is X and stated what information was needed to do that, that's a different question than just saying I need all this information, with no clear objective stated as to the purpose of the information, what it was going to be used for. Selectman MacLean said the purpose of the Joint Committee was clearly stated and the e-mail stated that the Joint Committee was requesting the information, at the request of the Board of Selectmen, so they knew why they were asking the questions. She didn't see how answering those questions can be a bad thing for the Town. Chairman Massey said the issue is not whether or not answering the questions is a bad thing; the question is whether the Board of Selectmen and the School Board are of one mind and one purpose, and he didn't see that yet. Until they do, they should not move forward. Selectman Maddox said he was going to support the Chairman, with some reluctance. He thinks the e-mail that Chairman Massey is basing his decision on should have been put in his bid so he could support the Chair wholeheartedly or argue vehemently in opposition. He will support the Chair, but he expects a copy of the e-mail in his distribution. Chairman Massey said he would, hopefully, get them in to the office first thing tomorrow morning. All members of the Board will get a copy. Selectman MacLean said the Joint Committee is trying to get everyone on the same page, to get all of the information, so the School Committee can get the facts and the Board of Selectmen can get the facts and all the facts are out there and everybody can decide whether they want to move ahead or not. But to be afraid to even inquire about the facts is detrimental—and fishy, actually.

Vote: Motion failed 1-3. Selectman MacLean voted in favor.

9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Terry Stewart said last Monday night, at the request of some parents in Amherst, she attended the Amherst Board of Selectmen's meeting in regard to supporting notification of sexual offenders moving into Amherst. They seemed to have a great deal of trouble convincing their Board of Selectmen that this was the right thing to do. She thanked Chief Gendron for taking his oath to protect and serve seriously. It took the Amherst Board of Selectmen more than seven hours over three nights to agree to notify abutters. That was outrageous, but they finally did it last night.

Selectman Stewart thanked the Hudson Police Prosecutor Brenda Hume and Capt. Ray Mello for the great job they did on Friday in presenting the Town's case before the Jaffrey District Court. The level of professionalism that both of them showed that day was unbelievable. They were well prepared and highly respected amongst their peers.

Finally, she bade a tearful goodbye to Ann.

Rick Maddox said he'd continue with the engine that could story/engineer that will keep trying. He was not trying to put roadblocks in the way of that project. His job as a Selectman is to ask questions and to bring to bear different ideas. He gives great kudos to Selectman Cole and his inspiring speech, but he thinks they made a mistake. He thinks they spent \$10,000 too much on the first truck. They are getting a \$5,000 trade-in on a fire truck they paid over \$200,000 for, whereas at the show he went to with the Fire Chief, a man there was willing to give the Town \$15,000 for the truck, sight-unseen. They should have taken out the trade-in and tried to sell it off line. (Chairman Massey said the trade-in was not included in the price. The trade-in would have resulted in a \$324,000 bid price. The trade-in was removed. If Selectman Maddox found someone willing to pony up \$15,000 they might ask for \$25,000 and see where he is.) Selectman Maddox apologized, saying he was heartened by that fact. It was portrayed that he was trying to obstruct, but being a new Selectman, he was trying to bring a different perspective. He knows to ask a lot of questions. He knows to look at different avenues. He was not trying to obstruct the fire truck, he was trying to take the Town on a new set of tracks that would have brought them to looking at a different picture. To that end, he will continue.

Selectman Maddox said he changed his seat tonight, leaving vacant the seat once filled by Ann Seabury for many years. She did a job he hopes to get even close to.

Kathleen MacLean read the following into the record. "Now that this Board knows the facts about matters concerning the privacy and non-privacy of e-mails, I would like to be on record stating my appreciation for the professional quality of e-mail correspondence I have received during these past two weeks. I hope it will continue, if not out of a respect for the institution which is this Board, at the very least, then out of respect for the people whom this Board serves and represents. Thank you."

Continuing, she said she had known Ann Seabury only a short time compared to everyone else, she knew her to be a beautiful, beautiful woman, inside and out, and she will miss her very much.

Ken Massey said it is a somber night for all of them, but they should remember the good things about Ann. Hudson is a better community for her passing through.

He thanked Chief Gendron for taking the initiative to do what he has been doing, not only with the issue of the sexual predators in the community, but also with the undocumented people in the community. He echoed Selectman Stewart's remarks. Police Prosecutor Brenda Hume and Capt. Ray Mello met the highest professional standards when they appeared in Jaffrey Court last Friday, even though the defense attorneys took some cheap shots. Whether the Town wins or loses at the District Court level, they should be proud of the two individuals and the extremely high professionalism, he thought, that they showed. He asked the Chief to please convey the Board's thanks for what they did. He believes they really did do a good service for the Town of Hudson.

10. **NONPUBLIC SESSION**

Motion by Selectman MacLean, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to enter Nonpublic Session pursuant to 91-A:3 II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee; (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community, carried 4-0 by roll call vote. Nonpublic Session was entered into at 8:35 p.m. and was terminated at 10:21 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to hire Brandon K. Cannata as a full-time Police Officer, effective August 14, 2005 at \$18.59 per hour, in accordance with Police Local 3657, as recommended by the Chief of Police, carried 4-0.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Selectman MacLean, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to adjourn at 10:23 p.m., carried 4-0.

Recorded and transcribed by Priscilla Boisvert
Executive Assistant

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Kenneth J. Massey, Chairman

Teresa Stewart, Vice-Chairman

William P. Cole, Selectman

Kathleen R. MacLean, Selectman

Richard J. Maddox, Selectman