

**HUDSON, NH -- FEBRUARY 12, 2005**  
**DELIBERATIVE SESSION of ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

1. **CALL TO ORDER BY THE MODERATOR** Michael Keenan at 9:00 a.m., February 12, 2005, at Lions Hall with about 50 people in the audience at that time.
2. **POSTING OF THE COLORS** by the Hudson Police Honor Guard.
3. **NATIONAL ANTHEM** sung a cappella by Selectman Kathleen MacLean.
4. **INVOCATION** by the Reverend David Howe.
5. **REMARKS BY THE MODERATOR**  
Moderator Keenan read aloud a letter received from Lt. Col. Cedric Rice, currently serving in Iraq. Moderator Keenan then reviewed the Moderator's ground rules, based on *Robert's Rules of Order*.
6. **INTRODUCTION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Moderator Keenan introduced the members of the Hudson Board of Selectmen: William P. Cole (Chairman), Teresa Stewart (Vice-Chairman), Kenneth J. Massey, Kathleen MacLean, and Richard J. Maddox
7. **INTRODUCTION OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS**  
Moderator Keenan introduced the Budget Committee: Chairman Charlotte Schweiss, Vice-Chair Howard Dilworth, Jr., John Beike, Leo Bernard, Joyce Goodwin, Robert Haefner, Shawn Jasper, Ted Luszey, Ben Nadeau, Ken Massey (Selectmen's Rep), Kathleen MacLean (Selectmen's Alt), Lynne Ober (School Board Rep), and Richard Nolan (School Board Alt)
8. **RECOGNITION OF HUDSON'S LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**  
Moderator Keenan recognized Hudson's Legislative Delegation: Senator Robert Clegg, Jr., Representatives David Buhlman, Lars Christiansen, Peter Goyette, Jr., Stephen Hellwig, Shawn Jasper, James Lawrence III, Rudy Lessard, Lynne Ober, Andrew Renzullo, and Jordan Ulery
9. **INTRODUCTION OF STAFF/OTHERS/SEATING OF NON-RESIDENTS**  
Moderator Keenan introduced Town staff: Cecile Nichols, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director; Shawn Murray, Fire Chief; Gary Rodgers, Deputy Fire Chief; John Brewer, Fire Department Training/Safety Officer; William Pease, Police Captain; David Yates, Recreation Director; and Lisa Nute, Police Support Services Manager  
  
Moderator Keenan asked for a motion to authorize the seating of the non-residents: Police Chief Richard Gendron, Police Captain Ray Mello, Road Agent Kevin Burns, Director of Community Development Sean T. Sullivan, Town Planner John Cashell, Assessor Jim Michaud, Town Engineer Tom Sommers, Library Director Toni Weller, Police Executive Secretary Dorothy Carey, Fire Executive Secretary Torrey Demanche, Fire Secretary Helen Cheyne, together with attorneys from Bossie, Hodes, Buckley, McGrath & LeFevre, newspaper reporters from the *Telegraph*, the *Lowell Sun*, and the *Hudson-Litchfield News*. Leo Bernard so moved, seconded by Ken Massey. Motion carried by a verbal vote.
10. **DELIBERATIVE SESSION OF TOWN MEETING**  
  
**Article 5—Bond Article--Water Utility Capital Improvements**--To appropriate \$2,350,000 gross budget for Water Utility Capital Improvements and authorize issuance of not more than \$2,350,000 of bonds/notes IAW the Municipal Finance Act and authorize the Selectmen to issue/sell bonds/notes and determine rate of interest. (In addition to the Operating Budget. Recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.)  
Selectman Massey moved Article 5 to the ballot, seconded by Selectman Maddox. Selectman Massey outlined the proposed work, including a new tank in the south end and water-pipe loop to provide redundancy, noting this would be paid for by the rate payers, with a maximum 5.8% increase expected in the second year.  
John Drabinowicz, 8 Deerfield Avenue, a water utility consumer, asked if the 5% rate increase included electrical costs for the pump and heating of the above-ground stations. Selectman Massey said the increase was just for the bond and interest, adding that this rate would decrease over time, with no additional costs to the ratepayers.  
  
**VOTE:** Moderator Keenan called for a verbal vote, which he declared to have passed.  
  
**Article 6—Petitioned Bond Article**--To appropriate \$2,000,000 to purchase land/easements for conservation and authorize the Selectmen to issue bonds/notes IAW the Municipal Finance Act, provided that notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Town

shall not issue more than \$1,000,000 of bonds/notes in any one calendar year; to authorize the Selectmen to negotiate and determine rate of interest and the maturity and other terms thereof, and to take any other action they deem appropriate to effectuate the sale/issuance of said bonds/notes; however, no such bonds or notes shall be issued with a term of maturity of less than 10 years or more than 15 years, and to appropriate ~~\$12,000~~ (amended to \$25,500) for the first year interest/costs. Land or property interests to be purchased with bond proceeds shall be acquired in the name of the Town by Conservation Commission, subject to the approval of the Selectmen, pursuant to RSA 36-A:4. (In addition to the Operating Budget. Not recommended by the Selectmen; Recommended by the Budget Committee.)

Michelle Champion, 7 Chiswick Rd, moved Article 6 to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard. Ms. Champion, a member of the Conservation Commission and chairman of the Open Space Committee reported on a survey that had been conducted, with 89% of the 379 respondents stating they were in favor of open space, with 52% of the respondents willing to use tax dollars, with the top reason being protection of the aquifer. Conducting a PowerPoint presentation outlining the presumed benefits, she noted that statistics prepared by NRPC in 2003 indicated 2/3rds of Hudson was developed, with 1,500 acres presumed to be unbuildable, with only 1,069 acres being permanently protected open space, leaving 3,786 acres left of undeveloped property, mostly in the G-1 district. She contended that open space paid for itself by avoiding community expenses, estimated to be \$1.15 for residential housing for every dollar of tax revenue, while open space had little or no associated costs. She noted that availability of the bond funds would facilitate getting matching grants. Hudson's population had grown by 290% from 1960-2000, but the budget had grown by 1,231% in that same time, meaning that development cost money. The request was the authority to issue bonds, with the actual issuing done by the Selectmen, to be deferred until specific purchases had been negotiated—at which time the Selectmen could issue a bond anticipation note for whatever percentage of the total was needed, with any such notes being rolled up into a bond issuance at the end of the year, with the bond limited to no more than \$1,000,000 in any one year. The \$2 million was expected to last for several years, spreading the cost over time, with the worst-case tax impact being 11¢ per \$1,000, dwindling through the life of the bond, which would be \$27 on a home assessed at \$250,000. The costs would end within 10-15 years, but the savings would continue to add up. The Open Space Committee would make recommendations to the Conservation Commission, and the Conservation Commission would hold public hearings and make recommendations to the Selectmen, but the actual purchasing decision and control of the funds would be in the hands of the Board of Selectmen.

Howard Dilworth, Jr., said costs for the first year would be double what had been stated, because of the way the bond interest payments were staggered, adding that he calculated the second-year charge would be 25¢. He had stated at the previous week's School District Business Meeting's Deliberative Session that the tax rate would be 47¢ per \$1,000, but the town learned during the past week that the State would be providing \$1,800,000 less in education funding than expected, which would add another 80¢ to the 47¢. Voters would be looking at a Library bond issue next year for about \$8,000,000.

Jean Serino, representing the Open Space Committee, presented an exhibit designed to show that open space resulted in less for cost of services. She acknowledged that initial costs might be high, but there would be zero maintenance costs forever afterward.

Ms. Champion amended motion to change \$12,000 for the first-year interest to \$25,500, noting that the first-year payment of principal interest would be deferred to the second year, requiring a two-year payment that year, seconded by Shawn N. Jasper.

VOTE on the amendment: Moderator Keenan called for a verbal vote on the amendment, then declared it to have passed.

Shawn N. Jasper, 83 Old Derry Road, spoke in favor of the amended article, saying budget costs increased with population.

John Drabinowicz, 8 Deerfield Avenue, asked why the Selectmen did not recommend the article. Chairman Cole said there had been concern about there not being a plan in support of the article. He felt land purchases should be decided by the voters, not the Selectmen. He favored calling a Special Town Meeting on the question of a purchase, instead.

Ray Gendron, 7 First Street, questioned how land would be selected to purchase. Ms. Champion described the characteristics and benefits the Open Space Committee would be looking for. Mr. Gendron questioned the presumption of zero cost to owning open space, predicting that the Town would have maintenance costs. Ms. Champion described the work being done by volunteers in the Musquash Pond area at no cost to the taxpayers. The Open Space Committee expected to establish a volunteer network.

Suellen Quinlan, 50 Pelham Road, a Conservation Commission and Planning Board member, stated there needed to be a balance between increased population and increased budget. The intent of the article was to make money available for land purchase.

Tim Quinn, chairman of the Conservation Commission, expressed assurance that public input would be held before any funds were spent. Chairman Cole responded that there was no relationship between a public hearing and a vote.

Rev. David Howe, 1 Federal Street, said it appeared that the purpose of this article was to buy property before it could be developed, then questioned if this were the role of government. He asked how long it would take for the presumed savings to pay back \$2 million plus interest, if the savings were the difference between the \$1.15 in services costs for each \$1 of tax revenue, as was stated. Ms. Champion said that would be difficult to determine, as the issue depended on the particular piece of land and the number and kind of houses that could be built on it.

Linda Kipnes, 23 Nathaniel Drive said land could not be purchased for open space after it was developed.

William Arseneault, 3 Riverview Avenue, noted that purchasing land as open space meant lost tax revenue for the Town. Ms. Champion concurred, but noted that the vehicles of choice would be things such as the Hills Farm and the Ingersoll property, which were still bringing in taxes.

Shawn N. Jasper, 83 Old Derry Road, said purchase of land would not be a reason to call a Special Town Meeting. It was difficult to develop a plan without the support of the Selectmen, who ought to provide criteria and take a proactive approach.

John Drabinowicz asked why the Budget Committee recommended the article, if there were no plan. Mr. Dilworth said the members made

decisions based on their life experiences and sometimes looked at the bigger picture, even when all the details were not known. A number of communities in the state had been granted a Special Town Meeting for the purpose of considering a land purchase, under the arguments that these were things that could not wait until the next annual meeting.

William Pease, 5 Madison Drive, moved the question. Mr. Drabinowicz seconded the motion.

VOTE: Noting this was non-debatable, Moderator Keenan called for a verbal vote. Amended Article 6 was sent to the ballot.

**Article 7--Police Replacement Radio Communication System**—To appropriate \$199,000 to replace the radio communication system from 04-05 unencumbered budget surplus. (In addition to the Operating Budget. Recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.)

Selectman Bill Cole moved Article 7 to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard. Selectman Cole stated that the Hudson Police Department needed to be able to communicate with other agencies in the case of emergencies affecting the region.

Senator Robert E. Clegg said this was the Town's last chance to receive a \$250,000 grant to complete this project.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a verbal vote, then declared the motion to have passed.

**Article 8—Replacement Fire Pumper Truck**--To appropriate \$350,000 to purchase replacement fire pumper truck and to authorize withdrawal of \$150,000 from Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund and appropriate \$200,000 from 04-05 budget surplus. (In addition to the Operating Budget. Recommended by the Selectmen; Not recommended by the Budget Committee.)

Selectman Bill Cole moved Article 8 to the ballot, seconded by Selectman Stewart. Selectman Cole spoke of the need to replace Engine 4, presently assigned to the Burns Hill Station as a first-line vehicle, noting that it had been out of service on 38 separate occasions since July 2003, had 110,000 miles on it, with 8,600 hours on its engine. He then predicted that others would come to the floor after him to speak in opposition. Calling them the usual suspects, he characterized them as the clerks, who want to see endless lists of reports and spreadsheets, the beancounters, who want to dazzle the body with numbers and to cut the budget, and the wannabees, who wanted a higher position, tended to be fully negative, with an objective to cause turmoil. He declared that failure to provide the Fire Department with needed resources because of a lack of proper planning was simple negligence.

Moderator Keenan noted that he would allow the first two persons in line at the microphone to speak and then would declare a recess, with the others then to be recognized in the same order following the break.

Fred Giuffrida, 14 Pinewood Road, suggested that two other usual suspects would be the yes-persons, who approved whatever the Fire Chief brought in, and the king, whose mind was closed, who believed himself to be right at all times.

Shawn N. Jasper, 83 Old Derry Road, noting that the article was not recommended by the Budget Committee, stated that the KME truck being replaced had been guaranteed to last 20 years, adding that he himself had made the motion to purchase this same truck at that time, at a cost of approximately \$250,000. Noting that the Fire chief had claimed that the lower-cost trucks had higher maintenance costs and that the top-of-the-line trucks were cheaper to maintain, he said he had consistently said he might support this purchase if he were shown a 5-year maintenance record showing those differences—adding that he recalled having problems with both kinds of trucks while he was a member of the Fire Department, and that the higher-priced trucks had some serious problems. He said this 5-year maintenance record had not been forthcoming, suggesting that it might be better to buy a \$200,000 truck that would last 10 years than to buy a \$350,000 truck that might last 15 years but would have a lot of maintenance in the last few years, anyhow. He questioned whether a three-station town needed four pumpers—adding that the previous chief had claimed there were 10 men for the Robinson Road station, but now there was only a tanker crew at that station. People were being put at risk by not having the personnel in place. The town for all effects and purposes, no longer had a call department.

A point of order was called, with an objection that the speaker was discussing manpower rather than the truck.

Moderator Keenan declared a break at this time.

Howard Dilworth, Jr., 15 Sycamore Street, asking to speak as a personal privilege, expressed objection to speakers being cut off and also to speakers being allowed to malign opponents, and he requested that the two people already standing in line at the floor microphone be allowed to speak before the break. Moderator Keenan agreed. Mr. Dilworth then stated that it was the Budget Committee's role to weigh whatever was being requested and then make prudent decisions, adding that he felt a \$350,000 truck was not a good investment and that the Town could do better with less money.

John Drabinowicz, 8 Deerfield Ave, stated that \$350,000 warranted a plan and a reason, but all that had been said was that people would be hurt if the purchase were not made. He asked how a prudent decision could be made with no facts or figures.

Charlotte Schweiss, 28 David Drive, chairman of the Budget Committee spoke against name-calling, adding that the Budget Committee had not recommended this article, but the voters on March 8<sup>th</sup> would have the opportunity to decide.

Moderator Keenan declared a recess at 10:43 a.m., calling the meeting back to order at 10:53 a.m.

Steve Benton, 20B Pelham Road, spoke of his history in servicing and maintaining the trucks, noting that the KME truck had been custom built for Hudson roads in 1990, and that the same \$250,000 truck today would cost \$350,000. Referring to an earlier comment about how fast the two KME trucks had worn out, he stated that the assurance of a 20-year life had been based on placing those trucks at the Burns Hill and Robinson Pond stations, where they would see little use, but both trucks had been kept as front-run vehicles, with the Fire Department handling 3,000 calls per year. He said it was important to give the Fire Department equipment it needed to keep the citizens safe, emphasizing the need for a custom-built truck.

Ben Nadeau, 15 Chase Street, moved to amend the article by changing the \$350,000 figure to \$300,000, with \$150,000 to come from the apparatus fund and the other \$150,000 from unexpended surplus, seconded by Ted Luszey, 13 Cathedral Lane. Mr. Nadeau agreed that a new fire truck was needed, but he looked at the trucks and visited other towns, and he felt \$300,000 would be adequate, adding that equipment could be removed from the truck being replaced.

Fire Captain Clint Weaver, 20A Pelham Road, chairman of the Truck Committee, spoke against the amendment, speaking of a rollover that had killed a colleague years ago. The Fire Department had a plan, had always had a plan, adding that no one had asked the Fire Department for specifics of what was being looked for, and that the Fire Department had purchased a less-expensive vehicle in the past only because the budget process had cut the appropriation request, forcing the Department to get lower-value equipment. Recently, there had been only one pumper in service in the entire town, stating that the present trucks were junk. Reiterating that the Fire Department had not been asked for details, he offered to take anyone for an inspection of the existing trucks. He warned of a coming tragedy if the Town bought another junk truck, saying the Fire Department needed a 55-mph truck that would climb hills with a 350 engine, to come out of the barn and climb hills—declaring that the Fire Department was not asking for bells and whistles, just for what was needed. He said the Department needed to replace a pumper every five years, but the purchases kept getting put off. He asked that the voters support the article on March 8.

John Cesana, 20 Beechwood Rd, opposed the amendment, that those on the front line should have the best equipment.

Senator Robert E. Clegg, 39 Trigate Road, asked if the Fire Chief could buy a truck that would serve Hudson for \$300,000. Fire Chief Murray said that he could not.

Howard Dilworth, Jr., spoke in support of the amendment, stating that the truck that rolled over in the earlier referenced accident had been homemade. \$350,000 was too much money and buying a custom truck was not needed. The Town had two off-the-shelf trucks, with these being placed at the outlying fire stations, where the hills were.

Shawn N. Jasper, spoke in support of the amendment but he did not know what the right price was. The Budget Committee had asked for information but had not gotten it. He spoke of his own experience with a junk truck while he had been a volunteer fireman, reporting that Capt. Weaver had said the truck was good when he complained, but the State had taken it off the road. All four existing trucks had been called junk, even though they ranged from 15 to seven years old and all had been purchased at the recommendation of a prior Chief, which showed that chiefs were not always right. He expressed concern about the fact that someone had decided not to provide the requested information, arguing that the voters should be more concerned with finding out the facts and making the right decision, rather than making an emotional decision.

Selectman Massey said the Budget Committee had asked for 5-year maintenance records. He then met with the Fire Chief and the Town Administrator, and then decided not to provide the requested figures because the statistics did not differentiate between the 5-year histories of rarely-used equipment and front-end equipment. The two commercial trucks were back-up vehicles, with the result that they appeared, incorrectly, to have a better service record.

Fire Chief Shawn Murray had the folder of facts in hand, adding that he had invited the Budget Committee to sit down with him and two members had done so. Based on his research, this \$350,000 truck would provide adequate fire-protection coverage. A lease was proposed last year for a \$385,000 truck that would cost \$434,000 with interest, but interest had gone up. That same lease-purchase would now cost \$463,000, and Selectman Massey had suggested purchasing a \$350,000 truck instead of leasing a \$385,000 truck. He recommended defeat of the amendment, but support of the article.

Selectman Maddox stated that he had voted against the recommendation because there was no plan. He found it difficult to understand why the Fire Chief would say he could not work with \$300,000, as he might have to work with even less.

Jean Serino, 118 Robinson Road, stated that the \$350,000 was not for bells and whistles. This was a worthwhile investment for a truck that would be safe. She asked for the support of the voters for the original article.

VOTE on the Amendment: Moderator Keenan called for a verbal vote, then declared the amendment motion to have failed.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan then called for a verbal vote to send Article 8 to the ballot. He declared the motion to have passed.

**Article 9—Union Contract for Highway Department—To approve the contract--7/1/04-6/30/05, \$47,912; 7/1/05-6/30/06, \$47,279; 7/1/06-6/30/07, \$43,541--and appropriate \$95,191 for FY 05-06, for increase in salaries and benefits. (This is in addition to the Operating Budget. Recommended by the Selectmen; Not recommended by the Budget Committee.)**

Selectman Stewart moved Article 9 to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard, 3 Bungalow Ave. Selectman Stewart noted that this contract had been brought before the voters last year, recommended by both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee, but had failed by only 12 votes. She outlined what the DPW employees did, noting numerous extra activities they performed--keeping the ball fields safe, decorating Library park at Christmas, etc., as well as their normal duties--fixing roads, plowing streets, school parking lots, etc. She then asked the 24 members of that body to stand and be recognized.

Road Agent Kevin Burns stated that the DPW employees just wanted a cost-of-living increase. The Budget Committee did not recommend this article because of retroactive pay, but two previously approved contracts for this department had included retroactive pay. He urged the Budget Committee to reverse its decision.

Steve Benton, 20B Pelham Road, supported the article, noting that the Selectmen had voted to recommend the article despite the retroactivity and argued that this indicated a change in policy with respect to allowing retroactive contracts.

Shawn N. Jasper, 83 Old Derry Road, stated that this change-of-policy aspect was why the Budget Committee had voted not to

recommend, saying that for 20 years, the Hillsborough County officials had tried to discourage retroactive contracts on the grounds that it was more difficult to settle contract negotiations. He was disappointed that the Selectmen had not come to the Budget Committee to discuss this issue, saying there were other possibilities that could have been considered and he felt that the Board of Selectmen had made a bad choice in merely resubmitting the same contract, with retroactivity in it.

Lynne Ober, 3 Heritage Circle, spoke of the difficulty in completing contract negotiations--there was no way to give interim portions of a raise. She praised the work done by DPW employees, and felt their service had to be looked at by the voters.

William Pease, 5 Madison Drive, cited the good works performed by the DPW employees, noting the extra effort they had put in on the animal refuge center and on the police firing range. They were only looking for a cost-of-living increase.

Ann Seabury, 4 Meadow Drive, asked if the Board of Selectmen or the DPW union that came up with the idea of a retroactive contract. Selectman Cole said retroactivity had not come into the discussion at all. The Board was simply reaffirming the previously approved contract as a well-deserved cost-of-living raise. Ms. Seabury asked if the \$95,000 would get spread over the 3-year term of the contract— noting that Finance Director Kathy Carpentier was indicting an affirmative answer. Ms. Seabury asked what the Board of Selectmen's recommendation vote had been, receiving a response that it had been 3 to 2. Ms. Seabury asked if there was a tie-in with other related things--health issues, etc. Selectman Massey said that a cap on earned time had been established as a rationale for this increase. Ms. Seabury said she supported the Highway Department employees and hoped they got their raise, but she had a concern about the retroactivity issue, and she urged the Board of Selectmen not to let this go any further, even though she agreed that the DPW employees should get this increase.

John Drabinowicz, 8 Deerfield Avenue, asked for an explanation from the Selectmen concerning allowing \$150,000 over a 4-year period, plus \$95,000 on top of that. Selectman Massey said that \$138,000 would be paid out this year: \$95,000 from this budget and \$43,000 from the next. Mr. Drabinowicz asked if the retroactive pay would be paid as a lump sum or spread out through the year. Selectman Massey said a lump sum would be paid on July 1, 2005. Mr. Drabinowicz concluded by saying retroactivity should not be set as a precedent, adding that he also did not think it should be sneaked in, somehow.

John Knowles, 51 Quail Run, spoke in support of the article, saying he agreed that the Town should not have retroactive raises, but he did not feel this was the case in this issue; this was a procedural question. It would not be fair to penalize people who had come in with a reasonable request simply because it did not get passed last year.

David Buhlman, 11 Bond Street, spoke in strong support of this, citing the extensive work performed by DPW employees.

Selectman MacLean, stated that she had voted against the recommendation, even though she felt the voters would approve the article. She wanted the voters to understand that passing it this year would negate their vote of last year.

Fred Giuffrida, 14 Pinewood Road, thought the voters had been wrong in voting down this contract, but they had voted it down. He then expressed objection that the Board of Selectmen had put him and other voters in this position, of denying these people who were so deserving of their raise for this year or having to go against what the voters said last year.

John Knowles stated that the voters had had their say but to say that the proponents could not try again missed the point. He felt this was a clean way of doing it, and it was up to the voters to decide. He spoke in support of the article.

John Drabinowicz asked if the Selectmen would come back next year with a 2-year retroactive proposal if this is defeated.

Normand Pelletier, 14 Groves Farm Road, spoke in favor of the article, saying employees need to have an incentive to put their best foot forward, and he suggested that the DPW employees were saving the town money by doing extra work.

Leo Bernard, 3 Bungalow Avenue, moved the question. Selectman MacLean seconded the motion.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a verbal vote, then declared Article 9 was forwarded to the ballot.

Clint Weaver, 20A Pelham Road, moved to restrict reconsideration of Article 8, seconded by John Brewer, 14 Ledge Road.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan explained that this would mean the article could not be reconsidered for at least a week from this date, and he then called for a verbal vote, stating that Article 8 was restricted.

**Article 10—Ratification of Police Union Contract—To approve the contract for AFSCME Local 3657: 7/1/05-6/30/06, \$203,309 and 7/1/06-6/30/07, \$126,936; and appropriate \$203,309 for FY 05-06, representing increase for salaries and benefits. (This is in addition to the Operating Budget. Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.)**

Selectman Cole moved to send Article 10 forward to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard. Selectman Cole discussed details of the contract, noting that it established a 35-day cap on earned time.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a verbal vote, declared the motion to have passed.

Moderator Keenan declared a lunch-break at 12:03 p.m., calling the meeting back to order at 12:26, at which time he thanked the Seniors for providing the food. Mr. Keenan then announced that he had misspoken on the restricted article vote, that the practical effect of restricting an article was that it could not be brought up again at all.

**Article 11—Police, Fire, and Town Supervisors Association for Wage & Benefit Increases--To approve the contract for the Police, Fire, and Town Supervisors Association: 7/1/06-6/30/07, \$91,533 and 7/1/07-6/30/08, \$87,422 and \$152,118 for FY-05-06, for increase in salaries and benefits. (This is in addition to the Operating Budget. Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.)**

Selectman MacLean moved to send Article 11 forward to the ballot, seconded by Selectman Cole. Selectman MacLean emphasized the

benefits of putting a cap on earned time, etc., stating that the cost of this article would be 6¢ the first year.

**VOTE:** No comments or questions being brought forward, Moderator Keenan called for a verbal vote, first in favor of the motion to send Article 11 to the ballot as stated and then in opposition, and he then declared the motion to have passed.

**Article 12 — Factfinder's Report (Fire Department)**--To implement the recommendations in the matter of factfinding between the Town and IAFF Local 3154, dated May 24, 2004: 7/1/04-6/30/05, \$63,082; 7/1/05-6/30/06, \$90,127 and to appropriate \$152,118 for the 05-06 FY, for increase in salaries and benefits. (This is in addition to the Operating Budget. Not recommended by the Selectmen or by the Budget Committee.)

Selectman Cole moved to send Article 12 forward to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard. Selectman Cole reviewed the history of this article, noting that both parties had agreed to call in a Factfinder after the union had declared itself to be at an impasse. The union had accepted the Factfinder's Report; the Selectmen did not, which was not a lack of respect for the employees. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee did not feel the contract was in the best interest of the Town.

Steve Benton, Union President, spoke in support of the article, describing the function of a fact finder and stating that some things on both sides had been left out of the report. A Factfinder is as an independent person who comes in to fix a dispute. This report was fair to both sides, nothing in the report would hurt either party, and the things left out would be brought up again next year by both sides.

Thomas Sullivan, 128 Fox Hollow Drive, a 20-year member of the Fire Department, stated this was pretty much a cost-of-living increase and that passage of the article was needed to keep trained people in the Department.

John Drabinowicz, 8 Deerfield Avenue, asked the Budget Committee if the \$90,000 difference between \$153,000 and \$63,000 was retroactive and, if so, if it would be paid as a lump sum. Mr. Dilworth said it would be just like the DPW contract--although in this case there was no contract--the first year's coverage would be retroactive. Mr. Drabinowicz spoke against the retroactivity, warning that unions could just put stuff into a contract if they did not come to terms with the Selectmen. Mr. Dilworth said this was a factfinder's report, but the money would be paid on July 1, if the article passed. If it did not pass, none of the money would be paid. Both sides would have to go back to the bargaining table, as there still would be no contract.

Ray Gendron, 7 First Street, asked if \$153,000 would come from the 2004-2005 budget year. Budget Committee Chairman Charlotte Schweiss said the \$153,209 would be for this year, retroactive for 04-05, with \$63,000 being paid on July 1, 2005, as a lump sum and the remaining \$90,000 being the employees' raise for the budget currently being discussed.

John Cesana, 20 Beechwood Road, asked why the Town had paid to go to the Factfinder if his decision was not being accepted. Selectman Cole said the union's declaration of an impasse led to an agreement to bring in a factfinder, adding that the union's acceptance of the Factfinder's Report automatically put the report on this year's ballot as a warrant article. The only choice the Selectmen had at that point was either to recommend or not recommend. Howard Dilworth, Jr., said it was the law, that RSA 273-a covered what happened when an impasse was declared.

Lynne Ober, 3 Heritage Circle, speaking of her experience as a member of the School Board, stated that union negotiations were very complex. The Selectmen have to look at what was good for the Town, what was fair, and what they felt would be passed by the voters, whereas a factfinder looked only at the union and not across the entire spectrum. She had a good experience with Fire Department personnel during her late father's illness, saying they did a lot for the citizens of the town.

Shawn N. Jasper, 83 Old Derry Road, referenced a handout that had been offered to citizens coming into the meeting place. The document suggested citizens would be paying 6.1¢ over two years, but this would actually be paid in one year, covering a 2-year period. He pointed out that the assessed value of the average home in the Town of Hudson currently was \$272, 200.

Steve Benton said the original cost had changed, from \$177,328 to \$153,209. If the cost-of-living value, to be published within the next few days, were projected at 3%, that would be what the employees would get, but the stated value for the second year of the report was based on a 4.5% increase, with the result that the actual cost could go down to \$145,809. This was a good contract for both parties, and he urged the voters to vote for this, adding that copies of the report were available.

James Lappin, 23 Willow Creek Drive, asked if this article would still be on the warrant if the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee had also agreed with the Factfinder's Report. Receiving an affirmative answer, he stated that it was up to the voters to look at the report and decide for themselves.

**VOTE:** Moderator Keenan called for a verbal vote, then declared the motion to have passed.

**Article 13—Wage/Benefit Increase for Town Clerk/Tax Collector--**

To appropriate \$1,893, a 3.5% increase in wages and benefits for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector. (This is in addition to the Operating Budget. Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.)

Selectman MacLean moved to send Article 13 forward to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard. Selectman MacLean spoke of Town Clerk Nichols 17 years of dedicated service. An positive vote would confirm her appreciation and fairmindedness.

**VOTE:** Moderator Keenan called for a verbal vote, then declared the motion to have passed.

**Article 14—Operating Budget--To approve an operating budget, not including special warrant articles/other appropriations voted separately, the amount of \$24,020,731 (amended to \$24,030,731). If defeated, the default budget shall be \$23,641,918, with adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, IAW RSA 40:13, X & XVI, to take up revised operating budget. (Recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.)**

Budget Committee Chairman Charlotte Schweiss moved to send Article 14 forward to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard.

Budget Committee Vice-Chairman Howard Dilworth, Jr., explained that Chairman Schweiss had missed most of the process while recuperating from an operation. Mr. Dilworth reviewed the history of the budgetary process and outlined what was covered in the budget, providing summary budget amounts for the different departments and certain specific accounts, including a partial list of items being purchased within the budget. He identified the general fund cost for the coming year as \$17,814,361, stating that the tax impact of this budget, along with the recommended warrant articles, would have a \$4.30 per \$1,000 of assessed value. This represented a reduction of 29¢ below the current rate. He then offered to answer questions.

John Drabinowicz, 8 Deerfield Avenue, expressed concern that the Operating Budget article was the largest appropriation on the warrant but typically got little comment. He asked what percentage was discretionary. Mr. Dilworth said all of it was discretionary, that the Budget Committee looked at the budget from a holistic approach. Mr. Drabinowicz stated this article was very expensive, asking if Mr. Dilworth was comfortable with it. Mr. Dilworth said he was satisfied, noting that the vote to recommend had been unanimous—the Budget Committee felt it to be prudent.

Steve Benton, 20B Pelham Road, asked if there was a line item pertaining to supervisors' pay. Mr. Dilworth responded that this pertained to the non-union employees, stating that there was no warrant article for them this year. Mr. Benton asked if this meant that the supervisors would not be getting a raise. Mr. Dilworth noted the Selectmen could transfer money within the budget, if they saw fit. Mr. Benton believed the supervisors should get a raise, as the employees' pay would be getting close to the supervisors' pay if the other warrant articles were approved.

Amendment by John Knowles, 51 Quail Run, to increase by \$10,000, seconded by Ann Seabury. Mr. Knowles said the intent was to return money which had been removed by the Budget Committee, specifically from the line dealing with books, periodicals, CDs, DVDs, audio tapes, etc. Saying the only public statement about the cut had been that so many books would not be needed, as the library had computers, but the Internet did not make books obsolete. Most nonfiction was not available on the Internet and that most works of fiction was blocked by copyright laws. Most of the computers in the library were for use by library employees in the business of running the library. The library materials account had been essentially flat for the past several years, even though the cost of individual items had increased extensively. Other library costs had gone up and the Trustees kept this account flat in order to take care of staff. There was the problem that the limited space of the current library was full, so that things had to be removed when new things were obtained. This cut represented 17% of the materials budget, saying it would be hard to move things around to cover this cut. Books, after all, were what libraries were all about.

Ann Seabury said it was the books-purchase account that had been cut, despite the fact that the cost of books had risen drastically. The school where she worked pays \$45 for some replacement books. One of the teachers mailed lesson plans to the Library because there were not enough books at the HS for some special projects, while another friend had to purchase a library card from Nashua because there were not enough books at the Hudson library for her HS kids to complete their research. She was currently reading a 600-page book that she would hate to read on a computer screen, with bifocals.

Howard Dilworth, Jr., said the Budget Committee took seriously its job to recommend what was prudent. Many people in town were on a fixed income, with the average taxes being \$4,800 per year, or \$400 per month, before other expenses. The argument was made that there was less need for reading materials because of the availability of computers. He questioned the claim of fiscal responsibility by the Library Trustees, saying the library costs had increased by a third in the past five years, with this money going into salaries. The Library Trustees could move money around in their accounts but had chosen to put it in salaries and other things, noting that their computer system had a \$15,000 annual cost that had never been voted on by anyone except the Trustees. He asked how many people actually used the library, noting that the Trustees spent \$6,500 a year for passes to things such as the Boston Science Museum, concluding by asking that the people vote down this amendment.

John Drabinowicz, 8 Deerfield Avenue, opposed the amendment, saying \$10,000 was a lot of money. Stating there was no room for new books until a library was built, which he said was in the works, he then expressed concern about the statement that books had to be discarded or sold when new ones were obtained, saying some of the old ones were as good as the new stuff and that it bothered him that the Trustees would treat old information as though it did not have to exist. He noted that many people could not get full-time work, and therefore did not get cost-of-living increases but were expected to pay the taxes.

Arlene Creeden, 45 Cottonwood Drive, a Library Trustee, said they had worked very hard to bring in a budget as close to zero as they could. The senior citizens, on fixed incomes, could use the library to get the latest books, even though they could not afford to buy a book. Old books were not discarded, as had been suggested, but were stored. The library's patrons wanted to see the newer books, while other patrons wanted audio books to listen to while driving to work.

Phyllis Appler, 64 Glen Drive, agreed with the previous speaker, saying those on fixed incomes could benefit the most from library services, including its Internet and the bookmobile.

Selectman Richard Maddox said the Library Trustees wanted to put \$20,000 surplus at the end of the year into their capital fund, indicating that they already knew they would have \$20,000 and more extra.

Janice Walsh, 14 Alvirne Drive, said amenities like the library were what kept people staying here. She and her family use the library extensively. She was close to a fixed income and found the library's free amenities very beneficial.

Mary Ann Knowles, 51 Quail Run, a Library Trustee, stated that the Trustees had no certainty whatsoever that there would be a surplus at the end of the year, as stated by a previous speaker, but simply would like to use whatever might be left for the expansion program, rather than losing it. She stated that \$10,000 was a lot of money for the library.

Mr. Drabinowicz referred to the use of the word "free" for library services, protesting that these services were paid for by the Town. If people could not afford to pay their taxes, they were free to go someplace else.

Leo Bernard moved the question, seconded by Mr. Dilworth.

VOTE on the Amendment: Noting that concern had been expressed that some non-voters might have been participating in the verbal votes, Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, then declared the amendment to have carried.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, then declared Article 14, as amended, was sent to the ballot

**Article 15—Part-Time Water Utility Clerk**--To appropriate \$21,747 to hire a part-time accounting clerk for the Water Utility. (This is in addition to the Operating Budget. Recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.)

Selectman Massey moved to send Article 15 forward to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard. Selectman Massey noted that the Selectmen had included \$21,000 in the Operating Budget for increases for non-union personnel, but the Budget Committee removed the allocation. He spoke on the need for this position, stating that the increase in the number of users from 4,500 to 5,500 made it difficult to supply services, resulting in customer frustration. Both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee continue to recognize the need for this position. He listed various specifics that this person would do, noting that the position would be paid for out of the existing rate structure of the water utility.

Ray Gendron, 7 First Street, asked why the position was in the Town budget if paid for by the water users. Selectman Massey said that was what the Municipal Budget Act called for, but the budget also included income from the water users to pay for the water utility.

John Drabinowicz, 8 Deerfield Avenue, asked how people could be added without an increase in the rates. Selectman Massey explained that the current costs were close to the revenue but that there was of a cushion, amounting to about \$100,000 annually, to absorb this cost. An increase would have to be faced when the bond to upgrade the water system came up.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, then stated the motion to have passed.

Clint Weaver, 20A Pelham Road, moved to restrict Articles 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, seconded by Shawn Jasper.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote then declared the motion to restrict the articles to have passed. He declared a recess at 1:48 p.m., calling the meeting back to order at 1:59 p.m.

**Article 16—Associate Planner**--To appropriate \$65,577 to hire an Associate Planner for Community Development. (This is in addition to the Operating Budget. Recommended by the Selectmen; Not recommended by the Budget Committee.)

Selectman Maddox moved to send Article 16 to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard. Selectman Maddox stated that this was a chance for forward thinking. The Budget Committee had voted not to recommend because it had not received all the information it wanted. The Town Planner was doing a great job but had time only to deal with what came across the counter. Cases coming before the Planning Board were increasingly complex, tying up the Planner's time. Four of the Selectmen who had served on the Planning Board voted for this. One of the duties of this position would be writing grants.

Suellen Quinlan, 50 Pelham Road, a member of the Planning Board for 12 years, stated that development was booming. She spoke in favor of the article, listing things that the Associate Planner could work on.

Shawn N. Jasper, 83 Old Derry Road, said he did not have a firm handle on the job to be done—different activities were listed each time the position was discussed. The number of ZBA cases was up, but Planning Board cases were on a downward trend, as the town was pretty much built out. The Community Development Director had come before the Selectmen a few years ago with a recommendation to eliminate this position. He asked why the tax payers should support this position, rather than the developers, by fees. He did not see a plan in place, and he did not see any cost benefit.

Howard Dilworth, Jr. said the Budget Committee had a standard warrant article worksheet, like a grant application, and they voted on that information. There was space in the form for 2-1/2 pages of typewritten explanation to justify the request, but all the Budget Committee received was a two-sentence description. The position requested did not match the work the person in the position would do, saying he felt the work listed was mostly of a clerical nature. Unless the position was structured to show how much time would be spent on grant writing, he could not feel that much grant writing would be done.

Tim Quinn, chairman of the Conservation Commission, said the Community Development Department did an excellent job, but not enough planning was being done. Cases were fewer, but more complex. He felt this help was needed.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, then declared the motion to have passed.

**Article 17--Revised Property Tax Exemption for the Elderly**--To modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in he Town of Hudson, based on assessed value, as follows: 65 years up to 75 years, \$95,000; 75 years up to 80 years, \$115,000; 80 years or older, \$145,000. The person must have been a NH resident for at least five consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least five years. Taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$30,000 or married, a combined net income of not more than \$40,000 and own net assets not in excess of \$125,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. This article shall take effect for the 05 tax year. (Recommended by the Selectmen.)

Selectman Maddox moved to send Article 17 to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard. Selectman Maddox commented on details shown on a PowerPoint slide.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, and he then declared the motion to have passed.



**Article 18—Revised Property Tax Exemption for the Disabled**--To modify exemption for disabled to \$95,000. Person must have been a NH resident for at least five consecutive years and own and occupy the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by a spouse, must have been married for at least five years. Taxpayer must have net income of not more than \$30,000 or, married, a combined of not more than \$40,000 and own net assets not in excess of \$125,000 excluding the value of residence. Article shall take effect for the 05 property tax year. (Recommended by the Selectmen.)

Selectman Maddox moved to send Article 18 to the ballot, seconded by Mr. Leo Bernard. Selectman Maddox commented on details shown on a PowerPoint slide, saying the Selectmen were trying to keep the exemption as a fair amount, based on reval.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, then declared the motion to have passed.

**Article 19—Revised Property Tax Exemptions for the Blind**--To modify exemption for the blind, pursuant to RSA 72:37, from the assessed value of residential real estate for property tax purposes. Every inhabitant who is legally blind shall be exempt each year for property tax purposes from the assessed value on a residence to the value of \$95,000. Article shall take effect for the 05 property tax year. (Recommended by the Selectmen.)

Selectman Maddox moved to send Article 19 to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard. Selectman Maddox said this was simply an attempt to keep the exemption as a fair amount, based on recent re-evaluation.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, then declared the motion to have passed.

**Article 20—Revised Veterans Tax Credits**--To readopt the provisions of RSA 172:28, V & VI, for an optional Veterans Tax Credit. The optional Veterans Tax Credit shall be \$300, rather than \$200. If approved, this article shall take effect for the 2005 property tax year. (Recommended by the Selectmen.)

Selectman Maddox moved to send Article 20 to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard. Selectman Maddox said that this was another attempt to keep the exemption, based on recent re-evaluation.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, then declared the motion to have passed.

**Article 21—Library Expansion Capital Reserve Fund (Library Fund Balance)**

To appropriate up to \$20,000 to be placed in the Library (amended to include "Expansion") Capital Reserve Fund, previously established, from the Library's year-end undesignated fund balance, available on 6/30/05. (This is in addition to the Operating Budget. Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.)

Selectman MacLean moved to send Article 21 to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard. Selectman MacLean said that this article would allow any money left over in the Library budget at the end of the year, up to \$20,000, to be transferred to the Library Capital Reserve Fund, for costs associated with the proposed expansion of the present library.

Mary Ann Knowles, 51 Quail Run, a Library Trustee, thanked the Selectmen and the Budget Committee for supporting this article, which would be effective only if there was money left over at the end of the budget year, which would be money already approved as part of this year's budget. This provides a significant gain to the library without an additional tax burden.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, then declared the motion to have passed.

**Article 22—Library Trustees as Agents to Expend**--To name the Hills Memorial Library Trustees as agents to withdraw and expend the funds in the current Library Expansion Capital Reserve Fund. (Recommended by the Selectmen.)

Selectman MacLean moved to send Article 22 to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard. Selectman MacLean spoke in favor of the article, saying the Library Trustees currently could only draw on the monies from the Library Expansion Capital Reserve Fund after a vote of the voters at Town Meeting, and this article would allow the Trustees to spend money, as they saw fit. There was no tax impact, and it would expedite the process of paying for services associated with the expansion project.

John Knowles, a Library Trustee, said the issue was if the Trustees needed to expend money during the fiscal year, such as hire an architect or have asbestos studies done. Approval of the Trustees of the Trust Funds would be needed before the money could be drawn—and the money could only be used for the library expansion project.

Fred Giuffrida, 14 Pinewood Road, asked how much money currently was in the capital reserve fund. Finance Director Kathy Carpentier gave a figure of \$77,720. Mr. Giuffrida asked if asbestos studies had been done yet. One of the Library Trustees answered in the negative. Mr. Giuffrida asked if all of the properties for building the library were now owned by the Town. Library Trustees answered in the affirmative. Mr. Giuffrida asked why the asbestos studies had not been done, when some plans and drawings had been prepared. He wanted to know the cost of the asbestos abatement. Selectman MacLean said there were plans underway for the asbestos studies, adding that some of the capital reserve fund money would be used. Mr. Knowles added that the State had done some superficial studies, but a more thorough study was needed. Mr. Giuffrida objected to the focus on expanding the property at its present location, and could not support this article for that reason.

Howard Dilworth, Jr., 15 Sycamore Street, said naming agents to expend was a very serious thing, that the Town Meeting would be giving up its ability to say what money should be spent. The existing reserve funds held by the town, with the Selectmen as agents to expend, made sense because these pertained to emergency situations. He then concluded by expressing a belief that the building of a library should be brought back to the citizens of the community for scrutiny.

John Knowles said this article would not allow the Library Trustees to build a library, but to expend from the capital reserve fund for

things that might come up, such as the asbestos study, which the Library Trustees did not have the money to do. Jane Bowles, 57 Hazelwood Road, a Library Trustee, said this article evolved from a recommendation by Joe Wozniak, one of the Trustees of the Trust Funds, who suggested this approach as a way of facilitating the use of the existing capital reserve funds, which had already been appropriated at previous Town Meetings, on an as-needed basis. There were numerous checks and balances involved, with forms to fill out to verify that any proposed expenditure was in line with the reason for which the capital reserve fund had been set up.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, then declared the motion to have passed.

Moderator Keenan noted that the Library Trustees had informed him that a minor clerical change needed to be made with respect to Article 21. Mr. Knowles explained that the proper name of the capital reserve fund in the text of Article 21 should be designated as the Library Expansion Capital Reserve Fund, exactly as done in Article 22, which referred to the same fund. Mr. Knowles then moved to add the word "Expansion" between "Library" and "Capital", seconded by Elaine Brody.

Shawn N. Jasper, 83 Old Derry Road, said Article 21 had already been sent to the warrant. What was needed was a motion to reconsider and then a motion to amend. Mr. Jasper moved to reconsider Article 21, seconded by Mr. Knowles.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, then declared the motion to reconsider Article 21 to have passed.

Howard Dilworth, Jr., 15 Sycamore Street, noted the text of the article as shown on the display screen and the text of the article as printed in the Town Warrant booklet provided to voters at the door of this meeting room were different. He then asked what the actual posted warrant said. Moderator Keenan said he was going by the booklet, which he presumed to be the posted warrant. Mr. Dilworth asked the Finance Director if there were two funds. Ms. Carpentier replied in the negative.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, then declared the motion to amend to have passed.

John Knowles moved to send Article 21 as amended to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, then declared the motion to have passed.

**Article 23—Land Use Change Tax Revenue Surplus**--To appropriate \$290,896 from the 04-05 unencumbered budget surplus, the unappropriated balance of the land Use Change Tax Fund at the end of FY 03, and to place said amount into the (amended to include "Conservation") Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of open space for conservation purposes, said fund having been established under Article 30 of the March 2000 Warrant for the purpose of acquiring land, development rights, or conservation easements. (This is in addition to the Operating Budget. Recommended by the Selectmen and by the Budget Committee.)

Selectman Stewart moved to send Article 23 to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard. Selectman Stewart said this was basically a housekeeping issue, noting the same article had been passed by the voters last year but had been disallowed by DRA because no dollar figure had been given in the article, with that dollar figure having been provided in this new version.

Tim Quinn, 1 Fuller Drive, wanted to underscore that this article had no tax impact.

Selectman Massey amended by inserting the word "Conservation" between "the" and "Capital", seconded by Selectman Stewart. Selectman Massey said the language needed to be clear that the voters were the agents to expend for this fund.

Ted Luszey, 13 Cathedral Lane, said it had been said that there was no tax impact when monies were taken from surplus, but that was not a very truthful statement, because monies in the surplus could be used to reduce the tax rate of following years.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, then declared the amendment to have passed.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, then declared the motion to have passed.

**Article 24—Discontinuance of Animal Shelter Capital Reserve**--To discontinue the Animal Shelter Capital Reserve Fund created in April 1994, to construct an Animal Shelter. There is a zero balance in the fund. (Recommended by the Selectmen.)

Selectman Massey moved to send Article 24 to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard. Selectman Massey said that this was a housekeeping item. All of the monies in this capital fund were expended to construct the Animal Control Facility two years ago, so the Trustees of the Trust Funds asked the Selectmen to discontinue the use of this fund to get it off the books.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, then declared the motion to have passed.

**Article 25—Library Expansion Expenses**--To appropriate \$220,000 for architectural services, site assessments, and collecting information for proposed expansion. This will not lapse until the building is complete or in 5 years, whichever is less. (This is in addition to the Operating Budget. Not recommended by the Selectmen or the Budget Committee.)

Elaine Brody, 148 Webster Street, moved to send Article 25 forward to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard. She said there was a need to go forward with the library expansion project at this time. She presented a PowerPoint demo, reviewing the 30-year history of the attempt to expand the library and pointing out that more than \$300,000 had been appropriated by the voters through the past six years for this purpose, with adjoining properties having been purchased. Hills Memorial Library was built in 1909, when the population was about 1,300--less than the current number of students at Alvirne, but the town now had a growing population of almost 24,000 citizens, with the resources of the library spread out through the main building, a small trailer, a double trailer, two sheds, and a small house on Ferry Street, which resulted in poor use of staff, security issues, etc. Stating that the standard for library space was one square foot per capita, she noted that Hudson's library had about one-fourth of a square foot per capita—with the library last year having logged 11,233 patrons, with the shelved library items having significantly increased through the years. She showed an architect's conceptual drawing for the

proposed addition, adding that the article would appropriate money, first to get preliminary architectural cost estimates for the project, site, HazMat and geo-technical assessments, and second, to get more complete drawings and cost estimates. The tax assessment of this article would be \$22.50 for a homeowner of a \$250,000 house, based on a 9¢/\$1000 tax rate.

Phyllis Appler, 64 Glen Drive, said the voters needed to move the library up in the CIP list.

Robert Haefner, 1 St. John Street, was neither for the article nor against it, but he could see that the Library Trustees would be looking for \$7-\$8 million next year. The voters should vote for this if they intended to vote for a new library addition.

Jean Serino, 118 Robinson Road, spoke in support of the article, saying she had returned to the meeting from home after hearing a previous speaker say that affluent people would vote for anything. She recounted anecdotes about non-affluent people she knew who made extensive use of the library, declaring that the library was a necessity, not a luxury.

Selectman Richard Maddox stated that the Trustees had not yet tapped into the library impact fees that the Planning Board had been collecting and hoped the Trustees would do the asbestos study before doing much design work. The town of Windham had recently built a beautiful library, two and a half times bigger than the current Hudson library, at a cost of only \$1,700,000. He asked if the cost of the land had been included—adding that he believed this would actually be part of a \$9,000,000 expenditure, but that he felt a library could be built elsewhere in Hudson for \$3,000,000.

Elaine Brody stated that neither the Trustees nor the Library Building Committee had tried to pretend that this \$220,000 was the end of the project—that this was only the beginning, but they had to go forward in order to get definite numbers.

Janice Walsh, 14 Alvirne Drive, spoke in strong support of the article. Not everyone in town had Internet-connection facilities at home, or the budget to purchase CDs and books or other library materials, and students often had time restrictions preventing them from accessing these materials. Library programs could be expanded if a new library were available.

John Knowles, reported that fees had already been sought out for the asbestos study and it was at the top of the Trustees' priority list, but they were still trying to find out who they would have to talk with and how much it would cost, and did not yet know how much effect the asbestos would have on the construction process. The library addition would be placed in the lower level, where the parking lot was, and the parking would be moved up onto the filled-in area. Referring to the statement that Windham had built a larger library for much less money, he reported that that same 6-year-old library was already looking to expand because it was not big enough. The actual cost of the proposed library was not known, they just had a "swag" estimate from a previously consulted architect. This article would let the Trustees get a firm number.

Donald Shepard, 8 Woodcrest Drive, spoke in support of the article.

**VOTE:** Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, then declared the motion to have passed.

**Article 26—Full-Time Adult Services Librarian**--To appropriate \$10,413 to change a part-time to a full-time position. (This is in addition to the Operating Budget. Not recommended by the Selectmen or the Budget Committee.)

John Knowles, 51 Quail Run, moved to send Article 26 to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard. Mr. Knowles said this was the second try at this much-needed position in order to provide benefits sufficient to obtain a properly qualified person. They currently had an excellent person in the part-time position and the Trustees wanted to keep that person.

Howard Dilworth, Jr., said the Selectmen had asked the Trustees last year to restructure the part-time library staff to cover the need in other ways while keeping the costs neutral, but the Trustees had not wanted to. He doubted that the person in the current position, whom he understood to be a Hudson resident, would be likely to go anywhere else. This was just an attempt to add \$10,000 to the Library's budget; the Trustees would come back next year to request a salary raise for the position.

John Drabinowicz, 8 Deerfield Avenue, wondered what the votes were on the two boards' decision to not recommend. Mr. Dilworth said the Budget Committee's position had been pretty much what he had just said. They did not feel this was a prudent increase. Selectman Stewart said it was basically the same for the Board of Selectmen.

John Cesana, 20 Beechwood Road, asked if it was feasible to combine two or three part-time positions to hire one full-time person. Trustee Arlene Creeden said there were 45 part-time employees. If the Trustees cut down the number of part-timers, there would be no one to cover the hours—adding that the Trustees could barely cover them as it was.

Mr. Dilworth, added that the Budget Committee had not felt this to be a prudent increase, saying everybody had to make cuts.

Selectman Richard Maddox said the library had more employees than the Highway Department. He visited the library many times to make an independent survey, finding on average six employees and seven patrons, with three of the latter being children and two of the patrons on computers. He could not believe they could not move some of their existing part-time staff around, adding that everybody needed to learn to do more with less.

Fred Giuffrida, 14 Pinewood Rd, said the Library had a surplus at the end of every year because they allocated funds for positions that were not filled. He asked if there were open positions that could be consolidated to get money for this position.

Jane Bowles, a Library Trustee, said three positions had been consolidated last year, after the Selectmen had requested that approach, but the position still did not get the recommendation. The Budget Committee vote this year had been a 4-4 tie, with the resulting designation of Not recommended.

Ted Luszy, 13 Cathedral Lane, moved the question, seconded by John Beike, 10 Cedar Street.

**VOTE:** Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, then declared the motion to have passed.

**Article 27—50% from Land Use Change Tax placed into Conservation Fund**--To place 50% of revenues of future payments

collected from the land Use Change Tax into Conservation Fund IAW RSA 36-a:5 III, as authorized under provisions of RSA 79-A:25 II, for acquisition of conservation land, easements, development rights, and associated costs. (Recommended [later changed to Not Recommended by the Selectmen]; Recommended by the Budget Committee.)

Tim Quinn, chairman of the Conservation Commission, moved to send Article 27 to the ballot, seconded by Leo Bernard. Mr. Quinn stated that other communities in the State commonly provided 70%-100% of the Land Use Change Tax revenues for this purpose. The only other community in the area that did not was Litchfield, and a proposal would be discussed in Litchfield in the near future. The Conservation Commission felt the voters would accept 50% as being a compromise.

VOTE: Moderator Keenan called for a hand vote, then declared the motion to have passed.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Leo Bernard to adjourn, seconded by Shawn Jasper. Following the vote, Mr. Keenan declared the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m., thanking the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee for an excellent job.

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Cecile Nichols, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Recorded and transcribed by J. Bradford Seabury  
Hudson Minutemen

(The minutes reflect a slightly condensed version of the actual warrant articles.)