

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the March 23, 2004 Meeting

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Pro Tem Teresa Stewart at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Hudson, NH Town Hall. She welcomed the two newly-elected Selectmen, Richard Maddox and Kathleen MacLean, congratulating them and, on behalf of the Board, looks forward to addressing the issues facing the Town as they move forward.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Selectman Ken Massey.
3. **ATTENDANCE**

Selectmen: Teresa Stewart, Kathleen R. MacLean, Richard J. Maddox and Kenneth J. Massey. Chairman Cole was out of Town.

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director; Shawn Murray, Fire Chief; Police Capt. William Pease; Sean Sullivan, Director of Community Development; Tom Sommers, Town Engineer; Dave Yates, Recreation Director; Joe MacLean; Esther McGraw; Bob Clegg; David Bouchard; Howard Dilworth, Jr; Ray Rowell; Fred Giuffrida; Linda Kipnes; Jim Battis; Leo Bernard; several unidentified individuals; Pierre Comtois, SUN; Jean Mackin and cameraman, Channel 9 News; Anne Lundregan, TEL

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Fred Giuffrida, 14 Pinewood Road re: Comments by J. Serino at last BOS Meeting – Mr. Giuffrida said the remarks attributed to the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen by Ms. Serino at the Board's last meeting, in which she said he insulted various ethnic groups and minorities, casts the Town in a bad light and casts a shadow on every personnel decision or interaction the Town will make--that minorities who conduct Town business, or apply for a variance or a position, etc., would feel that they would not be treated fairly. He is an Italian-American and, growing up, derogatory terms about one's ethnicity were not used in his household, adding that the issue of the Chairman's bigoted views isn't something that is going to blow over. He asked what the Board was going to do about it, and suggested censure, since Mr. Cole can't be fired or recalled. Mr. Giuffrida advocated against re-electing Chairman Cole as chairman and asked them to consider a possible headline that would read, "Hudson Selectman Admits Bigotry Elected Chairman." If they elect him Chairman, it would be an endorsement of him and then the rest of the world would view Hudson as intolerant and bigoted. He noted that several Board members attend the same church he does, saying this is a moral issue, as well as an ethical issue, and asked how they could vote for Chairman Cole as Chairman of the most powerful board in Town.

Bob Clegg, 39 Trigate Road re: Response to Comments -- Mr. Clegg said he has served with Bill Cole for many years, and that the subject conversation was conducted in private—until one party chose to make it public, which makes him wonder if it was for politically-motivated reasons because this matter could have been conducted in private to determine whether or not things were said in the manner in which one party claims they were, and to see what could be done. In the Senate, testimony is transcribed verbatim. During a discussion about coded students, a State Representative and former Hudson Selectman made a derogatory statement about coded children. Mr. Clegg wondered why people didn't find that improper and offensive, with an outcry to remove that official from office. There is a difference between a private conversation and a publicly-made statement. He questioned why Mr. Cole was being picked on when he wasn't present to defend himself. He understands that Mr. Cole hasn't denied comments, but he hasn't heard how the comments were made, or what the other party said. Mr. Clegg wasn't defending the words that were used, but he wondered why someone would choose to make a private conversation public, if not expressly for political reasons. He urged the Board to get on with business and not allow the Town to be used for political purposes.

Greg Amaral, 16 Easthill Drive re: Response to Comments – Mr. Amaral thanked the Board for allowing this subject to take place in Public Input, saying he hadn't heard anything about it until he saw the editorial in the HLN. Relative to Freedom of Speech, Mr. Cole is an elected official, representing the Town of Hudson, and whether or not it was a private conversation, it was held within Town Hall. This shouldn't be turned into a witch hunt, but he believes they are entitled to some answers and to hear Mr. Cole's explanation. His understanding is that Mr. Cole didn't apologize for his comments and, although he's entitled to his opinion, not as a public official, representing individuals in Town—and the more people that hear about this, the bigger it will get. He strongly urged the Board to resolve this before it gets out of hand because this isn't going away. Harsh statements against homosexuals and minorities can't happen in 2004.

Esther McGraw, 69 Kimball Hill Road re: Response to Comments – Ms. McGraw wondered why this incident, which happened weeks ago, wasn't addressed before now. She also felt it could have been handled privately with the Board. She strongly supports Mr. Cole and said this already has turned into a witch hunt.

5. **CONSENT ITEMS**

Selectman Maddox removed A, 3 & 4 because of questions he had for the Assessor. Chair Pro Tem Stewart said under Committee Announcements, the Sewer Utility meeting on April 8th starts at 7:00, not at 7:30.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to receive the consent items, as noted or appropriate (with the exception of A, 3 & 4) carried unanimously.

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Elderly Exemption and Application for Abatement, 9 Holly Lane, w/recommendation to grant.
- 2) Veteran's Tax Credit Application, 6 Farmington Drive, w/recommendation to grant.

3) Current Use Lien Release, Map 142/Lot 43, w/recommendation to approve.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Massey, to defer to April 13, 2004 carried.

4) Tax Deferral Application, 8 Sunland Drive, w/recommendation to sign.

Selectman Massey said, for the record, tax deferrals are not subject to time deadlines.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Massey, to defer to April 13, 2004 carried.

B. Sewer Utility Items

Revised Sewer Utility Policies & Procedures, III-A & III-N w/recommendation to approve.

(Selectman Maddox said they couldn't tell what had been added or deleted because the text was not crossed out or italicized. Mr. Sommers said most of the changes were single words here and there, except for the one substantial change--abatements for filling pools. In the future, the deleted and/or added text will be indicated.)

C. Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of March 8, 2004 to file.

D. Committee Announcements

03/23/04 7:30 BOS in BOS Meeting Room
 03/23/04 1:00 Trustees of the Trust Funds
 03/24/04 7:00 Planning Board in CD Meeting Room
 03/25/04 7:30 ZBA in CD Meeting Room
 03/30/04 10:00 Tax Relief Program at Lions Hall w/Assessor
 04/01/04 6:30 Regional Water District Committee in Bedford
 04/04/04 Daylight Savings Time begins
 04/05/04 7:00 Friends of Hudson's Natural Resources in CD Meeting Room
 04/05/04 6:30 School Board in BOS Meeting Room
 04/06/04 7:30 Library Board of Trustees in Annex
 04/07/04 9:00 a.m. Highway Safety Committee in CD Meeting Room
 04/07/04 7:00 Planning Board Workshop in CD Meeting Room
 04/08/04 7:00 CIP in BOS Meeting Room
 04/08/04 7:30 ZBA in CD Meeting Room
 04/08/04 7:00 SUC in Community Development Department Offices
 04/13/04 7:30 BOS Meeting in BOS Meeting Room
 04/14/04 7:00 Planning Board in CD Meeting Room
 04/15/04 7:30 Budget Committee in BOS Meeting Room
 04/19/04 7:30 Conservation Commission in CD Meeting Room
 04/19/04 6:30 School Board in BOS Meeting Room
 04/22/04 7:00 CIP in BOS Meeting Room
 04/22/04 7:30 ZBA in CD Meeting Room
 04/27/04 7:30 BOS in BOS Meeting Room
 04/28/04 7:00 Planning Board in CD Meeting Room
 04/29/04 7:00 CIP in BOS Meeting Room

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Glen Drive Sewer Assessment District

Town Engineer Tom Sommers said the Sewer Utility Committee submitted a memo, dated March 12, 2004 with recommendations they formulated at their last meeting. There was substantial discussion and thought behind the recommendations, taking into consideration what was heard at the public hearing on February 18. He noted some abutters were present, who may want to speak to this and then proceeded to explain the recommendations.

1. *The sewer permit application should not be waived.* This is a \$50 application fee to pay for the administrative and inspection efforts by staff and passed unanimously by the committee.
2. *The 3.5% fixed interest rate should not be changed.* This comes from the information provided through the bond market, and passed 3-2. The committee agreed on the concept, but not on the percentage, ranging from 2.5 to 3.5.
3. *The sewer capital assessment fee should be waived as follows: 100% if connection is made before November 15, 2004 and 50% for connections made between November 15, 2004 and November 15, 2005.* This motion passed unanimously. This is a substantial change from what was recommended before. The fee is approximately \$2,350.
4. *If a signed installation contract and sewer permit are in place within a waiver period, but work is not done because of circumstances beyond the homeowner's control, the sewer capital assessment fee should continue to be waived.* This motion passed unanimously.
5. *The assessment district should begin as of July 1, 2004 with billing to start January 2005; and further, quarterly payments should be allowed on each annual billing and further a Notice of Assessment should be recorded at the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds for each lot on or before the commencement of the Assessment District.* This passed unanimously. There would not be any interest accrued between the start of the assessment and the billing period. With the Rangers Drive District, the Sewer Utility Clerk sends out bills in January, but payments can be made on a quarterly basis, without incurring any interest or late payment costs, and this would do the same thing. Recording at the Registry is an assessment, not a lien and would be done just prior to, or at the establishment of the assessment district.
6. *As soon as the sewer system is accepted (required for all sewer extensions) by the Selectmen, connections should be allowed.* This will come to the Board as part of the acceptance process within the next month. Some people need to connect ASAP. The pumps are in the final stages of testing and when that is done, he will recommend to the Sewer Utility Committee to recommend acceptance by the Selectmen by the second meeting in April.

Selectman Maddox said he was at that public hearing and feels this is a fair adjustment from the first plan to address the issues that people brought forth. Selectman MacLean agreed, saying this was well done. Selectman Massey said he was also at the hearing and thanked the Sewer Utility Committee and Mr. Sommers for listening to the residents and coming up with an acceptable compromise, especially with regard to the 100% and 50% waivers to the fee.

Chair Pro Tem Stewart asked if anyone in the audience had any questions. Theresa Mocerri, 18 Easthill Drive, asked if the interest rate had been decided. Mr. Sommers said the recommendation was to hold the rate at 3½%.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Massey, to defer until April 13, 2004 carried unanimously.

B. CIP Projects

Town Administrator Malizia said the Board requested department heads to submit a listing of their CIP projects so the Selectmen can determine whether or not it is something they can support and what fiscal year the projects should be in. This information will be going to the CIP, but the Board can review it, ask questions, defer it, delete it, change it, etc. CIP submittals are due at Community Development by April 2. Department heads were present to answer questions.

Police/Fire -- Radio Interoperability and Combined Dispatch

Police Department -- Facility Expansion

Fire Department -- Replacement Fire Engine

Recreation Department -- Facility Expansion and Field Space

Library -- Expansion

Community Development -- Melendy /County Road Bridges, Burns Hill Landfill Remediation, Route 102 Sidewalks, Route 111/Kimball Hill Road Intersection, Traffic Signals Library/Central Chase/Central, Route 102, Hudson Mall to Webster Street, and Upgrade to Topo Layer of GIS Mapping

Water Utility -- 0.8 MGD Storage, South Hudson; 12" Water Main, River Road; Windham Road Booster Station; Compass Point Booster Station; 1.2 MGD Storage, Barretts Hill Road; 12" Water Main, Barretts Hill Road; 3,250 Water Transmission Line, Lowell Road and 1,000 LF Water Transmission Line, Sagamore

Benson's -- Haselton Barn Roof; Welcome Center, Restore/Relocate; Welcome Center, Interior Design; Historic Benson, Renovate Grounds; Historic Benson, Renovate Office and Kitchen; Primary Parking Lot; Trail Development; Site Plan; South Field Parking; South Field, Recreation and Haselton Barn, Renovation

Selectman Maddox said he and Selectman MacLean, the 'newbies,' probably need to visit the Police facility, the Rec Center, the Library, etc., to have a better understanding of the projects in order to rank them fairly. Selectman MacLean thought the CIP did the ranking, not the Selectmen. Selectman Maddox said if something didn't get the Selectmen's blessing, it wouldn't even go to the CIP. Chair Pro Tem Stewart said, for example, a lot of projects are listed for Benson's for '06, so they might recommend deferring some to '07 or '08. Then the CIP would rate them, based on the Selectmen's input. Selectman Maddox thought it was unrealistic for the Selectmen to allow \$13 million in projects to go forward. Selectman MacLean asked where the departments came up with the numbers, because there wasn't any backup. A lot of work had gone into putting the numbers together and, even if a project stayed on the list, it didn't mean that money would be allocated for it. Selectman Maddox said if the Selectmen are not behind a particular project, even if they get high ratings by CIP, end up nowhere. CIP members usually check to see where the Selectmen stand on the projects. They should make the tough choices now so the CIP doesn't have to go through a futile exercise

(Start Tape 1, Second Side)

Selectman Massey said before the projects come back to the Board of Selectmen, every department needs to re-look at the cost estimates because some of them may have changed.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to move the library expansion to '07 because health and safety projects have priority carried unanimously.

Continuing, Selectman Massey said another costly item was Route 102/Hudson Mall to Webster Street at \$1,500,000. Monies will be coming into Town as a result of several developments on Route 3A. Developers will contribute \$250 for each unit built. He wondered if that item and the Traffic Signals at Library/Chase/Central were part of a project that NRPC was developing to re-signal that entire section, with grant monies available, as a result. Those two items are critical to mitigating the traffic problems where 111, 102 and 3A all converge.

Mr. Malizia said the number before them was the gross appropriation, which could be offset by impact fees, grants, or some other available resource, especially the road projects. Selectman Maddox said some of them have an 80% match.

Chair Pro Tem Stewart said another hefty chunk of money was for expansion of the police facility, especially since the station has just been paid off. Captain Pease said when the building was constructed in 1995, the architects estimated that an expansion would be needed "down the road," and they are getting close to that. It was put on for 2007 as a means of informing the Board that they are running out of space. They ranked it third on their priority wish list, to get people thinking about it. Captain Pease liked Selectman Maddox's idea about touring their facility so the new Selectmen could visualize what they are talking about, including radio interoperability and combined dispatch.

Chair Pro Tem Stewart asked if Police and Fire were still committed to Combined Dispatch. Fire Chief Murray said yes, very much so. This year, they asked the Board to consider radio interoperability a priority, in order to make combined dispatch work down the road. The previous Board voted that Combined Dispatch would be included in the CIP. The presentations are available on PowerPoint if anyone wants to see them to understand the projects. The fact that the voters did not approve radio interoperability will prevent the Town from applying for Homeland Security grants. He and Chief Gendron plan to talk with the people at State level to see what, if anything, can be done about funding for the two projects. Chair Pro Tem Stewart said at a recent traffic accident, the two departments had to converse through a Fire and Police dispatcher. She is 100% behind both Combined Dispatch and Radio Interoperability for reasons of safety; they must be done. Selectman Maddox believes the Town needs to pick their goals and stick to them. If Combined Dispatch is considered the most important project, and the CIP agrees, focus on that and do a better job of marketing that need. Combined Dispatch needs to get done. Relative to the voters not approving Radio Interoperability, more of an explanation should have been given about grants. He is looking forward to taking a tour to see how everything fits together. Selectman Massey said the space need at the Police Department is especially evident during shift changes. Capt. Pease said Radio Interoperability is important so Police and Fire can communicate with themselves and with all law enforcement agencies and emergency services throughout the State. It is essential for them to be able to communicate with their counterparts in other communities as they are all part of a special response team. A week ago, he was called out to a neighboring community for a dangerous situation that involved negotiations and some of them could not communicate with each other. If a pursuit from a neighboring town comes into Hudson, they'd like to be able to monitor it. Going through a dispatcher creates a delay, and that is a public safety issue.

Selectman Massey said the water utility issues have not gone away. There still are problems with fire suppression, water pressure and the lack of looping, problems identified in the Weston & Sampson Report. The fact that the article didn't get a 3/5ths majority does not mean the need went away. As a result of those problems, the pump systems are working at higher levels than intended. This should be a high priority project for the

Board to support. Selectman MacLean supports Combined Dispatch and Radio Interoperability, but the voters didn't approve it. Chair Pro Tem Stewart said they can put it on the ballot again next year. Selectman Maddox said the Selectmen have to do a better job of marketing what they want, including going to various civic organizations.

C. Regional Water District Charter

Selectman Massey said everyone had a copy of the Charter, as it was voted out of the Regional Water District, formerly known as the Pennichuck Regional Water District. All of the costs will be borne by the ratepayers, so being a member doesn't cost communities any money. The contentious item is §6, the Governance Model. After much debate and compromising, the communities agreed that the Governance Model that would be workable if, for all matters voted on, each member community would have one vote, with the exception of three issues: 1) Setting water rates; 2) Issuance of bonds; 3) Capital Improvement Plan. Those three issues would be voted by one ratepayer per vote. Nashua, which has over 25,000 ratepayers, would have the deciding majority vote.

The Capital Improvement Plan is based on the Resource Plan, which describes what the district wants to do and what the safe yields of all the water sources are, etc. The Resource Plan is one member, one vote. Bulk water purchases is where Hudson comes into play as a customer. Contracts would be approved by one member, one vote. The rate for that bulk water contract would be set by the one ratepayer per vote. The CEO requires a 2/3rds majority of the entire Board. In this case, Nashua would not be able to dictate who the CEO would be.

Article 11 was included as an incentive to communities to join. The district would agree not to compete with a member who has their own water utility and they would agree never to initiate eminent domain proceedings against that member's water business. The surplus revenues at the end of each operating year, when they are declared by the Board, would be distributed back to the member communities on the basis of the ratio of revenues to the district to the total revenues. Because Hudson buys a significant amount of water from Pennichuck, the Town would be in a position to have revenue credits, with an intended use for improvements to the water system.

The Governance Model could be a deal breaker. The module he just described was a means of getting Nashua to buy into all the other things. If the Governance Model were to change—who gets to vote when and how—the member communities (other than Nashua) would not vote for this agreement. The Charter Committee meets on April 1. He attended the Nashua Aldermen's meeting three weeks ago, and there were several areas the Aldermen questioned, things that were in the charter, but maybe not explicitly stated. Nashua might ask that the language be changed, but he didn't hear anything that would lead him to recommend not endorsing the charter. Becoming a member gives them a voice and a vote. He asked if anyone wanted him to take anything to the meeting on April 1 and if there was a consensus if the Charter was acceptable. The Board would have to hold a public hearing relative to joining the District.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman MacLean, that the Board of Selectmen agrees with the merits of the Charter carried unanimously.

Selectman Maddox asked if Hudson was going to be a customer or a member, since the Town owns their own utility. Selectman Massey said if the district comes into being, and the assets of Pennichuck Water Works becomes the property of the district, then Hudson would continue to buy bulk water purchases from that entity and pay the going rate. They would continue to charge that entity the cost of moving water to Litchfield and Pelham. The Town has recently installed meters and, as a result, the Town knows how much water they are purchasing from Pennichuck and how much water the Town is delivering, on Pennichuck's behalf, to Litchfield and Pelham. Hudson will continue to own and operate its own water utility. Selectman Maddox asked if rates would be increased to cover the bond, and if Hudson would be paying higher rates, in addition to owning their own system. He also wondered if the Town was considering selling their water system. Selectman Massey said Hudson has never been asked to consider that option. The rate that the ratepayers pay will be based on the cost to produce and deliver the water.

(Tape 2, Side A)

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Pro Tem Stewart asked for a motion to send this to a public hearing at the Board's meeting on May 11, But Selectman Massey asked that before such a motion is taken, they wait to see what happens at the meeting on April 1 and then, if nothing changes, the Board can set the hearing at their April 13th meeting. He added that people could view the latest Water District Charter, as well as the related minutes, on the NRPC's Web Site or the Hudson Web Site.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, for a break at 8:35 p.m. carried. The meeting resumed at 8:45 p.m.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Drainage System Mapping

Town Engineer Tom Sommers said this is the first phase of a large, complicated five-year program, Storm Water II, at a total cost of \$49,500 with this being the first year of implementation. He negotiated with NRPC to do the mapping for a fair price, and they help with the GIS system. The first year is \$10,000, budgeted in 5531-225. Selectman Maddox asked if this was an unfunded EPA mandate. Mr. Sommers said yes, but it will become a valuable tool for the Town. Selectman Massey said, as justification for this action, the Code says anything over \$10,000 has to go out to bid. Secondly, the cost of having this done by a consulting firm would cost twice as much. NRPC has the data base and has done a lot of preliminary work. Mr. Sommers said NRPC is non-profit, without the overhead of consulting firms.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Massey, to waive the procurement procedure and enter into a contract with NRPC, as outlined in the Town Engineer's memo dated March 17, 2004 carried unanimously.

B. Community Development File Restructuring

Community Development Director Sean Sullivan said this was a request for authorization to close the department on four consecutive Fridays-- April 2, 9, 16 and 23--to convert the existing paper files to the new system, created by the Assessor to classify the tax records. The two offices access these files on a daily basis. Phase 1 was to a vertical file system, which is easier to access. With the second phase, they would eliminate the need to cross-reference. Closing the office for four Fridays wouldn't require any overtime cost, consultant fees or additional staff. If they complete the task in less than four days, they will open earlier. Since there will be minimal disruption in service, he will notice the public that there will be

no phone calls accepted, no counter assistance and no inspections scheduled.

Selectman Maddox said he has already told Mr. Sullivan he was against closing the office. It's not good customer relations. Residents will be banging on the doors, especially if they take a day off to get something done. He thinks they should consider an intern for the summer. The conversion needs to be done, but he hoped it would be combined with getting the files ready to be scanned in order to put them on to the Web site. The intern could move the files from the old numbers to the new ones, as well as purge them to eliminate multiple copies of correspondence. This would be a better way of serving the public and would result in a better end product.

Mr. Sullivan said Community Development recognizes that converting some of the paper files to electronic files makes a lot of sense, especially since they are reaching maximum capacity. They are even moving some of their files downstairs, which is cumbersome and inefficient use of staff time. Selectman Maddox had asked Mr. Sullivan for information regarding the format. Mr. Sullivan said the vendor he spoke with said it would be a TIF format that both Windows and MAC could open easily. He has spoken with the Town Attorney about some funds that might be available for this purpose. To do the projects at the same time makes sense, but the total dollar cost for the project is \$100,000 which might be pushing the limits of available resources. The transition of the files needs to happen soon, but the scanning of the data can be done in phases, depending on availability of funds.

When Selectman Massey asked how many staff there were, Mr. Sullivan said 12. Selectman Massey said that comes to almost 400 hours. If an intern did the job, it would take at least 10 weeks--and for someone outside the department, it would take longer than that. That person would also have to be supervised. He asked what the feasibility was of finding one or two interns for 10 to 14 weeks. Mr. Sullivan said it was feasible, but staff would have to dedicate some hours to supervise the project. During the summer months, they are pushed to the limit with inspections, the counter and daily activities, so it would be next to impossible to provide the needed oversight.

Selectman MacLean thought Fridays might be a bad day to close and asked if they could consider a different day. Mr. Sullivan said yes, but Mondays are their busiest day. Friday afternoons tend to be less busy. Selectman MacLean asked if a request form could be made available for anyone who comes in for service, not knowing that the office was closed, and then staff could get back to them on Monday. Mr. Sullivan said that was a good idea and he'd follow through on it.

Selectman Maddox opposed this request and when people complain, it will be to the Selectmen. Moving the files is only part of the project; 20% of the paper in the files could be purged, as well as get them ready for scanning. They should at least look into finding an intern to do both projects. He cannot vote to close the office for four consecutive Fridays. Selectman Massey was sympathetic to Selectman Maddox's concerns, but in records management, it is important that things not be mis-filed. The amount of supervision would probably not offset the cost in closing four days. It might be worthwhile to consider an intern to purge the files. Selectman Maddox said that would not be cost effective, to spend \$10,000 of staff time, then pay someone else to purge the records. His suggestion would do both for a lot less money. If an intern is at college level, he should be able to follow minimal instructions. Mr. Sullivan said when he first came on staff, they purged the files during the slower winter months, and that is an on-going effort.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to authorize the Community Development Director to close the offices to the public on April 2, 9, 16 and 23 to transition over 4,000 files to new map and lot numbers and that he provides a mechanism for applicants who show up on those days to fill out a form that would enable them to have their questions answered Monday morning, carried 3-1. Selectman Maddox voted in opposition.

Selectman Massey said they should alert the public about this post haste and not to underestimate the number of communications avenues that can be utilized to provide information—something he's realized in the last few weeks.

C. Ambulance Billing Rates

Finance Director Kathy Carpentier recommended setting the new ambulance rates, as set by the Medicare schedule for 2004. They are doing a new rate structure over a five-year period, from a per-service charge to a bundled rate, as noted in the attachment to her memo dated March 11, 2004. The last time the rates were changed was in April 2002. Selectman Massey said they are covering the cost of the ambulance service with these rates.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to approve the new ambulance bill rates, effective April 1, 2004, as recommended by the Finance Director and Fire Chief, carried unanimously.

D. Public Hearing/Acceptance of Grant for Fire Department to purchase Emergency Phone Equipment

Fire Chief Shawn Murray said this grant was for \$2,442. Each year they budget about \$4,800 for emergency management equipment. This year, the Town was awarded a grant, which means a reimbursement for half of the cost. Chair Pro Tem Stewart opened the public hearing at 9:12 p.m. and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no response, so she closed the hearing.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to accept the Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$2,442 carried unanimously.

(Start Tape 2, Second Side)

E. Assistance for Firefighters Grant Program

Fire Chief Shawn Murray was seeking authorization to apply for the 2004 Assistance for Firefighters Grant, administered by the Department for Homeland Security to do two projects this year—installation of a diesel exhaust system at the Burns Hill and Robinson Road stations to offset the budgeted funds for FY-05 for the Central Fire Station. This year, partial funding was approved through the budget process of \$34,000. He was hoping to get Federal funding for 90% of it. The second project is installation of a fixed backup electrical generator at the Burns Hill and Robinson Road stations. They currently use portable generators that provide limited backup and are not capable of sustaining a long-term power outage. The facilities provide emergency services and could be shelter locations. The Town's match would be 10%, or about \$12,000 from the building maintenance line.

Selectman Massey asked if the Chief was applying for \$150,000. Chief Murray said that was correct. Selectman Massey thought there was more

than \$15,000 to install the diesel exhaust system at Central Station. Chief Murray said there was \$34,000. The Budget Committee gave them half this year, as Phase 1. Selectman Massey said that money would cover the cost of the generators and the diesel exhaust systems and still meet the 10% match.

Selectman Maddox asked if this grant money had to be tied to a fire station, as opposed to something like Lions Hall, where people would likely be housed if there was a disaster. Chief Murray said it is directly tied to the fire service. If there was a large-scale evacuation, they could use the fire stations, which are identified as shelter sites.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to authorize the Fire Chief to apply for the 2004 Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the purpose of obtaining funding for diesel exhaust system and for the installation of fixed generators at the Burns Hill and Robinson Road Fire Stations carried unanimously.

8. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Ken Massey said the granite bench in memory of Leonard A Smith should arrive within three weeks. Tomorrow night, the Planning Board will finalize the wording. The \$752 bench, donated by Planning Board members, was accepted by the Selectmen at a previously-held public hearing, and authorized the Highway Department to pick it up at Swenson Granite Works.

He thanked Hudson United Soccer Club for bringing their dream of a soccer field in Town to fruition and the voters for approving the 15-year contract. HUSC invited the Selectmen to the ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 1 at 1:00 p.m.

May 1, from 8:00-Noon, is the hazardous waste collection at Nashua Public Works Garage, 6 Riverside Street. Hudson Highway Department has constructed a very nice revetment at West Road landfill. The dumpsters are below grade level so you can back your vehicle to the wall and push the trash into the dumpsters. The site is impressive. On April 3, everything other than hazardous materials can be dropped off at the West Road site by Hudson residents.

The Police Department had an outstanding blood drive last week. The next blood drive is the third Tuesday in August.

Selectman Kathleen MacLean thanked the Board for being so kind to her since the election. She has met some wonderful people and has learned so much, but she is up for the challenge and appreciates the opportunity to serve the residents of Hudson.

Selectman Rick Maddox will be resigning his seat on the NRPC, but he attended the last meeting when they discussed the Circumferential Highway. The State now thinks it's too expensive, so they are going to focus on 93. The Legislative Delegation and Selectmen should formulate a plan in the near future to tell DOT that the Town built the Master Plan and Zoning regulations around the proposed Circumferential. They should at least pay for improvements such as turning lanes, lighting, etc. on roads that have become the defacto Circumferential. The State cannot just disappear and leave the Town with an empty swath of land.

He thanked the voters, saying he was humbled that they circled his name. It was sad only 20% voted and wished others would take that duty more seriously because it's a freedom people are willing to die for and shouldn't be taken for granted. He thanked the people who supported his candidacy, as well as Ann Seabury and Shawn Jasper; who gave a lot to the Town, and who always voted for what they felt was best for Hudson. He and Selectman MacLean have big shoes to fill. Finally, he thanked Eloise and all of the spouses, families and people around them, who run with candidates and suffer the comments and statements made.

Chair Pro Tem Terry Stewart said, relative to the issue brought up under Public Input, the matter has been referred to the Town's legal firm and it is currently in their hands.

Secondhand Dealer/Pawnbroker Licenses (Renewals) (Received after agenda packets had been distributed.)

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to approve the secondhand/pawnbroker licenses for Cash Converters, B&T's Bargain Exchange, and Bargains Unlimited, as recommended by HPD, carried unanimously.

Dino's retirement from the K-9 Division is at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 16 at the Police Department. Officer Sullivan and Akim are in their second day of school. Officer Sullivan has also been helping newer K-9 handlers in other departments. The Police Department has made some phenomenal arrests lately that have been well publicized in the media. As for the Fire Department, it seems that on some days, they never stop.

The Selectmen have been asked to participate in the Memorial Day Parade on May 31, 2:00 p.m. at the 102 Plaza. Let Priscilla know and she will RSVP for the Board members. Lastly, she thanked Mrs. McGraw for the treat she brought to her office today.

9. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to enter Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (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 is entered into at 9:36 p.m. and was terminated at 9:45 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman MacLean, to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. carried unanimously.

Recorded and transcribed by Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

William P. Cole, Chairman

Teresa Stewart, Vice-Chairman

Kathleen R. MacLean, Selectman

Richard J. Maddox, Selectman

Kenneth J. Massey, Selectman