

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the April 22, 2003 Meeting

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman William P. Cole at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Hudson Town Hall.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Selectman Ken Massey
3. **ATTENDANCE**

Selectmen: William P. Cole, Kenneth J. Massey, Shawn N. Jasper, Ann Seabury & Teresa Stewart

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Richard Gendron, Chief of Police; Capt. Ray Mello; Kevin Burns, Road Agent; Frank Carpentino, Fire Chief; Lt. Tim Kearns; Sean T. Sullivan, Director of Community Development; Jim Michaud, Assessor; David Yates, Recreation Director; Becky Hadley, Girl Scouts; Steve Benton, Fire Fighter; Howard Dilworth, Jr., Ray Rowell; Leo Bernard; Marilyn McGrath; Anne Lundregan, TEL; Rita Savard, SUN

Chairman Cole read a proclamation in recognition of Hudson Volunteers.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Marilyn McGrath, 81 River Road, re Lenny Smith Memorial – Ms. McGrath said several months ago, she suggested to the Board to rename Central Fire Station to the Leonard A. Smith Central Fire Station. Since then, there has been some controversy, especially by current and former members of the Fire Department. She was thinking about reconsidering her proposal because her main goal was to honor Lenny by something meaningful and lasting, but after meeting with Lenny's daughter, her efforts to pursue her original suggestion were fortified. Lenny was a call fire fighter for over 29 years and he helped design and build that station. He spent over seven decades serving the Town in a variety of roles, something no one else can match. He donated his time and expertise to build a fire station for the town he loved. He was proud of that building and, because of that, he wanted to maintain its structural and aesthetic quality. He also supported every warrant article for every item the Fire Department requested, and encouraged others to do so. If he was in the middle of building a house, which was his occupation, when the fire whistle sounded, he would drop everything and run to the fire station to assist. No matter what time of the day or night it was, Lenny would respond. He received an annual monetary benefit from his service to the Fire Department which he would return to the Fire Fighters' Relief Association. When he died, he wanted to be buried in his fire fighter's uniform. Lenny was modest, dignified and had honor and integrity. It's important for the Town to memorialize him in a way that will remind people that this man dedicated his life to the betterment of the community. Selectman Jasper thanked Marilyn's efforts to ensure Lenny's legacy leaves a lasting mark in the community. Ms. McGrath said it was the Board who spoke about doing something to honor Lenny Smith and she felt that renaming the Fire Station was the right thing to do.

There being no further speakers, Chairman Cole closed Public Input.

5. **CONSENT ITEMS**

Selectman Jasper removed Item A-1 from the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Massey, to receive Consent items A 2-5, B, C & D, as noted/appropriate, carried 5-0.

A. **Assessing Items** (Assessor's recommendations are indicated by each item.)

- 1) **Current Use Lien Releases, Kimball Heights II Subdivision** (Map 27, Lots 22-18, 22-21 through 22-29, Eagle Trace LLC) (to approve)

Motion by Selectman Seabury, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to approve, as recommended by the Assessor carried 5-0.

Selectman Jasper said by approving these releases, it will mean about \$100,000 will go into the fund, which is a lapsing fund. This week, he is going to be introducing legislation to make sure that is a non-lapsing fund.

- 2) Blind Exemption (25 Cedar Street) (to grant)
- 3) Veteran's Tax Credit Application (20 Westchester Court) (to grant)
- 4) Applications for Elderly Exemption (202 Webster Street & 29 Winnhaven Drive) (to grant)
- 5) Yield Tax Warrants for Excavated Material, Map 030/Lots 007, 008 & 009 (to sign)

B. **Acceptance of Minutes**

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of April 8, 2003 to accept and refer to file.

C. **Licenses & Permits**

- 1) Request by Lorin Gross, CASA Volunteer, to collect funds at SAM's April 24-27 to grant.
- 2) Request by Hudson Nottingham West Lions Club to place auction signs on Town land by the Veterans Memorial Bridge forwarded to Road Agent for coordination.

D. **Committee Announcements**

04/23 7:00 Planning Board in CD Meeting Room

04/24 7:30 ZBA in CD Meeting Room
 04/29 7:30 BOS Attorney-Client Session w/Benson's Cmt. in BOS Meeting Room
 05/05 6:30 School Board in BOS Meeting Room
 05/05 7:00 Friends of Hudson's Natural Resources in CD Meeting Room
 05/07 7:00 Planning Board in CD Meeting Room
 05/08 6:30 Recreation Committee at Rec Center
 05/08 7:00 Sewer Utility Committee in BOS Meeting Room
 05/08 7:30 ZBA in CD Meeting Room
 05/13 7:30 BOS in BOS Meeting Room
 05/14 7:00 Planning Board in CD Meeting Room
 05/15 7:00 CIP in BOS Meeting Room
 05/15 7:30 Budget Committee in CD Meeting Room
 05/19 6:30 School Board in BOS Meeting Room
 05/19 7:30 Conservation Commission in CD Meeting Room
 05/20 7:30 Library Trustees in Library Annex
 05/22 7:00 CIP in BOS Meeting Room
 05/22 7:30 ZBA in CD Meeting Room
 05/26 Memorial Day Holiday—Town Hall closed
 05/27 7:30 BOS in BOS Meeting Room
 05/28 7:30 Planning Board in CD Meeting Room
 05/29 7:00 CIP in BOS Meeting Room

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposal to rename Central Fire Station in Memory of Leonard A. Smith

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, that Central Fire Station be named The Leonard A. Smith Central Fire Station.

Selectman Jasper said he was to come forward with a proposal tonight, but in decided that wasn't the way to go. Before he developed a plan, the Board should decide whether or not the action would take place. The Board should first find out when the Smith family members would be available. He knows there has been controversy over this proposal, but Lenny always enjoyed a bit of controversy. This is an appropriate way to honor him Lenny, as he loved the Fire Station very much and was proud of it. The suggestion to rename Town Hall after Lenny was not a good idea. Town halls are just that—and they don't have names.

Selectman Seabury thought naming Town Hall in memory of Lenny was a good idea because he was involved in Town government, as well. She has mixed feelings because of the controversy surrounding this issue. She asked how the lettering on the Fire Station was going to be handled. Selectman Jasper said the plan is for the sign out front to say Leonard Smith Central Fire Station and to have a plaque inside. There is no plan at this time for letters to be put on the building.

Selectman Massey always thought Ms. McGrath's suggestion was a great idea. He, too, had many occasions to work with Lenny, who was always ready to listen. Even if he didn't think your point of view was right, he treated you with respect—and this would be an appropriate way to honor a unique individual that contributed so much to the Town.

Selectman Stewart said she got some negative feedback from people with a connection to the Department. She learned to love and respect Mr. Smith in her six years on the Planning Board. Even when they didn't agree, they would shake hands as they walked away from the table. He always wanted what was the best for the Town. A lot of people have strong feelings against this proposal because they think it was Selectman Jasper's idea, but it was Ms. McGrath's.

Chairman Cole said they all decided it was fitting to pay tribute to Lenny and his first thought was to rename the Police Station. As Ms. McGrath restated tonight, there will never be another Lenny. He was one of a kind and, since there is only one Town Hall in Hudson, he thought that would be appropriate. He didn't think there was a prohibition against naming a town hall building after someone. Having Lenny's name on Town Hall and on Town stationery would keep his memory alive and would be a fitting tribute to him. He then asked the Recorder to call the roll.

*Jasper Aye
 Massey Aye
 Stewart Aye
 Seabury Nay
 Cole No*

The motion carried by a vote of 3-2.

B. Noise Ordinance

Chairman Cole recognized Capt. Mello and Community Development Director Sean Sullivan, who said he spoke with the Town Attorney regarding the State regulation v. the Town Ordinance and that the Town Ordinance prevailed. Atty. LeFevre advised him that the enforcement authority lies with the Police Department, per RSA 215-A:12 and that the statute specifically regulates permissive sound levels. The Noise

Ordinance complies with State law and is enforceable. Mr. Sullivan said he was also tasked with providing costs for equipment and training. The low bid was from Wilner-Green Associates for \$3,090 for a noise meter and training for 10 police officers (Sgts. and Lts.) and two members of the Community Development staff (Code Enforcement Officer and Building Inspector).

Selectman Jasper said last fall, the police suggested that people who had a problem with noise should go to court as a violation under the nuisance ordinance. He and another resident did take it to court last November. Two Fridays ago, they were finally heard. It's not an easy process, but they were successful. The judge found that motor bike track to be a nuisance and the owner was fined \$100 for each complaint. The judge suggested using a different statute because they would have to go through the same process again, which includes giving up a half a day of work to go to court.

Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to authorize the expenditure of available funds, as identified by the Town Administrator, for the procurement of noise meter equipment and related training, as recommended by the Community Development Director.

(Start Tape 1, Second Side)

Selectman Seabury wanted to ensure that the people taking the meter readings were qualified so it would stand up in court. Mr. Sullivan said the new meter, recommended by the consultant, would give readings that would hold up in court. Chairman Cole asked where the money would come from. Mr. Malizia said it would be transferred from Workers Compensation to the Community Development Department so they could keep track of it.

Chairman Cole asked Capt. Mello how this would be enforced. Capt. Mello said the attorney has given good direction on that. If they run into a situation where a company started work very early in the morning that generated a lot of complaints, Community Development will get involved with enforcement. The Police Department will deal with the enforcement issues concerning lawn mowers, machinery running too early, dirt bikes, motorcycles, etc. Chairman Cole asked how situations with intermittent noise, such as dirt bikes, would be enforced. Capt. Mello said the language dealing noise levels for trail bikes references State law, which is 99 decibels. It also tells how to measure the bikes. The Town Ordinance gives the authority for the Police Department to go on the property to measure the bikes. It also sets the guidelines by the SAE standards. It tells you how far away you have to be from the bike to measure it. If they are called out to measure noise, and find that it's over 99 decibels, they are cited, either under the State statute or the Town Ordinance. The State statute is a violation; the fine can be up to \$500. Selectman Jasper said the 99 might be at the bike and not at the property line. Capt. Mello didn't think that would be a problem because under the Town Ordinance, they are allowed to go on the property to do an inspection. Chairman Cole asked Capt. Mello to double-check to see if the Town Ordinance allows the Police Department to walk on someone else's property with impunity.

Selectman Seabury thought Hudson's Noise Ordinance was 70. Capt. Mello said for ATV's, dirt bikes and motorcycles, State law is the controlling authority, which is referenced in the Code. Selectman Seabury asked if the ordinance was going to be amended to drop the levels. Chairman Cole said that brought up the issue of unintended consequences--the effect on lawn mowers, snow blowers, etc.

Chairman Cole believed this was a "feel-good exercise" for a specific problem. The only way they may be able to solve the problem is by people going to court by filing a nuisance complaint. Selectman Jasper said now that it has been established through court action that it is a nuisance, he wondered what the police will do to help. Capt. Mello said Selectman Jasper went into court under the disorderly conduct statute. Selectman Jasper said there was a nuisance subsection within the disorderly conduct statute. He thought the police have the ability to enforce that statute. Capt. Mello said it has to be a private citizen that is offended by the noise, not the Police Department. If they are called out to a violation and it continues, the officers can bring that to court. If the noise stops by the time the Police Department gets there, the citizen can still file a complaint. Selectman Jasper said last fall, the noise did continue and the officers did hear it, but he was told he would have to take it to court himself. Having done that, it has been established that the courts see it as a nuisance. If the police are called out now on a nuisance call and the noise is still going on, he asked if the citizens still have to take it to court. Capt. Mello said the problem in enforcing the disorderly conduct statute is that it's subjective. Just because one judge found it was a violation was no guarantee that another judge would.

Selectman Jasper asked if the Police Department didn't arrest people all the time under the disorderly conduct statute. Capt. Mello said yes, such as loud noises from apartments. The people are told to keep the noise down. If the neighbors are still offended, that person comes to court and the violator is prosecuted. Selectman Jasper said it seems that there is something the Town of Hudson can do to help people in this situation. They shouldn't have to continue taking this to court. Capt. Mello said regardless of who prosecutes it, the complainant will still have to go to court because the police officer cannot be the victim. If they are called out and the reading is 80 decibels, it's a difficult call for the police officer to decide whether or not to cite them for disorderly conduct.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

C. Hudson United Soccer Club/Freedom Fields

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to approve the agreement with the Hudson United Soccer Club, as written, substituting the Current Use of Premises and Semi-Exclusive as Home Field clauses with the new language that was included in the e-mail dated April 21, 2003.

Selectman Massey said after he met with Mike Juliano from HUSC and David Yates, Director of the Recreation Department, he modified the Use of Premises clause, based on the Board's vote of April 8, to include the language regarding parking. He also changed the approval to the Hudson Recreation Department and, in the case of other groups that wish to use it, they have to meet three additional provisions and, if it's a non-Town sponsored event, they also have to meet the liability, damage to property, etc. that the Soccer Club is required to meet.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Massey said whomever has the soft copy of the document should incorporate the changes, have HUSC sign it and return it for the Selectmen to sign. Mr. Sullivan indicated he had it, so Selectman Massey will see him tomorrow.

D. Girl Scouts at Robinson Pond

Community Development Director Sean Sullivan said there is a proposed agreement for the use of the Robinson Pond recreation area by the Girls Scouts of Swift Water Council for this camping season. The bold print in the agreement is the language that has been changed from last year's contract. He distributed an insurance clause, which was an addendum to the contract, that had inadvertently been omitted.

Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the agreement, with the addendum, between the Town and the Girl Scouts of Swift Water Council for 2003 season.

Selectman Stewart asked if there were any issues last year. Mr. Sullivan said there were a few operational items, which have been discussed with the Girl Scouts representative. The dumpster will be made available to whomever uses the Robinson Pond recreation area. The Scouts will be trucking in drinking water and there will be some minor maintenance of the area—lawn mowing, cutting a branch or two here and there, policing of trash, etc.

Selectman Jasper asked that a typo be corrected, ie, removing the “s” from the word “million.” Mr. Sullivan said he'd have that taken care of. Chairman Cole asked about the overnights that the Scouts were planning and wondered if they had them last year and how they were coordinated. Mr. Yates said yes, they did. The Rec Department gets the calendar at the beginning of the year so it can be coordinated. There is no conflict with the Summer Rec program.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

E. Commuter Rail Service Resolution

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to adopt the resolution, as written.

Selectman Massey said rail service is an idea whose time has come as most states have concluded that they can no longer expand their highways. He thinks they should do everything possible to help the State move forward in restoring rail service, especially from Nashua south. Selectman Jasper said the resolution did not address the funding, so he didn't have a problem with that. However, he was concerned about. . . “having rail service to Nashua would be a significant economic development opportunity for the Town of Hudson and the region.” He didn't think many people would travel from Boston to Nashua to go to work; so he didn't see that as economic development—just the potential for more housing. Selectman Stewart disagreed, that bringing shoppers up to the mall was economically good for the State. Selectman Massey said if rail service is restored, there will be some drop-off in traffic in and around Hudson. If nothing else, it's going to help the traffic congestion in the area and that will help the economic development.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

(Start Tape 2, Side A)

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. False Alarm Issue (Police Department)

Chief Gendron said the Police Department has been working on a new alarm policy. There is a liability issue in responding to these calls, which requires two officers. Some changes were made internally, but the ordinance needs to be changed, as well. Capt. Mello said responding to false alarms is a problem. It uses officers' valuable time and takes away their resources. It also places the public and officers, even though they are well trained, in potential danger. He has spoken with Fire Marshal Chalk about this because this affects the Fire Department, too. They came up with a three-prong attack on reducing the false alarms. The first is to change the ordinance, such as issuing the permit for a three year period. Currently, once issued, the permit is good forever. Emergency phone numbers change and the department isn't able to keep up with them. There is a provision in the ordinance for a three-member alarms appeal board to deal with challenges to false alarm fees. Currently, people are given two free false alarms in a 12-month period. The third and fourth false alarm is \$25 each. After that, it is \$50 for each false alarm. The department would like to increase the \$25 fee to \$50 and the \$50 fee to \$100.

A training seminar would include alarm industry personnel and would educate people on how to maintain their alarms. Lastly, they would respond to alarms without lights and sirens. That part has already been implemented. Out of the 1,033 alarms, 1,029 are false, so it doesn't make sense to drive in an emergency fashion. In speaking with Attorney LeFevre and Attorney Hodes this morning, he learned that changes to the ordinance must be made at Town Meeting because the Town didn't adopt 41:14, which would allow the Board of Selectmen to be able to make the changes.

Chief Gendron said the Board of Selectmen can adjust the fee schedule, which he recommended and next year, could consider passing an ordinance under 41:14 b that will allow the Selectmen to take up Town ordinances. Some ordinances cannot wait for the next year. As it stands right now, the Police Department is acting as a private security company and for the companies paying the fees is a good deal; it's cheap security money. There is a lot of new construction going up in Town and alarms are being installed in them. The new owners do not know how the alarms work. They leave windows open, or they or their pets accidentally set them off, and it will get worse. The approach has to be through education and public awareness. He asked to set a public hearing for May 13 to adjust the fee schedule.

Selectman Jasper said if they can't change the ordinance, they can't change the fees. Chairman Cole said they need to get a reading as soon as possible whether the Selectmen can do something with regard to the ordinance, or if they have to wait until Town Meeting. Selectman Jasper said if something non-monetary can't wait, the Selectmen have the ability to call a special Town Meeting. He endorsed the changes, with the exception of upping the fees. The Historical Society has been having a problem with a burglar alarm. He is a business owner who has had fire alarm systems in place since 1984. Sometimes he has gone years without having a false alarm, while at other times, he can't get them to stop going off. An alarm went off three times in one day and there is nothing he can do about it. Chief Gendron said that's why there is an appeals process. Selectman Jasper said they have to realize there are a lot of responsible people, so they should look at the price going up after six and then eight—and there is no guarantee in an appeals process. Chief Gendron said they've worked with people who have had a problem because they understand those things do happen, but there are other businesses who realize this is cheap money for them—and they can't keep crying wolf.

Selectman Jasper agreed, saying the fire alarm system is better than it used to be. They don't have the daily runs they used to. The Fire Department should look at the issue, too. He thought they should consider adding a couple of steps, going to six and eight. Chief Gendron said the onus should be put on the home owner or business owner to advise them not to notify the Police Department or Fire Department until it is confirmed with the home or business owner. If they would do that, the number of alarms would drop drastically. The owner should call the alarm company to notify them of a false alarm and to not notify the police. Selectman Massey said there was an article in the Boston Globe that most cities are implementing this policy; some even more stringent. They need to balance the need to minimize the number of alarms and yet not penalize people that are trying to make it work.

Chairman Cole asked if educating people was currently in the ordinance. Capt. Mello said they could set that up on a voluntary basis, without changing the ordinance. The thought was to make attending classes mandatory, in some situations. Chairman Cole asked if they had an appeals board. Capt. Mello said it was never created because they never had a real challenge to the false alarm fees. Chairman Cole said with the fees that are being charged is merely chump change. He understands that technical difficulties happen, but folks have to be responsible. The Town can't be responsible, nor can they put police officers' lives, and civilians' lives in danger responding to these nuisance calls.

Chief Gendron said that if the fees are increased, people may opt to go to an appeals board, which would have several options, such as some type of confirmation the owner is going to work on the system, or they could be mandated to attend a seminar in lieu of fees. He asked if the Board would schedule a public hearing on changing the fees at the May 13th Board meeting to at least get it on the agenda. In the meantime, they will check with the attorney to see if they can change the fees. Selectman Jasper said before they do anything, they should hear from the Fire Department side of the house. Capt. Mello said he met with Charlie Chalk and the Fire Department is on board.

Chairman Cole said they have to determine if they can change the fees without changing the ordinance and they have to determine whether they can change the ordinance without a Town Meeting. Chief Gendron said changing the ordinance has to be done at Town Meeting or at a special Town Meeting, but he thinks the fees can be adjusted. Selectman Jasper strenuously disagreed that the fees contained within an ordinance could be changed, and didn't think they should post a hearing if they find out they can't change the fees. He'd rather wait another two weeks and take it up on May 27 rather than notice something they are not sure of. Selectman Massey said if they have enough time to post a public hearing after they get an opinion from the attorney, they could still have the hearing on May 13th.

Chairman Cole said the Board would like to see a proposed revised ordinance so they can start working on that now, so they will be ready to go, in case they decide to hold a Special Town Meeting for some other reason. They all recognize it is something that has to be taken care of with regard to the waste of Police Department resources and safety issues.

B. Public Hearing/Acceptance of COPS \$150,000 Grant

Chairman Cole opened the Public Hearing at 8:49 p.m. and asked if anyone wished to speak. Chief Gendron said this was a \$75,000 grant per officer for two officers, totaling \$150,000, effective July 1, with three installments of \$50,000 in each fiscal year. During the budget process, this grant was awarded and then held, pending the elections. The warrant article for the two positions passed, so that is why this is before them and he hoped to hire two individuals in July. They are in the recruiting process right now, with Capt. Pease doing interviews. Last fall, they did the written and PT tests. The next phase will be the backgrounds, polygraphs and medical.

There being no further speakers, the hearing was closed at 8:51 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Massey, to accept the COPS grant in the amount of \$150,000 awarded by the US Department of Justice carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Jasper, for a recess at 8:52 p.m. The meeting resumed at 9:04 p.m.

Chairman Cole was informed during the break that in 1994, the Board of Selectmen designated itself as the False Alarms Appeal Board.

C. Fire Department Electronic Accountability System

Chairman Cole recognized Chief Carpentino and Lt. Kearns. Chief Carpentino said their request was for authorization to purchase an electronic accountability system. Lt. Kearns, the developer of the tracking program, has been working with several vendors. This purchase was approved two years ago and was carried over to the current year because they couldn't find an appropriate system. Lt. Kearns has an extensive background in computers and said he could develop a system by working with vendors to purchase some hardware. He has put in

hundreds of hours on his own and in working with the vendors. This is an advanced system that has the capability to expand tenfold, expanding as the Town and the Department expands. Accountability is a serious matter in an emergency incident. A couple of years ago, six fire fighters in Worcester tragically lost their lives because they couldn't be tracked. The system has the capability to provide GPS tracking for personnel and apparatus to be able to determine where people are.

Lt. Kearns talked about cost and various adjustments that were made in order to stay within the bottom line price of \$27,802. The device that would be in the vehicle is a small, simple programmable unit with 12 buttons and a LCD screen that allows other devices to be attached to it, such as keyboards and printers. The primary intent is to attach a bar code reading device to be able to check people in and assign them to different tasks. They will need one for each of the mobile units. Each personnel tag would have a bar code attached to it. It can be attached to helmets, as well. They are keeping the integrity of the existing system that will work with the mutual aid companies and allow them to work with the Town by putting labels on theirs. Once they buy the main hardware, the unit price for every tag they generate is the cost of the label. The original system that was budgeted was a GM system, but when it was brought in for evaluation, it didn't work. He took that concept and looked at other possibilities. He then gave a brief power-point demonstration and showed how he would scan the name of a person, and then give them an assignment, etc.

There is a palm pilot version, but if the batteries run out or if it gets broken, the entire accountability system is gone. The system he was recommending allows tracking of the equipment and to pass messages back and forth, if necessary. Chief Carpentino said not only does it track the person, it tracks the time in and time out, the duration you were somewhere and creates a history. When they advance into the GPS tracking system, it will store history, such as the route the apparatus took to the scene, where it was positioned and for how long, etc.

Selectman Stewart asked if this program could be expanded to include other departments. Lt. Kearns said yes. The infrastructure just plugs into the back of their radios. They use their own frequencies. They don't have to re-license or buy additional radios to add to the truck. The display unit is used to interface for the bar code scanners. You could eventually plug a laptop into it and pass information back and forth.

(Start Tape 3, Side A)

Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Seabury, to authorize the Fire Department to procure the necessary components from CyberComm, Inc. in the amount of \$27,802 to provide an Electronic Accountability System for the Fire Department, and explore adding on of the Highway Department and Police Department, carried 5-0.

D. Sewer Acceptance, Woodland Heights—Sky View Circle

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to accept the Woodland Height-Sky View Circle sewer carried 5-0.

Direction was given to the Community Development Director to send a letter to the developer stating that the use of the name Sky View Circle is unacceptable because it is too similar to Sky View or Sky Farm, which is in a different area.

E. Acceptance of \$500 Donation to the Recreation Department from Hudson Junior Woman's Club

Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Seabury, to accept the \$500 donation, with the Board's appreciation, carried 5-0.

F. CIP Projects

The Board of Selectmen agreed to support the South Hudson Water Tank project, which will be included in the Community Development Department or Engineering submittal. Direction was given to Mr. Sullivan that conceptual projects that are significant should be reviewed by the Board on May 13. Mr. Sullivan suggested that the CIP committee establish a time line for next year's meeting so everyone could be well prepared in advance.

G. Internet Access to the Assessing Department Database

Assessor Jim Michaud was asking for authorization to post the Town's assessment records on the internet because it is public data, it will assist taxpayers and will cost only \$300/year. The intent is to have it up by the time the June tax bill goes out and will be updated at least twice a year. At least 17 other NH towns provide this service.

Motion by Selectman Seabury, seconded by Selectman Massey, to authorize the Town Assessor to launch assessment data on the Internet, as reference in his memo dated April 22, 2003 carried unanimously.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

A. VFW Memorial Day Parade

Selectman Massey thinks this would be an excellent opportunity for the Selectmen to participate and he plans to march in the parade. Chairman Cole said he was involved last year. Selectman Seabury said she'd meet them at the park.

B. Various Item by Selectman Stewart

Selectman Stewart thanked Dave Morin and his son, Corey, for putting up the American flags on the Town Common. She thanked Mrs.

Massey for the cookies Selectman Massey handed out earlier tonight. She said the Wacky Olympics were successful and thought the School Board and Board of Selectmen should form a Wacky Olympic team next year. She then wished Esther McGraw and her husband speedy recovery.

C. Public Hearing for Animal Control Shelter

Chairman Cole said at their last meeting, they sent the Animal Control Shelter plan to the Planning Board for site plan review under RSA 674:54, governmental land use. It's on the Planning Board's April 23 agenda. He didn't know what the Planning Board would do, but asked for a motion to set a public hearing on the shelter in accordance with 674:54 for the Selectmen's May 13th meeting. Selectman Massey so moved, seconded by Selectman Stewart, and carried 5-0.

9. REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

- A. Selectman Massey said tomorrow is Administrative Professionals Day and recognized all of the administrative professionals that work in the Town of Hudson and thanked them for a job well done.
- B. Selectman Seabury said she and Selectman Jasper enjoyed a wonderful prime rib dinner in honor of Gary Rodgers, who has been District Governor of the Lions Clubs of NH for the past year.
- C. Selectman Jasper congratulated Gary Rodgers on being the District Governor of the Lions Clubs of NH. He did extensive traveling, visiting clubs around the State and did a lot of work with them. His father was District Governor in 1975, so Gary and his father, Al, are the first father-son District Governors in the Lions Club in the State of NH.
- D. Chairman Cole noted with sadness the recent passing of Dick Ethier on April 10. He was the Town Assessor from 1980 to '94 or '95, a delightful individual, with a mischievous look in his eye, set off by the beard. On behalf of the Board and the entire community, he extended deepest condolences to his widow, Elaine, and to his entire family.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Seabury, to enter Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:II (a) The dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him, unless the employee affected has a right to a meeting and requests the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted; (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee; and (d) real estate issues carried 5-0 by roll call vote.

Nonpublic Session was entered into at 10:07 p.m. and was terminated at 10:32 p.m.

Assessing Personnel Issue (This item was removed from Nonpublic at the request of Selectman Jasper.)

Town Assessor Jim Michaud said he was proposing the transfer of a part-time fire dispatcher position to the Assessing Department, such as they did last year. He is grasping at straws in order to get clerical assistance in the Assessing Department. He is proposing to combine this new part-time position with the existing part-time position to create one full-time Administrative Assistant position. He will find the money within the Assessing Department to fund it. If it's determined to be a part-time position, it will just be FICA, not medical. The memo he submitted explained the justification for the request in detail. Selectman Jasper said he would support the transfer, but not the creation of a full time position. During budget season this year, the Selectmen have to make this the #1 area and suggested that no other department be allowed to request new personnel for the upcoming season. They also might get away with a Welfare officer as a part-time position, but Assessing must be the priority. Chairman Cole said the Selectmen have to a better job to make the people understand that the warrant articles put forward by the Board were *needs*, not wants.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Seabury, to transfer a vacant position of a part-time Fire Dispatcher to the Assessing Department as a part-time secretarial position carried 4-1. Selectman Massey was opposed because he didn't want to circumvent the will of the voters regarding personnel.

Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Massey, to promote Duane Morin to the position of Special Equipment Operator, Grade XII, Step 4, at \$18.49 in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement, effective 4 May 03 carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to hire John Cialek as Truck Driver-Laborer in the Highway Department at \$13.53 per hour, Labor Grade VIII, Step minimum, in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement, effective 4 May 03 carried 5-0.

Selectman Massey said this position was being filled as a result of the Selectmen having promoted Duane Morin to the position from which Mr. Dobens retired.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to adjourn at 10:44 p.m. carried unanimously.

Recorded and Transcribed by Priscilla Boisvert
Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

William P. Cole, Chairman

Teresa Stewart, Vice-Chairman

Shawn N. Jasper, Selectman

Kenneth J. Massey, Selectman

Ann Seabury, Selectman