

**HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes of the November 14, 2000 Meeting**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman E. Lorraine Madison
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Selectman Seabury
3. **ATTENDANCE**

**Selectmen:** E. Lorraine Madison, Rhona Charbonneau, Shawn N. Jasper, Ann Seabury & Terry Stewart

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**Staff/Others:** Paul D. Sharon, Town Administrator; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Capt. Ray Mello, Sgt. Bob Tousignant, Detective Michael Gosselin, Officer Jason Lucantoni, & Officer Dan Dolan of the Police Department; Frank Carpentino, Fire Chief; Matt St. Laurent, Assistant Fire Chief; Fire Lt. Dave Morin; David Yates, Recreation Director; about 20 residents; Len, HLN; Sarah, Derry News; Susan, SUN

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Chairman Madison presented Certificates of Recognition to Police Sgt. Robert Tousignant and Detective Michael Gosselin for their participation in the NH Special Olympics.

Ginette Bedard, 56 Sullivan Road – Cats at 58 Sullivan Road Mrs. Bedard said she was before the Board again regarding the cat issue and asked for the current status. Chairman Madison said the matter is in litigation, so the Board could not comment, but they would listen to whatever she had to say. Ms. Bedard asked if a home business occupation had been applied for. Chairman Madison said that's why the case is in litigation. Ms. Bedard asked what else they could do. Chairman Madison said they had to be patient and wait. Someone in the audience said the neighbors were present because they had an issue with the cats; it wasn't just Ms. Bedard's issue. Selectman Charbonneau said when something is in litigation, the Board couldn't comment on it.

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Mary Beth Broussard, 62 Sullivan Road, said the caged cats are defecating and urinating into the ground. She is concerned that her well will become contaminated. If it does, she wanted to know who will fix it and who will hook her up to Town water. She is three and a half months pregnant with her first child, and the cat situation is of great concern to her, expressing fear that something might be wrong with the baby if the well becomes contaminated.

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Selectman Seabury said this is in the hands of the attorney. The Board will stay on top of the process to make sure it is fast-tracked. It looks very promising, but she can't say anything else. The legal maneuvering can be long and tedious, but it does work out eventually to everyone's satisfaction.

Joyce Urban, 57 Sullivan Road, read a letter, stating her opposition to the large number of cats being housed at 58 Sullivan Road, saying it is detrimental to their neighborhood. This cat farm devalues their property and disturbs their clean air space, due to the strong, nasty odors emanating from the outside storage of cats. Coyotes and wild cats have been attracted to the area because of the cat farm. It is cruel to store these animals outside in summer heat and winter cold. She hoped the Selectmen would find this cat farm inappropriate for a residential neighborhood. Chairman Madison said the letter would be forwarded to the attorney.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. **From:** Richard E. Gendron, Chief of Police  
**Re:** NH Special Olympics  
**Refer to:** Public Input
- B. **From:** Tom Sommers, Sewer Utility Consultant  
**Re:** Requests for increased Flow Capacity  
**Refer to:** New Business
- C. **From:** Lt. David Morin, Fire Department  
**Re:** Naming of Land (where Firefighters Memorial is located)  
**Refer to:** New Business
- D. **From:** David Yates, Recreation Director  
**Re:** Acceptance of Donation  
**Refer to:** Public Hearing/New Business

- E.     **From:**           Frank Carpentino, Fire Chief  
       **Re:**             ·Paramedic Training  
                          ·Job Descriptions  
       **Refer to:**       New Business
- F.     **From:**           Jim Michaud, Assessor  
       **Re:**             Various Assessing Items  
       **Refer to:**       New Business
- G.     **From:**           Sewer Utility Committee  
       **Re:**             Abatement Requests  
       **Refer to:**       New Business

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to receive the Correspondence with appropriate referral carried unanimously.*

6.     **NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

A.     **Building Board of Appeals** (1 Member, Term to expire 12/31/01)

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Arnel Catalan said he and his wife have lived in Hudson for 14 months. He is an architect in Boston and deals with a lot of public-funded projects. He would like to donate his time and talents to his community and feels he can contribute positively.

B.     **Planning Board** (1 Member, Term to expire 12/31/01)

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Suellen Seabury Quinlan (current Alternate) (Was not present.)

Arnel Catalan (See Building Board of Appeals)

Timothy P. Remp has lived in Hudson five years. He works for Verizon and is well versed in dealing with union people. Hudson is growing into a city. He wants serve on the Planning Board to make sure it stays a nice family town. Selectman Seabury said there is a great time commitment and asked if he was prepared to devote the time. Mr. Remp realized the time commitment. He is working on his Bachelor's of Engineering degree, but one finds the time if something is really important.

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Chairman Madison said if the current member was appointed, then they would appoint an alternate.

C.     **Recreation Committee** (1 Member, Term to expire 12/31/00)

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Jean Serino (Withdrew her name.)

Ed Caban (current Alternate) (Was not present.)

Alfred T. Simms said he has three children currently in the program and also coaches soccer and basketball for five years. This is a good program that he wants to keep that way, or hopefully, make it better.

D.     **Solid Waste Study Committee** (1 Member, Term to expire 12/31/00 and 12/31/02)

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Burton W. MacAllister (Was unable to be present.)

E.     **Zoning Board of Adjustment** (1 Member, Term to expire 12/31/01)

Tammy McNulty (Interviewed previously.)

Richard Botteron (current Alternate, not present.)

7.     **OLD BUSINESS**

## Warrant Articles

### Combined Dispatch

**Option 1:** To see if the Town will vote to raise \$700,000 to consolidate the Police and Fire Communications Centers into a single facility. The requested funding will be used to purchase the required equipment, move the present operations of both departments into the consolidated facility, complete the required construction to expand the Communications Center at the Police Department, and cover the associated costs to combine the facilities. This article does not include associated personnel costs.

**Option 2:** To see if the Town will vote to raise \$350,000 to fund the first of two phases to combine the Police and Fire Departments' Communications Centers into one single facility. The requested funds will be used to complete the required construction to expand the Police Department's Communications Center, to purchase some of the needed equipment for the center, and to cover some of the associated costs for this project. This article does not include associated personnel costs.

Mr. Sharon said there are alternate warrant articles that the Police and Fire Chiefs have put together, each of which would provide for combined dispatch. One would update the equipment in each center, but keep them physically separate while the other would physically combine the dispatch operations into the Police Department, expanding that facility. Each of those warrant articles spells out the capitalization needed, but doesn't address personnel. The personnel issue varies upon which approach the Board takes. This is an instance where they may want to consider using unexpended fund balance. That would allow them to proceed without impacting the tax rate. Chairman Madison asked how long Option 2 would take. Mr. Sharon said probably two years. Relative to the unexpended fund balance, they have about 3.5 of which \$600,000 will be used to offset the tax rate. Essentially, they've got \$2.9 million, not including anything left over from Fiscal 01. They should maintain a balance of around \$2 million.

Selectman Jasper said he talked with the Finance Director after they voted to use \$600,000 to offset the tax rate. What they did was increase the fund balance by \$100,000 adding that there is \$100,000 in dispute on the Land Preservation fund which they've asked the Legislative Delegation to try to rectify. In essence, their fund balance is the same as it was last year. The range is 5-7½ %. Mr. Sharon said he and Steve discussed the numbers he was providing. Selectman Jasper didn't doubt the numbers, but wanted to know what they had at the beginning on the year versus the end of the year. Steve told him the fund balance wasn't increased beyond the \$100,000 so to take \$350,000 out of it would be reducing the fund balance that they had been building up. He's not in favor of doing that. Mr. Sharon said they could draw down the fund balance and still maintain a level that he and the Finance Director feel comfortable with.

Selectman Seabury asked what fund balance was. Mr. Sharon said the surplus. Selectman Seabury said Selectman Jasper had said that the budget presented to the Board was 21% higher and asked if that was true. Selectman Jasper said yes, including all of the warrant articles. With the cuts the Selectmen made, plus the revenues, it came to about \$400,000. Selectman Seabury said when the Board set their budget parameters, they allowed for a 3% increase, but they had no control over the heavy increases due to health costs and solid waste pickup. Selectman Jasper said that was taken into consideration when they set their target. He asked what they are looking at for an overall tax rate impact. Mr. Sharon said the operating budget the Board has approved so far is 719. Selectman Jasper said that didn't tell him anything because he didn't know what the total was. Mr. Sharon said the Board approved 41¢ of warrant articles. They are still faced with another 94¢, which includes the \$700,000 for combined dispatch. Selectman Jasper said what the total was with what they have approved and what is still sitting on the table. Mr. Sharon said 854. Selectman Jasper asked how much of an increase that was. (Talking over each other.) Mr. Sharon didn't think they were going to be revisiting the budget, adding that it was 716. Selectman Jasper said they weren't because it has already gone to print.

Mr. Sharon said Chairman Madison signed a budget message that summarizes a lot of what has happened that drives the increase, a lot of which is out of the Selectmen's control. Selectman Jasper said people are concerned with their tax bill, not whether or not it's under the Selectmen's control. Mr. Sharon didn't think there was anything that could affect the \$650,000 which is made up of the trash contract, the insurance and all the fixed charges. Selectman Jasper said that is why, in the years they have increases they can't control, the responsible board bites the bullet. Mr. Sharon said as long as everyone understands what that means. They've got \$650,000 there; they've got some large ticket items within the departments, which have been approved, but not included in the mix are the 100 accounts, which average about 4.1% across the board. Take all of the 100's of a year ago and roll that up by 4%, and that's a major item that factors into that increase. When you start squeezing the stuff in the middle, everything they need to operate, there's not much left without laying off personnel.

Selectman Jasper said the budget process didn't need to be explained to him. While these aren't bad times, there are substantial school increases. He looks at the total tax rate and asks himself if it is something they can live without for another year. They're looking at a \$4 plus increase for the school district. Chairman Madison said the only way she would even consider this is if they took it out of unexpended revenue.

(Start Tape 1, Second Side)

Last year, they did Lowell Road without any impact on the tax rate and the year before, the DPW building. One of these years, they are going to be looking at opening another fire station and a dispatch center could handle all of the stations. It won't get cheaper as the years go by and they will still have to replace a lot of the outdated equipment in the fire station. Mr. Sharon said if combined dispatch was taken off the table, they looking at an 80¢ tax increase just for warrant articles. The operating budget has increased the tax rate by 3¢. Selectman Jasper asked if it was 3¢, including solid waste and benefits. Mr. Sharon said everything that the Board approved for the operating budget amounts to 719. Chairman Madison said that is 3¢ more on the tax rate.

Selectman Stewart said all three reports done on combined dispatch say the same thing. The only thing that is changing is the price, and that keeps going up. She didn't want to put it on the back burner for another year. She supports doing it in two years and taking the money from surplus. Selectman Seabury agreed, saying that the 3¢ increase takes into consideration the operating budget and the warrant articles. Chairman Madison said no, the 3¢ does *not* include the warrant articles. Mr. Sharon said the Board already approved 41¢ in warrant articles. If they take combined dispatch off the table, that leaves another 39¢ worth in front of them tonight, which is over and above the 3¢ *and* the 41¢ increases. A total of 83¢.

Selectman Jasper didn't believe the current budget was up only 3¢, with \$500,000 for health insurance and solid waste 40¢ by itself. They didn't decrease the rest of the budget and didn't increase the revenues that much. Mr. Sharon said they netted a significant increase in assessed evaluation. Selectman Jasper said they are still 1.2 billion in assessment. \$1.2 million equals \$1 on the tax rate, so \$550,000 is 40+¢. Mr. Sharon said revenues were increased by about \$89,000. Selectman Jasper said that's peanuts. They've got to offset 47¢ increase in those other two items, and the budget itself went up substantially in every other area. Mr. Sharon said his figures weren't fuzzy math. Selectman Jasper disagreed, saying just two items were nearly 50¢. Mr. Sharon said 41¢ was spread over a number of warrant articles. Selectman Jasper said two items account for nearly 45¢ and they didn't decrease the budget by \$500,000 in other areas. They had all the contracts for Police and Fire; the \$500,000; the additional for overtime; the additional \$25,000 in one article. The rest of the budget and the revenues didn't go down by a half million dollars.

Chairman Madison said they reduced it by \$321,000. Selectman Jasper said that's from the proposals, but Paul is talking about this year over last year. Mr. Sharon said the 716 is not last year's operating budget; it's last year's budget, plus warrant articles and everything else. The operating budget alone has gone up by 3¢ on the tax rate, beyond what last year's gross budget was. Selectman Jasper said many of those warrant articles were rolled in, so that's not a decrease. Only \$100,000 got backed out.

Chairman Madison referred to Steve's handout and said the tax rate last year, including the warrant articles, was \$7.16. The operating budget, as proposed, would increase by 3¢. They haven't included the warrant articles yet. Selectman Jasper said Paul was saying that when you take last year's tax rate as the base budget to start with, and add everything they did on November 4, you come up with 3¢ more. There's something missing because there's almost nothing they approved last year that doesn't roll over. What didn't roll over came out of surplus, which has no impact on the tax rate. He asked how much the operating budget was up from last year to this year, with what they approved, and the warrant articles. Mr. Sharon said it's at 2166281 as compared to 1988465. Selectman Jasper said that's almost \$1 million right there. He asked how much the revenues were up, last year's budgeted versus this year's budgeted amounts.

Mr. Sharon apologized, saying if he knew they were going to be getting into this much detail, he would have had the Finance Director present. Chairman Madison agreed with Selectman Jasper that this had to be put on hold until Steve was present. She asked when the warrant articles needed to be done. Mr. Sharon said they didn't have to be in yet, and they were working off estimates for the labor contracts. He said it's accurate that the impact on the tax rate for the operating budget, and warrant articles approved so far, is a rate of \$7.60. Selectman Jasper said the rate is more than the Board ever approved. Chairman Madison said they have been very conservative in the budgets for the last few years, but everything has gone up. They had large items that they had to include in the budget so they can move forward each year. They can't keep level funding. Selectman Jasper said if they go for \$1 on the tax rate, they will probably lose it. The schools have lost their budgets in the past. They run the risk of going to a default budget. He didn't think they could meet the target, but felt they could come a lot closer to it. 41¢, without considering anything else, is way over their target. That doesn't include any of the warrant articles.

Chairman Madison asked if he was saying he'd support the \$350,000 coming out of surplus. They would be moving forward on a large project, which they need to do. For years, this Town has done nothing. In the past three or four years, they really have done a lot. Now it's catch-up. Everything was pushed aside year after year. No one wants to see taxes go up, but there are some things they do need. The longer they let combined dispatch go, the more expensive it will become and they are going to need it eventually.

Selectman Charbonneau said they should slow down for a year, build up the surplus and play catch-up later. She asked about the \$410,000 for Unicorn Park. Mr. Sharon said it will go into surplus.

Selectman Seabury didn't want to build up the surplus because the Budget Committee will just cut it back. Selectman Jasper said this budget does not increase the surplus. That's why he was opposed to using the surplus. When he was a Selectman before, some years they had to borrow TAN's (tax anticipation notes). The surplus allows them to have the bond rating that they do. It allows them cash flow so at the end of the year, they don't have to borrow money and pay interest. When the economic crash comes, they won't get all their revenues. They've seen years when they've had millions of outstanding tax dollars due. If there is an economic downturn and people don't pay their taxes for two years, there is a huge cash shutoff. Surplus is used so they don't have to lay off personnel. No matter how much money is in the budget, if the revenues aren't there, the only alternative is to lay off people. Surplus should never be decreased for budget items. Selectman Charbonneau agreed. Chairman Madison said the surplus wasn't going to be decreased or changed for next year. Selectman Jasper said it would if they take out \$350,000. Chairman Madison said that will come from unanticipated revenue. Selectman Jasper said they don't have any.

Mr. Sharon said Combined Dispatch is a big ticket item that is too small to bond but large enough to consider taking out of surplus. He and Steve both feel very strongly that if they maintain a surplus balance of 2.5 to 3 million, the bond buyers will be happy. They are conservative in the way they approach revenue projections and it's unusual they miss the target. They are usually over. Selectman Jasper said they have traditionally used \$500,000-\$600,000 to offset the tax rate and still have \$1 million left over. This year, they didn't. The revenue growth was not there, which tells him there is a slowdown underway because the last two years, they had the \$500,000-\$600,000, plus \$1 million.

Mr. Sharon said they always generate unexpended funds at the end of the year, and/or unanticipated revenue. They also know the Budget Committee has taken it as their role to get whatever that year-end delta as thin as possible so they can say they've done their job. They have unexplainable things that come up during the year, but they do run in the black. They do generate a surplus at the end of the year and they will continue to do so. Selectman Charbonneau didn't want to see the Town lose their good bond rating. Mr. Sharon said that's why he's saying \$2.5 million.

*Motion by Selectman Stewart to defer till November 28, seconded by Selectman Jasper, carried unanimously.*

- (5) Full-Time Police Dispatchers (Police Department)
- (1) Full-Time Dispatcher (Fire Department)
- (1) Full-Time Dispatch Supervisor (Fire Department)
- (1) Full-Time Children's Librarian Assistant
- (1) Part-Time Librarian's Assistant
- Wage & Benefit Increase for Library Personnel
- Architectural Program/Design (Library)
- Cable Television Access Center
- Wage and Benefits Increase for Non-Union Personnel
- Rescission of Portion of Article 34 of 1993 ATM
- Design Study for Intersection of Route 102 and West Road (\$50,000 from Corridor Account)
- Wage & Benefit Increase Town Clerk/Tax Collector
- Rewording of Alvirne Land Warrant Article
- Rewording of Land Preservation Warrant Article

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Town Auction

The auction will be held at the old Highway Garage on Melendy Road on Nov. 18, starting at 9:00 a.m.

*Motion by Selectman Seabury, seconded by Selectman Charbonneau, to send to auction the items listed carried unanimously.*

### B. Public Hearing/Acceptance of \$600 Donation from Flash Photo to Recreation Department

Chairman Madison opened the Public Hearing at 8:39 p.m. and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no response, so she closed the hearing.

*Motion by Selectman Charbonneau, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to receive the donation with thanks carried unanimously.*

### C. Requests for increased Flow Capacity

- 1) **Hair We Are, Map 48, Lot 52, Units 8, 9 & 10**
- 2) **Foto Fantasy, Inc., Map 32, Lot 37-2**

- 3) **199 Lowell Road, Map 10, Lot 10, Unit C**
- 4) **Performance Materials, Inc., Map 32, Lot 35**

*Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to approve the requests for increased flow capacity, as recommended by the Sewer Utility Committee carried unanimously.*

**D. Paramedic Training**

Chief Carpentino said following the workshop presentation on this, no additional questions were received. That night, they were directed to formulate responses to the concerns raised, which they did. No further direction was given. He was seeking authorization to send four people to paramedic classes in the spring in Nashua. Selectman Seabury asked if this was ok with the union. Chief Carpentino said they can send anyone to school, but will be following up with Bill Wardwell. The union favors getting people to the paramedic level. He anticipates problems with shift coverage, after they are trained and certified.

*Motion by Selectman Seabury, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to approve sending four firefighters to the spring paramedic training carried unanimously.*

**E. Naming of Land (Firefighters' Memorial location)**

Lt. Morin did not think there was an official name to the park where the memorial is located, so he would like to see it named, hopefully, with reference to the fire service or Hudson Fire Department, such as Firefighters Memorial Park. They would like to involve the Hudson third and fourth grade students by asking the third graders to do Hudson history and fourth graders, NH history. Those two groups would pick a name. The winner would have lunch with the firefighters and ride a shift with them. The judges would be a person from the memorial committee, a school teacher and a resident. After that, the plan is to have some type of stone made. Perhaps the Alvirne art students could design it, with a certain criteria to follow. Dave Cote from Hudson Monument is willing to serve on that committee. Selectman Jasper endorsed the concept of naming the park, but the Selectmen should make the final selection. Lt. Morin said that was his understanding and intent.

*Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Seabury, to allow Lt. Morin to proceed forward with the contest of naming the area around the Firefighters' memorial carried unanimously.*

**F. Fire Department Job Descriptions**

**1) Assistant Fire Chief**

Chairman Madison said when the Assistant Chief was hired, she thought the job description was approved as well, but it wasn't.

*Motion by Selectman Seabury, seconded by Selectman Charbonneau, to approve the job description of the Assistant Fire Chief carried unanimously.*

**2) Call Lieutenant**

Chairman Madison said a minimum requirement in the old job description was four years with the Hudson Fire Department but the new one has a requirement for six years with a recognized fire department and two years with Hudson.

(Start Tape 2, Side A)

Chairman Madison asked if the state runs the tests that firefighters have to pass. Chief Carpentino said yes, for the full-timers. The last time they hired call firefighters, they bought a test from a testing agency. Chairman Madison said if someone had been a lieutenant on another call force and not Hudson, and yet the people on the call force weren't qualified to be a lieutenant, what would they do? Chief Carpentino said they have an administrative policy that allows him to seek a waiver from the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Madison asked how many years a full-time lieutenant has to have. Chief Carpentino said four years in a recognized full-time fire department. Chairman Madison asked why a call lieutenant has to have six years. Chief Carpentino said four years for a full-time firefighter gives a lot more education and experience than six years as a call firefighter. Chairman Madison said they already have a hard time trying to fill call positions. Chief Carpentino said they weren't getting people that were Level 1, so they hired people by agreement to train them, but they had to stay X amount of years. Eleven of the 12 people they hired were not trained. Next Tuesday night, those people are going to take their Level 1-A test, then they are going to have a week off and go right into Level 1-B. They've already expressed an interest to go onto the EMT-I class after that. The problem is getting firefighters, not lieutenants.

Selectman Jasper said someone could apply who is full-time elsewhere, and that does create an inconsistency. Chairman Madison said they could add a phrase, "Unless you have full-time experience with another force." Discussion continued regarding minimum qualifications, special licenses and certifications. Chief Carpentino said if they didn't have anyone who met the requirements, he'd ask the Board to waive a particular item. Nothing precludes someone from applying for a job and asking for a waiver, if there are extenuating circumstances. That can be included on any job description as part of their policy. Selectman Jasper thought it'd be important to include that statement on postings because people would automatically think they were ineligible. Even he wasn't aware of that option. They could add something to the effect that waivers can be applied for.

Chairman Madison asked for a motion to approve the job description for Call Lieutenant, with a paragraph added explaining the waiver. Selectman Seabury so moved, seconded by Selectman Stewart. Motion carried unanimously.

### 3) Call Captain

Chairman Madison pointed out several changes from the present to proposed job description, saying that most of the changes were in minimum qualifications. There weren't any minimum requirements, as with the lieutenant's position. Chief Carpentino said they were going from one officer's position to another, so they would already have those qualifications. The 11 people they just hired will have to spend six years in the fire service to gain experience, knowledge and education before they're eligible to become a lieutenant. To move up into the captain's position, they'd already have that experience. Chairman Madison said it doesn't state someone has to be a lieutenant before they can be a captain. Someone could apply who had experience with another fire department. Chief Carpentino said they could have someone from another department that was a lieutenant, captain or deputy chief that came in as a call firefighter. That would exclude them, and they may be the best candidate. Selectman Jasper said anyone could apply for a waiver. He thinks it's best to be more stringent. It's inconsistent to say to be a lieutenant you have to have six years of experience and two with the Hudson fire department, but to be a captain, you don't necessarily have to have any with the Town. If you have to have six to be a lieutenant, then a captain should have eight years experience with a fire department and four with the Hudson Fire Department. They should set up the normal progression. Chief Carpentino suggested putting a year requirement on because they'll have people from Nashua, Derry, Londonderry that live in Town that might want to be a call firefighter in Hudson and their knowledge and experience should be taken into consideration. Selectman Jasper said except that they have a requirement to be with Hudson two years in order to be a lieutenant.

Chief Carpentino said the position of call captain is changing. It's no longer just get on the truck and ride. They're talking about an administrative position. Chairman Madison said if they're going to hire other people, they can't all be required to be a member of the Hudson Fire Department, and it's the same with the lieutenant. Chief Carpentino said he'd rather see them eliminate the two years from the lieutenant's position than add four years to the captain's position. Mr. Sharon said they've got to have some definition of what experience is. Discussion continued.

Selectman Jasper said that the captain's position should have at least the same two year requirement with the Hudson Fire Department as the lieutenant's. Chairman Madison disagreed, saying they were looking at a higher level of officer and that person would have at least 10 years experience. Selectman Jasper said then he'd ask that the person have at least two years as an officer, in Hudson or someplace else.

Chief Carpentino said they can reword that to read, "Responds to emergency incidents and assists the incident commander. At times, may be assigned to various roles as assigned by the incident commander." Selectman Jasper liked that, saying that the call captain should have the ability to do that. He should be a full officer, able to take command and, if he's going to be able to do that, he should have had experience as an officer.

Motion by Selectman Seabury, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to amend the first requirement under Minimum Qualifications, Special Licenses & Certifications to read, Must have 10 years of experience with a recognized fire department and two years experience as an officer, carried 5-0.

Selectman Jasper questioned the requirement for the captain to be an EMT-I. It is difficult for a call person to be an EMT because of the need to keep their skills sharp. An EMT-I takes a lot of time even for a full-time person. None of the captains are EMT-I's. Chief Carpentino said there's an advantage to the department going to advanced life support level and it gives Mickey an assistant. All of the people that were recently hired on the call force want to go to EMT school. That's 12 more people she will have to train. The call force would like to do more of their training independently. If this position is going to be training and administrative, it allows that person to provide a wider variety of training so it becomes a more self-sufficient organization. When he was hired in 1997, the job description said that future captains would have to become an EMT-I's. The job requirement for a basic firefighter was also changed to an I

in 1997. There is no requirement to be an EMT in the call force. If you are going to make a position in the call force geared towards training and administration, and if they are going to add more EMT's into the call force, they will need to have some type of experience or education to teach those subjects. Selectman Jasper said being an EMT-I doesn't make someone an instructor. This person will have enough to do with the call force. They should be looking at having an assistant for Mickey to work strictly on the EMT-I—a call firefighter who is an EMT-I and instructor to work on that side of the equation. Chairman Madison asked how long it takes to become an EMT-I. Selectman Jasper said to get an I certification, it takes hundreds of hours. Then they have to maintain that, and may never use it. Chief Carpentino said to just make it EMT. That doesn't preclude anybody that has a higher level of training to apply.

Selectman Charbonneau asked if there was any guarantee that these people would stay after their training. Chief Carpentino that will be up to the Selectmen. Selectman Jasper said that discussion should take place before the Chief sends all of them to school. He didn't think it was that advantageous for everyone on the call force to be an EMT. There has to be some level of commitment. If he was an EMT, he'd probably get the opportunity to ride the ambulance a half dozen times a year. Yet, the Town would pay him extra every single time.

*Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Seabury, to amend the seventh requirement (under Minimum Qualifications, Special Licenses & Certifications) to read, "Must be certified/licensed as an EMT in the State of NH," carried unanimously.*

*Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Seabury, to approve the Call Fire Captain job description, as amended, carried unanimously.*

*Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Charbonneau, to authorize the Chief to post the position of Call Captain carried unanimously.*

#### G. Assessing Items

- 1) **Veteran's Tax Credit Applications (11 Grover Brook Lane, Map 025/Lot 005/Sublot 002; 16 Hartson Circle, Map 032/Lot 087**

*Motion by Selectman Charbonneau, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to grant, as recommended by the Assessor, carried unanimously.*

- 2) **Elderly Exemption Applications (26 Oliver Street, Map 031/Lot 058/Sublot 026; 104 Webster Street, Map 054/Lot 001**

*Motion by Selectman Charbonneau, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to grant, as recommended by the Assessor, carried unanimously.*

- 3) **Excavation Activity Tax Warrants (Map 033/Lot 039/Sublot 001; Map 030/Lots 007/009/020**

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to sign, as recommended by the Assessor, carried unanimously.*

Selectman Seabury asked if this was monitored by the Town Engineer. Mr. Sharon said it comes under zoning state rights. It's not an issue that involves Engineering as much as the Assessor and the State agencies. Selectman Seabury used Selectman Jasper's sale of property to the Nash Family, saying that was an excavation permit. They had to go in after a certain period of time to do a reclamation. Mr. Sharon said that was correct. She asked if they did in fact do that. Selectman Jasper said he wasn't saying anything and he had nothing to do with that sale.

- 4) **Abatement Application 2000, 70 Highland Street, Map 56/Lot 50**

*Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Seabury, to grant, as recommended by the Assessor, carried unanimously.*

#### H. Sewer Utility Abatement Requests

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to grant S-UTL-01-07 in the amount of \$70.23 and S-UTL-01-08 in the amount of \$262.73 as recommended by the Sewer Utility Committee carried unanimously.*

**I. Use of Town Facilities for Political Activities**

Chairman Madison recognized Mr. Sharon who said some time ago, the Board set forth some regulations on the use of Town Hall by political parties to allow for Republican and Democratic committee meetings, but not for political rallies and that sort of thing. The candidate for a statewide office had requested the use of Town Hall to have a campaign strategy meeting, but was denied, based on the Board's policy. He then went to the Police Station and indicated that Town Hall had said he could use the community room. Everyone has read about the results of what happened. The Police Department felt that they should have had the same policy in effect that is in effect for Town Hall. Selectman Stewart asked if they should also include the Town green (by the gazebo). The Board felt that that was open public space and would be too restrictive to include that in this motion. That was a matter of public properties versus public facilities and there is a difference.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to amend their current policy and to restrict usage of meeting rooms in all Town-owned facilities regarding political activity to only the Town Republican and Democratic committees to hold a meeting (if a room is available) but does not include gatherings such as caucuses, rallies, meet-the candidate, etc. carried unanimously.

**J. Setting Date of First Session of ATM (Feb 3 or 10)**

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to set the date for the first session of Town Meeting for the Town's side as February 10, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. carried unanimously.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS****A. Hydrant Rental**

Chairman Madison recognized Paul Sharon, who said the last time they discussed the hydrant rental issue, it was pointed out that as part of running an enterprise, they were really dealing with the Town as a customer and hydrant rentals isn't something they should just arbitrarily reduce any more than they would tell PSNH they will no longer pay for traffic signals. Steve was requested to do a memo and, in the backup, a half million dollars is really demand. The actual per hydrant charge is a relatively small part of it. If they reduce them back to last year's level, as they proposed during budget deliberations, but kept the demand charge the same, they would change the unit rate on hydrants from \$16.20 to less than \$15.00. Chairman Madison said when they set up the water utility, they gave a 10% rate reduction. The water utility, like the sewer utility, was established as a self-supporting entity. She had a talk with the Finance Director about this because it was bothering her. She thinks they should leave the hydrant rental as it was originally in the budget. It's a matter of a little over \$7,000. She asked Selectman Jasper to take the Chair.

Motion by Selectman Madison, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to rescind the two votes taken during budget deliberations to reduce 255 from \$692,000 to \$685,000 and to eliminate the per-hydrant charge for the Town and establish a flat rate of \$685,000 for the rental of the hydrants. Vice-Chairman Jasper said they can't do that because it has already gone to the Budget Committee. They can only direct representative Seabury to take that recommendation to the Budget Committee. Selectman Madison amended her motion accordingly.

Vice-Chairman Jasper said it is a small amount, but it will continue to grow. The tax relief from the education funding solution is probably going to totally disappear this year. They are being unfair to the taxpayers by having a one-sided equation. The taxes don't go up to the utility, but the charges to the community go up. He never really liked what they had did, but he didn't fight that battle at that time. He later said he didn't mind if they adjusted the per-hydrant charge down and adjusted the tariff but keep the funding the same. He opposed continuing to charge taxpayers more for hydrants. It has always been a subsidy to the water utility users. He can remember when the charge was \$300,000 a year and then the water company started adding about \$100,000 a year to the charges to make up for revenues and it got up to over \$700,000. Mr. Sharon said the Board sets the tariff, but much of the hydrant rental is a misnomer. It is a demand charge for the customer being assured that the utility is guaranteeing there is going to be a certain flow distributed to the community. Philosophically, they ought to keep that formulized basis. Selectman Jasper said he didn't disagree.

Selectman Madison said this is only the third year they've been operating the water utility and as they build up a surplus, hopefully they will have another rate reduction. She didn't think they should do anything with this yet. As time goes by, the Town makes a payment in lieu of taxes. Maybe at the five-year point, they look at that. They should leave things as is until they have built up some reserves. Selectman Jasper said the only ones paying more money as a result of the acquisition of the water company are the taxpayers of Hudson. That is blatantly unfair. Selectman Madison said they are not increasing the charge, but they keep adding more hydrants. That's why they need to look at it in five years.

Selectman Charbonneau is glad for all of the hydrants along Derry Road. Her business uses a lot of water and her insurance rates have gone down because of the hydrants. Mr. Sharon said the taxpayer at large benefited greatly last year because they didn't reduce the amount of the pilot when they reduced taxes elsewhere. The general fund benefited from the water utility last year by keeping the pilot the same. Vice-Chairman Jasper said last year the hydrant rental went up, and it went up again this year. More dollars left his pocket. The tax rate will be back up, so he wants to try to keep things even.

*Vice-Chairman Jasper called for a vote on recommending that the budget be increased by \$7,808 as originally recommended by the Finance Director. Motion carried 4-1. Vice-Chairman Jasper was opposed.*

**B. Zoning Petitions**

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to receive the petition to rezone Map/Lot 005-062-000 from G & R-2 to R-1 and forward to the Planning Board carried unanimously.*

*Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to forward all subsequent petitions that are received between November 13 and December 13 by the Board of Selectmen, that are verified by the Town Clerk's Office as having the appropriate number of valid signatures, to the Planning Board carried unanimously.*

**C. Growth Management Ordinance**

Selectman Stewart said tomorrow night, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing to consider a growth management ordinance. Chairman Madison asked if she has expressed the Selectmen's sentiments at Planning Board meetings. Selectman Stewart indicated that she did.

**D. Make-up of the Sewer Utility Committee**

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to request of Tom Sommers whether or not he would recommend any changes to the makeup of the Sewer Utility Committee and, if so, what those recommendations are.*

Selectman Jasper thinks it is time to look at the Sewer Utility Committee and see if it's serving as best it could. There have been suggestions that, because of the technical nature of the committee, and much of it is perfunctory work (taking the recommendations of staff) that perhaps the committee should be made up of the professionals, possibly with some outside people. Right now, the Town Engineer, the Consultant and the Sewer Utility Clerk are members of the committee, but don't vote. He thinks it is time to look at it.

*Vote: Motion carried unanimously.*

**10. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of October 24, 2000

*Motion by Selectman Charbonneau, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to accept the Minutes, as presented, and refer to file carried unanimously.*

**11. COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

11/16 7:30 Budget Committee in the P/Z Mtg. Rm.

~~11/20 7:30 Conservation Commission in the P/Z Mtg. Rm.~~

11/20 7:00 Library Trustees in the BOS Mtg. Rm.

11/23 & 24 Town Hall closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

11/27 6:30 School Board in BOS Mtg. Rm.

11/28 7:30 BOS in BOS Mtg. Rm.

11/28 7:00 Trustees of the Trust Funds

Dates relative to Town Meeting (Deliberative Session and Voting)

Nov 13-Dec 13 Petitions accepted to amend Zoning Ordinance/historic district ord/building code

Jan 9 Last day to submit petitioned articles to BOS

Jan 24-Feb 2 Filing period for candidacy

Jan 29 Last day to post the Warrant/Budget

Feb 3/feb 10 Deliberative Session of Town Meeting

Mar 13 Voting

**12. REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN**

Selectman Charbonneau said goodnight to Jack and Daisy (her granddogs).

Selectman Stewart congratulated her husband, David Bouchard, who was elected to the House.

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Selectman Seabury wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and Selectman Stewart, a happy birthday.

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Chairman Madison wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

**13. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to enter Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) personnel issues; (b) the hiring of an employee; and (d) real estate issues carried 5-0 by roll call vote.*

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Nonpublic Session was entered into at 9:55 p.m. and was terminated at 10:20 p.m.

*Motion by Selectman Seabury, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to hire Kristopher Otterson, Michael Scherb and Mark Haynes as Firefighter/EMT-I's, starting December 3, 2000 and a work date of December 4, at \$24,876.83 with a pay increase after successful probation of \$25,623.14 and will be a part of IAFF Local 3154 carried unanimously.*

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*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to hire Pat Dwyer as permanent Administrative Assistant in the Community Development Department, effective immediately, carried unanimously.*

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to adjourn at 10:21 p.m. carried unanimously.*

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

**HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman E. Lorraine Madison**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Rhona Charbonneau**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Shawn N. Jasper**

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**Ann Seabury**

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**Terry Stewart**