

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the October 17, 2019 Budget Review Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Morin for the meeting of October 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Library Director Linda Pilla and it's also a special thing for her as it's the one-year anniversary of her becoming a citizens of the United States.
3. ATTENDANCE - Board of Selectmen: David Morin, Kara Roy, Roger Coutu, Marilyn McGrath, Normand Martin.

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Finance Director Kathy Carpentier; Town Planner Brian Groth; Town Engineer Elvis Dhima; Zoning Administrator Bruce Buttrick; Municipal Utility Committee Chairman David Shaw; Conservation Commission Chairman Randy Brownrigg; Library Trustee Barbara Blue; Library Director Linda Pilla; Budget Committee Chairman Bob Guessferd; Linda Kipnes

4. BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Trustees of Trust Fund (5020)

Kathy Carpentier thank the Board. This is department 5020. This budget is down \$856 in the part-time salary line item. The total budget is \$2,818.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions. Moving right along.

Cemetery Trustees (5025)

Ms. Carpentier indicated this budget is level funded at \$1,250.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions.

Supervisors of the Checklist (5042)

Kathy Carpentier noted this is up due to the fact that the Town Clerk/Tax Collector anticipated having more hours and also having to purge the supervisor checklist which is required every ten years so they'd need more man hours for that task and also to mail out 2.500 notices for the purge. That's all on the bottom of page 16.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions. Seeing none.

Treasurer (5050)

Kathy Carpentier said this is level funded and it's by RSA and \$8,074 is the total budget.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions.

Sustainability Committee (5055)

Kathy Carpentier indicated it's a level funded budget at \$1,300. I do believe they have one outside the budget request that you might want to entertain.

Linda Kipnes thought most of you have copies of a proposed warrant article to replace the lights in Town Hall. This would be a comparable project to what was just done at the Library. We replaced all the lights with LED lighting. The Library is seeing significant savings and I have a preliminary proposal for replacing the lights in this building. The numbers that are there are the numbers from the preliminary proposal which they did in May. It is not the final number. I'm guessing it will be not too much more than that the final price. The rebate might be about the same so the net cost would be around \$10,000 or \$11,000.

Selectman Coutu asked when is the last time we changed the bulbs in here and what was the cost. Do you remember? Linda Kipnes indicated the last project we did was 2008 or 2009. The up-front cost was nothing. At the time, PSNH had a program where they would replace the bulbs. It either went to T2 or T8 or T8 to T2. I don't know what the differences are. They replaced the bulbs at no cost and then we kept paying the same rate for electricity as we had been paying until we paid off the price of the lights. In many of the town buildings, it was two or three years at the most. So by 2011 or so, they were all paid off. That program is no longer available. There are rebates but there are none with no up-front costs.

Selectman Coutu told Linda considering that this is a budget that is 18 months out and also considering that based on the initial numbers that they gave us this could increase. The payback would be 2 ¼ years. If it goes up, it could be as much as 2 1/2 years. In light of the fact that we are going to engage in as a municipality to looking towards either constructing or moving Town Hall within that timeframe is it worth committing that kind of money to changing the bulbs in here? Honestly, Ms. Kipnes said I proposed this because I would like to see some projects go forward. I can look at another building or another project. I proposed this because I had this preliminary proposal for this amount of money. Selectman Coutu thought you had requested that we allow to look into it. Since then, there's been talk about either repurposing this building, selling this building, maybe even expanding this building but we're going to entertain some sort of a contract to look at the feasibility. That's in this year's budget. The feasibility of potentially renting, buying, or adding on to the building. I don't know how the rest of the Board feels about having us entertain this on the ballot or come back with a different proposal. I'm open to ideas from other members of the Board. I'm just throwing that out there because that's the reality.

Linda Kipnes indicated I had heard that there was talk of expanding Town Hall but I was thinking expanding would be in some direction but most of it would remain as it was. So replacing the lights in the part that's here would be some savings in the shorter term and presumably the latest technology would go in a newer part. Selectman Coutu didn't disagree with that. It depends on where the Board wants to go.

Chairman Morin asked Selectman Martin is your question relative to this or the budget itself.

Selectman Martin stated not a question but a comment.

Chairman Morin said Selectman Roy first has a question.

Selectman Roy said I'm just curious how much on average has the Library saved. Linda Kipnes thought \$325 a month - 23 to 25 percent. Selectman Roy thought it might be worth it if we were simply going to repurpose this building, whether we move somewhere else or add on. I would presume if we were going to add on we would do it at that time. We would have, again, the latest technology to do that and get the cost savings there. My thoughts.

Selectman McGrath said calculating the \$346 per month savings per year is \$4,152. I don't know that if we're talking about or going to investigate either moving to a different building or building another building, I think we need to determine that before we invest in this and I would expect - there may be other buildings

in town that could benefit from this. I think while we're in the stages of trying to figure out what's best for the Town Hall and the town employees because we're growing too. It's only going to continue to grow. I don't think that there's any point at this stage to invest in this for this building. You might want to have a conversation with Chief Avery because...Ms. Kipnes said I have been. Selectman McGrath said if the voters approve that expansion that might be the best place. Ms. Kipnes said we are working with them to do sustainability in there expansion plans also. For now, Selectman McGrath said I would not be in favor of investing in this for this building.

Selectman Martin said we're going to be talking about it. We don't know how long it's going to take. Government is glacial and it moves slowly. We could be three years out before we do anything. If we can get - no harm in putting it on the ballot and letting the voters tell us. That's just my opinion.

Chairman Morin asked is that a motion.

Kathy Carpentier indicated you could also put it in the operating budget and choose to do it or not do it as time goes on. It's a \$24,000 increase to the budget with a \$13,000 rebate - approximate numbers. I'm using based on what you said. Linda Kipnes said I don't know what the final numbers would be. Ms. Carpentier said the net cost is \$11,000 with a \$4,000 per year payback. So you could choose not to do it but put those in the budget if you wanted to instead of a warrant article. It's just another option. I'm not trying to sway you. I'm just putting it out there.

Selectman McGrath asked can we give this some thought and revisit this either later tonight or at our next budget hearing next week.

Chairman Morin asked if everybody was deferring it tonight. Thank you. I appreciate it.

Selectman Martin commented the small operating materials I know you did an average on that KC. My question is we went with \$450. I know its small money but '19 and '18 were less than \$100 and '17 was \$594. I don't know what materials they're buying. I'm just wondering if decreasing that to \$200.

Steve Malizia said this year for the roadside cleanups we bought the sandwich board signs. There were four of those at a couple hundred bucks I think for that. We also bought safety vests which I'm assuming we'll continue to buy for the roadside cleanup workers. You can't have them out there without some safety and those are probably going to be replaced as the get tattered and worn. That's the kind of thing that's there and given the fact that they seem to be much more - I'd use the word "aggressive" - but they're certainly doing their cleanup much more often. That's with the material. That's what the money is for. So it's a small investment for the effort that you're getting back.

Chairman Morin said they actually work to save money for the town this year because they used to give out t-shirts and not get them back. Now they have vests that they get back every time so they're not spending that money continuously. Any other questions on Sustainability. Seeing none.

Benson Committee (5063)

Kathy Carpentier noted this is the Benson Park Committee. The operations are under the Public Works Director but this is a level funded budget at \$1,100.

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to reduced line item 5063-230 from \$500 to \$250.

Selectman Martin indicated my concern here is the last three years they didn't even spend \$220. I know that a lot of people donate and we don't hear about those donations. Why keep it at \$500 when \$250 would be sufficient in my opinion.

Selectman Coutu stated to the best of my recollection initially when we did park cleanups we had quite a few pizza parlors and sandwich shops donating week in and week out. We had an aggressive and a core group of volunteers that solicited donations to the park. It's become increasingly difficult for them to even get volunteers let alone people that make phone calls and try to arrange food. I think that the safety net that they were building in last year and because we don't have - this actual budget they don't have what the result is. They balanced it with the same request this year. I think they're going to have to be buying more and more because there aren't - you can only hit these people so many times for free pizzas every other weekend, once a month, or however often they do the cleanups. I think that's a safety net that was built into the budget to see what would happen in this year and remember we're budgeting out and we don't have actuals for this year. I think that's all that's for.

Selectman Martin withdrew his motion.

Selectman McGrath withdrew her second.

Budget Committee (5070)

Ms. Carpentier indicated the municipal Budget Committee is a level funded budget at \$800.

Selectman Martin asked have there been any additional requests to you KC for training. There's a lot of new members. Kathy Carpentier indicated we did the training last year. I think there's only 1 or 2 members that are new since then. Diana LaMothe reached out to me and she wants to put on some training for the Budget Committee. As far as going to the budget things, Selectman Martin said they're for the State. Ms. Carpentier stated we had them come to us. I hosted for the Budget Committee the lawyer from NHMA came down and did the budgeting 101 last year. I do have the presentation that he did. We haven't discussed it recently but this committee has been active in training. We try to get the free one from NHMA to cover it.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any other questions.

Ethics Committee (5080)

Kathy Carpentier said \$100 level funded budget.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions.

Planning & Planning Board (5571-5572)

Chairman Morin recognized Brian Groth the Town Planner.

Brian Groth stated not many things have changed. I tweaked a few things based on what was more historically accurate and I do have one item outside the budget. If you'd like, do you want me to go starting after labor and go line by line?

Chairman Morin asked does anybody have any questions.

Selectman Roy said I had one - 5571-252 professional services. It went from \$19,000 to zero. Mr. Groth said that is currently the money being used for the Master Plan update with NRPC. So that's not a recurring expenditure. So that goes away for the next fiscal year. What I'm asking to sequentially follow that is a regulatory and zoning audit performed by NRPC. It's a service that I've done myself as a Planner Commission. Essentially they'll pour through our zoning and regulations and identify any inconsistencies, any conflicts. It's kind of a regulatory rehabilitation project essentially. It doesn't change anything, it just points out where there's opportunities for efficiencies or corrections. Selectman Roy asked what line would that be under. It would be the same one? Mr. Groth said yes.

Ms. Carpentier indicated it's his outside the budget requests which is one page back on page 1.

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to add \$5,000 for the comprehensive review to line item 5571-252.

Selectman Coutu asked has a vendor been selected or I wouldn't see us going out to bid for \$5,000 if we know a vendor. Brian Groth said I received this quote from NRPC so I would like...Selectman Coutu reiterated so NRPC will be doing it. Good. Thank you. I thought I heard you say that. Mr. Groth said it's a nice dovetail from them having helped us with our Master Plan. By the time that's finished, they'll be ready and geared to go with this.

Selectman McGrath thought this is beneficial for all of the land in Hudson because they'll be reviewing zoning and any inconsistencies. Brian has found some just from his short tenure with us. I think that this is a very beneficial thing to do.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Planning Board (5572)

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions. All set.

Brian Groth noted for those who can make it, I look forward to seeing you at our first Master Plan outreach session Saturday, October 26th, at 10 a.m. at Nottingham West Elementary. Selectman McGrath indicated that invitation is for people that are watching this as well so that they can participate. We're going to keep hammering that along because it's so important.

Zoning & ZBA (5581, 5583)

Chairman Morin recognized Zoning Administrator Bruce Buttrick.

Bruce Buttrick noted 5581 is Zoning Administration and Code Enforcement. They're basically lumped in together. I've proposed a budget based on actuals. As you know approximately two years ago we did the transfer from Fire Department over to Land Use. We're picking up the pieces as myself and then a year ago we hired Tracy the Administrative Assistant and we did more code enforcement. The actuals pick up in this past year. We're trying to match the budget to the actuals and there are a couple of increases that reflect that. In particular, deeds and legal documentation - that went up \$400. Postage - \$440 probably the additional letters going for code enforcement. Office supplies - \$550. Those are the major line items that increased but those are based on actuals to be the real picture.

Selectman McGrath asked on the deeds and the legal documents are those deeds based on code enforcement action that there's some sort of a record made within the Registry of Deeds. Mr. Buttrick indicated that is primarily the research going from the Registry the subscription to see what we have for when I do research to see what was recorded - sometimes the site plans, and likewise our Notice of Decisions from ZBA get recorded and it's processed

through our office administration.

Selectman McGrath asked for those documents that are recorded and they're required to be recorded based on Zoning Board action is there a fee that's included with the applicant when they apply for that whether it's a variance or a special exception. Can you explain the sort of? Bruce Buttrick indicated that's in the other 5883 Zoning Board. We have the notices, newspaper ads that we have to publish when we do the hearings and those are built into the application fees. We did a restudy I want to say two years ago and we revised the applications and the fees to reflect what it really does. We have to take averages to see what it really does cost. The recording at the Registry wasn't really included in that but it is. It's part of the fees that we have to spend when we go to record them. Selectman McGrath said my point is...Mr. Buttrick said we're pretty close. The application is basically covering our expenses on that paper trail.

Chairman Morin asked if there were further questions.

5583 - Zoning Board of Adjustment

Likewise, Bruce Buttrick indicated I've been tracking our actual expenses and the large one is our professional services. That's the recorder who is the minute taker and she does the notice of decisions. As you are aware, we have a five business day statutory requirement to have those ready. So that's an expense that we have to incur and we've been very pleased with the situation. She is expensive but it wasn't the revolving door of recorders we had when I came on close to four years ago. There was a new face almost every other meeting of a new recorder. Sometimes they didn't even show up and we didn't have any coverage or good minutes. I'm very confident now. Our minutes and our notices of decisions are right now on track and spot on. As you know, our review process we do it electronically. Of course with Right to Know covered, we can do edits and not spend going line by line at a meeting and take up 20 minutes of I'd like to change line 24 to "if" and "it" versus all that stuff. That has helped a lot. Selectman McGrath indicated that is a collaborate effort with the recorder and the Zoning Board members that actually sat on the case and made the decision. Bruce said its working well and very good.

Selectman Martin commented it is a good think that the transition that they made to have in their minutes e-mail and they can do their edits with track changes and send them back to her and she incorporates them in. It's perfect. She does a great job with the Board and the Board likes it and takes a lot of time so they can leave their meetings on a better time than sitting around.

Engineering (5585 & Warrant Articles K, O)

Chairman Morin recognized Town Engineer Elvis Dhima. Sorry about that, we went out of order.

Elvis Dhima said that's okay it makes perfect sense. Good evening everyone. The proposed budget for engineering this year is an increase of \$1,355 which represented a 2 percent increase from last year. Below the threshold that this Board recommended. \$1,000 is regarding the landfill and compliance with the State requirements. There are two of our landfills that are closed and that \$255 is related to training, licenses, vehicle maintenance. With that said, I'll take any questions you might have.

Selectman Coutu asked to clarify something. How much did you say your budget went up \$1,000 and something? Mr. Dhima said \$1,355. Operation budget. Selectman Coutu didn't want thinking it only went up and then they look at the numbers and they see its \$13,400. Steve Malizia indicated it's most accurate to say the operating budget up \$1,000. Selectman Coutu noted the other is salary related.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions.

Kathy Carpentier indicated he is staying around for Warrant K which is the Taylor Falls and Veterans Memorial Bridge rehabilitation.

Elvis Dhima explained the next item in front of you tonight is Warrant Article K. As you know, there's been discussions about the need to do something about the twin bridges as we refer to. We have had correspondence with Nashua and they have agreed to put aside \$125,000 to do the design phase. Hopefully our budget passes, and this warrant article passes, and we'll get together to figure out who is going to spearhead the design. Last year we worked together to do the valuations of the bridges. Hudson spearheaded that effort. We came to an agreement. Selectman Coutu was Chairman at the time signed that and Mayor Donchess. It worked out very well. We were under budget and got it done in time. I'm hoping we continue the same process for the design phase. Beyond that, we'll have to value when we get to that point. The intent is to go with Nashua back to the State and say we have a design done and would like you to help us out with the construction. I don't want this town or Nashua feels the same that we should be paying for that. So we're going to keep trying to harass the State to see if we can have any money from them. With that said, I'll take any questions you might have.

Selectman Coutu said working collaboratively with the City of Nashua as you know Elvis is imperative in order to get this done. We now have a commitment from Nashua to cooperate at least on the design phase. Are we going to be using the same design engineer for both sides of the bridge? Elvis Dhima said yes. We will put this to save money. We will design both bridges at the same time. We will go out to bid and we'll do the bid evaluations. They have to agree to it. Our process is more efficient than theirs. I'm hoping they will let us do it but we'll go out to bid and we'll do both bridges at the same time. That would be the most effective way to get the designs done.

Selectman Coutu noted this item appears in our CIP proposal which the Board has reviewed and the Planning Board has reviewed. You have reviewed and you made your recommendations as to the design phase and the actual fix of those two bridges. We're looking we know at best three years out before any construction begins and we don't want to wait til those two bridges are red flagged. We're not close but we're going in the wrong direction right now with those two bridges in terms of its constructual integrity is not getting. It's getting worse as time progresses. I think that the \$125,000 in conjunction with what the City of Nashua is going to do with for their share another \$125,000 is better now than later. Thank you for the work that you did on this. I know that you attended many meetings and some very frustrating. He's a tough guy to deal with across the bridge. Mr. Dhima indicated we are too. It will get done.

Selectman McGrath asked Elvis did they reduce that to writing the agreement to match the funds that we're going to be...Elvis Dhima said the way we'll do this will be similar to what we did last year. We will get our budget approved - the warrant article. They will get theirs approved and then we have to get together to figure out who is going to spearhead. Based on who's going to do this, we have to determine who is going to pay who and how much. So we will take care of the agreement once we determine that both sides have the money and who's going to do the work.

Selectman McGrath said if our voters in Hudson vote to approve this warrant article but Nashua doesn't get that - they don't have to go before the voters. They have to go before the Board of Aldermen. So if they don't get their approval what does that do for us or do to us? Steve Malizia indicated well this is non-lapsing so you have a few years. So for example if they don't have the political will or desire to do it say next year, we can go all the way to 2026 because we've designated this as non-lapsing which gives us a buffer of time. So that's important to note because again things don't always work out and sync in time but this will give you the opportunity to go two more years, three more years to get to that point of agreement. Selectman McGrath said this is an important - it's a safety issue as opposed to an entertainment issue. Elvis Dhima said understood. The other option would be to proceed with a design of one bridge and work with them later for the other one. There's different ones I think. We'll evaluate when we get to that. There's a lot of unknowns. Selectman McGrath said I read the paper - the Telegraph just to

be clear - and I see what they're doing over in Nashua and where their priorities are. When I said entertainment, that's one of their priorities.

Selectman Coutu asked are we going to do all the warrant articles together. Steve Malizia thought you were going to do them near the end of the budget meetings and not tonight.

Kathy Carpentier noted you wanted me to remind you that this one is being asked for from unassigned fund balance. So you just asked me to remind you at last meeting. Selectman Coutu said okay. We'll discuss that when we discuss the...thank you.

Kathy Carpentier indicated Engineer has one more warrant article - Warrant Article O to reinstate the existing Civil Engineer position. Elvis Dhima explained this position as you might be aware it's been active since 2003. It was funded and unfunded through the Board of Selectmen in the past. It was full time or part time. This was when Mr. Webster was around. In 2017, I requested this Board to defund that and I've been covering both position - the Civil Engineer and the Town Engineer positions. The town is growing. There is a significant demand to move to Hudson that it goes from basically private development but also the project that the town is doing itself and is requiring a significant amount of manpower to be in the field while we're dealing with the office items or issues. With that said, I'm here in front of you tonight to ask you to consider to put this position back in the civil engineering operations budget. I'm here to take any questions that you may have. The intent is to have this position to cover the inspection services for 75 percent of the time while I focus more on the infrastructure - water, sewer, drainage, traffic, and compliance is becoming a burden while we can handle the outside demand for quality control, quality insurance at the end of the day.

Selectman Coutu asked is this a full-time position. Mr. Dhima said correct. Selectman Coutu said the position we had was part time was it not. Mr. Dhima indicated it was full time and part time. It has been full time and part time for the past 16 years. Selectman Coutu said the last time we used it which is at the onset of the growth that we're now facing with there was a part time position was it not. Elvis Dhima said when I took the position here, that position was part time correct. Selectman Coutu asked why do we need a full-time position. Elvis said we simply can't get the commitment from anyone as part time. As you know, the Fire Department went through the same deal with a building inspector/electrical. Due to the workforce out there, we did not get the staff I would like to see here working in this town as a Civil Engineer or a PE.

Selectman Coutu said with all due respect Elvis that was not a good answer. I asked you why full time instead of part time and you said because we won't be able to find anybody good. In other words it's a part-time job and because we can't find somebody good we're going to make it a full-time position. Elvis Dhima noted that's not what I said. Selectman Coutu stated it's not what you said. It's what was implied by your answer. I said with all due respect, it didn't sound good to me. I don't see the need for a full time. I'll just leave it at that. I think you're doing an outstanding job and I know that you do a lot of work and you're doing an outstanding job. I don't think we need a full time Civil Engineer. Mr. Webster did it. He was part time. He stayed on top of things and I think a part timer would be more appropriate for that position. That's my position.

Elvis Dhima added that as you know I've done everything I can within my power and I wouldn't be asking for this if it wasn't needed. I like to think a good employee trying to do everything I can within my power and as I said, something will suffer. I cannot cover the field requirements and being in. As you know, a significant amount of work has been added on the water division and on the traffic. I can't do it all. I wouldn't be reducing the amount if I did in 2017 and I wouldn't be asking for a full-time position if I didn't think I needed it. I understand your position and I respect that.

As far as the traffic is concerned, Selectman Coutu said you've done an outstanding job. I've told you that time and

again but that's winding down. You're going to monitor it and I know there's a little more tweaking we need to do but until we have a good traffic plan for this community, it is what it is at this point. There's not much else we can do unless you want to throw up a barrage of more lights. You and I are not in favor of that right now. Elvis Dhima said no. To your point and I'll leave it at that. Because we have a better system out there doesn't mean that we're doing less work. It just simply means that we have more eyes on it and we can actually pay attention to what's going on daily. It's actually more work and that's the reason why things are better out there because more is being put into manpower wise from Engineering and Public Works. We're going to try to make it better and we're going to try to mitigate anything from our communities or within the town's growth itself.

Selectman McGrath indicated I'm in favor of this because I know what the workload is upstairs and what it's going to be. In addition to what we have today, we're experiencing growth and that's not going to change unless the economy takes a nose dive. I mentioned this the other night. Steve and I were talking the other day and he was telling me about some of the development that we're going to be facing across the bridge. It's not coming to Hudson this particular development but it's going to be right on our border and we're going to have to deal with that. We're going to have to deal with it traffic wise, all the people that are going to be using our roads to get to Massachusetts, to get to Salem, to get to Pelham. They're building three or four apartment complexes just across the bridge. Do you know how many units that going to be Steve? Steve Malizia indicated the Henry Hanger was 140. The vacant site that's over by the Riverside that they just built is another 170. I think over by the Nashua Diner the old Corriveau Ruthier, that's somewhere in the upper 100 something range. You're talking 300 to 400 units that they've declared that they've told us.

Elvis Dhima noted that doesn't include the remain of the phases that's across the river.

Selectman McGrath said that's approximately 700 units based on the numbers you said upper 100s. I put 190 as a number. Steve Malizia indicated at least 400. Selectman McGrath stated Elvis is going to be dealing with those issues. You know what we dealt with out here with the traffic and trying to get the traffic to be somewhat movable in a timely fashion. People are complaining like crazy because Library Street was backed up. The bridge is backed up. Think of what that's going to do. Even if that 700 units isn't the right number and if its 500 and say there's two cars for each apartment, that's 1,000 cars that we may be dealing with additionally to what we have today. The development that we're going to be facing in Hudson whether its large scale, commercial, or an industrial development, or whether its residential, Elvis is going to have to be working on that and making sure that what their engineering firms are proposing actually mesh up with the requirements that Hudson has. I know and I would assume most of you know if not all of you know, Elvis is working at night from home. He works on the weekends. If I send an e-mail later in the day responding to something that he sent me earlier in the day, I get a response back. That's whether it's Friday night, Saturday, Sunday. He's always responding. We can't expect one person to do all of this. It's not right. It's not fair and not only that it's going to cause him to burn out because I know what it's like to work long hours. I think Selectman Morin likely knows what it's like to...I would expect all of us do. I'm in favor of this. I think that it's a necessary position that I'm in favor of.

Elvis Dhima thanked Selectman McGrath.

Selectman Coutu said for the record I did not say I opposed it. I understand he needs help. I opposed it being a full-time position for the record.

Selectman Martin agreed that he does need help and the sooner we give it the better - well the sooner we attempt to give it, the better off the towns people will be. This is to not a warrant article. This is an outside the budget request for our consideration to put in the budget.

Kathy Carpentier said I recorded it as all other personnel items as a warrant article but it is the recommendation of

the Town Engineer to put it into the budget and that is your prerogative.

Selectman Martin asked did the position ever go away. Steve Malizia said not that we found a record of. It was defunded. We haven't filled it but we didn't - I'm not aware and I'm not aware that anybody has seen that we took it and put in the Fire Department for example. I'm not aware that we did that but we haven't funded it. We haven't used it.

Motion by Selectman Martin to add the position of full-time Civil Engineer position into Engineering Department budget.

Selectman Martin said we just talked about the twin bridges and that engineering. We don't even know what Nashua is going to do with the roadway over there where you cross this way, and that way, and every other way. We don't know if they're going to put a roundabout. You know I've going to say it again. I'm just going to say it once. I'm not going to explain myself. Not doing this is kicking the can down the road. My motion is to put it in there as a full-time position in the amount of \$64,531 at Step 2.

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to add the position of full-time Civil Engineer position into Engineering Department budget in the amount of \$64,531 at Step 2.

Kathy Carpentier commented could I just make an amendment. You'd have to do the whole \$104,510. Selectman Martin noted salaries and benefits

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to add the position of full-time Civil Engineer position into Engineering Department budget in the amount of \$104,510 at Step 2 with full benefits and payroll taxes.

Selectman McGrath asked Mr. Dhima if this passes and you are able to find a full-time Civil Engineer to come on board and you determine at some point in the future that full time really isn't necessary, would you be willing to come back to this Board and reduce it to a part-time position if you find that it's unnecessary.

Elvis Dhima stated this position currently exists in the Supervisors Association and obviously they're subject to a contract. I don't believe I can take that position and turn it into a part-time. I think once its full time - I think the reason that it went back and forth between full time and part time is because Mr. Webster could not be full time when the Town Engineer was done and that was because he was retired. That was kept to help with that but also I think my understanding was because the main factor was he could not work more than 30 hours because of the benefits and he was already collecting. I think the need was always there. What I can say and we'll get into the water and sewer later and the growth of the town is experiencing, I do not see with the liability and the requirements needed that that will ever decrease. It's just a simple matter of more is needed. As we dive into it more with the infrastructure, we're going to find out there's more and more projects. The town is more projects. The town has been more aggressive on getting projects done when it comes to water, sewer, or traffic. I don't think it will ever stop because you simply can't afford too. There's just simply too much growth. I can tell you that there's a subdivision right now that got approved and hasn't even been recorded and all 8 lots are spoken for. It's just demand out there. It's unbelievable for Hudson. They're all spoken for. We have the big Eagle's Nest that's at least spoken for and there's only 20 that will be available. They just can't build them fast enough. We're having a hard time keeping up. I can't make anyone wait for inspections because time is money so I have to go between being outside and inside. I'm having a hard time keeping up with my continuing education with the license that I need to do my job. I had to skip one training class because I couldn't make it. I just could not do it. I don't think the need will every go away. I think that simply the town is getting to the point that I see nothing but growth.

Chairman Morin indicated I'm in support of the position but we have a lot of people looking to get hired this year.

My personal opinion is if we're going to do this, they're all important, and we need to play catch up. We absolutely do and we have been trying to do that this year. Isn't it more important to let our citizens decide which ones they think we need? I understand you think you need, Chief Buxton thinks he needs, Chief Avery and we all know we need them all but at some point are we going to ask for too much and then get...Mr. Dhima said the only reason I'm asking for the Board to consider in our operation budget because it will be consistent with what has been done in the past. Since this position was created and this position is currently still active as a line in the Supervisors Association. It never got removed. It's just simply it was put on the shelves. It's not any different than the Town Planner that put aside and you hired the Land Use Director and then the Town Planner came back. It would be consistent to what the previous Board of Selectmen and the current ones have done in the past.

Chairman Morin asked why did it never get filled when the person left. Elvis Dhima said I requested it not to. I was doing both and I was trying to basically be a good soldier and do as much as I could. I felt that I could handle both and I have for the past two years. We're at the point now that with the water and everything else, and the MS4 and the new requirements, and the landfill, and the transfer stations, all the liability and all the obligations is getting to the point that I need to focus on certain things while I need to have somebody else focus on that. Can it be done with one person yes. It just simply won't be a good job out there. So the quality of the road, or a water, or sewer will suffer. I simply can't physically do it.

Selectman Coutu asked Mr. Malizia based on historical - let me just say that initially when I was tutored to be on this Board of Selectmen one of the things that I was taught was a position won't go away as long as there's a \$1 in the line item. There is no line item. There is no dollar just because they never took it out of the union contract. That doesn't mean that that position still exists correct? Steve Malizia said the union contract just articulates what positions are in the union if there's a position. The dollar thing was just a placeholder that we always did. There's no law that says you had to do that. We did it because we did it just to keep the visibility to it. In my tenure here and I've been here since 1997, we had an engineer and a civil engineer for many, many, many years. I can almost name all of them because there's been a lot of them. When Mr. Webster stepped down from being the Full-Time Engineer, he went to part time civil. Once he retired fully, Elvis took it on by himself. For all these years, we've had two engineers and I'm not aware that we've ever taken the position and done something else with it. We're not required to do a warrant article for positions. That's a self-imposed obligation. There is no law that states you have to do that. What he's asking for is simply is to put it back into the budget. It doesn't matter if it's in the union contract. That's not really as material. The more material fact is the way we operate here we've never gotten rid of it. When I say that, it hasn't been transferred that I'm aware of to any other department or for any other function. Quite simply put, we just haven't used it for 3, 4, 5 years. It doesn't matter if it's full time or part time. When I say that what I mean is it's a position.

Selectman Coutu stated as of today it doesn't exist. Mr. Malizia said as of today we do not have a civil engineer on staff. Selectman Coutu said I would support an amended motion to put it on the warrant article. That's the way you want to go. I still don't. I'm not in favor of it and I won't vote for it if it's on a warrant article if it's full time. I would support putting it on a warrant article. If the voters say they want it, fine. If they don't want it with all the other requests that we have this year plus what the school is going to ask for, I'm just afraid that everything is going to get shot down.

At this point, Chairman Morin said we have a motion on the floor we have to deal with first.

Selectman Martin commented and I'm not picking at anybody in any way whatsoever. Let's just take a look at this warrant article that was passed I think in 1994 is advisory and it applied both to this side and the other side of the street, correct? Mr. Malizia believed so. Selectman Martin said you just look at what happened with the School Board. They put on the staff this community relations coordinator and I'm not picking, they can do that. That's their job whatever they want to do. So did that go on a warrant article to the voters? No. That's my point. My point

being is it's needed. We're burning somebody out. If he doesn't have the certifications for his job, then he can't do the function. If he doesn't have those certifications, then what good is he to the town? Right? Thank you.

Selectman McGrath said I've known Elvis now for what 4 years, 5 years, whoever long I've been on this Board. Sometimes it seems like a lifetime. That's not a slight on Elvis' part. I'm talking about my position here. I've had conversations with him. You and I were at a meeting with him a couple of weeks ago. Let me kind of just revert back to another person that was here that I was always in favor of because of what he said. This is going to go to Elvis. John Cashell when he first started working for the Town of Hudson he approached me about a project that was coming in and he said we can't allow that to happen. We just can't. It was a transfer station out on 111 I believe. He said we can't let that happen to this town. I was so impressed by that because he didn't live here. He lived in Massachusetts. For the most part, he could have cared less but he did care. Elvis has the same - I've heard it from Elvis and I've also heard it from Brian Groth comments like that. The meeting that we attended a couple of weeks ago, Elvis was making comments in saying again as if he lived in town and he doesn't live in Hudson. He works here. He cares enough about this town to try and protect it and do the best that he can. If he's asking us and telling us that he needs help, then I think we're obligated to give it to him. This is one person as well as the other person that I just mentioned I wouldn't want to see leave the Town of Hudson because all of us whether you know or you don't, we'll all benefitting from their expertise and their work ethic. I'm in favor of it.

Chairman Morin asked for any other comments. Could we read it again what we're going to vote on?

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to increase Department 5585 Engineering salary and benefits line by \$104,510, carried 4-1. Selectman Coutu in opposition.

Selectman Coutu indicated I'll oppose the budget as well.

Selectman McGrath thanked Elvis and thanking for watching out for the Town of Hudson.

Sewer Fund (5561, 5562, 5564)

Just too quickly note it's important to note, Steve Malizia stated that the cost of this is borne by the sewer utility users. There is no rate change and there's no increase nor decrease this year. So the rates will remain the same.

Kathy Carpentier noted 5561 is under the Town Clerk/Tax Collector. This is the billing and collection department. It is to send out all the bills and do the collections of the bills for the Administrative Assistant.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions. Moving on.

5562 - Sewer Operations and Maintenance

As you know, Elvis Dhima explained our Public Works maintains everything. You might have heard that we own 12.58 percent of the treatment facility in Nashua. Therefore we own 12.58 percent of the cost associated when there's updates to it. The town this year completed the Sagamore pump station upgrade. I believe Selectman Morin visited that site. The second pump station that we upgraded, and we also fixed Melendy Road sewer sag that we were dealing with at the bridge, and also completed the flume cleaning that connects us to Nashua. That's how we get all the sewer from this side of the river to the other side. We're working on a treatment facility possibility for this town in the near future. The two big projects that we'll be looking for next year will be continuing to upgrade the pump stations. We have one that we have picked up and the other thing would be an upgrade to the camera software and accessory to allow the

current camera that we have in place to install bigger pipes. With that said, I'll take any questions you might have.

Chairman Morin asked any questions. Seeing none.

5564 - Sewer Capital Projects

Elvis Dhima noted those would be the pump stations I just talked about and then basically any updates to the treatment facility in Nashua. Mr. Malizia said which comes from reserve funds. We have reserve funds established for that so there's a revenue offset for that major expense.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions. Moving on.

Water Fund (5591-5594)

Steve Malizia stated it's important to note that the water utility is paid for by the water users and once again there will be no rate increase, no decrease but no rate increase which marks I think the 20th year with no change in the rates.

Just to put it in comparison to what Mr. Malizia always talks about, Mr. Dhima said if you want to get worked up, talk about increasing the rates that will get him going. Steve indicated we're not doing that. Elvis Dhima said it's getting to paying about \$8.00 a unit. We're getting a lot of phone calls about Litchfield trying to connect to Hudson which we cannot do because we don't have an agreement with them. It appears that the PUC will be approving an increase at Pennichuck rates and Nashua will be paying more than Hudson does even though we buy water from them during the summer. It's important to appreciate all the work that this town does to maintain those rates and to have a decent and reliable water utility. We've made the switch from Pennichuck to Whitewater. It will be the second year. Things have been good. They're trying to keep up while trying to catch up. A lot of projects are getting done. A lot of money is being put into the water utility while trying to maintain it so it's a very fine balance. Things are good and we continue to do a lot of work. The biggest projects that I see coming up is getting very aggressive with the meter replacements and making sure that our fire protection is up to code. All the stations have been upgraded. We have a brand new well in Litchfield that's producing water and it's very reliable. Things are good overall and something to be very proud of as a town. Very, very good system in place.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions.

Selectman Martin asked KC without mentioning - I'm on page 4, 5591- at the top of the page those two, can you explain why one has flex and gets benefits and the other one doesn't. Ms. Carpentier said different scenarios and it's under contract. The first person is grandfathered into the contract. When we converted to the decreased flex payments a few years ago, we did grandfather some of the people and that would be one of them.

Chairman Morin asked if there were further questions.

Kathy Carpentier indicated we didn't go through each department for this so I will just quickly do that if you want.

5591 Water Admin., page 2

Kathy Carpentier this is under my direction. This is for my two Water Clerks who do the billing and collection for the water fund.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions.

5592 - Water Operations and Maintenance

Kathy Carpentier stated there's only a \$5,000 increase here on a \$1.4 million budget.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions.

5593 - Water Supply

Ms. Carpentier indicated it's an actual decrease in the budget here of \$35,000 on an \$809,000 budget.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions.

5594 - Water Debt Service for Water Fund

Last but not least, Kathy Carpentier said we are currently on target to pay off the loans by FY28.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions.

5586 - Conservation Commission

Elvis Dhima explained the Conservation Commission's increase this coming year is \$1,300 and that's 100 percent at the small equipment, kiosk updates, signs, and any safety equipment that the Conservation will need to basically do all the maintenance of the trails, parks throughout the town. Any questions? It reflects a 2.5 percent increase throughout the operation budget within the Board of Selectmen parameter.

Selectman Coutu asked there's a line item under 252 for \$8,726 for a lake host. Who is the lake host? Who gets the money? Randy Brownrigg indicated that's the lake host program. It's usually split between water and lake. Selectman Coutu said it doesn't tell me anything. What is a lake host? Who gets the money? Mr. Brownrigg indicated the Lake Host Program is part of the program that we have for the Conservation Commission that does also water and it's a program that we do yearly. Mr. Malizia noted it's for the Ottarnic Pond and Robinson Pond. We're part of an association. I believe we pay dues into the State and then we use State services for the Lake Host Program. It's for the invasive species that we are constantly battling at Robinson...Selectman Coutu stated we pay them \$40,000 for that. Mr. Malizia said that's for a grant. That's for DASH unit and that's for herbiciding private companies that we hire to do that. We're still part of the Lake Host Program.

Selectman Martin asked isn't the Lake Host Program somebody is out there at Robinson Pond and inspecting boats going in and coming out and making sure there's no invasive species on it.

Selectman Coutu said really. I've never seen anybody do that ever. Selectman Martin said we'll go have a cookout someday down there. Selectman Coutu stated I have never seen any host at Ottarnic Pond. Mr. Dhima said there's someone from DES that does the investigation prior to...Selectman Coutu noted they're hiding in the bushes because I've never seen them and I've asked other people if they've seen them and they said no. I'm just wondering where that \$8,000 goes to. Who do make a check out to is it

the State? Mr. Dhima said to the State.

Chairman Morin said they're there. I've been tagged by them actually. I can prove they were there. Elvis Dhima said they're the one that identified the areas. We put the posts out there to make sure that people are aware of. You must have seen some of the yellow signs out there around Ottarnic Pond and Robinson Pond. I was able to do that this year because our internship was out at the time. It's basically as Mr. Malizia said it's to give us access to grants. Right now we get about 25 percent from the State. It used to be a little bit higher than that. It went down to 20 percent but we'll still be getting 25.

Selectman Coutu asked another question of the Town Administrator. I'd like to see an audit of where this money goes from whoever we send it to. I want to know who's here, when they're here, what have they done in the past year for \$8,000? Steve Malizia said we must have some payment records I'm assuming. Kathy Carpentier said we don't have any records behind the bill. Selectman Coutu said we don't know if anybody ever shows up other than people saying oh yeah I saw somebody.

Elvis Dhima indicated Engineering gets notification from DES staff that says I'll be in the area or they'll say we've been in the area. This is the areas we identified for the need of the removal physically or by treatment. We agree to that and then the contractor gets hired to do both those both services the chemical and the physical removal of the weed and gets confirmation.

Randy Brownrigg indicated Amy Smagula is charge of that program and we rely heavily on her for her professional input on that. She does most of that work.

Selectman Coutu said we had a conversation recently Mr. Chairman to promote monitoring activities to speak in general terms. This is an area where somebody claims to be there but there's nobody there to verify it. Chairman Morin indicated I can verify it. I'm telling you I can verify it. Selectman Coutu asked how long ago did this happen to you. Chairman Morin said a year or two. Selectman Coutu asked how do we know they were here this year or the year before.

Selectman Martin commented in the summertime I like to go to Robinson Pond and visit the little lake there that they have for the beach. When I pull out of that after I'm doing what I want to do in there, there's always, always male/female no matter who it is standing at that boat launch checking boats in to make sure there's no invasive species on it and checking boats out. I've seen people get upset but that's their job. They probably don't get paid a lot of money but some of those people driving those boats say wobubba - they will not allow a boat in if it has invasive species on it. They'll move them along their way. The money isn't going to waste. I will say that.

Chairman Morin said in the long run it's saving us money by taking those species off the boats that are coming in. Elvis Dhima said cross contamination. Someone taking a boat from one lake or one pond to another. That's basically the whole program trying to control that.

Chairman Morin stated summertime we're sitting on the beach this year.

Seriously Mr. Chairman, Selectman Coutu noted what I've been listening to for the past 12 years every single year is contrary to what is now just been said. The reason we're having so many problems at Ottarnic Pond and Robinson Pond is because of cross contamination that is being allowed to get into the pond. I've listened to that for 12 years. Chairman Morin said my three years I haven't heard that because this stuff was in there a long time ago. This isn't something new that's hit us. This has been a long progress thing. Selectman Coutu stated then I don't want to hear anything about monitoring expenditure of monies

then. If we're not going to monitor expenditure of the money the taxpayers are paying, let's not.

Selectman McGrath recalled over the last number of years that I've been sitting at this table Ken Dickinson coming in and presenting the budget. We'd have the same discussion every year and he'd go through in detail what they were testing for, how they were treating it, how often they were there, and perhaps Mr. Brownrigg doesn't have the information at this fingertips but perhaps you could provide that outside of this meeting if you have it in your files or you can talk to Ken because he's still part of your committee. Send an e-mail and we can have it in the file so that we can see what they're doing.

Kathy Carpentier said if you send it to me, I would bring it to the next meeting if it's ready by then.

Selectman McGrath noted we've had this discussion at length because Ken would be here and go into great detail. I don't go to any of these ponds or lakes. I couldn't tell you because I don't witness it because I'm not there but I do know that Ken came in and I think Elvis you were here when he was here presenting his budget for the last number of years that I've been here. They are doing it. I can't verify it because it's like Benson Park, I don't go to Benson Park. I don't go to the pond or lake.

Selectman Coutu said what Selectman McGrath is talking about they do do which is the invasive species. That's what they come in and speak at length about. Mr. Battis did. Ken Dickinson did. I'm not questioning that. I've seen them out there doing their job. I'm talking about the lake host. It's a whole different...Chairman Morin said they're there and it's part of that project because it keeps stuff coming back in that they've taken out. They actually sit there and inspect the whole boat, look under the trailer and everything. If there's anything on it, you hear about it. Like Selectman Martin said, some people aren't happy about it because they don't let them put their boats into our waterways if there is anything on it. Selectman Coutu said it has nothing to do with Mr. Brownrigg. Mr. Brownrigg is doing an outstanding job. This is the Lake Host Program Randy. It has nothing to do with you.

Library - 5060 & Warrant Article J

Erin Henderson explained we are increasing the budget by 2.4 percent as recommended by Selectman Martin. That is going into the reimbursement to the staff for educational pursues. We believe in investing in our staff.

Selectman Roy asked how many staff members do you have enrolled in education program. Ms. Henderson said we do have one staff who will be enrolling. Selectman Roy asked in what program is it a Masters. Ms. Henderson said it's Masters.

Selectman McGrath asked about line item 208 - telephone. Boy that bounced up quite a bit from \$7,500 to \$11,000. Can you explain the reason for that? Ms. Henderson stated this past year we had a complete failure of the phone system in general so we had to actually replace all of the phones.

Unidentified Female Speaker indicated the system has been there since 1980. It came over from the old library to ours and they were surprised that this phone system lasted as long as it did. We didn't have a choice of who to go. It was an emergency and we had no phone system at all and it had to be replaced immediately.

Selectman McGrath said your actuals for 2019 are \$17,534. In your budget last year for FY20, it's \$7,500. Now you're requesting for '21 \$11,000. Unidentified Female Speaker explained what happened when the phone system failed and we had to find someone to do a replacement, we found SDI was the company

I believe and when they installed the new system, we ended up in a contract with them for a few years. This year FY20 is what we had approved previously. So we're trying to kind of make the - because we're in this new contract now, we need to kind of adjust a little bit for this contract.

Selectman McGrath said I have a couple of other questions. Line item 224 building maintenance. Your actuals for FY19 were almost \$34,000 and now you're requesting \$5,000. Are you going to need additional funds do you think or has whatever the maintenance items were that - because your budget for '18 was just under \$8,000 but then in '19 you spent almost \$34,000? Unidentified Female Speaker indicated what happened there is we had the LED upgrades to the light so some of that is finishing the light payment. The other thing we encountered was the lock on the Hills building and the new door to the back of the Hills building that is now upgraded and more secure for everyone who does use that building. It was a strange year and we don't anticipate that moving forward at this point because these are kind of the big things. Selectman McGrath was glad to see it's a lowered value - substantially lower - but it just raised a question too.

Selectman McGrath noted the other line item is 236 and maybe this is what Kara was talking about the education that's jumping up from \$2,000 to \$6,000. Is that the answer that you just provided to her? Unidentified Female Speaker said yes.

Line item 327 on page 5 - library materials - Selectman McGrath said your actuals for FY19 were \$65,000 and you're requesting almost \$76,000 for FY21. Can you explain the discrepancies? Unidentified Female Speaker said sure. That's the same that we requested last year. With ordering materials for the library, the prices are consistently changing. We also pay into items that actually allow to have audio books and downloadable books for patrons. These prices can shift. I think what we're trying to do is make sure that we are covering those shifts especially in the library world with what's going on right now with e-book publishers and what not. We're trying to make sure that we're covered for when those things may come up. Selectman McGrath said that's quite a jump. It's \$10,000.

The last question Selectman McGrath had is line item 411 the computer equipment. Your budget last year was \$12,000 and you're requesting the same this year. In FY19 you only spent \$8,000. Can you explain the discrepancy there? Looking at what you spent and what you're requesting, I'd just like to have an understanding of it. Linda Pilla said we have enjoyed an unusual ability to have discounted computers which is why the budget was not fully expended last year. This year we're looking at having to replace the website that Rodger's Memorial Library website. The reason being that while it works just fine on laptop computers, it does not function at all gadgets like phones and tablets. The reason for maintaining the budget was really to look at exploring the costs of websites. The least expensive we found is \$7,500 and that is a bare bones indeed functionality and from there it just goes up. It's from the sublime to the ridiculous with websites. That's the reason for that is it's something we're going to have to move forward on to be able to provide a service that when people want to look to the website, they go to their phone first and our website doesn't function on those.

Chairman Morin asked if there were further questions.

Selectman Coutu said I wasn't going to but they raised a couple of questions for me. Based on what was just reported to us from line item 224 which is building maintenance, we had one year you spent \$33,685 and you said some of that expense was to change out the lights. Correct? Ms. Pilla said yes. Selectman Coutu said you were budgeting \$8,000 more for electricity. Where's the savings? Unidentified Female Speaker said the reason is it covers the Hills Library. Before we only paid half the electric bill at the Hills because the School Department was paying it and now we're paying the full price. We're fully responsible

for the Hills Library now. Selectman Coutu asked how much electricity is being spent at the Hills Library. Linda Pilla said well the budget of \$28,000 is sufficient to cover both the Rodger's and the Hills. The reason for the reduced amount of last year's electricity bill was the fact that the school contributed towards the cost of the electricity so we were able to offset. Selectman Coutu asked do you remember how much the school contributed for electricity. Ms. Pilla said it's 65 percent of the use at Hills. That comes right in at \$5,000. It depends when they leave the lights on and the air conditioning. The numbers come in right around \$28,000 for the two buildings. Selectman Coutu reiterated we spent \$33,000 in building maintenance. That was the one item that jumped out at me because that was the item that was mentioned. Oh yeah we changed all the lights. So where's the savings? Why did we change the lights for if we're not saving any money? You asked for \$28,000 for this year's operating budget. You're asking for \$28,000 for next year's budget and the prior two years you spent \$20,521 say and now it's up to \$28,000 after we made the changes. Where's the savings? Linda Pilla indicated we are no longer receiving any funds from the school. Unidentified Female Speaker stated which paid for up to 60 percent of the utility bills at the Hills. Selectman Coutu said at the Hills. We're talking \$5,000. We're talking \$33,000 versus \$28,000. You spent \$33,000 for new lights. Linda Pilla said no Sir. Unidentified Female speaker said no. We spent \$33,000 in building maintenance. We spent roughly \$12,000 of that in the lights and then additionally had to adjust that and fix the door and all of the pieces that go with it. I don't know anything about doors.

Selectman Coutu said put yourself in my shoes please. We have to analyze a budget. The question was asked why was your budget \$33,000 in 2019. The answer that was given was we replaced the lights and the door costs \$33,000. That's an expensive door and expensive lights. Do you know what I'm saying? Put yourself in my shoes. Unidentified Female Speaker understood. I can give you the lights and the door were about \$26,000. Linda Pilla had the detail from that budget line.

Selectman McGrath pointed out that those are actual figures and not budget. It's not showing what the budget was for FY19. That's what they spent. Selectman Coutu agreed and that's what I'm quoting them the \$33,685 for lights and a door.

Line 224, Linda Pilla said the actuals - there's a lot of them - the total spent on the project for the back door was around \$14,000 along with the electronic locks. The reason for going to electronic locks over at Hills is so that we can program the doors, keep track of who's going in and out of the building that's really not supervised for most of the time. We want to be able to keep track of for example who leaves the heat on at 70 degrees and then leaves the building for a weekend. We want to be able to track who leaves the air conditioning on and goes away and leaves it on for a week when there is not library stuff there to monitor it. So we can check in with them and say please when you leave the building would you turn stuff off. The total cost of the door was \$14,000. The portion of the lighting upgrade that was paid out of last year's FY19 budget was something between \$10,000 and \$11,000 that reimbursed the Trustees for a portion of the costs they had outlaid for that lighting upgrade. The original cost of the lighting upgrade was something between \$26,000 and \$27,000. We got an \$8,000 rebate from the power company which left the balance something around \$19,000 and because of the way the budget fell out at the end of the year, the operational side of the budget was able to reimburse the Trustees for the money that they had originally outlaid for that project. That's where the \$11,000 for the lighting comes in. So \$14,000 and \$11,000 is \$25,000. On top of that, we did some fairly heavy deep cleaning. The building is now ten years old. We went in and cleaned the carpet, the floors. We did all of the tiles in the building. We did upholstery deep cleaning. That cost \$2,500. The rest of it is just the normal bills that you get with running a building that's ten years old. It's just normal building maintenance. Its call the HVAC guys out. It's calling junk removal to remove stuff from the basement. I know that Mr. Malizia and KC we had worked together on having the auction available so that we could rid of things that were in the basement.

All those things that didn't sell, we then needed to pay to have removed. There is numerous expenses to True Value for hardware that we purchase. There's mulch for the outside of the building. There's the sprinkler system turning it on and then guess what turning it off. It's just the normal wear and tear of a building being run for a year.

Based on last year's budget, Selectman Coutu asked didn't you have a surplus at the end of the year? Linda Pilla said yes. Kathy Carpentier assisted with the number - \$13,869.47. Selectman Coutu said that's reasonable. I just want you to understand. I'm not trying to badger you. It's just when somebody answers a question with one sentence, we fixed the lights. It rang a bell and that's why I'm questioning it. In terms of the electricity based on what I heard that you spent when you started adding it up, you spent an awful lot of money and the bill is going up \$8,000. I don't know what we spent all this money in electricity and it's costing us more for electricity.

Linda Pilla asked to address that just a little bit if you don't mind. When we had the gentleman come in to do the evaluation, we call it the "energy audit". In fact in my e-mail folders I have bunches of e-mails all under "energy audit". He explored Rodger's Library top to bottom, left to right, inside out, and then we went down to Hills Library and we did the same thing. The gentleman who did the energy audit for us was that Hills is not open enough hours in a week to be able to really register a measurable savings of electricity based on the costs that it takes to put it in. He came back to us with three different quotes. One was to do all of Rodger's Library - basement, closets, inside and outside the building. One was to do only the inside of the building and the third quote was to do the public areas inside the building and the parking lot lights outside of the building. That was the option that the Trustees decided to go with was the main lighting that gets used all the time. In other words, the library is open those lights are on. Not the lights in the basement for example because they're not on all the time but the lights on the main floor they were all replaced. The lights in the working offices, they were replaced. All the lights in the parking lot were replaced because that was the major bang for the buck to get the best return for the money spent.

Selectman Coutu said we're spending \$8,000 more a year so we're not getting any bang for the buck. Linda Pilla stated the only difference is - and we came to you last year and we talked about the fact that the school contributed to the utilities for Hills. You asked us how much the utilities for Hills and we said that they ran around \$15,000 a year. You said for \$15,000 a year, it wasn't worth drawing the school into this and we might as well just cover the utilities ourselves and so that's what we did. We went ahead with the agreement with the school that there would no longer be any requirement for them to pay utilities and that's what we're looking at.

Selectman Coutu said, again, we're throwing out numbers that are not making sense. The electrical portion of the bill from the school was not \$15,000. It was \$5,000. Ms. Pilla agreed. Selectman Coutu said you just threw out a \$15,000 number. The utilities are utilities. Electric is when one utility. Ms. Pilla agreed. There's water. There's...Selectman Coutu said you're masking it. I'm done. Thank you. We have no control. I just wanted to see if you could answer my question. Thank you.

Chairman Morin asked if anybody had anything else.

Library - Warrant Article J

Kathy Carpentier indicated this is Library Improvement Capital Reserve Fund funding for the amount of \$25,000 for an already established capital reserve fund.

Unidentified Female Speaker indicated basically we're just asking for \$25,000 to put into the capital

reserve fund in case the library needs a new roof.

Chairman Morin asked if there was any questions on that. Kathy Carpentier reminded the Board that this also to is written to come out of unassigned fund balance as it was in previous year. Selectman Coutu asked to take them up when we do the warrant articles. There's an awful lot of money being asked out of that unassigned fund balance.

BOS/Town Buildings - 5110

Steve Malizia said that's our budget. That's the Selectmen's budget, the Administration budget. Other than labor, the operating budget is up 2.4 percent. It covers things like the extra trainings that we've been doing. We have to pay for those and just a couple of the NHMA fees because we have a membership in NHMA and that's how we get some of those services, free legal, a free training a year.

5115 - Town Facility (Oakwood)

Steve Malizia stated it's the old rec. building up there. We're basically just maintaining very skeleton utilities.

Selectman Roy asked if we used that at all. Mr. Malizia indicated we're using it right now for our storage. We got out of the storage agreement that we used to pay for every month and its sitting over there. I think the seniors also stage out of there for some of their trips. By storage, Ms. Carpentier indicated it's all our records that we have to keep. Some permanently, some for 7 years so there is a lot of records over there. Selectman Roy asked its still weather sealed. The records wouldn't be destroyed. Mr. Malizia indicated unless we had a fire and they get wet. Ms. Carpentier said the facilities person goes up there regularly to check the heat and make sure it's maintained.

Selectman Martin asked a question about those storage files. Are department regularly maintaining and destroying as needed - purge. Steve Malizia thought some departments are more efficient than others because some have less records. Like Planning and Zoning has to get up there and do some more. In general, there is stuff that gets shredded once a year.

Kathy Carpentier indicated my department purges once a year. Accounts payable if it needs to be seven years, we take out one year and we add another year in. I also to the Planning and Zoning people...Selectman Martin said there's probably a lot of it. Ms. Carpentier agreed but they also inherited a lot. It's a big project to go over and go through stuff that they inherited. Selectman Martin's commented we should friendly encourage some department heads to get over there and purge so that we can make those files shrink.

Selectman Roy asked are we moving towards electronic storage of those records. Kathy Carpentier said that was the confusion. We did that. The Land Use Department did that many years ago - 5 - 7 years ago but they scanned it all and saved it all. The records really didn't say electronic was a real record until just recently. It wasn't clear but I do believe that it got clearer recently or it was amended to say that electronic can be a permanent file. If your next question was, the electronic files are backed up and also kept off site. If the primary one was to fail, we have a secondary one.

Selectman Roy asked do you guys contract out the shredding. Ms. Carpentier said yes. My department once or twice a year will tell everyone we're going to go do it and that's when they do go up and purge their records and we have somebody come right up to the facility and you can throw all the stuff right in

to a shredding truck.

Selectman Martin asked is that something that should be funded in each department or should it be funded in...Steve Malizia indicated this is just for the building costs. Selectman Martin asked I see the Fire Chief had one for shredding. Ms. Carpentier said yes. We try to figure out who has how many boxes and I do charge each department.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any further questions. Seeing none, moving on.

Town Hall Operations - 5120

Steve Malizia indicated this is a decline. If you recall, we did the roof project that's budgeted in this fiscal year. So now that that's done - the roof, gutters, and all the facial - you see the decline here. This is also where I'm asking for the \$10,000 to do a feasibility analysis study most likely with somebody like a MRI so that we can determine what our path may be. Either this building, or not this building, or some other building. That's outside of the budget right now.

Kathy Carpentier said outside the budget its page 1 in your book. Recommended by the CIP to do a feasibility and alternative study on options for expansion or relocation of Town Hall.

Motion by Selectman Roy, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to increase line item 5120-252 professional services by \$10,000.

As the Town Administrator stated, Kathy Carpentier noted this is outside the budget. It would change the budget from zero to \$10,000 because we don't have professional services in the Town Hall operating budget.

Selectman Coutu said there is no professional services. Mr. Malizia explained when we did the roof, we took it out of building maintenance which is a different line. Selectman Roy thought it was going back in there. Mr. Malizia said it's more accurate to use professional services because that's a contract as opposed to a contractor.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Town Poor - 5151

Steve Malizia indicated I spoke to the Welfare Administrator. You all know Kathy Wilson. We went over the budget and if you look, she's done an excellent job of keeping this really low. I thought it would be in our best interest to maybe decrease this slightly by \$5,000. We do have a cushion. We have a donation account that has \$9,300 in it. It was donated to us by a former selectman a few years back. If we needed to, we could tap on that too. Based on how things are going and her work, \$80,000 seems to be a number that we can work with as opposed to \$85,000. We are required to provide assistance. So if we get slammed and they meet the qualifications, we are required to do it.

Out of curiosity, Selectman Roy asked was there an increase in usage the number of people that applied between 19 and 20. Steve Malizia thought the numbers have been fairly consistent lately. Times have been good. A lot of people are employed. The biggest problem people have - we have - is rent. It's difficult for folks to find affordable rental property. Of all the assistance we provide, that's the vast majority of it.

Selectman McGrath said they may be able to find that across the bridge.

Kathy Carpentier said some of the assistance that we do give doesn't become monetary assistance. It becomes referral assistance too. She might meet with people and point them to other organizations that can help out and we don't end up paying the cost but we still do the service.

Steve Malizia said when you look at the community grants in a little bit tonight, you'll see there's money there that goes to the organizations. So some of the organizations that she uses to either place people, get them service, or assist them.

Selectman Coutu indicated what's not reflected here we do get a lot of money back that's reimbursed to the town by welfare recipients. Mr. Malizia said yes. We can put liens on if somebody owns property and we've had others that have come in and made payments when times got better for them.

Legal - 5200

Steve Malizia indicated we are currently this year in a contract with Attorney LeFevre from Tarbell and Brodich. That's a one-year contract. I put in a slight increase though he has not asked for an increase in the 5 or 6 years that we've had them. I thought it would be prudent to at least put some sort of 2 percent cost of living in. I don't think the gravy train is going to go forever. He's got to have expenses. Selectman Roy said that's a good rate I'm just saying. As far as the rest of it goes, Mr. Malizia said there's some money in for other labor issues. That's for the types of things like grievances. There's no collective bargaining because right now we have two contracts we're negotiating this year. One I think we successfully done and the other one we'll work on next week. I don't anticipate any contracts next year. I think all the other ones go past next year the ones that were already approved. I don't need to budget that. Then we continue to do value defense on our utilities and that's why we carry a separate line for that. That is level funded.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions.

Selectman McGrath commented we've got an excellent attorney that I wouldn't want to lose. Steve Malizia indicated he's worked well with us and our departments and I think he knows our town pretty well at this point in time. Selectman McGrath said he's a great assistance to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. They utilize his services more than the Planning Board. I don't know that the Planning Board has had any real interaction with them. Mr. Malizia indicated Brian will confer with him as opposed to the Planning Board. So Brian will need to contact him. The attorney is very well versed in what we do here and he's somewhat succinct. He's not billable hours. He's just right to the point.

Finance - 5310

Kathy Carpentier said this is my salary and benefits. The copy machine upstairs is in my budget and the audit. The audit this year it varies based on if we have a single audit. Because of the Sagamore Bridge grant of \$1.25 million, we would have to have a single audit so my expenses definitely will be going up this year.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions.

Finance Accounting - 5320

Kathy Carpentier indicated this is for my staff and the office supplies and that type of things in the department.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions there.

Insurance - 5910

Kathy Carpentier indicated this is for our unemployment insurance which we're self-funded, worker's comp., and property liability which are both through Primex. I took the current Fiscal 20 bills and increased them by 6 percent because we don't know what percentage it would go up by but 6 percent is what I used the prior year also.

Selectman Martin asked a question on the unemployment insurance. You said self-funded? Steve Malizia stated we don't pay into any pool so if we have someone that's collecting unemployment - let's say someone who leaves our employ or leaves another employer after us, we get a bill. We pay it. We don't have unemployment insurance. Selectman Martin asked they don't get to the unemployment office and apply. Mr. Malizia said we don't pay into the State. Our share comes out of us. Ms. Carpentier said you could also pick up an insurance policy from Primex and we costed that out once before and it was more than we were trending in actual expenditures. Mr. Malizia said it didn't seem to make sense because we don't typically lay off a lot of people. It's sort of like the second or third. If they leave us and they get laid off there, they go back a year or two - they go back to other employers and you get a piece of it. That's more of what we get than anything else.

Community Grants - 5920

If you're looking at page 5, Steve Malizia indicated the far right hand column is what we fund and put in the budget. The second from the right is what the agencies have asked for. So in other words, they have put in requests. We level fund.

Selectman McGrath asked Gateways Community Services - it says that they didn't request any funds. Funds requested, zero. Mr. Malizia said we just put it. You can certainly take it out and move it to somebody else. Selectman McGrath asked what kind of a service do they provide. Mr. Malizia thought it was one of the agencies that deals with some of the drug crisis issues. Selectman McGrath thought it might be appropriate to leave it then. It's not a lot of money and where we have such a drug epidemic right now...Mr. Malizia said it's one of the agencies that deals with that sort of thing. Kathy Carpentier noted we don't automatically give them the money. They have to request it. You're just budgeting it at this point. If they don't come forward and request any money, we wouldn't just give it to them.

Selectman McGrath said the other one is Hudson Fish and Game. That's got zero requested. Again, not a lot of money - \$500. Do they still do the...Mr. Malizia didn't believe they did it last year but I think they're doing it this year. Selectman Roy said they didn't do it last year. There's a reason it didn't happen last year. Mr. Malizia said they didn't do it last year because - I don't want to speak to their organization but they've asked for it this year. They did not do the dinner last year. So they didn't get any money from us. Selectman Martin said didn't they had an impromptu. Selectman Roy said somebody else coordinated one. I don't think it was through the Hudson Fish and Game. Selectman Coutu thought a lot of the Fish and Game members participated in cooking and helped them with it but the Fish and Game themselves didn't because it was a smaller scale. This year they're going back to a full scale operation. Selectman McGrath said these questions it's not that I'm objecting, I'm just questioning it.

St. Joseph Community Services - Selectman McGrath - Steve Malizia believed that's Meals on Wheels program. Selectman McGrath said St. Joe's is undergoing some changes over there and they're eliminating some of their services. Is that one of them or do you know? Steve Malizia said I'm not aware that they're eliminating. I thought it was something to do with diabetes center and there was another I want to say cardiac but I remember diabetes center. There was another care type of program like that. I'm not aware of them doing anything with the Meals on Wheels Program. Selectman McGrath heard that

they're having difficulties over there.

Selectman Martin asked if I remember correctly, the Salvation Army comes out to fire scenes. What does the American Red Cross do besides collect blood? Mr. Malizia said I was under the understanding they also went to fire scenes. I could be wrong too. Selectman Coutu noted not here they don't. Selectman Roy said I know they respond to natural disasters. Chairman Morin said the American Red Cross if we have a fire and somebody needs to be put up, that's the group that we go because they can set up hotels and things to that nature. As a rehab, it's the Salvation Army. The Fire Department has been pretty good over the years to buy stuff to restock their supplies. Selectman Martin said okay so the firemen are helping out too. Chairman Morin said yes they have in the past. Selectman Martin stated I would like to decrease the American Red Cross to \$2,500 and throw that \$2,500 in the St. John Food Pantry line. Steve Malizia said that is always your prerogative to do so. Chairman Morin asked if that was a motion. Selectman Martin asked do we need a motion. It's by consensus.

Kathy Carpentier indicated right. Here you're not really changing the budget because it's staying \$90,508.

Chairman Morin said just remember we're going to do the telethon and we did very well last year. Selectman Coutu said they're not going to need it. You ought to give it to people that need it. Anne Marie House could use it. The C.H.I.P.S. program. Chairman Morin indicated Anne Marie House is going away too.

Steve Malizia stated you know they have a problem, right? Selectman Coutu said no. Mr. Malizia explained the Anne Marie House has been notified by the Sisters of - I'm not sure which group of sisters it is - but Anne Marie House has to vacate that complex/building on PMA grounds because they're consolidating all of the sisters into that building. Anne Marie House has to look for another place to do their mission. They've come in and talked to Kathy and I. I know they've been talking out in the community. They're going to be out of that building and they need to go somewhere.

Selectman Coutu asked the property that's being rented behind St. John's that is another brand new organization helping people like Anne Marie House does. They are teenage mothers and Anne Marie House helps older mothers...Mr. Malizia thought it was a family unit type of thing at Anne Marie House. There's fathers and mothers. Chairman Morin agreed. Selectman Coutu said its mostly unwed mothers. I know several who have been through it. My wife and I have helped financially independent of Anne Marie House. This place in the back, that's relatively new - brand new. They're renting from St. Johns. They're in need of funds and they wouldn't know to ask for funds.

Selectman Martin asked can you get a name. Chairman Morin said oh absolutely. Selectman Coutu noted there's an organization that is going to be in - it's mostly our local people. They're in dire need. Mr. Malizia said you could always come back if you have name. Chairman Morin said I'll get that and we'll have it for the next budget meeting. Presumably, Steve Malizia said you're probably going to stay around this number. If you're decreasing Red Cross for example...Selectman Coutu said if you want to go from 5 to 2, give the 2 to them and show that we're grateful that they're coming into our community to help our unwed teens with children.

Kathy Carpentier asked it's your intention to drop the \$2,500 from American Red Cross and give it to this new organization. Okay.

Selectman McGrath commented about the reduction on the Red Cross. I'll agree with that. First of all my father served in WWII over in the Battle of the Bulge and he often talked about the Red Cross and how miserable they were. They'd show up with coffee and charge the soldiers for the coffee. They were fighting a brutal war. I worked

with Vietnam Vets. over at BAE and they had the same - they wouldn't give a dime. We had a system at BAE where every year we'd have a group meeting and it was to encourage us to donate. We could choose whatever agency, whatever group would get our donations would come out of our checks every week. I would choose different ones and I could never choose the Red Cross because of the soldiers that I worked with at BAE and my father's experience. I'm in favor of reducing that amount.

Selectman Martin had one other question. Isn't the American Red Cross funded by the federal government? Mr. Malizia said I don't know the answer to that. Selectman Coutu said the director makes over a million dollars a year. Selectman Martin said that's a problem. A million dollars could be going to the people that need it. Okay. Chairman Morin said I'll bring it back at the next meeting.

Patriotic Purposes (5930)

Steve Malizia indicated we contribute to the American Legion Memorial Day observance and parade. We contribute to the Old Home Days and the Old Home Days fireworks. That's been a constant number.

Kathy Carpentier said it's on page 6, 5930, and it's a \$5,600 budget level funded.

Chairman Morin asked Selectman Coutu our discussion today referenced to Benson Park and concerts. Would this fall under that? Steve Malizia thought recreation would be the more...Selectman Coutu agreed. Chairman Morin said we just have to remember to talk about that.

Kathy Carpentier asked what are you talking about Benson concerts. Selectman Coutu said concerts at the park on Friday evenings.

Other Expenses (5940)

Kathy Carpentier indicated this is a department that kind of has things that don't get classified out. The telephone bills, equipment rental of the postage machine upstairs, postage, and this is just more for Town Hall because we do charge out the departments, contingency of \$75,000 for the Board's discretion, and contingency for accrued payouts of \$60,000. Its level funded almost \$165,460.

Selectman Coutu commented \$27,000 cell service. Is this old antiquated hello telephones that we have? Steve Malizia said they're regular telephones. Selectman Coutu said years ago we talked about eliminating all of that. We were consolidating it and it was going to be billed out by department. Is this over and above all other phones I see in this book because I see telephones keep cropping up all over the place? We pay a lot for telephones. Kathy Carpentier stated mostly what you see in other people's budget is their cell phones or lap tops because they're data. You still pay Verizon for your laptops and that type of thing. We do lump that all into telephone. As you're seeing telephone expenses go up, it is because technology is taking over our lives. Selectman Coutu said 208 I was just told is not cell phones. Ms. Carpentier said this one is not. Selectman Coutu noted if we take all of the cell phones and laptops and add it to 208, we're probably at \$100,000? Kathy didn't think that high. I've never done the calculation. Selectman Coutu questioned over \$50,000 for telephones. Kathy said maybe. If you're asking that question, I could get that information for you. The command staff in fire have cell phones. Engineering has some laptops. DPW has laptops for the computers and to use the technology that they have.

Chairman Morin noted you have them in all police vehicles, right? Kathy Carpentier said I'm not sure that under telephones.

Selectman Roy asked what is this \$27,000. Is that just the telephone system for the town like when you call in? Ms. Carpentier said yes the phone bills. Mr. Malizia said when you call the Clerk's office, you call Water Utility, you're calling outside. Selectman Roy asked this doesn't that include police and fire. Does it include all of those? Ms. Carpentier said all the general ones yes.

Selectman Coutu asked why do I see a separate line item for Robinson phone system. Selectman Roy said I actually read about that. They have monitoring ones for some of the pumping stations and stuff and they use the phone line as the alarm and they have to pay for the lines. Chairman Morin said the alarm goes through the phone lines.

Selectman Coutu said when these developers build these projects and they have to put some sort of a monitoring system for...Steve Malizia said well I know we have for all our water assets so we know if something stops working in the middle of the night and people don't have water or a sewer pump station stops working and it's all alarms. Selectman Coutu asked what did we do in 1960 and '70. Selectman Martin said we went to the well and pumped it by hand. Steve Malizia indicated we didn't own the water system in 1960 I know that.

Kathy Carpentier said I do remember this line item being up in the \$30,000, \$32,000, \$35,000 and we did recognize savings. It's been running \$27,000, \$24,000, \$24,000 so its budgeted at \$27,000 because in the three year history, that's the highest but it was up in the \$30,000 years ago. Selectman Coutu noted we must have gotten rid of two telephones. Ms. Carpentier said they did do that and we've gotten rid of fax machines because a lot of people are - not all of them. Steve Malizia said a lot of them because people aren't faxing a lot. Selectman Roy said you can just scan it and e-mail it at this point.

Hydrant Rental (5960)

Steve Malizia indicated that's the charge from the Water Utility to the town.

Selectman Coutu asked why don't we own these hydrants.

Selectman Martin indicated the town has to pay for them because the Fire Department needs them to put fires out. So our Water Utility has to...Mr. Malizia said since day one forever it's a charge from the Water Utility to provide hydrants and the service to the hydrants. As you are well aware, we've replaced hydrants all the time but this helps to defray that cost. This is protecting the town. This is picked up with the water users. Selectman Coutu said we pay ourselves more than a quarter of a million dollars...Steve Malizia said when we took it over it was over \$500,000 and we reduced it because we took away the payment in lieu of taxes and reduced this charge. This is when you can go back to 1960 and you can look, we were paying the water company significant money for the hydrant rental. Selectman Coutu said this anyway doesn't come out of the taxpayers fund right. Mr. Malizia said yes it does. This is the tax. Selectman Coutu said the taxpayers are paying for - oh yeah because we all use hydrants. I never used a hydrant in my life. Selectman Roy said I hope I never use it. Selectman Coutu said i had a hydrant and have to go to my house just Dave and the crew. They did it with a bottle of soap. That's what they did. Selectman Roy liked having a hydrant across the street from my house. Mr. Malizia indicated it's pressurized. It's available. I have one right next to my house. Selectman Coutu aid he had to put out the fire in the wall and it worked.

Selectman Martin indicated because we own the Water Utility it doesn't take away the fact that somebody has to pay for the water coming through those...Steve Malizia said just have that system charged and available and maintained. Well before we owned it, Mr. Malizia said the Town of Hudson was always getting charged by the water company whoever that was for hydrant. I can show you from 1960. I have the chart in my office.

Kathy Carpentier had one question. That completes everything you planned on doing today and I think Marilyn said we'd talk about it later. When did you want to revisit the lighting for Town Hall or not? Steve Malizia said probably when they want to look at all the warrant articles. It's probably more appropriate at that point in time just too kind of see where you're at. You're not done with the budget yet so I'd presume you'd talk about it at the end but maybe I

shouldn't presume that. Ms. Carpentier indicated Linda Kipnes just brought this to our attention tonight but it could be part of the operating budget. It's not a warrant article yet. She is proposing...Selectman Coutu said we could make a decision to put it into the budget and if we don't spend it we don't spend it. That's not a bad idea. We'll deal with that one. I just want to go and have a conversation about - I think you and I are on the same page KC on the unfunded balance.

Steve Malizia said just to remind you, you made a commitment back in August to fund that radio \$810,000 out of unassigned fund balance. Selectman Coutu said that's why we can't touch it anymore. We're either going to do that and it's a priority or we're going to take all these other little piddley things and drain it. Steve Malizia said it doesn't mean you can't put the other ones to the warrant. You just don't want to take it out of the fund balance. Let them stand on their own.

Selectman Martin asked to make one last comment before we adjourn. You should take the time - sometime in March - and take a trip like for a deliberative session and go to Hollis and watch them spend their fund balance. You'd like that. You'd be chewing your nails down. Mr. Malizia said Windham does the same or had done the same. Windham I don't know how or why but they'll get down to like a few hundred thousand dollars.

Selectman Coutu noted that's why we have an AA bond rating and they have an A rating. They have an A rating in Hollis and they're paying 6.5 percent interest.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:08 p.m. by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, transcriptionist.

David S. Morin, Chairman

Kara Roy, Vice-Chairman

Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

Marilyn E. McGrath, Selectman

Norman G. Martin, Selectman