

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the October 24, 2019 Budget Review Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - Chairman Morin called the meeting of October 24, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Police Captain Bianchi.

3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: David Morin, Kara Roy, Marilyn McGrath, Normand Martin and Roger Coutu.

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Finance Director, Kathy Carpentier; Jim Michaud, Chief Assessor; William Avery, Police Chief; Dave Yates, Recreation Director.

4. BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Assessing - 5410 & Warrant Article N

Chairman Morin recognized Chief Assessor Jim Michaud.

Good evening Board members. Jim Michaud indicated you have in front of you a budget that is outside the 100s. Fairly level funded compared to last year. Actually down a few hundred dollars as opposed to a 2 ½ percent or greater increase. All the lines are fairly standard. I would point out that my postage line is up quite a bit from \$1,000 to \$3,000. We're going to be starting our assessment review process in this Fiscal Year 2021 and we're going to do a lot of mailings to Veterans, elderly, disabled, blind, and current use property owners. Beyond that in line 252, we're continuing the cycle of data collection as we started two budget cycles ago. This will be the third cycle version of that. That will bring us to June 30, 2021 with 2022 being the anticipated re-evaluation year. That's the highlights.

Selectman Coutu asked on line 122, page 1, the question is for KC - is that at the max because we don't know who the new hire is going to be. Ms. Carpentier said correct. We assume full family health insurance when it's a new employee coming on board.

Line 216 - copies, Selectman Coutu asked you never spent more than \$150. Why is it up to \$500? Are you anticipating paying \$2 a copy? Jim Michaud indicated I'm anticipating paying \$2 a copy. It's a protective.

Selectman Coutu asked are your dues going up 217. Mr. Michaud thought I level funded it compared to the current fiscal year. Selectman Coutu said you level funded it last year but did the dues go up this year from last year \$1,530 to \$1,733. Mr. Michaud indicated every year they go up a little bit. I don't necessarily catch up to it in the next budget cycle. I have it level funded. I know what you're asking it changed from FY19 to FY20. I would have to look at what the actuals were. What I'm looking at here is the approved budget. Selectman Coutu said the actuals are a lot less. We're just talking a couple of hundred Jim. I'm not going to lose any sleep over it. Registration fees - why did they go up from \$165 to \$895. I noticed the previous year in '18 it was \$700, dropped to \$165, and then it went up to \$185. I looked at the explanation on 235. Mr. Michaud said we budget assuming we might be going to some of these conferences. We don't always go. While we anticipate, we try to budget for that we're going to sending folks including myself to some of these conference. We don't always go. I'm anticipating with a new employee coming in that there might be more opportunity to make use of that line item.

Speaking of new employee, Selectman Coutu said I'll go down to the next line 237 my question is just the opposite. You budgeted \$1,178. We're going to have a new employee. Is that going to be sufficient training money for a new employee? Jim Michaud said I'm anticipating I'm not going to be hiring someone that's brand new to the business. They're going to have a lot of that training already under their belt just by virtue of being qualified for me to...other than local knowledge, Selectman Coutu said the assessing portion of training...Mr. Michaud indicated they'll have those courses. They'll have that training. Selectman Coutu said no you're hoping you find somebody with assessing knowledge. I get that. Good enough.

Professional services. Selectman Coutu asked why are those so high line 252. Mr. Michaud said as I stated before, the cyclical data collection is approximately \$57,000 of that. The George E. Sansoucy public value maintenance contract is approximately \$18,000. I don't know what court cases we're going to have. One court case can be

\$4,000 to \$5,000 for one appraisal not including consulting fees. I kind of have I think if you look at it 4 to 5 appraisal fees in there. I don't know that I'll use them but I feel I risk avoidance I should have something in there for those. Selectman Coutu stated I'm satisfied. He's justified his budget.

Selectman McGrath said Selectman Coutu may have already covered them but if you don't mine, I'll just go through with my questions. Line 214 the newspaper ads. The approved budget for last year was \$750. The actuals for FY19 were \$1,700 and you're budgeting \$1,700 this year. Do you really think you're going to need that for ads? Jim Michaud indicated one of the things we found with the cyclical data collection is that it's worth it to put weekly or every other two week ads in the HLN. Over the course of a year, that can add up to quite a bit of money. I think its money well spent. In addition to that, we do our normal legal notice style for it's time to file for exemptions, credits, current use, and disabled exemptions. That's the principle purpose of that increase.

Line item 235 registration fees. Selectman McGrath indicated this isn't big money but just a question. The actuals were \$165 and you're budgeting \$895. Mr. Michaud said we budget as if we're going to be sending some folks including myself to some of these conferences. If it turns that we don't, then we underspend the line. I'm anticipating with a new person coming on that they would be someone I'd be sending more often than even myself that's been to many of these in the past.

Selectman McGrath said I thought I heard postage being mentioned. That's line item 238. You're budgeting \$3,000 and the actuals for FY19 were \$290. Mr. Michaud said the State has an assessment review process once every five years and as part of that process we go out and requalify all of our elderly exemptions, blind, disabled, as well as verify that the Veterans are still residing at that house. It's still their principle place of residence. We do a lot of mailings.

Line item 304 gasoline. Selectman McGrath noted your actuals were \$620 and you're budgeting \$1,500. Are you planning to do a lot of driving? Jim Michaud said I'm just estimating based upon the gallonage times that rate. If we're under, then we're under and I'll adjust it next year.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any other questions. Seeing none. Thank you Sir.

Kathy Carpentier indicated Jim has no outside the budget requests but he has Warrant Article N Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund Funding.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any comments. Selectman McGrath indicated I'm good with this.

Police - 5610 - 5673 & Warrant Article D

Chairman Morin said before we start, we missed out on making an announcement the other night about the drug take back day which is a very important. If the Chief would like to say a couple of words.

Chief Avery stated on Saturday at Walmart 254 Lowell Road the Hudson Police Department will be partaking in the bi-annual drug take back day. This year is kind of unique that we will be taking vaps and e-cigarettes. If any parents out there that are listening to confiscate them from their children or what have you, please feel free to bring them down. The only thing I do ask is that you remove the batteries from them. That could be a fire hazard within our boxes so please remove the batteries. We will be there. Remember there is no questions asked. If you do find an illegal drugs or whatever, our detectives will not be asking them. It is non-confrontational. Please hand them in. We urge you to come down there and hopefully we collect a lot. Thank you. The times are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Walmart.

Police Chief William Avery said a brief opening comment. Thank you. Before I begin, I would like to thank my entire staff for assisting me in putting this year's budget together. As my bosses know the five of you and Mr. Malizia that this was my first time doing this budget by myself. I could not have put this together so quickly and easily if it wasn't for Sherrie Kimball, Captain Dionne, Captain Bianchi newly promoted, and Sergeant Roger Lamarche. They all wanted to learn. They all wanted to partake. Unfortunately Captain Cayot is in Washington, DC, about to run in the United States Marine Corps. Marathon. That is where he is. He's actually on the plane as we speak. I want to thank my staff and my entire department. This year the entire department had a say in what we were budgeting for. We reached out to them on multiple occasions getting ideas. I might be the Chief but I don't have all the ideas. I

need to rely on the people that work for me and it worked. We got some great ideas. Some information was brought to us throughout this budget process that I was not aware of. Some aging equipment that we needed to start looking at. I have no further comment other than thank you and it was a pretty easy process for the Police Department.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions of the Chief.

5610 - Police Admin.

Selectman McGrath asked about line item 219 the damage settlements. Your actuals for FY19 were \$21,538 and you've reduced it down to \$4,000. Can you explain that? Chief Avery said we kept it right at \$4,000. This fluctuates. Last year was a bad year. We had a lot of damages. We had an unfortunate incident of a tree falling on one of our cruisers. Car 13 seemed to have been an omen. It got hit multiple times. Everyone is laughing I know because that car I won't step in it. Some years it's less than that and I didn't feel a need of raising that line item.

Kathy Carpentier stated when insurance money comes in, he's only responsible for the \$1,000 and I would increase his budget by whatever we get from the property liability insurance company. Even though he spent 21, he probably got 19 back to his budget. Selectman McGrath indicated looking at the actuals for prior years to '17 and '18, there were large numbers. Steve Malizia indicated we get a check and we gross it up so that we only pay the \$1,000 deductible. Ms. Carpentier said he's anticipating less than four accidents. Chief Avery said I hope.

5615 - Police Facility

Selectman Roy asked do you have part-time vacancies in the dispatch. Chief Avery stated we currently have 40 hours allocated towards part-time dispatch. Currently we have one part-time dispatcher Gladys McDonald who's been with us for over 20 years. She works 8 to 16 hours a week so we do not use all of those hours. Selectman Roy asked are there vacant positions there. Chief Avery said there's not a vacant position. It's based on hours. We have found other than Gladys having part-time dispatchers is a very difficult task to keep them sharp working once a week. Again Gladys has been with us for over 20 years and she does a fantastic job.

Selectman McGrath questioned line item 224 the building maintenance. The actuals for FY19 were over \$103,000 and you're budgeting \$46,000. Is that going to be enough for you? Chief Avery said hopefully yes. This is obviously the unexpected repairs at the Police Department. We do have constant repairs that go on with the chillers, or with the HVAC system. I believe Mr. Malizia or KC could you answer that. Is that where that money came out of for the rear parking lot? Mr. Malizia said I believe so.

Selectman Coutu indicated if I look at 252 on page 9, we have contracts with a lot of these service companies for our air conditioning system, heating system, sprinkler systems. There's quite a few of them here and I understand you have your annual boiler inspections and things of that nature. If the voters should approve the addition to the building, will there be separate systems in the building that would be treated separately as opposed to adding on to this equipment that we have presently in the building. Chief Avery understood is that the system that we currently have is not powerful enough it you will to handle this addition. There would be a separate HVAC system put in in the addition. Selectman Coutu noted I'm looking at the cost. It's gone done considerably. You're estimating \$28,000 less this next year than last year. Chief Avery stated there was \$30,000 in there which was for the building expansion study with MRI and with the company that we used.

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

5620 - Police Communications

Chairman Morin asked if there any questions. Moving on.

5630 - Police Patrol

Selectman Martin asked are you budgeting in here I really like what you're doing with the test market of those vests for the officers. Are you budgeting this year or are you waiting to do that? Chief Avery said no. I am going to be using drug forfeiture money to purchase those vests for all the officers. So we'll be utilizing drug forfeiture money and not budgeting for it.

Selectman McGrath had a couple of questions. Line item 256 the actuals for FY19 were just under \$7,000 and you're only budgeting \$3,000. Is that going to be enough? Chief Avery said it will be. We have a donation account that KC can back fill from that on the K9 donation account.

Line item 304, Selectman McGrath noted again the actuals were \$68,000 and you're budgeting \$92,000. Chief Avery stated this has been pretty consistent and the only explanation I can give to this Board we were short so many police officers, we did not use the amount of gallons last year as we will be using moving forward now that we are full staff.

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

5640 - Police Investigations

Chairman Morin asked if everyone was good. Moving on.

5650 - Police Animal Control

Chairman Morin said I don't see any questions, moving on.

5660 - Police Information Services

Selectman Coutu asked can you explain why the approximate \$90,000 decrease in that line item. Chief Avery said yes the Information Manager we no longer have that as a civilian position. It is now put into a sworn personnel. Selectman Coutu stated I wanted that to be out there because somebody is going to look at that and say why was there drops and now we've explained it. We've gone public with it. Thank you.

Chairman Morin asked if there was anything else. Seeing none, moving on.

5671 - Police Support Services

Selectman McGrath asked about line item 237 service training. The actuals were \$23,000 and you're requesting \$40,000. Is that because of the additional officers that we've hired? Chief Avery said in some years we do a great job our Services Divisions. Sergeant Lamarche is the back of finding free training throughout either through a place called "NESPN" or at the NH Police Academy. Some years we spend more on training if there's not as many classes offered. Some years we don't. I think Mr. Michaud talked about the training. We are going to have a slew of new officers that will need extra training that will probably end up costing us money once they graduate from the Academy.

The other question Selectman McGrath had is the last line item 403 small equipment. The actuals for FY19 were \$1,600 and you're budgeting almost \$13,000. Chief Avery explained the majority of that is \$8,148 - this is one of the things that I was enlightened recently. When I say recently, a few months now that our bullet proof shields are expired. I was unaware of it. We need to start replacing them. All of our cruisers need to have bullet proof shields in them. I will accept nothing less than that. We are in the process. It will take a little bit of time and I'm aware of it. It's an expense but we will get them and that's why I raised that line item. Selectman McGrath said that's a very reasonable explanation and something that you need absolutely.

Chairman Morin asked if there was anybody else. Seeing none, moving on.

5672 - Police Crossing Guards

Kathy Carpentier indicated this budget is level funded.

Selectman Coutu asked about the crossing guards. Small budget. It's been the same for quite some time. When is the last time they got any kind of a raise? Do you remember? Chief Avery believed it was either last year or two years ago. Ms. Carpentier said a couple of years ago. Selectman Coutu asked they were at what \$13. We went to \$14. Chief Avery said \$13.50. Ms. Carpentier indicated they are at \$14.00. Sorry for the delay. Selectman Coutu asked it was at least two years since they had a raise. Ms. Carpentier said yes it was either \$13 or \$13.50.

I believe it was \$13.50.

Selectman McGrath suggested if you wanted to increase it by 2 percent, what would that be KC? About \$1,000 to the budget. Kathy Carpentier indicated a little over \$1,000 because you'd have to do some taxes. About \$1,500. Selectman Coutu asked that's going up \$.50. Steve Malizia stated she said 2 percent. That's about \$.28. Selectman Coutu said if we went up \$.50 an hour. Chief Avery said it varies weekly between 10 and 20 hours. Ms. Carpentier said we budget 370 per ten crossing guards. It would be about \$2,000.

Selectman Coutu asked can we make this an item to come back to please so we don't tie them up. Would you give that some thought Chief and then let us know when we come back to it. Chief Avery said I'm in complete agreement if this is what the Board chooses to do. They do a fantastic job for us day in and day out all weather conditions. They don't complain. They just do their job. As you know Chief, Selectman Coutu said I'm up and down this town every day and I regret most of the time that I do go out is either at 7:30 in the morning or 2 o'clock in the afternoon and I have to deal with the school buses and the traffic. I make it a point on Lowell Road and up by the high school and down around this corridor as you and I have done Mr. Chairman monitor traffic flow and what not for a problem we were having. It gives us good insight as to what these people do. In some instances especially up by the high school, I know whose up there. His life is on the line sometimes. It's like that with any crossing guard. I've watched people totally ignore the crossing guard at the south end of town as well as out front here. It's disparaging. It's upsetting and I had a crossing guard one day say to me you know I called the Police Department and they don't do anything. I said they're your employers and after the fact is a little late and they can't be at every school otherwise we wouldn't need you. You have to do the best you can with what you have. My heart goes out to them. I think they work very hard. I think they deserve something and if they haven't had anything in two years, I'm not going to lose any sleep over \$2,000.

Chief Avery said the big thing is they look out for the children in this town. Last year Chairman Morin grabbed me the last day of school. We went around and saw them all. I don't get to see them too often but the officers out in the street get to see them and smiles every one of them. Couldn't wait to get back to work in the fall. Selectman Coutu said it would be nice if you go around once a year and shake their hands and thank them. I'm going to do it. We should all do it. Thank you. We'll take it up or do you want to do it now. Do you want to wrap it up? I don't know.

Selectman McGrath said that would be less than a penny on the tax rate.

For clarification, Kathy Carpentier said if you were to add \$.50 to each employee for each hour, it would be \$1,992. If you added 2 percent, it would be \$1,115. If you added 3 percent, \$16.73. That's with the taxes included. Selectman Coutu asked that's with the FICA and all that. Mr. Malizia indicated they only have FICA. Selectman Coutu said for me my preference would be to go to \$.50 and make it \$14.50 an hour and be done with it. We would need a consensus.

Selectman Martin asked do you happen to know what percent that \$.50 would be. Ms. Carpentier said 3.6 percent raise. Selectman Martin indicated in keeping with what we've been doing for the unions. Selectman Coutu said it's well below it. It's 1.8. We're at 3 this year and we were at 2 ¼ last year. They got 5 ¼ those who got a contract. We're giving them 1.8 a year for the past two years.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any other questions or comments. Consensus

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Martin, to increase Department 4210-5672-102 from \$14.00 to \$14.50 per hour, an increase of \$1,992, carried 5-0.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any other questions for this section. Seeing none, moving on.

5673 - Police Prosecutor

Selectman Coutu asked how is he doing Chief. Chief Avery said Attorney Tessier is fantastic. Couldn't ask for a better attorney to represent the Hudson Police Department and its officers and not only the prosecution but the way he treats, handles, respects the criminal justice process and the victims that he deals with on a daily basis. Selectman Coutu noted he has a great personality. I like him a lot.

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

Kathy Carpentier indicated that concludes the Police Department. He has no outside the budget requests. He does, however, have one warrant article, Warrant Article D, which is for the police facility expansion and renovation.

As this Board is aware, Chief Avery explained I presented an additional and renovations to the current facility at the Hudson Police Department and I believe with the bond. KC if you could help me with that. It's just over \$5 million. We're asking for \$4.9 million. Kathy Carpentier indicated you're asking for \$4.9 million. It's at an estimated bond rate of 3.75 percent. It would be a payback of almost a little over \$6.8 million over 20 years. We did run a 30 year and it would cost us another \$1.6 million so we chose to do the 20 year payback.

Chief Avery indicated myself and my staff have been working on this project as presented to you a couple months ago. I believe it was in August or September. We're still going forward. We are looking at opening up our department to the town and one of the ideas that was given to me by members of this Board and the public is to do a virtual tour of our police facility using HCTV. Jim McIntosh and his staff has volunteered to do so. Ironically, Sergeant Lamarche is going to be running this project and it's going to start tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock. We will start meeting with HCTV. We want the people in Hudson to see what kind of conditions we're working out of. I don't mean filthy conditions. The department is spotless but the room for us to do work and do it effectively we're outgrown the facility. Again I talked about it in that meeting in September. Our roll call room currently holds 6 police officers. When I go into roll call on second shift or day shift, its standing room only. We have police officers that can't even sit down while they're being briefed by the supervisor. Our crime lab. Our crime team we can fit two individuals in there and if they're both working on a project and Captain Dionne is one the co-commanders with Captain Bianchi, there's no room for them to work. Our evidence room. We are quickly outgrowing our evidence room. The Detective Division. We are busting at the seams.

As Chief Avery mentioned and one of the last things I really want to talk about in this town is the narcotics problem. Fentanyl epidemic that we are under not only in Hudson but all over New Hampshire, New England, and probably throughout the United States. I am starting a Narcotic Unit. For the public, it will start on March 1st. We will have Detectives doing nothing but going after drug dealers in this community. There's no secret we'll be working with the Nashua Police Department hand in hand. That bridge is basically erased. We need to do something. We have had so many overdoses and so many overdose deaths. If the police officers in this room or any of the other men and women of this department are tired of going to parents houses, going to kids houses to tell their parents, grandparents, or loved ones that their child or love one has passed away from a heroin overdose. It is getting old. It is tiresome. If I was to sit back and do nothing, shame on me. I need to do something. We have an officer already assigned to the HIDT (High Intensity Drug Traffic) Agency attached to the DEA. That's not doing it enough. So we're going to add more resources to this epidemic. That needs to be a secure room. When we have narcotic officers that are working on highly sensitive cases that they'll only be sharing with their Captain and myself, they can't be working amongst all the other people in the Police Department. There is sensitive information and there are CALEA Standards for our national accreditation that apply to this. I am asking the voters to support this. I'm asking the Board. I will be asking the Budget Committee who I've already presented to and we will be doing open houses as we proceed into the early parts of the winter at the Police Department. I urge anybody in the public if you have any questions instead of making comments on our Facebook page, please reach out to me. I welcome you at the Hudson Police Department. Morning, noon, or night, I will give you a tour of the facility. I will leave my family to do so. If it has to be 10 at night, that's okay I will meet you back at the Police Department. Thank you.

Selectman McGrath commented I'm in full support of this expansion. One of the first things that I did when I got elected to the Board of Selectmen was I met with all the different departments. I went out to the police station and met with Chief Lavoie at the time, Captain Avery, and Captain DiNapoli and I got a tour of the facility. Some of the things that stood out to me were the areas where the detectives are. That's really a small area. They have a small space to work in and there's a number of them in there. Another area that really was impressive in the way it was cared for and how they sectioned off different parts of it was the evidence room. I had just seen on the news not too long before I went out there that there were police stations in other communities - not in New Hampshire - but I think it might have been in New York and that area where there were rape kits that were left unattended, not cared for properly, and then they couldn't take the cases to court. This evidence room they were able to show me where they - because I was able to talk about that and asked a question about it. They were able to show me where they had all of that stored. It was incredibly impressive but a very small space. That was three or four years ago.

Selectman McGrath noted our town is growing. This department is growing because of that. We need to have the police office be able to do their job in a comfortable way not in a palatial way. In a comfortable way where they can decompress at the end of the day. I wouldn't take this job for any money. What these men and women have to deal with on a daily basis is just mindboggling. They see things that we'll never witness. They're see tragedies that we'll never witness. We owe them a place where they can do their jobs, do it in a comfortable way, and be able to go home at night and hopefully get a good night sleep so that they can go back out the next day and do it all over again. I'm in full support of this expansion. I think it's wonderful that you're going to do tours for people that want to see the police station. Also doing the video for HCTV. That will be able to be replayed over and over again. People can watch it a number of times every day if they want to. If they want to focus in on one area of the department, they'll be able to do that. I think it's a great thing to do and I would encourage every resident in this town to vote for this expansion. There's other projects that are going to be put on the ballot. THIS is a necessary expenditure.

Selectman Martin said I also support this project. It is definitely needed. Most importantly I need to say thank you to you Chief Avery and your staff for an excellent presentation of the budget. Even though the Board of Selectmen said you could increase your budgets by 2.5 percent, you didn't go haywire. You looked at your needs and you did what you needed to do to get your personnel safe and help keep the people in this town safe. To that, I thank you and your staff.

Selectman McGrath added this department is a department that all of us can be proud of. That wasn't always the case. Thirty plus years ago it wasn't the case. This department is one department that I can without hesitation say that I am proud of.

Selectman Roy said I also support this. I think that the issue obviously isn't going to go away. We're in a growth and you're already in tight quarters. To wait to do this will only make it more expensive for the town. I think that we need to do it now and make it as palatable for the town as possible.

Selectman Coutu stated Mr. Chairman you recall the meetings that we've had with then Captain Avery and it was a lengthy process with several meetings. It wasn't done all in one and I'm sure you recall the meetings Chief. We knew we would get full support but you and I were of a mind then that at the very least there was a condition set upon his becoming Chief. It was that we would see results or we'd move in another direction. He agreed to take it with those conditions. So here we are today Chief. You're what less than a year in your tenure? Chief Avery said yes Sir. Selectman Coutu indicated you have made several adjustments within your staff without our influence and without our interference. I have asked you on occasion about certain people in the department and whether or not they were moving. You told me you were going to take some people under your wing and you've done that. You've changed the moral within the department. What impressed me most is that you invited Chairman Morin and I to go to a roll call one morning. I believe we went into the Anne Seabury room. It was packed. I didn't expect everybody to be there but they were there whether they were on duty or they weren't on duty. They wanted to hear what we had to say. Chairman Morin and I were blunt. We said what was on our mind. We made it very clear that we expected to have some change. We expected that some concessions might have to be made in order to get moral boosted. You agreed without exception to almost every one of the changes that were requested that we could do in a sidebar format. Everything else we told them would be up for negotiation. I sat with the union. We wrapped it up in one day. In one day. We didn't give them everything but they were happy with what they got because last year they got nothing.

Now comes the project to expand the facility as echoed by Selectman McGrath. Selectman Coutu said I know she got an extensive walk through three years ago as I've had several times whenever the areas were problematic. One that I recall vividly with Chief Lavoie was the evidence room and that's when we were making some physical changes to the building at that time to accommodate additional space for the evidence room and we expanded that as much as could possibly be done and we also looked across the street at the Kirby building. That's an indoor shooting range. Chief Avery said a simulator. Selectman Coutu indicated Ben Nadeau and I did that. He killed me several times while I was in there with him. I'm in and out of the building quite frequently. I know most of the guys by name. Things have changed and we moved in the right direction or you wouldn't be sitting there this evening. Your budget is to be applauded. I expected your first one I thought it would be fraught with larger numbers than what we're seeing. You've cut it to the bone. I think that overall when you look at your budget, you didn't even reach the 2.5. On operations you were at 2.3. So he kept it under the 2.5. I know he has warrant articles that we're going to look

at.

Selectman Coutu stated we need to address what I feel is the most serious problem we have in our community and it is also the number one priority in our community. The problem is drug addiction. You made a commitment and you stated it here. You've committed now publicly that you were going to take the steps necessary to try to rid our community of this dangerous habitual drug problem that we are facing. It's a crisis that you're willing to take head on and I think your staff will support you 100 percent because I think that they too like us don't want to have to walk into some tragic situations where young people, children of our residents and our taxpayers are dying because some jerk came in here from out of town and was able to spread his venom - the drug with fentanyl - through our community and it's getting into the hands of our young. You and I have been to tragic situations Chief in the past. We dealt with one that was not drug related but there are many that are drug related. We know people and families in this community who have lost. Children have lost their parents. Parents have lost their children and we know a lot of these families.

Selectman Coutu commented it's time that if ever in my tenure as a member of the Board of Selectmen I implore people to consider the expansion of this police department not because we're building them a palace. It's going to be anything but because we're going to have hopefully the manpower necessary to rid ourselves of the problem but you're going to have the room to do your jobs properly. I'd like to see it get a little more room but we'll take what we can get. We're trying to keep our expenses down. When you first approached me, you said what do you think it's going to cost me. I said \$5 million and we're at \$4.9 million and add in some office supplies and whatever you're going to need that takes us to \$5 million. I think it's reasonable. I think it's fair and I think it should be the number one priority of this community. If you don't get any new cruisers, I'm not going to cry. I'd like to see what you need and you need those tools but for me this is this community's number one priority. If this should be the first thing they vote for in all of the warrant articles. You know I support it wholeheartedly. I've been looking for the Police Department to do this for quite some time. Thank you and thank you to your staff, your immediate staff, and to all of the patrol officers who are out there in the street. I echo the same remarks that Selectman McGrath has echoed. That is from perspective God love each and every one of them. I've done that task but I don't think I would ever do it today knowing what I know. Thank you Mr. Chairman. Chief Avery thanked Selectman Coutu.

Chairman Morin indicated they've all said it so I don't need to say much more because they pretty much hit it across the head. I, too, support the police station and will do everything we need to do to get it done.

Kathy Carpentier indicated with that I think his presentation is complete.

Chairman Morin thanked everyone.

Recreation - 5810 - 5839 & Warrant Article L

Chairman Morin recognized Recreation Director Dave Yates.

Good evening. Dave Yates said the Recreation Department as you know we provide recreation opportunities in a variable service to thousands of people within the town ranging from Kindergarteners in our soccer program all the way up to the seniors at our senior center. This year's budget we made several adjustments. The Selectmen gave us the 2.5 parameter. We went up 1 percent. We just made adjustments. We didn't go crazy. I think we can live with what we adjusted. We do have one additional request. That is the Senior Coordinator part-time to full-time if the Board chooses to go that route. That's the only additional request I have over and above the budget.

Selectman Coutu commented in the past years Mr. Yates this Board by unanimous consent asked you to revise the fees and not take a loss. I went through the numbers so that the Board will know. The summer program, the ball fields, tennis - is tennis gone? Dave Yates indicated tennis is gone. Selectman Coutu said the lacrosse program, the basketball program, the soccer program, the teen dances, and all other community activities that he undertakes the total cost is \$219,149. The income derived from each of those programs totals \$240,996 or an anticipated surplus of \$21,847. You took us seriously. This has been one of the better years. I applaud you for it and I thank you for doing it due diligence. Mr. Yates said thank you.

Selectman McGrath asked about line item 206 the electricity. You had actuals in FY19 but nothing budgeted for 20 or 21. Dave Yates stated as you know we made adjustments. We used to have the rec. center under our control

and now we have the senior center and the community center. Last year we did all the moving of buildings. This is the first year that we've actually had the community center and the senior center.

Selectman Roy asked about the senior center person going from part-time to full-time. Steve Malizia indicated it's in Warrant Article L. Selectman Roy said I can wait.

5814 - Recreation Facilities

Selectman Coutu asked Mr. Malizia the recreational facilities the \$25,200 for electricity does that include the senior center. Steve Malizia stated the senior center and the community center. Selectman Coutu thought that if the Sustainability Committee were going to look at a place where we might be able to save money on electricity, it would certainly be in that area. Mr. Malizia noted we just changed all the lights out in the community center two weeks ago. Selectman Coutu asked are there times during the day where there's no activity in the center and it's just you and one of the two part-timers you have working with you in the front office can we shut all the lights off. Mr. Yates said we do. When it's just us, just the front part of the building is on.

Line item 224, page 7, Selectman Coutu said you're requesting a \$5,000 more than you budgeted for this year. I looked at your explanation. I'm not averse to what you're doing. I just want to ask a couple of questions Mr. Yates. The 8 and 3 I understand for the senior center and the community center. When you go into the remodeling aspect at \$12,000 - I don't disagree that the kitchen needs renovation. I thought we had discussed two or three years ago and we had made a commitment to getting an ice maker and yet I see it in here again. Did we get an ice maker? Dave Yates said we never got one no. That's been gone for years and years. Selectman Coutu thought that was being rectified two or three years ago. You never purchased an ice maker. Mr. Yates said no. Selectman Coutu asked do you remember the discussion. We talked about the ice maker. Steve Malizia said it was probably more than two or three years ago now because that's been gone...Selectman Coutu indicated we're talking about the ice maker and not working. I think that was the only item that stood out in this budget that I thought we had done something with the ice maker. Other than that, I'm fine. Steve Malizia indicated we got some gratis free coolers but that was...

Selectman Coutu asked is Wayne buying all the supplies for the community center for cleaning and things of that nature. I'm trying to consolidate that. Dave Yates said usually Leo or Wayne will be doing it. Selectman Coutu noted I've seen Leo go into Sam's Club that's true too. Mr. Malizia said or Wayne depending on it is. They're going to the same place. Selectman Coutu commented it doesn't matter because they're both going to Sam's Club and they're going to pay the same place however we do it. Okay. I'm good. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

5815 - Merrifield Park

Kathy Carpentier indicated there is a department on page 10 5815 Merrifield Park but that was rolled into Public Works. I didn't want to skip the page and people question it.

5821 - Supervised Play

Selectman Coutu asked are you going to have the same number of people working this summer. Dave Yates said yes. We'll have a Summer Coordinator and 17 counselors. Selectman Coutu asked if the Summer Coordinator going to be the same girl that ran it last year. Mr. Yates said if she applies. She's more than welcome to come back. She's excellent.

Selectman Martin asked the Robinson Road attendant. That's for the beach? Dave Yates indicated that's for weekend gate duty at the beach yes.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any other questions.

Selectman Coutu asked is the attendant there every weekend. Mr. Yates said yes they are. Chairman Morin stated it's a different person from the weed lady.

5822 - Recreation Robinson Pond

Kathy Carpentier noted this also was given to Public Works Park Department.

5824 - Recreation Ball Fields

Selectman Coutu asked the electric and water were moved to DPW and the same is the ballfield portable toilets. I noticed that Merrifield Park and that's when it first struck me. We're not going to have...Steve Malizia said these are the materials he's used...(inaudible - too many people talking at once) programs that he runs at the ballfields but not the actual ballfield maintenance.

Chairman Morin asked if there was anything else.

5825 - Recreation Tennis

Kathy Carpentier indicated this program has been discontinued.

5826 - Recreation Lacrosse

Selectman Coutu told Dave this is one of the areas that I was concerned with when I was looking at income versus expense. Other programs are subsidizing this program and it was the other way around when we first got into the lacrosse program. The variance here is about \$4,000 difference. Why are we taking in \$4,000 less than what it's costing us to run the program? Dave Yates said it's based on the number of attendees. When we first started we had a couple of teams in each division. Now we're down to probably one team in each division. The girls had a team the first year. Girls' sports is challenging. We do have a younger girls' team that's coming up through now but it's just based on numbers. We also had to increase this year - last year we took out of the budget the rental of the PMA fields because we thought Freedom Field was going to be ready. I put it back in this year not knowing what's going to happen next spring. I added that back in. That's \$2,700. We would have been a lot closer if it wasn't for that \$2,700. We're about \$4,000 from breaking even but I added \$2,700 because of the rental of the field. Selectman Coutu stated we approved the contract to have them go out there. Are they due to go out there this fall? Mr. Yates thought their contract said they would have something to us by the end of November. Selectman Coutu said we'll know whether or not this is a serious problem and it's financially unfeasible. We have a major investment in that field. It's not feasible or they'll come in with a solution and hopefully we can resolve it by the spring and have that field open. Okay. I didn't pick up on that. Dave Yates indicated depending on the cost, we'll come back to the Board and see what the Board's pleasure is depending on the cost. Overall, Selectman Coutu said we're ahead on income versus expense. I'm just wondering why it went down so much. I didn't know there were fewer. That was the up and coming sport in the region. Mr. Yates thought it's steady, it's just not gaining.

Chairman Morin asked if there were anything else. Moving on.

5831 - Recreation Basketball

Selectman Coutu asked you're about to start registration. Dave Yates said we have. That's where I just came from. We had a coach's meeting tonight. Selectman Coutu indicated that's another one. That's \$10,000 less income. I know the numbers went down. Mr. Yates stated the girls' numbers are down. 7th and 8th grade boys we have ten teams. 5th and 6th grade boys I think we have 8 teams. 3rd and 4th grade boys we have 8 teams. Then we have to combine the girls. We can't just go with a two grade because we don't get the numbers. The numbers 6, 7, and 8th grade have 28 girls registered. That's 4 teams of 7. It's the lowest I've ever seen it. That's by moving the 6th graders up. It used to be just 7th and 8th. The girls' numbers again are down. I don't want to give up on them. We can still have four teams, we're going to have four teams.

Selectman Coutu asked how many did we have last year. Mr. Yates indicated we have four teams for the older girls but there was 9 and 10 per team. So we're down about 15 girls or so this year. Basketball is by far the busiest program that we have. We'll have between the instructional program, the rec. league, we have high school league, we have an over 35 league. A typical weekend there will be 800 to 1,000 people playing basketball in the winter. That's by far our busiest.

Selectman Coutu asked are we going to hold any of the regional tournaments here this year. Dave Yates said no we're not. Selectman Coutu said we're not, we're going out. Mr. Yates said the travel and basketball tournaments I think they're kind of going away. I just saw an e-mail from Bedford today. Selectman Coutu said they're too expensive. Mr. Yates thought that might be it or people have too many things going on. I made a decision for the first time in 40 some odd years not to do it. It's just a lot of work for the number of teams we have coming in and the decrease in the numbers. We are going to do jamborees for our travel teams where they'll have a four team jamboree on a weekend so they can still get the exposure but I just didn't see - it was costing us more than it was worth. Our rec. league is alive and well and our over 35 guys we have 79 guys and 1 lady playing the over 35 league.

Chairman Morin asked are you doing any recruiting for the girls team like on the TV channel or anything to that affect. Instead of just doing a registration, are we doing any recruiting? Dave Yates stated we do registration. Chrissy just sent it out on Facebook. She also sent it out to all the people that registered. I mentioned it at the coach's meeting tonight if there's more girls out there, talk to your neighbors. See if we can get more in. We're trying to get the word out. Chairman Morin asked do you have some girl basketball players that could go on TV with you and do a little short recruiting commercial. Mr. Yates said I'm sure I could find some. Chairman Morin said if we're getting down in numbers, maybe we just need to get the information out more. Mr. Yates noted it's the older girls. The younger girls I think we have 6 or 8 teams. As they move up, the interest just changes.

Chairman Morin asked if here were any further questions. Moving on.

5834 - Recreation Soccer

Dave Yates explained this is down significantly because last year because of the new fields we had put that we wanted to purchase new soccer goals and new bleachers. That has now been removed out of the budget. I've already purchased the soccer goals. I haven't done the bleachers yet but that's why we're down 28 percent because we took that money out of the soccer budget.

Selectman Coutu said it raises a question. I'm beyond the soccer budget. Should the field be ready next spring, where are you going to get the money to buy the bleachers? Dave Yates indicated it's in the current budget. I just haven't ordered them yet. Steve Malizia said he didn't put it in next year because he has it in this year. Mr. Yates said I'll order them in the spring. There's no need to order them now and have them sitting out there all winter. I'm going to order in the spring under this year's budget.

5835 - Senior Operations

Chairman Morin asked if everyone was all set. Moving on.

5836 - Teen Dances

Kathy Carpentier indicated its level funded at \$1,500.

5839 - Community Activities

Kathy Carpentier said its level funded at \$7,060. I believe that concludes his budget. He has no outside the budget requests but, however, he does have Warrant Article L which is to convert the Senior Services Coordinator to Full-Time.

Dave Yates explained the one request is that the senior center has been in operation since 2014. We've evolved over the years. We started with three days a week, then we went to four days a week, now our current hours are Monday through Thursday 8:45 to 3 and Fridays 8:45 to 1. The handout I gave you shows the breakdown of each day, the number of attendants. These are the offerings that we offer. Then there's general activities. There's always a lending library, puzzles, and all activities going on all the time. We have monthly activities like the trips, luncheon groups, different activities. I was hoping Lori would be here tonight to answer some of your questions. I'll try my best. She's up there day to day. She's had many people approach her and ask her can we go longer. Most centers in the area are open 8 to 4 Monday through Friday. I thought it was a good opportunity. She says at 3 o'clock every day she's hanging in there. People are staying there right until 3. That's there safe haven I'd say.

They're comfortable there and they enjoy the senior center. I think it's a \$21,514 difference to increase her with benefits. Her hours would be 7:30 to 4. She would come in a half hour prior, get everything all set up and ready to go. She would actually be in the building 8 ½ hours a day excluding her lunch hour. The big thing I thought was good is if we did extend to Fridays full day, we could also offer lunch on Fridays. St. Joseph's Meals on Wheels comes in. They don't offer lunches on Fridays. It's such a short day, they just don't do it on Fridays. That would be a benefit. I'm here to answer any questions the best I can but I just thought it's been six years since we opened it. The overall enrollment is 537 as of today for this current year. Seeing what the Board would like to do.

Chairman Morin asked she's good with going full time. Dave Yates said yes she is.

Selectman McGrath asked are the seniors wanting to stay until 4 o'clock. What's the reason for that that they want to extend the time? Is it just that they like the social aspect of it? Mr. Yates thought its' the socialness of being there. Some people quietly go sit in the corner just doing puzzles. Others get involved in all these activities. They enjoy being there. Selectman McGrath noted Lori certainly is pleasant and easy to be around. Mr. Yates said Lori is very pleasant. I think that's part of it. They welcome - she knows everybody's name when they walk in the place. She's perfect for the job. I think that's part of the welcoming part of it. She's very good at what she does.

Selectman McGrath asked she won't burn out. Dave Yates said I hope not. I don't know how she smiles so much because I'd be burnt out. She loves her job.

Selectman Coutu said to Mr. Yates remember when we opened up the senior center. We anticipated that the day would come where we would be talking about expansion of hours. Again I don't have to tell anyone. As you were speaking, noticed Mr. Gagnon sitting behind and sometimes I wonder why he smiles so much but he does. He smiles a lot so keep it up Brett despite any adversity. Lori is a tremendous face for the seniors. They enjoy seeing her. That place has grown significantly. I've gone in there a few times this year but for the most part, I spend a lot of time downstairs at HCTV doing a lot of programming. I have to deal with all of Santa's elves and things like that. While I'm going through the property, I'm noticing a multitude of cars there on a daily basis. I always look at the parking lot at Benson's, the dog park, and certainly the senior center to see how much activity is going on. I can't tell you how many times I've gone in there and people insist I sit down and play cards with them, or do this, or do that. I'm almost convinced to try pickle ball the winter program and I might. I don't know that my legs will hold up but I've had a couple of seniors say I'm almost in a wheelchair and I can do it you can do it. I might try it out.

Selectman Coutu thought expansion time has come. My biggest concern was and you answered that question is whether or not Lori is willing to take on the full-time aspects of operation. I understand that we still have a number of people that volunteer to help her do certain things. They're proud of their center. They keep it clean. They do the best they can to help Lori. Who's doing maintenance there right now? Dave Yates indicated Steve Pinard. He's through DPW. He's under Jesse's directions. Selectman Coutu said the maintenance aspect of it I haven't heard anything negative as I have in the past. There's a problem here, a problem there. I haven't heard a word. When you don't hear anything, you assume everything is going well. I'm sure you would have approached us had there been a problem.

Selectman Coutu said my consternation with this right now is that I would rather because I'm aware of the activities, I have a couple of my neighbors - I'm still not a senior - I wish - but I live in a place where there's a lot of seniors and they partake of the activities there. They tell me all the time how relaxing it is and they're trying to get my wife to go with them. We're dealing with other issues there. She's not too cheery about going to the senior center but I'll get here there one of these days and take her on a trip. I think she'll like it. They've all told me how much they wish that we would extend the hours so that they could do the kinds of things that you're talking about. Some sit alone and they do puzzles. Others they don't want to go home and be alone. They like the camaraderie and the conversation with people there and they don't want to have to be oh I have to go. I have to go home and prepare dinner. They go home, make a sandwich and they wait for the next day so they can get back to the senior center. You have your regulars.

Selectman Coutu indicated my preference would be to put it in your budget but I can't make that decision. It would be up to everyone else. I would hate to think that for whatever reason the voters said no to this. I think that our senior community needs a place like this and if we can give them more hours to be able to relax and enjoy the companionship of other seniors in similar situations but they can talk about cheery things which they do for the most part. I'd hate to see this be denied in the warrant article process. You have made no out of budget requests for a

few years now. I would recommend that we put it in the budget. This is something that I think is a need for our senior community - a population of almost 5,000 now in Hudson and I don't feel they're neglected. We do a lot for them but I would like to see us expand the programs there. I'll go whichever way the majority of the Board wants to go. If they're going to put it on the ballot, I will support it for the ballot.

Chairman Morin asked if that was a motion. Selectman Coutu said I'd rather get a feel out before I make a motion but I would entertain that motion if I felt that I had the support for it.

Selectman McGrath indicated I would second it.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to increase Department 5835 by \$21,514 to move the Senior Services Coordinator from part-time to full-time.

Selectman McGrath commented my reasoning for that. First of all the overall budget was reduced and so adding this amount of money back in isn't increasing the budget substantially and I think that it certainly has been demonstrated that there is a need for that. I think we have the perfect person that works with the seniors and they like her and she loves them. I think that this is a necessary thing to do.

Selectman Roy asked KC what is the total impact to the tax rate so far that we've done with all the changes. Kathy Carpentier asked in the operating budget - \$5.87 up from \$5.54. Selectman Roy asked have we gone up in the personnel. Do you what that impact on that tax rate is? Ms. Carpentier said if you're talking about the two contracts - I'm not following your question. I apologize. Selectman Roy said what we approved so far for the personnel, right, has that had an impact on the tax rate yet? I know the contracts aren't passed. Steve Malizia stated other than the contracts, everything else is in that number she just quoted you. Ms. Carpentier said the two contracts are yet to be determined financials. Mr. Malizia said you'll come in and you'll discuss those separate.

Vote: Motion carried 4-1. Selectman Martin in opposition.

Kathy Carpentier indicated that finishes for the Recreation Director.

Chairman Morin stated there was a thing that was sent around for the pay scale for Patti Barry. Do we want to take that up tonight or do we want to wait.

Selectman Coutu said no let's do it. Let's wrap this up so we won't have to have a meeting Tuesday.

Selectman Martin stated that's not part of the budget process. Since the pay scale has already been passed, are we sending the pay scale back through? Chairman Morin indicated this is an updated one. It's more money. You haven't had time to review it. Let me make sure you understand. I had talked to her in September about this and it did not get forwarded to the budget and that's why it's here tonight. I talked with her today and she gave me a call. Selectman Martin said it's a new pay scale.

Steve Malizia understood it's the same pay scale. Correct me if I'm wrong, she was asking to move two steps up on the pay scale. The pay scale is the pay scale. Chairman Morin agreed. That remains the same but it's an increase.

Selectman Coutu said I agree with Selectman Martin. This should not be part of the budget process. We should take this up at a regular meeting. Did you include this in whatever meeting? Chairman Morin said no. I talked to him today and said I was going to bring it up to see what the Board wanted to do.

Steve Malizia stated I'll do whatever the Board asks but Chairman Morin wanted to discuss it. Chairman Morin agreed. I brought it to him to see what the Board wants to do tonight.

Selectman Roy said I'd like to see that package a little bit more.

Chairman Morin deferred it to a regular meeting.

Selectman Martin indicated we can do it at our next one.

Selectman McGrath noted there's only one copy.

Selectman Coutu indicated if we're going to bring this up at another meeting, are you going to make copies all over again of this or should we bring this back with us. Mr. Malizia recommended you bring it back.

Kathy Carpentier explained from the previous budget meetings, I had three follow ups that you requested. I'm going to first send you to the piece of paper I left on your desk for community grants. I updated this based on your discussions. You made no motion. I added St. Gianna's Place, Inc. which is a new organization you wanted to add. I believe \$2,500.

Selectman Coutu stated yes we wanted to put \$2,500 in there is that what that says. Ms. Carpentier noted down closer to the bottom in alphabetical order I added \$2,500 there and I decreased American Red Cross by 50 percent which is a \$2,500 decrease. The bottom line remains \$90,508. Because the budget is not changing, I do not believe I need a motion but if this is your consensus.

Chairman Morin asked if everyone was good with that. All right, moving on.

Kathy Carpentier indicated the second follow up item was nothing I passed out to you but I believe it was Selectman Coutu who had a problem on the Lake Host Program. Between Chairman Brownrigg and Elvis Dhima the Town Engineer, they gave me some information. You had budgeted \$8,726. Last year they paid \$3,000 in FY18 for this program. There is a backup sheet that says what they paid, and how many hours they paid, and what they were paying for. It was just information you were looking for.

Selectman Coutu said we paid 3 but we're asking for 8. Ms. Carpentier said that is my finding. The prior year to that, we paid \$3,900. Selectman Coutu said we're in the \$4,000 or less range but they're asking for \$8,000 for that line item. Kathy Carpentier indicated it's a part of a line item that is correct. Selectman Coutu asked is the rest of the money in that line item is that money being spent for something? Kathy Carpentier indicated they have volunteer lake assessment program \$1,400 and they had invasive weed control \$3,800. Mr. Malizia indicated that's when the go and pull the weeds either with the suction device. Selectman Coutu asked oh the \$8,000 is all encompassed in that group? Mr. Malizia said part of that. Ms. Carpentier noted the whole budget is \$48,626. Would you like to go to the budget in your book and see it? Selectman Coutu said no I'm fine. I'm good. Thank you.

Kathy Carpentier indicated the third follow up that we had, and I believe it was supposed to be followed up even later than tonight, the Public Works Director asked for \$50,000 outside his budget for the landfill building. I haven't heard anything on that. I think that was a longer term come back to you.

Selectman Coutu said we have to make a decision on way or another.

Elvis Dhima stated this is regarding the additional concrete slab and the structure. We are the Public Works Director, Jason, and myself we will be visiting the City of Dover to have a look at the similar structure. This was the recommendation by the Board to look at different facilities similar to this if we can use some of the plans that are there similar to what we can use. We'll get some numbers for the Board. He's meeting us this coming Tuesday. The three of us will take a ride to the City of Dover to get an idea to what we're dealing with and what the Public Works will need.

Chairman Morin asked is there any chance you could get a couple of pictures to show us just so we can understand what it looks like. Excellent. Mr. Dhima said an aerial as well too from Google.

Selectman Coutu asked we have til when Mr. Malizia the end of November beginning of December. Kathy Carpentier stated it depends at what phase. All the way until the Budget Committee is done with your budget so it's in December sometime. Either you're done tonight or next week officially but you can always add at the request of the Budget Committee.

Kathy Carpentier indicated that's the only other follow up items. We do need to go over some of the accounting type things. I'll first take you to the default budget. I handed out three documents - one for the general fund, one for the water fund, one for the sewer fund. What this is is we take prior years approved operating budget, we back out any one-time items, add in any reoccurring or contractual items. This is prepared by myself and the Town

Administrator. These numbers would be firm and not changed from here on forward. Unless you make any changes to the operating budget, the difference is what the voters would see on the ballot. Steve Malizia stated these numbers show up as the second number on those three warrant articles. If the budget fails, this is the number that we have to live with. We've calculated consistently this way every year. We put the detail here so that you can see what it is and again there are water, sewer, and general fund budgets.

Selectman Coutu asked that doesn't preclude them voting in pay raises or anything else. Steve Malizia said if separate warrant articles are separate warrant articles. This is only just when you get to the operating budget for those three funds that if they should fail you have a budget to fall back on. Other warrant articles stand on their own.

Selectman Coutu asked one for each one. The default on the water is \$3,801,000. What is the budget this year total request? Mr. Malizia said \$3,802,291. Kathy Carpentier noted a difference of \$497.

Selectman Coutu asked about sewer. Steve Malizia said \$2,110,633. Ms. Carpentier noted a difference of \$213,500. Neither one of those are driven by tax.

Selectman Coutu asked about municipal budget as it stands right now. Kathy Carpentier said \$28,192,697. A difference of \$688,739.

Selectman Roy asked what was the percentage. Ms. Carpentier said I don't know the percentage - 2.5 percent ironically. Selectman Coutu commented we asked that the budget be held at. Kathy Carpentier stated that's the difference of \$689,000. Pieces of that would be the four contracts that you passed last year which were \$307,000. You currently added \$146,000 through the last three budget deliberations for the outside the budget requests. About \$70,000 was increased in the departments by their 2 ½ percent.

Selectman Coutu said the \$688,000 isn't as a result of our actions. That includes last year's warrant articles that the voters approved is factored into that because it's above the default. That's correct.

Selectman Roy asked what's the number for the contract. Kathy Carpentier said \$307,000 was four contracts.

Selectman Coutu stated now we're down to 1.25 percent increases based on our actions. Correct? It would be about 1.25 would be the net result of our actions with department head requests. Ms. Carpentier said right about that. Selectman Coutu noted I'm good so far. Let's see what else we got.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any other questions on that.

Kathy Carpentier indicated I'm going to take you to another document that I handed out to you. It is the revenue pages. This was in your book. The reason I gave you a new copy is because the State budget was passed in September and with that was \$20 million that was allocated to municipalities over the biennial over the next two years. We received revenue of \$268,277. For this fiscal year, and we can anticipate getting similar amounts next year, they're telling us to budget in FY21 which is what we're doing the same amount. It could be a little different based on enrollment but this is today unanticipated revenue for FY20 and FY21.

Selectman Coutu asked what is the increase. Kathy Carpentier said on page 2 at the top the third line down, that's a new revenue that I added in here. Selectman Coutu said NICE. It's about time.

Selectman Martin said I know the answer to my questions but I'm going to ask it anyway. The \$268,277 we already got has that unanticipated revenue over 20? Ms. Carpentier said that is. So when I come before you for the tax rate, you can decide to use it or just let it defer into unassigned fund balance. Steve Malizia noted which keeps our surplus down.

Selectman Coutu stated that's how much we butcher that number. Selectman Roy noted right when we get there.

Kathy Carpentier said well we could get onto the next sheet that I handed out to you which says surplus. On the top at the end of June 30, 2019, we had \$6.25 million which was 8.6 percent in our unassigned fund balance. I plan to come to you and ask you to use 600 as budgeted. I made an assumption that you would just leave the \$268,000

in there and you'd end up with almost \$6.2 million, 7.9 percent. The next numbers are anticipated uses of fund balance as we sit right now but you haven't determined whether you're going to use them out all out of fund balance. If you were to use 600 to reduce the taxes, 810 for the communication system warrant article, 25 for the library improvements, and 125 for the bridge rehabilitation, you'd be at \$4.6 million which is 5.9 percent. Our targeted balance is usually around 8 percent.

Selectman Martin asked I don't know the answer that's why I'm asking. The Warrant Article J for the Library Improvements Capital Reserve Fund is it because it's part of our budget that they have access to ask for those funds? Steve Malizia said yes. Kathy Carpentier said yes but as you recall also last year on the floor of the Deliberative Session, there was a motion by a gentleman and the floor approved it was to take all three requests that we had last year out of unassigned fund balance. So they're just using the same exact warrant article that they used last year.

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

Kathy Carpentier believed now we're going through each warrant article and voting on whether to forward it.

Steve Malizia thought we want to first move the default budgets because we should make a motion for that.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to approve the General Fund default budget in the amount of \$27,503,958, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Roy, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to approve the Sewer Fund default budget in the amount of \$1,897,133, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Roy, to approve the Water Fund default budget in the amount of \$3,802,794, carried 5-0.

Steve Malizia indicated it would seem appropriate at this point to at least make a motion to forward the sewer fund operating budget in the amount of \$2,110,633 to the warrant.

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to forward the sewer fund operating budget in the amount of \$2,110,633 to the warrant, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Roy, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to forward the water fund operating budget in the amount of \$3,802,291 to the warrant, carried 5-0.

Steve Malizia noted I do not have the number for the general fund. I don't know if the Board wants to speak to that right now or if they want to go...Selectman Coutu said we're not done. Let's hold off.

Kathy Carpentier stated I guess we'll go to Warrant Article D now which is the police facility and expansion renovation for \$4.9 million. Would the Board like to forward this, or discuss it, or make a motion? I don't know how you want to handle it.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to forward Warrant Article D to the warrant, carried 5-0.

Kathy Carpentier moved on to Warrant Article E the Vaccon Truck Replacement Capital Reserve Fund funding \$30,000 with \$15,000 coming from the General Fund and \$15,000 coming from the Sewer Fund.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Roy, to forward Warrant Article E to the warrant, carried 5-0.

Kathy Carpentier said Warrant Article F Hire Four Firefighter/AEMTs in the amount of \$363,568 with an offsetting staffing for adequate fire and emergency response grant of \$272,676, a balance of \$90,892 for this budget.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to forward Warrant Article F.

Selectman Coutu stated I've had an opportunity to have a conversation with several people including the Fire Chief. I know I made a comment at the time that we talked about this that I could not support it. I was a strong advocate for the initial grant that was submitted and I have reconsidered. I looked at the service numbers, the service calls they're increasing at a rapid rate and the community it seems right now that the construction phases that we're having are less seniors, more family oriented properties and that creates another abundance of problems when you have young people as well. I think the numbers are going to increase. I'm looking at the population growth trend. It's probably greater in the past five years than it's been in the past decade prior to those five years. I think we're going to see a significant increase this time. I think we might move up from 9th largest to 8th or 7th largest who knows in the State. We are the 9th largest community. We treat it sometimes as a town as we would like to but we're reaching almost city status in terms of services needed and what we provide. I will be supporting it and I think in the long run it would be advantageous for the town to have these four additional people in the future.

Selectman McGrath commented when the Chief was in and spoke to us about the elderly housing the 55 and 62 and older housing that what a burden it's putting on the emergency services and he had suggested or made the comment that perhaps cap fees could be included for those types of developments. I thought that was a great idea. I have talked to the Town Planner and he's going to take a look at that and possibly bring it forward to the Planning Board for them to adopt that as a policy. They have cap fees for traffic improvements. They have cap fees for the schools and they have cap fees for recreational purposes. This is putting such a burden on our emergency services particularly the paramedics in the Fire Department that this is a necessary step forward. Depending on whether or not the Planning Board and Brian also had indicated that he thought that for our community the density that's being allowed for these types of developments is very generous. He thought that that could be either amended or just eliminate we have enough elderly housing now that we may not want to do any more. He's going to take a look at all of that and he'll be presenting some information to the Planning Board and we'll see where that goes. For this item, it's just one of those necessary evils.

Chairman Morin asked if there was any further discussion. Seeing none.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Kathy Carpenter continued on with Warrant Article G is Fire Apparatus Refurbishment and Repair Capital Reserve Fund funding in the amount of \$25,000.

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to forward Warrant Article G to the warrant, carried 5-0.

Kathy Carpentier said Warrant Article H is to purchase a new squad vehicle for the amount of \$170,000 with \$170,000 coming from the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund. No tax impact to the voters.

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to forward Warrant Article H to the warrant, carried 5-0.

Kathy Carpentier noted Warrant Article I Town of Hudson Communication System. This warrant article is for \$810,000 coming from unassigned fund balance.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Martin, to forward Warrant Article I to the warrant.

Selectman McGrath commented this is another one of those items that's necessary. We have our emergency services whether it's police or fire and Public Works is included in this where they'll be in certain areas of town and they don't have radio reception. That is setting up our emergency service personnel to be in very precarious and dangerous times. This is necessary. It's a big ticket item but it's again another one of those things that we just have to do it. We can't put these people in danger.

Selectman Martin said I've heard a lot of discussion over the years about combining this and combing that but a little bit of talk about fixing the equipment. It's about time we do it. Thank you.

Selectman Coutu asked Mr. Malizia this will wrap it up correct. This is the second portion of...Steve Malizia said yes

Sir. It is my understanding this year we're doing the consoles and next year it's all the other equipment for the \$810,000. That's my understanding yes. Selectman Coutu said it's for the antennas and finalize it. I don't want to hear any more about it after this year.

Selectman Coutu asked considering that we will probably use the \$600,000 to reduce the taxes as has been consistent, the \$810,000 I don't have the number. I know the total is \$1,410,000 from the 6184-149 leaves us what at that point with those two items? Kathy Carpentier said \$4,774,149. It's a 6.1 percent fund balance retention. Selectman Coutu asked what's our goal. Ms. Carpentier said 8 percent. Selectman Coutu wanted everybody on the Board if they would make note of that that our bond rating is affected by what we have in surplus. This will reduce it to 6.1 just with those numbers right now. This could affect our bond rating for anything we may be bonding this year. We have one that is at 3 ½ could go to 3 ¾. Given the size of the bond, Steve Malizia indicated we may go to the bond bank. It's more efficient and they enjoy a very good bond rating. I would anticipate that we will still get that interest rate. Because of the size of that...Selectman Coutu said it took us awhile to get up to the 8 percent. We're here. Now we're going to chew into it but I'm not averse and I certainly am supporting and will vote for finalizing the communication system because we've been talking about it for the 12 years I've been here. It's time we finish it up.

One comment on the surplus, Kathy Carpentier said what I've given you is worst case scenario because at the end of this fiscal year FY20, any additional revenues or any unexpended appropriations would help that number. Selectman Coutu said I'd rather be in a worst case scenario and get the good news later than try to anticipate that it's going to all work out and then find out its bad news. Steve Malizia noted this is the worst case.

Chairman Morin said in this case it's like we've seen in the past, we've had something submitted and we didn't move forward with it and we pay for it a lot later and a lot more. It's time to get it done.

Selectman Coutu commented that's why it's costing us \$1.6 million. Playing around with it for 12 years.

Selectman Roy asked based on your experience how long would it take us to build that back up. Kathy Carpentier said it depends. You have been selling some unused land and we don't seem to have any of that right now. Steve Malizia said we've kind of exhausted that inventory. Ms. Carpentier agreed. The \$267,000 that we just got, you just never know what's going to happen. Sometimes we get from our insurance companies we'll get some money back if they had a profitable year. They share rebates back to us. I can't anticipate for you. However I will say in the past we have funded projects of the renovation to Central out of fund balance and we still have been able to maintain. We didn't dip this low but and then also a portion of the Lowell Road fire station I think \$800,000 or \$900,000 we took from there to offset the expenses for...Mr. Malizia said those were the years we were selling the land though so that did help. Kathy Carpentier guessed if you were asking my opinion which you didn't, I'm not concerned at this point.

Selectman Coutu commented as long as a lot of people get married in Hudson, get their licenses in Hudson, register their cars in Hudson.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Kathy Carpentier moved on to Warrant Article J Library Improvements Capital Reserve Fund funding \$25,000 from the unassigned fund balance.

Selectman Coutu noted we can't change the language. Steve Malizia said yes you can. It's your warrant. Selectman Coutu said I just don't want it out of unassigned fund balance.

Selectman Roy asked do they have a balance in that now in the capital reserve fund. Kathy Carpentier said yes they do. I think it's just about \$25,000 because they just put in \$25,000 last year and they started with a \$1 the year before. So about \$25,000.

Selectman Coutu said I don't mind asking the voters if they want to put in \$25,000. I just don't want to commit to unassigned fund balance. We'll fight on the floor. Steve Malizia indicated it's your prerogative to take that language out.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Roy, that \$25,000 will be added to the Library Improvement Capital Reserve Fund, carried 5-0.

Selectman Coutu noted we'll scratch the \$25,000 until we have the meeting in January.

Steve Malizia asked so do you want to vote to forward that article as amended.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to forward Warrant Article J as amended, carried 5-0.

Kathy Carpentier moved onto Warrant Article K is the Taylor Falls and Veterans Memorial Bridge rehabilitation for \$125,000 coming from unassigned fund balance.

Motion by Selectman McGrath to forward Warrant Article K to the warrant.

Steve Malizia indicated again you could do the same thing. Selectman Coutu said I would like to do the same thing. If they're asking for the money to come from the unassigned fund balance, I'd rather the voters decide if they want to raise and appropriate the money.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Roy, to forward Warrant Article K to the warrant.

Selectman Coutu said I would like us not to take it from the unassigned fund balance. I understand when Mr. Dhima presented this to us that this is probably - is this the bridge on Lowell Road? Steve Malizia said no. The twin bridges over here. Selectman Coutu said this is to do the study. I want to wait and see. The voters will decide if we not take it out of the unassigned fund balance. If it is voted down, Nashua is willing to go ahead and do it, we can then...Mr. Malizia stated we have no appropriation. We can't do anything. Selectman Coutu asked we can't even take it out of unassigned fund balance later to do it you have to wait the full year. Mr. Malizia stated if the voters vote no, you can't do it that year of any pocket of money.

Selectman Roy said that's what I struggle with. There's just nowhere else to get the \$125,000 from.

Selectman Coutu said what we could is this and forget about the other bucket of money. This is what we could do. Negate this and not even forward it to the warrant article, wait and see what Nashua does, and then we can make a decision next year whether or not we have enough additional monies in the unassigned fund balance to do it or transfer monies that accumulate. We want to work with Nashua and see if we can do this together. They're putting up \$125,000 and we put up \$125,000. We get the study done. If we're going to go the following year, then we go to the voters for our share which would be about \$1 million, \$1.2 million, or \$1.2 million at the most.

Chairman Morin asked are we correct in what we're saying about working with Nashua.

Selectman Coutu said I just don't want to take it out of the unassigned fund balance this year.

Elvis Dhima said that would be up to you to decide but Nashua as of now is planning to put \$125,000 for their budget and that will be subject to approval just like ours.

Selectman Roy said my concern would be that if we put it off a year, it's like the other thing now we're talking about \$175,000 for each community. I guess that's what I'm struggling with. I understand the issue about taking it out of the unassigned fund balance but I would hate to risk it not being approved by the voters and then a year or two down the road have to pay significantly more.

Chairman Morin asked what would be the cost if we didn't do it this year. How much would it go up estimate? I know you can't give us a hard number. Elvis Dhima stated the only thing we're doing for this coming year if the budget goes through will be the design. The assessment is already done. The testing has already been completed. It's simply a matter of actually doing the design to what we need to do for the following year. What we're planning right now what we have agreed with Nashua right is that we will not do a \$1 million the following year. We will only do one bridge at a time. It will be about half a million - \$500,000. So every year we'll do about a half a million dollars for the next 3 to 4 years. We'll do one bridge at a time and then we'll address anything else that is left. We'll try to

always keep it under \$1 million.

Steve Malizia asked if this slides a year, what happens. So for example if this doesn't happen it goes to FY22. I'm assuming the bridges aren't going to fall in but what implications does that have potentially. How much? Elvis Dhima said it might go up 2 ½ to 5 percent in engineering. It's hard to tell because even the \$125,000 might not be as much as we need. It might be a little bit less than that. We're just trying to be consistent with carrying an additional 10 to 20 percent.

Chairman Morin said it's basically like the radio thing. We've done Phase I and now we're doing Phase II and Phase III will be the construction.

Selectman McGrath pointed out that if Nashua has agreed to put it in their budget and we've got that agreement that to me is a big step forward because their focus isn't on infrastructure and this is an important project because it's again a safety issue with the bridges. I'm hesitant about not putting this on the warrant and even using unexpended funds because where we've got that commitment from them, in another year they may have a whole different set of things that they want to do in Nashua. I'd rather have their commitment firm.

Selectman Coutu asked Mr. Dhima let's put everything in perspective. I'm not going to deny the \$125,000 its how we're going about this and I'll allay all those fears. Nashua would like to request from the Board of Aldermen that they consider putting \$125,000 in the budget. It's not a done deal, correct? Mr. Dhima agreed. Selectman Coutu said it is not for this fiscal year it's for next year because their fiscal year they're operating - is their fiscal year January to December or is it...Mr. Malizia thought they were July to June. Selectman Coutu said they're going to wait like we do and they're going to go through the aldermanic discussions and priorities. They have not been big on infrastructure unless the federal government or the State has been subsidizing it. That's why they've got all these other roads being built in Nashua because they get a lot of supplemental funding. This we may not get any funding for and we could conceivably apply for some money when it comes time to construct the bridges. There's no guarantees but right there could be some funds available either federal or State. What I'm saying is I'm focused on the unassigned fund balance. Okay. Not depleting it any more than we just depleted it tonight. I don't want to put this on the ballot and ask the voters to approve it because if they refuse it then next year we can't work with Nashua. If Nashua gets the funding, the aldermen decide to do the funding which is going to be a battle but \$125,000 may be they will go along with it if their Engineering Department fights hard enough to get it. They might agree to it. I would like to wait it out, take it out because if we do it like this, we're going to take it out of unassigned. If we ask the voters to raise it, they're liable to say no and now we can't do anything for a whole year. If we just don't do anything about it and we wait until July 1 to see what Nashua is doing, at that time we can look at our unassigned fund balance and we can take \$125,000 out then.

Steve Malizia said no. You'd have to have an appropriation. You could transfer money from somewhere else but you can't just take it out of the fund balance. You need an appropriation. Selectman Coutu said we can only transfer from within the budget that's before us to operate from. Mr. Malizia agreed. If you underspent something or you chose not to spend on something, you could take that money because nobody said no if you don't put it out separately you could still do it. It's just a project but you can't just take it out of unassigned fund balance without an appropriation.

Selectman Coutu asked KC \$125,000 brings us down to what.

Selectman Martin noted the form of government over there as we all know is the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. The voters really don't have a say in their budget. Their elected representatives do which is the Board of Aldermen. I drive on those bridges every day. When I come back into town and I go over the bridge I hear thathump. I'm afraid to fall into the river. Okay. I know it's not going to happen but we can't kick the can down the road on these projects. I think it needs to be done and I cannot support putting it off. We need to just do it. Thank you.

Kathy Carpentier said it would be still at 5.9 percent - \$4,649,149.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any further discussion. Seeing none.

Steve Malizia recapped this is to amend the language to take out the words "from unassigned fund balance" for the Taylor Falls and Veterans Memorial Bridge rehab. Ms. Carpentier didn't believe anybody made that motion. I think

Marilyn made it to forward it as is. Steve Malizia said my apologies.

Selectman Coutu said I was going to ask her to withdraw her motion and after having this discussion - boy I hope we have a good year. This would be the last one I agree to do. I would rather than do it rather than risk it at this point. We know how important those bridges are to us a main stay coming in here.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Roy, to forward Warrant Article K to the warrant, carried 5-0.

Kathy Carpentier explained Warrant Article L is to convert the Senior Services Coordinator position to full time. Because we added that into the general operating budget, I would assume that this Board would want to make a motion not to forward this warrant.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to not forward Warrant Article L to the warrant, carried 5-0.

Kathy Carpentier said Warrant Article M is to hire two Truck Driver/Laborers at the cost of \$148,148 for the Public Works Department.

Motion by Selectman Roy, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to forward Warrant Article M to the warrant, carried 5-0.

Kathy Carpentier stated Warrant Article N is Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund funding. This is for \$15,000.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to forward Warrant Article N to the warrant, carried 5-0.

Kathy Carpentier stated Warrant Article O was to reinstate the Civil Engineer position. Because you added this to the general operating budget, I would assume that the Board would like to not forward this to the warrant.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to not forward Warrant Article O to the warrant, carried 5-0.

Kathy Carpentier mentioned this was a comeback warrant article so you might not have it in your books and hopefully you put it there. It's Warrant Article P Replacement Lighting at Town Hall. It was given to us at the last meeting. This is a request for \$24,000 with a rebate of \$13,000 at a net cost of \$11,000.

Selectman McGrath commented I thought that our discussion was that based on the potential of either expanding this building or finding another spot for Town Hall we wouldn't bother doing this at this time. Therefore, I would not move this to the warrant.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to not forward Warrant Article P to the warrant.

Kathy Carpentier stated he just said there was no verbiage. At the top of hers I kind of cleaned it up a little bit but "Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$24,000 to pay for the replacement of lights at Town Hall with LED lights. The expected rebate would be \$13,000 for a net cost of \$11,000 with projected monthly savings of \$346 and a nominal payback of 24 months."

Vote: Motion carried 3-2. Selectman Roy and Selectman Martin in opposition.

Before you tonight in one of your handouts, Kathy Carpentier indicated you were given Warrant Article Q Benson Park kitchen building roof replacement. This is \$80,000. Steve Malizia said it is all part of the CIP this year that was recommended.

Chairman Morin indicated Mr. Empey is here tonight and he would like to speak if everybody is okay with that. Selectman Coutu said no. I'm only kidding.

Good evening. Richard Empey thought you're all familiar with this as it was presented to the CIP. I don't think there's a need now to go back over the actual project. We did increase the price tag of this and you should have a justification price increase sheet. Very simply, I talked off the cuff to some local contractors and as you know they are all very busy and they're getting very expensive. They said use 10 to 12 percent a year for the increase which comes to the \$12,600 for two years. It was originally estimated in 2018. Obviously it will be 2020 when the job is done if it's passed in the 2021 budget. DHR estimates the old tile in stock at 60 percent of what's needed. I've looked at that tile and there's a fair number of them are not usable. I believe that number is more like 40 percent leaving us 20 percent of the tiles extra that will be needed which is two square at \$3,000 a square, \$6,000. The total increase in my estimation comes to \$78,600. I rounded it to \$80,000 which I am still not really confident with but with the information available out there nothing is cast in stone. I feel that's probably the most reasonable number.

Mr. Empey said one of the things that really bothered me and caused me to worry about this number is the restroom project. We got an estimate from a contractor in 2017 for \$96,000. The same contractor came back and bid on it two years later at \$138,000. That's a 43 percent increase. I'm not proposing that it's going to be that big of an increase but that's what's out there. With that I would answer any questions that you have on this.

Selectman Martin wanted to say this and my comments are towards anybody. It isn't towards anybody. My comments are the last time we went with an estimate was the bathrooms and look at the conundrum we were in with that. I say the conundrum. We went out to bid and we got what maybe 2 or 3 bids for \$200,000 or \$300,000. Then we had to go through the process all over again and it was really tight. The money that we had left over after doing all the other work was really tight. It's an unreasonable request from the State to mandate us to keep these buildings up when they didn't even do it themselves. Again my comments are towards anybody. It's a point that we purchase property and there's an unreasonable expectation to keep these up to historical standards and to use this tile that we already have in stock or that they feel is usable. They don't know. They don't have their people coming down and evaluating these tiles. I just don't want us to throw money at the wall and see what sticks. I don't mind. It needs a roof but let us put a roof on that we feel needs to be put on and now what you feel needs to be put on. Again it's only an estimate of \$80,000. The bids could come in much, much higher than that and I'm afraid to go to the voters for one amount and not have a complete amount for this project. Again it's an unreasonable expectation from the State that we have to use these shingles. Thank you.

Chairman Morin said first of all in the bathrooms, the first time it didn't pass is because it was such a short time period and that's why the prices came in so much and that's why we got it done the second time because we gave them plenty of time. I can tell you I've been to Benson's Park twice with the State. They are not going to back down. They have come, they have evaluated the tiles and unfortunately not this Board but a Board in the past agreed to all of this and it's in the deed. At this point we're kind of stuck. They're not going to back down.

Selectman Martin asked did anybody ask the question what happens if it falls down by nature.

Selectman Coutu said fortunately I was on that Board that approved doing this. As a matter of fact if you remember Mr. Malizia it was one of the first actions I asked that we do. It was the second action. The first one was the unity breakfast. The second action was I would go talk to the Governor and see if we could put this to bed and we bought the property. It is a gem for our community. We didn't agree to put tile roofs up. We didn't agree to anything other than - and it's clearly stated in the deed, god I've read that so many times - we are obligated to maintain the properties in the historical district at a minimum at the same level that we inherited them. We inherited some messy buildings as you are well aware Dick but we accepted them nonetheless. We had a vision and we thought we could manage with those buildings. Roofs have become a problem. We did the A-frame. The initial contract who did the A-frame made a mess of it. Not half the shingles that's an exaggeration but a lot of shingles fell off the roof. That contractor he got an ass whopping right there on this floor because of what he did to us over there. Not just that but the overall project. He's since filed bankruptcy.

Selectman Coutu noted we have done our best under the direction of Mr. Empey and I know he hates me saying this but he's been kind of leading the effort at Benson Park. The Friends of Benson they're focused on their barn and there's an overflow there to help in other areas of the park as well. We are so appreciative of you and those people for the time, the hours that you've put in. If we had to pay you Richard, we'd have another big budget item here for the amount of hours that you put in there. You are for the most part the face of the park. I don't want us to

take a step backwards. I want us to keep moving forward. We still have a little way to go. Now worst case or however you look at it, we can put a tarp on the roof and that will solve the problem. We're maintaining it in the same condition we found it. What bothers me Dick is that the State has been in and they've looked at the tiles. They made an assessment and you're saying that 60 percent are usable. They're saying that...Mr. Empey correct saying they're saying 60, I'm saying 40. Selectman Coutu said we have a company that manufactures these tiles that can replace them. Mr. Empey said yes. Selectman Coutu stated you got an estimate of what it would cost to replace them. Am I correct or am I wrong? Mr. Empey said I got an estimate of the price of tile from that company. The sticking point there is nobody has gone through these tiles one by one and counted what's usable and what isn't. Selectman Coutu said I'm sure the State didn't do that. Mr. Empey said they did not. The only person that is qualified to do that - I shouldn't say the only person - there are three contractors in the State of New Hampshire that are authorized representatives of Ludowici tile. Ludowici does not sell their tile to anybody other than their representatives to protect their product. Okay. If we wanted to pay this person to come down and go through those 1,200 and something tiles that are there, and count them, and get an accurate appraisal of what is there, we could probably do that but it's probably going to cost you more money than an extra square or two or whatever of tile. Nobody is going to come down there and go through 1,200 tiles for nothing.

Selectman Coutu said let me put a logistical question before you. What if we were to let's assuming the funds are all there, what if we were to hire a contractor and they came in and they put up what they know can be salvaged. How long would it take us to get the remaining tiles to finish it off once we know exactly what's on the roof and how many tiles we'll need? We'll know how many more squares we need once they'll up there.

Dick Empey said that is correct. I can't answer you. They would have to be made or they may possibly be in stock at Ludowici. I can't answer that question without going to them. Again they are not going to sell us the tile. They will sell it to their authorized installers. Selectman Coutu said that's blackmail. Quid pro quo and I don't like quid pro quos. Mr. Empey said all I can tell you is what they tell me. Selectman Coutu stated what kind of tile if you use our guy. Mr. Empey indicated that's their answer to me that they only...Selectman Coutu understood that. They have a product that's unique. Again Mr. Empey said I can't answer number one how long it's going to take to get the tile. I haven't approached them with that. The other thing is if you put on part of the tile and you start at the bottom and works towards the top, if you don't complete it to the ridge then it's open from the top and the water gets in underneath those exposed tiles. That's not a good situation. It may or may not dry as well as it should and may cause us problems to leave that open like that. You could go to tarping it or whatever but those are things that we'd have to address.

Selectman Coutu asked did you not say that you feel that the \$80,000 is going to be close. Why don't we go with the \$80,000 and if we need a couple thousand more to wrap it up, we'll look at it. Richard Empey said be careful what I say here - that \$80,000 is a figure that I felt was most responsible to bring to you tonight. It's very, very, very difficult to predict where the construction trade is going. Like I said, there's three installers of these tiles. If their workload is heavy, their price is going to be high. If they're looking for work, their price is going to be low. I can't answer what their workload is going to be in FY2021. All I can give you is a guess.

Selectman McGrath had a couple of questions. Steve when is the deadline for us to take a vote and put this to the warrant. Steve Malizia believed before the Budget Committee wraps up. I'm not sure what their date is. Selectman McGrath noted that would give Mr. Empey time to call the tile company that is going to hold hostage to hire one of their installers but it would give you an opportunity to call and get a price for. If you use your estimate that only 40 percent of the tile that you have and you need another 60 percent, what that cost would be. Mr. Empey indicated I can give you those numbers right now. I had that discussion. Selectman McGrath said then to contact one or two of their approved or all three of their approved installers and find out what the cost would be for them to do the installation. That way we'd have a more reasonable estimate than just picking a number out of the air. If we have time to get that information before we put this amount on the warrant and then find out later that it's simply not enough. It doesn't do you or anyone else any good to put this on the warrant as it's written if the actual cost comes in and it's double that amount. If it's only taking you making a couple of phone calls, we have time for you to get that information and bring it back to us and then we can put a closer estimate on the warrant. I'm not saying not to put it on the warrant but it doesn't do us, it doesn't do the residents, and it certainly doesn't do you any good putting an estimate that we know isn't correct. You have enough time to make those phone calls.

Dick Empey said yes and no. The pricing for the tile came from Ludowici's sales representative in Newburyport. I can certainly call him and see if that \$3,000 a square price has changed. Selectman McGrath asked when you say

a square how many tiles are in a square. Mr. Empey said we need ten square to do the roof which would be a total of \$30,000 for tile. We have 40 percent of them which would be \$12,000. We're short \$16,000 worth of tile in my estimation. Now the exact pricing of the job and this is from Ludowici themselves is determined by the local contractor. I had talked to one of them and got an estimate from him. You can't give him a job date when he's going to do this job, he will not give you a bid. Selectman McGrath indicated the date that you could use is after July 1 of 2020 because that's when if this got approved by the voters, that's when the funds would be available to you. You could call the contractors and say the date of installation would be after July 1st of 2020 up until October because you wouldn't want them working in November putting up tiles on a roof - this type of tile. Mr. Empey asked are you asking for me to get an estimate or a bid. They are two radically different things here. Selectman McGrath said well you could get a bid. You know you're going to need at least 60 percent of the tiles. You're estimating and you're assuming that you've got 40 percent that are good. So you need 60 percent more. You've got that number of what that cost would be for the actual tiles and then have them provide a bid to install the 10 squares on the roof and have them give you a bid.

Steve Malizia said would you have everybody go out and give you a bid. You'd have to go out to bid. That's different. You'd have to go out to bid. There's a process. You can't just go to one guy and say give me a bid. I might give you an estimate but the concern is if he gives you a bid, you're not bidding against anybody else. Pick a number. That's a concern. He could give you an estimate which is what Mr. Empey is saying but if you want to bid, that's a whole process because you're actually getting all three people to bid I'm assuming if there's three people that do this work. Dick Empey indicated they're not very responsive let me put it this way. They're very busy. To get him to come down and talk to me to look at the job when I got him last year, that was about a three month process. Call, after call, after call I really need some numbers. Could you please come down? When could I meet you?

Selectman McGrath indicated the sad thing about this is that if the manufacturer of those tiles hold this town hostage to hiring an installer of their choosing, then we're going to be held hostage to that installer for cost. You can see that coming because there won't be any restrictions on them.

Selectman Martin asked Mr. Malizia there's a difference between and RFQ and an RFP. How long is the RFQ process? Selectman McGrath noted a RFP is a request for proposal. Selectman Martin thought if we go out for a request for a quote to the three companies specifically send it to them...Selectman Coutu said it's the same as a bid. Mr. Malizia assumed they'd treat it as a bid and would give you a number based on their...Selectman Martin said I'm of the mind that if most of the cost is \$30,000 for these tiles and they're all going to be brand new, take the ones that you have sitting on the ground and see you later bye bye only because from what I've heard in conversation is the life of those is near extinct. Am I correct? So put a whole new roof on it and be done and over with it and not have to go sift through those tiles. Throw them right in the dumpster. My opinion. I think it's imperative on us to get a quote or go out for quotes to these three vendors. I don't know how long the process is. I think that's the best way to go. You'll have firm, solid numbers.

Steve Malizia said I can only assume the numbers would be elevated because of the amount of time. In other words, they're not doing it next month, two months, three months. They're not even sure they're going to be doing it because if you don't get the money, you've just pulled the proverbial football away from them. If it was me bidding, I'm going to go high. I'm not sure you're going to get the best pricing that way. We know what the tiles are. The tiles are the tiles, correct me if I'm wrong. Mr. Empey said yes. Mr. Malizia said it's the installation and if I'm giving you a number and it's going to be for 7, 8 months, 9 months from now, I'm not going to give you my best price because I don't know what's going to happen between now and then. I'm not going to take another job and undercut myself.

Selectman Martin asked aren't these like clay tiles or something so they can't install them in the winter time. Am I understanding that correctly? Dick Empey stated they're clay tile. I have not answer as far as when they can be installed. I don't know is if winter would be a problem. The other issue with what you were discussing in talking to these people, we sent some pieces of the tile to the manufacturer and they tested them. They are acceptable to use. Now this installer that I discussed and we discussed the life of the tile, and whether it would be wise to use tile that was near the end of its life and all that, and he said really the tile has no life. He said the problem is the stainless screws that hold it on. They're good for about 100 years. My question to him so you're telling me the old tile is going to last just as long as the new tile if we use it and he said yes just about. The other little aside is if we don't use that old pile, we're going to have to go DHR and get a waiver from Ms. Laura Black. She is adamant that we

have to use that tile.

One other thing Mr. Empey wanted to say is this contractor that I've been talking to is the contractor that the Historical Society is using for the slate roof on the Hills House. So we do have some experience with that contractor.

Chairman Morin asked Selectman Coutu just for clarification now we agreed in the deed that we had to keep the buildings up. Selectman Coutu said we had to maintain it. Chairman Morin said that's my question. Is this roof what is considered in that deed or can they throw asphalt shingles on there? Selectman Coutu noted that's part of the historical building. We have to either tarp it and seal it so no more damage happens or we need to put something on the roof. That's been tarped once or twice. Mr. Empey said at least once. Selectman Coutu said at least once. Are there any leaks? Have we detected any leaks so far? Dick Empey said it's not dripping inside but the wood is getting wet around the edges where that roll material that's on there now. It's beginning to pull back and it's been damaged around the edges. We're on the fine edge. Selectman Coutu said if we let it go, it could cause more problems later and we're going to have the same issues there as we have with that section of the barn.

Chairman Morin asked to confirm you said that we agreed to keep it at the level that it was when we got it. So that level is we have to do the tiles. There's no other option other than the tiles. Selectman Coutu said it's not the level. The level of it is in no worse condition than what we found it. It doesn't say anything about we have to put the tiles up. Like I said, we can put up more shingle or we can put - were the shingles off the building when we got it? Mr. Empey said that building on the day we bought the park had the same rolled material that is on that today. Chairman Morin said that's why I'm asking the question. Selectman Coutu said that's not fair. Chairman Morin said for the taxpayer it is. Selectman Coutu commented the taxpayers have been taking care of that park and they have done so very generously. Chairman Morin understood that but at some point and talking with Mr. Empey because we were looking into this, he could have a group of volunteers and just pay for the materials for a shingled roof and be done with this. That's why I specifically asked you what does the deed say. Selectman Coutu asked do you want to go for a ride. Chairman Morin said we should. This is kind of like dispatch and other things that we start talking about and it just goes around in circles and we never get an answer. Selectman Coutu said I'll call the Governor's office and arrange something. Chairman Morin said I'll do that.

Selectman McGrath noted I'm being sort of a wise guy here but how much would it cost to get a flatbed and load this building onto it and deliver it up to the State House. Selectman Martin indicated it would be much cheaper than the roof. Selectman McGrath asked to step back. I took a tour yesterday with Jess Forrence the Public Works Director and he took me to Benson's and that's the first time that I've been to (inaudible) and it's beautiful. There's no doubt that the volunteers have done an extraordinary job. The Town of Hudson has done an extraordinary job with that park. There's got to be a limit to what we're spending. This is \$80,000 for architectural tiles that the State is mandating and they're hard to come by, and the manufacturer of those tiles are holding you and everyone else hostage to hire their contractors to put them on, it doesn't make sense to me. I'm in favor of you and Selectman Coutu taking a ride up to Concord and you can tell them one of the Selectmen is ready to ship the building up to them.

Chairman Morin asked would it be enough time we could get up there. Selectman Coutu said yes. I will get a hold of the Governor's office tomorrow. I'll ask them to coordinate it with Laura Black. Steve Malizia noted I won't be here tomorrow just in case you were looking. Selectman Coutu said to do it Monday please. I'll send you an e-mail to let you know what he said. He probably won't call me back until Monday anyway and then we can see what we can arrange. Chairman Morin told Mr. Empey we'll put you on hold for now Mr. Empey and let you know. We'll make sure we get back in here before the budget is all sewn up so we can decide one way or another with this for you. Okay?

As an aside, Dick Empey said I'm pretty damn sure that we can get a local contractor to put a 30 year architectural shingle on that. Selectman Coutu asked Mr. Empey to come with us if you're available. I'll let you know when the date will be. If you can be available, why don't you come with us. Mr. Empey indicated I will if I'm available. I've got some appointments. Give me some dates and I'll choose one.

Kathy Carpentier asked how you'd like to handle this going forward. Chairman Morin said it's on hold for now. We'll come back to it. Ms. Carpentier said I will remove it from the budget then because it either goes in as...Chairman Morin asked if you needed it for tonight. Ms. Carpentier said I just need to know how you want it presented to the Budget Committee. Steve Malizia said because they have not forwarded it, I would not include it in the budget to

the Budget Committee. Ms. Carpentier indicated I'm going to remove it from the budget for now. Chairman Morin asked when do they go to Budget. Ms. Carpentier said it depends upon what you do tonight and we'll talk about that in a minute. Mr. Malizia indicated the Budget Committee will discuss our budget in December. Ms. Carpentier indicated I'm going to remove it from the budget that you're going to forward to the Budget Committee. Selectman Coutu said you can always go back in. Ms. Carpentier agreed. I just wanted to be clear.

On your desk in front of you, Kathy Carpentier noted is Warrant Article R to increase the Conservation Commission membership from 5 members to 7 members as permitted by RSA 36-a:3. Steve Malizia noted it's not a money article. It's just a warrant article.

Selectman Coutu asked RSA 36-a:3 from what I understand and you can confirm this with our attorney, this would be a non-binding referendum. Steve Malizia stated no I think it would be binding. Selectman Coutu said the Board of Selectmen has prerogative of how many members to appoint. Mr. Malizia said if the voters approve this, the voters have spoken. Selectman Coutu said the Board of Selectmen can appoint as many members as it wishes. Mr. Malizia said I will ask the attorney that but.

Chairman Morin said we ended up in the position we did because we were still under the old number that the voters had voted on and that's how we got back to five. That was binding and we went back to it. I would assume that if we went to seven, it would be the same thing just that's the new number because the voters voted on it. Steve Malizia said when the voters established the Conservation Commission, I believe somewhere in the early '70s, they voted for five. Somewhere in the mid or later '70s, a Board of Selectmen voted to make it seven but we discovered that because the voters hadn't made it seven, it went back to five. I'm presuming that when the voters vote, that's what the number is.

Selectman Martin asked who is putting this warrant article forward. Chairman Morin said Mr. Brownrigg is going to discuss that.

Good evening everyone. Randy Brownrigg thanked everyone for giving me some time to talk about this warrant article. The warrant article that was passed on Monday was a vote 4 to 1. They want to increase it from five member to seven members. The reason being they feel that seven members would help them with the work that we have going on right now. We have acquired property over at Rangers Drive that needs trail work. We are doing continuous work over at Town Forest. We're work doing work at Ottarnic. We do work over at Musquash and there's other trails that we're working on and maintaining. We also have a couple of projects going on. We're doing repair and replace for a bridge over in Musquash. We're trying to do some work over at the new property off of Musquash Road across from Copper Lane. We've now renamed it Colburn. We'd like to see one day we put an observation deck up there that's in the future. Nothing anything new but something up there. We also have small - I've given Ms. Parkhurst a matrix of all the different projects that we have going on. She also maintains and at the end of every month on Sunday she holds a nature walk in one of our trails. She's been very good at that and brining people to those trails. She has those hikes maybe about 20 to 30 people who are hiking around Hudson which is fantastic. You know Saturday morning at 9 o'clock at 68 Pelham Road we have the ribbon cutting. We've acquire about 40 acres over there. We're working on trails over there. We continue to do great work. Seven people is needed. They're looking for more people who are enthusiastic, who have great minds, we're looking for good leaders, and we're looking for new and bright young people to help this Conservation Commission grow and get better.

Selectman Roy asked are you talking about seven full members with zero alternates. Mr. Brownrigg said no if I'm correct when you go looking this up - I forget which RSA exactly it is - you can go up to seven members with two alternates on the Conservation Commission. You can look that up. We're looking to go back to a full board. Selectman Roy reiterated so seven plus the two alternates. Mr. Brownrigg said yes so it will be a total of nine.

Selectman Coutu said something struck me when he was speaking and I want to make one note here. Randy I want you to repeat what you said. You said something about it was called some lane? Mr. Brownrigg said no Colburn property. Selectman Coutu asked what was it before. Mr. Brownrigg stated Guertin parcel which is on 20 Musquash Road. Selectman Coutu thought you were talking about this particular property that you just purchased. You changed the name from Guertin and you said something about Colburn Lane. Mr. Brownrigg said Colburn property. Selectman Coutu asked it's not Lane. You didn't use the word "Lane". Mr. Brownrigg said no. Chairman Morin said he was referencing the street that's actually across from it to give you a landmark. Selectman Coutu

said what I was concerned with is we're not changing names of something that's going to confuse the Fire Department because we usually don't change names until the Fire Chief approves it. Has this been approved by the Fire Department? Chairman Morin stated I can tell you the Fire Department probably doesn't have either name to tell you the truth. Steve Malizia assumed they'd have it at 20 Musquash Road. That's where the parcel is. Selectman Coutu thought the Fire Department should be advised. I'm not adverse to what you did. If somebody should say it's on the Colburn property, they'll know what it is. Chairman Morin said I agree with you but I don't think they do. Selectman Coutu advised you should probably call the Fire Department and let them know. Okay.

Chairman Morin said my only concern is that we have a very difficult time getting people to volunteer for committees now. It was brought up by your members the other night that there's a possibility once you go to seven you won't get a quorum because it's been pretty close. That was the only thing that concerned me.

Selectman Martin said my question still remains. Who is putting forward this warrant article? Chairman Morin said the Conservation Commission. Randy Brownrigg stated the committee. It was a vote 4 to 1. Kathy Carpentier noted tonight it is your job to forward or not forward it. Chairman Morin said he's here as the Chairman representing the committee to give the information.

Selectman McGrath said this Conservation Commission although you've been active and trying to acquire properties, you failed to address a resident that came before you for a wetland special exception and you dragged it out for so long that he finally gave up and walked away. I think you have sufficient membership now and I am not in favor of putting this to the warrant. If they feel the need, they can try and get a petitioned warrant article together and put it on the ballot that way. I am not putting my name to this.

Chairman Morin asked if there was any other discussion. You okay if Bill speaks real quick.

Bill Collins said I can see your concerns. I think over the year the Conservation Commission has matured. We've put together a By-Law packet that all members should be familiar with or get as either new members or it's been distributed. I understand that the case you're talking about did go a little longer than it should have. Maybe we didn't follow our procedures all the way but we are getting better at that. Our goal in achieving seven members is to allow for more participating from the community. We don't get the same volunteer responses as other committees get such as Sustainability or Benson Park. We're out in the trails lot. We're all full-time employees at some company in the area or outside the area. We make our meetings but we're also responsible for quite a bit of land in the community. Having seven people allows us to disburse a little more of that responsibility around and we can get better people. It starts when people come here for your appointments. We put a policy in place to allow for a better flow.

Selectman McGrath indicated that doesn't alleviate my concern. That individual went before your board at least 2 if not 3 times to try and get the Conservation Commission which is a simple process to take a look at that property. They failed to do it and he finally gave up. Bill Collins said I don't agree with that all the way. We did go out and look at the property when he came before us and we did review the case and then it stopped. Selectman McGrath noted he gave up. So in any event, I think that your priorities have been - you can keep passing information - your priorities have focused on acquiring properties to the taxpayer as opposed to taking care of people that are coming before you for assistance. That's my concern. I'm not going to be changing my mind. I am not putting my name to putting this on the ballot. The rest of the Board can certainly make up your own mind but that's my opinion and that's where I stand.

Motion by Selectman Roy to move it forward.

Selectman Roy thought that with all you do, you could use the two additional members. It will obviously be contingent upon you to get those people to come forward and volunteer. I also think that maybe it will help the situation with what Selectman McGrath is discussing. If you have more people that can kind of keep the processes in line, you have enough people to have a quorum when you have meetings, so that's where I'm at. I'm going to move to forward it.

Motion by Selectman Roy, seconded by Selectman Morin, to move it forward Warrant Article R to the warrant.

Selectman Coutu said I too will not be supporting it. I think that going to seven we've had this problem before,

they're going to have a hard time getting a quorum and nothing will get done.

Chairman Morin asked if there was further discussion. Seeing none.

Vote: Motion failed 2-3. Selectman Roy and Selectman Morin in favor.

Kathy Carpentier said with the exception of the general fund operating budget which you have not forwarded to the warrant, we skipped over that one in case you had any other changes, you were scheduled to maybe meet next Tuesday night if needed. That is the only open item. Would you like a summary?

Selectman Martin said what are we waiting for in the operating budget where we can't forward it. Ms. Carpentier said as far as I know nothing. You are waiting for some things to come back: Town Clerk/Tax Collector but that can be a warrant at a future date; landfill building you could just...

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to forward the General Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$28,192,697 to the warrant.

Selectman Coutu stated that number doesn't seem right. Where do I get the \$33,922,237? Is that the original proposed budget for the year? Steve Malizia said did you perhaps add the sewer and the water. Selectman Coutu stated that's the number she gave me. What is the total 2020 budget - \$33,131,290. Oh the 2021 is \$33,922,237 and we're down to 28. Kathy Carpentier said I'm not quite sure where you're getting 33 from. Selectman Coutu said you gave me those numbers. It was one of the first questions I asked. What is the present tax rate? What is the total 2020 budget? You said 33. Kathy Carpentier said okay so 2020 budget is water, sewer, general fund, and all the warrant articles that passed last year that's currently the budget we're working in now. Right now, I'm just asking you to forward just the general fund operating budget. Selectman Coutu state what was officially submitted was for 2021 was \$33,921,237. Steve Malizia noted which includes the general fund, the sewer fund, the water fund, and the Library. Selectman Coutu said I realize that now but I wish I had delineated all of that out so that I could get to what's going to impact our tax rate.

Kathy Carpentier said Sir I can help you with that. So right now the operating budget would be \$5.87 which is a \$.36 tax increase and would increase the tax bill for the average single family home by \$108. If all the warrant articles...Selectman Coutu asked where did I get the \$5.91 tax rate with no warrants. I said what is the new tax impact. Ms. Carpentier indicated you've made a lot of changes. You've added the Civil Engineer. Selectman Coutu said it went to 608. Ms. Carpentier indicated \$6.08 was the original full funded budget. Selectman Coutu asked what is it now. Ms. Carpentier indicated \$6.01. I hadn't gotten there yet. If all warrant articles that were presented to you up through this evening, it would be a \$.14 increase, \$41, a total of \$.50 increase from today's current. Selectman Coutu asked if it was a \$.07 decrease. Ms. Carpentier said yes. You just took out \$.03 right there with the Benson kitchen.

Selectman Coutu stated we said that we started with a \$6.08 tax rate with what was being proposed. We got it down to \$6.01. So from the 591 the 601 is a ten cents increase. So the impact on the tax rate would be for the average homeowner of \$41. Ms. Carpentier noted it would be about \$150 right now to the average single family home...Selectman Coutu said if they approved all the warrant articles. Mr. Malizia said everything. Ms. Carpentier said excluding the kitchen roof and the two contracts that are not before you and any other warrant articles that were to come about yes.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Selectman Coutu expressed his sincere appreciation to Ms. Carpentier for being here with us again and helping my brain to sort this all through. Mr. Malizia I know that you've had to mentor a couple of department heads through the budget process this year. For the most part, they all did pretty good. So thank you for assisting those people.

Chairman Morin said the same thing and I know Selectman Roy had noticed this the other day. We had a conversation that even though we said 2 ½ percent nobody did that. They kept their budgets as level as they possibly could and they did an outstanding job. We need to thank all of them too.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:53 p.m. by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman Roy, 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