

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the August 11, 2020 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Morin the meeting of August 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by HPD Detective Lischinsky

3. ATTENDANCE

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

Staff/Others: Rob Buxton - Fire Chief; Jess Forrence - Public Works Director; Bill Avery - Police Chief; Tad Dionne, HPD Captain, Derek Lischinsky, HPD Detective; Jill Laffin - Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input this evening

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Recognitions:

Chief Buxton came forward and recognized Hudson resident Nathan Ruiter for his heroic actions during a fire on July 8, 2020. Mr. Ruiter's quick actions helped save the life of Mr. Dinsmoor. He was presented with a certificate of commendation.

Appointments:

Zoning Board of Adjustment: (4 alternate member positions: 1 expiring 12/31/20, 2 expiring 12/31/21, 1 expiring 12/31/22)

Ethan Severance (new applicant)

Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to nominate and appoint Ethan Severance as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment with a term to expire 12/30/21. Carried 5-0.

Resignations:

Chairman Coutu made a motion seconded by Selectman McGrath to accept the resignation of Tim Wyatt from the Sustainability Committee. Carried 5-0.

Chairman Morin went on to Consent Items and asked, does any Board member wish to remove any item for separate consideration on consent items? Seeing none. Selectman Coutu made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to approve consent items A, B, C, D, E & F as noted and appropriate. Carried 5-0.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Assessing Items

1) Solar Exemptions: Map 128, Lot 001, 19 Farmington Drive; Map 211, Lot 005, 23 Francis St.

2) All Veterans Tax Credit: Map 194, Lot 009, Sub 001, 24 Standish Lane

B. Water/Sewer Items - None

C. License, Permits, Policies - Raffle Permit - Hudson Historical Society

D. Donations -

E. Acceptance of Minutes

1) Minutes of the July 28, 2020 Meeting

E. Calendar

8/12 7:00 pm Planning Board - Hudson Community Center

8/13 7:00 pm Zoning Board of Adjustment - Hudson Community Center

8/14 2:00 pm Special Site Review Committee - Buxton Meeting Room

8/17 7:00 pm Traffic Advisory Committee - Hudson Community Center

8/18 7:00 pm Municipal Utility Committee - Hudson Community Center

8/19 6:00 pm Library Trustees - Hills Memorial Library

8/20 7:00 pm Benson Park Committee - Hudson Community Center

8/24 7:00 pm Conservation Commission (tentative) - Hudson Comm. Center

8/25 7:00 pm Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room

Chairman Morin recognized Ms. Laffin who read the vote taken after nonpublic session at the 7/28/20 Board of Selectmen meeting. The motion was Selectman Roy made a motion to adjourn at 10:47p.m. This was seconded by Selectman Martin. Carried 5-0.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on July 28, 2020

Selectman McGrath made a motion to adjourn at 10:47 p.m, this was seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Public Hearing - Amend Town Code Chapter 264, Racetracks and Chapter 158 Alcohol Beverages

Chairman Morin opened the public hearing at 7:06p.m. and asked if there was anybody in the audience that would like to talk about this item? Seeing no one the Chairman closed the hearing at 7:07 p.m.

- B. Proposed Small Business Grant Program

Chairman Morin welcomed Brenda Collins, Executive Director of the Greater Hudson Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Collins came forward and said, I have some information that I have a copy for everybody. (Copies handed out to BOS). Ms. Collins went on to say, nice to see you everyone. Thank you for having me. With the pandemic going on the Hudson Chamber has been working diligently to keep abreast of all of the information for our business community in regards to resources from the State and Federal Government. We came across a program that the Town of Londonderry is doing right now. They just actually closed it. It's a business grant in order to help businesses cover some of the covid related costs such as Plexiglas, hand sanitizers that type of things to keep their business in a safe, compliant manner. So the Town of Londonderry is setting aside \$50,000. They're utilizing the municipal fund from the CARES Act. They believe that that should cover it. However, if it doesn't they also realize because GOPHERR is the one that makes the final determination of reimbursement that they would be willing to accept the risk of that \$50,000. So I just spoke to them yesterday. They said it went well. They closed their application process on the 31st of July and are ready to submit. Their finance department went through everything and it looks like they feel confident that the GOPHERR will reimburse them for everything. They ended up with 30 applicants. They're considering if some of them exceeded the \$1,000 per applicant level, that they might allow that because they set aside \$50,000. So they provided me with an application, which is in here. As well as the definitions. So these expenses have to be accompanied with a receipt with their application. They certify that they did not receive any other funding for these products to continue their covid compliant guidelines. They're just trying to help any of the little businesses that might have that struggling going on trying to maintain all the guidelines that the State has imposed. That's pretty much it.

Selectman Coutu was recognized and he said, Thank you Mr. Chairman. Brenda and I initially communicated relative to the program. I was very impressed with the initiative that was taken by the Town of Londonderry. And I can say, and as you know you Brenda, even though we had the covid-19 situation nationwide, that a lot of people are still working and you're one of them. You're in touch with still, a lot of people within the business community. I have taken the initiative within the past three weeks, to meet with several business people independently. Didn't call for any meeting, just met with them independently and I can remember some of the conversations that I had. One business man told me that financially all of the requirements that he had to meet and the costs associated with the requirements were somewhat prohibitive but if he wanted to keep his business afloat he had to do it. So he had to borrow some money to do it. There are other businesses that are not as fortunate that are not in a position, that were not in a position to open and have sidewalk cafes because they didn't have the room. There was no space allocated within the plaza or the area where they were. Or they were confused about the process so they didn't do it. In the meantime they're also spending money to eventually get it open or to get it open at the point where they're at now which is what, 50% capacity, most restaurants? We have smaller convenience stores in Town. I spoke to a couple of people that didn't realize how much Plexiglas costs and installation costs are until they started doing and they wanted to know if there were any grants available. So I referred them to the pages that you send out every week to refer people to various grants they can apply to. Mr. Chairman, as the Director of our local Chamber and regional Chamber will attest, and as you know, first hand, having worked together on charity events, our business community for the most part has been very responsive to the needs of the people of our community. Whether it was the 9/11 Memorial, whether

it was the Food Pantry, and you're more intuitive about the Food Pantry than I am because you're much more involved. This was a way, I thought, that we could let our community know that we care enough that we could do something. This is not a lot of money. It's not going to require a lot of work. Obviously I'm sure the Fire Chief, our acting Town Administrator, would want to make sure and monitor whatever the process is and advise us as to how to monitor and vet the application process. And whether or not it's even advisable or feasible. So with that said, Mr. Chairman, I wholeheartedly endorse the Town of Hudson undertaking a program of this nature to say thank you to our community in a very small way. Our business community.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and she said, I have a couple of questions. I'm in favor of doing something like this but I think we need to know what the value of the, you know, what defines a small business? Is it the restaurant type of business that this is going to be geared towards? Is it going to be small manufacturing companies? I think that we need to know that part of it. Where the money is actually going to be funneled to. It's not a lot of money, but it is the tax payer's money and we need to be cautious about that.

Selectman McGrath went on to say, the other question that I had was where is that money coming from out of our budget? Have we talked, has anyone talked to Kathy Carpentier? Steve is on vacation this week so he normally would be aware of that but I think that's another thing that we need to find out. But I am in favor of going forward with something like this, but we need to get those questions answered.

Selectman Coutu then said, why don't we clarify and Brenda, please correct me if I'm wrong. I'll talk about the business size and scope and nature and you can talk about the, as could the Fire Chief for a matter of fact, talk about the grant monies. We're talking about grant money, not Hudson raised revenue. So it's a different pool of money. Selectman McGrath interjected saying, accept I believe, what Brenda said, was that if we're reimbursed. It's not a guarantee. Selectman Coutu interrupted at this point saying, what Londonderry did was they, as Brenda explained, they agreed, they said that they were going to go and apply through the CARES Act for money but if it wasn't going to be made available they were going to go forward with the \$50,000 out of revenue somewhere. Ms. Collins spoke up at this point saying, right, they believe that, GOPHERR is the one who has the final say as you know when you submit all your reimbursements for your activities, they won't give you a heads up in advance letting you know if this is allowable or not allowable so you just have to take it in faith that it would be covered. They're reading into it based on the GOPHERR guidelines under the Municipal Act on the last page there under B Expenditures the second order effects of the public health emergency. So that's how they're quantifying it, in the Town of Londonderry. In all of the documentation they have listed instructions for the type of business, sole proprietor that type, so it's under the application and then once they've received the receipts they verify that there's actually receipts and it has to be between the March 1st and date of the application. With that they feel they've met all of the obligations and they're hopeful, like I said, I talked to them yesterday at their Town offices. They haven't officially submitted it because they just collected all of the applications as of July 31st and are filling out the paperwork. So it is something they feel very confident, that's what they told me, the truth words, very confident that it will be taken care of by their staff that does their reporting to the GOPHERR. But again, there could be that caveat that maybe it didn't qualify so that responsibility would fall on the Town's budget. Selectman McGrath then said, right, so you know \$50,000 is a significant amount of money that we're going to have to, if we don't get the grant money, I would hope that we would, but if we don't, that's going to come out of the tax payers.

Selectman Coutu responded to that saying, In terms of the businesses, I know I did say that I've spoken to some small business owners in the community in the past three weeks, all business would be eligible to apply if we were to use the same proviso that was established by the Town of Londonderry the maximum would be a thousand dollar grant it would be to reimburse the safety related, either having to buy masks, hand sanitizers, putting up shields and things of that nature, up to a thousand dollars, reimbursable upon evidence that they spend the money with legitimate receipts. So I would think that we should do the same thing. It would be open to all businesses and then it would go through a vetting process. We may have more applications than they do. And some may be large businesses that are very successful and we can vet them through you and say, you know, they don't qualify as much as this person does, which is another large business which is

struggling. You know there's a real need or a legitimate need and if we want to extend it then it would have to come back to the Board to extend it beyond the \$50,000 if that's what they Board would wish to commit. Chief, have you had an opportunity to understand, read and understand the, do you see logistically if that may be something that we could do in this Town? Would you look favorably upon our trying to do something like that? Chief Buxton, who was in the audience replied, so I think it's a great idea, the only concern that I have regarding the GOPHERR money is our last opportunity for expenditure is between September 1 and October 15. So you're really looking to compress time to get the application process out then review. Londonderry used their Town Manager, their Assistant Town Manager and I think their Town Solicitor to look at the review of the applications because they were spending public funds. So you just need to keep the timing of the reimbursement in mind as you put this process in place. Because after October 15th you certainly will not be able to secure anymore additional GOPHERR money. Selectman Coutu responded saying, okay, Brenda if the Board were to approve something like this, of course time is of the essence now in order to meet these deadlines, I know we have until October 31st Chief? Chief Buxton replied October 15th. Selectman Coutu said, October 15th. So it seems like an awful lot of time, but getting the application process out, would you assist us in utilizing the networks that you use which are outstanding, cuz you're all over the place, I can't go on LinkedIn or wherever I go your pages are popping up, to assist us with the download of the information. We would obviously put it on our Town page, but to assist us by getting this out to the business community and having then we have to do some of the logistical would be, do we have the applications go to the Chamber office or do we have everything come here to our Administrator? I would think coming to the Administrator makes more sense but.

At this time Chairman Morin said, it depends on what the, well, it's gonna be taxpayer money at some point. What's the usual time period to find out if you get a grant Chief through that? Chief Buxton responded, so the review process, what will happen is you'll put the application process in place, you'll actually take them and review them, they're going to have to supply their receipts and that will be a piece you'll have to verify, and then you'll put in for your reimbursement. They have 30 days to do that, so we would know by November 15th per say, to close that out. Its 30 days after your submittal. Chairman Morin then said, so that's a long of time to wait to see, are we going to wait til November. That's what we got to figure out if, I think the Town should be the ones to do the review to make the, to give the grant to. But if Brenda would be willing to because everybody knows her, that's their focus point. The Chamber, the businesses in Town. That would probably be the best way to do it, my opinion, would that be work for you guys? Ms. Collins asked, to disseminate the information and the application? Chairman Morin was talking over Ms. Collins at this point saying, you guys receiving everything that's your business group that would be the best it would be easy for them and then you could get them over to us for a review panel. Ms. Collins asked, oh, so then they would send their application to the Chamber and then you'd give a yay or nay?,...Chairman Morin was speaking over Ms. Collins question saying, right, we would have somehow, we'd probably have to have somebody from you, cuz you know the businesses well, to your point, because I think if we decide to put something up front the Town should have some hands in it definitely.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and said, so I'm going to point out, the document that Brenda just handed to us, it's entitled under the banner of the Hudson Chamber of Commerce, proposed small business grant program for reimbursement of covid-19 related expenses. The very first sentence in the description says, recently the Town of Londonderry approved a small business grant program designed to assist small businesses in their town where they can apply for a grant of up to \$1,000. The point being is its small businesses and we need to have a definition of what small business means, I think. Again, I'm supporting in this in theory but I need information back on what that entails. Selectman Coutu asked, Brenda on an annual basis the Chamber awards small business and large business awards by definition. So can we apply the small business definition and can we have it...Ms. Collins interjected saying utilize it based on the number of full time employees so 50 or more is large, 49 or under is small. Selectman Coutu echoed 49 and under, and went on to say 49 and under, that's what the Walmart Corporation uses 49 or under. So it'd be a business with 49 employees or under is considered a small business. Anything over that is defined. Selectman McGrath then said, so they need to provide that information when they're applying for the grant for the money. Selectman Coutu said, right, and she has, Brenda has a list with, I believe, all of the demographics of the businesses in Town and their size, right? Ms. Collins replied, not all of the

business, chamber members, yes. Selectman Roy interjected saying, it's on the application, the number of employees, they have to fill that out on the application. Selectman McGrath went on to say, so the \$50,000 really equates to 50 businesses, right? Do we have that many small businesses in the Town of Hudson? Ms. Collins answered saying, oh yeah. Maybe they don't all need to apply for it. Like Londonderry, they only had 30 that applied. Selectman McGrath then said, again, in theory I'm in favor of this but where is the money coming out of our budget? What line item? So no one has talked to Kathy Carpentier about this? Selectman Coutu said, no because we didn't know where it was gonna go, if there was going to be any support. I didn't want to prejudge everybody's decision on this. Chairman Morin asked, what are you looking for a timeframe you're gonna need? If we could defer this until our next meeting so we can get some information from our Finance Director. Is that gonna give enough time to get this done, do you think? Ms. Collins replied, yeah, as long as you're okay with similarity of the application from Londonderry. That's pretty much standard. We can definitely clarify that 49 or under apply only. And then to just get it out to the public, I mean to the business community. I think that Londonderry gave them about 3-3 ½ weeks to apply so you know if we could set a deadline so that it comes back to you in a timely manner for you to do the determination. Chairman Morin asked, would that be agreeable to everybody to defer it til next week and we can talk to Kathy Carpentier and then make a decision next week? Selectman Coutu said, it would be two weeks from tonight, wouldn't it? Chairman Morin said, yes, it would be. Selectman McGrath said, there's another option available to us and that's if you get the information and you can provide it to each of the Board members and do a telephone poll about whether or not we're in agreement and I think that that, because of the time constraints, I would be willing to do that. Chairman Morin asked, is that acceptable to everyone? Selectman Coutu was recognized and said, I don't think we can spend taxpayer money over the telephone. I think that's problematic. Because we'd be in essence saying, we agree, but we can't take a vote on the money and you can't agree on anything til we know that we have everything in place. I mean you can always call an emergency meeting if you wanted to. For me, the way I look at it Mr. Chairman, the business community responds when we ask. A 15 minute meeting is not too much to ask. Chairman Morin said, I fully agree with you over my years businesses have been absolutely great. You're in support, you just need your information and I understand that. Would you be willing to...Selectman McGrath said, I'm up here so often that another trip to the Town Hall...Selectman Coutu jokingly said, so Friday at what time? I'm only kidding. Chairman Morin said, today's what? So we need what 24 hours notification for a meeting anyway. So it can't be at least til Thursday at this point. Selectman McGrath said, Thursday I have a meeting in the evening, and I'm in Boston on Thursday in the afternoon, so. Chairman Morin said, how about next Monday? Does Monday work for everybody? Selectman Roy and Coutu said that's fine. Selectman Roy said later in the afternoon would be best for me, like 4:30-5:00p.m. Selectman Martin said 5:00p.m. I can be here for 5:00. Chairman Morin said 5:00p.m. for Monday. Is that good for you Selectman McGrath? He then asked Ms. Collins, would you like to be here also for that, just in case we have any further questions? She replied sure. Chairman Morin then said, okay so 5:00pm on Monday. We'll get that. I will talk to the Finance Director tomorrow and ask her to get some information put together to the Board before the meeting so they can take a look at it and we'll go for Monday at 5:00p.m. Okay, excellent. Thank you very much.

C. 2020 9/11 Observance

Chairman Morin said, I recognized Chief Buxton, or should I say, acting Town Administrator Chief Buxton said, Fire Chief is fine, thanks. He went on to say, so prior to Steve's departure for vacation we had a conversation with trying to get this in front of the Board for a discussion on how to conduct the 9/11 observance this year. So he has put together a memo for you this evening that talks about scaling back our events to do a quick invocation with a moment of silence with the laying of a wreath at the memorial at Benson Park at 9:00 a.m. I support this and this is what we would like to do this year to get us through the covid event. Chairman Morin asked if there was any discussion. Any questions for the Chief? Do you want to make a motion or is everybody good with it? Selectman Roy said, there's a motion here, I'll do a motion to hold the abbreviated 9/11 observance on Friday September 11, 2020 at 9:00a.m. at Benson Park. This was seconded by Selectman McGrath. Carried 5-0.

D. Fall Soccer Program

Chief Buxton went on to say, so as you're aware to this point through the pandemic we have canceled all recreation programs. Now coming into the fall we need to make a decision if we would like to move forward with fall soccer or not to give the Recreation Department an opportunity to setup for registration and moving that process forward. Although it seems a little early to start talking fall we do need to put a plan together. The proposal from Steve and the Recreation Department is to do an abridged schedule this year to kind of scale the program back, do a shorter registration period and put some policies in place regarding the scheduling of games to try to afford the opportunity for the fields to clear before the next team is coming onto the field. They used to put them right on top of each other so 8-9, 9-10, you know? So they would allow a 20 minutes to a half hour for the field to clear so there's less congregating on the field itself. The School Department has given us authorization to utilize the fields on their facility, because as you're aware, we use the fields on the back side of Alvrine for this program. That's the proposal this evening in front of you.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and said, just a question, soccer is different than like football, aren't they spaced further apart? They chase after a ball to kick it into a....you can tell how up on this program I am. Chief Buxton said, let me try to give you just a little bit of help. So the NHIAA, which is the Board that looks over the high school sports, has put the sports into three different levels. Low, moderate and high. It's my understanding with talking with the School Department that cross country and soccer fall on the low area. There is opportunity for some brief contact with another player, but they believe they can move forward from there. One of the concerns that I discussed with Steve was the number of people that may be in attendance. I have not seen the order but today apparently the Governor has issued an order that basically requires mask usage in any venue that is going to have more than 100 people. I think on any given Saturday morning at the recreational area down behind Alvrine I think its pretty common sense that we'll have more than 100 people there. So it will be mandatory mask usage. We would supply the coaches with hand sanitizer and the players would have to have masks with them but not be worn during the games. Those are some of the precautions that would go into place. Selectman McGrath said, I think these children probably need some good exercise. Chief Buxton said, I would agree with that. Selectman McGrath said, because of the way the game is played, I think that I could support this. Chairman Morin asked if there were any other comments. Selectman Martin asked, do you have a motion, Mr. Chairman? The Chairman replied, I do not. I think it was just a matter of letting them open up again. Chief Buxton added, it's a consensus thing. The Board was in consensus to move forward with the fall soccer program.

Selectman Coutu said to the Chairman, umm, while he's here? Chief, before you get up, I received a message today, I spoke to the Chairman about it. One of our citizens who lives up at this end of Town sent me a message that he rode by the bingo hall this past Friday or Saturday. I have the message on my phone, but I'm not going to open it for that. He said there were, his quote "hundreds of cars there". Were you aware of it? Chief Buxton replied, so the Kiwanis Hall or Hope Hall as we know it, is a private establishment who operates under their own rules under the State requirement. They are operating at 50% capacity. I did double check because I talked to the Chairman this afternoon. I did double check with Chief Avery. They stated they had about 270 patrons which is just shy of the 50% capacity for that building. So if you drove by in the evening time you could have seen several hundred cars there depending if everyone drove separately. This would also be an establishment with the new mandate coming down that over 100 people, I would say they'd be looking at the mandatory mask policy in that establishment moving forward. I haven't seen that in writing yet. Selectman Coutu replied, I notified the individual that I would bring it up this evening to allay any fears that they might have. I'm good. I just want to make sure that it's out there. Thank you Chief.

E. Request to Delay Dog Fines

Chairman Morin recognized Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Patti Barry. Ms. Barry started by saying, good evening, thank you. It's been a busy day. I'm here tonight to request the Board's permission to delay the issuance of dog fines. I spoke with the dog officer, Jana McMillan we discussed the warrant last week and she's concerned also with issuing fines right now with a large number of people still being out of work. This year the warrant that I submitted to you was the highest it's ever been at 983 unlicensed dogs. As of today, we're only down to 945. That's 300 more than we usually have. Part of that problem is that when we have rabies clinic in April we have a licensing staff there as well. We usually do a couple of hundred licenses just that day and that was canceled this year. With the Clerk's office being closed to the public, even though we were there processing registrations and dog licenses and taxes, I think a lot of people just assume we were closed. So I think that contributes to the large number. Usually in May we send a reminder letter out that people are unlicensed which we did this year. But then we do a follow up, all the Clerks call everybody that we have numbers for just as a reminder, hey, you're still unlicensed and fines are going to be issued the beginning of July. We didn't get to do that this year just because of the circumstances. So in talking with Jana, we were hoping to send another reminder letter out to all the residents trying to get them, for the third time, to get in and license their dogs before we actually issue the fines. That's what I need the Board's approval for. The Chairman asked if there were questions or comments. Selectman McGrath said, I'm good with that because of the circumstances and I think that people are making choices about what they spend their money on. Especially if they're not working. The Chairman said, probably should do a motion just so it's official. Selectman McGrath made a motion to delay issuing dog fines for 60 days, would that be enough time? Ms. Barry said, actually, I put in the memo here that we would issue another round of reminder letters for licensing by August 30th. But this week with all of the absentee ballots we're dealing with right now, that would put me in a timeline of having to get those letters out this week and I don't see that happening. So maybe if I could do September 15th as the deadline and then we issue fines right after that. Selectman McGrath said, okay, so Motion to delay issuing dog licensing fines until September 15th of 2020. This was seconded by Selectman Martin. Carried. 5-0.

F. Friends of Benson Park - Natural Gas Connection

Chairman Morin recognized John Leone of the Friends of Benson Park. Mr. Leone said good evening, thank you all for having me. So I assume you've got a copy of the letter that I sent to Mr. Malizia a few weeks ago. As I think everyone's aware when the Friends of Benson Park and the Town reached an agreement on the lease of the Elephant Barn, one of the obligations of the Town was to provide services like water, sewer and so on natural gas is the only remaining service that has yet to be provided. Friends of Benson Park has reached out to Liberty Utilities and asked them to provide us an estimate for what it would take to do that and fund it on our own, understanding the circumstances that we're in about trying to mitigate optional spending at this point. The quote was such that we believe we have the means to support it. We would like to go ahead and do that with the Town's support and blessing, approval, I guess. I guess I'm here to answer any questions but we'd like to get that connection put in place. The Chairman asked if there were any questions. Selectman Martin was recognized and asked, is natural gas already to the property line? Mr. Leone said, it's to Bush Hill Road. It would come in behind the old woman's shoe. Selectman Martin asked is the quote for them to work through Benson property to the barn? Mr. Leone said, yes. It would, if you've seen the drawing that was in the packet, it sort of makes a left-hand turn as it comes in and there will be a connection stub there for future connections if the Town chooses to connect any of the other buildings it will be available and won't have to be brought in another line. Selectman Martin thanked Mr. Leone for his response.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any other questions. Selectman McGrath said, just a question for Mr. Forrence. Are you in agreement with this? Mr. Forrence, who was in the audience, answered

yes. *Selectman Coutu made a motion seconded by Selectman Martin to authorize the Friends of Bensons to contract with Liberty Utilities for the installation of the gas lines at Benson Park and brought into the red barn. Carried 5-0.*

G. HPD Grant Acceptance

Chairman Morin recognized Detective Lischinsky of the Hudson Police Department. Detective Lischinsky came forward and said thank you very much for having us. So we're here in front of the Board earlier this year we requested permission to apply for a grant through Walmart local CARES program. They give back to local communities. We've gone through this grant before. The Board approved us going through the process and since then it has been accepted through Walmart and they have been able to send those funds. So we are looking to accept those funds towards training and equipment for the Department. It was in the amount of \$2,000 through Walmart Grant Foundation. *Selectman McGrath made a motion seconded by Selectman Coutu, to accept the grant of \$2,000 from Hudson Walmart facility #1785. Carried 5-0.*

H. Liberty Field - Update

Chairman Morin said, if you, the Board, would accept to defer this for now and we can discuss later. Okay?

I. Revenues and Expenditures

Chairman Morin said, our next item, Revenues and Expenditures, I don't know if there's really anybody we can ask questions to tonight. Selectman Martin said, the acting Town Administrator is here. Chairman Morin then asked, any questions or anything or you want to just put this off and we can wait til the Town Administrator comes back?

9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY SELECTMEN

Selectman Roy - I'm all set tonight, thank you.

Selectman McGrath - Just one thing. The Planning Board meeting that is scheduled for tomorrow evening, we had gotten some complaints about the last meeting that people were standing outside. They weren't able to access the Community Center because of overcrowding. No seats were provided so there were complaints. So I called Chief Buxton yesterday and seats are going to be available tomorrow evening for any kind of overflow crowd. And I'd like to thank him for taking care of that. That's all that I have.

Selectman Coutu said, one of the things, I think that one of the problems we had the last meeting was that we had a lot of people from out of town there. And I think people should be vetted before they're allowed to come in. Citizens first. Residents of the Town of Hudson should have priority with the seating. There were several people there who identified themselves as friends of...they were asked to come into Town to carry signs and have signs. And I would think that in all fairness to our citizens they should have priority seating. Selectman McGrath said, I agree, but who's going to do the vetting? Are we going to have someone standing at the Community Center entrance and asking to make sure they're Hudson residents? Selectman Coutu said, I think we should. In my opinion I think we should. Selectman McGrath said, who is that person? I can't do it. I won't do it. And I don't know who we could designate. Chairman Morin said, we can get to that in a minute.

Selectman Roy was then recognized by the Chairman and she said, I would be concerned that that would not pass the First Amendment muster. There's no requirement for public input that people be

citizens of the Town to provide public input. I don't, I'm just not sure it would pass First Amendment muster. Selectman Coutu said, what's the muster? They're not citizens of the Town. They're not allowed to speak. Selectman Roy said, sure they can. The RSA, public input does not prohibit somebody that doesn't live in Town from speaking.

Chairman Morin asked Chief Buxton to come up. Chief Buxton came forward and said, to Selectman Roy's point, I actually inquired that question to the Town Administrator last week and it is a public venue that anybody can show up and speak at. We actually asked the question about checking id's to give preferential treatment to get residents in and that doesn't seem to pass muster. So we did explore this last week. That's why we're going to try to go with the seating outside. Believe me I would love to do that but it doesn't appear to be that option.

Selectman McGrath said, can I add one thing? I know Selectman Coutu took a trip with the Town Administrator out to the F. W. Webb Company in Londonderry. I did the same thing along with Charlie Brackett who is a member of the Planning Board and George Hall. It was really enlightening. I took a video and I don't know that that is going to be posted on the Town's website but people ought to take a drive out there if they want to get an indication of what one of the buildings would look like, times three. That was a very informative trip. Well worth taking. Chairman Morin asked, is that all you have Selectman McGrath. She replied, yes it is. Thank you.

Selectman Martin - thank you Mr. Chairman. The only thing I have is the Budget Committee. I keep telling you about the Budget Committee. We're planning on meeting the first meeting in September to appoint a new person and get presentations from the School and the Town on how covid has impacted the spending. That's all I have.

Selectman Coutu - First off, Mr. Forrence, you know you've heard me, the generic you, not you in particular, the citizens of the Town, talk about the gem in Hudson. But we have a couple of gems and one of them you were involved with this week. I want to extend my sincerest appreciation to you and your staff for your quick response. The feedback that you provided the citizens request and the way you handled it. And the gem that we do have is Robinson Pond. This year, more so than previous years in Town we have quite an influx of Canadian geese. They've messed up Atonic Pond, Robinson Pond. I've had 15-16 of them in the front of my yard and we've got it all fenced off. How they're getting in, we don't know. But they get there. You responded, I understand. I was up in the area today. I had to go, my doctor is on Robinson Road. The pond is being well used. Utilized today. There was a significant number of young people and adults there. Hopefully they were all townies. Probably were. But you did an outstanding job and I just want you and your crew to know how much that's appreciated by me, not as a selectman but as a citizen and I'm sure all the citizens who were there. My wife asked me to take her up one day this week so I'll be taking her up to Robinson Pond.

Another thing Mr. Chairman is that I want to advise people, I recollect Selectman McGrath making mention of some similarity about scamming that's going on. Most recently the Town of Litchfield had to issue a warning to all its citizens that there is no phone solicitation for funds for the fire or police departments being allowed or there are none that have been authorized by either of them so people are obviously making phone calls. The scamming they're getting more and more creative every day and phone calls, email messages, various posts, be very, very careful. When I read this I say I thank God, though you might dispute this that I'm of sound mind, and I realize what I'm getting, but I can see my wife responding with something like that. Are you all set Mr. Chairman? We have EMT's in the house. (Laughter). I just want people to be aware of all of the scamming that's going on. A lot of it recently has been political in nature. So just be very careful.

I want to ask everybody not to let your guard down just because you're hearing that the numbers are fantastic in Massachusetts or New England as a whole. Where there are problems are where people are not adhering to the regulations that are set forth by the various governors and in some cases we have governors that could care less and let people do whatever they want. Their numbers are spiking. We've been very fortunate in terms of the overall picture of covid cases versus population when you look at the geographic, we may have a lower population number than a lot of states but testing is ongoing. The numbers have been relatively low for a community of our size. We're larger than some cities in New Hampshire and considering our location and the flow of traffic from Massachusetts into

the Town of Hudson, we've done exceptionally well. Kudos to you Chief and the committee that has worked with you to survey and ascertain that the rules are being adhered to and we're able to keep our numbers down. I just don't want people to let their guard down. Don't ever feel exceptionally safe. We have long way to go. A resurgence of this virus could happen. It could happen. The numbers could be greater than what we've had and what we've had to endure and now that we have a new element going into the mix, which is the opening of schools in one fashion or another, we're reading and hearing about more and more children are coming down with THE virus or a virus that is adjunct to this virus that's even more dangerous than the original virus. So don't be fooled by you know there's going to be an inoculation. It's going to be tomorrow, it's going to be next week. Let's be safe. Keep our masks on when in public. Try to social distance at all times and we will continue to maintain good numbers. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Morin - I'd just like to talk, I already talked to Jess about it this earlier this morning, but, I just want to again but this morning three vehicles showed up at the Food Pantry full of food and his guys were out there getting ready for the pavement to start. While they were waiting for the trucks to come up they saw that we had the three vehicles and they offered to help us get the food into the Food Pantry and we really appreciate that they offered. We had enough volunteers, but they did offer and we appreciate that very much.

The only other thing that I got is the Board needs to start thinking about, I spoke to Chief Buxton about this that we're going to have some events coming up at the Community Center. Elections, we've had a request again for another blood drive on September 15th. We may want to start thinking about moving some meetings because they're gonna have to breakdown and if depending on what happens with basketball we're going to have to breakdown anyway because that's where that takes place. So we probably should start thinking about how we want to do that. It probably won't help the case you were helping about, Selectman McGrath, because that is such a large crowd that shows up for those meetings, we have to have it there anyway. But we probably should start thinking about what we're gonna do about meetings with things coming up. Selectman McGrath spoke up and said, I had asked at the last meeting about the Municipal Utility Committee meeting being moved to this room. Has any decision been made on that because that's only....Chairman Morin spoke over Selectman McGrath saying, we can make that right out because that's actually the kind of consideration that we need to look at when I spoke with the Chief. Selectman McGrath replied, there's only five members. There's never anyone from the public that comes to those meetings. The only staff member is Elvis so it's a very small group and it can be well accommodated in this room. The Chairman said, Chief, are you prepared to talk about this a little bit tonight or do you want to wait? Chief Buxton, who was in the audience said, I'll give you a brief thought. So, I think when you look at some of your committee meetings. Sustainability Committee and Municipal Utility, those types, where you're not getting a big crowd, I think it might be time to afford them an opportunity to maybe meet back at Town Hall. It certainly makes that easier on HCTV staff and certainly makes that easier for scheduling that larger venue. Because breaking down and setting up, breaking down and setting up is gonna become a problem, specifically as we get closer to September and you have the election season starting to kick off. So the Public Works Department will need to set up for the election. We're going to start storing protective clothing for the election in that facility because we have a large order coming in. Space is going to become short here soon. So I would encourage you to kind of give that some consideration. We'd just need to review the cleaning of the facilities after they leave.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said, do you have any suggested parameters I guess? Like? Chief Buxton responded saying, all of the rooms are posted at 50% capacity with social distancing. There's hand sanitizer available and cleaning directions available on the sign over there in regards to cleaning the facility on their way out. So I would encourage whether it's the staff member or the next morning we'll leave Wayne a note that the rooms are getting a deep cleaning. We've provided a disinfecting machine here at Town Hall that can be utilized by Wayne. I think you have some of those capabilities to handle that stuff internally now. Selectman McGrath was recognized and she said, so are you aware that the Planning Board just decided that they're going to hold three meetings a month? Are you aware of that? Chief Buxton replied, so Brian had mentioned that because of the workload that the Planning Board was getting that they were giving that some consideration. I was not aware that that is formally

happened. I know that they were providing at least one meeting, if not two meetings a month, specific for the Logistics Center. Then their regular agenda. So folks that were coming in for the regular agenda were provided an opportunity getting somewhat efficient getting through the process. Selectman McGrath then said, I'm fairly certain that I received an email within the last few days, several days that that decision has been made. I don't think it was a decision made by the entire Board, I think it was just by the Chairman. Chief Buxton said, I would encourage the larger groups at least for the short term to continue you know. The Logistics Center is going to have to continue to meet over there. Because of the pure number of people showing up to those meetings. You're only afforded an opportunity to seat 46 people inside plus the Planning Board. You're not doing that in the meeting room next door. So that provides you better seating over there to begin with. Then with the outside seating that Jim has setup. It provides some flexibility to that group. Hopefully we'll get through that process and then we can return to some normal process.

Selectman McGrath then said, Zoning may be in a position to move either into this room or into the other room next door. It depends on the case and depends on the number of people that might want to show up. So that might have to be a decision made when the agenda is set. Chief Buxton then said, we meet every Monday, with the Community Development staff, so if Bruce is getting ready to post a meeting or something I guess we can kind of...Selectman McGrath said, and Zoning is only once a month. So they have a fairly light schedule. Selectman Roy then added, I might suggest that if the Planning Board is going to do that, that they coordinate so that none of those dates overlap, right, so there's not more than one event inside of there.

Selectman Martin was recognized. He said to the Chief, I know you're working with the Schools on opening. Is there any word of their definitely opening or they are not opening? Chief Buxton responded, so they have a plan in place, K-8 will open, I believe, September 8th at 100% occupancy. Then the high school will open the 8th in a hybrid model at 50% capacity. That is their plan. They also had a deadline which I believe was Monday for the opportunity for remote learning. I know that once they saw the actual number for remote learning there would be an evaluation to see what that did to the elementary schools for numbers. Because the 100% occupancy for the elementary schools was gauged on some of the survey information they had up front so they needed to validate their data. We have another task force meeting on Thursday of this week. Selectman Martin then said, just the reason why I asked is with the upcoming meeting schedule for the Planning Board, was there, could there be a possibility where one of those school gyms, such as the Middle School, would be larger for the Planning Board meeting. Chief Buxton then said, at this point the School District has taken the stance that they're not allowing any outside school activities to take place in the building because of the cleaning activities that would have to take place afterwards. So there's no external groups going inside the facilities. Exterior so the fields, they've afforded opportunity for usage but inside the building itself, they've drawn the line in the sand to say they're not doing that at this point. At this point, Chairman Morin said, so the problem here lies for us because of the requirements we have to meet for the election, we're probably gonna have to look at that whole scenario again for November with traffic and the number of people and all that stuff because that's probably where we're gonna end up. Chief Buxton responded, I know that this is on the Administrators radar screen along with the Superintendent of Schools. They wanted to get through the first few weeks of school to see where we're at and then potentially start leveraging/loosening up some of those types of things to see if we could use those facilities, so they'll be more news to come.

Chairman Morin said, do we want to make a decision on meetings or would you rather wait til...Selectman Martin said my comment is there's nothing wrong with having the Municipal Utilities Committee come here. Chairman Morin said, I agree. Selectman Martin went on to say so I would say make that happen as soon as their next meeting. That would be my opinion. Chairman Morin then said, do we want to look at the other groups tonight or do we want to wait? Selectman McGrath was recognized and said, let me talk to Charlie Brackett, he's the Chairman of the Zoning Board, what he'd prefer to do. We have at least four members of that group that are fall into the age bracket that they're more in danger without the social distancing. He may feel more comfortable having it at the Community Center. I'll talk to him and I can bring it back the next time. Chairman Morin then said, alright, so why don't we put this off. We'll put it on the agenda for the 25th to talk about which groups will come back in.

The other thing I got real quick is that they're requesting to do a blood drive on September 15th. They are hurting because of covid for places to hold these. Is this the police one, Chief? It is the Police blood drive? Chief Avery, who was in the audience spoke up and said, yes, we eliminated the one in the spring because of covid and we've now committed to one a year so if possible we'd like to do it this September. Chairman Morin said, what's the Boards? Selectman Coutu interjected asking, what's the date? The Chairman replied, the 15th of September. Selectman Coutu then asked, the facility is available? Chairman responded yes, they had scheduled it. We put a stop to it because of. Selectman Martin added, I'm for it. We need blood. Selectman Roy said, I don't have a problem with it. Selectman McGrath said, I don't have a problem either. Chairman Morin said, I had talked to her on the phone the other day, do you guys want to talk to her or you want me to give her a call tomorrow? Chief Avery replied, we had communicated with her. We've made contact with her. We'll take care of it. I just don't think there will be as much food as we normally offer at the Police blood drive. I thought you should be aware of that. Chairman Morin said, alright, thank you, that's all I have.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Ms. Laffin said, the Chairman will entertain a motion to go into non-public under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. & (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee.
A roll call vote was taken. Motion by Selectman Roy at 8:04 p.m., seconded by Selectman Martin, to go into non-public session Carried 5-0.

Chairman Morin entered Nonpublic Session at 8:04 p.m. thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public is asked to leave the room.

Chairman Morin entered open session at 9:05 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:06 p.m. by Selectman Roy seconded by Selectman Martin. Carried 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant.

David S. Morin, Chairman

Kara Roy, Vice-Chairman

Marilyn E. McGrath, Selectman

Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

Normand G. Martin, Selectman