

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the November 24, 2020 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Morin the meeting of November 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buxton Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Chairman Morin

3. ATTENDANCE

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

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia - Town Administrator; Bill Avery - Police Chief; Rob Buxton - Fire Chief

4. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none this evening.

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Interviews:

The Board interviewed Daniel Febrer who submitted an application to serve as a member of the Benson Park Committee. Chairman Morin asked Mr. Febrer, are you looking for the full time position, the permanent member or the alternate? Mr. Febrer said the permanent member. Chairman Morin said okay. Do you want to tell us a little bit about yourself? Mr. Febrer said I'm Dan Febrer, I've lived in Hudson for about 2.5 years so far. Definitely consider myself a permanent resident. We moved to New Hampshire about six years ago. We love this state a lot. When we moved to Hudson we were pleased to find the park. We use it very often. We're very fond of it. Just walking around started noticing some things that maybe could improve it easily or at low cost and had a lot of ideas and energy about it and so I started looking into things and noticed that you could apply very readily. By trade I'm a data scientist, which I think for the Committee's purposes means that I have great analytical skills and business acumen that could be very valuable for the Committee. It's a unique skillset in the job market place and pretty high demand. Currently I work at Liberty Mutual as a director of data science and I think that that analytical vent and acumen gives me unique skills to contribute. Specially in being able to understand cost benefit and have creative ideas around how we could better things at low cost and more efficiently, one of the ideas I think is really easy to implement and could be very valuable is specially around drainage. I notice that for example in the park there is an area that gets repaved, so to speak, every year. In the winter when we use the park and walk around, especially during rain events I can see that there's a lot of erosion taking place. As a data scientist, we could for example use topology data, to understand where specifically, drainage could be placed to essentially prevent that from happening again. Or simply we could just contract with a drainage expert and ask for help to figure it out. But I think that's a pretty good example of kind of where my mindset goes immediately. I think I'd love to just open to questions and comments. Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions. Selectman Roy replied, not right now. He answered my question so. Selectman Martin said, well, I guess one of the standard questions is have you seen a Benson Park Committee meeting? Mr. Febrer replied, I haven't. Selectman Martin said, you haven't. That's fine. That's all I have Mr. Chairman. The Town Administrator then said, typically what you do is after the applicant comes in you wait until the next meeting to appoint. So that's they typical process. At the next meeting, which would be December 8<sup>th</sup>, they'd make a decision on the appointment. You don't have to be in attendance, but you will be notified. Mr. Febrer replied, I'd love to be in attendance then. So the Board of Selectmen meeting on

December 8<sup>th</sup>? The Town Administrator replied, correct. It was explained that the Board meeting will location will be posted online.

The Board interviewed Nicholas Reval who is interested in serving on the Recreation Committee. Mr. Reval came forward. Chairman Morin asked him to state why he'd like to be on the Committee. Mr. Reval said my name is Nicholas Reval. I've lived here for about two months now. I just bought a house with my wife. Really just wanted to get involved more in the community. Thinking back at some of my experiences and the Recreation Committee seemed like the best available option just because, as a younger guy, more familiar with athletics and organized sports. From there too I've organized sports teams at my company. I work as a sales specialist at a software company. It's a 500 person company in Woburn. Chairman Morin asked if there were any questions from the Selectmen. Selectman Martin said, no, I don't have anything. Selectman Roy said, so you only lived here for a couple months? Mr. Reval said, yeah. I just want to get more involved as I started to have a family. Selectman Roy said, I think that's great that didn't wait and just kind of jumped right in. The Town Administrator said housing was very competitive getting here, wasn't it? Mr. Reval replied, yes it was. We had six offers we place in and around the area and got lucky with this one. Seeing no other questions Mr. Reval was informed the Board would vote on his appointment at their December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### Appointment

Chairman Morin said, we have an appointment for the Planning Board. One member vacancy that expires 12/31/20 and two alternate vacancies which expire 12/31/21 and 12/31/22. Right now Elliott Veloso is an alternate member and we are looking to appoint him as a full member of the Planning Board. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martin to appoint Mr. Velosso as a full member of the Planning Board with a term expiring 12/31/23. Carried 3-0.

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 Martin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to approve consent items A, B, C, D, E & F as noted and appropriate. Carried 3-0.

#### 6. CONSENT ITEMS

##### A. Assessing Items

- 1) 2020 Abatement Application: Map 129, Lot 94-11 St. Laurent Drive

##### B. Water/Sewer Items - none

##### C. License, Permits, Policies

- 1) Petition & Licenses for Three (3) New Poles - License #'s 158/11, 158/12 and 158/13 on Standish Lane

##### D. Donations

- 1) \$5,000 to Hudson Fire Department from Digital Credit Union
- 2) \$5,000 to Hudson Police Department from Digital Credit Union

##### E. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of October 20, 2020

E. Calendar

- 11/26 Thanksgiving - Town Hall Closed
- 11/27 Town Hall Closed
- 11/30 7:00 Sustainability Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
- 12/2 7:00 Budget Committee - Hudson Community Center
- 12/3 6:30 Recreation Committee - BOS Meeting Room
- 12/8 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after the non-public session on 11/10/2020

- 1) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Chairman Morin, to hire Jennifer Martin as a regular shift camera operator for HCTV with a starting rate of \$12.50 per hour. Carried 2-0-1 with Selectman Martin abstaining.
- 2) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martin to hire Grace Lemay as a regular shift camera operator for HCTV with a starting rate of \$12.50 per hour. Carried 3-0.
- 3) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martin hire Kathleen Hoyt as a substitute crossing guard with a starting rate of \$14.50 per hour. Carried 3-0.
- 4) Selectman Martin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to allow Firefighter Mulcay to use up to 96 hours of earned or sick time to cover unaccounted time from November 19 through December 8, 2020. Carried 3-0.
- 5) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martin to give the Town Clerk 40 hours of personal time to be used by November 30, 2021. Carried 3-0.
- 6) Selectman Martin made a motion to adjourn at 9:55p.m. This was seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 3-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. HPD - Request to Advertise for PT Animal Control Officer

Chief Avery was recognized by the Chairman and said, thank you Mr. Chairman, members of the Board. Tonight I am before you to simply as to start the advertisement process for finding a part time animal control officer. The Animal Control Officer will be leaving us very shortly here and we are obviously in dire need to find a replacement pretty quickly. As you know ACO MacMillan works a lot of hours, has a lot of responsibilities both on the weekends, holidays, at night, mornings. So I want to get this ball rolling and get somebody in here as quickly as possible. It will be a long, same as the police officers, background and testing process. They'll still go through a polygraph, a psychological test and so forth before they're brought before the Board. Seeing no questions Selectman Roy made a

*motion, seconded by Selectman Martin to allow the Police Chief to advertise for a part time animal control officer. Carried 3-0.*

B. Town-wide Radio Project

Chief Buxton was recognized, along with Chief Avery. Chief Buxton started off saying, good evening members of the Board. We're here tonight to talk about the second phase of the radio project. We're bringing to conclusion right now, phase one, which was the console project. They've actually started demobilizing the old consoles. Both the Fire and Police Departments are operating off of the new console currently. We're happy with the performance and are ready to move forward with phase two. If you remember correctly the total program was slated to be \$1.5 million for the total project between two phases. Last year we got the positive vote at Town Meeting to move forward with an \$810,000 warrant article to fund the second part of that project. One alteration to the original proposal this evening, is the addition of a third radio tower located at the landfill on West Road. Originally we were going to partner with Londonderry and piggyback on their transmission site of the Black Forrest location which is basically behind the old Fred Floor Facility in Londonderry proper and they could not come to terms with the cellular phone vendor over there. So our other option was to build our own site and put that on West Road. We had a piece of property there. They ran the aerials, the topographical to see what we could get for connectivity. So we're asking you to do a couple of things this evening. One is to allow us to award the bid to Motorola Solutions and Two Way Communication for the installation. First one is to waive the bidding process because this is a sole bidding opportunity. There is nobody to bid against. You can only buy some of this product from Motorola directly. So when we bought into phase one that's why the project is a sole company. Then provide us the opportunity to purchase through Motorola Solutions and Two Way and then to authorize us to use \$22,303 out of the FY21 budget which we had slated for maintenance. The Maintenance contract we had put aside \$78,000. Because of COVID and a couple of delays in the project, we will not need that maintenance money until the end of the year. I won't ink the contract for a full year. We'll bridge to get to FY22 and then move forward with a full contract next year. So we would ask permission to utilize that \$22,000 out of that money there to make up the difference. That would give us three new radio towers with new radio system, Police, Fire and Highway. Putting the Highway main transmission site on Merrill Hill and then the Police and Fire will be simulcast out of different locations in Town. Chairman Morin then said, now this tower is very important because he Heritage Circle and Chagnon Lane area is a total dead area and this will cover that? Chief Buxton replied, yup, so that basically will give us line of sight from West Road, all the way across Robinson, to the PD and then from West Road, all the way to Merrill Hill coming down both sides of the Knoll that runs right down the center of Town to give us fill in that pocket of coverage over there. Seeing no questions from the Board, *Selectman Martin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to waive Chapter 98-7 Bidding Procedure of the Hudson Town Code for the purpose of completing phase 2 of the Town of Hudson Radio Communication System upgrade. Carried 3-0.*

*Selectman Martin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to authorize the Town of Hudson Fire Department to award the purchase of phase 2 of the Town of Hudson Radio System upgrade to Motorola Solutions and 2 Way Communications with funding to be taken from the Unassigned Fund Balance in an amount of \$810,000.00. Carried 3-0.*

*Selectman Martin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to authorize the Town of Hudson Fire Department to utilize \$22,303 from the FY-21 Emergency Management budget to complete the construction of a radio tower for the Town of Hudson Radio System. Carried 3-0.*

9. REMARKS BY THE SCHOOL BOARD - none present

10. REMARKS BY THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR - the Town Administrator said, just a couple of things. Construction is still ongoing in the Town Clerk and the Assessor's office. If you have an opportunity, go take a look. It will probably be another week or so at least until that is done. So

thanks everybody for their patience. It seems to be working well with folks being able to go down to the Selectmen's room to complete their Town Clerk transactions.

It's coming. The Overnight Parking Ban goes into effect December 1<sup>st</sup>. just want to make sure everybody is aware of that. No overnight parking on Hudson streets between 11PM and 7AM. That runs through March 30<sup>th</sup>. I believe the Budget Committee is all done with their review of the Town Budget. They concluded on Thursday. It went very well. The next opportunity will be the public hearing in January for them to have the public hearing on the Town Budget. Other than that, I hope everybody has a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

11. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Roy - I just want to kind of publicly thank and give a shout out to Rob Champion and Hairaholics, which is a hair salon in Town and their clients. They've been running a food drive and so far have donated approximately four truck loads and over \$200 to the Hudson Community Food Pantry. So I want to thank all of them. Other than that have a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Selectman Martin - thank you Mr. Chairman. Just a reminder for everybody that if you're interested in the long discussions about budgets we're gonna meet on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to start the School deliberations. Those can get long and drawn out. I welcome you to watch or attend. I don't want to steal anybody's thunder, so that's all I have.

Chairman Morin - just want to remind everybody that 11AM-3PM on Saturday we'll be doing the Telethon on HCTV for the Hudson Food Pantry. Santa will arrive at the Alvrine Parking lot from 2PM-3PM on Friday. That's sponsored by the Hudson Lions.

The next thing I have is taking the Board of Selectmen's meetings virtual due to the increase in COVID. The Board would like to have a discussion. I'll start with Selectman Roy. Selectman Roy said, so I think it's something that we should certainly consider. Given that at least two of our members are in a high risk category, I understand that we can't protect us from everything, but we can make ourselves a little safer, I think. At this point, as you look around the room there's three of us here. At a point I get concerned that we won't be able to maintain a quorum to be an effective Board. So that's my thoughts about going forward remotely. I guess, what are everybody else's thoughts? Selectman Martin was recognized and said ready, willing and able. So whatever you want to do. Chairman Morin then said, I know at least one other member will be attending the meetings virtually in the near future. We can work that out and bring it forward at the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and go with information on how we're gonna do it and move forward with it then? Does that sound agreeable to everybody? Selectman Roy said I think that's a good idea. We can have a solid plan. The Town Administrator said, you'll have a live December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and then go from there, to which Selectman Roy and Chairman Morin replied yes.

Chairman Morin said, the only other thing I've got is just for our Fire Department. They had one of the toughest fires they've had in many years in a carpet warehouse. Knowing by experience what they dealt with in that building, was extremely dangerous. Some of the firefighters I know and talked to after the fire had some concerns when they entered there due to the conditions they faced. The building is still there. They stopped the fire where they found it. I just wanted to say good job to all of them for that because again, that was probably one of the toughest fires we've had in many years in Town. Other than that, I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

11. NONPUBLIC SESSION

The Town Administrator 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. (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

Motion by Selectman Roy at 7:17 p.m., seconded by Selectman Martin, to go into non-public session. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 3-0.

Chairman Morin entered Nonpublic Session at 7:17 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 7:30 p.m.

- 1) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Chairman Martin, to hire James Moran as a full-time police officer with a starting salary of \$26.84 (step 1 with certification) per hour, in accordance with the Hudson Police Employee Association Contract. Carried 3-0.
- 2) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martin to accept the offer of \$40,000 for the Town owned property at 151 Robinson Road. Carried 3-0.
- 3) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martin to approve the Town Administrators request to buy back 80 hours of vacation time. Carried 3-0.
- 4) Selectman Martin made a motion to adjourn at 7:31p.m. This was seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 3-0.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:59 p.m. by Selectman Martin seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 3-0.

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

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David S. Morin, Chairman

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Kara Roy, Vice-Chairman

Excused  
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Marilyn E. McGrath, Selectman

Excused  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Normand G. Martin, Selectman