

## HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### Minutes of the October 22, 2020 Budget Review Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Morin for the meeting of October 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Chairman Morin
3. ATTENDANCE: Board of Selectmen: David Morin, Kara Roy, Normand Martin, Roger Coutu  
Excused Absence: Marilyn McGrath

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Jim Michaud, Town Assessor; Bill Avery, Police Chief; Chrissy Peterson, Recreation Director; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant.

#### 4. BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Chairman Morin recognized the Town Administrator for a follow up from the last meeting. The Town Administrator started off saying, in front of you, you have a packet of information that was prepared that you have and based on what you have, the first sheet is the basic warrant articles and the changes that the Board's made. That's the second column. So you can see that reflected there. These are the actions you've taken thus far. And the sheet behind it is actually the detail of the action you've taken. These are the motions and the changes that you've made or additions you've made to the budget. So those two documents tie out. The third series of documents. It's just by department. Again, it's just more summary information, but it's just reflective of what you've already done. I put another document, as you recall, we moved some of, the Board move some money from one community grant to another, just put that sheet in here just so you can see that a thousand dollars was moved, didn't change the budget, but that's why it's there. You also received two additional articles, Article M, and Article N was requested by Selectman Roy, that I prepared, that raises the Veteran's Tax Credit. That's the Optional and the All Veterans. So that's combined on one. The other, the Disabled Veteran's Credit. And those are raising the limits on the first one, it's from \$500 to \$600. On the Disabled, it's from \$2000 to \$3000. And that was requested by Selectman Roy. So you can speak to those when we get to the warrant article section.

On the other real quick thing, you do have a revenue detail sheet but we'll discuss that when we get to the revenue section of the meeting. I want to make sure everybody had that. And there was there was an item that was still outstanding. You had got information about the train station and you saw the quotes. I don't know if the Board wanted to revisit that. If the Board wanted to contemplate putting that in, no action was taken. So I wanted to just put that out here before you get deep into all the other ones.

Selectman Martin then said, yeah, we have to talk about the train station and that those things, because we get the three bids. Chairman Morin said, we can take that at the end so everybody can get out of here to do their thing. The Town Administrator added, I just wanted to put it out there. That was an outstanding item.

Chairman Morin said, okay, before we get started, Selectman Coutu, you've been absent for a couple meetings. Any questions or anything you'd like to ask before we get started? Selectman Coutu said, I just want to clarify. I have a lot of questions, but I'm going to hold off. He then said on the second page, Mr. Malizia, the action that was taken, apparently the budget was increased by \$186,491. The Town Administrator replied, no the budget for the general fund has been increased by \$276,491. Selectman Coutu asked, where's the difference? I see \$186,491. The Town Administrator asked, did you get today's packet? After the Executive Assistant helped Selectman Coutu get on the same page, Selectman Coutu then said so we added \$276,491 from the requested budget, but does this include also out of budget items? The Town Administrator replied, these are out of budget items that the Board discussed and voted to add to the budget. Selectman Coutu said Fire Suppression, that's the new tanker? Mr. Malizia replied, that is correct, that is the payment for the tanker.

Selectman Coutu asked, Subscriptions? The Town Administrator replied, it's an IT software program that they're putting in there (Fire). I'd have to look at the details. Chairman Morin said, that was for Assessing. details. Mr. Michaud you could speak on that a little bit? The Town Administrator and Selectman Roy both replied no. The Town Administrator then said, that one was specifically for Fire. Something with the reporting system they had.

Selectman Coutu said the large piece of equipment, the Public Works Department wanted? Selectman Roy said, the thing with the arm. The Town Administrator replied, the brush mower that needs to be replaced. Selectman Coutu replied I read that, drainage. The Town Administrator said that's a portion of that piece of that piece of equipment. That piece goes to... Selectman Coutu interjected saying VacCon? The Town Administrator said no the piece of equipment we divided out between the street division, the drainage and the sewer. Selectman Coutu responded oh, okay. That just shows the separation. The Town Administrator replied that's correct sir.

Selectman Coutu then said are you kidding me? We need \$80,000 dollars' worth of computer software? Again? The Town Administrator said, this is to replace our assessing system from Assess Pro to, I believe, Vision. Selectman Coutu said Oh, this is the conversion. Just for assessing. Chairman Morin asked you want them to give you a briefing on it real quick? Selectman Coutu replied I have one question. I read it through its entirety, the several pages that were provided on the change. We had a discussion, if I might, Mr. Chairman. We had a discussion not too long ago. If you remember, we were all here, about some changes that were going to be made. And I couldn't recall all of the conversation. But at the time, Mr. Michaud had asked for an exclusion to be included in what would be all incorporated in one system. My only question is, does this do that or doesn't it? Does this new program? Selectman Roy replied saying so there's no, there's no assessing program that is fully integrated, but they can talk. Right. So so moving from Patriot Property and you can you can help me out of this is wrong. But moving to Vision Appraisal allows any new software, any new town-wide software we might get to be able to mesh and integrate. But it's not it won't be part of that system. Chairman Morin said and that exact question that you just asked was asked that night of Mr. Michaud and the IT Director, because we had the same concerns. Selectman Coutu said I would want...he didn't want to integrate. The Town Administrator said there isn't a program that integrates. Chairman Morin said there isn't one to do that. Selectman Roy agreed saying, yeah. There's not a product out there that does that. Selectman Coutu then said but what if we gave them a pencil and a paper and said integrate with the pencil and paper? Mr. Malizia replied it would take longer. To which Selectman Coutu replied we did it in the old days.

Mr. Michaud, Town Assessor came forward and said, any replacement software that the Town obtains will mesh with the existing tax collection package. And Vision has, and I emailed vision, which is our preferred, even though we haven't made that selection. But they would also mesh with any other tax collection software that's in use here in New Hampshire. They're also a significantly sized company. We get software that's not in New Hampshire for our financial software package or tax package. I am confident that whoever we select for the mass appraisal software would be able to mesh. Selectman Coutu said let's talk about Vision. That...Vision is what we have and what we want to obtain? Selectman Roy said, we want to obtain. Selectman Coutu said okay. Vision is the one that's in Londonderry? Mr. Michaud replied, that's correct. They switched off from Assess Pro, Patriot to Vision last year. Selectman Coutu interrupted and said, I'm sold. I just wanted to know why we couldn't mesh both systems, integrate them in some fashion that we're always talking with each other, at all times. So I am supporting it. I just want to I'm covering all my bases here.

Who's getting another \$3,240 dollars' worth of subscriptions in IT? That's stuff that she needs for her computer? The Town Administrator replied saying, that's the contract for our time clock system we're going to be putting in. That's the annual cost for the time clock system we're putting in that has an annual cost to it. Selectman Coutu asked, that's been voted on? The Town Administrator replied, you all directed us to do it. So we're moving that way. Chairman Morin added, yeah you did. We told them to do it. I'm telling you, we did. Selectman Coutu replied, ok, if you say so, you wouldn't lie to me.

Selectman Coutu then said, \$40,000 dollars' worth of professional services in the Planning department. The Town Administrator replied to use NRPC with our contracted person. Selectman Coutu then said,

\$50,000 was appropriated for engineering fees. Town Administrator there's a culvert that's going to need to be replaced under Lowell Road near Central Street. Selectman Coutu asked is it below 10? Chairman Morin said its red listed. The Town Administrator said it's a four. So what we're gonna do is....Selectman Coutu interjected saying it's the one of the two? We had two requests? The Town Administrator replied I only have one. Selectman Coutu replied I thought we had two red flags? Chairman Morin replied we only have one. The Town Administrator replied right now we have one. Selectman Coutu replied, okay. I have no problem with that. I'm good. Thank you sir. Appreciate it. Chairman Morin replied, excellent.

#### Assessing (5410 & Warrant Article)

Mr. Michaud, Town Assessor came forward and said, Good evening Board members. This is my silver anniversary budget presentation. Selectman Coutu said congratulations. Give him a \$5.00 gift certificate for McDonalds. Mr. Michaud went on to say, the Assessing budget, according to the budget books, represents about 2% of the operating budget. Going to the operating budget itself. Once you exclude the salary, The Town Administrator interjected saying, you're under tab 5400 for those who are looking for it. I can see you furiously looking. Relatively near the front of the book. Mr. Michaud continued saying, and so the operating budget for the Assessing Department outside of salary and benefits is relatively flat in concert with the Board's directive to come in at a flat budget outside of the 100's. I don't want to go past that right now. I want to ask if there's any questions to what I have allocated for in the budget?

Selectman Coutu was recognized and said when reviewing your budget this afternoon, Mr. Michaud, everything is minor. I told you I brought the scissors, but they were not directed at your department. On page five of Assessing the line item 215, would be the three digits that precede 000. So it's in the middle of the page Assessed Publications. I've had a problem with this line item for years and that in fact, I can remember several years ago cutting part of yours. How do we go from \$1,500 dollars' worth of publications down to \$417 dollars' worth of publications, back up \$1,700 dollars in publications? And because we didn't spend the money, we're going to continue floating the \$1,700 dollars. I know we're talking nickels and dimes when you compare it to the total budget, but somebody looking at this it jumps out at him.

Mr. Michaud replied so, I can't speak because I don't have the invoices for '18, '19 and '20, but what I do is I go through the invoices that I received in the prior year and I add them up. I'm not sure what the current year shows, but the Marshall and Swift Residential and Commercial Cost Manual's that narrative, that's at least \$800 dollars by my recollection. Selectman Coutu asked how come we only spent \$417 in 2020. Mr. Michaud responded it could have been that I had one. I can't answer that, sir. I don't have those invoices in front of me for that year. Selectman Coutu asked do you see how it jumps out? MR. Michaud replied, I do. Mr. Michaud replied I know I order them every year, I use them every year.

Selectman Coutu then said and on page, we'll come back to this one, on page six, Mr. Michaud. I don't want to keep everybody here all night because I have a habit of doing that. First item 234 on page six. You ever taken a trip outside of 2018? Nothing for 2019. Nothing for 2020. The budget is \$300.00 for 2021. We don't know if you're going anywhere and you just carried over the three hundred and you're not the only department head that's done this. You've tried to keep the budget at zero percent as close to zero as possible. So the easy way to do that obviously is to always just carry a number over. Do you need the three hundred dollars? Do you really think you're going to spend three hundred dollars on lodging and with the coronavirus the way it is? And I can't speak for 2022. That's way out there. I understand that. But you see how 00 and then three hundred jumps out at you? Mr. Michaud replied I do sir. I do have a new deputy, assessor that came on board recently. Selectman Coutu said we've got to send him to a motel somewhere? Mr. Michaud replied, it's possible that an education seminar that he would be going to could be such that he would not be driving it back and forth. Selectman Coutu said, I'll give you the benefit on that one. The \$1,700 dollars. If I were to make a motion to cut \$300 dollars, ah to cut \$500 dollars from that account would that kill ya? For the publications. Mr. Michaud replied I would respond to the budget that is presented to me for the budget year when it is , when it is done sir. Selectman Coutu replied, I didn't understand that. To which Mr. Michaud responded, I would live within my means. Selectman Coutu replied, well I understand that. you'll have pretty much no choice. Selectman Coutu made a motion to cut \$500 dollars from 41525-410215-000 Assessing Publications from \$1700 to \$1200, a savings of \$500.

*This was seconded by Selectman Martin for discussion.* Selectman Coutu said, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. I've been this route before several times, as you know. Mr. Michaud did not intentionally inflate anything, I'm not accusing him of that. I'm looking at an \$895, 2018 budget, an increase by \$700 the following year. These are actual expenses to \$1506, a decrease the following year to \$417, a request, based on the \$417, I guess I don't know of \$1,700 an increase of \$1,100 and he just maintained that flow. I really, based on the numbers, don't see him exceeding maybe \$1200, \$1100, \$1200, \$1300 hundred at best. And I just thought that \$500 dollars was a reasonable number I think it's inflated. I wish we were talking thousands of dollars, but we're not. So I'm very conservative. \$Fire hundred here, five hundred there adds up to a thousand and so forth and so forth. I'm going to leave the Lodging number and I won't question that any further. I forgot that you had a new assessor and yes, indeed, he may have to go away for training, but we're talking about buying a couple of books here and a newspaper. That's my reasoning, Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said Mr. Michaud, so you said it's about \$800 dollars for the Marshall Swift. Mr. Michaud replied that is my recollection. Selectman Roy asked and that is that LexisNexis? Is that a subscription to LexisNexis? Mr. Michaud replied no. no. this is actually, Marshall and Swift is a national cost reporting....Selectman Roy interjected saying no, no, I'm talking about above, above that it says Union Leader/Lexus Law Publishing. Mr. Michaud replied, I'm sorry. So we get the revised supplemental RSA's. Selectman Roy replied, okay so it's not an actual. Mr. Michaud replied I don't get them for all the books. I just get them for the book dealing with assessing. Selectman Roy replied, so it's the hardcover. It's not the actual LexisNexis program. Mr. Michaud replied, that's correct. It's not the digital subscription. Selectman Roy replied, okay. Okay. And how much is it to, for supplements? Mr. Michaud replied, supplement, \$100. It is not significant. Chairman Morin asked Selectman Roy if she was all set. She was. The Chairman asked, do you have to buy all these publications for your new employee? Do you do that for every employee that comes in? Mr. Michaud replied, we share we share the Cost Manual and obviously we all share the RSA Supplement Book. The Chairman then said, anyone else? *Seeing none, all those in favor? Motion failed 2-2 with Selectman Roy and Chairman Morin opposed.*

Chairman Morin asked Selectman Coutu, do you have anything else sir? Selectman Coutu replied, not on Assessing. I'm fine with his budget. Mr. Michaud responded saying, thank you. And Steve, I'm not sure where the next piece is which is the 2022 Property Reassessment. This is the one where we have the offset from the capital reserve. We need to raise and appropriate and then have an offset. The Town Administrator said, it's in the front section of their book, it's page one and two, I believe. Selectman Roy added, they are numbered. The Town Administrator said page one and two of that section. Selectman Coutu asked his section? The Town Administrator replied of his section. Assessing Section. Page one and two. Mr. Michaud then said, okay, so we're required to do a reassessment at least once every five years. And the last one was 2017. The next one will be affective for 2022. And this is what I'm estimating, what the cost will be to reassess the entire town revalued to full market value as of April 1st 2022. I envision two contractors for this continuation of our public utility valuation contractor, Mr. Sansoucy and then going out to bid to a mass appraisal contractor for the remainder of the properties. Looking at whether other towns have been experiencing as far as cost and also reaching out to two contractors to get a swag of what might be. Adding up, what those would be the cost of mailing I'm estimating \$175,000 dollars request to add to this budget. We do have a capital reserve account set up for specifically for property re-evaluation, we have an excess of \$175,000. We actually have in excess of \$276,000 in that budget.

Selectman Coutu was recognized and said, Mr. Michaud, I can remember vaguely the discussion we had five years ago relative to the impact. Do you remember approximately what it was five years ago to reassess the town when we did it the last time? Mr. Michaud replied, when we did it, the last time we did much of it in-house. We had a mass appraisal contractor. We did much of the valuation ourselves in house. Selectman Coutu asked do you recollect what the cost was for the exterior? Other than Sansoucy...Mr. Michaud replied, it was significantly less because we did the project in-house. Selectman Coutu replied, right. But you don't remember. Mr. Michaud replied I don't, I don't have a recollection. Significantly less than \$175,000. Selectman Coutu said so you had sufficient staff? Your staff has an increase this year than it did five years ago? Mr. Michaud replied that's correct. Selectman Coutu then said okay, so we have the same staff, except one gentleman doesn't quite have the experience that Mike

had. Mr. Michaud replied, that's correct. He doesn't have the experience here. Selectman Coutu then said so you want to job the whole thing out. Mr. Michaud replied, I believe it is prudent for us to job the whole thing out. Selectman Coutu said I'm not I'm not arguing. I'm just confirming. The total cost is going to be you're estimating at \$175,000 and Sansoucy is separate. Mr. Michaud said Sansoucy's inclusive in there. Selectman Coutu said that's included. Mr. Michaud replied yes. it is included. Selectman Coutu then said and we have \$226,000 so we have more than enough to cover. You want our permission to request that we withdraw the money to do the full revaluation. The Town Administrator said we need to budget it in the budget and we need to up the revenues to reflect the monies coming. It will have a zero impact on the tax rate. Selectman Coutu said, I agree, I understand. I'm good Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make sure I got it. Selectman Martin made a motion seconded by Selectman Coutu to approve \$175,000 addition to 5410-252 with offsetting revenue from the capital reserve fund, for revaluation in the same amount of \$175,000. Carried 4-0.

Mr. Michaud then addressed the Board saying, I do have another item. It is an off budget request. I'm not sure what page in your book it is. Selectman Coutu asked, Hudson Logistics Center? Mr. Michaud replied that's correct. The Town Administrator added that'd be page four.

Mr. Michaud then explained, so this brings us to April 1, 2022. I don't know where this project will be, but I'm trying to anticipate that I'm going to have a highly specialized site or subdivision. Three significantly sized buildings that are nothing like any of the buildings we have in town, nor likely in New Hampshire. This isn't just sticks and bricks. We have what's called Fixture Law set out in Supreme Court law in New Hampshire. That when people build a building and then they build things within the building and attach them to the building, that those fixtures become part of, the real estate becomes so intertwined. And it's the Crown-Vantage decision in the city of Berlin paper mill. If we just hired Joe Blow assessor, appraiser, they're going to just value sticks and bricks. And we're going to miss significant percentages, significant percentages of potential value on this property. I can guarantee...I can't guarantee.... I would anticipate that future assessments on this property will be appealed. If they're not appealed we're probably too low. They play for keeps. I anticipate that we should be requesting to have an outside appraisal group for a multi-year project. It's going to take multiple years for this project to be complete if it, if it happens. I just want us to be ready to talk to Steve about it. And I just think it's in my opinion, it's prudent for us to be ready. Now, does that mean if money isn't there, that the Board isn't, can't make a decision to allocate money to hire an appraiser, appraisal group? No, it doesn't mean that. But I'm just trying to show the Board that I'm trying to anticipate that for all that Hillwood is telling us that this property is going to be worth, that's not going to hold up in court. It's our job to defend our value. And that's why I that's why I'm asking. Why \$35,000? Well, currently we're paying \$18,000 dollars a year for the public utility valuation, but our appraiser has already built up that database over the last 20 plus years. This is going to be someone that's going to build from the ground up. And and I just think if we're going to go to trial, we're going to come up with a value. We want to bring the biggest knife we can because they sure as heck are the biggest, sharpest knife.

Selectman Coutu was recognized and said in evaluating your budget, Mr. Michaud, this is the page that you just are asserting to you see what I wrote there? No. However, I am not a professional assessor. Never pretended to be. Never interfered with your job and for the most part, very supportive of you and your staff and what you do. You almost got me there. I sat down this afternoon as I do every budget and try to assess what is realistic and what isn't. In this case, I remember going with the Town Administrator to Londonderry and going looking going to look at DFW Web building. Before I get into that, let me just say this. You've appraised that property, the value of the land. There are considerations about the land being open space, and they're entitled to a tax break as a result of that, what's on the land? There's a few buildings. They're all being torn down. We have a clubhouse that might be worth a couple of hundred thousand. We have another outbuilding for the maintenance equipment. That's probably worth another \$60,000 at best. I'm very familiar with that golf course. I'm 77. Played there since I was 17. First person to give me lessons was Phil Friel told me how bad I was and helped me out greatly. He was a mentor and as has as a result, a good friend, him and his wife. I was thinking, going back to the so, I figured we can come close on the land. Land's not that difficult to estimate the value, but I'm thinking we could do this in-house and I'm not done with that statement. So I said we take the value that they appraise in

Londonderry. We know it's only what was it? Three story, Steve? The Town Administrator replied two stories. Selectman Coutu then said, it doesn't reach the height, but it's approximately the same size. So I'm thinking take the value of the building. If we're going four stories, multiply it by four. But you can't charge more for the hanging space than you can for the basement space. That just dawned on me because, as you said, Mr. Michaud, the basement's going to contain the mechanics of all the equipment. The top is just storage space, so the value is a little less. So I'm thinking how easy it would be to estimate this in-house without paying somebody \$30,000. Listening to you, Mr. Michaud, I was so wrong. We need to hire a professional to do it. So I am going to vote to support it. And thank you for your explanation. That's why we pay you a little bit of money. Chairman Morin said glad he's back? Selectman Martin replied you need to go for an ice cream or something? Selectman Coutu jokingly said, Mr. Michaud you owe me an ice cream. Chairman Morin asked Mr. Michaud, you all set? Anything you want to add to Selectman Coutu's comments? Mr. Michaud replied, No, I thank you.

Seeing no further comments from the Board, the Town Administrator said, typically, someone would make a motion, if you would like to do something with it. Selectman Roy asked, what line, what line would we be adding it to? The Town Administrator replied 5410-252. Selectman Coutu said 5410-252 to add \$35,000 to it. That would be the motion. Selectman Martin seconded the motion. Carried 4-0. Selectman Coutu said, I can't believe I made that motion, but I did. You're welcome Jim.

The Town Administrator then said, he has one warrant article. Mr. Michaud added, two more items. The capital reserve fund request for a warrant article to continue the \$15,000 to really plan for the next reevaluation in 2027. Selectman Coutu added that should be ongoing so you don't deplete it. What's the line item on that, Steve? The Town Administrator replied, it's a warrant article, so it would just go to the warrant. Selectman Roy asked which warrant article? Which one? Selectman Martin replied, F. The Town Administrator then said, as you recall, a few years back, we were forced to put all the funding for the capital reserve funds on warrants. In the "olden days" we would put them in the budget, but we can't do that anymore. They got to be explicit enough on the warrant. Selectman Coutu asked we're not recommending any, we're allowing to be placed on the ballot? The Town Administrator replied at this point time he was here to answer any questions if you had any. At the end, as we get through the other departments, you can go through the warrant and decide what you like to forward and not forward. Chairman Morin then added and it's possible if we can get this tied up tonight to get to the Budget Committee, that would be a good thing. Just so everybody is aware. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Michaud then said, I ran some numbers on veterans credit warrant articles. Did you want that tonight? You want me to send that in through Steve? You want me to? Selectman Coutu asked on what? To which the Town Administrator replied there's two articles that you got this evening article. Article M and Article N. They have to do with Veterans Tax Credits and Disabled Veterans Tax Credits. What he's saying is....Selectman Roy interjected saying do you want the tax? Is it the same that you sent me on that last year? Mr. Michaud replied, it is. Selectman Roy replied I mean, I have it I don't have the letter you sent me, but I have the.....Selectman Coutu interjected saying well it be interesting to know what the impact is. Total impact.

Mr. Michaud went on to say so, so currently we have a 1,086 veterans. Composed of All Veterans and the, we'll say, Regular Veterans, and that's currently \$543,000 in tax credits. That increases our rate. Right, because we pay for our own credit, it is like a balloon, you just push it this way. Now, the proposal is to raise it by one hundred dollars. So it'd be a \$600 dollar veterans tax credit. That would be an additional \$108,600. \$108,600 additional in tax credit. Selectman Coutu said \$651,800. Selectman Roy said total. Mr. Michaud replied that's correct. And Steve, I estimated that's three and a half cents. So you can take one away divide it by thirty one thousand. The Town Administrator replied, that's correct. Mr. Michaud went on to say about three and a half cents to go from \$500 to \$600 on our additional existing load of Veteran's Credits.

The Disabled Veterans Credit, where 55 of them currently at \$2,000 apiece, I'm sorry, yeah, \$2,000 dollars apiece, that's \$110,000 in Disabled Veteran Tax Credit. If you move it up to \$3,000, the max is \$4,000, if you move it up to \$3,000, we get up to \$165,000 total Disabled Veteran Tax Credit, a differential of \$55,000. That's about 1.78 cents. So all told, 5.3. cents. Five cents between both combined. It's about

\$15.00 on the average assessed value home increase attributable to those combined. Selectman Coutu then said and we don't know how many more are going to come out of the woodwork. Mr. Michaud said, well, I mean...The Town Administrator interjected saying, people come, people go, other people move. Mr. Michaud added there have not been significant movement beyond when we adopted the All Veterans Tax Credit.

Chairman Morin asked, any questions while he's here? Seeing none, that's all you have sir. Thank you very much.

Police (5610-5673 & Warrant Article)

Chairman Morin recognized Chief Avery who said, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, members of the Board. Before I get going, I'd like to obviously thank my staff, Sherrie Kimball, Captain Dionne, Captain Cayot and Captain Bianchi for an outstanding job during this budget process. Did things a little bit differently this time. The three captains got together and worked on the budget. And I worked on it with my staff, with Sherrie Kimball. And then we all met together and combined we put our budget together. This gave the three captains a lot of responsibility, I will say, and they learned a lot about the budget inside and out from the beginning to the end. And so the three of you in the back of the room, I really appreciate your hard work. They did a tremendous job.

Before I get into my budget, I would like to make a statement on behalf of the men and women of the Hudson Police Department. As everybody knows in Hudson, this has been a very difficult year for law enforcement. In fact, the hardest year in law enforcement and I've seen in my almost 28 years of service the hatred and lack of respect for the men and women that protect the great citizens of the United States is shameful. Let there be no doubt that some police officers throughout the country make bad decisions. But I can assure the residents of Hudson, I am damn proud to be the Chief of Police of the men and women of the Hudson Police Department. Men and women serve this community with dignity. They carry out their duties and responsibilities with the utmost compassion and, more importantly, integrity. I want to publicly recognize and thank each and every member of the Hudson Police Department, both sworn in civilian to make the Hudson Police Department one of the top agencies in the United States of America. Throughout the turmoil, my staff, top to bottom, has not wavered and continued to ensure the great citizens of Hudson are safe and treated with the utmost respect. Thank you.

Chief Avery then said, moving on to our our budget and I we'll start with Administration - 5610. The Town Administrator told the Board, that's page 19. Chief Avery continued saying, we did exactly what the direction we received from the Board we came in, I think the total cost and our overall operating budget was \$175.00 over. I do have a couple outside the budget requests and a warrant article to follow up in conclusion. And you'll see some of the areas that we cut in Administration. One area we cut in the Administration is Office Supplies. Why did we cut office supplies? Well, right now with discoveries, we are using less DVDs. A lot of it's done electronically, getting them off to the attorneys through email or secured email so we were able to cut some money there. And I'll be happy to take any questions on administration. Chairman Morin said, nothing Chief. Go ahead.

Chief Avery continued saying the next section is 5615 - Facility. Facility obviously, the the five of you Selectman McGrath is not here tonight, helped me out dramatically this year with giving me that money from the capital reserve account to fix a lot of our aging systems, our HVAC systems, both at the Kirby building, our fire suppression, along with a litany of other issues that we've come in contact with or had to deal with over the last couple of years here. One of the areas you'll see that we did increase in this section is our electricity. This is based solely off of our last few years usage. I don't want to go over, but we did raise it up \$3,500 dollars. Radio Repairs, you'll see a decrease of \$5,000. The \$5,000 dollars was shifted over to Emergency Management fund that Chief Buxton takes care of. The reason being where we are going to leave \$5,000 in there to make sure if we have any repairs to our portable radios or our mobile radios, that we will have some money to take care of it. But the overall radio infrastructure has been moved over to the Emergency Management under Chief Buxton. I'd be happy to take any questions at all under the Facility. Again, we upped 5615-322 Janitorial Supplies. This is obviously because of Covid-19

and making sure that we have enough supplies here for Dan Clark to keep our station clean.

Chief Avery asked, any questions? To which Selectman Coutu replied Chief item 208, page 25, I'm going to your explanation page as opposed to the total budget. I did a little research, not just a little an extensive amount of research on one point I wanted to bring to light to the Board of Selectmen.

You show here on Verizon Wireless, you're showing 12 cell phones at \$1,100 dollars a year each, correct? Chief Avery asked, which one are you referring to? Selectman Coutu replied very first one, Verizon Wireless Cellular #781451176. You're showing 12 of them at \$1,100 dollars for a total cost of \$13,200, correct? Chief Aver replied 12 of them for \$710. Selectman Coutu replied \$1,100 here in the book. Chief Avery replied, I don't have a ruler down, I'm sorry. Well, one of them is the air cards. So that was the air cards are 12 for \$640, yes \$1,100. Selectman Coutu went on to say above the air cards, \$1,100. Which is \$91.66 a month. That's what we're paying presently, per phone? Chief Avery replied, presently. Selectman Coutu went on to say, per phone, in the Police Department? To which Chie Avery replied, yes.

Selectman Coutu then asked, why are you a \$150 less than IT, but \$40.00 dollars more than a phone that we put, we gave to the Finance Office. Can you, why is there such a differential? Cell phones all over the place in this budget? I'm not... I'm just looking for an average. I can't find one. Chief Avery replied, we have a rep. I am assuming and I can't answer for all the departments that we all go through the same rep with Verizon. Selectman Coutu then said some 60 phones and we're as high as \$225 per phone in one department and down to \$50 dollars. Matter of fact, some phones at \$25.00 dollars a month in another department.

Selectman Roy said I guess I think this a answer for you, does everybody go through the same same vendor and the same representative? The Town Administrator replied, I'd have to check with the Fire Chief because, for example, he does the emergency management. I don't. I'm not entirely sure because sure. Selectman Coutu interjected saying it was always under my impression...Mr. Malizia continued saying he has lion's share of all the other phones for Inspection Services for all of that group. So I'd have to double check to see. Selectman Coutu then said I know when I was sitting in the chairs seat and I was off of a phone, I had to go to that guy, whoever he is. But he's somebody in town may not have an office in town, but. The Town Administrator said you get it through the Emergency Manager, which is through the chief, which is through Chief Buxton through that operation because that's how I get mine. Selectman Coutu said I understood that all phones went through them. Selectman Roy I was just curious. The Town Administrator said just off the top my head I don't know if it's the exact same. Selectman Coutu said I can understand why we've got 50, 60 cell phones and we're at a high of \$225 in one department it and we're at a low of \$25 dollars I believe in the the command staff of the Fire Department.

Chairman Morin asked, are you planning on making any changes tonight on the cell phone? It's not. We can have that information on Tuesday night. Selectman Coutu replied no, I can't sit here and tell the Chief we're only going to give you \$51.66. It doesn't make sense. I'm trying to point out I'm not going to ask to make any change on the cell phones anywhere. Maybe IT because I can't see paying \$225. Somebody better explain to \$225 a month for a cell phone. So I'll let it go. Chairman Morin then said so what we'll do is can we have an answer on that Tuesday night at our Selectmen's meeting. The Town Administrator asked, why is IT phone \$225? Selectman Coutu replied no, why are all phones, why aren't we do? Should be one vendor. Selectman Roy interjected saying should be one vendor. Selectman Coutu continued speaking saying we have 55 phones, you give us a package for 55 phones, same rate for every single one of them, period. That's it. Chief Avery replied, I don't know if our rate is going to be different because it's law enforcement. It's under the government rate. Selectman Coutu replied, the government rate is everybody that works for the Town of Hudson. Even I as a selectman, if I go to if I go to Verizon to get a phone because I'm a selectman, I get 15% off. I get the government rate. Chief Avery replied, correct, but we I believe that the town, the Police Department gets a better rate. Selectman Coutu replied, I was told no. Chief Avery replied, I would disagree because my personal flip phone for all of you out there, I still have a flip phone, that I can't get an upgrade to that every nine months, let's say, where our phones, the work phones, we can get an upgrade. It seems like it's every nine months we become eligible.



Selectman Roy said I think it's worth a discussion to see what the town is doing and if town wide we can get a better rate. Selectman Coutu replied, I'm fine with that. I just want to see if we can resolve for future years that should be able to get a better rate. And I want everybody to know that the Chief cause of flip phone, you know, the one that's on the wall, you think that he thinks that's a flip phone. Chairman Morin asked you all set with that sir? Selectman Coutu replied, I'm good as long as we have a discussion about it. Chairman Morin replied we'll have a Tuesday night. It's on the agenda. Chief, go ahead. Move on.

Chief Avery said, moving on to Communications which is 5620. The only change in this was to our Small Equipment, the UPS battery backups, and that's managed by IT. And that's a you can see a slight increase to our UPS battery backups. Selectman Coutu asked does SPOTS ever go up? Chief Avery replied SPOTS is hit or miss. So they do not, so far they haven't charged us. We keep that money in there. But at any time the state police can go ahead and charge us for the use of SPOTS. As long as I can remember, they've never charged us to. Do we go out and spend it? No, but we have it there just in case they do submit a bill.

Chief Avery explained, Sworn Personnel 5630. Here you'll see a couple changes. One is under 304 where we reduce the amount of gasoline by a thousand dollars. We looked at the overall gallons used. Simply not using it. Again, it's kind of hard because we've been shorthanded over the last few years and now that we have newer officers, they tended to drive more miles. I think we'll be absolutely fine by reducing it down to a few few gallons, if you will. It saved us a thousand dollars. Tires were increased because when we had budgeted for \$14,000 dollars, those tires were for the Chevy Impalas. The Ford Explorer tires are much more money. And we have also started a couple of years ago putting snow tires on all our vehicles in the winter for officer safety reasons.

Moving on to 5640 Investigations, Detective Division, the only real change in here was a small reduction in our Evidence Processing Equipment. We reduced it by \$200 dollars and then contractually we upped the uniform purchases. As you all know, we started our narcotics unit, we added another person back in that division.

Moving on to Animal Control, one small increase by \$150 dollars. And this was for Jana MacMillan's equipment that she uses. A lot of her equipment is old and aging and starting to break down. We added a little bit more money in there in case her traps are noose or what have you break down that we can replace it or fix it.

Seeing no questions from the Board, Chief Avery went on to Support Services Division. You see an increase of \$500 dollars to our Psychological Services. In the past, as you know, we spent less money for the exams and I was not satisfied with the exams I was receiving from one doctor. I had switched to Dr. Sawyer last year. These exams cost \$500 dollars an exam. And I have also implemented a new practice that all employees that enter and work for the Hudson Police Department will undergo, whether a civilian or a police officer will undergo a psychological exam prior to stepping forward in our building. So dispatchers are now going undergo having a psychological test. And if a candidate does not pass it, they will not be working with us. They are privy to a lot of information just as the police officers are. And my feeling is everybody should have to go be tested. Chairman Morin asked does this also include the training for everybody? Chief Avery replied nope. Chairman Morin asked you still going to continue that? Chief Avery replied training is under. You'll see that under the support services. Yeah. No, training is completely different. We are continuing, in fact, Chief Buxton and I talked last week the he has some new firefighters. I have some new police officers that need to go through the training. And I believe there's still some maybe some town hall of employees or public works. But we're going to try to get everybody through this training in the very near future. May have to have a couple because of Covid.

Chief Avery went on to say, I have nothing to change on the Crossing Guards. Police Prosecutor, nothing to change, 5673. And the next section is the IT Department, which, as you know, it director Lisa Nute manages for me. Chairman Morin asked all set? Any questions for the Chief on the budget? There were none.

### Police Department - Outside the Budget Requests

Chief Avery said, I have briefed all of the Board regarding Governor Sununu put together a commission on Law Enforcement, Accountability and Community Transparency. And this group came out with several recommendations for law enforcement over the last six months. And it kind of came to fruition in September. Fortunately for my command staff, we started looking at body cameras sometime in May or June, and Captain Bianchi was tasked with this. Captain Bianchi met with several vendors. And at the end of the day, the company that we're recommending going with is Body Worn Cameras by Utility. As I spoke to you, they have the best technology out there. I will not get into the specifics of their technology because there are several things that they do that other companies cannot do that are officers safety related. One thing I will say is if the Nashua Police Department is also looking at going to body worn cameras when this comes to fruition, the as the Nashua police officers and Hudson police officers, if we're working in each other's jurisdiction, we can actually watch live feeds from either my desk, the captain's desk, or in dispatchers on the dispatch center. This is a huge officer safety, especially dealing with a violent situation, could be a barricaded subject, could be a narcotics case going down. But again, the specifics about the officer's safety items at this company will provide us. I will keep to myself and I will be happy to answer to any of the Board members at another time.

One snafu that I got surprised by on Friday morning, Captain Bianchi entered my office and we had the pricing all set up and he got an email from our rep that we've been dealing with, that there was going to be a price change as of October 1st, which had already taken place and they didn't tell us. We were under the understanding of one price when we met with this group. And we are still in negotiations with with the company. So the exact price I don't have at this time, we won't know until we actually make the purchase. One of the things people should know is that we we're going to pay for the initial cost to the body cameras, out of our drug forfeiture account, which at our old price would have been 25% down on the total cost, which is \$373,085. So 25% down was \$93,271.25 would have been coming out of our drug forfeiture account. There are new proposed price increase is \$70,000 dollar increase, and I have a feeling all these vendors with body cameras are going to be doing the same thing because most agencies in the country are being forced to go to wear body cameras all of the time. As you know, the New Hampshire State Police has been mandated by the Governor and they are going to fund the State Police to get the cameras. So the exact pricing as I sit here today, it's kind of in limbo. I don't know whether to ask the four of you for the \$373,000 or, you know, if we were to break it down, it's going to go up pretty substantially. \$70,000 dollars.

Chairman Morin asked, where you're talking Nashua's looking to get these and if other departments in the area, because this is a mandate, can we do the purchasing power of everybody getting them together and get it cheaper? Chief Avery replied, absolutely. I tried that already and I was shot down quickly. They said it's not fair for if we were to do that. And then Litchfield PD, which is much smaller, comes in a later time, would spend more money and it wouldn't be fair to all of us. And he gave I think he said Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri, went and bought it and they're buying 2500. So all the pricing is exactly the same thing. I should say that the IT Department was heavily involved in this meeting with the reps and going over all the software and the behind the scenes issues that we will have to deal with as we move through this process. I highly recommend that we all wear body cameras every time we're on duty. I will be the first one if this is approved to put a body camera on my body. Chairman Morin then asked does this include all the software and everything you're going to need? Chief Avery replied, everything. This is soup to nuts. Selectman Roy asked, including storage? To which Chief Avery replied, including storage. Cloud storage. Selectman Roy asked is it cloud based? Chief Avery replied, yes, it is.

Selectman Coutu was recognized and said they just announced a \$70,000 dollar increase for October of 2020. We wouldn't be buying these at the very earliest. July one of 2021. Chief Avery replied not necessarily sir, because if this was approved in March, the budget was approved in March, I would take the drug forfeiture money and put that money down right away to make this purchase, to get these body cameras on them. In April, maybe the middle of April, beginning of May. Selectman Coutu then said we were dealing with an agent. I don't know if it's Lt. Bianchi was dealing with the agent to get a price. He got a price. It's \$373,085. Chief Avery replied, yes it is. Selectman Coutu replied but it's really \$443,085 because it's going up \$70,000 dollars. Chief Avery replied \$443,795. Yup. Captain Bianchi replied it all depends on what works out with the rep. Selectman Coutu replied what bothers me, Dave, is him going up

again between now and not him, the company going up again between now and next April 1<sup>st</sup>. Captain Bianchi replied that's one of our concerns as well. I did as him what happened, because we met with them on September 21<sup>st</sup> and there was no mention of this. And he's like they he told me they were not told that it was going up. And it went up on them, so if they do a yearly increase, that's the best thing I can try to ask him to find out with what regularity the company goes up. And that way we'll have a better idea if this is going to jump on us again. Selectman Coutu replied what scares me Lieutenant is, The Town Administrator interjected correcting Selectman Coutu. Captain Bianchi. Selectman Coutu said I'm sorry Captain. You've been there. We get you up there Captain Bianchi, I'm not averse to body cameras on. Highly respectful of the value of anyone from the police on down, wearing a body camera. More often than not, it'll save a person's career. And in our department, I really don't worry about that. Um. What concerns me is that this is a ripe market for cameras right now. Captain Bianchi replied right. The only problem with that is the Chief explained this company has technology in it that is head and shoulders above the other companies. Selectman Coutu replied, okay. I don't dispute that. I know you did the research. Captain Bianchi replied but what I'm saying is I don't know if you've had him explain to you what they actually are capable of. Selectman Coutu replied yes. we didn't do it in public. Captain Bianchi replied we're not doing that in public. Selectman Coutu replied I've the utmost of faith. But at what price? Where does it start? This is a ripe market. You know, what's a stop them between now and April 1<sup>st</sup> as we solidify a contract to say, oh, another \$70,000? And that's our concern. And that may you know, we may get approval for this now and we may end up scrapping it because they do that to us. Chief Avery replied we can't make this purchase and come under agreement until after the March vote. Until the operating budget is passed. I explained that to the head sales rep. We had two sales reps here that had a sales rep was this was explained in depth to them.

Chairman Morin asked you can't use your drug forfeiture money to to seal that price. Chief Avery replied I can, but I need to now pay an additional that first year, the first cost. I need to be able to pay \$69,953.43 for the next four years. That price comes out of FY2022 if we pay that in April. Chairman Morin replied, gotcha.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said so, we spoke. And I am also an advocate of the idea of body, the idea of a body camera. I think that what will happen well about 99.9% of the time, it will show police officers doing the right thing. Right? So conceptually, I hear about it. I share Selectman Coutu's concern that you know, as technology and competition increases, the price will go down one. And the other thing that I believe is that if there is a change in administration, there will be more opportunity for funding from other sources. Right? So I don't know if this is the right time to do this from a fiscal standpoint, not from a theological standpoint, but just from the money standpoint. I don't know that I'm prepared to support this right now.

Selectman Martin was recognized and said go ahead Roger. Selectman Coutu said I was going to pick up where she left off. Selectman Martin replied go ahead if you need to. Selectman Coutu then said, the administration would change on January 20<sup>th</sup>. So between then and April we may have some grant opportunities that we don't have available now. So I don't think that we're certainly not going to authorize him to fund it tonight. He needs to know whether or not we even want to go forward with it. Number one. I think he gets that. And then where's the ball from here? Where at what point does Dave get back in touch with them and say, we want a conceptual we don't want to conceptualize this, we want to firm this up, but we want a price that you're going to live with that we can live with. I'm of the opinion I should share your thought. Relative to the availability of funds. As a public servant, we are all public servants. I can't see any of us saying no to this request because of what's going on out there and because of the statistics, you might be a little shocked, but I would agree with you at least 99% more often than not, which would be 99 out of 100. We're going to find that the story isn't quite right. Take a look at the film. When you look at the film, it certainly shows a different picture. Where do we end with the price? What is it we're going to have because they know they're in demand right now? Number one. Number two, could we commit to executing an agreement with them, if he could use the drug forfeiture money up front, we certainly can't commit for the out years that has to be done by warrant article. And the out years would be how much a year? Chief Avery replied, no it wouldn't be done by a warrant article. I was requesting to just put it into my budget. The current price, which we first got was \$69,953.43 per year. Selectman Coutu asked, the down

payment. Chief Avery replied, no, I'm taking care of the down payment. Selectman Coutu asked, how much? Chief replied the initial down payment, which is 25% of the total cost was \$93,200.... Selectman Coutu interrupted saying that's gone up. It's a hundred and.... Chief Avery replied well if, if it goes up, if I can't get that negotiated back down, it will go to \$110,948.75. Selectman Coutu asked, can you take that out of drug forfeiture? Chief Avery replied yes I can. Selectman Coutu replied I know how much you have in there but so. All right. So, so we're going to do so we'd have \$333,000 which would be paid annually for how many years? Chief Avery replied \$332,846.25 over four years. So the first year payment I'll take care of and then looking for that money which that \$83,211.56 for the next four years.

Chairman Morin said I get two questions for you, sir. What is your mandatory date for this due to the governors? Chief Avery replied this is not mandatory based on that Law Enforcement Commission. It was recommended to all the other recommendations that they came out with this coalition, we are in compliance with because of CALEA and the work that these gentlemen, the rest of the staff do. This is one area which I'm quite nervous not having them. Chairman Morin replied, I agree and I support it. My next question is, what's the life, expense, expense? How long are these going to last? Chief Avery replied, unknown. So they during this five years, we get free replacement. One breaks, one gets damaged, they bring another one in. There's no cost to it. You have to re-up. The next police chief will have to re up this contract. Captain Bianchi replied okay, after three years we get all new cameras from this company, they said to part of that agreement is after three years, everyone gets a new one. Automatically. The first three years, you have the original one and then the three year mark, they swap them all out for new ones. Town Administrator asked, free? Captain Bianchi replied for free part of the contract.

Selectman Coutu asked, that includes any and all upgrades till then, because there's going to be upgrades continuously, especially if we're in the cloud. Chief Avery replied they do that themselves. Automatic. They take care of it. We come back into the building and these things are getting upgraded. Selectman Coutu then said, but I just don't want them to say, well. I've seen this done. All kinds of equipment, they say, well, yeah, we're going to give you new cameras, but we have a whole different lens. So we have to charge you the upgrade on the lens. Or, you know, they come up with some we leery. Chief Avery replied we read the fine print on this contract. We've all looked at and they could pop there could be some hidden expenses that I couldn't predict. Captain Bianchi replied right now they're saying this is what it is. You're going to get that camera soup to nuts, part of that contract at three years with no additional cost. That's what we were told.

The Town Administrator asked do you know if they have a non-appropriation clause, which typically means that after, say, the first year, you know, we put it in the budget, let's say the voters reject our budget for some reason and we have to go to default. So this money comes out. Do you know if there's a non-appropriation clause whereby we don't have the money, they get it back? Because that's typically what a non-appropriation is. Most of our lease purchases are signed that way. Doesn't necessarily mean it has to go back. But you have a clause that might allow you to do that. This Board could make a different decision to say we don't want to give them back. We're going to find the money in another part of our budget. But typically in a non-appropriation clause, when you're looking at something that's paid over a few years, you have that out-clause so that if for whatever reason, you needed to get out because the budget didn't pass or some other calamity happened, you'd be able to stop paying and give it back to the to the vendor.

Selectman Coutu then said, I just want the viewer out there to know, that this is not a toy we're talking about here. This is a very expensive piece of equipment. And we feel that in light of the current events around the country, this will protect not just the police officers, will protect the victim here to protect our citizenry. And we want to bring we want to keep our police department in the century that we're in. We don't want to fall behind everyone else and be the last ones on board. We want to be one of the first because we take pride in our police officers, we take pride and we have respect for them. And our citizenry has shown a love beyond measure from a lot of other communities and. Not necessarily in New Hampshire, but certainly south of the border, a lot more respect for our police officers because they are respectful of our citizens. Our citizens in turn, are respectful. I can't see the voters saying no to this. I'm willing to take a gamble. Chief Avery spoke up saying, sir, but my recommendation is not to do a warrant article on this. Selectman Coutu said, no, no. Chief Avery continued saying to put it into our budget. So my

fear is if the operational budget, total town's operation budget got voted down and I go into an agreement with Body Worn. Selectman Coutu replied the first payment isn't due til when? Chief Avery replied first payment will upon purchase, which would be, I would do it in April. Selectman Coutu said the next fiscal year. Chief Avery replied, it would be due next April, which would be in this fiscal year. The Town Administrator clarified saying April '22 which puts it in this fiscal year.

Selectman Coutu then asked how much time do we have to be able to buy these at this price? Did they lock a price and for a certain period of time yet? Captain Bianchi replied the quote ends December 22. Selectman Coutu replied so we buy them on December 21st. When's the first payment due? Chief Avery replied when I make that purchase. Selectman Coutu replied that's the down payment. The first payment. Chief Avery replied the first payment is the down payment. Mr. Malizia replied next December would be the second payment. Chief Avery said the next payment would be done December 21<sup>st</sup>. Selectman Coutu replied in the next fiscal year's budget. For '22. Chief Avery said this one. FY22. The Town Administrator said the budget we're talking about. Selectman Coutu replied and you're going to have to put in \$83,000 in the line. The Town Administrator correct. Chief Avery replied if that's the price, yes. The Town Administrator replied that's why if you have a non-appropriation clause you've at least got something to kind of give you some relief. Chief Avery then said, I will say we did get a little bit of hope that our salesman was going to go back to corporate if this thing was going to come to fruition and try to lock us back into that price. So it's not a done deal yet. It could be at this price, the first one. Selectman Coutu asked when do you think we're going to wrap? You can wrap something up to come back to us with something definitive? Chief Avery replied, I don't think I can do that until I can actually make that purchase sir. Because I legally can't make that purchase.....Selectman Coutu interjected saying You're not going to get a price until we make the purchase? Chief Avery replied, we have the price. Selectman Coutu replied we're sure. Chief Avery replied, I would guess if we don't this purchase by April, or by December that we're going to be paying this bottom number. The \$443,795. Selectman Coutu then said so there's still a chance we can get it at \$373,000? Is that what we're saying? Chief Avery replied there is an outside chance. To which Selectman Coutu asked when would we know? Chief Avery replied when we go and make the purchase. That's what we were told.

Selectman Roy said, I can't. Chairman Morin said, so basically they want us to buy them now and they'll give us the cheaper price. Chief Avery replied, they want these things out the door yesterday. Selectman Coutu said \$70,000 a year difference here. \$70,000 we don't have to burden our taxpayers. Chairman Morin replied, it's supply and demand. Selectman Roy said, that's my point. Chairman Morin said it's supply and demand. Selectman Roy said I think as there's more competition the price will go down. Selectman Martin was recognized and said you call them tomorrow morning. Say I'm ready to make a purchase. Give me a price. Chief Avery replied and that's good until December 21<sup>st</sup>. Captain Bianchi said, of next year. Chief Avery said, no, this December 21<sup>st</sup>. Captain Bianchi said no, that's when it expires. Selectman Coutu said but we don't know which number. Is it with the \$70,000 added or is this the price the \$373,000? Captain Bianchi replied, \$373,000 the quote was good until December of this year. Selectman Coutu replied \$70,000 in the taxpayers pocket. Chief Avery replied, agree. But I'm also fronting all that drug forfeiture money that's not taxpayer money. Chairman Morin replied and we got to make sure make sure he can pay that bill. That's the issue. Cuz if we could guarantee that we'd, I tell him to buy them tomorrow if he's got the money for the first payment, you know what I'm saying? Yeah, but it's that what are we going to do for the next three years? We've got to make sure that's. Selectman Coutu replied we can squeeze \$80,000 out of his budget. Chief Avery replied maybe. We'll start walking beats. Selectman Coutu replied we'll get more people married in Hudson, that's what we'll do.

Chief Avery went on to say, so that's where I'm at. I'm sorry that this was a curveball thrown to me at the last minute. Selectman Coutu replied, oh, okay, the money is a curveball, but we're fine with the down payment. You're taking that out of drug forfeiture. We're not going to burden the taxpayer with that. The taxpayer has to decide whether they're willing to continue the payment. So what avenue do we take? We have to make, we're either gonna do it or we're not gonna do it. It's hard to do it without the voters allowing you. Captain Bianchi said, that's the unknown. Selectman Roy spoke up saying, I just again, I'll say I don't I don't believe the time is right. Selectman Coutu said no the time wasn't right. Chairman Morin said supply in demand. Selectman Coutu continued saying what is the deficit? What is the consequence of pushing this out another full year? Chief Avery replied, nothing. Nothing at all. Selectman Coutu went

on to say except a price increase. Chief Avery said probably a price increase. Selectman Roy interjected saying or a price drop. if there's so, it's because competition can increase in that year too. Chief Avery replied but the cost of storage is never going to come down. Selectman Roy replied, right. But the cost of the equipment could. Chief Avery replied I don't. It could. It absolutely could. Selectman Roy then said and I also think, again, if there's a change in administration, that there'll be other funding opportunities there other than the local taxpayer dollars. Chief Avery replied for officer safety reasons. I don't want to put this off, quite frankly. We've had four Nashua cops in the last month brutally assaulted. Brutally assaulted and nobody knew, thankfully, it was a good Samaritan at one of them that called the station and said two Nashua cops being beat up, you better send the troops. The technology with this camera would have alerted all of us and the lieutenants and the other patrolmen that we have an officer down. Again, I'm not going to get into the details of how

Selectman Coutu then said, in the event that, year one, when the first, not the first payment, we'll say the second payment, so you can catch up to me quickly on this. Um, can we use, if there were a lack of funding, could we use more drug forfeiture money? Chief Avery replied we could. We're trying to confiscate \$115,000 as we speak. We could. Selectman Coutu replied because I'm thinking we are generating revenue. I don't like it cuz that means the dealers are still out there and, you know, near our community. I don't like it, but if it's there and it's available. I don't want to get us into buying with drug forfeiture money, but at the same time I want to do what is going to be in the best interests of our police officers. Chairman Morin asked, do you have anything that you want to use that drug money for other than the cameras? Chief Avery replied yeah, we've been we've been spending it down. Yep. Mr. Malizia then said, but I think your question is prospective. Do you have anything right in the immediate future, that you need to spend their money? Chief Avery replied no. no big ticket items. Selectman Coutu said so we could use the money for some of the things we talked about.

At this time Selectman Martin spoke up saying, so let me get on the same page. How much do you need in a 2022 budget to cover the second year? Selectman Coutu replied approximately \$83,000. Selectman Martin replied I'll make that motion. To which Chairman Morin replied well, let's figure out how we're going to do this. Is he going to purchase them with his money and then have the drug money for a backup in case this doesn't pass? Or are we just going to wait? That's that's what we need to know before we do any votes. Selectman Roy then said and is this one multi-year contract or is this you know what I mean? Selectman Coutu said once it gets in the budget. Selectman Roy replied so we would have to appropriate the entire amount, correct? Chairman Morin said that's why I want to know how we're gonna do it. Selectman Coutu replied, once it's in the budget, it stays in the budget. The Town Administrator replied no, no, no. You'd have to appropriate the year's payment. So when I say the years payment he's making a down payment, whatever the next regular payment is, is what you have to appropriate into this budget. And the corresponding budget would have the same payment. Selectman Coutu spoke up saying, but here's the caveat if the budget is denied.....Selectman Roy interjected saying, oh, yeah, I understand. Selectman Coutu continued speaking saying another \$83,000 out of drug forfeiture to cover that first payment. Chief Avery replied if we go that route, it would be I'm thinking we would get it for \$69,952. To which Selectman Coutu asked, ok, do you have a problem with that? Chief Avery replied, I don't.

Chairman Morin asked any, any other....I know you've got a motion Selectman Martin, just this is kind of a little different than what you said. Selectman Coutu replied but we need to know, is the exact dollar amount or an amount not to exceed. Or we can't do it that way? It's whatever we're going to put in a budget. We don't want to fluff it out beyond what we really need. Chairman Morin then said, and to Selectman Coutu's point, do you really think we're going to get the cheaper price if we say, get it with the drug money and then the next year the drug money will be back up, but we try to put it in the budget. Are you gonna get it for that price? Chief Avery replied, yes. Chairman Morin replied you are. Selectman Coutu then said you call them tomorrow you're gonna get it for \$373,000? Chief Avery replied we make that purchase tomorrow we get it.....Selectman Coutu interjected saying we so figure out what you're going to put down for a down payment. Tell us how much you're going to need for the next four years. Chief Avery replied, already have it. Selectman Coutu asked, alright, so how much do you need? Chief Avery replied \$69,953.43. The Town Administrator asked, can you just round that off? That just drives me crazy. Members were speaking over each other, inaudible and someone said \$70,000. Selectman Martin then said that's my motion Mr. Chairman. Selectman Coutu said, second the motion. Chairman Morin said I

didn't get it Selectman Martin, sorry. Go ahead.

*Selectman Martin made a motion to add \$70,000 to the budget but what line, Steve? The Town Administrator replied, I'm not sure what the Chief was planning on doing. Are you sticking it in patrol, do you think? Selectman Coutu said should be under patrol. The Town Administrator replied it can go anywhere. So under support services, Mr. Malizia, if you go down to small equipment...Selectman Coutu asked, page number? Mr. Malizia replied he's on page 44, Police Support Services in his section. It's going to be 5671 Small Equipment 403. Selectman Coutu said and we're gonna add seventy? The Town Administrator replied \$70,000 even just to kind of make it simple. Selectman Coutu asked so that would be \$82,623? The Town Administrator replied that would be correct, sir.*

Chairman Morin then said I didn't catch a second? Selectman Coutu said, I did. Selectman Morin then said Now, let me just clarify. So it's in record. You're going to use drug money this year. And if this fails to pass the vote, you are going to commit to use drug money next year for that next payment? Chief Avery replied Yes, I will. Chairman Morin asked the Board, any further discussion? Selectman Roy was recognized and said I again, as much as I support the idea of body cameras, I just don't fiscally think this is the right time. So I can't support the motion. Chairman Morin asked, any other discussion? Motion carried 3-1 with Selectman Roy in opposition. Selectman Coutu then said to Selectman Roy, and I want you to know I respect and understand your position at this time. My biggest fear is the price is just going to keep going up. Selectman Roy replied, and I'm not sure I share that fear. Chairman Morin said, and again, I understand where you're coming from too, but what they're going through these days and where these cameras have come in handy to to prove one way or the other.

Chairman Morin excused the Chief and addressed the audience saying, Chief, will be right back. Taking just a quick second here. Selectman Roy asked what's his warrant article letter? The Town Administrator replied the letter would be I, but he has one more outside the budget request for Taser replacement that would be on page five. Selectman Coutu asked the what replacement? Selectman Roy replied Taser. The Town Administrator then said so when he comes back, he can speak to it. But I just wanted to get you on the right page, page five.

Chairman Morin addressed Captain Bianchi saying what I understand and if this went through, you're going to make that call tomorrow. Is that how this is all going to happen? Captain Bianchi replied well, we do have a little bit of time to negotiate, but right now, the call that we got is good until December 21st. And by doing that now, that puts the next payment into fiscal year 22 budget.

Selectman Coutu addressed Captain Bianchi saying, Captain Bianchi, I'm not trying to put you on the spot. Both want to know what I had at the turkey farm. That's the true story. We won an award together. We were he was in the Hudson Police Department and I was in Woodstock Police Department. We were both there, got an award. He got it for twiddling their thumbs. I did something more serious. The Town Administrator replied, yeah you watched him. Selectman Coutu went on to say, Captain on a serious note, in terms of the contract for for the pagers, ah for the cameras. We have a quote, \$373,085 till December 21<sup>st</sup> or whatever the date. Captain Bianchi replied 22<sup>nd</sup> I was told by the rep. Selectman Coutu said when you were just asked by the Chairman you said well, negotiate. What are we negotiate without negotiating price? Not negotiating price. They told us it was firmed and up. At this point Chief Avery had returned to the room and said the negotiation with the down payment. This was 30% down at first. We were able to get it down to 25% down. So there is a little negotiation with how much you front them with the purchase price. Selectman Coutu said but they agreed to take 25%. Chief Avery replied they did. Captain Bianchi added and the rep said something to me about if we buy before December 22<sup>nd</sup> he can put the actual lock us in that pricing, but we wouldn't have to buy until the beginning of next year. I'm going to deal with this to. Chief Avery added, I'm going to deal with this tomorrow. Selectman Coutu said but we still need money in the budget anyway regardless. The Town Administrator replied that we need to do. Selectman Coutu said come back when we have the final numbers. Chairman Morin said I would just tomorrow make that call and get it done. Selectman Coutu added they might have to make an appointment and spend some time, but the sooner the better. Thanks. Chief Avery added and IT is ready to roll with this.

Chief Avery went on to say, so the next outside the budget, I'm sorry about that, curveball. Not what I anticipated coming in here tonight. Is the purchase and replacement of our Taser weapon systems. Unfortunately, Axon, which is the Taser company, and they have the entire market on the Tasers. They have a five year warranty on our Tasers after five years two things could happen. Well, two things will happen. One is we lose our ten million dollar liability policy with Taser that they if we were to have a lawsuit based on a Taser deployment or, God forbid, a wrongful death suit, they would come out here. They would send out an attorney and help us, help the town, help the Police Department defend the case. With these coming to the end of shelf-life, the other issue is they have been proven to fail twice as often. The contract or these Tasers are due to come to the end of shelf-life in November of 2021. So we have an entire another year to go before these Tasers come to the end of shelf life and with our insurance policy.

So I'm coming before the Board. The total cost for the Tasers are \$185,579.64. And that is over a five year, five year contract. And again, the first year would be a, you know, a \$30,000 dollar payment for Mr. Malizia. And the first year is less because we're going to be trading in our old Tasers. So we got a less price for the first year. The remaining four years would be \$38,880 dollars to purchase the Tasers. These Taser systems come with a lot more technology than our current ones do. They come with a lot more training for our officers to include virtual training tools. They are what they are. We can't work without our Tasers because obviously it saves lives. Instead of us using deadly force, we can use these.

Selectman Roy said, so I just want to make sure I heard you right. The life cycle of a Taser is about five years. Chief Avery replied, yes. Selectman Roy then asked and so I don't really know a lot about them. So if you fire it, can you reload it or do you have to turn it in and get another one? Chief Avery replied, if you fire it with another cartridge. We carry two cartridges with us. Selectman Roy replied, okay. Chief Avery went on to say, the good thing about the the new Taser seven platform, they come with all the training cartridges and cartridges are all included in it. And if you were to go to Support Services and I don't know what page Steve, Mr. Malizia mentioned it was. Under 403. 5671-403. We have spare, they're going to give a spare Tasers with this. It's it's the Cadillac. You know, you need these, you need these Tasers in officers hands every day

Chairman Morin then said with with the amount of equipment that it's beginning to be put on you guys, you think it's a wise move to start putting a fund together that we put money into every single year instead of you coming to us. Selectman Roy asked like a capital reserve? Chairman Morin replied right, exactly. Like what they do for the fire apparatus, things like that. Because you guys are getting up there and you need this stuff. Chief Avery replied, we do with our vets and we have a weaponry system. So our new replacement of our bulletproof vests, we have a we have a fund in there with money in there. I don't know what the exact balances of that right now and for to replace our weaponry, but the all the other equipment, we do not. Selectman Roy asked so that the Tasers can be covered under the weaponry? Chief Avery replied that's not how the warrant was drafted. We looked at that already. Selectman Coutu asked you can't put it under weaponry? You can't add it? Chief Avery replied, we were told no, we can't add it. Mr. Malizia replied if you add something, you have to amend it a town meeting. I believe you need at least a 3/5 vote, which is a difficult no. You need a 2/3 vote, pardon me, to change the purpose of a capital reserve fund. Selectman Roy then said but I agree with the Chairman that there should be some kind of revolving fund to replace that type. Chief Avery replied we could put in there, we could list all our other equipment. And just keep it there, and I don't know how much money you would recommend a year to put into it. Chairman Morin replied, no, but we need to look into that. I think these guys getting to spend now on equipment that it's being required of you. We need to make sure that you can get it. We don't have to worry about the voters, you know what I mean? Chief Avery replied, Captain Dionne just mentioned it's a great point, our bulletproof shield. I mean, we've had them...Selectman Coutu interjected saying we're talking considerable money. If you just look at this request here, \$185,000, it's only going to last about five years.. Divide that by five. That's \$35,000 a year just to cover that in a Capital Reserve fund. You have vests. you have weapons. Mr. Malizia said, vets he's got a fund for and guns he's got a fund for. Chief Avery replied, that's it. Selectman Coutu said so we need to incorporate it into one lump sum. Chief Avery said the vests are not for new officers. Those are only replacements.



Selectman Coutu went on to say, so, if I might Mr. Chairman, Axon is a distributor, am I correct? They're not the manufacturer? Chief Avery replied, no, they manufacture the Taser weapon system. Selectman Coutu replied so they own Taser. And now a couple of things you're going to have to educate me. I heard you talk about cartridges. I know they have cartridges, however. I've seen. Not personally, on television. A police officer take out a Taser and not reload and hit somebody twice. Chief Avery replied yes. so if the prongs hit the person, we call it a drive stun so that the prongs are in the person, the cartridge still connected to our, to our thing, as long as the prongs are still in we can flip the switch and fire at it again. And it would give them the shock. Or we could shoot them, remove the cartridge and then move up and drive stun them to another area or keep the cartridge on and drive stun them to another area. Selectman Coutu asked with the same cartridge? Chief Avery replied with the same cartridge in. The spent cartridge. Selectman Coutu replied just seemed like shoot once and get rid of a cartridge. I know that it's a little more involved in that and I don't want to get into more detail, but that's good enough. So ,what you're saying to me is that Axon is the only company in the United States that provides a Taser. Can we buy them outside of the country? I'm not saying that they're better. Chief Avery replied, Yeah, this is the only company I am aware of, sir, that deals with Tasers. Every police department that I know throughout this area. Selectman Coutu replied oh come on, China must make them and sell them on Amazon. Chief Avery replied they sell stun guns and all other kinds of things. But for law enforcement, Taser is the weaponry. I am not a fan of Axon. Their customer service is terrible. We try to reach out to them constantly and it takes us days on end to get a rep to get in touch with us. If I could find another vendor that had the same weaponry system as Axon, I would change today. Selectman Coutu asked is that the problem, that because they're the only ones in the country, they just don't have enough support staff? Chief Avery replied, I'm not sure what it is, but I know that they sell body cameras. And you're not hearing me present Axon for a body camera in here.

Selectman Coutu asked how long have we used Tasers? To which Chief Avery replied, since I was a detective sergeant when we received them, so somewhere between 2000 and 2004. Selectman Coutu asked, to your recollection, not holding you to it, to your recollection or the support of any of your staff, have you ever had an incident where a Taser misfired or became problematic beyond misfiring? There are other issues that can happen with a Taser. Chief Avery replied yes. We've had batteries that we can test our batteries on. But as far as us pulling the trigger at a suspect and trying to Taser him, no, no, I've never had an issue with that. We have had issues because of clothing, heavy clothing that the weapon that the probes don't stick. Selectman Coutu replied well, they'll go in, but they pop right out. And it depends on layers. You can have two layers of shirts can affect it, especially if they're both flannel. Chief Avery replied in the wintertime and now they change it up the length of the prongs. That should not be an issue anymore. Selectman Coutu replied I'm good so far. Mr. Chairman, I don't know what the you're asking us to put as an? Chief Avery replied as an outside the budget request. Chairman Morin then said this is going to be in your budget. It won't be a item you want this put in your budget? Chief Avery replied yes. Selectman Coutu said 3880 under 844-403? Mr. Malizia asked do you want it under the same support services? Chief Avery replied so the first, for this year will be the \$30,059 dollars.... \$30,100 dollars. Selectman Coutu asked, \$30,100? To which Chief Avery and Mr. Malizia replied yes. Selectman Coutu then said, All right. One more time. The existing Tasers are expiring next year? Chief Avery replied November of 2021. Selectman Coutu made a motion to add \$30,100 dollars on 4210-5671, don't have my glasses, 403-000. Selectman Roy seconded this. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Morin then said, I just want to Chief, if you could take a look at see if we can start a fund or for an equipment fund. Chief Avery replied yes I will. I will get with Mr. Malizia.

Chief Avery addressed the Board saying, last item I have is my is a warrant article for your recollection is on the building expansion from last year, you warrant failed at the town meeting. We were close. I think we're 210 votes short of our needed vote. We have cut this budget down a little bit. And when I say a little bit, you all have helped with that. We replaced we put in the emergency exit door to dispatch, so we saved ourselves \$32,000 there off of this cost. In a meeting with Mr. Malizia I also took off the two carpools that we had proposed for last year. We know during Covid and people are struggling financially that we're trying to save the town some money, even with the inflation of building, building materials and the cost of construction going up, we are proposing this year to come in at a \$4.8 million warrant for the building expansion.

Just to kind of reiterate what we went over last year, the key areas of the expansion are going to include the administration area, the dispatcher, breakroom, legal division, evidence room, roll call/emergency operations center. And as we all know, we utilize that this year. Computer forensics, our narcotics unit and detective division, the crime scene lab, women's locker room. I currently now have one more locker left for a female. Increase overall storage within the agency. The Ann Seabury Room will be broken up into three offices, as well as having room for the public to meet. It will give us additional security inside the building and a secure rear parking lot. One other thing to note is we need to add a gender neutral bathroom within the confines of the police department and that will be included in these plans. So pretty much the same plans. We're going to take out the carports. We've already taken care of the emergency exit for the dispatch center. And here we are at \$4.8 million.

Selectman Coutu said, dispatch center you did what? Chief Avery replied we put in an emergency exit door. Selectman Coutu replied okay it's done. Chief Avery replied done. Mr. Malizia said we already did that. Selectman Coutu replied ok just want to make sure. I haven't seen it. Chief Avery replied, did it immediately.

Selectman Coutu then asked Captain Cayot, this your bailiwick? This your bailiwick, this addition? Captain Cayot, who was in the audience replied, I'm sorry, and came forward. Selectman Coutu said building expansion, this is your baby? Captain Cayot laughed and said yes. Selectman Coutu replied I'm going to make respectful recommendation. I'm very disheartened last year that this didn't pass, but it was close, willing to give it one more shot like we did the fire station, though we might have given that a couple more shots. I would ask that we look at that promo piece you made and change it considerably. It was too long. Too much fluff. And I think that was problematic for a lot of people because they told me so. and I was waiting to see if this is going to come back this year rather than be critical, because I'm not critiquing. You did an outstanding job, but it was too long, too confusing. I watched it three or four times after I heard this three or four times. I should look at it one more time and see what they're talking about. And then I watch it a second time, a third time, and I can see what they were talking about. So I would be more than willing to volunteer my time to work with you to redo it and get to just the salient points. And now that we're going to have the carport eliminated, which breaks my heart, I like that quick response, but that doesn't mean something might not come up between now and then that we might be able to take care of that. So if you if you're willing, I won't be insulted if you say no. Rog. I don't want you to tell me how to do it. I don't want to be on camera. I want you to do it. He did an outstanding job. Just want to get rid of the fluff salient points and sell it straight. Captain Cayot replied if that's something you heard. I think that's absolutely something we could do. Selectman Coutu replied okay, I'm willing to do it with you?

Selectman Roy spoke up saying, can I ask a question about removing the carport? Is that the carport where all the cars are going to be parked under? Chief Avery replied yes. we're trying to save money. Selectman Roy replied and I understand that. I just thought that that was sort of an important piece of it. Chief Avery replied it was a very important piece to us. And we understand that. And that might be a future purchase, either drug forfeiture money or what have you in the near future to add on. Selectman Coutu asked what was the cost of that? Chief Avery replied \$170,000 I believe, for each. Selectman Coutu said my fundraising brain is going in, who can I hit for \$170,000. It's a lot of money. Selectman Roy added your argument made sense that you it reduced time to get in the car and get out, particularly in the winter. The Town Administrator added but it's important to probably keep it under five million. You really I think if you had a way with what you're doing, you're not doing this maybe get kicked down the road later. Selectman Coutu said there's a difference on the building over here in the corner of the fire department. Keep it under a million. Remember Rick Maddox keep it under a million the million dollar mark. They're not gonna do it and they did it.

Chairman Morin asked, any other questions for the Chief on the police station addition? Seeing none, anything else, sir? To which Chief Avery replied, no, thank you very much for your time, appreciate it.

Selectman Martin said thank you guys. And as you get the new Tasers, we can get hem tested on Roger. I want to see it go off and then I want to see it again. Selectman Coutu laughed and said I want to know, more importantly can it penetrate Selectman Martin? Selectman Martin laughed saying, I got body armor.

Recreation (5810-5839)

Recreation Director Chrissy Peterson was recognized. Chairman Morin said, first question I have for you, did you put that paint job in the budget? Ms. Peterson replied you know, I considered it but I didn't know if it would pass.

Selectman Coutu then said, can I ask a question, while she's here? I'm asking the Board too because we own the building. The Community Center building, can we make that a project? The outside walls, murals? Selectman Roy replied, murals, I think that's a great idea. Selectman Coutu continued saying murals, children activities, soccer I looked at it the other night after the meeting and I said, this is the Recreation building. We've got it outright. Why don't we have that wall looking nice? Have the kids tackle that project. See if we can get some from Alvirne. Or a middle school kids project. (Lots of talking over each other). Chairman Morin then said, actually with that, the paint job center pictures for paint job for her vehicle the other day that said Park Rec. And it was pretty. Selectman Roy laughed saying, from like the TV show Parks and Rec? Selectman Coutu joked saying we can do the car too. Chairman Morin said the kids can spray paint the car. Selectman Couth then said I would like somehow or another as an activity, we can fund it, you know, somewhere. I mean even if we have to do something in the budget, I really would love to see that building done up in the recreation theme. Leave the front alone because the sign up and top is really nice. Maybe for a couple of you might come up with something around the windows in the front, but the sides, those bare walls would look so much nicer. Chairman Morin said you're on. Take care of it and run with it. Ms. Peterson said I think that's a great idea. I love it. Thank you for the idea, I love it. Selectman Coutu replied you're welcome.

Ms. Peterson then began her budget presentation saying, Okay, well, thank you for what is my first opportunity ever to present you with the Recreation Department FY22 budget. Per your request I am submitting a level funding budget on the operational side, slightly under by half a percent and I do not have any additional request items. So I'm happy to answer any questions.

Selectman Coutu was recognized and said have you given a thought to the next year in terms of what you think, of course, that's an unfair question. Forget it. I was going to talk about what you think the response will be for the summer program. We don't know where this virus is going, so we have to anticipate anything. On a normal we could say, you think it's going to go up, it's going to go down? It's not fair. OK, I'm Good. The Town Administrator said I believe we presume that we are going to get back to a normal...but we don't know so she's done the best she can to make sure we what we would consider to be a regular year. But we don't know.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said, I just have a question. It's actually not about this year's budget, about the current one. The kitchen renovation, has that gone forward at all? I know you were waiting back. Ms. Peterson replied, Yes, I actually just had another contractor come in and do a estimate. Just think it was on Tuesday night, the first estimate that we had had from the last year. He's not currently working on side work like that. So I did reach out to somebody else and it's still right in the the price range. So I'd like to proceed with that soon. Selectman Coutu asked, what are we talking about? The Town Administrator replied, updating the cabinetry and some of the other stuff in the in the kitchen at the building. (Board members were talking over each other). Selectman Roy said yeah that was this current year. The Town Administrator added, things have been kind of suspended cuz of Covid and some other issues, but that's something on her list. Selectman Coutu asked, So we still have the money there to do it? To which the Town Administrator replied correct. Selectman Roy replied, correct. It's in this current year. I just, we had had a conversation previously about it and I was just trying to follow up on that.

Selectman Martin was recognized and said, you're vehicle. How mechanically inclined is it? Ms. Peterson replied, it's gonna go in on Monday to Pro Vision. There's an issue a little bit with the shifter. Not so great with car terminology. Selectman Martin replied, transmission probably. Ms. Peterson went on to say, Yeah, but I mean, I've been driving it here and there and I can definitely function with it, but I'm not sure what the specific issue is with it. So I do have an appointment to have it checked out. Selectman Coutu asked, if we were to buy you a horse to pull it around? Selectman Martin replied, laughing we'll get Roger boots and a cowboy hat, sit on a horse. Selectman Coutu replied, I take back my Taser remark. Get the horse. Chairman Morin said, well, they made it easy for you the first time. I got to give you that.

Ms. Peterson replied, I like that. Thank you. Chairman Morin asked, anything else? To which there was not. The Board thanked Ms. Peterson for her time.

Selectman Coutu was recognized and said again, her budget is all level but let's talk about the Senior Center approximately. No discussions with the Fire Chief yet. Chairman Morin replied no, at this point and depending on.... Selectman Coutu interjected saying we wouldn't open it now. Chairman Morin replied, no because we're starting to go back. We've got to briefly talk about that before we're done today. But again, what are you getting from your clients? Anything? Ms. Peterson replied a little bit here and there. This week I did have a couple of phone calls and, you know, we kind of want to get back to normal situation, but then, you know, you still have the people who, you know, are hesitant, you know, and think that they're not expecting to see it until after the first of the year. Selectman Coutu said today I went by the pickleball. It was loaded. They were very active, the seniors pickleball. And I'm saying, why are we opening up the Senior Center, at least part of it, allow a certain percentage. There's got to be a way to estimate capacity. You might have to do away with bingo and the things that draw large crowds. But for smaller activities, a Zumba class, they have those in the building? Ms. Peterson replied, not Zumba but line dancing and aerobics. So, yeah. You know, different, different activities like that. Smaller. But I think you could do it when it comes time, although I think the original plan was to do a soft opening and kind of ease back into the programming. Selectman Coutu said, I like that idea. I'd like to see it done. Ms. Peterson replied definitely no bingo, touching. Selectman Roy spoke up saying, I think that's kind of a discussion we have to have with, an overall discussion. Selectman Coutu said, and the Chief. Okay. I'm good. Chairman Morin again thanked Ms. Peterson for coming in.

#### Revenue and Forwarding Operating Budget

So you have a sheet. You have should have three pieces of paper to. This is actually provided it separately just to make it a little easier for you. It's in the book. Selectman Coutu asked, what page? What department? The Town Administrator replied I prefer you look at this cuz it's just easier. Selectman Coutu asked, where is that. Ms. Laffin replied it's in the supplement for tonight. The Town Administrator added the package I gave you today. (some inaudible back and forth). The Town Administrator said I had to make a change because the other night because of the sewer money we used the other day.

The Town Administrator went on to say, so this is the revenue estimate that's in the book. It was slightly adjusted because the other night we also used some money from the Sewer Fund to pay for that roadside mower. So I had to bump up the sewer revenue that I gave you a new one of these. It's \$2,7000 dollars. So basically, bottom line of this, you added \$175,000 dollars tonight when you get the money from the capital reserve fund for assessing. So your new bottom line number for those at home is \$22,053,175 pardon me, \$22,053,198 dollars. Selectman Coutu asked, this is on the bottom? The Town Administrator explained bottom bottom line. \$22,053,198. We added one hundred \$175,000 because we have a expense, this is the revenue from the capital reserve fund. I'll make sure it goes on the appropriate line. But just bottom line, from a revenue perspective, and this revenue is the General Fund, the Sewer Fund, the Water Fund. It's all the revenue. Included is auto registrations on the first page at \$5.4 million, and you'll see all the other various and sundry fees, state tax revenues, including meals, tax, highway block, grant, they're all included in here.

Selectman Coutu asked, why is a certificate of occupancy so high? Why is it doubled? It's almost double the \$8,200. We actually took in in 2020. Selectman Roy said \$4,216 is that because of increased building? The Town Administrator replied we've anticipated more building activity and more CO's being applied for and issued. I think they've going crazy here. Selectman Roy said I was gonna say there's a there's a boom going on right now so. Town Administrator replied it seems to be. Eagle's Nest is going to be coming online. Chairman Morin asked, you all set sir? To which the Town Administrator replied at this point.

Selectman Coutu was recognized and said people to still pay for pistol permits? To which the Town Administrator replied, Yes, sir. Selectman Coutu replied, I'm just going through this very quickly because I didn't see this document. Selectman Martin said, wow, a lot of people want to be covered, huh? And they don't need a permit. But they do, exactly. Selectman Coutu then said, you know fire alarm, um, police

false alarms fines, well below \$10,000 for quite a few years. Why did it go up to \$10,000? The Town Administrator asked what page? To which Selectman Coutu replied first page, 4356. The Town Administrator replied, quite simply put it's an estimate. I have no idea if we're gonna have more or less. We put in a number. Selectman Coutu replied, I'm uncomfortable with \$10,000. I think it should be like \$8,000. I know that's not the direction we want to go in. I'm not going to recommend that just yet. I need to see if there's anything else that jumps out.

Animal control, we would do well on. No fire grants at all anticipated? Mr. Malizia replied well he get the SAFFER Grants before, but yeah, I'm not aware of any other ones that he's applied for. Selectman Roy said and that wouldn't include, like, the Covid related stuff, right? The Town Administrator replied, no. that will all be this fiscal year. Selectman Roy replied, okay.

Selectman Coutu asked now, what is this, 4657, Grants, Fire, Adequate Staffing? Mr. Malizia replied do you remember when we approved hiring new firefighters, there was a grant provision there that the first year you got 50%, then it got to 25%. That's the out years of this. Selectman Coutu asked, I thought it went to 100%? The Town Administrator replied, that's the old one. Selectman Coutu asked this is the old one here, okay.

Pandemic, we don't anticipate any money going in 2021, uhhh, it's going to depend? The Town Administrator then said, as I point out a lot revenue, you tend to be conservative because any surprise you'd like it to be an up surprise, not a down surprise.

Selectman Coutu then said, with all the construction that's going on, you don't see an increase in Police Outside Detail, 4720? The Town Administrator replied, well, when you say construction, police, they don't they don't do construction up like...Selectman Coutu said I'm talking about mostly poles and stuff like. Chairman Morin replied Yeah, but you got to remember, a lot of those use their own people now. A lot of that they're using their own people. Selectman Coutu asked, I thought we have an agreement on our major roads they will use police. Lowell Road, 111, 102. The Town Administrator replied the Chief has the discretion to make them, but he does, it's not required. Selectman Coutu replied, that's true. It's at his discretion. The Town Administrator added, If he thinks somebody has competence and somebody has competent personnel or they prove to be incompetent, he'll pull them and put our people there.

Selectman Coutu then said, why are our ambulance revenues down from \$300,000 from the last known actual. Going from \$770,000 to \$400,000. Mr. Malizia replied, if you recall we did a revolving fund when we took half the ambulance revenue and put it in the revolving fund. The other half comes to the general fund. The half that goes in a revolving fund pays for the ambulances, the Stryker chairs, the stretchers and all of that. Selectman Coutu replied, you're right.

Selectman Roy asked why is the big jump in supervised play? I mean, I know we didn't have any this year, but if you go back to '20 it still went up almost \$100,000 dollars. Mr. Malizia replied, don't forget, '20 we really didn't have much of that either. '20 was....Selectman Roy interjected saying, okay, yeah. All right. So is that average is that sort of based on prior years, prior to FY20? Mr. Malizia replied, yes. I believe too, we had a brief discussion, we're probably going to look at the fee for the outside people that come in and make sure that we're always ticking that up a little bit too. But, you know, obviously, Chrissy is new, but we've talked about looking at that fee. Selectman Coutu said maybe we'll do a little better on teen dances and the like too. Mr. Malizia replied, yeah, we haven't done any this year, but she's expected to do probably at least an additional teen dance. I think that's our plan for when we get out of the pandemic. And believe me, I chaperone those and they're pretty popular.

Selectman Coutu said and we talk...have you talked to? You're Recreation, right? Had discussions about outsiders coming in and the adult softball at the same cost we charge locally? They'll all come out of the same revenue stream? Selectman Roy said yeah, I haven't had a specific discussion with her, but I know that that's sort of on the radar. Selectman Coutu replied cuz we want to build that back up because we were losing members. And if it means that we were charging people from the outside more money to come in, it's not fair. We want to build it up. We have to make it equitable all around for everybody to play.

Lacrosse revenue. I'm disappointed. Selectman Roy said it's a hard year. Selectman Coutu said, it's a hard year. I guess we're going to have to live with that. Chairman Morin then said, and actually, they told us last year that those numbers have been dropping. When they came in and made a presentation. Selectman Coutu replied we're better on the safe side.

Selectman Coutu then asked, what increase in Community Activities, warrants a \$6,000 increase? The Town Administrator replied, she was talking about doing some other additional activity but I don't know off the top of my head. AA in Nashua, by the way. I have a friend that's very active in AA, they have lost their facility, they're meeting Greeley Park every day, every day at noon. Is there anything we can offer them here in Hudson? Some things we can't commit, but. It's not that many people, it's their daily 12:00-1:00pm meeting. And I'd like to do something for him right here in Hudson, because there's some people from Hudson that go to that, as you know, Chairman Morin replied, we can look into it and try to come up with something.

Not saying, I'm not committing anything. I never said anything. I'm just thinking about it now that AA, if there's anything we could do, I was trying to think of different churches in town that might be open, that might accommodate them. But our small, our churches are small and they're not going to have somebody available to unlock the door and. Chairman Morin replied we can think about it. Selectman Coutu replied, yeah, alright. We'll see if we come up with something.

Selectman Coutu went to back to budget review saying Bank Charges, negative -\$10,000. I thought the bank charges have gone down. Why is that? I know why, I've been doing this long enough, I should know the answer. Yeah, you know. And then you get the general fund. Yeah, I think that's clean and tight compared to previous years and say, hey, we can add this. Selectman Coutu replied, I'm afraid to do that this year. We need to be more conservative. End of year we did alright though. Last year. The Town Administrator replied, yeah, we did alright. The car registration is like crazy. Selectman Coutu joked, so Jill gave up her pay to help us out? Thank you Jill. Put us over the top.

The Town Administrator then said, so if you want to advance a revenue number, it's \$22,053,198. Selectman Coutu confirmed the number. Selectman Martin said, I'll make that motion. Chairman Morin replied, before you do that do you want to talk about the addition for the Budget Committee that probably should have got discussed? Selectman Martin replied Oh, that's right. The Town Administrator replied, so if I may, this a revenue. So let's talk about the revenue. We're still going to talk about the Operating Budget. Chairman Morin replied, didn't want to screw up your numbers. The Town Administrator went on to say, Let's do this. OK, then, because there's something else that came up that the Supervisors wanted to bring up. So let's do this. This doesn't matter, this is the Revenue. It's not going to change except for that. Selectman Martin said motion to move the revenue to send the revenue forward. Chairman Morin said we'll do the revenue then do that after. Selectman Martin replied, that's my motion. Selectman Roy seconded the motion. Selectman Coutu confirmed we're advancing \$22,053,198 in revenue, to which the Town Administrator replied yes sir. Seeing no further discussion, the *motion made by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman Roy, to move forward a Revenue of \$22,053,198. Motion carried 4-0.*

#### General Fund Operating Budget

The Town Administrator said right now, before you do anything else, after this evenings additions, the General Fund Operating Budget is \$31,231,664. That's after you added the money for the Assessment, but you also had a revenue and then you added money for the \$35,000 for Assessing for the valuation of the potential Hillwood. And then you added money to the Police budget for the body cameras and you added money to the Police Department for the Tasers. Selectman Coutu asked, so this is strictly not including Sewer and Water. The Town Administrator replied Sewer and Water will have a separate motion after this motion. This is just the General Fund.

Selectman Coutu then said so you need for us to move the \$31,231,664. Mr. Malizia replied, yes that is what you'll be moving however you can move it and amend it or you can talk about amending it because....Selectman Martin interjected saying because I have a discussion item right now. Chairman Morin asked you want to do the discussion first? Okay, Selectman Martin go ahead. Selectman Martin

said, so the conversation came up with the Chairman of the Budget Committee and at our last budget meeting, and I was it was between him and I, it was a joke. For me, I thought it was a joke. And he says, oh, we're just going to put in for new laptops for the Budget Committee. I said, well, you could try. I'm told he tried. He put through a request for it and it was not in his budget. The Town Administrator replied I'm told he did it on Friday when the books were printed. so a little too little too late. Chairman Morin replied no what I understand, I received the phone call, that he had sent an email to Cathy Carpentier and was copied to you when the budget started that they had put in for computers. That's that's what I was told. Mr. Malizia replied, I'll have to check. I'm not aware that I have the email. Chairman Morin replied, that was when I talked to Selectman Martin, who's the rep.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said so how many computers? Selectman Martin replied that would be nine. Selectman Coutu replied, eight. I'm turning mine back in. Selectman Roy replied so eight, nine. Chairman Morin asked so that would be seven or eight because you've already got one, right? Selectman Martin said well, I wouldn't be looking for one because I've got one on this side. Selectman Roy asked how many members of the Budget Committee nine? Selectman Roy replied, okay so there'll be nine computers. And what's the the cost? Selectman Martin replied that I don't know. Chairman Morin replied I don't know. Me neither. Selectman Roy asked so how do adjust the number? Selectman Coutu replied it depends where you buy him. If you go over here in town, probably, I mean, five hundred dollars apiece. I don't know the they could be fifteen hundred two thousand dollars. Selectman Martin replied, I don't know where the IT Director got these. This would be perfect for a Budget Committee member right here. Selectman Coutu asked how much were they? Selectman Martin replied I don't know. Selectman Coutu asked someone sign the purchase order for these? Selectman Martin replied that was under the CARES Act. The Town Administrator replied there were five of them, I thought, that were procured for you folks. I don't remember the number off the top of my head. Selectman Roy said, but I don't understand how we're going to move forward if we don't have a number to add. Chairman Morin said again, what I was told that an email had gone forward so it would come and show in the budget and it didn't. So he had talked to Selectman Martin and then he had given me a call to see if we could we could talk about it tonight at the budget meeting, our meeting.

Selectman Coutu said, force the issue. \$500 apiece, not to exceed, we need to buy seven? Selectman Martin replied, nine. Selectman Coutu asked why nine? To which Selectman Martin replied nine members. Selectman Coutu said I'm turning mine in. Selectman Martin replied we don't know if she'll assign that to them. Selectman Coutu asked, what's she going to do with it? Throw it away? It's brand new. Selectman Martin replied, no, I understand that. Chairman Morin replied, I would assume she would probably put that aside, keep it as a Selectman one. So they would always have the correct numbers for both boards. Selectman Martin agreed. Selectman Coutu then said nine at \$500 apiece you've got \$4,500 to buy nine laptops for no more than that. Chairman Morin asked are you saying to put in the budget or to do it now?

Selectman Martin said, you know what, I will contact IT Director to see how much these cost. We'll do it on the Budget Committee side. Mr. Malizia said the thing is if you do that you won't get them until next years. That's your prerogative. Chairman Morin added that's what I'm asking. Mr. Malizia said they don't do anything for you this year. This is next year's budget. Selectman Roy added, you won't get them until July 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. Selectman Coutu asked, when does he want them? Chairman Morin said he had told me it was a budget request. Selectman Martin replied a budget request. So it's going to be in this budget. He wanted to put in his budget for the following year. So what we'll do is, let's forward what we have and then on Budget Committee side, I will have all the finalized numbers and I can add them in with the Budget Committee cuz it will be their budget. Selectman Coutu then said, as a shopper, if I went out to buy a laptop, I'm being very generous, said five hundred dollars apiece, I could buy them for \$250 or less at Best Buy or Target. Selectman Martin asked, seriously? To which Selectman Coutu replied yes seriously. it's a laptop. You don't need anything fancy. You use it for one thing, business, right? Town business. Don't use it to play games. I know you understand games on it. Selectman Martin replied, I do. But listen, I understand. But I think we need to have an actual number to put in there. Selectman Coutu replied I know that. I'm just saying that's I just this is television stuff here. There are Department Heads listening and watching. We don't want to spend a lot of money for laptops, get them at bargain basement price. And as long as there's the Budget Committee daily, they need some light cameras in them. Right? Selectman

Martin replied no, they need a camera. Selectman Coutu asked how come ours have one? Chairman Morin replied if we go back to remote. Selectman Coutu asked are these top of the line? Selectman Martin replied this one turns into an iPad. Selectman Coutu replied it probably walks on its own, too. Well, I'm impressed. Now, type in some words for me. Selectman Martin said, I just want to show you this is what it does.

Selectman Roy asked so are we going forward? Are we going to forward that? Selectman Coutu said lets. Is that the motion? Chairman Morin asked so what do we want to do? Anyone got a motion on this? Or you just want to handle it the way you were going to? Selectman Martin replied, I'm going to handle the way I'm going to handle it. Chairman Morin asked, is everybody good with that? Selectman Martin then said, I'm going to get the numbers from IT Director and on 11/4, I think that's the first night you come through, if I will add it with the Budget Committee and they can say yay. The Town Administrator said the Budget Committee has the authorization....Chairman Morin asked does that work? To which the Town Administrator replied, yeah, that works. The Budget Committee can add to the budget. They can subtract from the budget. Chairman Morin asked, you all set with that Selectman Roy? To which Selectman Roy replied yeah. It's just frustrating that we keep going around and we have no actual information.

Chairman Morin then recognized the Town Administrator who explained, So there were actually two things. One was the one that we had talked about before about the Benson Park train station, that was dangling. The Board could should discuss it, if you want to do it or don't do it, I just don't want to leave it hanging. Chairman Morin replied, let's let's discuss it, see where it goes.

Selectman Roy asked, so what was the low bid, if I? I know it's in the book. The Town Administrator replied it was thirty three ninety something and they were recommending at \$3500 because you're now looking at a, you know a year way. More than likely they'll honor that price, but just to be safe \$3,500 was what they were looking to put in there.

Selectman Coutu asked, where did this come from? The Town Administrator replied it came from the Benson Park Committee. Selectman Coutu asked what did they do, send someone in there to see if there's asbestos? Chairman Morin replied there is asbestos. The Town Administrator said they sent someone in to inspect it. Selectman Coutu asked they knew there was asbestos in there? The Town Administrator replied of course they do. Yeah. In the tile. Chairman Morin said they have several ideas for....Selectman Coutu interjected saying this barns gonna sit there and do nothing. Chairman Morin replied well, they have several ideas for the building if we can get the asbestos out of there. Selectman Coutu said I want to know what the ideas are if I'm paying \$33,000. Selectman Roy spoke up saying no, \$3,500. Selectman Coutu said I don't care what it is. How much money we gonna keep putting into this barn? Selectman Roy said well if they're going to do anything at all with it, at some point, they have to remove that. And I don't, you know. Chairman Morin said It's cheaper now and it's going to be in ten years. Selectman Coutu replied agree. If we use it in 10 years. Chairman Morin replied, that's what we have a committee for. Selectman Coutu said been sitting there....Chairman Morin replied, I understand that. But the asbestos have been in there, so they couldn't do anything with it. Selectman Roy asked what's the line? Mr. Malizia replied, I do it was 5556-224, Parks Building Maintenance, was train station asbestos removal and the request was \$3,500. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman that we add \$3,500 5556-224, Parks Building Maintenance. Selectman Coutu seconded this motion. Carried 3-1. Selectman Coutu opposed.

The Town Administrator addressed the Board saying there was one other item. I got a phone call from the one of the Supervisors of the Checklist telling me that next in the next fiscal year they need to do a voter purge. They do it every ten years. They certainly forgot to put any money and they believe they need \$2,500 dollars in postage to be able to do that voter purge. So, it's a modest number, but they do have to do that. It requires mailing. Selectman Coutu asked, what's the line item on that? I support that. The Town Administrator then said 5042-238, which is Postage. Selectman Coutu asked, how much is it? To which



the Town Administrator replied, \$2,500. Selectman Coutu made a motion to add \$2,500 to that line item for postage for the voter checklist purge. Selectman Roy seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Morin asked the Town Administrator, that would be it sir? To which the Town Administrator replied I do not believe I have anything else. Chairman Morin then said, now we need to review the warrant articles. The Town Administrator said, if I may let me just give you the number because you just amended it. The new General Fund Operating Budget number is \$31,237,664. Selectman Coutu asked the Town Administrator to repeat the number, which he did. The Town Administrator then said, So what ends up happening is you make a motion to forward that operating budget to the warrant, and that's how it goes over to the Budget Committee. Selectman Roy asked and then they can amend it further? The Budget Committee? Mr. Malizia replied yes. That is their.... they can amend it, they can go up, they can go down. It's their budget. It leaves here. It's their budget. Selectman Roy made a motion to forward \$31,237,664 to the warrant. Selectman Martin seconded the motion. Carried 4-0.

Mr. Malizia then said next need a motion to forward the Sewer Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$2,242,825 to the warrant. Selectman Coutu made this motion. It was seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 4-0.

Mr. Malizia then said next you need a motion to forward the Water Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$3,871,994 to the warrant. Motion made by Selectman Roy seconded by Selectman Coutu. Carried 4-0.

#### Review of Warrant Articles

##### Article D - Purchase of a Replacement VacCon Truck

Selectman Coutu asked, do you know the last time was we replaced the VacCon truck? Doesn't seem like that long ago. Selectman Martin said I believe it was 2010. Mr. Malizia replied I believe Mr. Forrence said it was 10 years ago. Selectman Coutu said so these things only last ten years. \$40,000 a year to clean up sewage? Mr. Malizia replied yes, and drainage. Selectman Coutu then said All right. So, so the truck is ten years old. And we have no trade in value for the truck. Mr. Malizia replied it would be minimus, there may be some, but it's not going to certainly be large number, it's past its useful life. Selectman Coutu was mumbling and then said \$500 bucks. He then said so we have been splitting the cost between sewer and town? Mr. Malizia replied that's correct. Selectman Coutu asked can we ascertain the actual usage between the two? I would think that sewerage would be a lot heavier. Mr. Malizia replied there's a lot of storm drains in town, which you get, which I mean, I am not going to try to kid you. They use it for both. They clean out the storm drains and they use it for sewer. What's the actual usage? I don't know if they actually sit there and do that as a percentage. There's a certain amount of storm drains they got to do. And there's a certain amount of sewer they got to do. I don't know, at the top of my head.

Selectman Coutu asked what do they do with the sewerage? So it's like a call to a house and? Mr. Malizia replied clogged pipe or something like that, assuming when they went after they cleaned it out, they take it over to the treatment plant and dispose of it. Selectman Coutu replied I'm good also. Selectman Martin made a motion to forward Warrant Article D to the warrant. Selectman Roy seconded the motion. Carried 4-0.

##### Article E - VacCon Truck Replacement CRF Funding

Mr. Malizia explained Warrant Article E is to actually put additional funding in the in the Reserve Fund because you got to keep funding this thing because in 10 more years and it goes by quickly, they've asked to put additional funding into the reserve fund. And just a note, this reserve fund is spent by the voters, so the voters of the actual authority to spend it. That's why you had to do the warrant article. Selectman Coutu said for the truck. Mr. Malizia replied for the actual truck. To actually purchase it. The voters have to approve it. Selectman Coutu made a motion to send Warrant Article E to the warrant. Selectman Roy seconded the motion. Carried 4-0.

#### Article F - Property Revaluation CRF Funding

The Town Administrator explained, Warrant Article F is to add money to the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. That's so that we have money when we come up on five more years we need to redo this. Selectman Coutu said we've been requesting this every year. To which the Town Administrator replied yes, sir. Selectman Coutu made a motion to move Warrant Article F to the warrant. Seconded by Selectman Roy seconded. Selectman Coutu then said we're not recommending yet. We're just moving them to the ballot? Or is it moving with a recommendation? Mr. Malizia replied at this point in time you're moving it to the ballot 4-0. That is that is what you're doing. Selectman Coutu replied moving it to the ballot. We're not recommending it. Mr. Malizia replied yes you are. Chairman Morin replied 4-0 is recommending it. Mr. Malizia then said, don't forget, you will have another bite at the apple when we get to the deliberative session. Selectman Coutu said I have no problems so far. Mr. Malizia replied I'm saying you did. Just understand when it goes there. Selectman Coutu, speaking over the Town Administrator said just want to make sure that we're doing both. Chairman Morin called for a vote. Motion carried 4-0.

#### Article G - Fire Apparatus Refurb/Repair CRF Funding

Mr. Malizia addressed the Board saying Warrant Article G is to add funding to the Fire Apparatus Refurbishment Repair Capital Reserve Fund. Selectman Coutu asked, do you know how much is in there? Mr. Malizia replied \$209,000. Selectman Coutu then said now, what I would like in the future is, there's \$209,000 presently. When they come in in the department....these are department request or you just automatically wrote rolling them over and requesting? Mr. Malizia replied, no Department Heads requested them. Selectman Coutu then said when a Department Head requests, in my opinion.....don't just tell me what you're going to do with the money. It's pretty obvious it's apparatus refurbishment and repairs. And I don't need four paragraphs telling me without knowing what is in there now, how much did you spend last year and justify asking for \$25,000. We're asking for \$25,000 and we already have \$209,000. That's going to bring them up to \$234,000. We're not buying a truck here. We're fixing fire apparatus. I know they're expensive, but a lot of them are under warranty. We don't have to spend that much money and there are some that can become very costly. But knowing what they spent the previous year on that line item would be how much they took out or they just piling in money in there?

Selectman Martin was recognized and said they have a the conversion of the squad truck and they're going to forestry unit they're going to be putting on the old squad chassis. That's why he wants to put more money in it to keep it.

The Town Administrator added, just so everyone knows to on page 18 in the summary, there is a sheet that lists all the Capital Reserve Funds, that it shows all the value in there. And if there's any proposed withdrawals for this upcoming fiscal year, those are noted. Chairman Morin then said and you got to understand, when he makes, if I'm correct, when he makes that forestry, you're going to be down on one forestry truck instead of two. So you're going to be down another vehicle. Selectman Roy then said but to Selectman Coutu's point, to know how much is in there and how much we're adding and sort of the rate it's being spent would be helpful to decide if we're actually going to need to put \$25,000 dollars in there or just ten thousand or thirty thousand, you know what I mean? Having more information. And then having Selectman Martin with all due respect, the liaison to the Fire Department, I respect that to say, well, he wants to add money to keep it. To keep it level at a certain amount of money? You know, why are we just letting that money just sit there? Selectman Martin replied it's going to be used. We're going to be doing two truck refurbishments. Selectman Coutu asked did we put the \$209,000 all at once in there? Mr. Malizia replied, no. Selectman Coutu then asked how come we got two truck refurbishes, what kind of equipment we buying if two trucks are breaking down? Chairman Morin replied the squad, he told you, was going to have to be replaced. Selectman Coutu said we learned a lesson there. That's not his fault. Chairman Morin replied no, no, no. that's not what I'm saying. I'm just telling you why he's going to have two trucks. So what he's going to do, there's going to be a squad replacement and he's going to take the chassis of the present day squad, make that a forestry truck. And if I, if I remember correctly, we will get rid of the two pickup truck forestry's and you'll have one for sure, if I remember correctly.

Selectman Coutu then said we're supposed to buy a new vehicle to replace the tank, right? Selectman Roy replied that's different. Chairman Morin replied that's an engine not a tanker. It's an engine, not a

tanker. Selectman Coutu replied but there's \$209,000 in that account. Chairman Morin replied as of present, yes. Selectman Coutu asked what's the estimated cost of the estimated cost of the repairs we're going to do? do we know that? Mr. Malizia replied I can't speak confidently to that. Selectman Martin then replied I can't speak confidently to that.

Selectman Coutu then said I'm going to support it reluctantly. I need more information and I wish they would do that because they weren't asked to and I never asked. Can't do it if people don't ask. Seeing no further comments, Selectman Martin made a motion to forward Warrant Article G. Seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 4-0.

#### Article H - Major Repairs to Town Buildings CRF Funding

Selectman Roy said, I have a question on Warrant Article H. The title is Major Repairs to Town Buildings, Capital Reserve Fund. \$50,000 will be added to the Fire Apparatus.....Mr. Malizia interjected saying yeah, that's what happens when you copy over something else that's been corrected. But you picked up your book too quick. It's been corrected. Mr. Laffin told Selectman Roy she'd email an updated copy.

Mr. Malizia then said, Warrant Article H is Major Repairs to Town Buildings. As you recall, we took out \$56,000 this year from the Police renovations. Leaves us \$100,000, but given that this covers all of our buildings, I think \$50,000 was put in to replace the \$56,000 you took out. Selectman Coutu asked we have \$100,000 in that account right now? Mr. Malizia replied correct. Selectman Coutu then said and add \$50,000 why? To which Mr. Malizia replied because we took \$50,000. We had \$156,000 going into this fiscal year. About two meetings ago with the Police Department to take out \$56,000 out of that fund, dropping it down to \$100,000. I'm asking to put the \$50,000 back into the fund to keep it approximately a \$150,000. Selectman Coutu made a motion to move Warrant Article H. Seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 4-0.

#### Article I - Police Facility Expansion and Renovation

Mr. Malizia explained Warrant Article I is for the Police Facility Expansion and Renovation. That will be a bond warrant article. Selectman Coutu said seeing I highly support it, I will make a motion to move Warrant Article I to the budget. Selectman Roy seconded the motion. Carried 4-0.

#### Article J - Transfer Station Retaining Wall

Mr. Malizia explained, Warrant Article J is to move the Transfer Station Retaining Wall to the warrant. Selectman Roy made a motion to move Warrant Article J to the warrant. This was seconded by Selectman Martin. Carried 4-0.

#### Article K - Town Wide Paving

Mr. Malizia said motion to forward Warrant Article K Town Wide Paving Addition to the warrant. Selectman Martin made this motion. Seconded by Selectman Roy. Selectman Coutu was recognized and said Mr. Malizia, back when I first came on the Board if you recollect or recall, we had the 100 year plan. It wasn't intended to be that. But we wanted to bring it back to a 20 year plan. We're almost there. Why do we need another \$200,000? We're almost there? We're spending \$750,000 right now a year. Mr. Malizia corrected Selectman Coutu saying, \$790,000. Selectman Coutu asked, why do we need to bring it to a million dollars? Mr. Malizia replied, Mr. Forrence came in and made his argument, I'm not going to repeat it, you all heard it. But basically what he believes is that we're not on the 20 year cycle or plan. We're more like on a 50 year plan with the major roads being done every 10 to 15 years. But we are no way on a 20 year replacement plan for the town roads. Chairman Morin added and if I'm correct, he told us that this money will only get us basically another mile, right? Selectman Roy replied about that. Mr. Malizia said that's what he had asserted. So the Board decided to leave it up to the public. If the public wants to approve that or not approve it. Selectman Coutu replied I'm not going to support it, and my reasoning is that we went from \$250,000 to \$750,000 eventually we went to \$790,000. Might have been from \$290,000 to \$790,000. And we were in the twenty year went from one hundred to what was quoted to us could get us to the twenty year. And now he is estimating that we're at the fifty year plan. I can't say enough about

the paving crew in the Town of Hudson. We do our own streets, we save a lot of money. And for the most part, I can remember going up and down several streets, especially in the north end. Keanna Road was one example. And the time when we had the ice storm and we were riding around with the Fire Chief and the Police Chief estimating and the Superintendent of Schools trying to ascertain whether or not we were going to allow the schools to open when because we couldn't get bus traffic through. You remember that Dave. You were working then. Not leisure like you are now. One of the hardest working selectman I've ever seen in my life. So in light of that. Since we traversed those streets, you traverse those same roads today and there in mint condition because we did and he takes them in order of what he sees. Somebody were to say, hey, have you gone down and looked at, say, my old street Rena Ave. It's going to need some paving someday, but maybe not today. There are others that are worse. And he goes down and Jesus, I didn't know this road had so many potholes. Boy, this is really bad. He'll look at the streets. That's what I would do if I were DPW Commissioner. And I'd say, you know, this last one, I could replace it. It needs it more than that. And I hope that's what they're doing because there's nobody, I don't think, on this Board that calls them to say, hey, put such and such a street on. I asked them to look at a street once and he said, I didn't realize that all end of that road was still dirt road. I said, I don't care if you do it or not. I'm not. I just had to look at it at a citizen request. He looked at it, he put it on the list. I said, well, don't do it for me. He said, no, it needs it. So that's the kind of rapport that we have. And I like to have with the road paving program. I tell people, don't ask me if you streets on when it's going to be on it. I don't even know when mine mine's going to be on it. I'm going to let them do their job and we see the work that they do. It's commendable. But to add another two hundred thousand dollars for miles more mile more worth of road, you know, sometimes you can stretch the paving out a little bit. He does a good job of that. It's an awful lot in a year where a lot of people are now unemployed or getting less money than they were getting. I just don't want to overburden the taxpayers. I know we've had this discussion many, many times. We're forwarding this for the voters to decide. I'm intelligent enough to make the decisions but I don't. I think we're putting too much on the ballot and this is an item I'd rather not see in the ballot because it's going to take away from something else or it's going to be the burden of all of the warrant articles adding up to several, you know, what it's like. And the more we pile on, the less chance we have that any will pass this. I don't like this to be that year, considering the circumstance that we're living in today.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said I have a couple of questions. When was the last time that we increased that budget? Mr. Malizia replied I looked. I thought it was 2011. Selectman Roy replied so, nine years ago. And then And I don't know if you know this, but how many streets have we added to the town since 2011? And again, I don't know that, you know, that I just as we were talking before, there's been somewhat of a building boom. Mr. Malizia replied, yes. we've added streets. But in theory, those streets that we've added should be in good condition because we don't accept them unless they're good conditions. So we shouldn't be repaving a street that we accepted since then. Selectman Roy then said but eventually we would. Mr. Malizia replied our inventory is growing, not shrining. Selectman Coutu said and everything is done in miles of roads. How miles of road is a good questions. Chairman Morin replied I think he said something like 200 or something to that effect. Mr. Malizia added, we have at least 200 lane miles of roads. Selectman Coutu asked, since when? Mr. Malizia replied that's in the town total. Selectman Coutu said that's what we have is 200 lane miles. How many have been added in the last 10 years? Mr. Malizia replied I don't know that number. It's in the it's in the 200, though, because that's he has an inventory. That's what he stated to us in the inventory. The number of the number of lane miles is two hundred. That includes whatever has been added up until now. Selectman Coutu then said, how many miles of road because we've had a lot of additions in the last five years.

Selectman Roy then said to the state, the obvious, it should grow proportionally with the number of miles of roads that we're at right now. Chairman Morin added and the more we added, the father we're going get behind. The Town Administrator then said, I could also point out this is your warrant, if this number is not acceptable, you're free to change it to another number. You're not required or bound to say 200 if you think 50 or 100 is, there's something you want to do that's up to you. Zero is an option. I'm not saying it doesn't. You can vote no.

Selectman Coutu replied it doesn't make sense if, for me or any one of us. We know he's stating that \$200,000 does one mile. Mr. Malizia replied that's, I believe, what he stated when he was here. Selectman Coutu then said so he's spending \$790,000 let's say \$800,000 right now. Okay? So he's doing

four miles of road a year? Mr. Malizia replied divide 200 by 4 is 50 years. That's where I got the number from before. Now, let me qualify that. Some roads you can't do, 50 years. You can't do Greeley Street. You can't do Ferry Street. You can't do you can't do, you know, collector roads, Highland Street, those are being done more often. You can't wait 50 years. My road they did in '97. I'm never going to see it again. No offense to anybody. Selectman Coutu then said we have 200 linear miles of road. Mr. Malizia replied lane miles of road. Selectman Coutu said oh, lane miles? To which Mr. Malizia replied I believe what he said. 200 lane miles, because it goes both ways. Mr. Malizia replied typically.

Selectman Coutu then asked is he including the state? Mr. Malizia replied no. Selectman Coutu definitely, excluded them? Mr. Malizia replied they're not included in our lane miles. Matter of fact if you go to our web page I had them put on there what we don't own because I'm tired...well, we were getting tired of getting kicked in the shins because the state doesn't do a good job and people think we...we're not responsible to pay for Kimball Hill Road. So when the state goes and puts Skinemix on it, everything's we did it. So those roads are identified and Jess is well aware, we're well aware of where our boundaries are, what our roads are and what we're responsible for. And the number he's stating is our responsibility. Selectman Coutu replied he's been there long enough he should know that. Mr. Malizia replied oh yeah, and Jay Twardosky too who's his right hand man on this. Chairman Morin then said there is a motion. Any other discussion? Seeing none, Chairman Morin took a vote. Motion carried 3-1. Selectman Coutu opposed.

#### Article L - Establish CRF for Hills Memorial Library

Mr. Malizia went on to say there's a motion to forward Warrant Article L to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the Hills Memorial Library to the warrant. Selectman Roy made this motion, and it was seconded by Selectman Coutu. Selectman Coutu was recognized and said if there's one thing I learned from my former colleague and God rest his soul, Ben Nadeau, who was educated me considerably on capital reserve funds. And it seemed appalling to me that a couple of years ago, or three or four, whenever they first established the capital reserve fund for the Library, it was insulting to my intellect as a voter, not as a selectman, that they put a dollar in it. We're talking about a major facility in our municipal operation. Be it that they have a separate budget and they control their own budget, but it falls under our purview for the purpose of carrying the funds. We have no control over that budget. But we certainly have a responsibility for the upkeep and the maintenance of the building, which is well used when it's open and operational I've gone in there many times to see the operation. I walk in at night. Can I help you, sir? I love it that I'm incognito. I guess I'm not well known in the library and it makes me feel comfortable that I can walk around and they are willing to help and I can see what's going on. And I see a bunch of kids in one room and I see people doing some activity. There's always something going on. It's a beautiful building. I hate to think that the Rogers built and donated this facility to us that we can't, and this is kind of a plug for this warrant article, but that we can raise an appropriate \$25,000. Twenty five thousand dollars is not going to fix anything.

Chairman Morin replied just to be clear this is for the Hills Memorial. Selectman Roy said this is the Hills. The Hills. Selectman Coutu replied it doesn't matter that building. Chairman Morin replied, you said Rodgers. Selectman Coutu replied I was thinking of the Rodgers. Don't they have a General Fund for both buildings? The Town Administrator replied so the way the warrant article was written and passed, it only covers the Rodgers Memorial Library when they quoted the article with the dollar for that year, whether you agree or disagree, that was just for that building. Selectman Coutu replied, regardless. The Town Administrator went on to explain they can't use the money. Selectman Roy said I'll speak to that. Selectman Coutu continued speaking saying, they have a responsibility for that building. If a pipe should burst it's going to ruin the walls, yeah. I just think that \$25,000 again, I thought a dollar was absurd in today's market I think \$25,000 dollars should be greater than that. But I'm supporting their request. Mr. Malizia replied one thing you learn in this business is sometimes incremental. You try to hit a home run. You try to put a hundred thousand and you're going to strike out. twenty five thousand dollars, get you on base and then put you where you're at.

Selectman Roy said so I just want to address the issue about the dollar. That was written that way, because that's how we were advised to write that first warrant article. And then what they explained was the next year you would add the twenty five thousand dollars to...Selectman Coutu replied the snowball

effect. If we get it for a dollar then they'll....you have a bank account open. Now you could throw some money into it. Selectman Roy replied I'm with you. I would have rather just done it at once. But that's not what we were advised to do. So. Chairman Morin reiterated motion on the floor by Selectman Roy seconded by Selectman Coutu. Seeing no further discussion, motion carried 4-0.

#### Article M - Revised Veteran's Tax Credits

Mr. Malizia recognized the Board saying Warrant Article M, Revised Veterans Tax Credit motion to move that to the warrant. Selectman Roy made this motion. Selectman Coutu asked where did this come from? Chairman Morin replied this came in tonight. Selectman Coutu replied, no I have a worksheet on it. Ms. Laffin helped Selectman Coutu get to the same spot of the agenda. Selectman Coutu said I'm looking for the worksheet that says how much. Chairman Morin replied, oh, what Jim just told us? Selectman Coutu said or maybe it was just a note that I made.

Mr. Malizia replied you might have made a note but if you look at the tail end of this particular document here, right over here, see where it says war service credits? That's the amount of money we're providing right now. You might have written something down. Selectman Coutu replied, there it is. There it is. So, with all due respect if you're making the motion, you can go ahead and make the motion. Chairman Morin said she made the motion, I'm waiting for a second. Selectman Coutu replied, I'm not seconding it. Selectman Martin seconded for discussion.

Selectman Roy then explained, So so to give a little, I guess, history, not the last legislative session, but the session before that, the New Hampshire legislature voted to increase the Veterans Tax Credit from a maximum of \$500 dollars to a maximum of \$750 dollars for the All Veterans. And then they did the same thing, increasing the Disabled Veterans credit from \$2,000 to \$4,000. I thought it was prudent in this year to maybe do that incrementally. I chose not to do it last year because I thought last year we were putting a lot of burden on the taxpayers. I thought this was a better year to do it and to not go straight to the \$750, but to do it again incrementally and look at it again next year and see if we want to go somewhere else with that.

Selectman Coutu replied so based on are you all set? Selectman Roy replied I am. Selectman Coutu went on to say based on what I heard from Jim, this is going to be, I got 5.3 increase. Mr. Malizia replied I thought it was 5.3 cents. Selectman Coutu replied 5.3 cents per thousand of a \$300,000 dollar home. Selectman Coutu replied it would be about a \$15.00 a year increase according to what he said. Selectman Coutu then said \$15.00 for this, \$20.00 for that, and a hundred for this and it all adds up. That's my problem. I mean, I don't. When was the last time that this was increased?

Mr. Malizia replied oh God, off the top of my head, I don't know. But you did adopt the All Veterans Tax Credit within the last couple of years. That's the one where you had, the Veteran's Credit used to only cover certain service periods. Three or four years ago, you adopted the one for All Veterans \$500. It's been five hundred for a while. I mean, quite a while. Selectman Coutu replied so we did the seniors approximately three years ago, seniors tax credit? Mr. Malizia replied there was the Elderly, not tax credits. They're exemptions. They're exemptions. They get to deduct certain monies off of their property. It's not a credit. It's an exemption. This is an actual credit. Selectman Coutu replied, this is a credit? All right. So we're going from the request is to go for a revised Veterans Tax Credit will go from what to what? Mr. Malizia replied, currently currently for the Regular Veterans Credit and the All Veterans Credit, it's \$500 dollars. It would go to \$600 dollars. I can speak to the other one, if you will, but it's a separate warrant article, so I don't want to confuse the numbers.

Selectman Coutu replied give me the numbers N while you have it on the top of your head. Mr. Malizia replied N is for the disabled, totally disabled veterans. That's currently \$2,000. That would go from \$2,000 to \$3,000. That's what's being proposed. And I think there's 55 that qualify for that. Selectman Roy replied there were 55 veterans who qualified for that. Mr. Malizia added and there was 1,050 or 1,070, something like that for the other the \$500 to \$600 dollar veterans credit.

Selectman Martin said while he's thinking, can I make a comment? I just want to say that I don't think that

the disability credit for disabled veterans is going to increase because, I mean, if the money increased, I don't think we're going to see more participants because. Selectman Roy added, correct. I would agree with that statement because. Selectman Martin said you have to qualify. You have to be disabled through the VA, not Social Security. Mr. Malizia added, you may you may have some new resident move in or someone unfortunately, that's maybe in a conflict now that that that happens to. Selectman Roy added Right. Right. And then you could go the other way. If you don't see it increasing by like 10 or 15. The Town Administrator added you had the largest gain when the state expanded the credit to cover all veterans because previously it was only certain war periods of Vietnam War to Korea. Now it's there's also the credit that covers if you were in the service, you're you're eligible to get a credit as long as you were honorably discharged and that expanded, you know, that added a lot to that.

Selectman Coutu was recognized and said I'm just looking for some justification. What is the justification for doing this just because it's the right time to do it? Selectman Roy replied and you know, give something to our veterans. Give something back to them? You know, they...Selectman Coutu said well, we're doing something for our veterans. Selectman Roy replied well we're doing something more, I mean, you know, those folks, a lot of them struggle economically and this could help them. And it's not a ton, particularly All Veterans portion of it. It's it's still something, though. Selectman Coutu asked who has done any study with what's comparatively what are the other towns around us doing? We did it for the seniors. I don't see that information provided that it's not your fault. There was no request for it.

Selectman Roy replied so, so. And I'll say I will say that that's my fault. But there what Mr. Michaud did do that. And there have been some towns. I didn't print it out, and that's that's on me. But towns have done it like like I'm proposing we do it by increments and then other towns went all the way over to the \$750 right after that legislation was passed. Selectman Coutu said so we don't regionally. We have the lowest tax rate around and we keep giving breaks and this and that we just taken away from our base every time we do it. I mean, I can take you 200-300 homes in this town that have some very poor seniors. And, you know, we haven't looked at that. I'm not anti-veteran. I just want to do the right thing by the taxpayers. I'm going to support it because it's going to a warrant article, and the voters will decide, I suspect, and say yes on this one. There are some there are some hungry veterans. I mean that sincerely. There's some really. I can think of one, and it's breaking my heart to even think of that one person in town. And they won't take any help. I don't even think they're registered for the credit. They just refuse to do it. There are people like that. All right, I'm fine. Thank you. Thank you for your explanation. It's not a put down at all. I like, have more information I would have liked to see with the other times. Chairman Morin reiterated the motion and took the vote. *Motion carried 4-0.*

#### Article N - Revised Disabled Veteran's Tax Credits

Mr. Malizia then said that was M, so there would be a motion to forward Warrant Article N Revised Disabled Veterans Tax Credit to the warrant. Again, as I stated before that was from \$2,000 to a proposed \$3,000. Selectman Roy said, And quite frankly, I struggle that went a little because I would rather for the disabled folks, go all the way to four thousand. Again, I just thought it was. Selectman Coutu replied, I can see that. But because again, that's going to be a number that's going to be hard to increase because of the what it would require to to prove your status and what the qualification. Mr. Malizia replied that's probably a much smaller number than the other credit. Selectman Coutu replied sit is. I'm gonna support this. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Coutu to forward Warrant Article N to the warrant. Carried 4-0.

Chairman Morin then said that sums it up. Anybody have any comments? Selectman Martin asked Chairman Morin, didn't you have something else to talk about? Chairman Morin replied, I do. I was just going to do when I got back over to me. Unless you got something different than I got. Selectman Martin said I do not have anything, no. I'm good.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said so the So the only thing I will say is that on Saturday, this coming Saturday, the Moderator will be, the Town Administrator spoke up saying it will be the 24th. Selectman Roy then said October 24th will be running a drive through absentee drop off at the Community Center from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Selectman Coutu asked do we have that on our web

page? Chairman Morin replied yes.

Chairman Morin then said, and the only thing I got to let the townspeople know and the Board, but we've already spoke about this briefly, independently, is that starting next week, the Fire Chief, the Emergency Preparedness Director has determined that the spike in Covid in which direction that we are going, that the EOC will again move forward to a next level. It will not be a full activation at this point, but we will be going back to our twice a week meetings. Our meetings and keeping tabs on this. And as things progress the way they seem to be, we may end up in a full activation again. So I just want to let the residents know that you need to start being very cautious again. There was a notification that there was possibly a possible and let me clarify a possible large exposure again that took place in town that's being looked into at this point. We have no further information, but we need to be vigilant and make sure that we're following all the rules and washing hands. And all that.

Selectman Coutu asked is this the comments section for the selectmen? Chairman Morin replied I just figured if someone had a comment. Selectman Coutu then said, a couple of things. As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, this Sunday at 10:00 a.m., the Fire Memorial service will be conducted at the Fire Memorial at 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning. We have a small contingent, usually local neighbors. We don't have a lot of parking, but he provides that on the side. So if anybody, it's a short service or short in memory of those who have died in the service to their respective communities. And we think about all firefighters nationwide and we're coming into a season, as we do every year. When we hold this, we think ahead. It seems that no matter when there's a fire, there's a danger to the person who's exposed to the fire because they're working it. But when it's Christmas time or Thanksgiving and then a large tenement buildings and there's families involved in children and a lot of deaths and a firefighter is going in the. Putting his or her life at risk to save people in the cold, icy water coming down. It's sad, it's very, very sad, so we take this this shot brief time on Sunday mornings every year at 10 a.m. at about this time to conduct a service to memorialize the sacrifices that have been made by our firefighters. So I think it's, I enjoy going. I hope I'm a healthy Sunday and I'll do it.

I covered the volunteering with Paul, you're taking care of that this coming Saturday. We won't go through this list of budget notes either. We'll see what the voters want to do. And I want to say that the Town Treasurer, did we ever. We had a warrant article that we were going to appoint that position. Mr. Malizia replied so that'll be effective coming up, March, so I painted it for February for the Board to take up that action. You have to wait a year after the article. Selectman Coutu replied because I've seen it show up as an appointed. But it's the fiscal year that we're in. Mr. Malizia explained, so we had an election at last year's town meeting. The voters approved it, but you have to wait to the next town meeting before you can do it. So I penned it for February. So in anticipation of the Board will make that appointment, presumably the person that's capable of filling the job. Selectman Coutu asked did you say that hopefully it would be the person currently? Mr. Malizia replied the person will apply. Selectman Coutu replied, I would hope so. She's doing a good job.

This is not too early, Mr. Chairman. And I was reminded reminded only because we received the letter individually, as we do every year from the Hudson Community Food Pantry. These are very trying times for these are very trying times for both municipal governments and for its citizenry, because this year is unlike any other politics aside, Covid-19 is a plague upon us and we have to deal with it day in, day out. The food pantry this year, unfortunately, we're not going to be in a position to hold a telethon, but I don't want them forgotten. I'm asking the citizens out there, there are quite a few people in this town that are still in need of services every day. And for Thanksgiving this year, they've already received for Thanksgiving and Christmas assistance, they've already received 110 requests and we usually do a lot more than that. I'm asking anybody and those of you who I have some friends that have some companies that have donated every year. 25 to 50 turkeys, I'm pleading with you to please continue to do that. And you're not only hearing me here, I'm going to be making some phone calls and putting squeeze on some of my friends to get some turkeys over there.

This is going to be a tough year and they're not going to have the resources that we've been generally able to provide. We started a couple of years ago with the telethon. We've had very successful first year and as I say, a successful anything. When you start talking a few thousand dollars, it isn't the Dracut



scholarship dollars. We could do that, too, if we wanted to. But but it was something that's going to be a lot more than what they received this year, unless there's an outpouring of generosity. If you want to contribute to the Hudson Community Food Pantry, I'm going to give you the address. I'll say it slowly because I know this is going to be repeated probably for the next few days. This television broadcast that we're doing, the Hudson Community Food Pantry, that's what it's called, is that P.O. Box 293 in Hudson, New Hampshire, 03051. I'm glad they moved their P.O. box from Nashua to Hudson. So we have readily identified a nonprofit agency. The location is still the same, Mr. Chairman? 23 Library Street. It's still located on Library Street at the St. John in the back. 23 Library Street if you want to send a check or donation. Please send it to the Hudson New Hampshire Food Pantry. PO Box 293, Hudson, NH 03051.

Selectman Coutu continued saying, And one last thing, Mr. Chairman. Selectman Martin, and I say, Selectman, with all due respect, I will I want to thank you for sitting in for me for a few meetings at the Planning Board level. I said to you, and I'm going to repeat it publicly, thank God I wasn't there yesterday evening. No one in any given position, and I don't care what it is, we're going to abuse each other. I kind of enjoy that sometimes. We can abuse each other because it's part of the political process. It's sometimes you think you're not clarifying your point, so got angry, I'm speaking about myself, I think sometimes I have to shout loud because they're not getting it and I can't think that I'm that stupid. Not that I'm thinking the other person is stupid. I just think maybe it's me. Maybe I'm the stupid one here in the group, especially with the votes are four to one. And I'm on the losing end. So I say stupid. And I thought, OK, but it's it's a game of give and take and we serve that way. Yesterday evening I had every intention of being there. As you know, I underwent a medical treatment in the morning. I walked out of there. I felt like a million. I didn't feel like a million dollars, but I felt relatively well. I think we may have conversed yesterday. I told you I'd be there. And lo and behold, at four o'clock, my whole system started shutting down. I mean, shutting down. I knew that if I went to that meeting, I think I said this to you. I felt my head was going to drop on the table and I'd fall asleep. I was so beat up from a simple procedure. It just it ate at me. I got metal clips in me and tell me I can't get it through the airport. I have to bring the metal detection card they gave me. what the hell? They put metal clips. I asked them, is that one of those bag clips? And they said, yeah, well, no, it's not quite like that. It's a clip. So Selectman Martin yesterday evening you represented me at the meeting and I thought you conducted yourself in a very professional manner throughout the meeting. Not that you have not in the past, but you certainly did last night and you certainly have in the past. I'm not ashamed. I felt bad, that I wasn't at the meeting. I wouldn't have done what Normand did. You conducted yourself in a professional manner. Yesterday evening was an unusual meeting. Rarely will you ever see a situation like that again, where we've asked people to recuse themselves. It has not happened, that I know of, that we've asked to at the same meeting to potentially consider recusing themselves, but one had already done so. For you to make a motion, and with with all due respect to the process. With all due respect to the advice that we were given by our counsel, with all due respect to the request of the Chairman of the Planning Board, you made a motion, very simple, very forthright, not demeaning to anyone. And you were assailed for it. The motion passed unanimously. People supported your motion. It wasn't a contentious, a purpose to be contentious, to make the motion, it was to right a wrong. That's what you tried to do.

Selectman Coutu went on to say, I maintain today the same position I maintained a few years a few months ago. I have not made up my mind one way or the other. I will not allow what happened yesterday evening to deter me from that position, though many people would say you're asking for it by your reaction, by not you this in you and what they represent. I know the people in the south end of town. I had a business that a lot of them are friends of mine. A lot of them were just customers. But I know them and I respect them and I feel for them and their plight. But that's not what I got sworn to do. I feel for a lot of other neighborhoods in town for other reasons. I will do, in the end, and after I've had a discussion with this Board, I will do what I think is in the best interests of the Town of Hudson. Regardless of what some person, who lost control of themselves like they did yesterday evening, and assails you or any other member of the Planning Board. If I'm there, I won't tolerate it and they'll know about it. I wasn't there. The Chairman didn't tolerate it. He was there. And hopefully he helped to resolve it, put the person in the proper place without being rude or obnoxious to them. And you certainly weren't rude and you probably had every right to be, but you acted professionally. Thank you so much and thank you for representing me so well. I appreciate it. Selectman Martin replied, you're welcome.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Selectman Martin seconded by Selectman Roy, to adjourn at 9:59 p.m. Carried 4-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
David S. Morin, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kara Roy, Vice-Chairman

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

Excused absence

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marilyn E. McGrath, Selectman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Norman G. Martin, Selectman

DRAFT