

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the April 27, 2021 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Coutu the meeting of April 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hudson Community Center.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Chairman Coutu. After the Pledge Chairman Coutu asked the group to remain standing. He then said as many of you know, in the hall, we lost a valuable asset to the town of Hudson this past week. We will take this time to memorialize Linda Kipnes. He then read her obituary. The Chairman went on to say, anyone who knew Linda knew she was a beautiful person. She served our community well. We are proud of. All of her accomplishments. We've honored her on several occasions, never enough, because she just couldn't do enough for our town. Let's take a moment to remember her in silence, please. I thank you, Mike, if you will, please, we have you may be seated. If you look at the screen and those of you at home television sets, ACTV put a little piece together with showing pictures of Linda at her best. As you saw in that video, Linda had a genuine smile that touched and affected everybody around her, and many of you got to see her on Election Day or at a Town Meeting where she would be down on the table serving and selling refreshments and pastries in order to raise funds for the greater woman's club. Selectman Roy made sent me a message immediately upon her hearing that Linda had passed. I had received a phone call earlier in the day and I know that Selectman Roy was on the Library Committee. She knew her well. And if you would, Selectman Roy, if you have something you'd like to share, please do so.

Selectman Roy said, so when I think about Linda, two words come to mind, kindness and pure heart. Whether she was volunteering at the soup kitchen or at the election with a great women's club or bringing energy and environmentally friendly projects to the board through the sustainability committee or advocating for the library, particularly advocating for fair pay for the employees of the library. She did it wholeheartedly. She did it with kindness and she did it with compassion. I can only strive to be more like her. She will be sorely missed. I, I really have a difficult time thinking of someone who was given so much to our community and asked for so little. So if we could all strive just to be a little bit more like Linda Kipnes, I think we would be better off. Thank you

3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: David Morin, Kara Roy, Marilyn McGrath, Roger Coutu, Brett Gagnon

Staff/Others: Rob Buxton - Fire Chief; Jim McIntosh - Dir. of Community Media; Gary Gasdia - School Board Member; Jill Laffin - Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Coutu said At this time, I will open the floor to public input as anyone in the audience wish to address the board or any matter which the board has control of at this time. And if you do so, please state your name, your address, and know that you will be limited to five minutes before

At this time Selectman Morin was recognized and said, before we get started. If I could have the floor for a minute. So I'd like to answer some questions from last week's public input and maybe we'll put something to rest. I like to talk a little bit about the misconceptions about the tower ladder that there is a possibility of the town getting. First of all, if this project goes through, we will not be purchasing this tower ladder. It will be purchased for the town. The versatility of this truck goes way beyond any of the trucks that we now have. It is not specifically for this construction site as although if there is an emergency, there will be a great asset if they need it for any type of rescue or anything to that matter, it can be used below grade, above grade. It's much safer for the fire firefighters to work out of. It gives them safety when they're on the roof. They don't have to stand on the roof. They can work from the bucket. It can perform all kinds of rescues. It can be used by the police if they had to if they needed a

large scale view of something or the police need to take pictures of the crime scene because it's such a safe platform to work on. Another thing that we've heard a lot about is Manning of this truck. I got to tell you, the residents of this town get the bang for their buck for the firefighters we have with the staffing that Chief Buxton does now.

Selectman Morin continued saying, and you take the NFPA requirements that the department should follow. But due to financial concerns, we don't we should have 26 firefighters on duty every shift. We have 11. You get your bang for your buck. What the firefighters do, if you look at Central Station, there's an engine, an ambulance, a squad, a ladder truck and a tanker. There's five firefighters there. They man all those trucks, they cross staff. Those trucks run depending on what the emergency is. They don't all come in. They don't take those all one guy in one truck. They put on a crew so that truck can do their job. At the Low Road and Robinson Road Station, there's an ambulance, an engine and a forestry. Same thing there. Three firefighters, man, those apparatus. So whatever type of call comes in, those firefighters go on those trucks and the other trucks remain on staffed. We will not be hiring any firefighters because we can operate with the firefighters that we have with that truck because it is a specialty truck. And I'm sure the chief will put that on the appropriate dispatches and the firefighters will be told and directed when to respond in that truck. And I just wanted to clarify that, because we've heard that numerous times. Thank you.

Chairman Coutu thanked Selectman Morin for his comments and then said Thank you. All right, at this time, I'm opening up to public input. You may rise, sir, please step to the microphone, state your name and address for the record, please.

Ed Thompson, 22 Burns Hill Road. I guess also I wanted to say a couple of words about Linda before I get started, I'll never forget the time I turned on to Burns Hill Road one time and she was set up in the parking lot of the fire department and they were collecting trash on my road. I hopped out of the car and said, how can I help? Because I didn't know what they were doing. So she gave me a bag. She gave me a shirt and we went to town. And I'll tell you, from that day that was probably two or three years ago. I've been picking up trash on my street religiously twice a year, probably two or three hours at a time. And she's in my head every time I do it. So I just want you to know that she made a big impact on me and I'll be before this Board in the near future to try and get on that committee. You have my word. Thank you. So the HLC project. Here we go. We thought that this sewer allocation. Proposal was going to be back on the agenda. Obviously, it's not. It's unfortunate that somebody got Covid and hopefully they make a full recovery and hopefully nobody else got it in the town hall. I know that I have a lot of respect for everybody on this board as well as the planning board, and I fully understand how much work goes into evaluating a giant project that's been in front of the town for over a year. I read through the packet last night, all 185 pages, as I've done, I've been to every single one of these meetings, both the Planning Board, Conservation Board of Selectmen.

I came tonight because I didn't want to miss my track record. The town, I'm afraid. Is there a crossroads, aren't we? We're at a position now where I'm my biggest question tonight is how does this how does this deferral of the consideration of the silver allocation, how does that affect the vote, knowing full well that the planning board could and probably will vote on this project either at the next meeting or the meeting after that? Doesn't the whole air of the sewer being, although it's been decided on, there's so much of it in the air right now, doesn't it make sense to at least discuss it before that planning board decisions made? That's my biggest question. I read through the packet. I read Attorney Parsay's letter at length. I'm not and I'm not an anonymous opponent. I'm not at all. I'm a abiding resident that cares a great deal about this town. And it pains me to watch information go unnoticed that has been presented by myself and other members of this group, Savehudsonnh.org, and I saw that glowingly at the last meeting as our liaison tried to get more information and discuss the traffic, which is my all-time number one concern, was shut down for further discussion and moved aside. I just couldn't believe it. And I, along with a lot of other people in this town, we see so many unsolvable problems that this project is going to bestow upon our town. And again, we've tried to shine the light and I don't know where this is going to wind up, but I implore you to take to get this

sewer at least up for discussion again before the next Planning Board meeting, if at all possible. Thank you so much.

Chairman Coutu then said to Mr. Thompson, just for your edification, please note that yes, indeed, one of our employees, one we think is critical to the issue of, which is our Town Engineer needed to be here to address any technical questions that we might not have full knowledge of or something that may be being presented. That is correct and assure us that the information is correct or if the information is inaccurate and to provide us with the documentation. So we wish him well. We wish he was here. I didn't want to postpone this another two weeks and but a similar situation arose last week with Attorney Manzelli. We extended her this courtesy two weeks ago. So I felt it was imperative that we extend the courtesy to our Town Engineer right now.

Mr. Thompson replied saying, Ok, obviously to the direction that the last Planning Board meeting was going, it was obvious to me that if this didn't come up before a vote was made, it look like this or reconsideration may never come up. It could drop off the agenda. And that that was that was what I was afraid of. Chairman Coutu replied, it doesn't go away until it's finalized. OK, it doesn't go away until it's finalized. That's what I assure you of, that I've been involved in municipal court action so it doesn't get resolved until it goes away. Mr. Thompson said, that's what I was looking for. Chairman Coutu replied, thank you. Thank you. Yep. Anyone else, please?

Jim Dobbins, 4 Eagle Drive in Hudson for the last 38 years. I am a concerned Hudson resident as I have been here for 38 years and I am concerned of what's going on. I do have a few things I'd like to board to still consider moving forward. But I will preface this by saying, over the course of the last 12 months, as I've Become more involved with the Town, I see the fabric of this town getting ripped. And that really bothers me. There's been there's been a divide that's been created because of what's being discussed in the South and the Hudson, which is just too bad. But several of things I'd like the board to consider. One is ground traffic is unfortunate. It was shut down. I believe this board in this town is not prepared with what will be hitting us should this project be approved. What is this town's plan going to be to handle it and all? If anybody watched the news last night with Amazon made the news once again in the new facilities in Northborough, Massachusetts, every major network carried the story last night. Developer says they're not responsible and Amazon doesn't care. 18 wheelers, well, they shouldn't be. Even though ordinances were put in, agreements were made, they now have 18 wheelers and trucks driving all over town. In fact, they had to shut down the high school track teams from running on the roads. Now, within that town, we're not going to be immune to that, especially in our back roads. And you don't want an 18 wheeler on our back roads safety to our residents, our roads will become more dangerous. That bothers me, especially the accident that occurred not too long ago. We don't need to create dangerous situations in our town. I don't want to be a dumping ground for the state of New Hampshire, which appears we are through the super allocation. I believe that should be reconsidered and denied. The decision that was made back in January to me makes zero sense. So I strongly urge the board to make sure that we do reconsider that to select one moron on the platform truck.

Mr. Dobens went on to say, I agree with you, sir. We need to have one. I also believe we need to have more firefighters. And I, for one and many other citizens, would easily pay more taxes to add more firefighters to this town 11 on a shift is not enough. Frankly, I'm concerned for their safety. And if we're going to have a platform truck, you know, you can't operate one with less than three to four people, three people to run it. And you don't have to have an officer there to run things. So I am concerned. I have no issues and spending tax money on the safety and welfare of the residents of Hudson. And most people would agree with me. So let's make sure we don't leave it at 11 firefighters if we had equipment, because that facility is going to need more than eleven firefighters if something happens. So to sum it up, let's not be naive. This developer will be gone and they won't care. They won't care what they leave behind. And you will find out that Amazon isn't going to care either. Protect your town for us before it's too late. Thank you.

James Crowley, 4 Fairway Drive. I thought I was going to have to spend more time plugging for the sewer allocation, but I appreciate the Board's concern on how to handle it correctly. And I believe the Town Engineers and your very good call on your part. I want the Board of Selectmen and any listening Planning Board to keep reminding themselves. The proposed Hudson Logistics Center will be a major 24/7, 365 operation with the sound walls too low. I have no relief from the 24/7 365 noise pollution. Planning Board members seem to put their complete trust in studies supplied by the applicant and peer reviews. This is even after knowledgeable public testimony, both written and verbal, have pointed out flaws in various reports and peer review analysis. At the last April 21st, Planning Board meeting applicant's engineers requested to investigate and report back on increasing the height of the sound wall and visual protection to the public. Please encourage the Planning Board to err on the side of the public and their deliberations and decisions. Again, I hope all board members remember whatever decisions are made many members of the public will be subjected to 24/7, 365 and will not get any relief if any of these proved to be detrimental decisions. There are no 24/7, 365 comparisons in the Hudson to unknowns presented by this massive project. So hopefully remember 24/7, 365.

John Debut, 11 Eagle Drive. I just wanted to mention I did not know Linda, but I loved what you said about the volunteers and volunteering is very important in my family. We volunteer, you know, quite often. I'm in the military right now. When I finally retire from the military, I'll be able to hopefully volunteer for one of your boards and use the skills that I have to give back to the Town. I want to begin by stating, you know, it's sometimes difficult to speak at these meetings and not be heard many times. Nevertheless, I know the importance of repeating how horrible this HLC project will be for the town of Hudson. The residents from the traffic nightmare with trucks traveling the back roads, the unknown concentration of pollutants, they'll be floating over our neighborhoods, the unsightly sound wall and buildings that my neighbors will be looking at until they sell their homes for possible loss and the change in the character of the town I raise my boys in. At the last Planning Board meeting, I felt I left feeling that the concerns of the residents have never had any impact on make any change to the project. Yet all the requests and variances from Hillwood are voted on positively. They talked about the sound while in the berm.

It was discussed were good questions about raising the height of the sound wall. I was shocked when a board member did state that the developer only needed to add screening. How is that taking the concerns of the residents seriously? I want to thank the board members are speaking about the need to build a better wall, but in the end, I feel that the neighbors' concerns were dismissed. How does a board grant less parking spots, a second driveway and a narrow driveway, but can't add requirements to fix this under design sound wall? The material, the sound wall was also discussed in developer again stated that Woods inappropriate material. I did send an email to the board. The sound study clearly states appropriate materials for the fence include acoustical metal panels or other hybrid systems specifically manufactured for the purpose. What is not an acoustical metal panel or a hybrid system? The traffic discussion was also shut down the planning board meeting when there was still outstanding issues. The discussion about having crossing lights went nowhere because it may interfere with the traffic study. Is Hudson more concerned with the flow of traffic than with the residents crossing the low road superhighway? Please look into the plans for the river. Please project that were road improvements planned all the way to town hall and beyond.

Mr. Debut went on to say, the DOT also would allow ramps directly into the project. They stated access off the Sagamore Bridge Road was feasible so long as the developer showed a benefit. We know the developer does not want the ramps. They told us that on many occasions Hudson needs to require ramps for this project. The DOT does not tell this Town what to require for a project. You need to require the ramps and tell both the DOT and Hillwood that this is necessary for approval. The Fall River Amazon facility has a ramp leading directly in and out of their Amazon facility that the developer paid for. Why is it good for Fall River and not for Hudson?

Mr. Debut continued saying, I want to also talk about the sewer vote. I have three points to make that are clear. And I think if we use our common sense, we allow you to fix this mistake. Number one, the HLC project is not in the sewer district. Number two, the HLC project is not essential for public health, safety and welfare for the town of Hudson. It will never be a number three. Hillwood in Amazon were well aware from the start of this project that this property is outside of the sewer district and should not have access to the sewer. Their plan should have included a septic design from the beginning, and they can now include it to provide septic to this development. This project is ripping at the fabric of our town. I know our boards and residents were trying to do everything that's right for Hudson. I can tell you that every big project does not do this to a town. The River Place Project had a team that came to my neighborhood to work in a berm solution that would benefit both the project and, more importantly, the residents. I have not seen this interaction with this development. They have not tried to unite the Town I was and I'll use this word lightly. I was disgusted when I read the Selectmen package today when the developer called out anonymous residents and even a sitting Board member. Is no one safe from their bull's eyes. When we bring up concerns, instead of engaging with the residents, we are told that this meets the minimum standard or it's reasonable. I hope you understand why the residents are frustrated and vocal. It's our right to be involved in this process. I'm not a silent majority that's lurking in the shadows. I've been come to these meetings for a year alongside all these folks in all of you sitting on these boards. I have concerns, have been asking questions many times, are ignored, brushed aside and told I am wrong by this developer. I am on your side. I am with the Select Board and the Town officials. I'm not enemy, but sometimes I have made to feel that way. A great project would unite Hudson, but HLC is dividing us and we need to fix this. A great project team would work with the residents. I have not seen this and I have witnessed the developer being snappy with Board members when difficult questions are not answered by the Board, I'm going to finish up. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I hope I've made a difference. And you can see all the issues that are still outstanding with the HLC. As the former Town Engineer Michael Gosper stated in 1991 regarding the Sam's Club project, can it be expected that a decision that could affect the town of Hudson for the next 50 years be made in three weeks? We are not much further than those three weeks in this project decision making process. I hope the next week is not the final decision. Mr. Gosper's words ring as true today as did 20 years ago. A three week decision to impact a town for over 50 years is too fast. Thank you again for your time.

Chris Mulligan, 5 Fairway Drive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't prepare anything and I wasn't even sure what was going to speak tonight, but I just wanted to bring attention to a letter that I sent to both this Board and the Planning Board yesterday. It was about the Northborough facility in Massachusetts and the article that was written. What caught my eye in that article, obviously, was the traffic issues as traffic is a major concern for everybody, I believe. But what caught my eye is the specific comments from Mr. Greggs from Amazon. Mr. Gregg stood before the town of Hudson, the planning board, and told us specifically that their facilities run at 40 percent utilization. And that is what all our traffic numbers are based upon. It's funny because in that article, he said that that facility maybe is the one facility that does runs at 80 percent, 80 percent utilization. It's double that will have a severe impact on traffic numbers. So as everyone has been saying from the start of this, there are numbers, I suspect, and I believe they're completely wrong. So anything you guys can do, I don't know what you can do, to be quite honest with you. But anything you can do to ask questions of the planning board to reconsider that, get additional studies, get a different additional traffic study and get Amazon and Hillwood to use the proper numbers in their studies would be beneficial to this whole town. Thank you.

5. Resignations, Interviews and Appointments

Zoning Board of Adjustment (1 member vacancy to expire 12/31/21, 4 alternate member vacancies. 2 to expire 12/31/21, 2 to expire 12/31/22, 1 to expire 12/31/23)

Marcus Nicholas (new applicant)

Chairman Coutu recognized Hudson resident, Marcus Nicholas, My name is Marcus Nicholas. I live at 1 Scenic Lane. So the reason I applied for this position is because I had a about two years, I believe it was. We had a situation in my garage where we needed to extend it and we're able to come before the board and make our case and they got accepted. But the bigger reason I would say is because from being in the military, my whole mantra is to serve. I could give you a simple example. I just finished my last final today, actually, to get my masters in engineering. Good for you and thank you. Before that, a couple of classes before that, I spoke with my professor and I was telling him how I would love to volunteer at the school because I remember so many classes I took was challenging, you know, and I wouldn't mind just being there just to help those students who are who are who are in the same situation as I was to help. And I told myself, I don't I don't want to get paid. I just want to help them because I just want to give back as a as it seems. I'm going to be starting an adjunct as an adjunct professor in the fall. And, you know, the fact that I'm done with school, I'm done with studying, I have a lot more time, my hands and the way I mean, I love the city. My my wife and I, we moved here like about four or five years ago and love Hudson totally. And I just would like to give back to the community, you know, as a way of sorry, continuing service.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said, I'll make this very quick. No questions as a fellow electrical engineer, getting a master's in electrical engineering hat off to you, sir, that's difficult. Thank you. And also what you said I'd like to highlight is I'm very impressed that you stated you wanted to do something and that you then you're going to be the adjunct professor. That's it's impressive to say I'm going to do this and get it done. So I really appreciate that. That's all I had. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Coutu asked Ok, other than in reading your application, you mentioned what you said about having to apply for a three bay garage. What is it specifically about that process that evening? What was it about that meeting that struck out at you that that resonated to a point where you say, you know, I might want to volunteer to do something like this?

Mr. Nicholas replied, so we had to get plans and a whole bunch of documents together. Right. And I'm, of course, being an engineer. I'm used to reading schematics and things of that nature. Well, I noticed that there were other people who probably didn't have quite the paperwork they needed to get things done. And so, you know, I I was just just listening to what with what was going on with them and some of some of the requests, you know, to me seemed reasonable. And I felt bad for someone because there was somebody else, you know, I'm a disabled vet and there was somebody else who at the time who was disabled as well. And I don't know if they were a veteran or not, but they were disabled. And my heart went out to the individual because they needed another type of access into their home, but they were not able to be granted that. But and I believe had a lot to do with the paperwork. And so, you know, I would love to help as much as I can. You know, in case of somebody doesn't have something together properly, I can at least turn out, say, hey, look, you know, here's what you need to do. You know, not to say that I want to guarantee anybody's going to get anything because that's, you know, far from it. But I would like to help, you know, people who need who have an actual need. I would like to be there to help them if I can, as I can, as a way of giving back to the community.

Chairman Coutu said, I want to make you aware of just one thing. Sure. When you if you should receive an appointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, you are swearing to take an oath. And that oath, besides abiding by the Constitution of the United States and that of the state of New Hampshire, you also taken an oath that you will apply the rules and regulations that apply to the town

of Hudson. So I know what you're saying, but you can't bend the rules at the meeting. But you have a right as does as would any other member, whether you're an alternate member of full ZBA member, to recommend certain things to be done. And they can come back with a cleaner application. Right. So you can recommend those things, but you can't bend the rules. Mr. Nicholas replied, Ok, by no means. The Chairman said, we're going to make a decision two weeks from tonight on the appointments of those persons who are new applicants. And you will be notified by our executive assistant and she'll let you know. I thank you so much for coming forward and thank you for volunteering to help your community. Thank you.

Benson Park Committee - (1 member vacancy with a term to expire 4/30/24, 1 alternate member vacancy with a term to expire 4/30/23)

John Leone (incumbent member)

Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to reappoint John Leone to the Benson Park Committee with a term to expire 4/30/24. Carried 5-0.

Cable Utility Committee - (4 member vacancies -3 to expire 4/30/24, 2 expiring 4/30/23)

Michael O'Keefe (incumbent member)

Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to appoint Mike O'Keefe as a member to the Cable Utility Committee with a term to expire 4/30/24. Carried 5-0.

Flo Nicholas (new applicant)

Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to appoint Florence Nicholas as a member to the Cable Utility Committee with a term to expire 4/30/24. Carried 5-0.

Chairman Coutu went on to Consent Items and said next items up for consideration are the consent items. I want to bring one thing to your attention because it has been corrected so we won't have to stall the project on your minutes. Page one public input segment. My friend was misidentified that as the second year of the motion, I believe, or as the person ringing the bell. So that has been corrected. The name has been properly changed. asked, does any Board member wish to remove any item for separate consideration on consent items? Seeing none, Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve consent items A, C, D, E & F as noted. Carried 5-0.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Veteran Tax Credits: Map 182, Lot 0121, 44 Central Street; Map 154, Lot 024, 27 Sullivan Road
- 2) Disabled Exemption: Map 178, Lot 028, 71 Kimball Hill Road
- 3) Solar Exemptions: Map 157, Lot 047, 6 Raven Road; Map 242, Lot 048, 5 Glenview Drive; Map 191, Lot 073, 28 B Street

4) Elderly Exemption Denial: Map 116, Lot 086, 14 Stoney Lane

5) 2020 Property Tax Abatement: Map 129, Lot 6, 20 Adam Drive

6) Gravel Tax Warrant: Map 141, Lot 1-Brox Industries; Map 140, Lot 1- Brox Industries; Map 150, Lot 13- Brox Industries

7) Institutional Exemptions: Map 190, Lot 015 - Kiwanis Club of Hudson; Map 242, Lot 058 - The PLUS Company; Map 147, Lot 027 - Alvrine School Chapel; Map 106, Lot 006, Map 190, Lot 085 - Area Agency Properties Inc.; Map 168, Lot 122 - Hudson Grange #11; Map 182, Lot 022 and 030 - American Legion Post #43; Map 136, Lot 036 & Map 183, Lot 100 - Hudson VFW; Map 166, Lot 011 - St. Patrick's Cemetery; Map 166, Lot 017 - St. Casimir's Church and Cemetery; Map 182, Lot 129 - St. John the Evangelist Church; Map 235, Lot 009 - St. Kathryn Church; Map 210, Lot 010 - Sisters of the Presentation of Mary; Map 176, Lot 034 - First Baptist Church; Map 156, Lot 034 - United Pentecostal Church/Parsonage; Map 105, Lot 007 - Lighthouse Baptist Church; Map 182, Lot 49 - Hudson Community Church, UCC

B Water/Sewer Items - None

C Licenses & Permits & Policies

1) Raffle Permit - Dalton Shumsky Foundation (7/31/21)

D. Donations - None

E. Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of the April 13, 2021

F. Calendar

4/28 7:00 Planning Board - Hudson Community Center
5/5 7:00 Budget Committee - Hills Memorial Library
5/5 7:00 Planning Board - Hudson Community Center
5/10 7:00 Conservation Commission - Hudson Community Center
5/11 7:00 Board of Selectmen - Hudson Community Center

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after nonpublic session April 13, 2021

1) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to allow Jess Forrence to buyout 202.0925 hours of earned time. Carried 5-0.

2) Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to hire Connor Peterson as the Hudson Police Department Alvrine High School Student Maintenance Assistant with a total of 15 hours a week at a rate of \$10.30 per hour. Carried 5-0.

- 3) Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to hire Cindy Holton as the Hudson Recreation Department Women's League Softball Coordinator for the fee of \$600.00. Carried 5-0.
- 4) Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to hire David Foreman as the Hudson Recreation Department Men's League Softball Coordinator for the fee of \$600.00. Carried 5-0.
- 5) Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to hire Melina Shea for the position of Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector, at a rate of \$17.50 per hour, effective April 19, 2021. Carried 5-0.
- 6) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to seal the nonpublic minutes of the April 13, 2021 meeting. Carried 5-0.
- 7) Motion to adjourn at 10:15 p.m. by Selectman Gagnon, seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 5-0.

B. Request to Reconsider Green Meadow Golf Course Sewer Allocation

This was deferred to the May 11, 2021 Board of Selectmen meeting agenda due to Covid-19

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Bracket Lane Water Line Extension - this item was deferred to the 5/11/21 meeting due to Covid-19.

B. HFD - Squad Replacement

Chairman Coutu recognized Fire Chief, Rob Buxton. Chief Buxton said, Good evening, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Board this evening, we're here to work through the process of awarding the warrant article that was put forward in March of 2020. This will be to purchase a new squad chassis for a value of \$170,000 to have the body put on the new chassis for that truck. The money for this project will be removed from the capital reserve fund for fire apparatus. It was approved by the voters at the March 10th meeting. And we've work through the process, through Covid doing the engineering portion and the scope and the review, because it's not just as simple as taking one piece off and putting another piece on. Right. So we had to work through those pieces and we were delayed three times because of Covid outbreaks. So we're a bit behind in awarding this, we would like to once again work with Alexis Fire Apparatus, who was the original manufacturer of this piece of apparatus, and that would be remounting the body portion of the truck and the new chassis and adding and inspecting the entire body prior to returning it to us. If you remember, seven years ago, we put the rapid response vehicle in place. And as of today, that vehicle is actually responded to 7,835 five calls in the community. So we're certainly getting our money's worth out of that. This money will come out of the capital reserve fund. The Finance Director has provided you with a letter of support for our request to use source spending through Alexis Fire Apparatus. So I'm asking for your support this evening to waive the bidding process and then authorize the new vehicle purchase.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said, quick question for you, Chief. For my own knowledge, being a kind of self-taught mechanic, what's the price of a brand new vehicle? So you're talking here about taking the body and putting on our new chassis. There's savings, of course. Chief Buxton replied, Yeah, the estimated cost, because we did the cost comparison was \$300,000 for the new squad vehicle. And when the original plan was put in place, which we had adopted, was a 10 year lifespan on the body itself. So at the five year period, we would purchase a new chassis, put the original body on it to achieve those cost savings. So we're in that process right now.

Seeing no further questions for the Chief, the Chairman said, I'll entertain a *motion to waive the competitive bidding requirements as outlined in town code 98-7, and to purchase a squad vehicle from Alexis Fire Equipment at the price of \$170,000, as recommended by the Fire Chief and Finance Director. The truck is to be funded through the Capital Reserve Fund. A motion made by Selectman McGrath, second by Selectman Roy discussion. Carried 5-0.*

Chief Buxton said, Mr. Chairman, there was two motions for that vehicle unless you pulled them into one. I think the second to award that to Alexis Fire Apparatus.

The Chairman said, I'll entertain *a motion to authorize the Fire Chief to allow the Fire Chief to purchase the new squad vehicle through Alexis Fire Apparatus for the cost of \$170,000. Selectman Roy made this motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath. Carried 5-0.*

C. HFD - Refurbishment

Chief Buxton was again recognized and explained, So the second project this evening is to buy a brush unit module and have that installed on top of the old chassis that is coming from the squad. The plan was to get into a rotation of our medium size fleet and not buy new pickup trucks to utilize this brush trucks. So we are looking to utilize capital reserve money again this year for refurbishment and repair. It was created in 2008. Currently, there is a balance of \$209,474. Then we're requesting to remove \$139,781. So the unit would be refurbished if we wish and we will continue to move forward with our medium size fleet replacement program and the current skid that is in our brush unit would be made available for Public Works. So the Director of Public Works and I, he would take our old skid unit and put that into play. I believe the plan was to use it at the landfill. So we're certainly look forward to giving that to him to utilize and move forward. So once again, we'll look into while the truck is out in Illinois having the work done to it, it makes sense to have the new module put on top of it there and move forward that project. The Finance Director agrees with us and has made a recommendation to again waive the bidding process and award the contract to Alexis Fire apparatus. The Chairman asked and we purchased that originally from Alexis, right? Chief Buxton responded, We purchased originally. Yes. Chairman Coutu said, Ok, all right. Any questions from the Board seeing none, I entertain *a motion to waive the competitive bidding requirements as outlined in Town code 98-7 and to refurbish a squad vehicle with the work to be done by Alexis Fire Equipment and a price of 139,781 as recommended by the Fire Chief and Finance Director. The restoration of the squad vehicles to be funded through the fire apparatus refurbish capital reserve fund Selectman Roy made this motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon. Carried 5-0.*

Chairman Coutu then said, before you leave, Chief, I have two things. Number one, could you give us an overview so the public would know what your department went through this weekend?

Chief Buxton replied, Will do. OK, so the state of New Hampshire has been operating underneath the red flag warning since approximately the middle of last week. And that is a forestry term that basically signifies the high risk for brushfires in the area. Starting on Saturday, the Town of Hudson started responding to multiple, multiple mutual aid requests for a response, four brush units to assist other

communities. The largest event that we responded to started on Saturday, approximately 1:30 in the Town of Pelham on the Gumpus Pond Conservation area, where we spent the remainder of Saturday and the bulk of the day on Sunday, working a 32 acre brushfire in that area in the conservation area. So I'm very proud of the work that our department did and the support that we're able to give. We were one of probably 10 communities that provided support over there. And I know even as late as today, the Pelham Fire Department is still out there checking hot spots because of the weather we continue to have. And on Sunday, we did receive some rain, but it was certainly not enough to really give the ground a good soaking. So that's pretty much how we handled our weekend. The Chairman said, and it was complicated by the wind. Yeah. And it's my understanding that they had mutual aid from as far away as Concord, correct? The Chief replied, Correct.

The Chairman then went on to say, the other thing I would like to discuss with you, and I brought it up on our phone, one of our phone conversations today. We had a few Old Home Days Chairman Malley. He's the Chairman of the Old Home Days Committee, called me today and he was hoping that he could renew Old Home Days. I think it would, from my perspective, anyway, bring life back to our community that we're not just thinking about opening up. We're going to open up. And obviously, I would never entertain such a thing. And I told Mr. Malley that I would certainly open it up for discussion, but not until I had an opportunity to have an extensive discussion with the Fire Chief, which we did. And he concurred with me. So if you would just talk a little bit about your views on Old Home Days?

Chief Buxton responded, Sure. So, as the Chairman stated, he brought forward to me the opportunity to potentially see Old Home Day brought back. Last year, we canceled all home day due to the Covid-19 pandemic. And looking at where we are today, seeing the State open up our outdoor venues, I believe that it's certainly within the scope of where we're headed for reopening. As I express to the Chairman, I'd be more than happy to work with Chairman Malley and basically give them a hand, putting together a Covid-19 plan for that event. You know, certainly social distancing and masking, especially with the new CDC guidance documents coming out from today, by the time we get to August, should be much better and more easily accomplished. So we certainly would give them the support that they need to put together a safe event and bring back that highlight to our community.

Chairman Coutu said ok, thank you, Chief. And I'd like to ask the Board at this time, for a consensus. Obviously did not want to go through the process of putting all the paperwork together. If this Board was not amenable to agreeing to open up Old Home Days to the public. Seeing a consensus from the Board, the Chairman said thank you very much. Thank you, Chief. I'll tell him and I'm meeting with him Saturday anyway, so I'll have a further discussion with him. And he has been made aware of certain compliance issues. And I advised him and maybe you can work with them on drafting a memo to all of the vendors that they also have to be compliant and maintain the six foot rule. No problem. Thank you. Thank you, sir.

9 REMARKS BY THE SCHOOL BOARD - Mr. Gasdia said So the schools are on vacation this week, but last week we did go back full time at the middle school and the high school, you know, great job by the administrators, the teachers, the staff there, things like traffic, buses, lunches, things like that, all needed to be looked at. And they pulled it off. They did a nice job. I think the students are actually happy to be back. Someday they'll look back and say, why did we want to go back to school full time? But for now, they're happy, which is great. Spring sports are going well and now parents can visit the away games as well. And we're allowing visiting parents at home. So we're starting to get back to normal there. And then finally, hats off to Chief Buxton. The partnership with him strikes again. The students 16 years of age or older will all be able to get vaccinated. This coming Tuesday will be their first shot on 5/4 and then follow up second shot on May 25th. And that's open to all the

students. Again, 16 plus and also we opened it up to Litchfield. So again, thank you for the partnership. Really appreciate that.

10. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman McGrath - I have nothing this evening

Selectman Gagnon - Just quickly, this week or last week, I take it I met with the library committee. A couple quick things that they were discussing as they're looking to stop the book Quarantine, where books come in and get quarantined for so long. But based on CDC guidelines, they're thinking that, you know, touch points is not as it's not as a high risk. So they're going to stop that book quarantine. And they're also discussing a blood drive come this summer in the working out the details of that. That's all ahead. Thank you.

Selectman Roy - I just have to talk a little bit about what Chief Buxton talked about over the last couple of weeks. Our public safety folks have been excessively busy. So I'm just going to ask the public, please be careful and careful when you're driving. Put your cell phones down. You know, it's been very, very dry. Do not have, you know, open fires and all those kinds of things. At this point, they're not permitted. But please help give our public safety folks a little break and be careful. That's all

Selectman Morin - First of all, I'd like to congratulate Selectman Roy for being nominated and recognized by the New Hampshire Woman's Foundation for all her work she's done in Town. Congratulations. And the second thing I got tonight is the Town Collectors Tax Collectors Office is going to be very short handed next week, we believe, due to some illnesses. And we just want to remind everybody that it's the end of the month. It's the busiest time in that office. Please be patient. There's probably going to be some time that you're going to be standing in line. We're doing the best we can. I know Chief Buxton, the Chairman, have put together a plan to make this as easy as possible, that we can make it, but there will be delays and just ask everybody for their patience and understanding. Thank you. That's all I have.

Chairman Coutu - I one thing I want to bring to everyone's attention so that we don't forget, if there's no objection, we'll add Linda Kipnes to the list of having an honor page in our annual 2021 Town Report

11. NONPUBLIC SESSION

The Chairman said, I will entertain a motion to go into non-public under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee.

Motion by Selectman Morin at 8:06 p.m., seconded by Selectman Gagnon, to go into non-public session. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Chairman Coutu entered Nonpublic Session at 8:06 p.m. thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public is asked to leave the room.

Chairman Coutu entered open session at 8:22 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session

Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to hire Michael Lewis for the position of Firefighter/AEMT in the Fire Department, at the contracted salary of \$21.17 per hour (step 1). Carried 5-0.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to hire Patrick Kelly to the position of Firefighter/EMT in the Fire Department, at the contracted salary of \$16.93 per hour (step 1). Carried 5-0.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to bring Leo Bernard back from furlough status to maintain Jette & Sousa softball fields, at 12 hours a week, effective 5/1/21. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to seal the nonpublic meeting minutes of 4/27/21. Motion Failed 2-3. Selectmen Morin, Coutu and McGrath opposed.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. by Selectman McGrath seconded by Selectman Morin. Carried 5-0.

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

Roger E. Coutu, Chairman

Marilyn E. McGrath, Vice-Chairman

David Morin, Selectman

Kara Roy, Selectman

Brett Gagnon, Selectman