

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the June 22, 2021 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman McGrath the meeting of June 22, 2021 at 6:59 p.m. in the Hudson Community Center.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Chief Buxton
3. ATTENDANCE
Board of Selectmen: Marilyn McGrath, David Morin, Kara Roy, Brett Gagnon
Staff/Others: Steve Malizia - Town Administrator; Jess Forrence - Public Works Director; Lisa Labrie - Finance Director; Bill Avery - Police Chief; Tad Dionne - Police Captain; Jana McMillan - Animal Control Officer; Bruce Buttrick - Zoning Administrator; Jim McIntosh - Dir. of Community Media; Rob Buxton - Fire Chief; Gary Gasdia - School Board Chairman; Jill Laffin - Executive Assistant
4. PUBLIC INPUT - none
5. Recognition, Resignations, Appointments and Interviews

Resignation of Roger Coutu as Selectman

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to accept Selectman Roger Coutu's resignation from the Board of Selectmen, effective May 25, 2021, with the Board's deepest regrets and sincerest appreciation for his service to our community. Carried 4-0.

Interviews

Craig Putnam - Alternate Member - Sustainability Committee

Chairman McGrath asked Craig Putnam to come forward and tell the Board a little about why interested in an alternate member vacancy on the Sustainability Committee. Mr. Putnam said I am about to retire from WPI, Worcester Polytechnic and my wife is the Chair of the Sustainability Committee and is looking for me to help with particular aspects of what the Committee is addressing. Having to do with things like renewable energy, EV charging facilities, community power and things of that nature. Chairman McGrath thanked Mr. Putnam. Seeing no questions from the Board the Chairman said, typically what we do with first time applicants is we wait until the next meeting to make the official appointment. So we'll do that in this case. So in a couple of weeks, you don't need to come back, we'll act on it at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Roger Coutu - Alternate Member - Planning Board

The Chairman stated that Mr. Coutu was unable to make it for an interview tonight so we will add this item to a future agenda.

Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve all Consent Agenda Items as noted and appropriate. Carried 4-0.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Certification of Taxes Yielded/Timber Warrant: Map 194, Lot 9-2, 2 Aspen Drive Pelham, NH
- 2) Certification of Taxes Yielded/Timber Warrant: Map 166, Lot 11, 32 Ledge Road
- 3) 2020 Abatement Application: Map 165, Lot 146, 68 Derry Street
- 4) 2020 Abatement Application: Map 227, Lot 3, 31 Sagamore Park Road
- 5) 2020 Abatement Application: Eversource Energy - Map 100, Lot 8; Map 167, Lot 9; Map 190, Lot 192; Map 179, Lot 31; Map 107, Lot 30; Map 208, Lot 11; Map 107, Lot 3-1; Map 144, Lot 8; Map 175, Lot 153; Map 182, Lot 181; Map 162, Lot 80; Map 13836; Map 179, Lot 11; Map 195, Lot 5; Map 175, Lot 6; Map 171, Lot 30; Map 171, Lot 31; Map 162, Lot 16; Map 135, Lot 7; Map 135, Lot 2; Map 171, Lot 46; Map 138, Lot 56; Map 175, Lot 153-2; Map 138, Lot 86
- 6) Current Use Lien Release: Map 156, Lot 5 Multiple Sites- Sparkling River Condo Site - Remainder of adjusted Phase VI

B. Water/Sewer Items

- 1) Water Abatements: W-UTL-20-03 Acct#3501818204; W-UTL-20-04 Acct #3505238004; W-UTL-21-02 Acct #350008905

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies

- 1) Hawker Peddler License - Cedi's Tasty Treats
- 2) Outdoor Gathering Permit - Hudson Old Home Days

D. Donations

- 1) \$500.00 donation to DPW for Town Common Christmas Lights from Roger & Doris Coutu

E. Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of the June 1, 2021
Minutes of June 8, 2021

F. Calendar

- 6/23 7:00 Planning Board - Buxton Meeting Room
6/24 7:00 Zoning Board - Buxton Meeting Room
6/28 7:00 Sustainability Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
7/12 7:00 Conservation Commission - Buxton Meeting Room

7/12 7:00 Cable Utility Committee - Hudson Cable Access Center
7/13 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Board of Selectmen Applicants

The Chairman stated at the last meeting we interviewed candidates for the vacancy on the Board of Selectmen and those applicants were Robert Guessferd, Richard Maddox, Richard Weissgarber, Jordan Ulery and Shawn Murray. Does anyone on the Board wish to make a nomination at this time? Selectman Morin made a nomination for Shawn Murray. Chairman McGrath asked, is there a second? Seeing none, Chairman McGrath seconded the nomination. She then asked any other nominations? At this time Selectman Roy made a nomination for Robert Guessferd. Selectman Gagnon seconded this nomination. Chairman McGrath then said, so we have a tie. So do you want to, how do you want to proceed? Selectman Morin said I think you probably should bring up both names, see if we get three votes. If not, we'll move on. The Chairman then said Mr. Murray has been nominated and seconded. A vote was taken. Motion failed 2-2 with Selectman Roy and Selectman Gagnon in opposition. Chairman McGrath then said the next nominee is Mr. Guessferd. Motion failed 2-2 with Selectman Morin and Chairman McGrath in opposition. Chairman McGrath then said so we have a tie for both. Selectman Morin was recognized and made a motion to nominate Richard Weissgarber. Chairman McGrath seconded that. Seeing no discussion a vote was taken. Motion failed 2-2 with Selectman Roy and Selectman Gagnon in opposition.

At this time Selectman Morin was recognized and said I'd like to make a motion that we send the applications out again and try this one more time before it ends up in the courts. I don't think there is a need for us to get to the courts. This group should come to some type of conclusion. I understand everybody's feelings but there are other people whether we want them or not that are in my words, neutral. So I would like to make a motion that we send out a request for applications again. Have people submit applications, go through the process one more time, see what we can come up with. Chairman McGrath seconded that motion.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said I'd actually like to re-nominate Mr. Guessferd. Um, okay, can I get a second? Selectman Gagnon seconded the motion. Selectman Roy then said so I want to speak to Mr. Guessferd's application a bit because I took a lot of time. I read this resume. I watched his presentation when he came before us. So throughout his approximate 30 years as a member of this community he's gotten involved. We've all seen his involvement first hand on the Budget Committee. You may not know this but he was also president of Alvrine High School Friends of Music, president of the local Kiwanis Club and Chairman of the Jeannie Berkley Memorial Fund. Mr. Guessferd is a graduate of one of the most elite institutions in this country, the United States Air Force Academy. The United States Air Force Academy, the United States Military Academy, United States Naval Academy and the Coast Guard Academy are the Ivy League level colleges of our military. Only the best of the best go to those schools. Bob went on to receive his master's degree in business administration from Bentley College and he is one of two candidates for the position to have graduate degrees. He's had approximately 32 years of leadership experiences and as many years as contract negotiating experience. He is experience in US government accounting and budgeting and for anyone who has been an operator in the federal system you would have an appreciation for this skill. He has served the Town as an elected member of the Board of the Budget Committee, I stand corrected, for about five years. Again Bob, Mr. Guessferd, is a graduate of the US Air Force Squadron Officer Course and the prestigious Air Force Command and Staff College. The air university is headquartered at Maxwell Air Force Base Alabama and is the United States Air Forces center for professional military education. The air university is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and School Commissions on Colleges to award masters and doctoral degrees. Mr. Guessferd's presentation to the Board was articulate and well thought out. He's

demonstrated he can recognize multifaceted issues and can use his abilities to critically think to examine issues and develop solutions. He will represent the citizens of Hudson well. I have no idea what Mr. Guessferd's positions regarding issues this Board and the Town will face over the next nine months. His positions may be radically different from mine. What I do know is that healthy debate and discussion from learned, critical thinking people that truly care about Hudson can only make us a better community. Selectman Roy continued on saying, I can tell you what the constituents don't want. They don't want the status quo and I can tell you this is evidenced by the petition warrant articles presented over the past few years and by some of the people elected to this very Board. They want well educated, bright, articulate and experienced leaders and we owe that to them. So Madame Chair I then make a motion to appoint Mr. Bob Guessferd to the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Gagnon seconded the motion. Chairman McGrath said, motion made and seconded. Anyone else want to make a motion? Selectman Gagnon said Madame Chair, I don't want to make a motion, I just have a comment but, just really quick I'd like to second that motion because similar to what Kara said just in short I got a real feeling from Mr. Guessferd that he had a sense of what the constituents and the people of the Town want. And to me he's a fresh mindset. Although he's volunteered he brings kind of a new look on Hudson's future. And I really do believe he comes across as very nonbiased to a lot of things and open to debate which is very enticing to have someone like that join us. That's all I had. Thank you.

Selectman Morin was then recognized and he said first status quo, you know, there's two sides to every story and we need to remember that. Okay? We don't have this one side that believes the whole Town is saying the same thing. Because I get people that tell me we made the right moves. Okay. So we need to take that out of it. Second of all we have a room full of qualified people sitting here. We have another gentleman that spent a lot of time in the military serves whose resume is right up there with Mr. Guessferd. Absolutely. And he was also...Selectman Roy interrupted Selectman Morin saying I would agree. Selectman Morin continued saying, he also was nominated. Okay. We have a past selectman who has the knowledge that we need for nine months. We have a past fire chief who worked here, knows all the ins and outs and is also on the Budget Committee. So we have some experience that we should be tapping into that we're not. So, again, I'm not going to vote for Mr. Guessferd. And I think if we can't come to, we need to do this again and if not it goes to court. Chairman McGrath said, and I would agree with you. And I don't know Mr. Guessferd. I don't know that we've ever met other than at the last meeting. I do know some of the other people that applied as well and you're right. They're all qualified. Every one of them. They all have different qualifications, different strengths to bring to this Board. It just so happens that I think that Mr. Weissgarber is the perfect candidate for this Board. So we can take a vote and we'll take a vote now on Mr. Guessferd that's the nominee and we'll see where that goes. A vote was taken. Motion failed 2-2 with Selectman McGrath and Selectman Morin in opposition. The Chairman then said, and again, from my perspective I think Mr. Weissgarber is the perfect candidate for this Board. I didn't write out a lengthy speech about it but I've certainly reviewed all of the resumes that we received. I watched the meeting a couple of times. So I think that I've made the right decision for myself and for this Town and for this Board.

At this time Selectman Morin made a motion, that we have the Town Administrator start the process, set up the dates and the applications and the interviews and we take it from there. Chairman McGrath then said, and those that have applied, and just didn't make the cut tonight, among the four of us, you can apply again and we'll see where it goes the next time. We may end up in court. This is a four member Board and it seems that we've got some real division among these four members. But I would encourage those that really want, I know you're shaking your head no, but you may go home and think about it and decide you want to try again. In any event I would encourage all of you to reapply if you want to go through this again. So, Mr. Malizia will you? The Town Administrator then said, he (Selectman Morin) made a motion, who seconded it? Selectman Morin said nobody yet. Chairman McGrath asked made a motion to? The Town Administrator replied Mr. Morin made a motion to go back out and advertise. Chairman McGrath said, oh, I'll second that. I'll second that. Okay, so that motion is on the floor to go out again, to seek nominees for this position and hold the interviews at the next meeting or two meetings after? The Town Administrator said given next week

is coming up on the 4th of July, I would say put it out a little. You might want to maybe have that off week meeting again. I think you need to give people some time in my opinion. Give them a couple, maybe three weeks to go through the application which would probably put you at. You have a regular meeting on the 13th. You might want to do it on the 20th. I hate to say it, it's an off week, but again you could devote that evening to that topic. Chairman McGrath then said so the 20th of July. Again, that's going to cut the term of office a little bit too. Mr. Malizia replied, yes, it will. Chairman McGrath took a vote on Selectman Morin's motion to go back out to advertise for the vacant Selectman seat and go through the process again. Motion failed 2-2 with Selectman Roy and Selectman Gagnon in opposition. Once the vote failed Chairman McGrath said we just won't bother advertising and I would encourage those in this room that really want to serve this Town and serve it well, if you're interested in this position and you're seriously interested in helping the Town, go to the court over in Nashua and petition the court to make a decision because that's what's gonna happen. Maybe not either one of these two (Selectman Roy and Selectman Gagnon) but it's gonna be somebody related. And they're going to go to the court and they're going to petition the court to make a decision for us and if you want to be in control of your Town do that yourself. Selectman Morin then said I can't believe we have a choice, it's going to go to court if we can't make a decision. I don't think it matters about someone filing. Selectman Roy said, somebody has to file a petition. The Town Administrator said a citizen has to. Chairman McGrath said that was the first question that came out at the first meeting that we had. So it's not a secret. It's been in the plans all the time. So that's the way we're going to have to go. So thank you all for applying. I truly appreciate it. I've lived in this Town my entire life. My entire life. And I plan to spend the rest of my life here. Whether or I do or I don't. That's my plan. I've never seen anything so ridiculous in my life. Nothing close to this. Anyway, I'm sorry that it's come to this but that's the way they want it. So let's go.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Roadside Brush Cutter Lease to Purchase

Chairman McGrath recognized Mr. Forrence who said good evening, Madame Chair and members of the Board. Shortly after we found out that the budget was default the Board had asked us to put together a list of things we felt were essential for the Department to keep running and safety part of it. We had done that. We brought some items to the Board to be looked at and Public Works feels that the roadside mower is probably the biggest thing that we really need to be replaced. The other thing they asked is if you want it, how you gonna pay for it? Mr. Forrence went on to say, we've looked through everything as we discussed. I brought up going through Town-wide paving account. Pulling the money we need to out of that to pay for the first year lease which it states in here what the machine is, shows a picture of it, and it also states that the \$24,000 is gonna be transferred out of the Town-wide pavement account and through the budget, the Town sewer account passed, so we had the \$2,770 in there that was also going to be used to offset part of the first year's payment. So we pulled all the money we could, we went out to bid and if you look we went through the government agencies that we always did and going through the actual company that's hopefully going to supply us with the machine, we checked with their finance company, we did the same thing with the VacCon truck that we purchased and it was a better deal than going through the government agency. It's still a government agency but not one we've used very often. So the total price you see on here is including the total cost of the vehicle, the machine, with financing. You'll see the first page, it talks about \$120 some odd dollars but then you see the other one it kicks it up with the 3% financing cost. So I'm asking to proceed with this where we do have the funding available. Selectman Roy was recognized and said what effect does this have on the paving plan? Mr. Forrence replied, when we first brought it up there was probably one or two streets that will not get what we call "top" on it. It's been based for at least a year. Construction that was done on it, it was milled or it was ground, I should say. We like letting it set for a year before we put the top on it. Doing it this way there will probably be two streets that won't get the top on it this year. But we will get that next year. Selectman Roy asked so total of two streets? To

which Mr. Forrence replied total of two streets, yes. Selectman Roy then asked including the ones that were already put aside? Mr. Forrence said no that includes that.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said this machine isn't your regular brush cutter. It has an arm that goes up in the air and you use at a lot of intersections with overgrowth so you can see. That's one of the big uses for that so you can get high so it gives a longer span of view when you get to an intersection. Mr. Forrence then said, right now this is as popular as the street sweeper. With all the vegetation and everything that's growing. We have calls all the time. Bus drivers call in when they can't see around the corner. We notice it with stop signs, street signs, all the rest of the stuff that we've got to take care of. This is a lot quicker. Seeing no further questions Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to waive the competitive bid process. Carried 4-0.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to purchase a 2021 Kubota M6/Terrain King Roadside Brush Cutter from MB Tractor & Equipment in Plaistow, NH for \$134,338.80. Financing will be for 5 years thru Kansas State Bank with the 1st payment being \$26,867.76 as recommended by the Public Works Director and the Finance Director. Payment and Item not to be delivered before July 1, 2021. Carried 4-0. Selectman Morin asked if we were trading in the old brush cutter. Mr. Forrence said no, it's that bad. We'll probably end up doing an auction ourselves.

B. Accrued Time Payouts

Chairman McGrath recognized Finance Director, Lisa Labrie. Ms. Labrie so, before you is the accrued time payouts that happened in this year. There were \$710,000 if you include the taxes and pension. This has all been absorbed through our budget so far. So there are several departments that have gone over in their labor line items because of it. A good chunk of this time, \$237,000, were for people that have left employment. So that really affected us quite a bit. The buyouts were \$401,000 for the year and max payouts for people that went over the maximum they can carry was \$75,000. I'm asking, I made a motion to request from the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend, to be able to take out up to \$450,000 as needed from our Employees Earned Time fund that's in the trust funds, capital reserves. Hopefully we won't, as the dust settles and we get all our numbers in we won't need that much but like to get permission to take up to that amount. The Town Administrator added, if you may recall this is an annual request and basically what we're doing is looking at when we get to the bottom line, if we need to, to cover some of these we go to the trust fund. If we don't need to we won't. So quite simply put this is a contingency. Seeing no questions Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to Expend request the distribution of up to \$450,000 from the Employees' Earned Time Fund from the Trustees of the Trust Funds as reimbursement for fiscal year 2021 appropriations if needed. Carried 4-0.

C. FY2021 Encumbrances

Chairman McGrath again recognized Finance Director Lisa Labrie who said, the second thing I'm here about is the FY201 encumbrances that we come before you at the end of every year. This is to bring forward purchase orders where things have, we've already committed money to vendors. A lot of this money, \$2 million dollars is from warrant articles that have already been approved by the voters. Approximately \$650,000 is our PO's from Department Heads that they feel need to go forward. A

portion of it, \$164,000 is donations. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to encumber the not to exceed amount of \$2,932,335.85 for fiscal year 2021 as recommended by the Finance Director. Carried 4-0.

D. Town Code Chapter 188 (Dogs and Other Animals) and Chapter 205 (Fees)

Chairman McGrath recognized Police Captain, Tad Dionne and Animal Control Officer Jana McMillan. Chairman McGrath said, I read that document this afternoon. That you're presenting. ACO McMillan said, that's quite a bit of your packet. I apologize. Chairman McGrath said, no, no, I read it, in its entirety this afternoon. It's quite a document. ACO McMillan said, it was a lot of work. We are here tonight basically proposing changes to Chapter 188 and 205. And we're just hoping that the Board will bring it forward to a public hearing. I'm here to answer any questions that you have. Seeing no questions from the Board, Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to bring the recommendations of the Hudson Police Department, to amend Town Code Chapter 188 Section 188-1 through 188-5 and Chapter 205 Section 205-9, to two public hearings to be held July 13 2021 and July 27, 2021. Carried 4-0. The Town Administrator added, just so everybody knows this section of the Code requires the two hearings. After the second hearing you have to wait to the next meeting before you can enact it. Just so everybody knows. You give the public an opportunity to comment, come in, speak to it. Two hearings, then after the second you have to wait til the next meeting. Chairman McGrath added so it's like three meetings. Mr. Malizia replied, it will be August before it will be on the docket for final approval.

E. ZBA Application Fee Increase Request

Chairman McGrath recognized Bruce Buttrick, Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Buttrick explained, thank you Madame Chair, members of the Board. Last time I was here was 2018, and it's to do the fee section within the Town Code for Zoning Applications. It's a two part process. The first part is a flat application fee. Currently it's \$130. What that includes is the public advertising in a newspaper. We still have to do that on the Zoning Board, as well as the recording of the decision. They get recorded at the Hillsboro Registry of Deeds. So we lost the Hudson Litchfield News, which happened to be our paper of choice up until a year and a half ago when they disbanded. We've shopped it around and have been advertising our public notices with the Union Leader. I had the administrative aide, Tracy do some studies or history of what we've gotten charged for costs both for advertising as well as the notice of decisions. She did the averages and it came out we should probably bump it up to \$185. It's a big increase but it covers our cost. We are actually deficit when we do that particular line item in our budget because it costs more than what we have budgeted in the past. We don't get to recover that from the applicant. Whereas the postage mailing, that's open ended at current rates. So the certified letters go out at the current rate. We get covered for that, first class mailings at the current rate. That gets covered in the application and gets filled in at the time of the application. That's the two part of our fees. The first one that gets fixed and it includes some variable costs that do go up. That's what I'm trying to recover with this fee increase. So basically I'm asking to go forward with the public hearing that's required in that. Is that two? The Town Administrator replied, only one hearing for a fee. I did check with the Attorney. Selectman Roy was recognized and asked do you know of any anticipated increase in that advertising fee with the Union Leader? Have they published any fee structures or anything? Mr. Buttrick replied, they haven't indicated to us, no. Selectman Roy then asked, and the second question would be could you make that part of the ordinance the same way so it's flexible as to the advertising cost? Mr. Buttrick replied, it's hard in that regards because of the print length when they put it in the paper. So there's this base fee that one case is going to have all the lettering of Hudson details. Then that case specific, it's an economies of scale the second one gets that first heading so to speak then their case gets carried in. so the second case they both average out

the first announcement that the ZBA is having a meeting, for the following cases. So it varies on the type of the case. If it's a wordy case it's going to cost more. But we can't recoup it after. It's kind of like we get the fee built in first then it's worded and published and then we get the bill after we've received the money from the application. I wish this was an open end we could say fill it in after it's gotten published but we don't. we take in the application to process it, and that's the front part, the application fee, so we can process it. Seeing no further questions from the Board Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to bring the recommendation of the Zoning Administrator, to amend Town Code Chapter 205 Section 205-13 to a public hearing to be held July 13, 2021. Carried 4-0.

F. Town Code Chapter 317 - Madison Drive/Washington Street

Chairman McGrath recognized Captain Dionne of the Hudson Police Department. Captain Dionne started by saying, we're proposing a stop sign at Madison and Washington. There would be an addition to 317-9 under stop intersections and the additional actual stop sign to be added to subsection 317-30 which is the schedule of the stop sign intersections. This was recommended by the Highway Department and it's at Madison Drive as you're heading northbound, at the intersection of Washington Street. So what we're asking is a motion to bring that forward to public hearing. Seeing no questions from the Board Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to bring the recommendation of the Police Department and Highway Safety Committee, to amend Town Code 317 Section 30, to a public hearing to be held July 13, 2021. Carried 4-0.

G. Town Code Chapter 317 - Adelaide Street/Travers Street

Chairman McGrath again recognized Captain Dionne who explained same idea, we're asking in this particular intersection that two stop signs be added to the schedule. Schedule 30 on that one as well. Northbound on Adelaide Street as you approach Travers and a stop sign westbound on Travers as you approach Adelaide. The installation of stop sign at both. Again, this was recommended by the Highway Safety Committee. We're asking for a motion to bring that to public hearing as well. Selectman Morin was recognized and said this was brought to me by a resident that lives in that area. Their concern was that with Dairy Queen if you've been by there they traffic backs up on that street and that's on a corner. They were very concerned with the cars coming down there fast and in that intersection. They did come to the Traffic Safety Committee, talk to the Committee, explained why they wanted to do it and the Committee approved the stop signs. Seeing no further questions Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to bring the recommendation of the Police Department and Highway Safety Committee, to amend Town Code 317 Section 30, to a public hearing to be held July 13, 2021. Carried 4-0.

H. Monthly Newsletter

Chairman McGrath started by saying, this is a discussion. Nothing has been prepared and just comments we've been getting about not being able to provide information to the residents and not everybody has access to HCTV. Not everyone has access to the internet. They don't have access, thankfully, to Facebook. They don't have access to a lot of the social media sites that those of us that have computers do. So there's a void in our Town and people are complaining, they're concerned because they're not getting the information that they really want, nor need. I had talked to Selectman Morin, briefly, wasn't any lengthy discussion. But I had thought of trying to do a monthly newsletter. You know a one page, maybe double sided, saying what events are going to be happening, what meetings are going to take place and have a mailing out to the local citizens. I mentioned that to Mr. Malizia and he had some thoughts and he didn't really, I don't think you were too enthusiastic about the idea. The Town Administrator commented, I would say there are some challenges. For one thing you're headed into a default budget. So there's obviously costs to produce this and to mail it and that's

a concern. We certainly don't want to not inform our residents, but let's be honest, we're facing a default budget and some sort of postage is going to be involved if you're going to mail it. My biggest concern with a lot of the stuff that we mail people is it basically ends up in the circular file. I'm not sure they even read that stuff. Another concern is the timeliness of things. I don't always know, or we don't always know, when we're going to have public hearings. We might already have sent out the June monthly newsletter "I didn't know about that" I don't think you're going to capture everything. What I thought, one of the suggestions I had, was why don't you ask people what they want? Maybe do it at Old Home Days or a survey. Say how do you want us to communicate with you? Selectman Roy was recognized and said interesting, I was just talking to Brian Groth about that very thing. About surveys and maybe there's a way that he can develop a survey through Survey Monkey about how citizens want us to communicate. And in the meantime, maybe there is some middle ground, like instead of mailing out we produce some and leave them at places like the Library, like the Police Station, you know. Places where folks go. There might be a little middle ground until we can have a more solid plan with maybe a more solid budget. Chairman McGrath responded saying, I mean I think there's certainly a void and people really, I mean I look at everything that comes into my house. Now it may end up in the circular file, most of it does, but I look at everything. But I know some people, they don't they don't really care and they just toss it out. But I think that we, there's certainly a need for communication among the residents for this Town. So I just wanted to have a discussion about it and see where we wanted to go. I think that's probably a good idea having Brian try to.....

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and he said, I agree, I think that's a great idea for sure. Implementation certainly has it's challenges, one criticism, constructive criticism, to Mrs. Roy would be if you do Survey Monkey, that's digital, so you'd be asking people who have computers how they want to see it, thus you probably know what their response would be. Putting it in places that don't require postage is certainly a great idea, whether it's the VFW Hall. The Town Administrator said Senior Center, Community Center, put the surveys there for people to fill out. Selectman Roy said, I would agree about the digital part of that but maybe there is, particularly through the Senior Center, use them and have a hard copy option to survey. Right. Selectman Gagnon then said, my final point what I'm trying to get at would be what if we actually had people sign up for it. Whether it's at Town Hall, or online. Right now we're trying to guess, I'm thinking from what's being played out here it's either, we send it to the whole Town or no Town. Can we have a survey of sorts to ask who would like a hard copy? And it would be free but just sign up for it, put your address down and then that way we know how many people we're talking about and the cost could be a little less. Maybe a third of the Town. The Town Administrator said that may be part of the survey and some of the data that we collect from the survey. Right now there's a capability, I believe, that folks can sign up on our webpage, and I know that's a webpage, that's not the same thing as mailing, but they can sign up for notices. You can pick which departments. You can pick what you want to get and if I understand correctly, you'll get that when we post something. That's one tool. It doesn't reach the folks who don't have HCTV or the internet or look at our webpage. Some people probably don't know we have a webpage. Hard to believe, but I think there's folks out there that don't know. So you got to kind of go through a bunch of iterations of how do you want us to communicate with you? We put out a lot of material. It amazes me that folks don't get it. You have to make a little bit of an effort. Maybe click on the Town's page or put on channel 22? 21? Mr. McIntosh, Director of Community Media replied, 20, 21 and 22. The Town Administrator added, cable runs all kinds of information. All kinds of public service notices. All kinds of scrolls. But again, timely, that's a concern I also have. In a static newsletter I'm just a little concerned.

Selectman Roy added, I guess one of the questions I would also, I guess, have, is who would publish that? Who would be responsible for content and those kinds of things? You know. The Town Administrator replied that's a challenge. Selectman Morin said, that's a lot of work. Selectman Roy agreed saying yeah. The Town Administrator said, I hazard to guess you know, the HLN was a resource a lot of people looked at and unfortunately, that didn't make a go of it. I know that's a financial profit and everything else. I'm not sure we're in the same business. I just don't know. We have a lot of bright people, we can do something, but it's just, who? Mr. Gasdia was recognized and said we're having the same problem on the School side. And one of the things in our strategic plan is how do we get to the people who aren't in the schools to know what's going on? So we're at the very early stages

of this exact conversation. So I wonder if there's an opportunity for us to partner together. It would hold down costs and we may have the ability to then, you know, get out there, find ways, between the electronic media you have, we have, different spots, it might be worth trying to collaborate on this. And seeing if there's an opportunity for us to work together. Chairman McGrath replied, that might be a good topic for our meeting coming up. Mr. Gasdia agreed with that.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said, in the interim, because we learned last week that people didn't know we had a news program and we didn't have a website. So it's not getting out there. I asked Jim (McIntosh, Dir. of Community Media) to come up here, something we can talk about for the interim, Is they already do a news program. Can we expand that to include more of what we're looking for? Mr. McIntosh replied, absolutely! What we started off doing was during the pandemic, a lot of people weren't hearing a lot of things and the loss of the HLN right before all that actually happened was tremendously bad so we were working hard on trying to get stuff going. Unfortunately, reaching out to people in other departments and stuff you don't get...people didn't think it's important enough to send us notice of stuff so we started searching through things. You know its HCTV, it's the Community Media. So we reach out to people. We look on people's Facebook pages, we go to LinkedIn, and we hit all the little things as quick as we can. We gather all the news about Hudson that we can and we put it in there. What we started incorporating in the last couple of meetings was a synopsis of each meeting that happens at Town Hall. The camera operator in the other room, Grace Lemay, she is, her and Jackie, work on synopsising the meetings and looking around for more information. The more we have, the more people we reach. But we don't just post it on our Facebook pages or just on HCTV. I mean we put it up at Town Hall, on the monitors at the Senior Center and at the Community Center. We also reach out to other organizations and we try to throw our news out to them. Something that might be important to other people. I don't know if any of you saw it but a few times WMUR took video clips from us and they called us up and asked us about the information about what was going on with Hillwood and stuff. We referred them to different people. I don't know if they reached out to them because they're very silent about what they actually do. But we do reach a lot of people. We're more than willing to help out. If people send us the information we'll get it together. You know we have enough people that we can actually do something pretty effective in that respect. The idea of spreading circulars is a good idea. The problem is I find it's hard to find a place that everybody goes to who need those. I'd like to get the Hippo and I usually go down to one of the pizza places to get it. It just depends where the people go that you're actually trying to hit. People that don't have the internet and stuff like that, generally you're talking about people like me that are ready to retire and don't want to see that kind of stuff. The only newspaper that come to my house are good for is I roll them up, wrap them in string and when I have a bonfire out back I use it to feed the bonfire. Maybe I should recycle it, I don't know. If we had a better recycling system I would do that. There's still a lot of junk mail that comes in. I don't know about you. Every week I get the stuff in there. I don't really read it. The only thing I do is the Manchester paper. I open it up, do the puzzle then roll it up and get it ready to burn. Mr. McIntosh went on to say, I think you all have great ideas. We do have to reach out to the community. We've been trying to do it ourselves over the past year it's just a question of having the time. a tremendous amount of our labor went into doing the meetings at night and it took a lot of our time to do that. But now we're getting going pretty good. I don't know if you saw last week. We had a lot of stuff available from the week before too. A lot of people reached out to us and they were happy to see they got that. I think we are reaching a lot of people. I think the idea of having a hard copy and mailing it, to me, that's going to be cost prohibitive. There's got to be a better way to do it. Just discussing it, working with the School Board and everybody else, I'm sure solutions can come up. But no matter what you do, you're only going to hit 75-80% of the population. Its goes without saying.

Chairman McGrath followed up saying, I don't know what the answer is. I just know that there's a big vacuum and we have to try and take care of it. As far as the HLN, that always ended up in my circular file. Without a doubt. Mr. McIntosh added, it started making a good fire at my house too. Chairman McGrath said, I understand a lot of people felt the same way. The Chairman went on to say, I think just a discussion we need to continue to have and try to come up with some sort of a solution. Selectman Morin asked, do we want to move forward with Selectman Roy's idea to do a survey? Chairman McGrath said yeah, I think that's a good idea. And Brian's probably the....Selectman Roy then said do

you kind a want to weigh in on this but do we want to do that survey as a joint effort? The Town Administrator said, maybe you want to get to the joint meeting and then have that discussion. Not to delay or anything but maybe coordinate about it because you (School) also have a communications person I think on the SAU staff that may have some wisdom that we don't share. She may have some ideas. I'm just saying you may want to....Selectman Roy interrupted saying I think it should be coordinated from the beginning also. The Town Administrator continued saying, instead of going on sort of half baked, you may want to have it fully baked. Mr. Gasdia then said, I guess the question would be do you want to wait til August 18th or if you want to do something behind the scenes we can. Chairman McGrath said if people come up with ideas and we jot them down and perhaps collect them and we can all take a look at it. The Town Administrator said, we can take a survey about the survey. Selectman Morin said what my thought is, we got this meeting coming up, if we get this out here, they have us there questions, we have ours, I mean how many questions you gonna have? How do you want it? What's better print, whatever, do that now and when we have the meeting we'll have the information to get started. Selectman Roy then said, maybe Mr. Russell and Mr. Malizia can touch base about which employees are gonna do that and you know they can figure out amongst themselves. You know, from what I've seen what Brian's done he's really good at formulating. The Town Administrator said he might have exposure with some of that stuff. Selectman Roy said to Mr. Gasdia, I know you guys have been doing surveys through this whole thing, so. Chairman McGrath said, although he may not have time because he may be bowing to a new, I can't even say what I'm thinking. The Town Administrator said, we'll figure it out. Selectman Morin asked, do you think the School Board would be on board to get this started now just so we have the information? We can get it out together? Mr. Gasdia replied, again, we haven't talked about doing a survey or anything like that. We had the conversation about some sort of newsletter, some sort of way to do it. So. But I think at a minimum we'll get Larry and Steve and Terri who is our communication person together and we can get the ball rolling, I think that would be advantageous for all of us to at least get some feelers out there and see if it's viable. Chairman McGrath agreed. Selectman Gagnon said one last comment Madame Chair. And Old Homes Day that's when is that again? Mr. Malizia said in the teens usually 13th, 14th. Selectman Gagnon said, so it's close to our joint meeting then. What I was going with that, I was thinking of, you know, I'm thinking having an iPad, it is a digital survey but taking that digital survey to the people. So what are the biggest events coming up this summer? Old Homes Day, even standing out in front of Market Basket or Hannaford's and just asking people. Or going to the Senior Center at a certain date. You know, going to actual publicized events and then listing it there. Who can do that or no. The Chairman then added, but that has to be somebody that this Board agrees on that's going to do that work and it's not going to be one of us on the Board that's going to take it upon ourselves to gather that information. It's got to be an agreed upon person. The Town Administrator said, again, we may want to articulate what we're asking before we start putting it out there to anybody. I hate to use the word baby steps, but it's going to take some steps. Selectman Gagnon replied, agree. Mr. Malizia went on to say, I don't know what people want. Selectman Gagnon said, I think the key would be if we can gather, even a small subsequent piece of data, so when we go to the joint meeting we say okay well, even if we have 10%, 20% response rate, now let's generate some ideas. So that meeting becomes a little more productive, I think would be a goal. That's all Madame Chair. Thank you. Mr. Malizia wrapped up saying, we'll be touching base with the School, see where they're at, and we'll see what we can provide for a resource to maybe work with Terri and Larry.

I. Social Media Posts

Chairman McGrath started by saying, so I wanted to have a conversation about this because I was surprised when I got home, the next day, after our last meeting and I got a notification when I checked my notices in the morning, my emails. I saw there was a notification about a post that you (Selectman Roy) did on Facebook. So clicked on it. All it was you copied, you shared a posting that the Town had put on about Benson's bathroom issue. The very next post right beyond yours was a post by Selectman

Gagnon that went on to explain, in great detail, what he thought, only he verbalized, or wrote that it was "we" decided and it was about that bathrooms and what he perceived to be the problem. It wasn't true. And so, needless to say, I wasn't happy because that went out to the public. You can smile about it, but you lied to the public. Selectman Gagnon said, I didn't lie ma'am. Chairman McGrath said, you certainly did because what you put in your posting wasn't something that Mr. Forrence said. It wasn't anything that the Police Chief said. It wasn't anything that was stated in this meeting. So I think that we need to have a discussion among ourselves about social media and what we can post on it. As individuals you have, anybody can post anything that they want. But when you're a member of this Board, you should have some common sense and some understanding of what your position is within this. I wouldn't have posted anything about it. At all. It wouldn't occur to me. I wouldn't put anything on Facebook about what happened at a Board meeting. Just wouldn't do it. Other people feel differently. But when you post something it needs to be truthful and it needs to be accurate. And what was posted wasn't either of those things. So, I think we need to have a discussion at some point about what this Board wants to do. Do you want individuals to post things that happen at these meetings instead of letting the Town Administrator and the staff take care of that and post what accurately happened?

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said, I'm disappointed that we constantly keep going around in circles with postings and what I do. Let me start by saying I apologize I used an incorrect word. I used the word lewd to describe the acts that were described to us which was incorrect, they were just disgusting. But the point of the post was that something was happening and I told people to self-police and be aware and that we were simply closing the bathrooms to help stop some of this activity. By no means do I believe that I was lying or said in truthfulness, but I do believe that we should talk to our constituents so unless, with all due respect, the Chief tells me I'm doing something illegal, I'm gonna do my best to be respectful and as accurate as possible. But I will continue to talk with our constituents via social media. I think that is very valid and a good thing to do. So I listen to your comments but I greatly disagree with what you're saying. Chairman McGrath responded saying, I have no doubt that you will continue to post things. But the next time that I see something like that, I'm going to correct you immediately with a similar post. I didn't do that the other day. I was tempted to but I always try to pull myself back from doing something that I'm going to regret. That's something that I really should have done because what you told the public was that there were lewd events happening in the bathrooms. You didn't know that. I didn't know that. None of us here knew that. That wasn't stated and what you did is you scared parents of small children that may have been going into that bathroom and they may have wondered if their child was being subjected to a predator. That's what I took from it and I don't have children. But I certainly wouldn't send a small child into a bathroom where there might be a deviant in there. The terms that you used, that's what it indicated. That's what it indicated to me and I'm sure that that's what it indicated to a lot of parents of small children that frequent that park. First of all, it's shameful. Second of all, as a parent of a small child yourself, I would think that you'd worry about that. You don't want to scare parents. You want them to feel comfortable bringing their children to that park. What you posted on Facebook did anything but that. Selectman Gagnon responded to Chairman McGrath saying, so ma'am, I don't need this to get dragged out because this is a pathetic conversation and we don't need to keep having these conversations, but you know, put my daughter aside to it, I used one word that should have been disgusting. If you're throwing feces, it's gross. And the public needs to know it. I didn't do those acts. Chairman McGrath asked, did you know that at the time? Selectman Gagnon replied, we talked about it ma'am, in the meeting. Chairman McGrath replied we didn't. We didn't talk about it in specifics, we did not. Selectman Gagnon then said, I greatly warn you not to slander me in these meetings because you're literally going above and beyond and saying things that are quite frankly just made up and exaggerated. Selectman Morin said, really? You got it in writing. You wrote it. I got the copy of it. Selectman Gagnon replied, the way she explained it is very exaggerated. Selectman Morin said, no you put the wrong word. Lewd and that's not what happened. Selectman Roy asked for a point of order saying, there is a part of me that agrees with Ms. McGrath, and you and I (Selectman Roy and Selectman Gagnon) have talked about that you might want to be a little more careful about what you post. However, I also agree that we don't need to drag this conversation on. You made your point. Mr. Gagnon made his point and I think we can move on. Chairman McGrath asked, so can we have an agreement about postings on Facebook that we have to be careful about...I'm not going to post anything. I'm not going to post anything related to what I do

at these Board meetings. I don't post anything anyway. I make comments on some of the family stuff but. Selectman Roy replied saying I am very reluctant to try to control anyone's speech. That goes against the grain of everything I know about the first amendment of the United States Constitution. We need to make judgement calls, I agree with that. But to mandate that somebody can or cannot post something, I can't, I can't be party to that. Chairman McGrath then said, anyway. We had the discussion. You know where I stand. Selectman Gagnon replied, yes Madame Chair.

J. School District Safety Concerns

Selectman Morin started this off saying we've had, over the last year and a half, several incidents that have taken place at the schools that have affected the students. Could have affected our first responders. This Board has bent over backwards. We have met with the School Board as a full group. With their full group. On each incident we had the, unfortunately I'm going to bring it up because it needs to get out there, we had a chemical that was brought into one of the schools. It was tested in a classroom of kids then it was poured down the sink. Police and Fire were not notified. It was taken care of in the school. Then we had a gun that showed up at a school and the Police were notified but they received a phone call "you can come with traffic" now this is a gun, in a school, and with the way the world is today, that's not a good thing. At that point the School had no idea where the gun was but we're telling the Police....Selectman Roy interrupted asking, Madame Chair, can I just make a point of order? Can we just be clear that that is stuff that happened a while ago? Selectman Morin said, and I said the last year and a half. So I'm giving some information to get to the point where we're at. Selectman Roy said I don't want people watching to think that this stuff happened over the last couple of weeks. Selectman Morin said it happened the last year and a half but it continues to happen. That's the problem. Selectman Roy said I just want it to be clear for the public. Selectman Morin again said, it continues to happen. That's the problem. Selectman Roy said that's all I wanted to say. Selectman Morin went on to say, then we had a child that walked away from a school and an off-duty police officer happened to find the child quite a distance from the school and notified the Police and that was the first notification that they received and that was 40-45 minutes after the incident took place that the School was aware. Now I'm going to say again. On the first incident this Board and the whole School Board met together and the Fire Chief and Police Chief were there and we offered anything we can possibly do to help them to do this. The second incident, we again met with School Board and the Administration of the Schools with the Police Chief and again offered anything we possibly can do to help them. The third incident, again, we met with the Police Chief, School Board members and the Administration and again offered whatever we can do. We'll bend over backwards to help make sure there's policies, this gets done, we don't have these problems. Selectman Morin continued saying, what brings this up? And it was the final straw. I get we have to have graduation parades and I'm all for it because the kids deserve it. Especially after the year they've gone through. But last week when one of the Schools had a graduation parade, I just happened to live on that street and I looked out the window and there was a car blocking my driveway. Not a big deal, happens all the time. I'm on a main drag. I get it. But when I went outside to see if there was anything going on, the traffic extended from one end of Library Street, down Lowell Road, down Central Street because of this parade. And what I understand it extended all the way out Library Street and up Derry Street. Then there was an employee who got ahold of the Police Chief in the middle of the meeting saying Town Hall was all bound up and the Fire Station was blocked with traffic. This is another instance where, before we get there, at that point when the Police Chief was notified, we ended up sending four officers off the street. One for the morning session to clean everything up, it was almost over at that point and then the afternoon, we had to send three officers out there to keep this under control. That's over \$1,200 in a detail pay and we had to take four officers off the street to protect the rest of the Town to control a parade that if they had come to us ahead of time, the Police could have assisted them, had this set up and it would have been no issues. I'm really, really thinking about asking the School to pay that detail due to the fact that we had to take our officers off the street. We don't need to be in this situation because again, we have done everything we can to help them if any situation. We've told them they need to notify the Police. Get them there. It's gonna take the liability off them because the Police and

Fire are going to take care of the situation. But it continues to happen. I don't know who's not getting it over there but it sounds like if they have a policy they're not following through or they're just doing things on their own. I can tell you that if we have another situation it will come out right when it happens. You guys got to do something. You're putting our guys in risk. You're putting our Firefighters at risk and the biggest thing is you're putting your students and teachers at risk. Okay, the three things I talked about before, we really could have had somebody hurt. And it keeps happening and it's in a very short period of time. Something's got to get done.

Mr. Gasdia replied saying, yeah. I get it. Umm, I'm not gonna debate. We've talked about these things. And so I'm not in a position to, nor would I want to, say this is what, this is this. This was actually on our meeting last night, School Safety Concerns. We know we need to do better. So with the graduation for example, it was as simple as can be, a communication breakdown because the people that are organizing thought the Police were notified. In fact what went out to the parents said the Police would be there. But lo and behold, the Police were not notified. So there are problems and I think you know what, we'll figure out how that happens. I can't sit here and say we're gonna be perfect. I can't. I know that we now have, we got a grant. And so we now have someone who is responsible for school safety. They're working, I know with Deputy Tice, maybe I believe who they're working with. And we are working on our incident control and all this. Again, I'm not promising perfection. But we are taking steps and I do appreciate, you know how it works, and if there is something we need to work out, if it comes down to that, we appreciate all the help. That's what got us to in contact with Deputy Tice and we're making things. It is important, it is something I can't pinpoint on one person. I think, if I'm being honest, I think one of the difficult parts is that prior to having someone as a central figure in control of this it revolved on each building. And hopefully we can take some steps that will limit these. Again, when you have people who that's not their goal, that's not their number one thing, they're teachers by day, and they think they're organizing a graduation and some cars are gonna come they don't think it through. And you know, so, I can't promise perfection, I can tell you we've take some steps. I hope we continue to work together. You know there are reasons why we didn't bring some of this stuff up at the time, right? And so it's not that we're trying to hide things. But you know, you mention that you came to us, you came to us in nonpublic, there was a reason for that. Right? And so I always appreciate the call. If there's something that's there we will try and address it and we will do our best. And so again, if there's something that we need to organize if it's a matter of making sure that the Town gets reimbursed, I mean we definitely want to handle that but more importantly, we are taking steps. I think we are in a better position, but again, I can't promise perfection.

Chairman McGrath then asked, what would happen if, and I certainly didn't see any of this traffic, I live way down in the south end of Town and I wasn't up here. But what would happen if the police either didn't show up or if they showed up and said we didn't get notified about this and we're gonna shut this down? What would happen then? All of the people that came, whatever the event was, it would have to dissipate and there might be arrests made because I'm sure people wouldn't take too kindly to being told that they couldn't participate in a graduation. Or they couldn't participate in whatever activity it was. So that message needs to get sent to whoever is making these decisions. That they need to notify the Police Department well ahead of any event like that. So that not only are they kept safe by our wonderful Police Department but they're also not endangering them. It doesn't, I don't know why, common sense doesn't seem to be a strong suit in this instance or in the previous instance that we were just talking about. Mr. Gasdia replied, I'm not going to disagree. Again I think in this particular instance, there was clearly a breakdown in communication because they belief was somewhere along the chain that the Police were notified. Obviously they were not. But those are things we're definitely looking into. And I agree we need to do more. That's why it was on our agenda last night to make sure that this is something that we're focusing on. Because I agree with you. I mean look, if the Police had some that day and broke it up, which they would have had every right to do, if it's a safety issue and things like that then yeah, everything you talked about is legitimate and would happen and I'm not here to say it's...all I'm saying is in these particular cases we need to do better, we're working with the Emergency Management team. We have a much better relationship, we had a good relationship, with the person in place now, we're hoping that it will give us the momentum we need to...again, I say minimize because I can never, I'm not going to sit here and promise we're not gonna have another one

of these. Chairman McGrath said but that message needs to get sent to whoever is making the decisions that they need to well notify the Police before anything happens and if the Police aren't notified I would happily tell them close it down and arrest anybody that doesn't adhere to the rules. so I mean I'm not in charge but that's what I would do. Mr. Gasdia replied, yup and that's not that directly, but the spirit of what one of the pieces of last night was. Again, there's more to the school safety then here right. We have a lot of other things that go on. But one piece that was, is a focus, is the incident management. The planning of these events and things like that. So I know like I said we're working closely with I believe it's Deputy Tice, if I'm not mistaken to get a good process in place and hopefully being centralized. Chairman McGrath replied, but he's with the Fire Department. Is he, I'm sure he's communicating with the Police Department but that's a break in the chain if he's not and so...Mr. Gasdia replied, he's working with us for a process and a plan. He's not going to be the contact. It's not like we're going to call him and then he calls someone else. It's reviewing our processes. Reviewing our procedures and seeing how we can do things better? I know, I believe the Police are involved in that as well.

Chairman McGrath said would Chief Buxton or Chief Avery like to come up and talk to us about this or if you have any input about either of these events. Both Chiefs came forward. Chief Avery said, thank you Madame Chair. What I will say there's definitely been some breakdown in communication. I personally went down and met with the principal. All very apologetic. Again, it was a breakdown in communication between her, her staff and other people involved. I don't want to get into specific names. No problem. We can deal with it. Our goal and I have spoken with Selectman Morin is to do things right. And what is right? I think common sense plays a big part of it. I'm very confident and I will tell the four of you there, and the person, and I don't know if it's public yet, of who is taking over that position within the School District. I'm very confident in that person's ability, leadership, doing the right thing if that bell goes off and notification needs to be made. Very well versed, was part of our EOC during the year. Smart person and a lot of common sense. So I am confident that these small breakdown in communication, and with the assistance of Deputy Chief, if he's helping mold some policies and procedures as we move forward for specific incidents, that we'll get these things ironed out. Hopefully it's all done and we don't have to talk about it again. Chief Buxton then said, the only think I would offer is the School has its own emergency management committee that meets. Certainly that has been strained over the last school year as we worked through the Covid process. The Police Department, the Fire Department and the School District have multiple members that sit on that committee and I would point to that breakdown happening because there have been other things to handle throughout the year. So we're seeing some chinks in the armor but I'm assuming those will come back in line as they were before. And get taken care of. Deputy Tice has worked specifically with the Schools to try to forward them information regarding how to put incident action plans together, work on their incident management pieces. So that's all part of the process. And this is a new state requirement for them. They need to have their own independent emergency management plan for the Schools and this is all a growth step that is moving forward. So everybody has input in that moving forward.

Selectman Morin was again recognized and said, guys, I know you well and I appreciate what you just said and I understand why you said it, but testing a chemical in a room full of kids, pouring it down the sink, telling the Police to respond with traffic when there's a gun involved and a missing kid don't notify the Police Department in 45 minutes. I don't see that as a breakdown of communications. I see that as a big problem. Chief Avery replied I was referring to the parade. Selectman Morin replied, I understand what you guys are saying. I know you were talking about the parade, but unfortunately those cases are very serious and they continue to happen. The parade was just the breaking point for me. That's what I'm getting at here. That bothers me and the way things are in this country, it happens almost every day now and unfortunately if we're gonna have situations like we've had by the time you two get there we're gonna be way beyond where we should have been. That's the problem. Chief Avery replied, understood. Mr. Gasdia then said, so may I just ask, I guess, the question I have is so we've taken some action, we're trying to get better. I get that right. The situations that you're referencing from a couple of years ago, yes, terrible, got it. We've got that. You've offered help, we've accepted it, gladly. We're taking it. This is an important conversation, I'm glad we're having it. Is there something specific

that you're looking for us to do that we haven't done? Selectman Morin replied, no. what the problem here is, and it hasn't been a couple years, it's been within a year and a half if that, okay. And unfortunately this is what bothers me it took me tonight to have to come out and talk about it in public that you guys moved forward doing it when we've tried three other issues. You just did this stuff last night at your meeting. That you were gonna start pushing this forward. Mr. Gasdia interrupted saying, no but that's not true Selectman Morin. I mean last night was when we had our presentation to the Board. We've been working with these folks for a while now, so. Selectman Morin asked, when you say a while was it after the last case when the kid was missing, and I don't want to beat on your Gary, that's not what I'm here for. I just want to make the point clear that enough is enough with the safety. That's all. Mr. Gasdia replied, I get that and we take safety extremely seriously. And we appreciate the partnership. We appreciate the partnership and we've taken all of the advice and all of the support that's been given to us over the years. We've addressed every single issue that's come up with the people that are involved to make them better. We've worked with everybody that's been offered. We will take any additional help that's offered out there. My point of bringing it up last night was this is something that's important. This is something that we talk about. The safety and security of our students is the number one priority that we have and so I just want to make sure that this is a good discussion but I want to be clear that the School District acts on their own with these in partnership, the great partnership, with both of these gentlemen's department and the more infmraiotn you can give us the better. But I just don't want to continue to go back because there will be incidents. I'm not going to say there's not going to be another instance. Every department in our group has had an incident. Right. I don't want to start saying what about this from, yes. Made a mistake. Mia culpa. It happens. Moving forward I just want to know, you know, if something happens tomorrow that's a completely different situation than anything we talked about here, that doesn't mean we, you know, didn't listen to you. That doesn't mean we didn't do anything. That means you know what, we're not perfect. So we are doing everything we can to partner with them. We're open to any suggestions anybody has. I just want to, you know, again, realize that we will continue to do things. But the past is the past. We need to continue to move forward. And I get it it's frustrating but we are taking it seriously and it's not because it's brought up at this meeting tonight it's been taken seriously. The results are not going to be perfection, that's just reality. Selectman Morin said, we understand that. And I understand that. Again, I don't want to push this much father but the serious delays that both these departments receive, especially those three other incidents are uncalled for. But we'll move on. I'm with you. Mr. Gasdia said, I'm in agreement with you, I get it. I'm not disagreeing. And we need to do better and I hope this partnership continues.

9. Remarks by the Town Administrator

The Town Administrator said I don't have much tonight. Just a couple of quick updates. The LED light replacement at the Highway is complete. That was finished in the last couple weeks. They are in the process of doing the street lights. So if you see folks out, all the street lights and stock are in. now it's just a question of just installing them all.

The only other thing I have is we're not going to meet, no workshop in July that's off the calendar, so Happy 4th of July. I know I'm the first one, I'm early, but Happy 4th of July.

10. Remarks by the School Board

Mr. Gasdia said, actually my first comment I think is gonna dovetail a little bit with the conversation we just having. We just finished, given the circumstances, a really fantastic school year. It was different, very. But the reality is that we could not have done it without the partnership with the Town. Especially those two gentlemen that were sitting right there (Chief Avery and Chief Buxton). The fact that all of our students that are eligible, all of our teachers and staff are vaccinated. The fact that we

were one of the few towns that had a sustainable plan going in September because we had such a great emergency group that came together. Especially Chief Buxton, working together. Many Towns around us were struggling well into March of this year trying to get their kids in one day and we were in September. So that partnership has been absolutely fantastic and I hope a lot of the things we learned over the past year can continue.

The other thing with the year is obviously because we didn't have full in school, we had a rather large fund balance and while we did allocate some of it last night, I'm proud to say that we're gonna be returning well over a million dollars probably about 1.3 million to the taxpayers this year. So we're really appreciate of that.

The last thing I want to say is sort of probably out of my lane but it's, I want to make sure that everybody that can hear it does hear it, Malcom Price, who was our former School Board Chair, is in need of a kidney and he has a very rare blood type. If you were to go onto Facebook and look up either Malcom Price or kidney for Malcom you will see the post. If you're one of the people that could donate, great. If you're not please share it. The more people we can get it the better. He served our Town very well over the years and anything we can do to help him would be great. Thank you. Chairman McGrath said, I did see that post. I'm not in a position to donate an organ or blood but he is certainly in my thoughts and prayers. I hope he recovers well and lives a good long life.

11. Other Business/Comments by the Selectmen

Selectman Gagnon: thank you Madame Chair. Just a couple notes from my recent Library Trustees meeting. One comment from one of the Trustees' this is kind of outside of their jurisdiction per say but still valid. They said can we put a sign or is there a sign on Robinson Pond when the park is closed. So to give some context to this, the park was closed recently for algae or whatnot in the pond and I think the gate was closed. One of the Trustees' was saying I didn't know. The gate was closed but it didn't say why. Do we put up a sign of why it's closed? Selectman Morin said, I believe they post because it's a health warning. I believe they do post a state issues type of thing but I'll look. The Town Administrator added, it's also on our webpage the warning is right there. You can go into the park it's just recommended don't use the beach. You can hike, you can walk in there, just don't go in the water.

Other than that some good things they're working on. They're working on a Diversity Inclusion Initiative. Don't ask me exactly what that is but it's about kind of change out some of the books to be more inclusive. They also partnered with the Friends of the Library and they had 35 boxes of books recently donated during their book drive. So that as a great success.

Last but not least, I just respectfully make a comment, as a parent I think it's really important not just to teach your children yes or no but to give an example or to tell why. So I think that's why I like to reach out to the public is not because we did this but we did this because of this. I'd like them to see what our thoughts are. Why we came to a decision. And I'm very sorry if I used an incorrect wording but the intent was simply to inform the public. Thank you Madame Chair. That's all I had.

Selectman Morin: a couple things. The Knights of Columbus cleaned up the cemetery on Central Street as a community service. Jess tells me they did an outstanding job and they piled it all up. Public Works went in there the other day, cleaned it up. It's where it should be. They did it over two weekends.

The trees have been cut down at Musquash Pond for the new parking lot. So they're moving forward with that. There was a meeting on Monday morning on the construction of that. They're looking to do that the end of July, beginning of August. So that should be finished by the end of the summer.

I stopped by the Senior Center today to see how things were going as they prepare. Lori Bowen is doing a ton of work to get things back. They've had some problems with their instructors because of Covid. They've been doing things different so they're working on that. They had to get their food license again that expired. They had the air conditioning in the building was broken down but they got that repaired this afternoon so they're going to be ready to open up the beginning of July.

Last thing, the Friends of Benson's are going to be doing a fundraiser. It was passed on through Mr. Malizia to get it approved to remove the asbestos in the train station. That got cut out of the budget when we went to the budget this year. So they're going to take it up to see if they can raise the funds to get that asbestos out of the building.

Selectman Roy: I attended the NRPC meeting on June 16th. It was the first one I attended and I found it rather fascinating. Just a couple of things, I don't know how the notification process works for the NRPC to the Town, but the dues will remain stagnant for FY22 and FY23. So just to put that out there. They discussed a program, a grant program, and there's some matching funds involved that was a regional bicycle and pedestrian plan they did an initial briefing on and they're goinna talk about some more. I've asked Brian Groth to kind of keep his eye on that to see if there's something we can take advantage of because I do get the sense that there may be some programs in there we might want to take advantage of to help move our community forward.

Chairman McGrath: I don't have anything for this evening, however I do want to make a couple of comments. Anyone that's watching this meeting, if they want to communicate with their neighbors, I would urge them, instead of going to Facebook to get their news and to get the information, that they go to the Town's website. Because anything that happens at a meeting here, any of the decisions we make, will be posted by our staff and it will be credible information they can count on. I will not be posting anything on Facebook for any of the decisions that are made by this Board. Because I don't think it's my position to do that nor do I think I need to speak for others on this Board. Everyone has their own voice. They can and hopefully speak the truth. That's all that I have.

12. 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 8:33 p.m., seconded by Selectman Roy to go into non-public session. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 4-0.

Chairman McGrath entered Nonpublic Session at 8:33 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 9:10 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session

1) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to hire Joseph McCarthy for the position of full-time Police Officer with a starting salary of \$26.37 (Step 1) per hour, all in accordance with the Hudson Police Employee Association Contract. Carried 4-0.

2) Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to promote Grace Lemay from the position of Camera Operator to the position of HCTV Assistant for up to 29 hours per week, at a rate of \$16.50 per hour, moving to \$17.50 per hour after successful completion of a six month probationary period. Carried 4-0.

3) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to grant the FY2022 budgeted 3.0% Cost of Living Adjustment raises to non-union personnel effective July 1, 2021. Carried 4-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:11 p.m. by Selectman Gagnon seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 4-0.

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

Marilyn E. McGrath, Chairman

David Morin, Selectman

Kara Roy, Selectman

Brett Gagnon, Selectman