

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the August 10, 2021 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman McGrath the meeting of August 10, 2021 at 7:23 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room, immediately following an Attorney-Client session pursuant to RSA 91-A:2-1.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Deputy Fire Chief, Scott Tice

3. ATTENDANCE

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

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Scott Tice- Deputy Fire Chief; Jess Forrence - Public Works Director; Gary Gasdia - School Board Chairman; Jill Laffin - Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Jake Nazarian, 23 Parkhurst Drive

Mr. Nazarian came forward and said, good evening all, how are you tonight? I was excited to see that you are having an open session regarding some of the funds that have been distributed by the Federal Government to us here in Hudson and I just like to put my two cents on the board in terms of where I think those funds should be directed. I think a lot of us in this room can probably agree that one of the things that's been on the forefront of everybody's mind over the past year is our children. I think it's one of the most important legacies that we can leave behind. My proposal is that we take two million plus dollars and put it towards the school system, specifically to retrofit all of the heating and air conditioning systems as well as including HEPA filters to recirculate all the air through the thing. Through the school cuz I think that it's important for us to realize that one of the things we're going to spend the most time talking about, and one of the things that everybody in Town is pretty stirred up about, based on the school committee meetings I've been seeing over the past couple weeks is what's gonna go on with our kids and masks and these types of things. And I think it might be a good idea for us to consider, since these dollars weren't in the budget previously. And since I can't say on this for sure, but I'm gonna base it on the fact that I've been in a lot of institutions. I was adjunct professor at the University of Massachusetts for about six years. I've been involved in the Scouting programs and soccer and a lot of other things in this town and in my experience most of the heating and ventilation systems in most of the schools in this town stink. Probably literally as well as figuratively. And I think that we should just consider whether or not that's a good way to spend this money to make sure that we're making sure the longevity of our kids is frontally considered. I don't know what the time is, I don't know if I'm getting too long. I'm more than happy to cut it short. The other thing that I think that maybe we should consider, as well as retrofitting the air exchange systems and the heating and air conditioning systems is also the idea of putting some of these lights that I've seen at a lot of corporations where you walk into a booth or a room or a vestibule or whatever you call it where light comes in and supposedly can destroy the Corona Virus based on different kinds of light rays. I'm not gonna say exactly which ones cuz I don't want to be wrong, but I'm pretty sure that there's lights out on the market that destroy the Corona Virus within a certain amount of time. So I think that's another thing we should consider. Again, I really want to put my support behind putting this dollars towards the schools but specifically towards helping the kids get adjusted so we can have them back in school and we can have back in person learning and I think that this also may address some of the issues that the teachers and the staff may have considering that they're probably worried about getting it. And we all know, based on some of the studies that are out there that generally parents and adults are bringing the virus in and out of the schools. Children might be passing it around and maybe they're passing it to another adult. But the adults are the big ones affected and it seems like they have the biggest lobby

behind them. Which would be the school union or whatever you want to call it based on each place. So if there's somebody that's speaking up for them I think someone should speak up for the students as well and I think that that may address some of the teachers issues if they're concerned about coming back to school and being in in person learning and having to interact with all these children, maybe if we can provide them a safer learning space through whatever technology is available. You know we have a lot of technology. Things have come quite a ways in the past few years and I think it would behoove us to explore whether or not there's better ways we can help our children and make it safer for them to be in school so that they can be back in school. Cuz I think that's very, very important seeing a lot of children that are noticeably different from not being in school for the past year or two and I would just put my support behind whatever we can do to try and get those funds towards getting kids back to school. Thank you for your time I appreciate it.

Chairman McGrath responded saying, thank you for your comments. Can I say something in response? I appreciate your comments and I appreciate the time that you took to come. But have you gone before the School Board when they meet or the Budget Committee when they meet about the School budget? Mr. Nazarian replied, I've been back and forth, my mom's been sick so I haven't been on point as much as I'd like to be. But I have been and I've been trying to look over some of the things that I find on the Town website and make myself more educated. I did see that there was a school committee meeting, I believe last week or something that I tried to get to but I just was unable to make it. But I'm definitely interested in some of this stuff and I think that it's really important and I think I have some input and I think it's reasonable. Chairman McGrath said I think that you do and I think that it's reasonable, I just think that...we don't have any control over the school budget. Mr. Nazarian said I know but you have control over \$2.5 million dollars that you could put into the school budget that's all I'm saying. Chairman McGrath replied, I understand what you're saying, but, we can't control the school budget and how they spend the money. So I think, I'm encouraging you, you can come here anytime that you want and speak to us. Mr. Nazarian said sure, thank you. Chairman McGrath continued saying, but I'm encouraging you to go to a School Board meeting, and or a Budget meeting when they're talking about the School budget. Because I think that you'd be enlightened. Selectman Roy was recognized and said, correct me if I'm wrong but I believe the school is actually getting their own money from that same...so there's two pots of money. There's approximately \$2.5 million is coming to the Town and then I don't know, another amount is going to the school. So I think to Madame Chairman's point it would be more appropriate to address that idea with the School Board when they talk about how they're going to utilize those funds. Mr. Nazarian responded saying no my discussion is with you because I don't want the money that's sent to the Town to be spent for other stuff. My position is that that money should be sent to the schools. And I would hope that they schools would use it to make it a safer place for us to teach our children. That's my point and I appreciate what you ladies are saying and I will investigate and look forward into it and I might even go as far as to looking over the budget. But my point is that those budgets have already been allotted and most probably we've already started setting budgets for next year and there's probably not more dollars in the budget than there was last year. So my speculation is based on revenues and how much stuff has come into the town based on Covid that those numbers are probably down. And so my point is to just take those funds and put them into the school committee's hands and you say there's not a way to do it, I don't know there isn't a way to write something says these dollars are assigned to this and should be put towards this and maybe we do a special Town meeting that there's a special warrant article on, I'm not exactly sure the procedures on it. But maybe there's a way to do it.

Chairman McGrath recognized Mr. Gasdia, he's from the School Board and then Mr. Morin. Mr. Gasdia said, yeah, so obviously I love everything you said. A couple things I do want to address. One, can I can't speak to how their money is but the federal money that is coming to us is very specific as to what it can be used for. So I would imagine there are some guidelines as to what you can do, and while I would love to get money from the Town in a regular ongoing basis, anyone that wants to send it over, a lot of times you can't. but I did want to address a couple of things. Over the past year when we did get extra money a lot of that did go to exactly what you're saying. We replaced a lot of HVAC sysetems in the schools. Mr. Nazarian interrupted saying, I didn't know that. Mr. Gasdia continued saying, we have an extra cleaning service that uses those ghostbuster lights that you're talking about and goes

through every night because you're making an excellent point and that's one of the reasons why, unlike many other districts around us, we actually were in school for the majority of last year. We had a remote option for people who didn't....and while I can't guarantee what's going to happen on August 16th when we make our final decisions, I'm fairly confident to say we will be in person. But everything you're saying is true. We are gonna get additional money and to the extent that there are things we have latitude we'll probably have a public hearing, something like this. What I would encourage you is feel free to email me anytime ggasdia@sau81.org with all your ideas. Mr. Nazarian replied saying and thank you very much for doing what you have so far for the kids. I really do appreciate that.

5. Recognitions and Resignations

Nomination

Building Board of Appeals - (1 member term vacancy to expire April 30, 2023)

Applicant, Michael Lawlor, came forward and said I've prepared a statement and said, Good evening Madame Chair and members of the Board. Thank you for allowing me the time to introduce myself tonight. My name is Michael Lawlor. I'm a new resident of Hudson. I live at 34 Bradford Circle and have since June of this year. I'm interested in the vacant Building Board of Appeals position because I would like to be involved in my community and help where I am useful. Numerous colleagues of mine volunteer on boards in their local communities and have explained to me how it's a great experience and a great way to support ones community. I understand that this particular board does not get called upon all that frequently but I would be happy to help my community if appropriate.

I'm employed by a large power utility company that serves customers with electric and gas service primarily in the states of Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island. Here I work on the electric side of the business in the substation, engineering and design group where my title is lead civil structural engineer. What is a substation, you may ask? In very simple terms a substation transforms voltage to different levels of magnitude. At substations, with the help of distribution transformers our on the street poles and on the ground and boxes that lower larger voltages down to the 120 volts we all receive in our homes. Around Town you can see a local utility small substation located on Lawrence Road where it intersects with the overhead transmission lines. I self-perform all aspects of the civil and structural portions of assigned projects of the New England service territory. Project types range from 100% owner engineered and constructed projects to EPC projects or engineer, procure, construct. An example of my responsibilities include structural steel and aluminum design, rigid and flexible conductor analysis, rainforest concrete design, design of various foundation types and systems, oil containment systems, retaining walls, fire walls and sound walls, geotechnical investigations, departmental standards, construction reports, scope documents and building structures and foundations. I am the subject matter expert in my departments for structures, foundations and concrete. I'm knowledgeable in the contents of the International Building Code, the New Hampshire Building Codes and the other codes and standards referenced within.

Finally my education, credentials and future goals. I received my bachelor's degree in civil and environmental engineering from the University Massachusetts, Amherst. While working fulltime I also received my master's degree in civil engineering from Northeastern University with a structural concentration. I'm a registered professional engineer in NH, MA, RI and KS. My New Hampshire registration number is 15586. Prior to my current position I worked for a large engineering, architecture and construction firm located in Kansas City Missouri. Here I worked on various projects throughout the mid-west and mid-Atlantic regions. I began my career after my undergraduate studies working for my present employer in Syracuse NY. Along with my goal with supporting my community, other near-term goals include sitting for the Massachusetts Construction Supervisor license exam. And later the P&P or Project Management Professional exam. Thank you everyone for your time and consideration. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Chairman McGrath asked if anyone had questions and recognized Selectman Gagnon who said, three questions. Thank you for volunteering. A great speech and well-dressed gentleman with a good background so it was impressive. But three questions that came to mind, does your company require participation in any local boards? I know it's looked upon well, but is it required. Mr. Lawlor responded saying, it's not required but like you said it is looked upon well. Many of my colleagues do participate in local boards within their communities. Selectman Gagnon then asked are you part of any other organizations or volunteering efforts of this similar type? Mr. Lawlor replied, I have often on the past been members of AISC or ACI, steel and concrete organizations, one exciting opportunity that I may have is to be a peer reviewer for the ASCE 113 substation structure design guide that's in the process of being revised. So that's a very exciting opportunity for me. Still some work to be done and some approvals to be had. Selectman Gagnon replied, well congratulations and good luck. He then said, last but not least do you have any family or significant others in the construction business here in Town that may present in front of you if you were to join the Zoning Board? Chairman McGrath said, not the Zoning Board, Building Board of Appeals. Selectman Gagnon replied, forgive me Madame Chair. Mr. Lawlor replied, I do not have any family members in this area, in the construction trade.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said just a comment. Very nice presentation. Chairman McGrath said have you looked at the opening on the Planning Board, which deals with development. Did you consider that at all? It's an alternate's position. Mr. Lawlor said I did not see that. Being an engineer I'm familiar with the Planning Board but would be something I would potentially consider. Chairman McGrath said so there's an alternate opening on that Board. So if you think you might be more interested, this Board, I don't know how often they meet. I think rarely. The Town Administrator added, that members are allowed to be part of both boards. Chairman McGrath asked Mr. Lawlor to think about it and let Jill know if he's interested in the Planning Board alternate position and that the Board would vote on this smatter at their next meeting.

Consent Items

Chairman McGrath asked if any member of the Board wish to remove any consent item for separate consideration. Selectman Roy asked that Item D 1 & 2 were removed for separate consideration, Selectman Gagnon was recognized and asked that item E2 be removed for separate consideration. Chairman McGrath removed item 6A-3 for separate consideration.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve items Consent Items A 1 & 2, B 1 & 2, C 1, E 1 and F. Carried 4-0.

Selectman Roy was recognized and stated that she removed 6D 1 & 2 so that the Board could recognize DCU and the donations they're always sending to the Town. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to accept the donations for the Fire and Police Departments, from DCU with the Board's thanks and appreciation. Carried 4-0.

Chairman McGrath stated she removed item 6A-3 because the second page of the memo had a typo and states 2012 instead of 2021. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve item 6A3 as amended. Carried 4-0.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and stated that he removed item 6E-2 for separate consideration so that he can abstain from voting on that item as he as absent for that meeting. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve the meeting minutes of July 27, 2021. Carried 3-0-1 with Selectman Gagnon abstaining.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Assessing Items

- 1) 2020 Tax Abatement: Map 109, Lot 6, 209 Derry Road
- 2) Current Use Lien Release: Map 105, Lot 17, 22-34 Brady Drive
- 3) Current Use Lien Release: Map 105, Lot 17-1, 203 Robinson Road

B. Water/Sewer Items

- 1) Water Abatements - W-UTL-21-04 Acct# 3507630103, W-UTL-21-01 Acct# 3508127501
- 2) Sewer Abatement - S-UTL-21-04 Acct# 2753

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies

- 1) Raffle Permit - Hudson Historical Commission - Old Home Days Cash Raffle

D. Donations

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

E. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the July 13, 2021
- 2) Minutes of the July 27, 2021

F. Calendar

- 8/16 7:00 Traffic Advisory Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
- 8/17 7:00 Municipal Utility Committee - BOS Meeting Room
- 8/18 6:00 Library Trustees - Hills Memorial Library
- 8/18 7:00 Benson Park Committee - HCTV Meeting Room
- 8/23 7:00 Sustainability Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
- 8/24 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on July 27, 2021

1) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to hire John Claydon as a part time animal control officer, with a starting salary of \$18.93 (Step 3), per hour, in accordance with the Hudson Police Employee Association Contract. Carried 3-0.

2) Motion to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 3-0.

B. Proposed Amendment Town Code - Chapter 188 (Dogs and Other Animals) and Chapter 205 (Fees)

Chairman McGrath explained two public hearings have been held on this matter already. Does the Board have any questions? Seeing none she asked if anyone was ready to make a motion.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to amend Town Code Chapter 188 1-4, to include "noisy and at-large animals and barking dogs" and to amend Chapter 205-0 by adding in the applicable fees for violations. Carried 4-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing - American Rescue Plan Funds

Chairman McGrath invited Deputy Tice forward. The Town Administrator explained this is the monies that we talked about. Matter of fact we had a public input already on this. These are the funds. We're not designating where they're going, we're just discussing accepting them. Where they'll go, that's a different conversation. I'm sure they'll be many conversations. But in order to comply with the rules you need to have a public hearing and then a vote to accept the money. We're not planning what we're doing with it, we're just accepting it. So Deputy Tice is here if there are any other questions, but I believe the application has been prepared, we just need to submit it. Chairman McGrath opened the public hearing at 7:48p.m. Seeing no one there to comment, aside from Mr. Nazarian who already gave his comments under public input, the public hearing was closed at 7:48p.m. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to accept American Rescue Plan funds in the amount of \$2,536,302.58. Carried 4-0.

B. Hudson Fire Department - Donation Expenditure Authorization

Chairman McGrath recognized Deputy Tice who explained, good evening, thank you for your time. The Fire Department would like to use \$4,000 from the donation line to purchase gear bags for the operational staff. The operational staff is assigned to a station and a shift but they quite often move between stations for a shift but they quite often move between stations to cover overtime or swaps. They currently carry their gear in their personal vehicle and the purpose of the bag would be to put their gear in the bag, keep it all contained for convenience and to keep any contamination that was on their gear from getting inside their personal vehicles. Selectman Morin was recognized and said I can tell you by experience, these bags will be a great help. Because there's so much stuff you have to move when you go from station to station. Plus the cancer. Selectman Roy said so they're withdrawing \$4,000 and they just got \$5,000 from DCU so they'll be up \$1,000. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to authorize the Fire Chief to withdraw \$4,000 from the Fire Department donation account (4557) to be used to purchase gear bags for the department. Carried 4-0.

C. Hudson Fire Department - Notice of Retirement

Deputy Tice explained that we have received notification from Firefighter Jeff Sands that he intends to retire as of August 31st. He has been a very good employee for the Town. We thank him for his service. He has been an acting lieutenant, he's been president of the Professional Firefighters of Hudson. As president his leadership helped us to promote a very positive relationship between labor and management. He's also been a very good mentor to new employees. He'll be missed and we thank him for his service. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to accept the notice of retirement from Firefighter Jeff Sands effective August 31, 2021, with the Board's thanks and appreciation. Carried 4-0.

D. Public Works - Permission to advertise 2022-2027 Trash/Recycling Contract

Chairman McGrath recognized Jess Forrence, Director of Public Works. Mr. Forrence explained thank you Madame Chairman, members of the Board. I'm here tonight to get permission to advertise. If you see the cover letter we are in the last year in the contract we are under right now with Pinard. They said they would not recognize another extension under the terms we have right now because things have gone south if you would say. They're excited to go out to bid. We're excited to go out to bid. The numbers that have been thrown at me are somewhat scary. All over the place really. Nobody really knows where it's going. The biggest disturbance I find out there is to get the product from one place to another. Truck drivers. We feel it. Everybody feels it. I don't care if your Coca Cola, they're feeling it. So the biggest problem, sometimes you can make a decent profit on recycling primarily, but you've got to get it from one place to another. That won't be our concern. I am looking to go out to bid. It explains how it's to be done. As early as tomorrow morning if I get permission, I will advertise in Lowell Sun, Union Leader, municipal page, Town website and start looking for qualified bidders. Hopefully by next week sometime I can do a mandatory meeting to discuss what we're looking for, discuss what is in the contract here and see where we go with it. Hopefully come back to the Board. It's early but we've felt the pinch on getting new vehicles. So somebody to come up with five new vehicles, five new employees, all the containers and everything all over again, I thought it was pretty fair going out as early as we can. The Town Administrator added you'll also direct mail those too if I'm not mistaken. Just so we know that they get it. Mr. Forrence replied, oh yes. Then I would bring it back for the Board for your recommendation on it.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said, earlier in the year there was a discussion of a big hike in price. Are you still seeing that? Mr. Forrence replied actually I have not seen that big hike. If you look at the numbers that have been thrown at me and speculation from the talk out there, it's probably around \$200 per household, per year. That would be the increase. It's not that bad if you look at the taxes taking care of it. Chairman McGrath asked, that's not the increase that would be the cost? Mr. Forrence replied, that would be the increase from what we're paying now. Chairman McGrath asked, what are we paying now? Per household? Mr. Forrence replied I think \$1.30 something, a year, per household. There was some confusion and it was realized Mr. Forrence meant to say \$130 a year. So the increase would be about \$70.00. There was a brief discussion about recyclables and what is being shipped overseas and what is staying in the United States. Selectman Roy asked, is it a little too early to start? The Town Administrator responded saying, no because if somebody else got this bid and let's say we had to switch, they have to somehow get all their containers out and get the other containers in. in reality that's a huge effort. They've got to show up with five new trucks and new employees. It's a huge effort. Seeing no further questions Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to go out to bid for the Town's 2022-2027 trash contract. Carried 4-0.

9. Remarks by the Town Administrator

The Town Administrator said, just a couple of remarks. Just a reminder to the public that applications for the BOS vacancy are due this Friday, the 13th to our attorney, Attorney Lefevre. If you need any assistance you can give the office a call but those are due this Friday.

The audit has commenced on site this week so the auditors have been in the Buxton Room and they're here and the Finance Department is supporting that. I believe the LED streetlight replacement project is approximately 50% completed based on numbers I saw it's roughly 50% of the streetlight heads that have been replaced and are operating so far.

I have a question for the Board. Our 9/11 observance will be on Saturday 9/11. What time would the Board like to hold the observance? I know on past Saturdays we've done it in the morning. During the week we tend to do it at night because folks work. But on a Saturday we've tended to do it during the day. So I just wanted to get a sense before we start our final preparation, what time would the Board like to do it? Selectman Roy said I'm up for 9:00a.m. I'm not sure if that's too early for a Saturday for folks. The Town Administrator said I think 9:30a.m. might be a good start. We've done it at 9:30a.m. in the past. There was a consensus to hold the 9/11 observance at 9:30a.m.

10. Remarks by the School Board

Mr. Gasdia said thank you. First I wanted to start we had an interesting School Board meeting on August 2nd. And I just want to thank the people that came. I've watched many a Facebook school board meeting of the Town's around us and they were a little crazy. Ours was very civil and I appreciate the people that came. I also want to appreciate the Hudson Police that were there. I try not to go too much on Facebook but in the Town of Nashua, City of Nashua we actually got a comment for the fact that we did keep it so civil. With that said we're having another one on August 16th where we're actually making a decision. I welcome anyone that wants to come. But please let's keep it civil. We're going to do the best we can to make the best decision for Hudson.

Old Home Days is this Saturday. From Noon to 5:30 we're gonna have some members of the School Board there. Anyone that wants to come talk to us and ask us questions see what's going on. We're there just and effort to try and get out in the public a little more. Especially for the folks who aren't online or don't have people in the schools.

Finally I'm just looking forward to our joint meeting on August 18th where the two Board's come together. A lot of work's been done by a lot of department heads in advance, Mr. Malizia as well, and so just appreciate that. It will be great to see.

11. Other Business/Comments by the Selectmen

Selectman Gagnon: Thank you Madame Chair. Three updates from the liaison committees I sit on. Sustainability, they're currently doing a community power research. They're just looking into community power options for Hudson. We're getting presentations prepared and listening too. It's quite complicated and may take a while but it's interesting if people want to pay attention to the Sustainability Committee meetings. They're also preparing for Old Home Day. Potentially, with the great help of Jess we may have a display of the old street lights vs the new street lights to give an example to our residents of what is happening out there so they're not alarmed in any way and know what to expect.

The Library Trustees they spent a lot of time updating job descriptions, processes for the Library, just kind of getting up to speed. Readjusting people's responsibilities, which I thought was a really good

thing to do. They also were a great participant and scheduler of our recent National Night Out. I'm sure you guys may want to talk about that as well. It was a fabulous outcome of people, a beautiful evening. Lots of fun activities. I went around with my daughter. We had a blast. So thank you to both the Hudson Police and the Library for that.

Lastly, the Budget Committee, as it's already been stated, they're preparing for the joint meeting upcoming soon. I think that's all I have. Chairman McGrath responded saying, a Budget Meeting? Selectman Gagnon said, with the BOS and School. Mr. Gasdia interjected saying the Budget Committee can come and watch. Chairman McGrath then said it's the School Board and Board of Selectmen. Mr. Gagnon said, sorry for that. Thank you for the correction. Chairman McGrath then asked are you done. To which Selectman Gagnon replied yes.

Selectman Roy: So I just have a couple things. First of all I went to National Night Out and really the Police Department and Library did an outstanding job. And the Fire Department did great with their touch a truck portion of it. It was a great event. So kudos to them.

Finally so we have started to see a rise in Covid cases particularly the Delta variant so I'm just gonna ask that we continue to wash our hands, social distance, wear masks and if you can, get vaccinated. That's how we're gonna get through this thing. We have to be diligent. As hard as that is.

Selectman Morin: I also went to National Night Out. It was an excellent night. I believe the Police Chief told me they estimated 1,500 people there. That's a good turnout for that. Old Homes Day - Planning and Conservation Committee will both be sharing a tent for information for residents in Town to come and talk, look at some plans, look at the trails and things to that nature. Also with

Conservation, they're in the process of working with NRPC and they're getting bid process right now to do mapping of all the trails. We're trying to get the Benson's Committee to join in with that so all the trails are done on the same type of maps and things to that nature so it's all the same. So that's being worked on. It will also include an app so people on the trails can go right on their phones and get an app of all the trails, where they are and everything. They'll also be stuff for Police and Fire to locate people if there's any emergencies. They're all working towards that.

The only other thing I've got, it's a little bit of a concern. I attended the Budget Committee meeting the other night. And with what's going on in the country right now, the Town has a default budget. You know we just extended the evictions again because there are so many people that are gonna be losing their homes because they have no money and things to that nature. We have all the landlords who aren't collecting rent and they're the ones paying taxes. But the Chairman of the Budget Committee asked a School Board person who was giving a presentation about \$600K they had in fiscal year 20 and \$500K in fiscal year 21, if they were gonna turn it back for taxes. The answer was no. Chairman McGrath added so that's \$1.1 million. Selectman Morin went on to say, that kind of concerns me, it's just a heads up comment, there will be discussion on the 18th because with just the three things I talked about, you know our residents, our landlords who aren't getting their money who are going to pay these taxes, that would be a big significant help so I just wanted to bring that up. That's all I have tonight, thank you. Chairman McGrath said when is the Budget Committee meeting again? The Town Administrator said they meet the first Wednesday in September, I believe. Selectman Morin said he just asked if they were gonna bring it back and they said no not at this time. It's a retained....Chairman McGrath said, didn't the voters vote last year to allow 20% of the remaining budget? Mr. Gasdia spoke up and said so essentially what happens is we run, prior to that vote a couple years ago, we run where we would not have the ability to have any type of emergency fund. Similar to at the end of your year you can put money into a surplus. We've never had that before. We had the ability to do up to about 2%. So the first year, we did \$500,000 and then gave back. But we had like \$1.5 million. So we took \$500,000 and we put that. This year we did similar. I believe we are returning \$1.7 million dollars to the tax payer. Now we're putting this in the fund for the reason that

it's there, which is, either A to flatten out the tax rate at some future time if there is a fluctuation as if there's things that go up, or if there is an emergency. So right now we are running a surplus which is great, but there may be a time when we don't and we need to pull from it. So what we do at the end of the year is we took a percentage of the money and we put it in a retained balance and we put a very large portion, again, \$1.7 million dollars, is going back to the tax payer. So I mean I think that we want to make sure as simply in a vacuum because that was a big decision to not spend the \$1.7 and put some aside for a rainy day and put some back. Chairman McGrath then said, when you say put back \$1.7 million to the tax payer, what you're really saying is that you're using that to offset the budget, right? Mr. Gasdia replied, no so we have a surplus at the end of the year that was approved by the tax payer, right. And so we could spend that because that's what was appropriated. Instead of spending it, it moves forward and it will reduce the tax rate going forward is what it does. Because it's unspent money. The Town Administrator said it reduces what we have to raise next year. Mr. Gasdia said there's no mechanism to do it any other way. The Town Administrator agreed. Mr. Gasdia said that's they only way it can be done. Chairman McGrath then said just so that the voters understand that. Sounds like, you know, we're giving it back to the taxpayers. They're not going to be seeing a check come in the mail to them. The Town Administrator said, no. Chairman McGrath said it's gonna be to offset the budget for next year. Just so that it's clear to them.

Chairman McGrath: Just a couple of things from me. I wanted to remind the Board and those watching at home, that the joint meeting between the School Board and the Board of Selectmen will be held Wednesday, next Wednesday, Selectman Roy spoke up saying can I just ask a question about that? When will there be an agenda on that? Chairman McGrath said we've got an agenda. It's been sent out. The Executive Assistant asked, is it finalized? Mr. Gasdia said yeah, we can just sent it out. The Executive Assistant said okay, I got a draft last week post it online and I'll share it with the Board. Chairman McGrath continued saying, so it's Wednesday, August 18th beginning at 6:30 PM at the Hudson Community Center. Everyone can attend, it's open to the public, and however there won't be any public input. It's just for the two Boards to get together and we're gonna have presentations by the Town Planner, Town Engineer...The Town Administrator added, Fire Chief, Police Chief, I'll speak a few remarks, the School will also have representation. I think the Board is free to speak. He then asked, there's a Q & A with the panel at the end. Is that intended for the public to speak? I'm not sure. Chairman McGrath said, no it's intended for the Board of Selectmen if you would have questions for the School Board, you can submit those. How are we doing that Gary? Mr. Gasdia said so the way it works so we can make sure we can get through all the presentations, essentially the Fire Chief, Police Chief, Mr. Malizia, they'll come in and they'll talk about this is what's going on. The last half of the meeting is when we can ask any of them. That's sort of the panel. We can ask them any questions we have. If you have questions for the School you can ask the School. If there are things that aren't on the agenda or you have a pressing question, this is being moderated by Paul Inderbitzen, so you can email him in advance, and what Chairman McGrath and I have asked him is that he essentially runs it like candidates night. We also want to make this relatively a couple hour meeting. But if you have something pressing email Mr. Inderbitzen.

12. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Morin at 8:18 p.m., seconded by Selectman Gagnon to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) the hiring of any person as a public employee. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 4-0.

Chairman McGrath entered Nonpublic Session at 8:18 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 McGrath entered open session at 8:29 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session

1) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to hire Eric Courouns for the position of Public Works Mechanic, effective August 23, 2021, with a starting salary of \$24.10 per hour (Grade XII, Step One) in accordance with the Hudson Public Works Department Local #1801 AFSCME agreement. Carried 4-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. by Selectman Roy seconded by Selectman Gagnon. 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, Selectmen