

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the August 24, 2021 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman McGrath the meeting of August 24, 2021 at 6:59 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Selectman Morin

3. ATTENDANCE

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

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Rob Buxton - Fire Chief; Gary Gasdia - School Board Chairman;

4. PUBLIC INPUT

John Leone, 30 Flying Rock Road

Mr. Leone came before the Board as the Chairman of the Friends of Benson Park. He explained I'm here to just bring to your attention, if you're not already aware, we've had some issues, particularly over the last year with the roof leaking at the Elephant Barn. I understand the Town's challenges budget-wise this year. One of the responsibilities of the Town, give the lease agreement we have with the Town, Friends wanted me to come here to see if the Board of Selectmen might be interested to consider the Friends of Benson Park raising the funds to repair, but rebuild it to a new design that would last, you know, decades, hopefully. And so I'm here to just consider or ask for your consideration of that, I guess, and whether you'd be amenable to that kind of an agreement. Chairman McGrath asked, when you say you want to redesign the building, would that fall under the agreement that we have with the State of New Hampshire? Mr. Leone replied saying so it would be modification to the building to redesign and rebuild the roof, not the footprint at all of the perimeter of the building. It's not one of the historic buildings on the property. So it doesn't meet and it's outside of the historic district. So it doesn't fall under any of those limitations around the entire architecture. There will be no digging involved. Obviously, we're talking about the height of the walls. We'd hire, of course, a licensed contractor, would pull all the right permits, have the designs reviewed through Town Engineering. It's not our ideal situation, but we can't afford to wait. Frankly, we have invested thousands of dollars in donations and fundraising, you know, countless hours of volunteer work. And unfortunately, the water is now damaging the interior. I think we're a few of us working with the DPW were waiting to hear on an insurance claim for damage that's been done to the interior as a result of the roof leak. But sort of independent of that, we also need to come up with a permanent solution, and that's what we're proposing.

Chairman McGrath then asked so how would you go about the fund raising? Mr. Leone replied, so we've actually had COVID aside, we've had a really good year from a fundraising standpoint. We could support that almost immediately, frankly, without any additional concerted effort. So I guess there's a couple of steps Mr. Malizia and I met last week. One would be to see whether the Board would consider the donation and then the process that we would need to follow through a hearing and so on to accept the donation and then also get approval from the Town to modify the building, because, again, that's your obligation as far as the lease agreement is concerned. So we would need to kind of follow two paths, but hopefully we can work those over the next several weeks and can get the ball rolling. Chairman McGrath replied, well, I kind of like the idea of not having the vote taxpayers have to pay for that renovation because that's going to be costly.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said just two questions. What's the approximate cost? Mr. Leone replied, so we have one estimate that was about \$94,000 for what we want to do. Selectman

Roy then asked, and then what's the modification? Mr. Leone replied so I didn't bring it plans with me tonight when I come back in a couple of weeks. I can bring those details, but it's essentially tearing off the back part of the roof that's flat and creating a peak design. And then the front part of the building today, you would expect it to be a peak design, as I just sort of demonstrate it. But it really kind of does this, which is not ideal, certainly. So it's sort of correcting both those aspects and then adding the right kind of rooflines. I'm not an architect or builder at all, but that's my understanding as well. Those are the two major aspects that would change. And then obviously, you'd end up with all the shingles that would, you know, waterproof things for decades, hopefully.

Selectman Morin then asked what issues are you having. So right now, there are some active leaks, one of which we paid a roof for last year to try to mitigate and thought we had it resolved and seemed to not have done so like we expected. And then there are other areas, again, just in the DPW came out with an insurance adjuster and they spent a couple of hours, you know, investigating different aspects where there were active leaks. Trying to figure out where they were coming from. And we were hopeful that there might be opportunities to patch things again, to get maybe get us through a winter, but decided ultimately that, you know, we're willing to make that investment to try to avoid the sort of process that it would take us months. And then, you know, as Mrs. McGrath mentioned, you know, just financially, it's not a good situation for the Town this year in particular. So, you know, we wanted to come forward with a proposal. Selectman Morin was again recognized and asked are you going to put a metal roof on it. Mr. Leone responded, so the so the proposed design is not a metal roof. It will be a shingle roof. Selectman Morin said, you said \$94,000? Mr. Leone replied it's more about the construction changes.

The Town Administrator explained so just so you know, it is a Town owned building. So what they would in essence be doing is making a donation to the Town if the board is amenable to that. We need to have a public hearing because of the scope of the donation. That's why Mr. Leone is here, to see if the Board is interested in doing that. So that I believe time is of the essence. The next meeting is the 14th. I believe you wanted to try to maybe get a public hearing for the 14th. Mr. Leone said I'd like to try to if it works. The Town Administrator replied, but that's up to the Board. And again, when he first approached me, I thought it was repairing a roof. So you spend X amount of money doing it seemed kind of high. But then I said, what do I know? We went back out. We got estimates we could be shingle it, but he's we're going to have the same failures because of the deficient construction, for lack of a better word. So does seem to be a win win for the Town. They're willing to donate. It's still our building, but they have exclusive use of the building for at least 50 years. I think it's still got 45. Yeah, you got a few years to go. And then there's a renewal in there. So for the very for the long term, they'll have that building. So it seems to me if they're making an investment, this would be a reasonable thing to consider. Chairman McGrath said it will outlast me. I think I think that this is probably a really good solution because we don't have the extra funds. And you're willing to get donations and fund it yourself. To me, that's a real positive. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to move send this to a public hearing on September 14th to consider the acceptance of donation of about \$100,000 for the reconstruction of the roof at the elephant barn. Carried 3-0.

## 5. Recognitions, Appointments and Resignations

### Appointment

Michael Lawlor, Building Board of Appeals - (1 member term vacancy to expire April 30, 2023) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to appoint Michael Lawlor as a member of the Building Board of Appeals with a term to expire April 30, 2023. Carried 3-0. At the Board's August 10, 2021 meeting, when interviewing Mr. Lawlor the Board discussed that he'd be a great candidate to serve on the Planning Board. After thinking about this Mr. Lawlor sent correspondence to the Board stating he'd like to be considered for the vacant alternate member position on the Planning Board. Since this meeting it has been brought to light that the Zoning Board

of Adjustment is in need of volunteers as they currently have five open seats. Selectman Morin asked that this appointment be deferred so that the Town Administrator may reach out to Mr. Lawlor to see if he is interested in instead serving on the Zoning Board of Adjustment where there's a greater need for volunteers at this time.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to approve items Consent Items B, C, E & F. Carried 3-0.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Assessing Items - None

B. Water/Sewer Items

- 1) Sewer Abatement - S-UTL-22-01, Acct# 6464, 10 Scenic Lane
- 2) Sewer Abatement - S-UTL-22-02, Acct# 6400, 5 Parkhurst Ave
- 3) Sewer Abatement - S-UTL-22-03, Acct# 5626, 49 Bear Path Lane
- 4) Sewer Abatement - S-UTL-22-04, Acct# 4257, 10 Lund Drive
- 5) Sewer Abatement - S-UTL-22-05, Acct# 6536, 9 Shoreline Drive
- 6) Sewer Abatement - S-UTL-22-06, Acct# 5358, 2 Manny Court
- 7) Water Abatement - W-UTL-21-05, Acct# 3504431006
- 8) Water Abatement - W-UTL-06, Acct# 3500037206

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies

- 1) Raffle Permit - Friends of Benson Park
- 2) Block Party Permit - 21 Chalifoux Road

D. Donations - None

E. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the August 10, 2021

F. Calendar

- 8/25 7:00 Planning Board - Buxton Meeting Room
- 8/25 1:30 Board of Selectmen Vacancy Court Hearing - Hillsborough County Superior Court, 30 Spring Street, Nashua
- 8/26 7:00 Zoning Board - Buxton Meeting Room
- 9/01 7:00 Budget Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
- 9/08 7:00 Planning Board - Buxton Meeting Room
- 9/13 7:00 Conservation Commission - Buxton Meeting Room
- 9/13 7:00 Cable Utility Committee - HCTV Meeting Room
- 9/14 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on August 10, 2021

1) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to hire Eric Couroums 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.

2) Motion to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. by Selectman Roy, seconded by Selectman Gagnon. Carried 4-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. HFD - Walmart Grant Acceptance

Chairman McGrath recognized Fire Chief Rob Buxton. Chief Buxton said, good evening Madame Chairman and members of the Board. I'm here this evening to request the Board accept the community grant from Wal-Mart. We were before you a couple of weeks back for the application. The grant award is \$2,000. So we're looking for authorization to accept that this evening. Selectman Roy made a motion seconded by Selectman Morin to authorize the Fire Chief to accept the community grant from Wal-Mart in the amount of \$2,000. Carried 3-0.

B. HFD - Request to advertise Ambulance RFP

Chief Buxton was again recognized and said so we're here this evening to request permission to post the bids spec for new ambulance. As a reminder, this will be funded by the EMS revolving fund, which will not come out of the operating budgets. As you're aware, our ambulances are on a nine year rotation and we're due for a replacement this year. All three of our ambulances are busy. So getting this one in the cycle for replacement is important. So we don't have any long term breakdowns as we move forward. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to authorize the Fire Chief to advertise a request for a proposal to obtain bids for the purchase of a new ambulance. Carried 3-0.

C. Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Parameters

The Town Administrator was recognized and explained it's that time of year. Again, it always comes up on us very quickly. But as its August, I'd like to start giving direction to our Department Heads as they start to formulate their fiscal year 23 budgets, which we will be reviewing in October. In the past, it's been pretty much level funded. What that means is take your salary and benefits, move those to the side, because those are typically contractually driven by the labor agreements and the various health insurance plans. And typically the rest of the budget, i.e., all the operating stuff is typically has been level funded. What does that mean? Basically, folks can move money from one bucket to another amongst their cost centers if they need to do something more or less. And what the direction has been is if you have something that you can't absorb or move, it comes separately to the Board for consideration. Sometimes the Board puts it on a warrant article. Sometimes the Board adds it to the budget. As I outlined last week, the Town's in very decent financial shape. We have not really

suffered revenue drops. We have not you know, we have a very strong fund balance. The problem is we're in a default budget this year. So it just kind of makes that burden a little bit more because we have to be measured against that default budget as opposed to the budget that passed. I'm just concerned about sometimes you get too big of a gap again and you may not get your budget passed. So I put some statistics here just too kind of give you some information. But in essence, every \$30,000 dollars or so worth of spending is about a penny on the tax rate. Or if we get \$30,000 dollars more revenue, it's a penny saved on the tax rate revenue, things like automobiles, which we did well with this year, monies from the state. Interestingly enough, I took a look at some of the inflation statistics just to get an idea. 2021 according to the federal government is 1.9% don't feel like that at my house, but that's what it says officially. Right now, it's 1.1% through, I think, June, which I find I don't know what they're measuring, but it's not food and gas. So we have the same pressures here that everybody has at home. But I put this out there for the Board's discussion as to what the Board would like to issue for a parameter so we can direct the Department Heads as to what they can expect and what they should try to try to aim for. Again, recognizing that you're going to have some things that just aren't going to fit in that budget, they're going to have to come separate and have to be mindful of the budget, though, that it's going to be a tricky balance this year.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said unfortunately, I hate to suggest this, but if we're in the default budget and there's still concerns out there, then we probably should go zero level. My concern is and you know what, we didn't get a lot of our warrant articles this year and some much needed stuff. And now we're going to pay quite an additional amount of money for what we have to do and play catch up. It's very unfortunate that we have to do that. Taxpayers got to understand they voted for the default budget. So now when these come again, they're going to come in much higher and we're going to have to pay that difference instead of us not getting it done this year. I would like to give the Department Heads an opportunity to submit what they requested last year and anything new that came up this year, because we can't stop. We need to still move forward and try to get some of this stuff done. If it comes in a little higher. People need to understand it was their decision. Now we have to catch up. Chairman McGrath asked so are you suggesting zero level funding? Selectman Morin replied yes. And then anything extra they can bring it in.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said I think that we have to recognize that we have to make some stuff up. And I think we have to recognize that in the budget. So I would be, I would suggest that we have some increase, not a not a significant increase, but some increase so that they can start making up some of those things. I understand your point about the warrant articles, but I think that there needs to be some analysis done on how the American rescue plan in in the infrastructure bill is going to play into that. Selectman Morin said and if we can get some relief that way, we can. But at this point, we can't make that determination. So we got to be careful what we tell them now, because later on we may get some money. We may not. You know what I mean? Selectman Roy said I do. I do know what you mean. But I think that also goes to when we start to discuss that about that, we're doing it strategically because, you know, we don't want to put something on the warrant article that asks for a tax increase based on that, that we could get covered by one of those bills. You know what I'm saying? So I just think that we need to we need to sort of think strategically about how we're going to do this. And I do think that we need to do a couple of things. One, I think there needs to be a modest increase in the budget. I don't think that a zero funded budget is sort of realistic for what we want to do, but I think we also need to recognize that we need to we need to, I guess, for lack of a better phrase, sell that budget. We need to be out there talking about what's in it and what it is and, you know, making sure people understand what we're asking for. You know, I'm not sure that that, quite frankly, we did a very good job of last year.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said I agree with you, and I'm going to see if we can defer to the Chief Buxton up here for a second couple of questions in reference to the monies. What your comment on raising the budget? I'm all for that, too. But here's my problem. We have the information out everywhere. There's only so much we can do unless we put together little town halls, whatever you want to do. And if that's what your suggestion, we need to work on that. But with the amount of

voters that we get, that's a big problem, too. And we've talked about that. It's gone around and around and we haven't got anywhere. What are you looking for, an increase? Selectman Roy responded, you know, I'm looking at one, one and a half percent. I'm not I'm you know I don't think that's anything crazy. But I think that we need to give the department some a little breathing room to make up for what happened with the default budget last year. The Town Administrator then said certainly looking at the inflation figures, that's within that's very defensible. And just remember, the labor portion of the budget is already dictated. We're not talking that. So when you're talking to one or one and half talking about discretionary and maybe, you know, somebody has a \$300,000 budget, that's not a big number, but it gives them a little bit of relief for things like postage, gas. You know, we feel all those pressures till we still do. We don't have less customers. We still have the same amount of customers, if not more. So if you if you would do something modest like that for the operating budget, that's reasonable. But again, big ticket things just Board can debate whether they want to put a big ticket thing on the warrant. I would presume, I shouldn't, but you probably want to put the police station back on in some form. That's going to be a critical, that's still a critical need. That need doesn't go away. You might balance that by maybe not doing some other things again. I've always contended that a shorter warrant kind of sends a message to the voters that you don't have three pages of stuff, even though some of that stuff is modest. You're going to have one labor contract. To my knowledge, it's just the support staff that's the administrative staff in the building. Not typically a big ticket contract. You'll have the typical water sewer general fund. So, you know, if you can keep a relatively short warrant, it might work out. Again, I can't predict what the voters will do, but I think, you know, some something in that in that ballpark, you know, probably 70% of what we do is labor. So the 30% piece at a percent or a percent half, it's not going to break the bank. And we do need to do something to say catch up a little bit to at least not lose more ground.

Selectman Morin then said one more question for Gary. How many contracts you guys got this year? Mr. Gasdia responded, I believe we have two. Selectman Morin said not the teachers' though. The teachers is the big one. I think you're all set with that. Mr. Gasdia replied, yeah, the teachers was last year. I think we have the administrators and secretaries' maybe. Chief Buxton was asked to come forward at this point. While waiting for Chief Buxton to come forward the Chairman asked, Gary, how often do the contracts come up to be negotiated? Mr. Gasdia responded, it depends. So where the teachers' contract going speak of the ones we've done. We made a concerted effort to shrink the time frame. The old one, I think, was five years in this last one was only two. And one of the reasons was that we didn't want, you know, a five year contract got a little old and really put us at a disadvantage. So we're going to look for shorter timeframes going forward. So probably every two to three years, I would think. Chairman McGrath replied, three years to me, three years sounds better only because you're not facing it every other year. And there's other things that I mean, I have nothing to do with the school decisions about the budgets or anything else. But it would make sense to me that you'd want to find a midline and do it that way so that the voters don't get, you know, every two years, maybe a little bit much. Mr. Gasdia then said that's historically been what the cadence had been. The teachers' contract in particular. There were some reasons we needed to go to two.

Selectman Morin was then recognized and he asked Chief Buxton Is there any time frame you can give us? Because I agree with Selectman Roy, if we can go for some of that stuff, but we're coming into a budget which we're going to be limited on time. Chief Buxton responded saying, yeah so from the original proposal with our involvement, we knew there would be an application process which the Board held the public hearing and authorized the application was put in. And it's my understanding that we've received our first payment. So the payment for the \$2.5 million dollars will be coming in two payments. I think the first payment came in a little strong at about \$1.3 million. So we have now I

think Selectman Roy talked about strategy. Right. So we've received our first deposit from the federal government, and that's good news. One of the things that I would echo that Selectman Roy had brought up was what is the impact going to be of the infrastructure bill and what is truly the nuts and bolts of that bill going to look like? You basically have one opportunity to spend two point five million dollars. Right. So the reality is, is that we want to make sure we're spending it somewhat wisely and making sure we're identifying projects are going to be big impacts for the community to take them off the tax rate. But we also want to make sure that we're understanding the infrastructure bill, because there's another pot of money that is going to put more money into water and sewer or bridges or something along that lines. We need be very careful and make sure we're balancing that out and not, you know, making a quick investment here and then not having you running short here. So I know there's a list of projects that people are starting to develop in their heads. We have a process that we need to start going through. But my intention is to kind of be back for the 14th and talk about, okay, here's our next steps. We have to have all of our projects identified by I believe it is 2024. Ok. And then all the projects need to be completed by 2026. So we have some time there that doesn't mean that we shouldn't get moving and shouldn't identify things that need to get accomplished, I'm all for that. Right. Because in your point a couple of minutes ago, anything is deferred, just continues to escalate and cost. So there are opportunities for us to leverage some of those monies differently to offset some of the costs for other projects, potentially. We need to explore that. And the committee will have to look at the list that comes forward and kind of say, hey, these are the recommendations for funding that we believe we should spend. And I think the budget process is going to naturally bring some of that stuff to light. So I think that that's, you know, a good opportunity for you folks to make some decisions and work with the within the parameters and the boundaries of the American Rescue Plan set up to identify say, hey, we want to fund that now. That way it's not going to the tax rate and go from there. I think there's going to be some of those long term impacts that you could get.

Selectman Roy then said so I also think we just need to be a little careful to that. So I think the bridge is a perfect example. If we put that on the warrant article and it fails, no means no, which means we can't use the federal money either to complete that project. You know what I mean? So I just think there needs to be a lot of thought into, particularly this year's warrant than what we put on warrant articles and stuff. I, I would agree that I don't see a funding opportunity for something as large as a police station, but some of the other stuff that has been on more articles before. I just think we need to make sure we have a thought process before we do that.

Selectman Morin asked Chief Buxton, when do you plan on having your first meeting? Chief Buxton responded so my intention is to be here the 14th to lay out the process on who should be engaged in the working group and then start pushing out opportunities for Department Heads to bring in and committee members to bring projects into that working group. And then it'll be up to that working group, to kind of say, we're going to rank the projects. And this is your opportunity what we have laid out all the way back at the beginning is your opportunity to identify how you want to spend that money. That's the authority of the Board to say, hey, we want to do this, this and this. And certainly I would expect the working group to put a recommendation together for you folks on how we would see best to spend it. But that will be your ultimate decision and how you're going to identify those projects.

Selectman Morin then said I'm just I'm just trying to think back what was on the warrant last year and The Town Administrator said the retaining wall or the fix at the transfer station. We obviously had the police station, but that's not going to, you know, basically the two big articles that failed or the police station and the retaining wall. Selectman Roy asked wasn't the bridge, the engineering thing on

there? Just the engineering piece. The Town Administrator responded Yeah, but I believe we're good with that. I thought that had passed. Selectman Roy asked did that pass. The Town Administrator replied what didn't pass was the culvert design over by Lowell Road. So that would be an infrastructure or something that we would probably put on this list because pay me now, pay me later. We're better off getting that getting that going. That would be like the type of project I would expect to see here, because from a design perspective, and that's the first phase was about 50 probably to be 60 K now. And then you'd have the design and then you could figure out what the cost is going to be maybe in a subsequent year. And that might be downstream with some of this money or maybe infrastructure money, which I don't think we've seen yet. But I think those were three things that were pretty significant. But the most significant is police. And then the improvements to the landfill, because we're running that as a transfer station. We need to make sure we continue or we are in compliance with DES rules and regulations. Selectman Roy asked so and that's a phased project, right? The Town Administrator replied ultimately, it is. Ultimately, it's a phase project. But there's things that we need to do relatively soon because of the fact that I think the walls starting to have some issues. The wall where you go tip your collectibles. You know, there's going to be railing. That's going to be concrete padding. This is a bunch that gets to go there. And people say \$500,000 dollars for a wall. It's more than just a wall. It is the first part of a much bigger upgrade. But we need to, you know, seriously look at that sooner rather than later. But again, that would be either a warrant article or some other method. That's not going to be in somebody's operating budget. We just, we can't do that. We're looking at things like, you know, we need to keep might need to buy some equipment, do some more training to make up some training or police department. You know, that's the sort of the one or one and a half percent that really kind of helps us out with that sort of thing. That's what we're trying to discuss here. But certainly warrant articles will come in separate and then the Board can determine do we want to have this much or we want to have this much.

Chairman McGrath then said so I'm in favor of one and a half percent added onto the budget, because I think that that's reasonable. And you know, ultimately, it's the voter's decision, right, about whether or not to support it. But I think that that's a reasonable amount to give leeway to the Department Heads. And as far as the money from the federal government, they've got the spigot wide open. And I don't know how long it's going to last and...Selectman Roy said that's why we should take advantage of it while we can.

Chairman McGrath said well, it's a matter of taking advantage of it, but it's also a matter of national security and everything else that goes along with that money that they are just dishing out like candy. In any event, that's my political speech. So are we done with this? Selectman Morin asked do we need a motion on this. The Town Administrator said I think a consensus would be reasonable if you'd like to do a motion. I think a motion just makes it very clear for everybody. Selectman Morin then said and that's that was my next question. Do you want to go one and a half percent? Selectman Roy said I think that that would be that would be reasonable. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to that the budget parameters for the budget season will allow one and a half percent increase and then any large projects or warrant articles to be submitted separately. Carried 3-0.



D. BOS-School Board Sub Committee Discussion

Selectman Morin was recognized and said this came up in the School & Town meeting the other night. And I believe Mr. Gasdia said that they were going to talk about it at the next School Board meeting to put a subcommittee together. I just figure we get this so we can get this moving. My only concern is and you weren't there, but we've tried this two other times and they had a few meetings and it died. That is my biggest concern, that we make sure that this moves forward this time. There are a lot of things that we purchase. We both purchase, but we purchase differently. And if we buy in bulk, we can do much better. So probably what two members from the Board or... Selectman Roy said Yeah, although I was looking at policy stuff and there's actually policy, I couldn't get into Jill's office, but it's a Joint Planning Committee that consists of members of apparently the Budget Committee, the Board of Selectmen and the School District. So I don't know if we just want to take a look at that, whatever that policy says as far as forming it and what the parameters are. But I might suggest that we put if it doesn't fit our needs, we write something and we do things like they publish a calendar much like we do when their meetings are. And, you know, we talk about how many people per board get appointed and when they get appointed, I don't know, I couldn't I couldn't get into Jill's office to actually help pull the actual. I just have the heading here.

Selectman Morin said I know they've done it twice before. So there was a certain amount of people on it and everything. Selectman Roy said so I don't know what it says, but maybe we just use we grab that and take it. The Town Administrator said or take it to the next meeting and look at that and then determine what you want to do. If that's if that suits your needs, if that doesn't suit your needs. Selectman Roy said Yeah, that's what I would say, because we have a starting point. Why not just use that? The Town Administrator said so we'll get those policies to you for the next The Chairman said and hopefully we'll have a full Board by then.

E. Benson Park Committee Donation

The Town Administrator said if I May we amended the agenda, I don't think your script got amended, but there was a request to put Benson Park on here. And my understanding of if anybody's here to represent, but my understanding is there's a donation coming down the pike to repair or replace the stone wall. By the A-frame. The A-frame is one of the structures that people use for picnicking and gathering and whatever. There's a firm in Town. I don't want to misspeak the name. I think its Erickson, but I'm not sure it's looking to donate approximately \$4,000 dollars' worth of material and labor to do that. I think the Committee was perhaps going to come tonight just to see if the Board is interested. And again, that would require a public hearing, which you can hold on the 14th if you're interested in accepting that donation. From all accounts, from what I've heard, it seems like a very reasonable thing to do. I had a conversation with Jess about it as a matter of fact, and it would certainly just make that area more attractive. So he was in favor of it and he would provide some assistance removing material for them. But the company that would donate it would do all the other work, all the facade work. So my understanding is, if you are interested in accepting that we need to send it to a public hearing on the 14th. Selectman Roy said so my understanding when I read that was that I was also failing. Selectman Morin said it is. The Town Administrator said I can't speak to the quality of it. I just know that, you know, there's at least a part of it that that needs to be repaired. So if the Board was interested, I'd make a motion to send a donation to the required public hearing on September 14. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to accept a

donation of approximately \$4,000 to repair the stone wall near the A-Frame to a public hearing on September 14, 2021. Carried 3-0.

9. Remarks by the Town Administrator

But I don't have a lot. Just a couple of things. 898 street light fixtures have been installed or replaced, so that's about 77% complete. You might take a notice of them, but they're moving along very rapidly on that. Just in case people didn't see Facebook, our Web page or HCTV, trash and recycling or postpone one day this week each day because of the tropical storm that really didn't make that much havoc. But you try to plan ahead. So just you can certainly put your barrel out early. But just everybody needs to be mindful your trash will be collected one day later and you're recycling if it's your week for recycling.

The only other thing is I know school opens. Gary may speak to that, but I believe Grand Ave and Hill Street is supposed to be paved tomorrow, so all the streets will be paved. They were out striping crosswalks, stop bars. So we are pretty much ready to go for schools. Start on the 26th, which is Thursday. You can probably speak more of that.

And just one little quick note for those of you who knew one former Town Administrator Paul Sharon, who was my predecessor, passed away last week down in Pennsylvania. So I just want to just make a mention. He served the community for 10 years and he was a pretty, pretty decent, experienced guy. And just for those who don't know, he passed away last week. And that's it. Chairman McGrath said okay make sure his name goes in the Town Report. The Town Administrator said I'll bring that to the Board's attention.

10. Remarks by the School Board

So, yes, so As Mr. Malizia just said, school is starting on Thursday. Hard to believe. So school buses will be around crossing guards will be around, kids will be in streets so people can just watch out. But schools, actually, a lot of school has actually already begun. We had the we had the parade. I saw Selectman Morin there the other day in Londonderry. The marching band was out. The sports teams are playing. All the schools are having welcomes. I was at Alvirne today. It was a little warm. But things are things are going well. I will say there's a lot there are some COVID protocols, more so than just the masks that everybody's on. There's a lot of cleaning going on. There's a lot of things going on in the schools. The Superintendent for those in the district sent out a very detailed email today regarding all those COVID protocols and what to look for this week. We are currently mask recommended for anyone over the age of 12 that because they have access to the vaccine, anyone under the age of 12, it is mask required. That will be updated by email when that if that were to change. But if you're in the District, check your email. And best of luck to everybody going back to school on Thursday.

11. Other Business/Comments by the Selectmen

Selectman Morin: Just don't want to think that the school meeting went pretty well. Got a lot of information out. A lot of people watched it. It was good. Thank you. And look forward to that committee working together with the school.

And the second thing I just want to thank the whole Old Home Days Committee especially out there, all that high heat temperatures and all our committee volunteers who took the time and the Town Planner and the Town Engineer who took the time, Police and Fire who took the time to be out there also. Thank you.

Selectman Roy: So, um, so I just have one sort of announcement. Um, so the ZBA is kind of short some members, um, they have five full members and five alternates. At this point I don't think that they have any alternate members. So, you know, if you really want to serve the community and looking for a way to volunteer it, it is a low time commitment. It's a short time commitment of a lot so more so than a lot of the other committees. Meets once a month. The fourth Thursday if I remember. The Town Administrator said yes. They potentially can meet twice a month because depending on caseload. But typically lately it's been one a month. We are in desperate need of members or alternate members. Again, sometimes folks have to recuse themselves because of proximity or abutting a project. And applicants are allowed to ask for five sitting members. And if we don't have enough alternates, we can't sit five members. So it's very important. Selectman Roy said so you can find the application on our website to see some folks go ahead and volunteer for that. That's all I have. Thank you.

Chairman McGrath: I just have a couple of things in our packet tonight was a request for a block party grant and this Board granted that. But I wanted to make a remark about the fellow that it's honoring. And that's and I don't know him And I may be mispronouncing his last name, but Wyatt Whitesell, and he battled cancer and he's overcome that that vicious disease. So congratulations to Wyatt. And I hope that the block party goes well and that a lot of the attendees are present. The second thing is Eversource. I got a phone call the other day, and typically I don't answer the phone if I don't recognize whose calling. But on occasion, I've had to. But in any event, it was Eversource. So I picked up the phone and it turned out it wasn't every source. It was some sort of a scam. And you were supposed to, I think, choose a number like one and press one if you want to get a hold. That was telling me that my service was going to be cut off for nonpayment, which I knew wasn't true. So in any event, I press the one, but it was taking me to a whole other different part of whatever they were trying to scam. So I'm just telling people to be aware of that. If you think its Eversource. Hang up call Eversource and they'll be able to tell you if it's a legitimate call or not. So that's my remarks.

And then the other thing, the last one is tomorrow we're going to have a court hearing in the superior court over in Nashua to try and find a replacement selectmen due to the vacancy on this Board. Hopefully, the decision will be satisfactory to everyone and it won't be appealed. That's my latest fear that occurred to me today, that if people aren't happy with what's decided, that they may appeal it. So in any event, let's hope that the hearing goes well, that everyone is somewhat happy with the outcome and we can go on with our Town's business.

## 12. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Morin at 8:18 p.m., seconded by Selectman Roy to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II 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.

(i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 3-0.

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 8:46 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session

1) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to add a permanent part-time accounting position in the Finance Department not to exceed 29.5 hours per week as a Senior Accounting Clerk with the prorated earned time and holidays and no other benefits. Carried 3-0.

2) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to hire Magdalena Whitemore for the permanent part time Senior Accounting Clerk position at Step 1, \$19.62 per hours, of the Hudson Support Staff contract. Carried 3-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. by Selectman Roy seconded by Selectman Morin. Carried 3-0.

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

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Marilyn E. McGrath, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Morin, Selectman

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Kara Roy, Selectman

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ABSENT  
Brett Gagnon, Selectmen