

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the September 14, 2021 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman McGrath the meeting of September 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Selectman Guessferd

3. ATTENDANCE

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

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Lisa Nute - IT Director; Rob Buxton - Fire Chief; Bill Avery - Police Chief; Gary Gasdia - School Board Chairman; Jill Laffin - Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Dean Sakati, 11 Fairway Drive

Good Evening. Dean Sakati, 11 Fairway Drive. I understand this evening you're going to be voting on Mr. Martin for the position at the Zoning Board. I'm asking in the most respectful way possible that Mr. Martin not be appointed to the Zoning Board. These appointed positions, especially zoning, require trust, professionalism, the ability to forward think and integrate into the Town Master Plan and respect for residents. Even empathy for residents. In my view Mr. Martin does not embody these qualities. These views were shaped by me, over the last year, as I witnessed Mr. Martin in action in at least three or four separate instances. First as a Board of Selectmen member he disrespectfully referred to the public as the peanut gallery. Even when Mr. Coutu offered him the opportunity to apologize to residents for this comment last March he still couldn't bring himself to apologizing to the residents for this. That was when he was applying to the Zoning Board back in March. The second, he voted in my opinion, against Town Code in approving a sewer allocation, seemingly without basis. And regardless if you're for or against this decision it highlighted flaws in his decision making process. As he stated he does not read lawyer briefs because they bore him. Going with our gut is not an attribute I personally think we need for zoning. Especially where the Town zoning is quite messy. And this vote in particular had very serious consequences. Beyond its legality it represents a significant wealth transfer from Hudson residents to the Friel family as a seller of the Green Meadows property. Third observation when Norman Martin posted in a Facebook account in April of 2020 where he disrespected residents specifically on Eagle Drive and I need to give a little description for context. Some resident posted a picture of an old beat up couch in the back of a truck asking where he could dump the couch. Normand Martin responded with the post "Eagle Drive! LOL" and while this was likely just a bad joke, it's not appropriate at this time given the moment we're in with the contention around this controversial Town altering project. You know someone who wants to be a Town leader would not try to enflame the situation. They would have empathy and what really happened was all it did was fuel an ember hot mood in the Town. Every elected official and appointment, need to have the best interest of the entire Town at heart and be capable of fulfilling these duties. Especially at a moment when the Town's problems become much more complicated. And unfortunately what I've observed is a pattern of disrespect for at least select residents. Therefore my view is that Normand Martin, while I thank him for his previous service, does not possess the personal attributes not the character required that Hudson needs for the Zoning Board at this time. In closing, I'd once again like to thank you, for this opportunity to hear my comments and for your service as well. Thank you.

Seeing no other public input Chairman McGrath asked Mr. Martin if he'd like an opportunity to respond. Mr. Martin came forward and said thank you for the opportunity. Normand Martin, 3 Edgar Court. In my

14 years that I sat on the Zoning Board prior being elected to this Board I did make decisions. I did read lawyer briefs because I know that during those cases you have to be prepared because that lawyer is going to be in front of you explaining what he wrote. When I said that I didn't read lawyer briefs I didn't read those particular ones because I knew what they were asking for. I have enough experience, Madame Chairman, for that. And publicly, I haven't apologized as of today I haven't apologized for that statement calling the crowd a peanut gallery. It was a mistake in my judgement to say that. I meant no harm by it. I don't understand, I'll probably never understand why people were so overzealous about it. But I do apologize deep down. I have no ill will against anybody. I walk out of a room and I leave it all there. No ill will Madame Chairman. And again, my 14 years of experience, I don't believe any of the cases we had in front of us went to court. And I believe we were very successful in keeping our town looking good. One example is we don't have a Bluebird Self Storage on the south end of town. Thank you Madame Chairman.

5. Recognitions, Appointments and Resignations

A. Recognition

20 Years of Service - Hudson Fire Department - Eric Lambert

Selectman Morin, a former Hudson Firefighter, asked Lt. Lambert to come forward and said Lieutenant Eric Lambert began his career as a Firefighter with the Hudson Fire Department in September of 2001 and was promoted to Lieutenant in November 2015. A man of many talents, his extensive IT knowledge has been a valuable asset to not only the department but also to the Professional Firefighters of Hudson Local 3154. He has also been involved with the Hudson Firefighters Relief Association during his tenure with the department. We thank you for your 20 years of dedicated service and contributions to the department and to the citizens of Hudson. Congratulations!

20 Years of Service - Hudson Fire Department - Sean Mamone

Selectman Morin then asked Captain Mamone to come forward and said, Captain Sean Mamone began his career as a Firefighter with the Hudson Fire Department in September of 2001. He was promoted to Lieutenant in January of 2014 and held that position until July 1, 2016 when he was promoted to Captain. Sean has been an integral member of the department as Director of Communication and the lead on our grants program as well as a part of the Hudson Firefighters Relief Association. We appreciate his contributions, dedication and service to the department and the community over the past 20 years. Congratulations!

B. Removal

Zoning Board of Adjustment - (alternate member term to expire 12/31/2021)

Ethan Severance

The Town Administrator was recognized and he said you have correspondence from the Chairman of the ZBA, Gary Daddario, basically letting you know that there's been four unexcused absences by Mr. Severance from the Zoning Board. He is an alternate member. If you turn to page two of the document you'll see the last four meetings he's been absent

without excuse or notifying anyone. Prior to those four meetings he was absent twice, excused. According to the bylaws after three unexcused absences members are potentially subject to removal so it's come to your attention. This Board appoints and this Board will remove. Selectman Roy then said Madame Chair, if I could just add that Mr. Buttrick has reached out several times to Mr. Severance and he has not responded. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to removed Ethan Severance as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for violating ZBA bylaw 43.6(5). Carried 5-0.

C. Interviews

- 1) Zoning Board of Adjustment - (5 alternate member vacancies 2 terms to expire 12/31/21, 2 terms to expire 12/31/22, 1 term to expire 12/31/23)

Normand Martin

Mr. Martin came before the Board and said thank you Madame Chairman, members of the Board. My name is Normand G. Martin. I reside at 3 Edgar Court. I'm applying for an alternate position on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. I've heard your call for volunteers. I heard it loud and clear and I would like to help to the best of my ability. First I would like to take this time to apologize for my words to the public when I was a selectman. I did not intend to offend anyone and I'm deeply sorry that I did so. I would like to put that behind me so I can help the Town as I truly care for the greater good of Hudson. I have 14 years of previous Zoning Board experience with being chairman two of those years. One of my key accomplishments on the Zoning Board was establishing its bylaws. I also have five years of Budget Committee experience with one year of those being chairman. I have lived in this Town for 20 years. I have raised my family here. The Zoning Board needs help and I'd like to provide all the help that I can give with my knowledge and experience. Again, I apologize to any resident that was hurt by my words. That truly was not my intent. I care very much and am very passionate about this Town and I'm hoping to bring the same passion and care to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Thank you for your time.

Selectman Morin was recognized and asked Mr. Martin if he'd like to comment on the couch photo. Mr. Martin said the couch photo? I don't even remember. Honestly tell you I can't remember that couch photo. And if I did it was just a joke. If we all look at Facebook a lot of people are posting about couches, right? All over this Town. They just had an 80 year old woman. Somebody put two boxes out at her recycling bin and they got wet and she couldn't lift them. So residents came forward and helped them out. I would have done the same thing. There are a lot of people who dump couches on this Town. Okay? Then there are a lot of people that post about certain restaurants in this Town. One of them being Pecos. Facebook for me is not to air out anything. I look at pictures, communicate my family and I make comments. Was it inappropriate? Maybe so. But it wasn't meant to hurt anybody. Selectman Morin then said, my concern is, and it was 2020, and I see all the posts all the time. What I kind of agree with what the gentleman said and I know we've had issues with other postings by Selectman and we've got to have a standard. You know what I'm saying? That's my concern. How are we gonna take care of this in the future? Mr. Martin responded saying number one I don't remember doing it. I don't remember the post about that. It's been so long. Will I go back and research it? Yeah. Will I do it again? Probably not. Like I said it was in a line of succession of jokes. I'm being singled out. I don't mind. Selectman Morin said I actually saw it today in an email and it only shows yours. Which I understand so we don't know what was behind everything else. It seems to be a thing. Mr. Martin responded saying, exactly. My intent was not malicious if I did make those comments.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said so I'm a little torn on this issue. I understand the need for appointees. However I also feel that we have an obligation to only appoint citizens that will act in the best interest of the Town, prepare for every Board meeting and treat citizens with respect. I, as I am sure my fellow Board members, have received six emails from citizens asking we not appoint you to the ZBA. I did not receive any emails in support. So I'm not going to rehash because they site the peanut gallery remark. The couch issue. The statement you made about not reading I believe what they quoted was what anyone presents to this Board and that Attorney arguments are boring. They also talk about during candidate night that it didn't matter if you lost the election because you would easily get appointed to a board or committee. And finally of great concern. The greatest concern I think is these constituents believe that you do not have the best interest of Town in mind. So other than what you've already told us, why should we put aside what those citizens have told us and appoint you to the Board? Mr. Martin responded saying I have acted in the best interest of this Town for all the 14 years. I've probably only missed two meetings during that time as my three years as selectman I missed zero meetings. You make a commitment. You get appointed to that commitment and you're there. You're committed. I will tell you I just gave a perfect example. Bluebird Self Storage wanted to be put in on the south end of Town. They stated to the Board that they look for the best sites they can. But they needed two wetland special exceptions and two variances to go on a property. So I asked how is that the best property in this Town for you to go on when you need all that relief. We denied. We reheard. We denied. They walked away. They never brought us to court. They came back to this Town just last Thursday. They are now going to go on Central Street. I thought that was the greatest spot they could bring a business into this Town because it will lift up that road. The appeal on that road right now is not very appealing. Addition of that building will be great. So I will say this. I don't miss meetings. I have a lot of respect, if you go back and watch that particular meeting, I did make a comment to the attorney who was being disrespectful to the resident of this Town, that they are our residents and we have to listen to their concerns. Because they didn't want it there either. So I don't know that you have evidence to the contrary saying I have never been respectful or always disrespectful. But the comments I made were disrespectful. I agree with that. I already said that. I made my point towards that. But I've always acted in the best interest of the Town. Especially when you have a developer like Public Service who wanted to put in new poles and they were waiting for a wetlands special exception. Their builder went ahead and put the poles up without approval. This person, me, went to the Zoning Administrator at the time and said why is this being allowed? Why aren't we stopping that? He said we can't. I said so I think we can. So I met with his permission, with the engineer of the project and asked why these are up before approval. And the only explanation was his developer went ahead and did it. So they came in front of the Zoning Board and I had a talk with Mr. Snow the engineer from PSNH and their resolution for what I encountered was to give the Town \$5,000 donation for their mistake. And I promptly brought up I did this in a meeting for the public to hear and they gave \$5,000 to this Town. Was I looking for money? No. I was looking for an explanation to why are you violating the zoning ordinance. I see it every day in this Town. Every day I see the zoning ordinance being violated and quite frankly something needs to be done in this Town about that and I don't know where to go with it. But I'm sure I will send an email to people who are in the position to make those decisions.

Chairman McGrath said I have a question for you (Selectman Roy). You're the liaison to the Zoning Board, correct? Has the Zoning Board meetings that you've attended, have all of the members been present? Has there been any time when you didn't have enough, like a quorum, to act on any of the cases? Selectman Roy responded, has there ever been not a quorum, no. however I will say that there have been meetings where four people were present and the applicant wanted five members present. Chairman McGrath asked how many times did that happen? Selectman Roy responded once or twice I'm not really sure. Chairman McGrath went on to say and the people who have sent the emails to us concerning their concern about Mr. Martin, and I agree that the comment that you made was

inappropriate and unnecessary. And I accept your apology. I live in the south end of Town. So you know it could have applied to me too. I lost my train of thought where I was going with this. But in any event I served with Mr. Martin on the Zoning Board. I was a liaison to the Zoning Board. I was an alternate member to the Zoning Board during your term. I always felt that even though sometimes I didn't agree with the way you handled yourself sometimes I didn't agree with what you said, but I never doubted for one second your concern for the Town and the well-being of the Town. I always felt that you kept that at the forefront. And that's the truth. And I think you know me well enough that I wouldn't say it if I didn't mean it. So I don't think that there's any need to deny someone, an applicant, who has had the service that he's had, that he's provided to this Town, and I don't think that there's any need to deny him an ability to sit on a Board that he sat on for a number of years, provided great service for one instance when he was disrespectful and said something that was probably ill thought of and said in haste. So I'm willing to give him a chance to serve the Town again. Now if we were overrun with applicants for this position I would say well maybe you stand at the very back of the line and wait a while. But we're not overrun by applicants. We're having a hard time finding applicants whether it's for the Zoning Board, the Planning Board or any other board in this Town. So if anyone is willing to make a motion...Selectman Morin was then recognized and said I just got a couple more comments if I might. He said Selectman Roy brought it up. Did you (the Town Administrator) receive any emails for either candidate that the Board of Selectmen didn't receive? Mr. Malizia replied, not to my knowledge. I don't think so. The Executive Assistant added no, everything that you received is what I received as well. Selectman Morin said I'm talking either of the candidates. Did any emails come in? I only received emails for Mr. Martin. Ms. Laffin responded, the only emails we received were for Mr. Martin. Selectman Morin said okay.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said I'm really torn. I'll put aside the emotional stuff. The couch stuff the word stuff. I'll take your apology. I'm really trying to put a lot of that aside. People are people. I make mistakes too. So I'm really trying to go on this more on a logical sense. What's your knowledge base? You know, you've helped yourself a lot in my mind by explaining some of the cases you've talked about and what you've done. That to me holds weight with me. You kinda went out, you tried things on your own, you had permission, you read the rules, so that resonates with me a lot. I try to do that as well. So that's what's making this really difficult. We did receive a lot of emails and you know this, I don't want to make a choice retaliation based on what you believe in, who you are, or what you vote yes or no on a project. That's not what this is about. It's truly about your skillset and what you try to do. So I think I may vote positively. And part of that is because it's an alternate position. So I believe, I hold faith in the other voting members and that you know you can provide some assistance as an alternate and speak but you don't generally have a voting capability. The slim chance is if someone isn't there, then you can. So even if I had some doubt in potential of your skillset. I think you have more to give than potentially negatives to take away. So at this point I think I'm in support. Which is maybe different than what most people may think.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said, as the Chairperson just said I watched the Zoning Board meeting and at the end they had quite a discussion on some of their cases that have been put off and that it is impeding our residents getting the service they expect and they deserve. They actually told Selectman Roy several cases that were pending and the other side of it, it does hurt us, the Town also, because are people not following the zoning regulations? They're against it? Are we not getting progress? Like Selectman Gagnon, Selectman Roy, and Chairperson feel you got to be careful. You know? No matter what, how we feel or what we feel or how we get attacked. Whatever. They're still the residents and we're here to serve them. Mr. Martin replied absolutely. Selectman Morin then said that's my big concern. The couch, I can understand the joke. Again, we're only seeing one slide which I can probably assume it was 100 different comments. I get it. But, you as that elected person at the time made that comment. That's my concern. You gotta be careful. Would you like to respond to anything before we move on? Mr. Martin said I don't have any negative

response. I truly believe that in the time I served on the Zoning Board it was about the residents. It's about the case, that's in front of you. It's not about the person. It's about the case and the law that has to be followed to seek relief from the Zoning Board by a variance. I don't know of special exceptions anymore. But there's you know I mentioned a waiver requirement. Because a house was built way back in the early 1900's. All of a sudden they decided it's sitting outside the setbacks and the new dimensional requirement. We're not going to make somebody take down a 100 year old house and rebuild it. You're gonna give them the dimensional requirement. And those are the things that they're requesting. So when you talk about hardships on properties for a variance one of the hardships is they're enjoying their property beautifully so why do they need a variance for this. You really have to balance and weigh everything they're presenting to you. Whether it's their attorney, the resident or an engineer. Thank you.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said as been said by the rest of the selectmen, this is not an easy decision. I'm on the fence and I've been going back and forth on this myself. And I think you served the Town well in your years with the Zoning Board but it comes down to me, in the end, you made a statement yourself, what do the citizens of this Town want, I've always been belief that we are servants of those citizens. And there's a number of citizens that have stepped forward and there are a number of instances that have occurred and so I have to go back to that. What input have I received and it's nothing about any relationships or any personal things or anything like that? It just comes down to what do the citizens of this Town want and what do people see? Um and so for that reason I'm most likely going to vote no. it really comes down to that for me.

Seeing no further comment Chairman McGrath asked anyone wish to make a motion? Selectman Morin asked is there one written or we just making one. The Town Administrator then said so typically what you've done if you've listened to a candidate at a meeting and then defer to the next meeting. You can certainly do whichever you'd like. I mean I think when you know a candidate I'm not sure what's going to happen in another two weeks, but it's up to the Board how you'd like to handle it. Selectman Roy then said Madame Chair quite frankly I am truly torn between this. Cuz I understand that there's a real need out there. I read everything. Everything came in this afternoon as you know. All the emails that I talked about. Umm, I just think maybe we should take some time and make a good decision instead of a quick decision. The Chairman said well hopefully in the meantime, some of the people that have complained are willing to step up and serve. Because you know they're all ready to complain and find fault but they're not willing to step up and serve the town that they're complaining about. So we can put this off for two weeks and come back to it. Mr. Martin we'll decide in two weeks' time. You can be present if you'd like to be. If not you can see it on Hudson Television. Selectman Morin asked are all the emails we received public information? The Town Administrator said unless they're from your attorney I believe they would be in the public domain. And let me correct one thing. I think some of the emails may have referenced another individual in the same email, so I don't want to say. Selectman Morin said that's why I'm asking. They're directed to the Board as a general thing but. The Town Administrator said but my point is in some of those emails you may have more than one candidate someone is talking about. Selectman Roy said can I ask a question. So if somebody did like a Right to Know request would then be redacted, all of those folks it doesn't pertain to? Like the people they mentioned other than Mr. Martin? The Town Administrator said an email is an email. I'm not sure we'd redact anything. Selectman Roy said I don't know, I just. The Town Administrator said an emails and email. If it's sent to you folks through your Board of Selectmen email I'd lean towards its public information unless it comes from our Attorney, its attorney-client. Or if you're communicating back to the Attorney. Selectman Morin said so it would be public records cuz none of the ones I saw tonight came from the Attorney. Chairman McGrath said I would think that that's right. It's public knowledge. People are writing these things for our review and our understanding and I think that should be open to the public. Again, with the clarification if it came from our Town

Attorney and it was privileged information then that's. But they're not talking about their backgrounds or anything that should be kept private. The Town Administrator said its citizens expressing their opinions, which is free, and I just want to check my email, make double sure that I didn't get one that you all didn't get. It's possible that I did, but. Selectman Roy said there was one that was forwarded to us I think by Jill that went to Brian. Ms. Laffin agreed with this. The Town Administrator said I want to double check mine just to be sure. Selectman Morin asked I was just seeing if anything came in late this afternoon or anything that we did not receive. The Town Administrator said not late this afternoon that I'm aware of. They're in the public domain as far as we're concerned.

Mr. Martin was excused by the Board and said thank you Madame Chairman. You will see an email, I did send a public records request.

2) Cable Utility Committee - (4 member vacancies. 2 terms to expire 4/30/22, 2 terms expire 4/30/23)

Roger Coutu

Mr. Coutu was recognized by the Chairman and said thank you Madame Chair, members of the Board of Selectmen. I'm here this evening requesting that I receive your vote to allow me to serve on the Cable Utility Committee for the term to expire 4/30/2023. Some of you may know and some of you may not. So for your clarification, edification, I want you to know that I served on the Board of Selectmen for approximately 13 years and two months. Of those 13 years 12 were dedicated and committed service as a liaison from the Board of Selectmen to the Cable Utility Committee. During that time the Town Administrator, the Committee Chair Michael O'Keefe and I, were a committee that negotiated two successful contracts benefiting the Town with Comcast and we represented the Town's interested and I think it showed through the documents that we were successful in attaining and getting considerable concessions from Comcast in terms of what we would like. We have at our availability any time we would want an additional television channel which we haven't had to utilize up to this point. I can't recall, accept for the time that I was seriously ill from the surgeries I had, ever missing a Cable Committee meeting. I think I'm well versed, well qualified and again for your knowledge, when the City of Lowell Massachusetts first decided to bring cable television into the City of Lowell, I was the chairman of the Committee that negotiated the first contract for the City of Lowell for the then city manager. I think I'm more than qualified for the position, able and willing to serve on a regular basis and I ask for your endorsement for a term to expire April 30, 2023. I can answer any questions anyone may have.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said, if I could, over the last couple of weeks I think we all received a couple emails from an individual that raises some questions about Mr. Coutu that I don't think is appropriate to discuss in the public forum. So I would ask that this be moved to nonpublic session and of course Mr. Coutu would be more than invited to attend. Chairman McGrath said I don't recall receiving any emails concerning him? Selectman Morin said there were several. Chairman McGrath replied were there? I don't remember. Selectman Roy said I'm not passing any judgement on what was said in them, I just don't think it's appropriate to do in a public session. Selectman Morin added some of the content to those, absolutely. Chairman McGrath asked so are those emails available to Mr. Coutu? If we're going to be having a meeting in nonpublic to discuss them, I would think...Selectman Morin said I don't mean to interrupt but what we just talked about is it a public email and is it a public? And he should be able to read them before we have any discussion. Selectman Roy said and I would agree with that. I wouldn't have a problem with that. I just don't know if discussing them in a public forum is appropriate. Selectman Morin asked can we do this if the Board agrees. We forward the emails to Mr. Coutu and as our bylaws state, the person

has the right to have it in public or nonpublic and let him make that decision. Selectman Roy said that would be fine with me. Selectman Guessferd agreed. Chairman McGrath said we can defer this to the next meeting which is the 28<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Coutu if after reading the emails, if you feel you prefer to have it discussed in public session let us know so that we can arrange for that. Otherwise we'll have it in nonpublic. Mr. Coutu replied, thank you very much.

D. Appointment

Planning Board - (1 alternate member vacancy with a term to expire 12/31/21)

Michael Lawlor

*Mr. Lawlor was interviewed at the August 10, 2021 meeting. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to appoint Michael Lawlor as an alternate member of the Planning Board with a term to expire 12/31/21. Carried 5-0.*

Chairman McGrath asked if any selectman had any items they'd like removed for separate consideration. Selectman Gagnon asked that item 6E be removed for separate consideration as he was absent for that meeting.

*Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve items Consent Items A, C, & F. Carried 5-0.*

*Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve the minutes of August 24, 2021. Carried 3-0-2 with Selectmen Gagnon and Guessferd abstaining.*

6. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Assessing Items

1) Certification of Yield Taxes: Map 200, Lot 007, 65 Bush Hill Road

B. Water/Sewer Items - none

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies

1) Raffle Permit - GFWC Women's Club

D. Donations - none

E. Acceptance of Minutes

1) Minutes of August 24, 2021

F. Calendar

9/15 6:00 Library Trustees - Hills Memorial Library  
9/16 7:00 Benson Park Committee - HCTV Meeting Room  
9/20 7:00 Traffic Advisory Committee - Buxton Meeting Room  
9/21 7:00 Municipal Utility Committee - BOS Meeting Room  
9/22 7:00 Planning Board - Buxton Meeting Room  
9/23 3:00 Trustees of the Trust Funds - Buxton Meeting Room  
9/23 7:00 Zoning Board of Adjustment - Buxton Meeting Room  
9/28 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

1) Selectman Guessferd made a motion seconded by Selectman Morin to hire Angela Routsis as a part-time School Crossing Guard with the Hudson Police Department at the rate of \$14.50 per hour. Carried 5-0.

2) Motion to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing - Benson Park Rock Wall Donation

Chairman McGrath recognized the Town Administrator who explained the Town has been offered a donation to repair/rebuild rock wall that is near the A-frame picnic area. The wall has deteriorated and needs replacement. So Erikson Construction is donating the refurbishment of the rock wall. That donation is approximately \$4,000. Because of the amount of the donation the Board needs to hold a public hearing. After which you hold a public hearing you can then accept that donation. So you need to open a public hearing for public comment. Unless there's any questions first. Seeing no questions Chairman McGrath opened the public hearing at 7:44pm. There was no public comment. Chairman McGrath closed the public hearing at 7:44pm. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to accept the donation from Erikson Construction for the refurbishment of a rock wall near the A-frame structure at Benson Park with the estimated value of \$4,000. Carried 5-0.

B. Public Hearing - Friends of Benson Park Elephant Barn Roof Donation

Chairman McGrath recognized the Town Administrator who said similar to the previous item, the Friends of Benson Park have the exclusive use of the Elephant Barn. That's the red structure that's up in the front of the park. They would like to replace, redesign and reconstruct the roof because there's a lot of leakage problems, there's a lot of issues with the roof based on construction of the roof. Original construction and or whatever. They have their museum and shop up there and they have generously offered to donate a whole new redesign and reconstruction of that roof at the Elephant Barn. That's valued at approximately \$95,000. So in order to accept that donation you need to have a public hearing. I don't know if you want to hear from Mr. Leone, Friends of Benson Park, I believe he spoke at your last meeting. Gave you an overview of the plan of what they're trying to do. Technically the roof is the

Town's responsibility. That's why we have to accept it as a donation. So they've generously offered to construct and redesign that roof.

Mr. Leone was invited forward and said I'm John Leone, 30 Flying Rock Road. President/Chairman of the Friends of Benson Park. I don't have anything in particular to offer other than what we talked about a couple weeks ago. But I'm here to answer questions if you have any. Selectman Morin was recognized and said did you suffer any more damage with the recent rain? To which Mr. Leone responded, no new leaks. We still have issues obviously. Selectman Morin then asked when are you looking to do this. Mr. Leone replied, so pending hopefully the Board's decision this evening to accept the donation we're asking for written authorization because again the Town owns the building, that we can go work with the contractor. Included in the documenting you received from us is the written estimate from one contractor who is willing to work with us. We hope we can kick off the permit process right away. So hopefully in the next couple weeks.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said thank you Madame Chair. Sir, for my own knowledge, how were you able to raise \$90,000? That's an incredible feat and a generous donation. Mr. Leone replied, we've had some very generous support these last couple of years in fact and since our inception we've sort of been building a bit of a nest egg for something like this that we thought might come down the road. Sort of always suspected there might be issues and there were issues with the roof, no surprise and given the Town's financial position this year and the default budget we just can't afford to put it off longer and wait for another opportunity because of all the leaks we had and issues this past year. Selectman Gagnon then said, and if I may follow up on that, are those all just small donations? Or were you looking at grants? I'm just asking for other boards to follow suit in what you've accomplished. Mr. Leone said sure. So we're a 501(C) 3 nonprofit that's existed for about 10-12 years now. It comes from a variety of sources. There's been some individuals, very generous donations, others are you know, every single ice cream we sell in the shop. We all volunteer. All those dollars go right back into our general fund.

Seeing no further questions from the Board, Chairman McGrath opened the public hearing at 7:48pm. Seeing no one present to speak on the matter, Chairman McGrath closed the public hearing at 7:48pm. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to accept the donation from the Friends of Benson Park to redesign and reconstruct the roof of the Elephant Barn at Benson Park, with an estimated value of \$95,000. Carried 5-0.

#### C. IT- Request to Advertise

Chairman McGrath recognize IT Director Lisa Nute. Ms. Nute said thank you Madame Chairman, members of the Board. In light of the recent resignation of Doug Bosteels who was not seeking other employment but was given an offer he couldn't refuse, I am asking your permission to post the vacant position of IT Technician. That's an important role for us. As you know I have requested for several years to move that position to full time because we had always been so short staffed and his coming on has been great. I think every department noticed the level of service and how we were able to respond much quicker than before. So it's an important role that I fill. Again, just looking for permission from you all. Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said thank you Madame Chair. In today's economy and hiring world, which is extremely difficult, other than posting publicly for the position are there any creative or innovative ideas you have to really reach out and try to find someone? Because with two potentials this could be critical. Ms. Nute responded saying yes you're absolutely correct. I guess just for the viewing public, since you just brought it up, there's also the recent announcement of my resignation, December 1 and I would like to see if we can kill two birds with one stone and give me permission to post that one as well so that I have an opportunity to put things in place before I leave. However that is an absolute valid point and I have already reached out to a temp agency. They've been looking for me because he gave his notice two whole weeks ago and by the time I can come before this Board, get something posted you know it takes quite some time. So with a temp employee that I'm seeking, I've given them the job description. They understand what I'm looking for. I hope to

have resumes by tomorrow. We've sectioned off a block of time on Thursday for interviews. That's going to help there to at least give me some more time to find somebody. So online. Not just Indeed but there are other places like that. NHMA has assisted us in the past. We've used MRI for other positions. Usually that's higher in the rank though. It's mostly internet that people look for jobs. Usually with that comes a lot more weeding through the stuff that's just not even relevant. You get a lot of stuff that people don't even read when they apply. But we'll do our best that way and see what we get. Selectman Gagnon said one more question Madame Chair quickly, have you ever thought about interning with college students or anything like that. That may be a different avenue but something to patch the hole for the part time. The IT Director replied saying sure we have worked with interns in the past so I do have a connection with UNH and Southern New Hampshire so that is potential. I would prefer somebody not that green if possible. Interns have been very difficult for us because this is basically a training ground possibly. So we were grooming Doug for this position he was well aware of that and aware of my retirement as well. I just couldn't match the offer that he had. We had been grooming him for this for a couple years. I'd say we were very fortunate to find him. We knew him already and brought him in. if you certainly know of anybody let me know. That has worked for us in the past. I'm very concerned about how tough that might be. Competing with the private as well as just being able to find somebody. Chairman McGrath asked Ms. Nute if she can stick around until the Board goes into nonpublic. Chief Avery is here. I think I'd like to ask a question of him that he could probably provide us with some guidance. Ms. Nute said I can certainly do that. Selectman Gagnon made a motion to approve the posting for a full time IT Technician. This was seconded by Selectman Guessferd. Carried 5-0.

#### D. American Rescue Plan Act

Chairman McGrath recognized Fire Chief Rob Buxton. Chief Buxton said good evening Madame Chair, members of the Board. Nice to see a full room tonight. Welcome Mr. Guessferd. So this evening I'm here to take the second step of our planning process towards the American Rescue Plan and how to best utilize that funding opportunity. I think provided you a slide show this evening that goes through some historical data along with some recommendations to move forward. I think from a historical snapshot I think it's important to basically identify that the program that the program is \$350 billion dollars in emergency funding for the country. \$65 billion in direct aide across the country. The programing period runs from March 2021 through December 2024. That means that we have within that period to identify projects to utilize funds that are going to come to the Town of Hudson. Hudson, over two years, will receive approximately \$2.5 million dollars in funds from the American Rescue Plan. Possible uses go direct towards combating Covid-19 through public health costs, address negative impacts to the economy, along with lost public sector revenues. I think the Town Administrator during our first presentation discussed that our revenue stream is actually remained pretty solid as we move through the Covid-19 period. Also discussed infrastructure and premium pay. Please remember that we're still operating underneath the final interim rules from the federal government. The rules are still being written as we move forward. The anticipation is that this fall, early winter the final rule set will be out, if they come out. Okay? So it's a very broad program that provides for investment of the infrastructure in the community. How do we accomplish this program? We've proposed using the Town departments, the business sector and the community. Engaging all three of those pieces to basically bring forward a priority list of projects that would afford the best utilization of funds as they come forward. Initial actionable items was for the Board to endorse the plan, identify the stake holders that we have and determine the expectations and the schedule.

Chief Buxton went on to say so what have we done since the initial meeting? We met on June 8<sup>th</sup>, July 9<sup>th</sup>. We opened up the portal and set up the Town account and started the application process. August 10<sup>th</sup> the Board of Selectmen held a public hearing about accepting the funds. August 10<sup>th</sup> the Board of Selectmen formally accepted the American Rescue funding and as of August 13<sup>th</sup> the Town of Hudson actually received its first payment of \$1.3 million dollars in funds. So those payments as I said would come in two year period. One this year and one next year.

What are the next steps as we move forward? Establish the working group and establish expectations, collect public input and create a final project list as we move forward. when we talked about the potential working group originally we talked about having two members of this Board, requesting one member from the Budget Committee, the Town Administrator, myself, the Finance Director and the Town Planner and the Executive Director for the Chamber of Commerce. I want to be clear that this working group is an oversight group that would oversee the process in that all of the Department Heads, committees and elected chair folks would obviously have the opportunity to solicit projects or push projects up for consideration as we move forward. So your actionable item tonight would be to endorse that formula and then to come forward with a recommendation or assign two members of the Board to actually do that so we can get to work. So that's the first step this evening. I don't know if you want to talk about that now or you want me to keep going Madame Chair. Chairman McGrath responded, we can talk about that now. I've gone through this package and I've got some questions and comments so. Selectman Morin was recognized and said first Chief, the possible uses, I know you can't give me exact numbers and I get that. You just talked about the revenue we're doing pretty well. So that assumption would put it on the bottom of the list. Can you give us a brief overview of the rest of this stuff? Where the money may be going and any issues with any of these areas? Chief Buxton responded, sure. I think one of the first pieces and you can spend the money on one project if that's what the Board chooses to do. That's the prerogative the Board has. But really, HVAC upgrades I think you have a failing HVAC system in this building here and a failing HVAC system in the Recreation building. You have potential of HVAC funds that could be utilized to offset some potential costs for the Police Departments renovation. So those are the type of projects, big ticket items that could come off of the rolls of the tax payer and basically utilize these funds. Later in the process I make the notation about basically looking at and taking our time as we identify projects. That's specific. We have an infrastructure bill that's in the Senate that would at some point here this fall or early winter, most likely, get voted on in some format. I think it's important to recognize that we don't want to double up. We want to utilize the funds efficiently. We don't want to rush to use this \$2.5 million dollars, identify projects, and then find out we're eligible to be funded from the infrastructure bill through a partnership with the state or federal government. So that's why I'm recommending we kind of pump the breaks a little bit and slow down to make sure we have a full clear picture as to what those could be. I did watch the Budget Committee's meeting from I think it was the first and they seem to want to identify some projects that may need to come off now. I think that's well intended on their part but I think we need to make sure we're identifying the process so we know all the channels. Right? So we know what all potential funds. I can personally sit here and think about a culvert on Lowell Road that needs some attentions. Some engineering and repair costs there. There's some big ticket pieces that need to be done.

The question may come in, why include the Town Planner in the working group? Well the Town Planner's responsible for the Master Plan and the Capital Improvement Plan. So I think it's imperative to kind of get his opinion of that work. I don't shepherd that work. Steve doesn't shepherd that work. That's the Town Planner's job to shepherd that work. He should be there to identify as projects come in, is this a project that was either identified as benefit through the master plan or the capital

improvement plan? Or was it not. Where does it rank in that structure? So those are the type of projects I foresee.

Selectman Morin then asked okay for the public health cost did we take a hit on that at all for all the clinics we did and everything? Chief Buxton said we have not at this point. Selectman Morin then said so at this point the Town hasn't suffered anything there per say? Chief Buxton responded correct. We have one last check that will be coming in from June vaccination clinics but that is pending. Everything else has been received and there's revenue coming back to the budget. Selectman Morin said okay so that takes that off. Negative economic impacts, businesses? Chief Buxton said we ran a small program through the CARES Act money. Pushed money out to the business community. The Town Administrator added, there was an application process that we went through. Quite a few businesses got direct aid. Not through us but directly from the federal movement. Selectman Morin then said and the premium pay for essential workers we took care of that during the whole process. Chief Buxton agreed. Selectman Morin then said so basically we're looking to invest in infrastructure at this point. And I get the committee may come up with something different. Chief Buxton said that would be my recommendation but that's for the committee to look at.

Selectman Morin then said my next question, you just brought it up, and you got an eight member committee. Our usual committees we have an odd number, especially where we're dealing with what we're dealing with and we're talking a lot of money, why didn't we make this so it wasn't an odd number committee? Chief Buxton said I view my position as a facilitator. Strictly as a facilitator. That's my purpose. I'm no different than any other department head where my department would push projects up. I'm a facilitator of the process. Selectman Morin then asked, and just a question, why don't we see Public Works or Engineering especially where we're talking infrastructure where you had just brought up the, the...Chief Buxton said this is a working group that will identify projects. All the departments would still have that input. So no different as to why I'm a facilitator of this process, the individual department heads would have the ability to push up to the working group to identify their projects. This is your call. This is a recommendation.

Selectman Morin then said, last page, public engagement. It says once the Board of Selectmen have been provided a list, the project would be out to public input. Why wouldn't we do public input first so we had their input when it came to the Board. Chief Buxton said I think you need to have a narrowed scope of projects instead of just having an open forum. You would have had the committees, elected officials and the Department Heads pushing projects up to the working group. The working group should identify projects to report back to this Board and you either endorse the work or you don't. If you endorse that work then it goes to the public for comments. Selectman Morin said but if you look at the plan Brian's putting together we went to the public first and that's a very broad...that's why I'm asking. Chief Buxton said you certainly have that venue and I'm not going to get in the way of that. Selectman Morin said it's just this could be a very broad list. As the plan Brian's putting together. At least we could get some input and see what they're interested in before it came to the Board.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said so to your point, valid, but I guess in contrast, if Brian's process, the Town Planner's process is to go out to the public and get that wide net and kind of narrow it up to a triangle, it would be nice to have this process be the opposite and kind of a different way where the technical leads make projects and then the public reports on them. So you have two opposite processes that blend together might be a good idea. Selectman Morin said I'd like to hear the public input before we got it. That's my opinion. We can, with \$2.5 million dollars I don't see it going very far talking about some of the projects we got to deal with. So I don't think the list is gonna be that long to

tell you the truth. I really don't and he just said it himself, you know the expense just for the stuff here. I don't think it's gonna be a very long list.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said I kinda agree with Selectman Gagnon that it should be a little bit focused as to the public input. Now that being said if we go there and there's a project on that list and they say no I want to go down this road instead, obviously we need to listen to them. But I think it needs to be a little focused so that we sorta don't get bogged down in the public input process. Cuz it could be a million ideas, even for \$2.5 million dollars it could be a million ideas. Right? Selectman Morin responded saying but the way I understand this process, this group is gonna come up with the list and that's what's going to be submitted to the public and I'll say it again with what the Chief's comments were. Due to the cost of many of these items this list is not gonna be very long. Selectman Roy said Right. Because they list the list that they did, the committee. Selectman Morin said why not just look at it all then and give their opinion because if the list is ten items, five items, I mean the culvert itself is gonna be huge money if that's what we decided to do. If we didn't get the money for the other project we were talking about. Chief Buxton said, can I ask one clarification question? Selectman Morin are you looking to basically reverse a step so in other words the working committee identifies projects, then it goes to the public, then to the Board of Selectmen? So the working group still is creating that priority list but before that list is brought to this Board for priority setting it goes to the public. That's very reasonable. Chief Buxton then said sorry, I didn't understand that at first.

The Chairman then said everybody's all set? So on this establishment of the working group, I highlighted on this that you know, the Town Engineer is missing and I think that he's an important component of the staff upstairs and he has important projects. Talking about the bridges across the river that need work. Talking about the culvert on Lowell Road. Redesigning the roadway so that it, I forget the name of the street behind Suzie's Diner and all of that...Chief Buxton and the Town Administrator both said County Road. The Chairman went on to say, County Road, to align it with Lowell Road. I mean those are all gonna be expensive projects and I think that he should be part of this. So that's my comment. But also, what is the meeting schedule for all of these individuals? Is it once a week? Once a month, twice a...Chief Buxton said that could be up to the members of the committee. Depends on how fast of a schedule this Board sets. I'm made a recommendation of 90 days. I would tell you that I feel that is the fastest you could get anything done because this government is going to be in the middle of budget season here in the next few weeks. The Town Administrator added, some of us are going to be very busy with the budget in that 90 days. I hate to use the word too aggressive, but we can't do everything at the same time. Selectman Morin was recognized and said well, where you said we should be pumping the brakes a little bit, do we need to do it that fast? Chief Buxton responded, my job is to make a recommendation to you. Selectman Morin replied, right, but you being on that budget and whoever the selectmen are and looking at the other people, they're going to be on that budget so maybe we put that off a little bit. Chief Buxton replied, you can table it to the first of the year as far as I'm concerned. Selectman Morin added, that may be the smartest thing to do. If it's not an urgent thing we have to get done, let's take the time and do it correct instead of rushing it. Chairman McGrath added, I would agree.

Seeing no further comments Selectman Morin made a motion to table it til after budget season. Chairman McGrath then said I just have a comment, or a question I guess for Chief Buxton. And I hate to do this to you but did you, Chief Buxton, did you read this? The Chief responded, I did, why? Chairman McGrath went on to say, you missed a whole lot of things. Chief Buxton apologized. The Chairman went on to say, no that's okay but they jump off the page to me. This is the business I used to be involved with and so, if you can't make sure that it's accurate, can you have your staff...Chief

Buxton said thank you for that. I appreciate that very much. The Chairman continued saying because it reflects on you and it may not be you. Thank you. Anyone else? Seeing no further questions she asked Chief Buxton if he was done. Chief Buxton replied, I'm crystal clear. Selectman Morin make that motion then. Do you want to wait til the complete budget is over or do you want to go, you tell me Chief cuz again, everybody here is going to be busy through that. The Town Administrator spoke up saying, I think if you go through the deliberative session, which would be the very beginning of February, and then you know you're through the budget season. Selectman Morin said okay so March 1<sup>st</sup>, we'll make a motion to defer the committee til March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Town Administrator then said but if you wait til the election....Selectman Roy jumped in saying right, see cuz that would be the problem cuz if we pick two people, depending on who they are...Selectman Morin said well you're not gonna do any work til then. You're gonna hold everything off til March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Town Administrator said, I think what she's saying is you have an election on March 10<sup>th</sup> or whatever the date is...Selectman Morin realized what The Town Administrator was getting at. Selectman Morin said right, because we don't want to be in the middle of it and have to change people either. Selectman Roy agreed. Selectman Morin said I make a motion after April 1<sup>st</sup>. Chairman McGrath said April Fools. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to defer the American Rescue Plan Committee formation until April 1<sup>st</sup>. Carried 5-0.

E. Town of Hudson Support Staff AFSCME Local 1801 Request to Commence Negotiations

The Town Administrator was recognized and said we've received correspondence from the AFSCME Support Staff. This contract expires June 30, 2022. They're looking to negotiate a successor contract. This would be the only contract we'll be negotiating this year. All the other ones that go past next June. Typically, not typically, it's in our Code that a negotiating committee will consist of professional negotiator, which is usually Mark Broth or his designee, myself, the Finance Director, typically a Department Head, because this union isn't the Fire Department, isn't the Police Department, it's spread out among our organization, we don't have a Department Head, nor do we have a selectmen liaison because there's folks in the Clerk's office, there's folks in the Planning, Zoning, Engineering office, my office. So there isn't a natural liaison as there would be a Fire liaison or a Police liaison so what we need to do this evening is appoint a Selectmen member to be the participant in the negotiation sessions. Typically they're held during the day. Typically with a unit such this there may be 3-4 meetings where we exchange proposals and hopefully agree on a tentative agreement to bring back to our respective boards in this case, the Board of Selectmen, they would bring it back to their body. Should we agree that would forward to the warrant? So that's the process we do, I need someone to be the liaison. And again, there's no natural, there's nobody that's in charge of the support because the folks are dispersed through the organization. Chairman McGrath asked if there were any volunteers to which there were none. Selectman Morin said to Selectman Guessferd, be good for you to get your feet wet. To which Selectman Guessferd replied, day meetings are tough. That's the tough thing for me. I'd love to do it. The Town Administrator said there are no meetings set just yet so I don't know if they could be done every other Friday, I'm just throwing it out there. Selectman Guessferd laughed. Selectman Morin said, I believe this is retirement discrimination. The group laughed. Selectman Morin said if nobody else I can jump in. Selectman Roy said I just yeah. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to appoint Selectman Morin to the negotiating team for the Town of Hudson Support Staff Union successor contract. Carried 5-0. The Town Administrator told Selectman Morin we'll get some dates out there, I don't have any dates yet, and we'll let you know.

F. Requests for Reimbursement

The Town Administrator was recognized and he said so we've had two requests for reimbursement for the fees to file in Superior Court. I believe you may or may not have seen that the Court authorized the reimbursement of the court fees, which were approximately \$280.00. The Court did not reimburse the Sheriff fees. It was out of their prevue I believe. So I'm bring it to the Board to reimburse the folks that requested reimbursement. Mr. Murray requested \$175.00 for his Hillsborough County Sheriff's service fees. Mr. Weissgarber requested \$117.79 for his Hillsborough County Sheriff's service fees. Chairman McGrath asked if there was any discussion. Selectman Roy said, you know I already stated my position. When you file something in the court you do it at it at your own peril and it's not typically reimbursed for any reason. So I'm not going to vote in favor of that. Selectman Gagnon said I'm just curious, what's the price difference, \$175 vs. \$117 do we have a receipt at least proving this? Mr. Malizia replied, we have receipts, so we know that Mr. Murray, and I'm not sure if he filed something twice or he submitted something twice, his were \$175 and Mr. Weissgarber's were \$117.79. I have the receipts here if you'd like to see them. Selectman Gagnon said if the receipts make sense I'd okay. Mr. Malizia said they are itemized and they did spend that money. Selectman Gagnon said okay, then I'm in support. Selectman Morin was recognized and said I would agree with Selectman Roy accept that after the judge made the ruling everybody else was for free so it's not fair. I agree with you but the judge made a ruling and everybody else didn't have to pay so I would support this. Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said my only comment beyond that is that yes, they kind of filed at their own risk I'd say but we were also, people were encouraged to do this. So my view is I welcome them stepping forward and putting themselves out there and my view is that those should be reimbursed. Chairman McGrath said I'm in agreement with reimbursing them because if not for us they wouldn't have been in that position. So anyone wish to make a motion to reimburse Shawn Murray \$175.00 for Hillsborough County Sheriff's service fees and Richard Weissgarber \$117.79 for Hillsborough County Sheriff's service fees. Selectman Gagnon made that motion, seconded by Selectman Morin. Carried 4-1 with Selectman Roy opposed.

G. Legislative Proposal

Town Administrator, Steve Malizia was recognized and explained back in 2019 the legislature lowered the interest rate that tax payers have to pay on delinquent taxes. I believe they went from 18% to 14% and they went from 12% to 8%. The Town of Hudson in 2018 through the NHMA to sponsor legislation to lower the amount that we pay on abatements. So for example if we end up abating someone's taxes we're paying 6% by statute. Well, what's good for the goose should be good for the gander. If they legislature saw fit to lower the interest rates for people that are delinquent then maybe we should lower the interest rate or the interest rate should be lowered for folks that get abatements. So the Town of Hudson sponsored a floor proposal in 2018 and 2020. NHMA accepted the proposal. Seemed like a reasonable idea but nobody has put it forward as legislation. So quite simply put we're looking to see if this Board would approve us sending a request to Senator Carson to put forward legislation that would lower the abatement interest rate, the rate that we pay for abatements from 6% to 4%. I've got the background here if you need to look at it or you have any questions. Seeing no questions Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to request that Hudson State Senator, Sharon Carson introduce legislation that will lower the abatement interest rate that municipalities pay from 6% to 4% (RSA 76:17-a) to better align with the interest rate on delinquent taxes that were lowered by the New Hampshire Legislature in 2019. Carried 5-0.

#### H. Revenues and Expenditures

The Town Administrator explained we are two months into the new fiscal year, which started July 1<sup>st</sup>. this report is through August 31<sup>st</sup>. it's approximately 17% of the way through the year. If you look at some of our expenditure patterns you'll see that there higher than 17% but that's typically because we encumber various contracts. We do for trash, for legal. And some of our expenses are front loaded. If you think about paving, we do that this time of year. So at this point it's premature for me to say anything other than the year looks to be tracking okay. One concern, is we've had some litigation that we've had to deal with and that we've been dealing with and those costs hit our legal budget. Right now we're okay but just for warn that the more litigation that we have to defend, the more that that will cost. So just pointing that out. We don't need to do anything right now. Auto registrations are right on track. They're right about 17%. People are still buying and registering cars it appears because that's a pretty good size number for this town. Other than that I don't see any patterns. It's still early in the year. Looks like ambulance is going to be okay. That's tracking okay. We're typically a month behind there. The interest rates for our investments is pretty anemic. It's nothing different than it was last year. Permit activity seems to be going well. That's just a quick snapshot for the first two months of the year. It's pretty early in the year so you really can't see any major patterns, other than I just point out the legal.

#### I. 2022 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule

The Town Administrator explained this is pretty preform this is the basic proposed schedule for next year's meetings following the same pattern. We do have to make exception in March because we have the election. The Board does not like to meet the night before the election because you have a long day so we usually meet the week before. I don't believe we don't tentatively schedule a workshop for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July week. Other than that this is following the calendar that's been established in previous years. We just like to formalize it so that we know what we're working with from a schedule perspective. Seeing no comments Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to approve the 2022 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule. Carried 5-0.

#### J. 2022 Scheduled Holidays

The Town Administrator explained these are the holidays identified in either the Town's personnel policies or the union or association contracts. Typically the Board approves this and then we post it so everybody has an idea of what days we are opened or closed based on the holiday schedule. Selectman Roy made a motion seconded by Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to approve the 2022 Schedule Holidays. Carried 5-0.

#### K. Joint Sub Committee Discussion

Selectman Morin was recognized and said we had talked about this last meeting. Selectman Roy asked to move it on so we could get a little more, better, background which I believe we have in front of us. Doing some research since the last meeting, this group has been formed and disbanded several times. There's never really been a set of ground rules laid. I got numerous different reasons why it went away. I again think that we need to approach this but I believe that whoever the committee is made of

needs to sit down before they move on and setup some ground rules. How this is going to work, what they're gonna go forward with. Setup meeting dates and everything because like I said it's fallen apart three other times and we don't get anywhere.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said so this might be a sort of a technical question for Mr. Malizia, is there any way we can codify this so there's a required annual or biannual meeting of the two Boards? I don't know if that's like a warrant article on both warrants, do you know what I mean? Mr. Malizia said I know what you're trying to get at. I know that this Board can direct this Board but I don't know if they can direct the School Board and the School Board may have to do something similar. So you may want to confer and determine what kind of motion, what are you looking for this Board to.... Selectman Morin spoke up and said what you're saying we're talking two different things here. This committee needs to meet once a month, whatever, and come up with how we're gonna do some cost savings. That's how this was directed. You know setting up a meeting between the two Boards twice a year is fine with me. This is a whole separate committee. Budget Committee member, a resident, School Board and Selectman. Selectman Roy replied, right, and even codifying that I think is a good idea. Selectman Morin agreed. Selectman Roy went on to say this Board looks different in March or whatever and that could all just go away. So how do we make this a thing that obligates both Boards is my question. Selectman Morin replied well first, not to get off yours, but I think we need to bring the Library in on this too. Selectman Roy said I would agree with that. Selectman Morin went on to say then after that have the committee meet, come up with their bylaws or whatever you want to call it and then we put it forth to the Town to have it voted on if that's the route we go. Selectman Roy I guess I'll swing it back to Mr. Malizia about the technical aspect of that. Mr. Malizia said I'd have to confer with the Attorney to see if you'd actually need a warrant article. Because a warrant article of this nature may be advisory, it doesn't mean you can't do it, I'm just saying it may not have any legal weight. Selectman Roy went on to say so would that mean that we could then make an ordinance or and then what would the School Boards obligation be? Because they have to and the Library too would have to... The Town Administrator said everyone would have to concur and vote somehow to do something. Do you codify it in code? I'm not sure. We might have to ask the Attorney on that because I'm not sure our other committees are all codified in code. Which is what I perceive this to be is a committee of some sort. I'm not sure they're all codified in the Town Code. Selectman Roy then added because I see the same thing you see. This has been started and stopped three or four times. That doesn't get us anywhere. Selectman Guessferd added something that would survive boards and elections. Selectman Morin asked so do we want to der then til Mr. Malizia can get us an answer. The Chairman said let's get Mr. Gasdia's comments first before we.

Mr. Gasdia said so I think I completely agree one million percent with what you're saying. This is a futile idea if you know the people sitting around this table agree to it and come March 15<sup>th</sup> its different people and they're like yeah we don't want to do that anymore so which it seems to what happens over the years. But I think what we can do in the spirit of trying to move forward. Right because they idea behind it was can we share expenses. That's really the idea. And we have budget season coming up. If we postpone it too long we sort of miss this budget season. So I sort of think what we can do is sort of take two parts. One, if we want to follow exactly what's written here then we come up with the people that are gonna be on it, you come up with your couple of folks, we have our meeting Monday night. We'll come up with our folks we'll get some meetings, we'll work on it then phase two would be okay how do we make sure this actually exists. I think if we wait to figure out if it actually exist we're gonna miss this budget season. We're gonna start something and be like ahh that really didn't get us anywhere and we're back to where we are. So that would be my two cents.

Chairman McGrath then said so let me just ask a question. So are you also including the Library in your comments? Mr. Gasdia said I have no problem including the Library. I don't have any say over them. Chairman McGrath said right but you can contact them. Mr. Gasdia said I have no problem. I mean the idea is if this group is spending money for something and we're spending money for something is there a way to share some costs and savings and go from there. Maybe overtime it matures into something different. I have no problem who include but I think if we don't pick people this week here and then we wait to see what comes next. Now we're into mid-October til we have our people in place. We're meeting gin November. But of course everyone is meeting every week in November cuz its budget season so it gets pushed. Next thing you know we're like well you saw Mr. Buxton we're up to April 1<sup>st</sup> when we finally launch this thing. That would be my suggestion.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said and this is just constructive discussion here, kind of far-fetched, but I was thinking, what is this group, what's it meant to do, what's it's goals as we talked about. You know do we codify and so forth, well wouldn't we essentially be stepping on the Budget Committee toes? I mean that's their job and with that in mind would that in mind would it better served, because he Budget Committee already has authorization and it's codified, to making a sub-group for the Budget Committee that includes someone from the Library. I mean it already includes myself and a School Board member, but if you add a Library Trustee on there as well, maybe a public body and you make this idea as sub group to the Budget Committee? Would that be more applicable? Selectman Roy responded, no because I don't believe that's a function of the Budget Committee. The Library, the School Board and Us make the budget, right? And that's what we're looking at. Correct me if I'm wrong. Selectman Morin agreed with Selectman Roy. Selectman Guessferd said that's the reality. Selectman Roy went on to say so it would be the authorizers I guess. That would be the Library Board of Trustees, the School Board and Us. Selectman Morin said what it is take the three groups, okay, we all buy paper so let's all buy it together instead of the School ordering from this place, Town from here and we get the cheaper price. We all buy cleaning supplies. That's the kind of thing. It's not going to affect the Budget Committee it's just gonna make things cheaper for us so when we submit our budget it comes in cheaper because we're working together to buy everything together. Selectman Guessferd then said now at that point the Budget Committee, if we didn't do that, could say you know what, we're gonna reduce your budget by 10%. Once they own that budget, once it comes to them, you know and so, it's up to us to put that budget together in the most efficient manner right? So if this helps us to do that, as a group, then the Budget Committee can look at that and say okay there's no need to do anything with this. It's a good budget. But I know that's one of the things the Budget Committee has been concerned with over the course of the last several years is this idea of joint purchasing and in terms of the actual budgeting piece and so I can't see the Budget Committee being the one that would own that. That would own that committee. Selectman Gagnon then said I guess I see where you're coming from and I generally probably agree, but just for a final clarification it wouldn't be the Budget Committee per say, it would be a sub-committee that would organize the information, gather the data and present that to the Budget Committee or the School Board or Select Board. But I get where you're coming from. Just trying to. Selectman Guessferd said it's just kind of the cart before the horse. Selectman Roy said no cuz we would work it into our budget that then gets presented. Selectman Guessferd said I understand what you're saying.

Chairman McGrath asked what do you want to do. Selectman Morin said it should probably be the two liaisons, right? Selectman Roy said that's fine, that's fine. So I guess my question is, sort of technical, do we want a motion to form an interim committee? Whatever we want to call it a cost saving committee? Selectman Morin said I'd like all you guys to get together and do your own thing. I mean once the School Board decides who their people are we don't even know if the Library is gonna

participate yet. The Town Administrator said so you could appoint two Board of Selectmen members and you could appoint and you could figure out when you're gonna meet. Selectman Morin said you could put it together like we told the Chief tonight, you guys put together a committee, we're gonna let the committee put it all together and flow with it and take it from there. Selectman Roy replied okay. Chairman McGrath said okay by me. Mr. Malizia said so is there a motion to appoint two selectmen? Selectman Morin said we did the two liaisons. Selectman Roy said well there was no motion. Everyone laughed. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd that the Board of Selectmen liaison's to the School and Library will be on the Joint Cost Saving Committee. Chairman McGrath asked Selectman Morin to articulate his motion as it wasn't clear to her. Selectman Morin said we're gonna put together a committee between the Town, which they're represent (we'll appoint after the motion) the School Board will do however many members they decide. Then we need to discuss with the Library if they're going to participate and the way it was going for the motion is the representatives for this Board would be the liaisons of the School Board, which is Selectman Roy and the liaison for the Library who is Selectman Gagnon, because those are the groups that are participating and they work with them anyway. There was some discussion as to the name of the committee. Carried 4-0-1 with Chairman McGrath abstaining.

9. Remarks by the Town Administrator

The Town Administrator said I have brief remarks. There is a Budget Committee vacancy just so everybody knows. That application is due by October 1<sup>st</sup>. I did write this down and will re-emphasize the Zoning Board is looking for alternate members. There are five seats. The material is on the Town website. If anyone has any questions and wants to know more they can contact myself, the Zoning Administrator and I dare say they can probably contact any of you folks. But we're looking for volunteers for the ZBA. Just real quick the LED streetlight project is almost 100% completed. I believe there's a few that they're going back and double checking. So that project is almost complete. If you drive around and look up you can almost see the difference in the light head. We should realize savings right now.

10. Remarks by the School Board

Mr. Gasdia said great thank you. First thank you welcome Selectman Guessferd. It's nice to see five people around the table. School is back in session. I know everything on everyone's minds is about masks. We did go to mask recommended for everyone 12 and over as intraday today. The number dropped late last night below 50. Dropped at about eight o'clock last night. After verifying that number the Superintendent made that call intraday. And we will continue to monitor the cases and hopefully the trend continues and they go down. While that is everyone's focus I want to make sure that people understand first you can always check online for that. But school is in session and I think we're sort of missing the point of why this year is different than last year. We are in school every single day. We aren't quarantining large groups of kids for long periods of time. Teachers are doing things. Classes are going on, field trips are going on. Sports are going on. Nail biter the other night at the football game. A lot of people were out. The marching band is back. The school all the different groups. They're auditioning for the play tomorrow. So I just ask everybody. I know it's a big deal. I'm not trying to trivialize it. But let's look at everything good that's going on. Yes the masks are terrible. I don't want to wear them. You don't want to wear them. Nobody wants to wear them. But we're back and let's just focus on that. If we all do our parts, the numbers go down, hopefully no ones in a mask.

Let's celebrate some of the good stuff because there's a lot of good things going on right now in our schools.

11. Other Business/Comments by the Selectmen

Selectman Roy: So first, welcome Selectman Guessferd. I look forward to having you on the Board. And I just want to emphasize what Selectman McGrath said earlier, there are a number of vacancies on boards and committees in Town. Please check the website. If you have one day a month that you can free up or one night a month, please consider serving your town and applying for some various boards and committees that have vacancies. That's all I have Madame Chair.

Selectman Morin: Anybody happen to notice at the 9/11 Memorial I looked over and I didn't see an ambulance. I saw a real big truck. HCTV got their truck. They're not finishing putting it together yet, that's why we haven't heard much about it, but they're working on it. But it's a big difference from what they had I'll tell you. Just the control room itself makes it so much easier for them. So they'll be finishing that up and we'll be seeing it and we'll get some information on it.

I want to thank everybody for the 9/11 Memorial. I don't want to name people cuz I'll probably forget somebody but it went very well. It was very well attended. When I pulled into the parking lot I was shocked. Both parking lots were full and it was back out into the street. So I appreciate everybody that showed up so we never forget that day on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

I just got one last thing as we all talked about tonight, we are hurting for members for volunteers for our boards. So I'd just like to throw this out, there's a lot of people in Town that send us emails on the votes we have taken or are going to take. Many of them do this with much interest within the Town and many of them I see at all the meetings that I go to. So I'd like to ask those people that go to these meetings and send us emails and show up at all meetings to volunteer. If you got that much interest, obviously if you're here every night you could probably sit on a board and help us out. Thank you.

Selectman Gagnon: thank you Madame Chair. First I really want to make a huge applaud to Selectman Morin. I know you didn't want to name names but I know you had a big partake in the 9/11 Memorial. As you stated it was beautiful. Very well done. Very touching. So thank you for all your hard work with that.

To the School Board liaison, Gary, I want to applaud you on behalf of the School, school system and the entity. Watching some of your meetings, its tough being in those positions. And you are very uplifting. You're holding it well. Probably a lot of stress. So I give you and everyone associated with the School District a lot of support and thanks.

Other than that, you know, Mr. Guessferd, welcome. I look forward to working with you and getting to as part of this group. I think that's all I had. Thank you Madame Chair.

Selectman Guessferd: Thank you Madame Chair. Yeah, I guess the first thing is thank you very much for the welcome, everybody. I'm glad to be a part of this Board. I'm hoping for some really good things in the next six months. I know it's only til the next election but hoping we can have a really effective budget season ourselves and accomplish some good things here for the next six months. I'm excited about it working with each one of you.

I do want to echo what Selectman Gagnon said. Not only did Selectman Morin put this one together, but he put together the original. He was part of the original group of people that brought that memorial to this town. And if anybody's ever read through that book that was put together by another one of your committee members, it's pretty spectacular. We are recognized around the country and its people like Selectman Morin that make those kinds of things happen. So thank you very much on my behalf and the town. Other than that, thank you for your remarks as well Mr. Gasdia. Let's do some good things.

Selectman Morin added, we need to make sure we recognize the Town Administrator for the ceremony too. Selectman Guessferd said absolutely. Chairman McGrath said Steve is always working on behalf of the Town and isn't recognized often enough.

Selectman Guessferd added, I also want to echo Selectman Morin's comments about volunteerism. You said it earlier as well. if you're out there, if you're coming to the meetings, if you're sitting at home watching these meetings you can take that time and become a member of a Board and volunteer. It's so important to serve the community in that way. And that way you can have input into these decisions that are made and make a difference. All we need is a few more people and it would be helpful to have that happen.

Chairman McGrath: I really don't have any particular comments that I want to make. I wasn't at the 9/11 Memorial on Saturday. I'm confide to this wheelchair for the time being and I'm working very hard to get out of it. But in the meantime I'm stuck in this. So if you see me when I can't be standing. Recognizing the firemen that were here earlier tonight or I'm not standing saluting the flag, you'll understand. But I'm making great progress and hopefully not too far in the future I'll be standing for a lot of these things.

12. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Morin at 8:48 p.m., seconded by Selectman Roy 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 5-0.

Chairman McGrath entered Nonpublic Session at 8:48 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 9:12 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session

1) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to hire Angela Routsis as a part-time School Crossing Guard with the Hudson Police Department at the rate of \$14.50 per hour. Carried 5-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. by Selectman Morin seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 5-0.

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

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Marilyn E. McGrath, Chairman

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David Morin, Selectman

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Kara Roy, Selectman

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Brett Gagnon, Selectmen

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Bob Guessferd, Selectmen