

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the October 26, 2021 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman McGrath the meeting of October 26, 2021 at 6:59 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Chief Avery
3. ATTENDANCE  
Board of Selectmen: Marilyn McGrath, David Morin, Kara Roy, Brett Gagnon, Bob Guessferd  
Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Rob Buxton - Fire Chief; Bill Avery - Police Chief; Tad Dionne - Police Captain; Brian Groth - Town Planner; Elvis Dhima - Town Engineer; Jess Forrence - Public Works Director; Gary Gasdia - School Board Chairman; Craig Putnam & Kate Messner - Sustainability Committee Members; Jill Laffin - Executive Assistant
4. PUBLIC INPUT there was no one present for public input.
5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS - none
6. CONSENT ITEMS
  - A. Assessing Items - none
  - B. Water/Sewer Items - none
  - C. Licenses & Permits & Policies
    - 1) Raffle Permit - Hudson Fish & Game Club
  - D. Donations - none
  - E. Acceptance of Minutes
    - 1) Minutes of October 5, 2021
    - 2) Minutes of October 12, 2021
  - F. Calendar

10/27	7:00	Planning Board - Buxton Meeting Room
10/28	7:00	Zoning Board of Adjustment - Buxton Meeting Room
11/02	7:00	Board of Selectmen Workshop - BOS Meeting Room
11/03	7:00	Budget Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
11/06	10:00 a.m.	Planning Board Site Walk - Friars Drive
11/08	7:00	Conservation Commission - Buxton Meeting Room
11/08	7:00	Cable Utility Committee - HCTV Meeting Room
11/09	7:00	Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
11/10	7:00	Planning Board - Hudson Community Center
11/11		Veteran's Day - Town Office's Closed

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve Consent Items C, E, & F. Carried 5-0.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on October 12, 2021

- 1) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to petition the Public Employees Labor Relations Board (PELRB) to remove the Chief Assessor position from the Hudson Police, Fire and Town Supervisors Association and to reclassify the position as a non-union Department Head position. Carried 5-0.
- 2) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to adjourn at 9:46 p.m. Carried 5-0.

B. County Road Reconfiguration Discussion/100 Lowell Road

Chairman McGrath said Town Planner Brian Groth is present and also Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima, is present. Mr. Groth started by saying thank you Madam Chair, members of the Board. Last time I was here I presented the idea for consideration of Town control over 100 Lowell Road due to several factors. One, the potential development of that site could potentially make a dangerous intersection more dangerous. And two, that it actually could serve other purposes for the Town. So there was sort of a twofold effect. During that discussion what came up is some design studies that the Planning Board had done for County Road, Lowell and Birch. One of those alternatives was put in the Capital Improvements Plan in 2019-2020. But I think the issue with 100 Lowell might be somewhat separate from that. Although 100 Lowell might facilitate a tweak in the design, truly the consideration is for, it's truly to avoid development of this particular piece of land because its entire frontage is on the curvature of this intersection. And two it could serve a useful purpose to the recreational fields for additional parking. I spoke with the Town Attorney to some degree. Again, I wanted to get the Board's feedback before I spent too much of my time on this. But we did chat about this. It's unlikely that it would be eligible for impact fees. It may be simply, if the Board wishes to move forward with it, it may be that it has to be placed on the ballot for the Town to vote on.

Mr. Groth went on to say, so what's the effect if we don't. If we do nothing and it gets developed. Again, it's a problematic intersection. The situation we're trying to resolve with those design studies would become more problematic. If they were to come forward with a concept and in order to prove it, it would require some off site mitigation in the form of a traffic light or some other redesign that would change the landscape there. Or alternatively, if we, if the Planning Board just simply could not find a proposal, they could prove we might be in a situation where the owners saying I've lost my property rights. So I guess what I'm looking for feedback from the Board in terms of, is this something of interest to pursue to figure out additional details, what this is really going to take? Or do you want to just sort of wait and see what comes before the Planning Board?

Chairman McGrath then said so I have a question before we move on. You said in the early part of your presentation this evening something about not being able, being able to assign impact fees to that site. Can you explain that? Mr. Groth replied, yes. Yes, I can. If we were acquiring the parcel for the redesign of the intersection, if the entire parcel was being used for that, then that's something that Town Attorney feels is defensible. If it's a portion, then perhaps we could allocate a percentage to that. But if it's simply if it's going to be used to prevent the development of that site and in turn use that for parking for recreation, that would not be an eligible expense. The Town Administrator said so what he's saying is you can't use the impact fees to buy it. That's what he's trying to convey. Chairman McGrath said, oh, that makes it a whole lot clearer. The Town Administrator went on to say, if somebody developed it, you would probably still assess the impact fees. But this is to procure.

Mr. Groth said oh, I'm sorry if you misunderstood the question. The Town Administrator said because if you were to buy the land, and looked at the option of perhaps using an impact fee. And as he said, you can't if you're not doing something with the redesign. Chairman McGrath said that makes sense. The other part didn't.

Chairman McGrath then said Ok. Mr. Dhima, did you have anything that you'd like to add or clarify? Mr. Dhima replied saying, I think Mr. Groth pretty much said everything. It's an opportunity for the Board to make a decision on this matter. So we're not here three, six months from now being fingers pointed to us or the Board of the Planning Board saying, you know what? How did you let this happen? We could have bought this. So basically going through that exercise, that's pretty much it in a nutshell. Chairman McGrath said so you're talking about the residents. Mr. Dhima said the residents. Chairman McGrath then said because if it ends up not being bought by the Town, that there's going to be a lot of finger pointing? Mr. Dhima replied yes. Trying to avoid that, trying to be proactive. That's exactly that's the whole point of the exercise.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said so first of all, I kind of I support this because I know that intersection and it's horrible. But my question is under this plan, would that just move the problem down to the other end of County Road, where it comes out on onto Lowell Road at the end, but other side with a little coffee place is? Mr. Groth replied, no. So well, are we talking about the different design studies? Selectman Roy replied yeah. So the first one shows that you make County Road one way going northbound. And so it drops out farther down Lowell Road. So wouldn't that just move that traffic issue? Mr. Groth replied that was an alternative. It was less a desirable alternative. Selectman Roy said okay. Mr. Groth then said but I do want to kind of separate the issues a little bit, although they're all part of the same issue. They're sort of different aspects to it. Selectman Roy then said but you understand my point. I just don't want to move a problem. Mr. Groth then said so the fifth alternative, which is the fifth page in that packet, which is its labeled alternative three, because it's the modification of alternative three, was the most desirable and it isn't, it is not inexpensive. It also involves reconfiguration of utilities that will be required down the road. But that is the alternative that really cleans up the intersection.

Mr. Dhima then said so, yeah, the Cadillac version, basically the one Brian is talking about is a full blown out Lowell and Birch into a four way basically taking out County Road, cutting that up. There is a bridge there as well. That would be basically obsolete if we do that approach. That bridge is currently number five, I think, or rated at five in the pink list, but that had a tag of two point something? Mr. Groth replied 2.5 million. Mr. Dhima continued saying 2.5 million, probably two years ago when the study was done. Now, it's probably more like three. So I think that's something to look at down the road, but I think this is more imminent that this this particular property.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said for the ones where it goes right through from Belknap Road to Lowell Road. You still have County Road open. Where we have a controlled intersection now, why wouldn't we block it off at both ends? Mr. Groth replied because there are still some parcels that that depend on that for access, so we wouldn't be able to remove their access. Selectman Morin then said are you talking like the coffee stand and the....what do you talk of parcels that? Mr. Groth replied there's the Town owned softball field. That parcel. Selectman Morin replied yeah, but they could go out at the light. That's what I'm saying. It'd be a lot safer. They could go out to the ball field. Take a right. Mr. Groth said but that's County Road. Right, but they're still using County Road there when they come out of the ball field and take it right. That's County Road. Selectman Morin replied, right. That's what I'm saying. So if we built that, why don't we just shut County Road off on both ends? Mr. Groth replied well, the fifth option there, which is alternative 3A it shows County Road if you're coming northbound on Lowell Road, you can still exit. You can still turn right to go one way down County Road, but there would be no traffic coming out to turn left onto Lowell Road. And one of the reasons for that was because it frankly gets traffic off Lowell Road quicker. But that's another consideration.

Mr. Dhima then said there were different concepts. We can definitely fine tune up the Town ever decides to move forward with their project that will probably be subject to multiple public hearings. Basically, we hear from everyone. Typically, the best ideas come from the people that live around that area. They'll tell you what works and what doesn't work. So I think there were great starting points, but we don't consider them final. We consider them something that the Planning Board. Mr. Groth then said it's a place to start from and to your point Selectman Morin, if we were to cut off County Road, a benefit to that, well, I'm not quite sure how it play out. But currently Belknap Road in that entire neighborhood is used as a cut through. And part of the reason it's such a convenient cut through is because of County Road. So that could mitigate some of that. But the traffic can end up somewhere, so we'd have to study where that ends up. Mr. Dhima then said so if the project ever happened, this lot would be a perfect storage area for all materials that might be used for that project. Back to this lot, I think some direction is required by the Board. What it supports, which if you wish to consider this or not.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said thank you. We talk about this a little bit. Kind of off the hip. A little bit. General like or appreciate the concern you bring. For the sake of theoretical discussion of if we don't do anything, if we don't buy this property, as you proposed today and someone does put it in a business there, and then we come down the road no pun intended to Mr. Morin's point, and we say, let's block off both ends of County Road and maybe put that that that intersection in like you're proposing on these drawings. Would that potential landowner and business owner have legal right to have serious complaint if we did block off County Road? I mean, he'd still have access to County Road and then come down to the new proposed intersection? Or do you have any other complaints? Mr. Groth replied saying and I think if County Road is entirely blocked off, their frontage would improve on Lowell Road. Selectman Gagnon said, okay. Mr. Groth then said they wouldn't necessarily have frontage on County Road anymore, depending on how that was configured. Mr. Groth the said but one thing we did talk about that, this is hypothetical. But if a proposal came forward and it wasn't something that the Planning Board felt comfortable approving and then another one came and it wasn't comfortable approving at some point the Town will be in a position where we have to buy it. And potentially, I mean, this is all hypothetical, so I just want, that's another avenue down this.

Selectman Gagnon then said and if I may. One last question to follow up on that because that we had we talked about that in a good point, as I reiterate, if I understand correctly, you know, if the Planning Board says, well, it's a dangerous intersection, is this hard to actually get a curb cut in there? How would you put a curb cut right in front of an intersection like that? And it became difficult in the Planning Board were to deny each and potentially every option, you're right. Then then the landowner has a problem. They're saying you can't. You can't sell it. We also talked a little bit about potentially giving access through the Town property there. Is there any likelihood to that? What I'm trying to get at is how many potentials are there to develop that property? And if there is very limited and it makes the purchase of the property look more beneficial if there are limited but reasonable options to build that property with stipulations like coming through the town parking lot or so forth, then maybe let it fly. Mr. Groth responded to Selectman Gagnon saying so the public land, the Town owned land where softball player's park today is owned by the Town of Hudson. The public property can't be used for a private benefit. The Town could essentially grant an easement through there, but I believe that would require Town vote as well. Selectman Gagnon replied okay, all right. So it's no easier option that way. That's all I had for right now. Thank you.

Chairman McGrath said Ok, so isn't there a prohibition against land-locking a piece of property within the Town? So we don't have, no matter who it is that owns that, you know, whoever buys it or whoever, you know, the current owner, we don't have the ability to land lock that parcel. They always have to have access to the road. Right? Mr. Groth replied, correct. They currently have two curb cuts.

Chairman McGrath then said so so for the people here that don't know that and don't understand it, that's an important, important thing for them to understand and know. And it's not just this parcel, it's any parcel. We don't have that ability to land lock it. So this particular parcel, and I believe it was

when John Cashel was here and he presented to the Board a number of options for, that that he was looking at as well as I don't know if it was the Town Engineer at the time or I don't remember this is a number of years ago and looking at changing the configuration of Lowell Road and putting in a connection to what's the street across the way? Is it Birch Street, Birch? Yeah, and connecting. So there would be a traffic light. It'd be four stop traffic light. Mr. Dhima replied, that is one of the options that is presented to you tonight. That's one of the options that Mr. Groth was speaking early about the Planning Board paying for. Chairman McGrath said but I mean that that option was discussed a number of years ago, too. Mr. Groth added, a little over two years ago? Chairman McGrath replied, well, when I first saw it, it was more than two years ago. Mr. Groth said Oh, they did the study before? To which Chairman McGrath replied when John Cashel was here. Mr. Dhima then said they must have had some discussions about it. But we actually, two years ago, we actually put it in writing and actually had VHB really looked into details like realistic approaches and that's what's being presented to you in front of you tonight. Chairman McGrath said I mean, that seemed to be, to me, it seemed to be a reasonable option and probably the better option for taking care of traffic on Lowell Road and the accidents that happen cutting off County Road. There was one option where you can't cut it off at the end near this property. The other option was to cut it off at the other end and then a third option was to cut it off at both ends and create that other connecting road. Mr. Dhima then said there's some versions of that in the packet tonight. Yes. Chairman McGrath said but I think that that's a piece of property that we should that the Town should buy because of the safety concerns, the safety concerns that if someone else, some body, a developer or another person buys it and then wants to put a restaurant on that lot or some other high intensity use, we're going to be the Town is going to be hurting because that's not a safe, it's not a safe roadway, it's not a safe intersection and it can't be made safely. I don't think. So it would be my opinion that we should purchase it.

Chairman McGrath then said to Selectman Guessferd and Gagnon, do you want to have a conversation across the table? Selectman Guessferd said no, no, I was just putting my hand up. I think Selectman Gagnon was deferring to me. I think what we heard before was the proposed business there. That's buying that wants to buy that property is an automotive repair place. Mr. Groth corrected Selectman Guessferd saying, Oil change. 15 minute oil. Selectman Guessferd then said Ok, so. So maybe not as intensive as a restaurant, but still a lot of in and out there.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said I think in short, I do at this point agree with Selectman McGrath the purchase of the land based on the time constraints, the potential worry for how it could play out. Purchasing that property probably would be best. But with that in mind, may I put out the option of, you know, once it's kind of owned by us, then you can do development as you see and many, many years you need to. But once the project is done, let's say this four way intersection is realized and put in, and we do some kind of cutting of County Road. Could you redraw the property lines of that property and then resell it for our money, if not a profit? Mr. Groth replied, that's a good point. I was going to bring that up. That's good. If the if it gets purchased by the Town, the intersection gets reconfigured. Everything safe and wonderful. Yes, that parcel is now viable again. Selectman Gagnon then said so we can make our money back, potentially with profit, in due time.

Chairman McGrath asked anyone else? What do you need from us, do you need a motion to be made or just a consensus? Mr. Groth replied a consensus would do And then what I would do is then do a little more work and presenting you the options how to move forward. One of them might be a warrant article for you to choose to endorse or not to endorse.

Chairman McGrath replied okay time is running out on warrant articles. I mean, we're heading towards the end of the year or so. Ok, so let's do a consensus then of all of the members to see how you want to approach this. Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said I support this. I think there's a lot of good here, safety wise. I think I mean, the bottom for me, initial there's two there's two thoughts, right? One is the immediate thought of what this with this means at this point, but also the strategic piece that and presents us with some options. I support it. Selectman Morin was recognized and Chairman McGrath said you support it as well. Selectman Roy said I support it. Selectman

Gagnon said I support as well. Chairman McGrath then said and I do as well. So that's unanimous. Thank you.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sustainability Committee - Community Choice Aggregation Presentation

Chairman McGrath welcomed Sustainability Committee members Craig Putnam and Kate Messner. Mr. Putnam started off the presentation saying Good evening. My name is Greg Putnam, 59 Rangers Drive. I'm an alternate for the Sustainability Committee. With me tonight is Kate Messner and Sarah Repeta. Also on the Sustainability Committee. If you could hold your questions to the end, I think it'll go a little more smoothly and quickly, and I'll be happy to answer questions at that point. Thanks. So this is an update to the Select Board on the work done by the committee regarding community choice aggregation. You may have heard the term community power aggregation. They're one and the same, but CCR seems to be the preferred way of referring to it. So that's what I'm going to use tonight.

So let's start with what is community choice aggregation? It allows simply a governmental entity, a town, a group of town, city, and county to engage with electricity suppliers to offer an alternative source of electricity to its homeowners and small businesses. In other words, the retail consumers in the Town, for example, and the main goal is to aggregate the buying power of those retail customers to reduce the rate they pay for electricity. It is a requirement by the state that any power plan that's produced must meet certain renewable energy portfolio standards. And of course, CCA would have to do that as well. All right. But in addition to having a let's say, base rate that meets the RPS requirements, hopefully at a lower cost than the incumbent Eversource in our case, optional rate plans could be created, which might offer higher renewable energy content if that were of interest to the residents.

Mr. Putnam continued with his presentation saying in addition, there can be new capabilities that become available, such as smart metering, time of day usage and so on. It's important to understand that Eversource will continue to be the entity that is delivering electricity, maintaining the lines, doing the billing. None of that changes. So this graphic provides sort of an overview at the 30,000 foot level of how this works. So a consumer, a homeowner or a small business in Town would choose CCA if the Town adopts CCA and then the aggregator would work to supply and develop and supply electricity sources, ideally at a lower cost than Eversource is providing for today. Eversource in the middle, is still in charge of the transmission, as I indicated before and distribution, none of that changes at all. And then on the right, the consumers receive the electricity, usually with some specified green factor. Perhaps, as I indicated earlier, a higher amount of renewable energy in a plan that they might optionally choose.

So I want to cover a couple of key points about the way it is structured as an opt out program. And the reason for this is that studies have shown that if it's an opt in program, generally speaking, you will not get enough people who will opt in to be able to get it up and running. So by design, these are these are set up as opt out programs, but it's key to understand that the homeowners, the retail consumers are able to opt out at any point in time and opt back in at any point in time with no penalties. And so it's very safe from that standpoint, but because it's an opt out program, I think we can expect some level of discomfort and perhaps resistance to that, and we'll have to engage in some education in order to try to overcome that. And I'll speak more to that in a minute.

Another key point is that CCA is not new. It's been around in for some time. Quite a number of states have been doing CCA now for many years, and now New Hampshire has enabled this through new legislation passed very recently. And many communities in those states have been doing CCA for a long time. As a matter of fact, Hudson is already doing something very similar on the municipal side. So the electricity that Hudson buys for the schools and this building and the fire stations and

streetlights and so on is being handled by something similar to CCA. CCA legislation is enabling it for retail customers and small businesses. And that's the key difference. But my point is, is that this is this concept is not really new, it's just new on the retail side.

Mr. Putnam continued on explaining so the Sustainability Committee was given some marching orders a while ago by the Select Board to assess and evaluate competitive CCA providers. And from our standpoint, these are the kinds of things that we feel need to be done. We need to look at the advantages and disadvantages of Kia versus just staying with the incumbent provider Eversource. And so it's a question of do we want to do this at all? And then if we did, we'd want to look at the different providers that are interested in working with the Town. There's both for profit and nonprofit providers. We'd need to look at that and the services that they're offering and the contracts and you know what kind of flexibility and what are what's the cost structure and so on. So there's a lot of detail that needs to be gone through to do our due diligence in looking at these candidate providers. And then we need to report back to the Select Board with our recommendation.

Mr. Putnam then said I think I alluded to enabling legislation a minute ago. There is there has been new legislation newly signed in particular, House Bill 315 was signed by the Governor in late August, I believe, and other legislation, an amended version of RSA 53 E and so. And so, so while that legislation has been signed and it's done, it's not entirely done yet, there's still i's to be dotted and T's to be crossed. And that is going to take place over some time. And there's also changes at the state level by the creation, for example, of the new Department of Energy. That new Department of Energy has had an influx of people that used to work at the POC. And so there's some flux there between the PUC and the DOE. And so it's going to take a little time for as I kind of indicate them to stake out their turf and get their relationship with each other sorted out. That doesn't affect us directly, but it will affect how long it takes to get the dust to settle before CCA can really take effect. Mr. Putnam went on to say so the bottom line is that it's going to take some time for this to get settled out, and that's fine because the Sustainability Committee needs some time in order to do our due diligence. We also are going to need some time to educate the public around the concept of CCA and get them comfortable, hopefully with it being an opt out program and feel OK with that. So I think it's not a concern that that the legislation is going to take a little time to get done, we need that time in order to get the job done correctly.

So what's our current status? We have heard, we the Sustainability Committee, have heard presentations from three candidate providers so far. They are Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire, usually abbreviated CPCNH. A partnership between Standard Power and Good Energy and a partnership between Freedom Energy Logistics and Colonial Power Group, those presentations are all available on the Hudson website under the Sustainability Committee section and videos of those presentations. The meetings where they made the presentations are also available from HCTV.

Mr. Putnam then said the recommended next steps are that the Sustainability Committee will create an ad hoc energy committee focused solely on researching CCA. There's a number of things that the Sustainability Committee's involved with and we feel that there's a need for a focus on this. And so we will create an ad hoc committee to do that, which will report into the Sustainability Committee. That will include some Sustainability Committee members. At the moment, it's myself and Kate. But we think it should also be open to interested residents and business owners. Ideally, it would also include folks from the appropriate folks from the Town Administration who have experience with managing the municipal side of this very similar program, as I noted earlier. And my expectation is, is that we'd meet at least once a month going forward to do this work. So the work that the energy committee will do is it's going to continue to monitor the legislation that's happening up in Concord, the PUC/DOE changes and so on. We will spend the majority of our time drilling down on the information provided by the candidate providers and starting to get to answering some of those questions that I indicated earlier. The Energy Committee will update the Sustainability Committee periodically on the progress and at some point in the future, hopefully not too far in the future. The

Sustainability Committee will come back to the Select Board with our recommendation for a CCA provider.

In order for the Energy Committee to be able to better accomplish its tasks, we do have one particular recommendation. Each of these providers has a document of some type that basically allows us to indicate our interest in having in these continuing conversations and potentially partnering with them in the future for CPCNH. It's called the Joint Powers Agreement, and there are memoranda of understanding that are available from the other two providers Standard Power and Good Energy and Freedom, Energy, Logistics and Colonial. Recommendation is that the Town should sign those we believe that they can be signed simultaneously and that it none of them commit the Town to any expenditure. None of them commit the Town to any particular course of action, but they're basically just saying we want to continue the conversation and dig deeper with you.

Mr. Putnam then said signing the JPA, the joint powers agreement, in particular from CPC, and has an additional set of benefits. Let me let me put it that way, if you make it, what it does is it allows Hudson to have a seat at the table. The CPCNH was recently stood up for real by having the Secretary of State sign signed them up or enable them as a non-profit. That happened two to three weeks ago now. And if Hudson were to sign the JPA, then we could become a member, a member town in the community power coalition. And that would allow us then to influence the structure and operation future structure and operation of the CPCNH. To do that, we would need to assign the JPA and then the Town or perhaps it could be delegated to the Committee, would need to assign a voting delegate and an alternate to represent the Town.

So what's the timeline that we think is in play here? So this coming spring and into the summer, by that point, sometime in the spring summer timeframe, I'm being vague because we don't know quite how long it's going to take at this point that we should be to the point of where the energy committee and therefore for the Sustainability Committee will be in the position of recommending a provider to the Select Board. And so then the Select Board would decide that provider. Later in the summer, next fall into the winter of next year, we would then work with the Energy Committee, Sustainability Committee, would work with that provider that's been chosen to get out a public awareness and information and education campaign. We need to we need to get people on board with the concept of CCA. And my expectation is the moves ahead as we hope it would that next spring, not this coming spring, but the spring of twenty three. There would be a warrant article that would be necessary in order to make it happen for real in Town. You know, even further out, if this all happens, then the Sustainability Committee Energy Committee would. You in the position to potentially work with the Town Administrators and the providers, if that's desired. Sort of an interface role.

Mr. Putnam then said so to sort of wrap this up, I want to stress a few key points here. CCA is focused primarily on reducing the cost of electricity for retail customers, homeowners, and small businesses. In the in the town or county that's being served. And it's not a new concept, it's just new to New Hampshire, and Hudson is already doing something very similar. But on the municipal side, so there's things that we can learn from that as well. And I think there's a comfort factor that we can take away from that as well. I'm. Practically speaking, adopting CCA would make Hudson a more desirable place to live. Lower electricity rates are a good thing and a place to set up a business. And then finally, just to reiterate, Eversource would continue to do what they do today, they would still be responsible for delivery, they would still be responsible for maintaining the wires and so on. Tree trimming and all of that kind of thing. And the billing only thing that would change in the bill is the line that says here's where the electricity came from, and here's how much it cost. So thank you and are there any questions?

Selectman Morin was recognized and said what are you finding for the average savings per customer? Mr. Putnam replied we don't know yet. The legislation is not done yet, so we don't have specific pricing for any plans from any of the providers at this point. It's premature for that. I got a follow up. So other places that are doing it, what are you seeing for savings?



Typically a few cents per kilowatt hour. I it varies, obviously, depending on what part of the country this is happening, but it's certainly worth doing.

Selectman Roy was recognized and asked do you know of any specific communities that participated in Mass or Rhode Island? Some place that's near us that, you know, we could maybe look at and see how successful the program is? Mr. Putnam replied sure, I have. If you bear with me, I have a couple of slides to might help with that. So these are communities that are working, and I believe these are all in Mass that are working with Colonial Power Group. All right. And there's something like 50 of them there. All right. I believe these are all on the municipal side. However, so it's not it's not exactly CCA, but it's that similar kind of thing that we're already doing. Ok. They are partnered with Colonial Power, has partnered with Freedom Energy Logistics, and these are some municipalities working with Freedom Energy Logistics. And they do have a small footprint in New Hampshire and even smaller in Maine. Standard Power. I don't have a specific list, but they are working with over 65 municipalities in New Hampshire and school districts. Again, this is on the municipal side because CCA isn't it's not done yet. It's not fully baked yet. And then Good Energy has 40 plus active programs in groups and Mass. Something similar going on in Rhode Island. So, so there's plenty of communities. Nearby that we could learn from. Chairman McGrath asked Selectman Roy are you done? To which Selectman Roy replied, I'm just so I guess I was looking for residential or small business. Mr. Putnam responded, yeah, I l'd have to get back to you. I don't I don't have any anything specific on that at this point.

So let me give you and this is actually directed at Mr. Malizia, seeing that the Town does this with our Town facilities. Can you inform me of how long we've been doing it for the Town? And do you happen to remember what was the tipping point to make the Town go to such a program? The Town Administrator replied I want to say it's been since 2011. We're in a consortium and NRPC put together with, I think, 14 or 15 other communities and or small school districts. They aggregated all the electrical supply and went out to bid. I think we've done three or four contracts doing that, lower the rate from whatever PSNH charges. I want to say its pardon me, Eversource, whatever, whatever their retail rate is, we are, you know, three or four cents less than that typically. Why did we do it? Because we save money. NRPC approached us and said, hey, we're putting a program together. Do you want to participate? Why wouldn't we? It saves us. It saves us money. So again, it's been since, I think, 2011. Selectman Gagnon replied OK, thank you. That's all.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said have you received copies or drafts of these agreements, the agreements that you've reviewed them? Mr. Putnam replied, yes, well I'm not a lawyer, but I have the current draft of the JPA from CPCNH and I have the MOU's from both of the other party's. Selectman Guessferd then said we'd want to get a legal review. Mr. Putnam replied, oh, absolutely, yeah, I wouldn't I wouldn't recommend signing anything until absolutely yeah.

Chairman McGrath said I have one question. I have from my home, I signed off a couple of years ago now onto another energy source and it's not Eversource, but I the billing goes through Eversource, you know, all of the things that you talked about through this. How is that different than what you're proposing? And I mean, I've seen a reduction in my electricity. My bill isn't very high because I'm only one person, but I'd like to know the difference between. Mr. Putnam replied saying I would say that the difference is, is that you are signed up with. That is going out to bid to get electricity periodically and how are they aggregate? How much leverage do they have? I guess it's the question that needs to be answered, and so the leverage that they have is people that have signed up with them. Customers, you're their customer. Um, with CCA the aggregation can be much larger, it's the entire Town or all of the people in Town who choose to stay in the opt in. So yeah. Who do not opt out? Let me restate. And in talking with the providers so far, they're particularly those that have done some similar things in other states, they're finding that generally speaking, there's a pretty high rate of people that stay opted in. If you've done your work properly with the education and so on, people will see the value of staying in. particularly if it's if it's no risk if you can get out at any time and go back to your incumbent Eversource, in our case. Then that should make feel people feel pretty, pretty comfortable that this is a reasonable thing to do. Give it a try. So the aggregation is how big is the

pool of people that is purchasing power? That's the question. And so CCA is set up in such a fashion that it doesn't have to be just Hudson. Hudson, if we chose to, could link arms with I'm just doing a hypothetical here could link arms with Pelham and say, let's aggregate the two towns. A county could be the aggregation. As Mr. Malizia is noted, NRPC worked with Hudson and what a dozen or so other towns, and that was the aggregation. So the bigger the pool of consumers that are going now to negotiate the price. That's what gives you the leverage to get that price down.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said this is kind of an add on. So essentially what you're saving now because they've been doing this for a long time, companies have been coming in to all of us, right? We've all gotten those correspondence, you know, joined, you know, join our company. You can use, I mean, and in many cases, it is lower. But I think what you're saying is what I'm hearing is because this is such it, can be a large, larger group. You know, the savings you're getting might be even more, you know, possibly. Chairman McGrath then said or what I'm getting now could be higher than what the aggregate is going to be benefiting. So it's you have to be you have to be a consumer that looks at the rates and understands them. And, you know, sometimes the bigger the pool isn't necessarily the biggest gain. You just have to you have to be able to know what you're doing. Mr. Putnam said if I might. It also depends a lot on when and how you're going out to obtain the electricity. Eversource only goes out for bid twice a year, winter and summer for a very short period of time. I don't know the exact details, but it's like ten days or so, twice a year that that they're out there looking. And that's it. That's all they do. But if you have a group that's dedicated to trying to always track what's going on with the different electricity generators, OK and looking at things at a more fine grained level, you can probably do better. And so that's what is an expectation in moving to CCA is that that group that we would partner with would be doing that for us?

Ms. Messner was recognized and said we would develop a portfolio. Energy portfolio, much like a financial portfolio, and they would be managing it and we would have a say in the management and we would have a say in the plan that we develop, but also like a financial plan. Once it's in place, it's in place for a period and you probably would not want to change on a daily basis. Mr. Putnam said but the customers can hop in and out on a daily basis if they choose to. Ms. Messner said they can. They can opt in and out, if they wanted to watch that carefully. Without penalty. Mr. Putnam agreed.

Chairman McGrath then said anyone else? Anybody else have questions? Comments do you need anything from us or you're just presenting that information for us?

Mr. Putnam replied I'm giving you information. The request would be to take a look at those documents and consider signing them so that we can have a more robust conversation with the three different potential providers sent him to our attorney for legal review. The Town Administrator said if you can provide them we'll send them to our attorney for legal review. Then the Board, upon legal advice, could make a determination. Is it critical that it could wait till the next meeting until we hear back from the Attorney? Mr. Putnam replied, oh, there's no particular rush. The Town Administrator told the Board I'd The other thing you'd want the attorney to look at just to make sure we didn't sign up for something we didn't realize..... Selectman Roy said yeah, no, right. So if you could get them to Mr. Malizia then he can take it from there. The Town Administrator finished speaking saying, I'll get them to the attorney. They'll be three? To which Mr. Putnam replied there's the JPA from CPC NH and then there's two MOU's. Yes. So I'll make sure you get them. And the Town Administrator replied and I'll send them to the Attorney. And then once he looks at them, if they're acceptable, they'll come back to the Board. If the Board finds him acceptable, we could sign and then you could do what you need to do. Mr. Putnam replied, Great. That's our main, our main request to the Board at this point. Thanks.

Chairman McGrath replied, well, we'll get that done. Thank you very much. Selectman Gagnon spoke saying Madam Chair, a real quick statement. I just want to say thank you for all your work. As a liaison to your Committee you guys have done a lot of work on this. I've only taken part in a few of the presentations, but between listening to the presentations, questioning, re questioning, developing this presentation, this is a year's worth of work. So I'm very impressed and really appreciative of

everything you're putting into this. Mr. Putnam replied thank you. Well, I had....Ms. Messner spoke up saying I encourage people to watch the presentations too. Selectman Gagnon replied, indeed. Yeah, they're very important for more information. Thank you.

B. HFD - Health Officer Reappointment

Chairman McGrath recognized Chief Buxton who said Madam Chair, members of the Board. It's that time of the three year cycle to do the reappointments for the health officer role for the community. Starting in 2015 you moved the health officer requirements into the Fire Department. We set forward a organizational chart that covered community health, environmental health, emergency preparedness and food service programs. The program has worked good to this point in time, and we're looking to reappoint myself as the health officer. Deputy Tice as a deputy health officer. Michelle Rudolph is a deputy health officer, Elvis Dhima as a deputy health officer and Jana McMillan as a deputy health officer. I'm moving forward to keep consistent with where we've been.

Selectman Morin was recognized and asked any captains still saying in that? To which Chief Buxton replied so because of the food program changes, we have not continued that portion of the program. Selectman Morin then said so it may delay if we get an incident getting somebody in? Chief Buxton replied It's actually been easier because we can do with some of it virtually now. Selectman Morin replied Ok, thank you. Seeing no further questions Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to approve the recommended appointments of Health Officer and Deputy Health Officers as recommended by the Fire Chief. Carried 5-0.

C. HFD - Proposed Amendment to Town Code Chapter 317 - Stop Intersections

Chairman McGrath recognized Captain Tadd Dionne of the Hudson Police Department. Cpt Dionne explained Good evening Madam Chair. So we are looking to, the Highway Safety Committee get together and we were looking and after discussion we recommending that adding a stop sign on Hampshire Drive at Wentworth and one at Wentworth on Hampshire Drive as well. Brief history on the intersection some years ago, when Comcast went into 55 Executive Drive and Hampshire Drive was open to Lowell Road, traffic flow was a big concern, figuring it was going to be a lot of employees there. So I believe at the time they decided to post a stop sign on the westerly approach of Hampshire drive only. So that is a non-conforming intersection, if you can imagine Wentworth Drive runs southbound. If there were no signs at all, went with drive has the duty to yield the right of way at that intersection. There's a lone stop sign on Hampshire Drive, so it's non-conforming. It's confusing. Recently we had an accident there and it was exactly that reason there was traffic turning left off of Wentworth onto Hampshire Drive heading east and there was traffic coming off a Wentworth, turning right onto Hampshire Drive. They collided. And so looking forward in the future, with the possible addition of businesses expanding into the industrial drive as well an expanding number 36 Executive Drive, we're looking to make it not confusing. So we're asking that we put the stop sign there and have a true three way intersection at Wentworth and Hampshire Drive.

Cpt. Dionne then said it was also brought originally to the Highway Safety Committee by the Supervisor of the Post Office, who actually was in a postal vehicle that was struck in that area. Researching the actual intersection. We've that's the only accident we've had in five years at that intersection. I think the concern is more simply that it is very confusing. It is very confusing to have that stop sign alone in and of itself. So what we're asking is the Board to motion that we add the stop signs at Wentworth, at Hampshire and also the stop sign adding easterly on Hampshire, at Wentworth as well. And additionally, that they be posted.

Chairman McGrath asked were there any injuries in that accident? Cpt. Dionne replied no, it was not, it was a hit and run, actually. Chairman McGrath replied Ok, thank you. Anyone else have any

questions, comments? Anyone prepared to make a motion? Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to forward the above listed change proposal of section §317-30 Stop Intersections to a public hearing. Carried 5-0.

#### D. 2021 Tax Rate

The Town Administrator was recognized and said not actually setting the tax rate, the Department of Revenue sets the tax rate. The tax rate is basically what the voters voted for appropriations less revenues, which we had a discussion on revenues recently divided by the assessed value of the Town. So there are numbers that are that are basically calculated because of the voters. What the voters approved what I've gotten, funny was we have budgeted \$660,000 of the Town's surplus general fund balance to use for tax reduction. We've been using that basic figure for the last few years, and I just want to get the Board's consent or a motion that we're approving that just to make sure and what I estimate is a tax rate of approximately \$21.82 per thousand. Right now, it's \$21.37. That would be forty five cent increase. That's not fixed yet because the Department of Revenue Administration still has to review revenue numbers to make sure that they're in conformance with what they expect we're getting from the state. So I just put that in front of you. This is something we typically do every year, and I just wanted to get it in front of you to have that conversation, get your approval.

The Town Administrator then said the other thing is a consensus from the board should we get more revenue than we budgeted? Do we want to take that and lower the tax rate? Or do we want to put that into our general fund surplus? That's typically a question we ask. Just so we're prepared in case when we get a tax rate paper and let's say that they say, hey, you got more revenue here on rooms and meals or highway block grant. How would the Board like to handle that? So I guess we can take that in two phases.

Selectman Roy asked when would we typically hear that? The Town Administrator replied we typically should hear at any time in the next couple of weeks. It should be very soon. Selectman Roy replied, okay. And what's our average increase for tax rate over the last three or four years? The Town Administrator replied so it's gone from, I think last year was \$21.37. The year before that it was \$20.70 I think. So it's within the realm of normal. Again, the voters voted for the appropriations and you folks basically set the revenue and the assessed value is calculated by the Assessor.

Chairman McGrath asked any questions? To which Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said Selectman, yeah. So this is kind of new to me, I'm learning as I go here, so forgive the questions, but you know, you're saying to use \$600,000 from the unassigned balance to help with the tax rate, which seems reasonable just for the sake of asking, do you anticipate anything out of the ordinary which is kind of hard to anticipate happening this year where we shouldn't use that \$600,000 in that way and we should keep in the general fund? I know it's kind of a loaded question, but? The Town Administrator replied you still have \$4.3 million dollars in the Town's general fund. I forget what the School balance is. The School now maintains a balance, so I think that you are well covered should you have some sort of emergency. Unless the emergency exceeds \$5 million, which I'm we're insured for a lot of things, so I'm not sure what the emergency would be. Selectman Gagnon replied, Ok, OK, fair enough. Only question I have. Thanks.

Seeing no further comments Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to authorize the use of \$600,000 of the Town's \$4,938,847 unassigned fund balance in support of a tax rate of approximately \$21.82 per thousand, as recommended by the Finance Director. Carried 5-0.

The Town Administrator then asked so what would the consensus of the Board Be should we receive more revenue? Would the Board like to see a lower tax rate in that case or the Board like to fix the tax rate and have the extra revenue going a surplus? Selectman Roy said so I guess my question

would be what would be the disadvantages and advantage to each scenario? The Town Administrator replied well, the advantage for taking it to the tax rate is a lower tax rate for the residents and for the businesses. Conversely, putting it in the surplus gives you just a better surplus balance. Selectman Roy asked and does that affect anything like our bond rating or anything?

Like it would typically? We typically use the bond bank, so we it's not as critical. In other words, when we do bonds now because of the size of the bonds we do we typically use the New Hampshire Bond Bank, which is a quasi-municipal agency. They're rated the same as us. The cost to actually go to market are cheaper because they aggregate a bunch of bonds, so it's a less cost for us. So from a creditworthiness perspective, it's not going to really make a big difference for us. It's just good to have a healthy fund balance. However, now that the School has a fund balance, I think we're well covered. So I think you have to look at it as you know, do you want to have some of that flow to the residents and save some money on their tax rate? Selectman Roy said personally would be leaning towards the tax rate. Selectman Guessferd said I would agree with that. Yeah, that's right. The Town Administrator then said so the consensus is if we were to receive more revenue, we would go to the tax rate with it. Selectman Roy said that's what I would.

Chairman McGrath then said and for my input, because I'm sure you'd want it...the Town Administrator said it's a consensus, whatever. Chairman McGrath said yes, I agree it should go to the tax rate. The Town Administrator then said that's what I need. And that's what I needed. Many years ago and I went to Concord to set the tax rate, I had no idea what to do and it was frantic phone calls. So it's better to be prepared than it is to try to react. So that's why that's why we do that.

Chairman McGrath then said okay so the next topic is the Hudson School District Waiver. The Town Administrator replied, actually no, it's the budget. Chairman McGrath said I thought we just did that. The Town Administrator replied, no that's the tax rate. The Chairman said sorry, I turned the page and I'm looking at the budget.

#### E. FY23 Budget Wrap Up

The Town Administrator explained so you have in front of you a document or a series of documents that has a header page FY23 Budget. This Board spent three evenings dealing with all the departments and going through the budgets that were submitted by the departments. I've included the first part of the handout was a summary of basically a road map of where you are based on what you've already done. So you take a look, you can see a summary here. You're forwarded some articles to the warrant, particularly the ones that deal with the capital reserve funds. You've made, I think two adjustments for outside the budget requests. One was for road salt and one was for the laptops, for the Supervisors. So in essence, you've done some things, but you still have some outstanding items on the outside of the budget requests. I gave you two pieces of paper there. Option one and option two. And the difference is the Fire Chief had originally proposed adding a third deputy. But then he came back with some documentation to say, hey, we went to a fire marshal. It would be a much reduced price. So I just I did two sheets for that one line item. Just so you could see it.

What I think you may want to do is maybe just go down this list and determine if you want to or don't want to put this into the proposed budget. One thing I would probably caution the engineering item that says Lowell Road over First Brook, that is in consideration on the American Rescue Plan Act. Right now we've had meetings. We've basically looked at the projects. That design element would potentially part of the American Rescue Plan money. So the \$50,000 I do not believe you need to take any action on this evening. We'll see what happens when the Board deliberates the list. The Town Administrator asked do you have questions. To which Selectman Roy replied well, no, it's just that that would affect maybe my support of another out of budget request. You know what I mean if that went, if that \$50,000 went forward under ARPA, then I might be more inclined to support.

The Town Administrator then said I think what I'm telling you is we don't know yet what you're going to do for the ARPA, so you might want to just defer action on the \$50,000. I'm not trying to be cute, but I don't want to put it in and take it out, put it in and take it out. Selectman Roy then said Yeah. But that doesn't really help me, right, because if the Board says we're going to use the \$50,000 then I might be inclined to support a \$30,000 item. But if we're going to spend the \$50,000, I would think it more critical than. The Town Administrator replied it wouldn't just be 50. The project that was proposed on the ARPA money includes the 50, but I think its \$600,000. It's a healthy number. It's to do the project, not just the design.

Selectman Morin then said no, I understand what she's saying is if we can put this off until after we see what we approved for the rescue, we can look at the budget more clearly and make some other decisions that we may not make tonight because of the cost. Selectman Roy replied, Right, right. Right. Yeah. Selectman Guessferd said who is the Budget Committee is reviewing next week. The books are due this week, right? The Town Administrator said the Budget Committee is not revealing us next week. The Budget Committee will be getting the books next Wednesday. That's pretty much when we're going to give them to them at the next meeting. It's just easier to distribute it. The Budget Committee doesn't review the town till December 1st. They do the school for us this year. I don't want to wait till the last minute. I try to conform to the Budget Committee schedule so if we meet Tuesday...Selectman Morin said like Selectman Roy I mean, we'll have some stuff we can look at more clearly. Selectman Roy added, Right, right. Because again, you know that that seems fairly critical to me, whereas you know, just other things, the senior bus might not be so critical. But if we're going to fund the the Lowell Road design from another source, then I would probably support the bus, right?

The Town Administrator said we're stuck in a timing issue. I don't know what to tell you. Selectman Morin asked do we have time if we put it off till November? So if we review the rescue. The Town Administrator replied no. The Budget Committee wants their books by next week. Selectman Roy then said so if we did this on, we did this portion of a November 2nd right? Would that give you enough time? The Town Administrator replied that gives me less than a day. It's the next day. Matter of fact, I think they wanted them Friday. But we'll just give them to them next Wednesday when they're meeting. Selectman Morin then said all right. One of the members of the Planning Board was on the rescue committee, where they're going to get the rest of the budget, other than the rescue plan and these out of budget. We can't put to that again. You guys got work. I get it. I get it. But you can't. We can't come up with a sheet ahead of time and you can do on the computer and go in in the morning and change things and get it out to them. You know, like Friday...Selectman Roy then said or have a conversation with the Budget Committee saying hey can we get it to you on Thursday or Friday? The Town Administrator responded, there's obviously pages in the book in the summary section that that ripples through. I'm pretty good. I'm not a miracle worker, and it depends on when we, you know.....Selectman Morin said Selectman Gannon, we have a pretty good idea where we're going with this and we've got a lot of good backup and Chief Buxton's going to be here to make those presentations on the second, yes, where we went as a committee. I don't think it's really going to be a lot of discussion by the Board, if you agree, Selectman Gannon. I mean, for what we came up with, there may be a few changes that come, but there's just no way we can. I mean, how many pages would you have to change out in the book?

The Town Administrator replied saying I have to change out the engineering section and then have to change things in the summary. So it's probably five or six pages in the summary that I have to make sure everything ties out and then it'll be in the engineering section and then I have to copy it and get it on disc for everybody. Selectman Morin then said I just think. Go ahead....Selectman Gannon then said Sorry. In support of what you said, I completely agree. So if we take an assumption that what we're going to, what the American Rescue Plan Committee is going to present to this Board and this Board will vote in favor of what they recommend. Should we go ahead and take that line item out, should we assume what we're going to potentially vote on? Make those changes now forward to the

Budget Committee and there'll be a 90% chance. That's how it's going to stay unless we do something different.

Selectman Morin said his doesn't have to be this hard. I agree with you. I mean. Chairman McGrath then said but does this with this necessitate an extra meeting for the Board of Selectmen just to take care of this? Selectman Morin replied no. Selectman Morin said but I think we could do it Tuesday. We can do the rescue plan first and then do this. Selectman Roy said Yeah. And again, you know, maybe reach out to Chairman Weissgarber and see if he can put off getting the books to him to Thursday or Friday. Because if they're not going to look at it until December 1st, they still have a month. Right. It's not. It's not like they're looking at it the following week. Selectman Guessferd said that shouldn't be any problem. They're going to be focused on the school, on the school. Selectman Morin then said I'd make a motion that we do that if that's the appropriate manner to go Selectman Roy said I would second, that motion, because again, I just like to have to know where we're going with that. Chairman McGrath then said so what exactly is the motion? Selectman Morin said the motion is that we hold off doing the fiscal year outside the budget request until November 2nd after we review the rescue plan monies. Selectman Roy seconded again. Chairman McGrath asked any discussion? She then said I'm just going to ask Mr. Malizia one more time, does that, is that going to give you enough time? The Town Administrator replied well, we're not going to maybe have it done by Wednesday, but if we had it done by Friday that week, we'd be able to do that. Selectman Guessferd said I don't that's a problem for them. I really don't. The Town Administrator then said we'd be able to do that. It's just there's all kinds of things that can happen. So I'm just I'm just being cautious. Selectman Guessferd said I understand you're uncomfortable. The Town Administrator said but Friday of next week? Yes. The Chairman said All right. Motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Morin asked the Town Administrator did the Benson's Committee send a capital reserve fund to you or talk to you about that? The Town Administrator replied no. Selectman Morin replied All right. Thank you.

The Town Administrator then addressed the Board saying before we leave the budget, I also put the police facility bond article in front of you. That is a separate standalone warrant article. You had a presentation from the Police Chief. And what I did was I basically gave you three options. As you recall, the Police Chief gave us three options the full up, less one, I think bay for the cars and less all the car bays. So I basically option one is the full up option two is a reduced option. Three is no car bays based on the three prices he gave. So I'm assuming if the Board wants to forward this warrant article, you should have a discussion about this and we can at least put this to rest.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said, as I said last week when we talked about this, I am in favor of option one, I just think there are safety reasons. There's eventually it's going to become more of a need than it already is, and somebody in the future is going to be spending more money than it's just going to get more expensive to do the whole project than it is right now. So I'm at the \$5.9 million warrant article, option one. Chairman McGrath asked is that a motion? To which Selectman Roy replied well, I think this is more discussion. Selectman Morin was recognized and said I say the same thing Selectman Roy just said, we've done this once at the Police Station, we wouldn't be in the position we're in now if we had done it right the first time. So why do it again? So I would go with option one also. Chairman McGrath then said Ok, so motion made and seconded any discussion? Motion carried unanimously. The Town Administrator followed up saying so option one will be the warrant article for the police expansion. We'll make sure that gets in the book.

Chairman McGrath then said and let me just remind everybody that's watching this meeting, that's listening. That might be sitting in this room. I'm going to remind you all of the friary property, which is now in contention. And if we had bought that when it was proposed, we wouldn't be facing that today. So that's just it's something to think about, something to think about. So and I am going to be trying my best to make sure that the Police Department expansion happens. I support it wholeheartedly. Ok. Next up, we're going beyond the budget. I'm just double checking myself.

F. Hudson School District Waiver

Chairman McGrath recognized the Town Administrator who said so the School District has sent over correspondence regarding an electronic sign at the Superintendent's office. I believe replacing the static sign that is there, the School Department is looking to invoke RSA 674:54, which exempts them from the regulations that normally apply. However, the Board of Selectmen or the Planning Board, if you'd like, may hold a public hearing on that to either ask questions or to offer input. You can't deny it, but you can at least if you want to have a public hearing or the Planning Board could have a public hearing. Again, they qualify under the RSA 674:54 for an exemption, and I'm presenting it to you just so you at least have a discussion.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said I was just gonna ask if he (Mr. Gasdia) could speak on it. Mr. Gasdia said I can speak on it and this is actually Brandon signs. Ok. So basically the idea is, you know, we're looking to find better ways to communicate with the public, and an electronic sign would certainly do that. It's a residential area. And so that's where we'd need that. And so, you know, one of the main concerns would be, you know, let's make sure that it's respectful to the neighborhood. And again, if you think about where it's located, you actually have the library on one side, you have the school on the other, you have the fire stations. So it is a residential neighborhood, but it's not like there's a house going to be right near the sign. But if you do have questions about how the site is going to work, how we're going to make sure that it wouldn't be, you know, bright in the middle of the night or anything like that, that's where Brandon's here for. So if you have any questions, if you don't, then obviously. Chairman McGrath asked how about statements? Mr. Gasdia statements are fine.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said so for my own knowledge, I always support public input. So just hearing the option in front of us, I would seemingly support at least a public hearing just to gather the public's thoughts on the matter for you to consider knowing its not binding. With that said, do you have a different avenue for collecting reasonable public input about this so that maybe we wouldn't have to hold a public hearing? Could you say you have another option for hearing the public or the school families input on this just so that they feel heard and we don't need to hold a public hearing? Mr. Gasdia replied so I guess I'll answer it with two hats on, right. From the standpoint of the chairman of the School Board. I'm sure we do, but I don't think that us sending an email to the district people is the same as a public hearing. So if we're going to have a public hearing, it needs to sort of be a public hearing, not a targeted public hearing, that sort of my take. So. School board person says, sure, we'll send an email. But as a resident of Hudson, I think if you deem, if the Board of Selectmen deems or the Planning Board, however it's supposed to work, deems that a public hearing is necessary, then we should do a public hearing. We shouldn't do it the other way. Selectman Gagnon replied Ok, and one quick follow up to that, I guess, to clarify more of my concern as a potential resident. If we don't hold a public hearing and potentially you don't send out a one way communication, can you convince us that you have reason we thought about your critics and address them? So you've mentioned one? Will it be super bright? In the middle of the night, you know, have you have you thought about that potential and have you mitigated that potential? Do you have a couple of examples like that where you said, Oh, these are issues we've seen in the past, we've already mitigating showing to us that you really thought it out and just let it go.

Mr. Currier from Barlow Signs said, yes, thank you again. Brandon Currier from Barlow signs here, representing obviously a school district, so to speak. On behalf of the lighting, these EMC boards the double face the so the two sided signs are built in with an automatic light sensor. So what happens when the sign is on? So say if it's a cloudy day, the illumination will automatically dim down, so there's no extra or additional distractions anywhere. In the case of it being an extremely bright day, the colors will come up a little bit, so it's not as washed out. So yes, we have thought of that and there will be a system in place to take care of that. Mr. Gasdia then said Ok. Yes. And from a size standpoint, correct me, if I'm wrong, we're using the existing area that's for the sign. So it's not like we're putting a sign where there isn't a sign. We're just taking the old manual sign and turning it into electronic, which will allow for more dynamic messaging. Selectman Gagnon asked same size? Mr.



Gasdia responded same size. Mr. Currier added same footprint. We're going to be utilizing the existing posts that are already there, so there will be no changes to the ground or the structure itself, just mounting hardware. And obviously, the power for...Chairman McGrath interjected saying electrified. Mr. Currier replied yep, there is external illumination there now. So we do have the power needed to run both of those boards already there. So there'll be no additional trenching or anything like that needed. Selectman Gagnon then said and forgive me, last question being a regulatory myself. Are there any guidelines about the flashing capability? You know, you obviously don't want to be flashing blue? Is there any limits about how fast the sign can switch colors or what colors it can use? Or is there any guidelines of that that you're aware of that you follow? Mr. Currier replied absolutely. I mean, we the way that we progress with any sort of EMC in any district or area, we like to be respectful of the neighbors and everybody around. So obviously for fire and police, we're not going to have any blue and red flashing lights because that's a distraction to motorists going by anyways. All the messages that we're planning to provide are going to be static messages. They're going to fade on and off. There's not going to be any crazy animation that's going to be an annoyance to neighbors or passive buyers. So that's all stuff that we have thought about and made sure that we don't do because we do see that that could potentially be an issue. So we might as well knock that right off the table right off the bat. Selectman Gagnon replied excellent. Ok, thank you.

Can you run the public hearing past me again? Did you say either one of us or the Planning Board has to have a public hearing? The Town Administrator replied it's not mandatory. You can have one. The Planning Board could have one. Atty. Lefevre recommends don't both have one. Either one or the other. But neither case it's not mandatory. Chairman McGrath said so just as an FYI about that. The school is, they don't have to present a site, a site plan. For any kind of building that they do on the like, as an example, the high school, when they did the um, the new edition, they came in, it's more of a courtesy. I think it should be a requirement, but it's more of a courtesy that they present their plans. But they don't have to abide by any of the regulations that the Planning Board would apply to them. So that's a difference. So you have a public hearing, the Planning Board can and they do that. They have a public hearing where they come in and they present their plans and then they walk away and do what they want. Same with this, you know, this is I mean, the Board of Selectmen, you can say that we're probably, it's more I don't know if more people would watch it if it was from a Board of Selectmen or if they'd watch it from a Planning Board meeting. It can be either or but the Planning Board, usually because it's because it's related to the building type of things, you know, and the sign. Buildings, businesses need signs and they have to go before the Planning Board. So that's the difference there. So it's either, either or.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said if that's the normal standard for a sign, I make a motion that we send it on to the Planning Board and just go through that process. So at least as a government entity, we presented a plan to the people. Chairman McGrath said and they can compare it against the regulations. Selectman Guessferd said I make the second to that. Chairman McGrath asked anyone else? Selectman Roy Morin was recognized and asked Chairman McGrath said ok, motion has been made and seconded. I have a comment about the signs. About this particular sign, and if I'm at the public hearing, I'll make the same comment. I'm opposed to it. Take a look at the fire station right across the street. They have a sign for the fire stations. Lenny Smith Central Fire Station. It fits with the neighborhood. It doesn't. It doesn't have moving letters. It doesn't have a moving message board where people that are driving by, if they get, you know, they decide that they want to read what's on the sign, they crash into the car in front of them that's already stopped and they haven't seen it because they're too busy looking at a sign. So for that reason, and it's not in keeping with the neighborhood, it's not. It's not really in keeping with the I guess the real ambience of the Town, I mean, it's I like to think of this town as as what it used to be and not so busy and not so congested, and certainly not with moving signs and letters, lit signs. So that's my position on it. I'm probably in the minority of most, but that's how I feel. Selectman Roy was recognized and said I'd actually support it. You know, we lamented for some number of years now about the loss of the HLN and how we have an issue with communicating with the public. And I just think this is maybe not the end all, be all. But it is a way for us to get for the school department to get their word out about what's going on in in the schools. So and done right, I think it would it could fit the character of

the, of the neighborhood. Chairman McGrath then said first bunch of accidents that happen there I'm going to be the first one to talk about it. So OK. So we've motion has been made and seconded to send it to have the Planning Board have a public hearing on this. Any discussion, if not all those in favor signify by saying I those opposed. *Motion carried unanimously.*

#### G. Halloween Trick or Treat Hours

The Chairman said it's my understanding that Board of Selectmen, what was it Steve 19?? The Town Administrator said it's been some number of years since 1996 that Trick or Treat hours are 6:00PM to 8:00PM on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October. I think you're just asserting that. Chairman McGrath said Yeah, just so that the public knows that. That's it's it's been traditionally on Halloween and it will continue that way until. The Town Administrator said we've had a few storm related incidents. And believe me, those are not fun changing that date. It doesn't go over well. Selectman Roy said I think we have one recently right? The Town Administrator replied two years ago, I think when Chairman Morin was, we were looking at a big windstorm that potentially was going to bring down limbs. So like tonight's, tomorrow storm would be an occasion where you might think about it, but the weather forecast looks, looks good. But you have to think of the kid's safety too. And but it doesn't appear that we're going to be at risk this year. Chairman McGrath then said and this year, I think Daylight Savings. The Town Administrator replied Daylight Savings was switched to the first full weekend in November, so the beginning part of trick or treat will still be in the semi light or dusk. Chairman McGrath said so that's just an FYI.

#### H. Defining Relationships with Town Employees

Selectman Roy was recognized and said Yeah. So as I put my memo that, you know, it's come to my attention that that's been some employees, that the members of the Board of Selectmen have addressed directly with job performance issues. I think that what we need to do here is for the benefit of the employees, for the benefit of the supervisors. The Department Heads and things like that is that we as a Board should stay out of it, like let them handle it. And then when it gets to the point where it has to come before the Board we are, we are more neutral in deciding what has to happen. So I guess that's what I will add to what I've put in my memo. Certainly opened for discussion. That's what I have.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said I fully agree with what you wrote here. I just have a couple of questions because this is a bigger problem than just what we're seeing here. And you're aware. In the case that we're talking about here. Did the set a set of employee come to you and report this? Selectman Roy responded, yes, they did. Yeah. Selectman Morin then asked Ok. Did you know that when this incident happened, I received an email from that employee to come in and see that employee because of what took place? And I did. Let me finish. I talked to Mr. Malizia that day and I talked to the employee that day. Both the discussions I had that I would talk to the Selectmen involved. And then I left it alone, and Mr. Malizia was going to handle it through his chains. And after a couple of days, I contacted the employee again and said, is everything OK? And that's the answer. I said, Yes, I agree with what you're saying. I'm just saying there's a bigger we need to. Selectman Roy replied right. There was more than one incident with more than one employee. Selectman Morin replied correct. Absolutely. So I'm not disagreeing with you. But all I'm saying is sort of we should agree that we should stay in our lane and let the supervisors supervise. And then when it gets to a point where somebody has to bring something to us, again, we're a more neutral party. We don't have any preconceived notions about what happened or what might not have happened. So the question that I'm asking is, do we do that simply by consensus or do we do a change to bylaws to codify that? Selectman Morin replied no. I think there needs to be a policy to put some meat to it. But what I also fully understand why sometimes employees come to us. And that needs to be addressed

also. You know what I'm saying? And so this is more of a more of a deep, deeper issue than what we're talking about and we can only talk about here. We have to go into non-public for the rest of it. Selectman Roy replied I agree. I agree. So but I'm we're talking about a policy issue. So at this point, it should be here.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said thank you. This is the first time I'm kind of hearing about most of this. So one thing comes to mind. I think you've touched on it either one of one of you that I think it would be best practice if there was an issue that I look to Mr. Malizia as almost a CEO to bring it to our attention. So we all see the problem at the same time. And so that there are no preconceived notions that we all can discuss it like we're like, we're doing here. I think this is very helpful. Mr. Morin, you made a very good point when it comes to, say, ethics, but, you know, handling delicate situations, if there's only one avenue, let's say, for example, the employee doesn't want to speak to the director because that's their problem, person. There needs to be a back way to respectfully get around that and come to us. So I think there should be an avenue in the case that the individual employee has a problem with their direct report to to come to us as a safety option, but it shouldn't be the first option. And then finally, I agree this should be written out. So it's quite clear that if anything happens again, that there's, you know, a path up the line or if need be a security path to the Chairperson as a backup.

Selectman Morin replied saying what you got to be careful with is it needs to be reported to the supervisor, no matter if it's the problem, and not because they can say that's my problem and I'm going around it anyway. Selectman Roy then said and I think we sort of need to be clear to that that so if it's if it's I guess, if it's somebody that has a department head supervisor over them, right, that they still have another level of command to go to right before they get to us, right? And that would be the Town Administrator, right? So if again, one of those people in that department has a problem with the department head, they still have that avenue. I think for your scenario, we're talking about relatively few people that would have to would not have that. Selectman Guessferd said the direct reports. Selectman Roy replied right, right. The direct reports.

Chairman McGrath then said but not only that, they have the avenue of the they're in the unions. Most of the people in here are, they can go to their union representative and talk to them. Right. So which I believe has happened. Selectman Roy replied and that would be another avenue before it got to us. I mean, I think that I would presume that he does it, that he tries to prevent it to turning into a union grievance he tries to resolve, which is the other thing before it gets to us. Somebody at the at the lowest level possible should try to resolve the issue, right? You know? We're just not sort of designed to do that for them, that's what they have supervisors for.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said we should we should put this in writing, but I think we should put it in front of our labor lawyer, so we get the correct verbiage. Selectman Roy replied and I don't have a problem doing. I think that that's we. So I guess my question would be as part of the bylaws or is a separate policy? Selectman Morin said well, I think it should be a policy because it's actually going to affect everybody. Selectman Roy replied OK? Selectman Morin continued said I mean, from us right down to the newest employee. Selectman Roy said and I don't I don't have a problem with that. Selectman Morin said again, it will be an interpretation of the lawyer too.

Chairman McGrath said we can have Mark Broth. Right? Write something. Selectman Morin and Roy agreed. Selectman Morin then said but we do have to give them. We need to spell out the avenues. You know what I mean? So it's clear, you know? And again, I fully understand why people would go to another level for among many things. You know what I'm saying, depending what. So we need to make it clear. And it's not right now, right? Selectman Roy replied right. And I would agree with that. Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said so in closing, I mean, I think we all seem to agree on the avenue. What is the deal? Are we going to ask the lawyer to just draft up some new policy? Or are there other towns that may have this policy in place that we can leverage like we've done with other things? I mean, what are we going to pull out here? Selectman Morin replied I'd just have the lawyer do it then we're clear. The Town Administrator added, we're going to start with this and we're

going to see what the lawyer comes back with. I'm sure it'll flesh out and be more articulated so that it's clearer. Not that you think it wasn't clearer or be more clear. It'd be conforming to law. Chairman McGrath said yeah, it's got some typos in there that need to be fixed. The Town Administrator said I wrote down notes and we'll get we'll get something to the Attorney.

Selectman Guessferd said for an additional comment. Just. And so it's clear to distinguish these sorts of discussions from just I mean, we all have contact with members, with, you know, with Town employees, but not in that manner. So just to make sure that it's clear that these are personnel issues, those sorts of things rather than just general discussion. And that's I hope there's no hope, there's no real gray. I mean, there probably is a little bit of a gray line. I don't think so, but we just need to be clear about it. Chairman McGrath then said well, you need you need to be careful about discussing things in a public setting because it can if someone slips and says the wrong thing, names a person or names a position, then we could be in trouble. And that employee would have certainly cause to bring a complaint. Selectman Guessferd replied sure. Selectman Roy then said But I think to Mr. Guessferd's this point, we have to make sure that we don't constrict our access to employees so that we can ask questions and get information that we need to make. The Town Administrator said this is a personnel type of issue as a breakthrough. I'm your liaison. I'm working with you. Or hey, can I go talk to Bob about that? There's a difference. I got it. Chairman McGrath asked so are we done with this? The Town Administrator replied I got it. Selectman Roy said I think we are.

9. Remarks by the Town Administrator

The Town Administrator said so I have two things, the first thing is that the Board's indulgence, Mr. Forrence has been patiently sitting here. Mr. Forrence received a retirement of a longtime employee who will be retiring at the end of the year. Mr. Forrence would like to get permission to start the in-house promotional process for that person's replacement.

Mr. Forrence came forward and said yeah. It was quite a shock yesterday. Getting the letter of resignation for the end of the year, December 31st is the employee's last day. Equipment operator. Been with the Town for 32 years. And if there's one thing I can say about people being around here for a long time, the knowledge and what they remember. Going to be tough replacing them and which we when I started back in eighty seven, we kept better records on what we did, what we put in, where it was. But that's not the case. So what I'd like to do is start this right away, start in house. I think that's where the promotion will come from. I think over the last couple of years with the equipment that we've bought the employees stepping up to take that chance and running a piece of equipment someday. I think we've got some pretty good candidates in House. But the timing, if we start this now, our testing on this position, some of it is done outside. Some of it is digging a hole, unloading the truck load in the sander or things like that was starting to come into the bad time of year. So we'd like to jump on it right away. Take the time we need to do to get this out of the way, kind of get a pretty good idea of where we're going to go with it. And then as we get closer to the December 31st time, maybe a couple of weeks before I'll come in and see if I can advertise for another truck driver laborers position. So as one moves out, we can have the other equipment operator move in if it goes in our favor. And then at the same time, we can set up for advertising because it's going to be two weeks of advertising. If we do select somebody and he wants two weeks for giving his notice, so it's going to be later and later. So I'd like to get one step out of the way as quickly as he can. We can't do anything until the 31st. But I'd like to get that out of the way as quick as we can just have the envelope sitting there so I can come to the Board and say, Hey, we'd like to do this, and then we'd like to advertise to fill the truck drivers spot.. So that's all I'm looking for is to just get a jump on it. Nothing will be done until the end of the year, but just starting to go through the process.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said I support this with the past record for Jess' head. Getting somebody in there give him plenty of time. Mr. Forrence laughed and said you know, and that's what

we're looking for. All the trucks need somebody in them, you know? So that's my biggest concern. Come January 1st, having an empty truck, I dread the thought of me, and so mechanic climbing into a truck and wheeling that down the road. So. That's it.

Chairman McGrath asked anybody have any questions, comments? Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said my only comment is I think this testing procedure is pretty robust, I like it. Is this typical or did you guys put this together because it's excellent. Mr. Forrence replied yeah, we sat down with the Town Administrator looking at stuff. We threw stuff to the wall, see what stuck and what was beneficial and what everybody could do, whether it was a first time out, you know, trying to go forward. But it seems like it worked pretty good. We've done a pretty good job getting seats filled. Selectman Guessferd replied, good. Excellent. Chairman McGrath asked anyone else? If not, we have a consensus to. Yes. Mr. Forrence replied, great. Very good. Thank you. To which Chairman McGrath said sorry you had to wait so long. Mr. Forrence replied it's well worth it.

The Town Administrator then said and the other thing I wanted to just mention, I think you've talked about it, but next Tuesday, a workshop to discuss the American Rescue Plan and then to wrap up the budget. So I just wanted to make sure that that's on everybody's calendar. And I think that's all I had. Chairman McGrath said it's on mine now, I guess. The Town Administrator replied yes it is.

10. Remarks by the School Board

Mr. Gasdia said Great. Thank you. So I'm going to knock on wood as I say this. I want to thank everybody, all the parents, the students, the staff, everyone that is following our COVID protocols. I know that it's still not ideal. But if you've been watching the news, some of the school districts around us are struggling a bit. A couple have had to go a day remote here, a day remote there. They've had to cancel football games and extracurricular activities. And we have not had to do that. Again I'll knock on wood, but that's because everyone is following the protocols and we do appreciate that a lot of the thanks go to the partnership with Chief Buxton and others in the Town steering us in the right direction. And if there's a vaccine coming for the younger kids that could be a game changer. You know, obviously we'll have to get out and be done and all, but that would definitely change some things. So but just wanted to say thanks to everyone.

We have some ESSER funds that we need to spend. In our District email the other day, there was a link to a form that people can come up with suggestions of where we can spend it and how we can spend it. There's also a link on our website for anyone that doesn't get that email. They can go and make suggestions as well. How to spend some of the federal funds that are coming our way.

And finally, in the spirit of communication, the Superintendent will be holding some chats both on Zoom and one in person in early November. More information will be coming out on that soon. So that's it.

11. Other Business/Comments by the Selectmen

Selectman Gagnon: No comment today.

Selectman Morin: First thing is we talked about earlier the Rescue Plan money has been split up into projects. It looks pretty good. We may be able to get almost all of them in, I believe, and there was one that I don't think we can. But everything is ready to come to this Board and move forward with that. And if we approve it, we should have the RFPs as soon as possible and get this moving. Because some of the projects need to get done sooner than later.

I just wanted to thank everybody, especially Jeremy Griffith and Chrissy, who put together the Fright Night ride at the Speedway. Again, it was filled to capacity. A lot more Town businesses this year participated and Town employees were there, and it was a great time. When I was there everybody was having a great time. All the kids were loving it.

And I just got a question for Mr. Gagnon, Selectman Gagnon because I'm kind of confused. It's perceived and I'll use that word for now, that Mr. Thompson was the one that supported Selectman Gasdia, Gasdia, you want to be a selectman? Mr. Guessferd for his bid for the selectman. But Len Lathrop I talked to Len Lathrop and he said he had a discussion with you at the 9/11 memorial, and he had brought up the concern that Mr. Gasdia was being. I keep saying that. He was concerned that a resident down on the South End supported his thing and that you made the statement that no, I paid for his filing fee. Selectman Gagnon replied and your question? Selectman Morin replied did you do that, pay for his filing fee? Selectman Gagnon responded, I supported the cause. Does that change output? Selectman Morin replied, that's not what... I'm just asking. You're a champion for being, you know, transparent and the right to know. So I just figured I'd ask the question. Selectman Gagnon replied yes, I supported his cause. Selectman Morin asked did you pay the filing fee? Selectman Gagnon replied I supported part of it. Selectman Morin then said so you paid some of the filing fees. Selectman Gagnon replied I supported part of his, of his costs, of the steps necessary. Selectman Morin said I just want an answer. Did you pay for the filing fee for the Selectman? Selectman Gagnon replied I can't say I paid for one or another. I donated funds.... Selectman Morin then said Ok. That's all. That's all I wanted to know. Ok, thank you. Selectman Gagnon then said If I if I may just respond to that. You know, the end result is, you know, this isn't like, you know, paying off some under the table to take a vote. I mean, a professional judge was sitting at his bench, made a decision based on all the evidence provided and subsequently came to a conclusion. So I want to be very clear that, you know, I see, you know, this wasn't a bribe or anything illegal. This was a judge made a legal decision based on the facts in front of him. Selectman Morin then said let me make it clear I didn't say it was a bribe or anything illegal. But that was never came out in public. You kept it very quiet and you did deceive the residents of Hudson. Selectman Roy said How so? How so? That's a really that's a really umm strong accusation because you know what? I donated to! All right. So but what difference does it make? An Article three judge. A resident approached us and wanted to wanted to support him. Right? Selectman Morin replied yep. I got what I wanted to hear. Thank you. Appreciate it. Selectman Roy then said okay. Well good. Are we going to talk about you going to the State House and talking about projects of the Town that you don't disclose? Selectman Morin replied, again, we've already had that discussion that is part of my job as a selectman to represent the town, not a certain person, the Town. Selectman Roy replied and you brought that to the Board and you briefed the Board about the friary. Selectman Morin replied I wasn't chairman at the time. Thank you very much. Selectman Roy replied Oh, oh, oh OK. That means you don't have to be transparent. Ok, I get it. All right. Selectman Morin asked why do we always have to turn things around when you get caught? Selectman Roy replied who's got caught? I just told you what I did. Selectman Morin said I just wanted to make a statement, that you two supported and didn't come out forward to the public, just that you supported financially another selectman. Selectman Roy responded saying cuz what difference does it make? I wrote a letter. I wrote a letter. Selectman Gagnon said I did, too. Selectman Roy said I stood up in a court. Selectman Morin replied but you never said you financially support it. Selectman Roy asked but who cares? Selectman Morin replied OK, its fine. It's out. Selectman Gagnon said I mean the wording was submitted. Selectman Morin said thank you Chairman. Chairman McGrath asked you done? Selectman Roy said wow it's too bad.

Selectman Roy: Ok. Well, it's unfortunate that we have Selectmen that because they umm they didn't get what they want Have to keep...Selectman Gagnon spoke up and said bullying. Selectman Roy replied saying exactly. Bullying. Thank you. But I'm going to move on to that, and I just want to mention the sad passing of Dwayne King. Dwayne was an employee of the Library. He served the Library well and he served the Town well. He was an employee, I think, for approximately 30 years. The Town Administrator said I'm not sure. A very long time. At least 20 years. Selectman Roy went on to say yeah. So I just want to say my thoughts go out to his, his wife and his family.

And then my other my other thing. My other point tonight, I guess, to Selectman Morin's point is that it is never too early to talk about going making a plan to vote. You should pay attention to at least this season of the budget and what's going on there. Who the candidates are, and you should make a plan to vote on March 8th. It is never too early and that is all I have.

Selectman Guessferd: The only thing I have to say is I hope that all the citizens of Hudson have a safe and happy Halloween.

Chairman McGrath: And I don't have anything other than same thing. Happy Halloween to all of the tricksters out there. And to Selectman Roy's point. I am planning for the March election and I dropped my pen. That's OK. Ok. I don't need it, so I'm ready for March. So that's all for that. And we're going to nonpublic session.

## 12. Nonpublic Session

*Motion by Selectman Guessferd at 8:51 p.m., seconded by Chairman McGrath to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with anybody or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph. (f) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present. Carried 5-0.*

Chairman McGrath entered Nonpublic Session at 8:51p.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 9:32 p.m.

### Motions made after nonpublic session

*1) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to promote Master Patrol Officer Alan Marcotte to the position of Sergeant at \$39.57 per hour according to the Hudson Police Employee Association Contract (Step 6). This elevation in rank would be effective Wednesday October 27, 2021. Carried 5-0.*

*2) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to waive Attorney/Client privilege to discuss the Land Use Board Member Disqualification packet in public. Carried 5-0.*

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:33 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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Bob Guessferd, Vice Chairman

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David Morin, Selectman

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Kara Roy, Selectman

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Brett Gagnon, Selectmen