

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the November 09, 2021 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman McGrath the meeting of November 09, 2021 at 7:10 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Chief Assessor Jim Michaud
3. ATTENDANCE

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

Excused Absence: Bob Guessferd

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; David Lefevre - Town Attorney; Jim Michaud - Chief Assessor; Tad Dionne - Police Captain; Diana LaMothe - School Board Member; Paul Inderbitzen - Town Moderator; Jill Laffin - Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Jim Dobens, 4 Eagle Drive

Mr. Dobens said my name is Jim Dobens and I have resided at 4 Eagle Drive for almost 40 years. What is happening to my town? Hudson is in the grips of overdevelopment plans that will destroy a suburban way of life. Those elected and those appointed by these same elected officials to manage our town and protect our way of life feel there is something wrong with Hudson. Since many have a strong desire to change it from suburbia to an urban asphalt concrete high density congested jungle. Is anybody on this Board worried about all this development and its impact to its residents? We know out of town developers are now looking at Hudson as an unguarded pot of gold. An innocent warrant article a few years back taking building heights from 38 feet to 50 feet started the frenzy. Hudson residents were hoodwinked. But we have ourselves to blame for not paying attention and being involved to the real intent of what that article did. That will change. I am proposing and asking that the Board of Selectmen take up and conduct an overall assessment study for the Town of Hudson to independently assess the real impacts to our roads, traffic, environment, schools and emergency services. Every development being brought to this town is considered separately without understanding the overall consolidated impact that multiple major or minor developments have. Let me say that again. Every development being brought to this town is considered separately without understanding the overall consolidated impact that multiple major or minor developments have. I have not seen any assessment that combines the Hudson Logistics Center and it's thousands of cars and trucks. The Friary Logistics Center with its hundreds or my math thousand cars and trucks. Chase Steel Distribution Center. Friary Drive with its high density units. Heritage Landing with over 55 community and the various small developments off our main roads with postage stamp size lots to maximize usage. You're talking thousands of cars. Hundreds of tractor trailers being added to our already F rated congested roads. Employees for these facilities will travel backroads in because they do not live in Hudson. We do not have the workers for these facilities. Their impact to the environment, schools, roads and importantly our emergency services have not been fully vetted in totality. But rather ignored in my opinion through this past year. All the project studies I hear about say that they'll be minimal and negligible impact to our Town. How is that even possible with what we're adding? But here we are today congested and heading to absolute gridlock by blindly adding more. I do blame leadership for what's going on. To have leaders believe that all this development will not have any impact to our town is ludicrous. Better yet I've heard we can make it better. Some may believe that they know best. Or maybe think the residents are nuts. And I've heard that. I can assure you we are not. We are capable and determined to save Hudson. So we are not going away. At least the Friary Logistics Center calls out a projected impact of 18-20 emergency calls per year for their facility. That is only the calls to the site. Not what will happen away from the site? I have not seen any other developer talk about it. Maybe they learned from us by asking. Trust me the HLC will add 100-125 calls

per year to that site alone. I gave Town Officials three years of data from a site in Mass that the developer asked us to compare, but it was ignored. It was swept away by looking at the current levels going on at Sagamore Park. That is Town Officials not doing their due diligence. But now let's not forget about the Friary Apartments. The Chase Steel and Heritage Landing impacts. They're not accounted for yet. Is it my imagination or is accident rates in Hudson picked up lately. Seems like every time I turn around there's an accident. Please do your homework on what has happened to other towns and do the due diligence of what these developments will bring. Again I urge you on your own to do an independent overall impact assessment study and get the real answers, not ones made up by developers and lawyers. By the way, high density workforce housing and apartments are next on their list. I will leave you with this and I would ask you to digest the words. Never doubt that a growing group of thoughtful, committed, intelligent citizens can change the world. Or a town for that matter. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has. Thank you.

James Crowley, 4 Fairway Drive

Mr. Crowley approached the Board and said tonight the Board of Selectmen, for new business item 8A will discuss Land Use Board Member Disqualification. The Town Attorney has supplied a significant amount of information to you in your packet concerning this subject. However I don't see where it addresses all possible scenarios that may come before the Board of Selectmen concerning new business item 8A. Specifically, I know a person that might be interested in being elected to the Planning Board, however, that person is a plaintiff on a lawsuit against the Town concerning a land use decision. It is the opinion of that person that the Town made an error in judgement and the whole Town of Hudson would benefit if the errors reversed in court to some acceptable degree. The ethics catch twenty-two is that person would most likely benefit also. So a question that I would like the Board of Selectmen discuss at the appropriate time is if that person was elected would the Board of Selectmen vote to remove that person because 1) they benefit the elected person 2) the Hudson Code of Ethics doesn't even allow an elected or appointed member to voluntarily participate with any persons initiating claims or lawsuits against the Town of Hudson or any of its departments. I think a plaintiff would be a very strong participant. Additionally what happens if the lawsuit is fully litigated for against the plaintiff? Please consider this hopefully in discussions tonight. Thank you for your time.

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS - none

6. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Assessing Items - none

B. Water/Sewer Items - none

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies

1) Tag Day Permit - Salvation Army Kettle Campaign

D. Donations - none

E. Acceptance of Minutes

1) Minutes of October 14, 2021

2) Minutes of October 19, 2021

3) Minutes of October 21, 2021

F. Calendar

11/10 7:00 Planning Board - Hudson Community Center
11/10 7:00 Budget Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
11/11 Veteran's Day - Town Office's Closed
11/15 7:00 Traffic Advisory Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
11/16 7:00 Municipal Utility Committee - BOS Meeting Room
11/16 7:00 Budget Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
11/17 6:00 Library Trustees - Hills Memorial Library
11/17 7:00 Planning Board - Hudson Community Center
11/17 7:00 Budget Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
11/18 3:30 Trustees of the Trust Funds - Buxton Meeting Room
11/18 7:00 Zoning Board - Buxton Meeting Room
11/18 7:00 Benson Park Committee - HCTV Meeting Room
11/22 7:00 Sustainability Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
11/23 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to approve Consent Items E, & F. Carried 4-0.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to approve consent item C - Tag Day Permit. Carried 4-0.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on October 26, 2021

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.

3) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to adjourn at 9:33 p.m. Carried 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Land Use Board Member Disqualification

Chairman McGrath said we all have in our packets information that's been provided by the Town Attorney. I've read it. Has anyone else not read it or? I would like to have this adopted and placed on the Town's website for new members, citizens that are interested and how we conduct ourselves and should be on whatever media we have for the Town of Hudson. Whether it's Facebook or Town website. And we had two people here tonight talking about this. So.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said so you just want this package, as it stands, posted? The Chairman replied, I want it posted and I want it given to all of the land use board members. Every new member that's been appointed. Old members that have been on the boards for I think a number of years haven't received this. This is something new. And I think that everyone should get into this. And I think it should be available to anyone that's interested. I think that, you know, we should conduct ourselves in an ethical manner at all times. Whether it's on the Planning Board. Whether it's on the Zoning Board. Whether it's on this Board and I think that the citizens ought to be at least confident that we have a document that outlines what an ethics is for us. How we conduct ourselves. That's what I think. I think that we've had issues in the past, certainly. But that hasn't always been the case.

Selectman Roy then said I just want to address Mr. Crowley's question about if somebody runs. And I just want to make sure that I'm reading this right. If they're elected we can't remove them right? Town Attorney David Lefevre came forward and said my name is David Lefevre. I'm the Town Attorney. Actually the Board of Selectmen, I believe, can remove an elected Planning Board member. We talked about this when we had a meeting with the Planning Board Chair here and I was sort of surprised to hear that myself that that's in the statutes. But to answer this question that was asked, which is a good one, if you have a plaintiff who's involved in a law suit against the Town the actual Town Ethics Code doesn't prohibit that because it does say you can't be involved in litigation against the Town unless it's on your own behalf. Right, and these are plaintiffs. They are asserting their own claims. So there's nothing about the Ethics Code. It would be just like you know if you went to the Zoning Board to get a variance to put an addition to your home and the Zoning Board denied it and the fact that you're a member of the Board of Selectmen could you appeal that to Superior Court, of course you could because it involves your own personal right. So in this particular instance, if you have somebody who's a plaintiff they're presumably advocating their own right that does not act as a bar to them being elected. In other words there's no, what I would characterize as an incompatibility in the office. What it would mean however if they did get elected and I'll use the pending Hillwood case as an example, something could happen in the courts where it gets remanded back to the Planning Board. That's one possible outcome. And if that were to happen, this person, who is a plaintiff in the litigation and now has become elected to the Planning Board, would absolutely have to recuse themselves as a member of the Planning Board. Does that mean they can't be a member of the Planning Board for anything else that might come up? No. of course they can, again, subject to these disqualification rules. Which in that instance they would have to disqualify themselves. You could take it a step further and say what would happen if they didn't disqualify themselves? That very well could be grounds for the Board of Selectmen to remove them from their office, which we had a similar situation involving an alternate if you all recall.

Chairman McGrath asked Selectman Roy, does that answer your question? To which Selectman Roy replied mmhmm, I just wanted to make it clear for. Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said thank you Madam Chair. And Madam Chair, I know I think we probably see a little differently on the information you provided but each to their own. I'd actually like to support your efforts to put this online. On one of the last pages here it says to address issues outside the scope of the ordinance under RSA 31-39a any municipal board is free to adopt its own nonbinding set of guidelines to help members understand the ethical standards the Board wishes to uphold. These policies are not binding and no Board, including the select board has the authority to enact ethical guidelines to bind members of other boards. So it says we're able to provide this as guidelines but it may not be binding in a court of law per say. So I support adding this to the website.

Chairman McGrath thanked Selectman Gagnon and asked anyone else? Motion to approve and place on Town's website? Selectman Gagnon said I'll make that motion Madam Chair. Selectman Morin seconded this. Chairman McGrath asked, any discussion? Seeing not the motion carried 3-0. Chairman McGrath then said I think that this is going to be very beneficial for not only the citizens but members of the Boards. Members that want to be on boards. I'm happy with this. Thank you very much Dave for your help with this. Attorney Lefevre left the meeting at this point.

B. Possible Warrant Articles - Revised Exemptions for Elderly, Disabled and Blind

Chief Assessor Jim Michaud was recognized by the Chairman. Mr. Michaud said good evening Board members. As you know we're doing a reassessment for next year. As you know the market is pretty hot and still is pretty hot. The last time we did a reassessment it was 2017. So we have not adjusted the amount of our exemptions for elderly, disabled and blind since 2007. It's a good idea to try to keep pace with increases in assessed value by taking a look at the amounts of your exemptions. So there's three age categories for elderly. There's one category for disabled. There's one category for blind. Blind does not have a means test of income and assets. But the disabled and elderly do. We did adjust the income and asset means test back in 2018. The voters approved it. We've been using those increased amounts. But we haven't adjusted our exemptions in a long time. So I put a lot of information into the memo and at the time that I was writing soon after we approved the re-evaluation contract and I was thinking we'd see around a 30% increase in value maybe across the Board for median average assessment increases for residential property. So I actually drafted the memo in June. And I did some math and figured well a 10%, a small adjustment, in the exemptions may hold harmless, so to speak, those that are receiving the exemptions to protect them you know when their values go up quite a bit. But between June and when I finished the memo for the Board, you know we're looking at a 40% or more median or average increase for next year just following the market value. April 1st isn't here but all things being equal I don't think it's going to go in a significant decline. So while I had initially recommended a 10% increase across the board for the amounts of the exemptions and that's in your memo. I ran some math and I used the estimated tax rate that the Town Administrator came up with and I would recommend a 15%, one five, a 15% increase in each of the exemption levels for the elderly and also the exemption level for the disabled and also the exemption level for the blind. You don't have to make a decision on it tonight. You know you do have time to get the warrant articles in. This is not a fiscal item, per se, so it's the Board's recommendation that would put it forward. The Board's recommendation that would be on the warrant article. It's not a Budget Committee item. So I have a lot of information there. I took a look and updated and saw what other communities were doing. I think that's important. I think looking at other communities that have a similar economic profile as Hudson. I think that's important. You know, you can look at all the data and have some kind of paralysis of analysis. The simple thing is I recommend we increase the exemptions. How much do they increase? That's you know, it's not one and done either. If we find that 20% or 15%, I should say. If 15% is not enough we can revisit it next year. Increase them again based upon the results of the reevaluation. So we anticipate that our assessment ratio for this year is at 70% of value. So that's a measurement of sales activity from October of last year through September of this year. The pace is still continuing. So you know our ratio is gonna drop below 70% that's why I'm looking at probably a 40% increase on median, on average. Not true for everybody. Some are gonna go up a lot more. Some might go up less.

Chairman McGrath thanked Mr. Michaud and asked anybody have any questions? Comments? Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said so you mentioned quickly that you did look at surrounding towns. Can you give us the Cliff Notes on what you found? Mr. Michaud responded saying so it's really a mixed bag, you know? And it really depends upon when did that community last do its last reevaluation. Right? So if it's relatively recent then the amount of their exemptions is higher than those that are older. Right? So 2017 I would call those communities older. But you know income profiles are different. Windham, Hollis, Pelham, Hudson. So it's really, if you look at that spreadsheet, it's all over the place in terms of...you know there's de minimis in the statutes. You can't go below a certain amount. We're light years above those amounts. As far as the exemption amounts. I've given you some idea of how many we have in each category. You know once you grant something you know, it's one of those you're never gonna take it back, even though you could. In this state by 2030 one out of three's gonna be 65 years of age or older is the estimates from the demographers. Does that mean they all qualify for the exemption? No. but that's just...you know, it's a good idea to change it. The voters could, at the floor of Town Meeting, you know, change it differently as well. That's what happens when you go to Town Meeting. But to answer your question it's really all over the place in terms of what other communities are doing. Selectman Gagnon then said okay and just for my confirmation you said that the median value of homes has gone up 30-40% and percentage-wise in comparison to what you're

asking, you're asking to increase the exemptions by 15%. So it's seems reasonable. Mr. Michaud replied, correct. And why that on the surface doesn't make sense but in reality makes sense because if you're increasing your base quite a bit and you're not really dramatically increasing your spending and you're not seeing dramatic decreases in other revenues, you're rates gonna drop. But it's not a one to one. Right so our tax base is gonna increase 40% let's say. That doesn't mean the tax rate is gonna drop by 40%. It's probably gonna drop a lot but there's still some spending going on. There's still some changes in the numbers that go on from year to the next. So I don't think you want to leave them where they are. So what's the sweet spot? I don't know. I give an idea of sweet spot 15%. Somebody could say 20%. I think 10% is not enough.

Chairman McGrath asked, anyone else? Do we want to make a decision on this? Selectman Roy said I read through everything. I'm ready to make a motion.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to recommend that the exemption amounts for each of the three (3) Elderly Exemption categories be increased by 15%, in accordance with the draft warrant article presented, and that the article is forwarded to the ballot for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting, subject to Town Counsel review for legal content. Carried 3-0-1 with Selectman McGrath abstaining as she falls into this age category.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Gagnon to recommend that the exemption amount for the Disabled Exemption category be increased by 15%, in accordance with the draft warrant article presented, and that the article is forwarded to the ballot for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting, subject to Town Counsel review for legal content. Carried 4-0.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to recommend that the exemption amount for the Blind Exemption category be increased by 15%, in accordance with the draft warrant article presented, and that the article is forwarded to the ballot for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting, subject to Town Counsel review for legal content. Carried 4-0.

Mr. Michaud followed up saying thank you. I just want to say we do have a public hearing requirement but that gets closer to deliberative session for these.

C. HFD - Proposed Amendment to Town Code Chapter 317 - Stop Intersections (Wentworth at Hampshire)

Chairman McGrath invited Captain Dionne forward. The Town Administrator explained so at the last meeting this public hearing was advertised and scheduled for this evening. So basically it's a public hearing to take any input from the public visa via the proposed stop signs. You can maybe briefly tell us what the stop signs are. Cpt. Dionne replied absolutely and said we're asking, the Highway Traffic Safety Committee, had met on this and we're asking to post stop signs at Wentworth at Hampshire Drive and also at Hampshire Drive heading eastbound at the intersection of Wentworth Drive as well. Currently there is one stop sign there. It's the westbound approach on Hampshire Drive at Wentworth. It's a nonconforming intersection. There was an accident there a few weeks back with a postal truck as well and essentially you had one person heading southbound on Wentworth Drive approaching Hampshire and another person traveling eastbound on Hampshire. Neither one have a stop sign both probably assuming they have the right of way and the vehicles collided. It ended up being a hit and run but that was beside the point. As far as the stop sign goes you have confusion as to who actually has the right of way. And by placing the stop sign where it was placed a few years back on Hampshire Drive it's actually nonconforming to the rules of the road. The way that intersection is set up the traffic on Wentworth Drive would, if there was no stop signs, no yield

signs, the traffic on Wentworth Drive would be the one that is actually required by law to yield the right of way. So we're asking to actually place it, make it a more conforming three-way intersection with a stop sign at each part of the roadway. Also that would probably be the best bet in light of the expansion at 36 Executive Drive as well. And possible expansion at Friars Drive.

The Chairman opened the public hearing at 7:40pm. Seeing no one from the public present to speak on the matter, the public hearing was closed at 7:40pm. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to amend Town Code Chapter 317-30 Schedule III: Stop Intersections by adding a stop sign on Hampshire Drive, at Wentworth approaching easterly and adding a stop sign on Wentworth at Hampshire approaching southerly. Carried 4-0.

D. DPW - Part Time Truck Drivers

The Town Administrator was recognized and said I told the DPW Director, I can speak to this briefly. Basically, he's looking to advertise or re advertise, as we did last year for part time winter maintenance truck drivers with a starting rate of \$25.00 per hour, working on all kind, all on call basis without any benefits. He's looking for permission to put in place those ads out there. Chairman McGrath asked, any discussion? Selectman Roy said is that something that we can just let him do every year, presuming he does it every year? The Town Administrator replied last year was the first year. Selectman Roy replied oh okay. The Town Administrator replied you can do whatever you'd like if you'd like to do that. Because we'd only done it last year brought it forward this year, certainly up to the Board. Selectman Morin said and last year we did it because of COVID. Selectman Roy replied, Right, right. I'm just saying if it's gonna become an annual thing that we leave it to his and your discretion, as needed. The Town Administrator added it certainly makes it more efficient in the future. Selectman Roy replied I'm just, yeah, I mean, for part time, for part time positions. The Town Administrator said you can certainly approve it this year and then make a motion that we you grant the DPW Director and Town Administrator the ability to do this in the future. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to allow the Public Works Director to advertise for the part-time winter maintenance truck driver program, with drivers starting at a rate of \$25.000 an hour working on an on-call basis without benefits. Carried 4-0. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to give the Town Administrator and Public Works Director authority to advertise part-time plow drivers at their discretion as needed. Carried 4-0.

E. Voting Districts

The Town Administrator was recognized and explained so as everybody is aware at the last Town Meeting in March, the voters approved the additional polling place for the Town of Hudson. So it took the information and work with NRPC. They did a super job of looking at all the data. Basically, I gave them the updated voter checklist and they took the updated census data and they looked at the Town and they tried to come up with. We tried to come up with two approximately equal voting districts for the Town of Hudson. That would be easy to be communicated. We have to communicate this to all the voters. If you look at census data by block, that's how census data comes in, That's scenario, one that would be difficult to communicate from the perspective that you had got different streets involved. So if you're on the street, you're voting here, if you're on... complicated. Scenario two actually looked at Central Street as the divide and it's actually fairly equal, there's I think, a few more people in the south part than there is in the north part, but not enough that you wouldn't pursue this. Scenario two basically said everybody on the even side or north of Central Street is one district, and everybody on the odd side or south of Central St. is a different district. Scenario three makes it even simpler if you live on Central Street or north, you're in this district. If you live south of Central St., you're in the other district. So you have kind of two scenarios that might

work best to divide the Town into voting districts. Scenario two where you've taken Central Street and you're putting people on the even side up to the one district on the odd side. Or Central Street in total, everybody votes in the North or the Upper District. Frankly, I think if you get out to Central Street, when you get out towards what we call 111, not a lot of residences is out that way. It's mostly kind of in this portion of Town. Not to be confused with Ferry Street or Burnham Road. This is Central Street, so it seemed to be a pretty reasonable divide. And if you look at the numbers, I believe one district will have 7,600. The other will have 8,000. So you're very close as far as numbers of voters supported by each district. And again, I think a key is communicating simple to people because it's going to be enough of a change for folks. Down the road you could determine a different district if population shifts, but this took into account you have 15,666 registered voters in Town. And there's 26,000, I think, residents in Town. Pardon me, there are 20,472 residents above the age of 18 in Town. That's the block you're looking at. This seemed to be a logical way to do something because don't forget we have to notify everybody and we have to advertise and publicize this, and we probably need to do that closer to the election. If you did it today, people are going to forget. So trying to communicate some very not complicated, but some information that makes it simple for people. Very easy to explain. You're in this district if you're on Central Street or north. You're in this district if you are south of Central St. Seems like a pretty good divide to me. So that's what you're here to discuss.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said so I can make assumptions. But can you tell me what effects...you know, I see you're trying to balance the Town equally by numbers. You know, option three seems to be the most balanced at 7,600 and 8,000. The Town Administrator replied option one is actually the most balanced, but it's the most difficult to communicate because you're doing it by street. So option one would be the actual most balanced. Option two is not as balanced, and Option three is just about the same as Option two. Selectman Gagnon replied got it! So thank you for that clarification. I guess what I'm getting at is, can you tell me in an extreme, you know, if these two districts weren't balanced, what effect would that have on the voting outcome? Why are we trying to balance those numbers? What's the value of that? The Town Administrator replied so that when we have resources or allocating they're approximately equal in both things? So if I have 10,000 people voting down here and they're going to maybe have a longer wait 10 minute, if I have 5,000 people voting over here, I think we're just trying to balance it to treat everybody so that you can process them. I mean, think about the presidential election, if you have this many voters down here and you only have half as many over here, and maybe that's an extreme example. Selectman Gagnon replied, no, that that's a great answer. Thank you. I think that's kind of an important but mundane. I was thinking that there was no effects on obviously the way it's tallied or anything like that. There's, you know, worries in that aspect are going to be tallied the same way. The Town Administrator said the Moderator has to fit up to two voting places, and I would think from a resource perspective, you want them to be roughly equal. Ok. I mean, there'll be A through Z here and there'll be A through Z here. It's not an alphabet thing. It's actually a geographical distribution. And again think of traffic, if I have 10,000 people over here, 5,000 people over here are going to get a lot of traffic here. Selectman Gagnon followed up saying so it's all about resources. So a couple of hundred people different isn't gonna throw it off. The Town Administrator said and again, those are the registered voters. I don't know who's going to show up. You could have more people show up in one district than another, but that's not a given. I'm not sure I currently know where they could probably look to see who voted in the last election, but that probably changes. And I think for most town elections, it's not that big of a deal. I think you get 4,000 people. It's when you look at the presidential election that you're sort of thinking about, how do you better distribute these folks. And unfortunately, once we do it, that's it. You've got to do it every time. You don't get to go back and forth from one polling place to two polling places, you've got two polling places.

Selectman Roy said it would have to be another warrant article. The Town Administrator replied yes. To which Selectman Roy replied right. The Town Administrator said the voters could change back to one. To which Selectman Roy said Yeah, but we can't. We can't. You can't just arbitrarily said this election we're gonna have two and next election we're gonna have one. The Town Administrator replied that is correct. Selectman Gagnon then said but we do have the ability to change the voting

district. So we still need two voting locations. The Town Administrator said you can change where they vote and you could change the district based on maybe information you receive. Let's say something happens population wise. But you have to have two. Selectman Gagnon replied Ok, all right. I'm OK with that. The Town Administrator then said and NRPC, like, I said, looked at the data, and I think they did a very good job of logically looking at this, my opinion.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to establish two (2) voting districts for all future elections. Voters south of Central Street will be assigned to District 1 and Voters on or north of Central Street will be assigned to District 2. Carried 4-0.

F. Change in Polling Hours - Warrant Article

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Moderator Paul Inderbitzen. Mr. Inderbitzen said Thank you. We talked about this last year in terms of work that we have to do after voting closes, most a lot of towns and a lot of cities are 7:00 to 7:00 or 6:00 to 7:00. I'm not interested in going to 6:00 o'clock in the morning. I'm sorry, I have to get there at 5:00 anyway. I don't want to get there at 4:00. But with the two polling places, we are now required to have a central polling place, which is going to talk about that afterwards. And then we need to bring the machines, run the tapes, whether we run them at the other place or not. They have to be securely brought back to the central polling place where we put everything together, including the write-ins and all of that. And if we could end, it's 7:00 o'clock. That would be much better for the amount of time it takes to get the results out. I don't want to have to extend that an hour by having people, you know, having to drive the stuff over. We haven't figured all that out yet, but we're still working on it. So I looked into the law and it's kind of interesting. In the warrant, the Selectmen for Town meetings can set the hours just by themselves or Town meeting can vote for the hours. But when you get to state elections, it's a different process. We could do it for the Town election seven to seven, but then for state elections we'd be at seven to eight because that's what I'm not sure if we voted that. Or what. If the Town votes to change their polling hours to seven to seven in March, then we have to submit that to the Secretary of State. And he would put on the November general election the same question to the voters again in order to change the state times. So the law says you can't start after 11:00 a.m. and you can't end voting before 7:00 p.m. So 7:00 p.m. is the upper limit. Now, moderator always has the authority with the people in the building at the time, to extend voting, and we've done that many times. And when we have people waiting to vote, we've extended the hours. We just do that automatically. I kind of last few years tried to keep some information as to how many voters check in. Well, we don't have to check in information. If we get the poll pads, we'll have check in information. But the number of ballots that are cast between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. in last March, it was 26 that went through. And they might have already been in the building and in the booths prior to seven o'clock. And just, you know, for the Town takes a while to fill out the ballot. There are other ones that were a couple of hundred, but I don't remember we've ever had a line where we've extended it, except for the over, even the presidential. If you think of it at eight o'clock, things died. Even the people registering which the state complained about to us that they couldn't get registered. By eight o'clock, everybody was registered and through and we didn't have anybody waiting to come to vote took a little while for everybody to get their ballots voted and inserted. But we didn't have a long, a long wait a couple of times. We've had some late extensions, but never more than an hour where people were still waiting to come in in that. So I think in order to be more a little more efficient that we try to change our hours to 7:00 if the Board feels, or if the Town feels that's acceptable.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said so although I appreciate the time and effort of all the people that make the elections work, I can't support that article. I believe it's a fundamental right and a civic duty of all of all registered voters to vote, and they should be afforded every opportunity to do that. So I can't. We have enough problems with people coming out and I guess that's fine unless you're one of those 26 people that came in between 7:00 and 8:00. So I just can't support this warrant article.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said my gut reaction, I sort of kind of feel a little bit with Selectman Roy. But let me ask some questions to see if I can narrow this down a bit. So we're having two locations, I guess question one is either one of those locations going to be a school by any chance. The Moderator replied that's what we're going to be talking about. Our recommendation looks like it's going to come down to one of the schools, possibly two. Depends on how this Board feels about what we what we've examined. I'm going to talk about it and I'll explain why I'm just talking about it because my plan was to come to you in two weeks with a full recommendation. And now I have to be out of town in two weeks, so I won't be here. I didn't really want to push it off too far. Selectman Gagnon then said ok, so if we if we assume maybe it's out of school, then I don't know who in the room, maybe yourself. Would there be any chance of closing the school for the day for voting? The Moderator replied that would probably happen because right now the primary ones we're looking at are Memorial and Alvrine, and either one would require that it be a professional day and students would have it off. I've I briefly spoke to the Superintendent this morning just to give him a heads up of what we're talking about for locations and that probably what would happen. It would not happen with school in session. It's too hard to close off the building and the parking. That's the big thing is the parking with school in session. It just it just doesn't work.

Selectman Gagnon then said so forgive me for a second and I look to Selectman Roy, so I share the same concerns. Absolutely. But if the school is closed, talking out loud here, and you know, the parents probably have to either stay home or take care of their kids. Do you think that would be kind of like a day off to vote, allowing them to vote throughout the middle of the day? Selectman Roy replied I don't know that. I don't know that, and it wouldn't really sway me because you know. Selectman Gagnon replied no, I'm just curious. I'm thinking this out loud. I'm not sure which way I go, either, but okay. The Moderator then said one of the things to consider if you're open 7:00 to 7:00, you have 12 hours to vote and even people at work, if you can't make it in those 12 hours, that's just what absentee ballots are for, you know? Selectman Morin was recognized and said just so I understand that you have to go back to a central location, I understand what you're saying, but if you take like the City of Nashua, who has what, eight voting districts, so they take all their machines at when they end, they go to one place to do all the counting? The Moderator replied no. all their wards, submit their data to the city clerk at City Hall. They don't even use City Hall as a voting place. They have to submit their data. And I think they box up and all their ballots and everything by ward, because if you get a recount request, it's by ward in the Town of Hudson. That wouldn't be that way for districts because you wouldn't have. We don't have district elections. Its town wide elections, just two places. So you still have one election, one result. So what I'd have to figure out is, do I want the... I'll have to have a really good assistant moderator if anybody out there is looking, to either run the tapes, but then the tapes still have to come back when we combine them or close up the machines and bring them over, not seal them, but bring them over. And we run the tapes when we get them all together in one place and then we do our tallies and the write ins. Write ins would be for both places. They would have to be brought together and then tallied up because if you have a lot of write ins from both places and you have to make sure that they total up together, not separately.

Selectman Morin the said so I just I guess I got to understand this again that I understand staying eight o'clock makes for a very long night for everybody. But where we're having two polling places. Can your assistant moderator run the script there instead of loading up all these machines and transporting to where you are going so some of this work gets done over there? I mean, you do absentees. You can start doing those early correct at the two polling places. So, so it is going to say some time. We don't have to at eight o'clock or seven o'clock, whatever we do. Stop load everything into a truck and drive it over to wherever you decide is the main polling place. The Moderator replied well, if they're running the tapes, then they have to secure the tapes and bring them over to me. Selectman Morin said that I understand. The Moderator continued saying the machines still have to be secured, sealed because we have these state seals that go on all the machine bags and the machines, and those have to be then brought back to the Clerk because they're put in the vault. So they still have to be brought back to either Town Hall or the central polling place where the Clerk can have everything. Selectman Morin replied, and I understand that, but the way I understood the seven o'clock is you're going to have to transport everything over to a main polling place. But if they can do

it at their own place and then just drive it over at nine o'clock once they're done...The Moderator replied yeah, we could do it. That's what I mean. We could do it. Yeah, we could do it that way. I mean, it's up to you or the Town how they want to do this. It's just it just seemed to be more efficient and helped us get the results out quicker. Now that we have two places and we've got to combine stuff, it's just going to take time. Not a lot of time, but it's going to take time. And I thought that with the not a lot of people showing up, you know, between seven and eight, you know, whether it really makes a difference. But again, we can always extend if there are people waiting. I always send one of you out into the parking lot to see if there are any cars pulling in looking that are going to want to vote and we hold everything until they do that. That's but. And then you may have been there when we're in the middle of counting everything and one or two people come in. Can I still vote? It's very, very disconcerting. Selectman Morin then said but if we have two polling places isn't going to be easier to count votes because each place has less people. So you're not getting that huge number in one spot. You're going to have two separate groups doing this. And then then once their vote counted at each place, then you just meet and combine the numbers. The Moderator then said actually, I think it's easier counting them all at once. But from my perspective, doing a tally is a lot easier if they're all together.

Selectman Gagnon then said and last question, I guess, from my fellow selectmen, if I understand this correctly, he's asking to put this on the warrant. And so he's asking the voters for the question. So in my mind, I see almost two votes for us. One, do we want to push this language forward to the warrant and in a second vote, do we support it or not? I may be apt to push this forward to the to the voters and ask what the Town wants to do. But I may say on the warrant that I don't support it. That's how I see this may be playing out for myself. Selectman Morin was recognized and said and I see both of your points because you're saying the same thing he's saying and where we've got the two differences. But either way, the townspeople are going to make that decision. I see both of you. You know what I'm saying, but it will be off of us. We let the townspeople. How long you want to vote? Selectman Gagnon replied Yeah. Selectman Roy then said I mean, I see that point about letting them decide. You know, I just, yeah, I certainly couldn't recommend it. The Moderator then said but it's up to the Board. If they don't like this, then they don't have to put it on. I'm just making it as a recommendation from me.

Selectman Gagnon then said so does it sound like we have a consensus to push it forward to the warrant and then take a second vote to see if we support it or not underneath the warrant article? Is that how this Works? The Town Administrator replied well, I think if you push it forward to the warrant, you have supported it for the warrant. I don't think you can put something forward...Selectman Roy said but what he's talking about is when we do the recommend or not recommend. It could be a different vote than pushing it to the warrant. The Town Administrator replied and if you vote no or you don't support it, if it's one to three, for example, it doesn't go to the warrant. This isn't a petitioned article a petition article...Selectman Roy interjected saying no, no, I understand that. But what we're saying is kind of as a general perception that the voters should have as much say in how they're governed as possible, right? And so so I as Selectman Gagnon said I might be able to support pushing the warrant article to look to the warrant, but then not recommending it. The Town Administrator replied I have to check with the Attorney because I'm not comfortable because I think if it's negative, if it's a one to three. In other words, you're pushing it forward to the warrant, but then at the bottom, you're recommending it or not recommending it. if you're not recommending it as if that ends up being the vote. Then it wouldn't go to the warrant.

Selectmen Morin said but we do that anyway with other ones. Selectman Roy agreed saying right. Selectman Morin said we do that with other warrant articles. The Town Administrator said yes Petition ones. Selectman Roy replied, No, no. I saw an article where it's where the majority of the Board has not recommended. It got on the warrant somehow. Selectman Morin said we had that issue last year because there was the vote after because it was recommended here and then it changed. Yeah, so that's it.

The Town Administrator asked you sure wasn't a petitioned article. Selectman Roy replied No, no, it was the Alvrine renovation. Selectman Morin agreed saying Right, right. It was the school, the school stuff. The Town Administrator replied those aren't your warrant articles. That's not your warrant. Selectman Roy said but the rules would still be the same, right? The Town Administrator replied I'll double check with the Attorney, but I'm concerned that you're when you're voting and if you were voting on this....Selectman Roy replied Yeah, that's fine. That's fine. Selectman Gagnon said we'll, take it up later. To which Selectman Roy replied Yeah. The Moderator said not a rush on that, either. The Town Administrator said we'll just have to ask the Attorney If you don't recommend something moving it forward, then does it go on the warrant? Selectman Morin then said Yeah But if we get if we get a vote tonight, three in favor, one against, it's still recommended. We just had one selectman who, that's what she's trying to say. Selectman Roy replied Right. Right. And then but again, it's a separate it's a separate vote when we go to the recommend and not recommend. Right? The Town Administrator said that's my question. I'm not sure it does. This is your warrant. In other you put the warrant on so if you don't recommend something, it doesn't go to the warrant. Petitions....Selectman Morin said I understand, we'll get the answer. Selectman Roy laughed and said we'll get the answer. That's fine. That's fine. The Town Administrator replied I'm just saying, I don't think it's that clear cut. The Town Administrator said we'll get the right answer for the next meeting. It's not going anywhere.

G. Voting Locations Discussion

The Moderator started off saying I put this on last minute because I realized I'm not going to be here next in two weeks when your next meeting is, I've got to be out of town. So for family issues. What we've done, we had a committee of about 10 of our workers looking at locations for the second voting place. And the initial we went, we looked at all the possible places we could either rent or schools, what their parking was, what the size of their gym or function hall was. We looked at all the function halls or and access, and we included the VFW on Melendy. the VFW out, I don't know, Backus Road, the White Birch as a possibility, and all of those really don't lend themselves or they're too close together now that we know where the districts are. It's a little bit different in terms of because they both may be in one district, but we didn't find anything in the south end of town that was suitable. Even St. Kathryn's is not. PMA. Their parking is like spread all the way around their buildings in different locations, and it would be very difficult to have people come into their new gym. Parking would be an issue there. So we thought we looked at all of that as a group, and the group felt that Alvrine cafeteria was ideal because of the parking. Because of where it is, it's on one level. And now remember, now we're cutting our voters in half. Just about in half. And the districts don't have to be evenly divided, but it would make it easier for the workers to be evenly divided right in to an easy way. An easy way out. It's all at one level. There's plenty of space for half of the voters as the workers and the layout. We met yesterday at five 30 as a walk through for that one. That's why I wanted to get that done. Set up a meeting with the School Board chair and the Superintendent, and then present something to you in your next meeting because it's your decision for where these are.

The Moderator went on to say the initial look by the committee was that saying that Alvrine and Memorial would be the best bet, the best parking, the best access and the size? I was a little more reluctant in terms of using the Community Center, our Community Center has done well with elections, even when we've had busy ones. If we're cutting that in half, I think the Community Center would work well as one of the polling places. And it's also a place where if we run into problems in counting and stuff like that, like we have in the past, we're not holding up school staff from cleaning up and doing all of that stuff. If we were if we use both schools. now, I do think in the four year cycle and I'll be sending you a list, I have the Hudson Cycles all played out. It's a four year cycle in 2024 we would not want to use Community Center. We would have to then move that one to Memorial and also Alvrine because of the access, parking and turn around. We had a little over 15,000 registered voters vote in the November election, if we had that, that number of 15,666, we would have had a 93% turnout. And that's probably more accurate because there were like 4,500 people dropped off the list because they haven't voted since I think the Supervisor said 2016. So those numbers came

off, they were probably gone even then. And so we would have had a real nice turnout. But I think the community center 15,000 turnout, even with seven and eight or eight and eight or close to seven and eight would be still tough at the Community Center. So for every fourth year, you could move and you can decide those things election to election, it's not locked in and they have to be in these locations. That's something that's on your warrant when you set it up, you don't want to move them around too much because it gets people confused. So what I'm thinking that we'll probably end up recommending is formerly would be the Community Center and Alvrine High School. Community Center would be for the South District. And then Alvrine would be for the North District.

Selectman Roy said, so I think I've expressed this before. I'm concerned that there's that that second voting area isn't actually in the south end of town, right, where most of those south end of town voters are. I guess one of my questions to be what is the issue with St. Kathryn's? The Moderator replied access. The road combination that comes in there for all that, all those the three roads that come together, plus the access and also to get into the building. There's a long corridor to get into the open area, which means you, you have lines that are going to be fairly long. Selectman Roy then asked so what are the locations did you look at in the south? In the south part of Town? The Moderator replied that one and PMA were the only two in the south part of Town that that...well, no, even the VFW and Bacchus Road is on the north side of Central St. Selectman Roy asked there's nothing in the industrial park that we could say rent for a day. The Moderator replied well, I did not look at the industrial buildings because you never know if they have... Teledyne would be ideal, but and they have signs up and there hardly any cars in there. So I don't know what they're using it for, but let's say we made arrangements to use that. And then the next year it sold and we're out.

Selectman Roy replied, I'm just concerned. To me, I believe the spirit was to divide the Town so that people in the south and can vote in the south end and people in the north end of Town can vote in the North End, right and make it more convenient for voters. But it doesn't appear that we're really getting that done. The Moderator replied we tried. I mean, we really did look to see there's really not much in the south end of town in terms of rental space or I mean, you got the industrial parks, but we have any empty buildings that the Town can guarantee that we can have that rental space. That's kind of tough. Selectman Morin then said the only problem with the industrial park parking would be an issue. Tryign to think they used to have Suburbanite's Hall down there, which at the time would have been perfect. But again, even their parking would have been an issue. The Moderator added I had looked originally last time at the hockey rink. We could rent that. Although they don't like that one in March, March is not a good time because they have that thing rented out like all the time, but again they don't have the kind of parking that we would need at that area.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said thank you, sir. To Selectman Roy's point, you know, I live in the south end of Town and I think I wouldn't be too worried, you know, if it's at the Community Center. Side note, I tend to like both schools instead. But I think the pure fact that we've cut the voting amount in half location that in itself is going to ease access in my mind, less traffic, less parking, less people. I think that's to me the distinguishing factor that, you know, pushes people away not to vote, potentially not the two mile difference. But I guess that's my perspective. And then to that, I actually would lean more towards Alvrine and Memorial. The Moderator added Memorial is in the south district. It's on Central Street. Selectman Gagnon went on to say and I just going back to what I said earlier I would I would like to see it at both schools. So it doesn't change, you know, so like you were saying for both state, federal and local, we could essentially keep both those locations and not change. And I'd like to if we're going to make changes, make changes once, keep them as solid as possible, kind of where I fall in that.

The Moderator then said what I'll do is I'll put together the stuff that we've looked at, all the plans, we have all the plans for the schools and stuff. And I will Superintendent is aware that we're looking at the possibility of one or two schools as well. And it's really this Board's decision as to where our locations are and you determine that. And then now you have the job of notifying every single voter by voter, not by, not by households. So if you have three voters in the house, you've got to send those three things each voter gets a letter or a notification of their voting place. Plus, I would plan to

do a lot of publicity HGTV. Probably we would need to put up some street, those signs that we use for voting ahead of time as saying, remember to look for where you vote because they'll be people that won't. The Administrator is looking into whether we use a card with a map on it, a little map on it, you know, get those cards from tire companies and all that. Now, would people be more willing to throw that out or would they be more willing to look at something in an envelope saying town of Hudson? That would be something that that has to be done, and the law requires that you notify every voter as to what district they're in.

Selectman Gagnon asked the Moderator have you have you budgeted for that, sir? That's pretty expensive. The Moderator replied that's your budget. Selectman Gagnon then asked has that been included in our budget to anticipate that expense? The Moderator replied no. Because that last March when we were it was being voted on. It was there was unknown at that point what we would. We knew what we'd have to do. The Town Administrator added and we're in a default budget. The Moderator replied, wouldn't happen unless it was a separate warrant article. So we got to look at that in terms of where the money is.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said you said there'd be longer lines at St. Kathryn's. The Moderator replied well, they have a narrow hallway. Selectman Morin replied right. But wouldn't it be better for the people, because we've seen people have to stand out in the rain and the snow, where they just come in the door and they're right at this. At least we can get everybody in a building, right? You know what I mean?

Selectman Roy added right and if I remember there's a way to loop around right? You don't have to go in and out the same door. The Moderator added the parking isn't terrible, but we'd have to look at. I didn't go in that one, except I a long time ago. I did when I was looking at this as to where we could have a location and the old St. Kathryn's where Wal-Mart is now. That was an ideal situation because they had plenty of parking and they had that the building was right there with easy access. That's when the Town Council was in. That's where they had one of the district's voting. We had we have six districts Marilyn? The Chairman replied I don't remember the number, but I remember we had more than more than what we needed, really. The Moderator added yeah, we had what we had three of them voting in one place and three of them voting in another place. So we still only had two voting places. But we could, you know, you could reexamine that. I mean, that's certainly not. Selectman Gagnon said sorry, madam chair. Just to put it out there, this is forgive me. St. Kathryn's is the church on Dracut Road, I believe. The Moderator replied yes, that's correct. Do you find that there may be any turnoff to people who may not be religious to enter a church for voting? The Moderator replied well, they're not entering the church. It's the hall. They have a church hall. It's not the church itself. Merrimack uses a church, actually. They say there, they take the pews out or something, and they use one. They use one of their Baptist churches or one of the churches as one of their voting places. And they said they have no problem. But it's a separate hall. It's a function hall is basically what it is. Selectman Gagnon replied Thank you for that clarification.

Chairman McGrath the said okay so we need to make a decision. Or? The Moderator said I'll send you the recommendations. And then if the Board wants to do a little bit more searching, you're not going to be notifying people anyway. One of the things that's also has to be done that I've talked to the Administrator about is now that we've decided the districts, that information has to be entered into Election Net. And I think it needs to be done individually, somebody said. I think the Clerk said, I think the state doesn't do that. They require us to do that. So we are going to have to have somebody enter in. Whether you're in a district, which district you're in, in election net for 15,666 people. Now probably wouldn't take that long, but Steve mentioned possibly getting an intern that would be given temporary access, remembering now you're accessing the state database. We could probably find someone or even the person that helped us do the absentees for the November election. We hired, who had been a clerk, assistant clerk and was doing that, so that all has to be done as well. So that's going to be require some work to do. But we can do that now that you've set the districts. Getting the

information out to people you don't want to do it too early because we can do a lot of publicity up front. You're going to get a card, you're going, you know, and saying, this is where if you live here. One nice thing about Central Street is that there are no streets that cross with the same name. So you don't have to say, you know, one through one through 12 is in the south and then 13 through 20 is in the north. J Street ends, it becomes Fulton Street, and so all the streets will be easy. Whoever does this, and it could be a group. The Supervisors could also be asked to participate, although it's a heavy load of work. All you'd have to do is look at the map and you know what district they're in based on their address. So and I'm not sure how that works. I've never been in the database. I don't have access to it. So it's a little different. The Clerk, the Clerk and her people and his people really can't do that during business hours. It isn't going to work because it's lengthy and takes a lot of time.

The Moderator then said I will recommend to you what we've come up with and what we thought was appropriate. And then you can go from there if you want to look at anything further, actually, if you want to, we could do if we can ask for a walkthrough at St. Kathryn's. I didn't do that with this group because I was looking at their layout. I have a map of it to their layout and stuff, and I said, you know, this will be a little bit hard to manage internally. And I'm not sure how the police would feel about the access because you've got Lowell Road, River Road, Dracut Road all coming together, and it's just a little bit up Dracut Road where you have to go into the church. Selectman Morin said yeah, but if you put a police officer there for detail, it'll take care of it. The Moderator said it'd be rough, but I think we could do it. The Police Chief loved Memorial and Alvrine. Selectman Roy said I'm sure. The Moderator then said he thought that was great. Opposite sides of town. It'd be nice if we could divide down the middle and do it that way. But he said having them far apart would be a lot easier to handle traffic wise.

That's what I would like to see a recommendation for St. Kathryn's before we make a decision, because if you're having done a walk through yet. So I'd rather I'd like to see that before we make a decision. Chairman McGrath asked is there a second to that second that? Selectman Roy replied I'll second that. The Moderator said I'll try to do that and set up something and let the Board know so you can take a look. The Chairman said so I don't think we need to vote on that consensus? The Board was in consensus.

H. IT Director Interview Committee

The Town Administrator was recognized and said so as everybody aware we've contracted with Municipal Resources Inc. to conduct a search for IT Director. They're doing the resume review this week. But basically what they do is they look at the qualifications, they do a quick phone interview with candidates and they'll provide lists to us of who they think are viable candidates. You can also see the candidates that they don't think are viable and has been the practice in the past, and we have this level position. Typically, we have an interview committee that works and interviews the candidates prior to I think the top three typically coming to the Board of Selectmen. So I'm just trying to follow the past practice of having two selectmen. I listed myself and the IT Director that's currently there to be the first interview committee to vet the candidates to bring forward to the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said as is the IT liaison, I just like to throw my hat in the ring for that. The Chairman responded saying I was throwing it in anyway. Anyone else like to? Mr. Guessferd isn't here so. The Town Administrator jokingly said that's always a good reason to nominate somebody. The group laughed. Chairman McGrath replied we can nominate him and then if he can't participate, then we'll go to Plan B. Unless the Board just wants one selectman and wrap it. It's not imperative that you have two. We can do whatever the Board wants, whatever is, you know, again, this is really the first pass. The top candidates will come to the full board. We're just trying to we're just trying to get a sense of who we think would be the appropriate candidates for the Board to interview. Typically, we've used two selectmen. We don't have to.

Selectman Gagnon replied, I'm OK with one madam chair. That's fine with me. Chairman McGrath replied Ok, I'm good with that, too. So, Selectman Roy, you're it. Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to appoint Selectman Roy to the IT Director interview committee along with the Town Administrator and current IT Director. Carried 4-0.

I. Sustainability Committee Agreement Review

The Town Administrator explained I believe at the last regular Board of Selectmen meeting, you had a presentation from Mr. Putnam and Mrs. Putnam. No it wasn't. It was Ms. Messner Regarding the community power aggregation. At that presentation, they gave you a community power, I think, agreement as along with two different MOU's. And the directive to me was to give it to the Attorney to review. The Attorney reviewed it and also contacted Mr. Putnam. At this point, the Attorney recommends that if you're going to sign anything, sign the is it called here, the Joint Power Agreement Coalition. The two MOUs are basically you're not there yet. You really shouldn't be signing those because you're basically, one of them you're almost signing up like, you're going to be it. And that's it. He recommends based on what you're doing, what you're trying to do is to join the Community Power Coalition because it's more well-rounded. It's a group of towns and cities in the state that are working together to try to figure out all the issues. And his recommendation would be if you're going to sign anything sign that. he is conferred with, I believe the Putnam's. And from what I understand, they were OK with that. He does not recommend signing all three things. It's just you're going in three different directions at that point. Selectman Gagnon said I'm OK with that.

Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to approve the Joint Powers Agreement of Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the agreement on behalf of the Town. Carried 4-0.

J. Revenues & Expenditures

The Town Administrator explained revenues and expenditure here one third of the way through the year, which is 33%. So basically looking at the revenues and expenditures, I'm looking at the legal. As the Board is aware, we have several lawsuits that are ongoing that we're engaged in. And legal, again, I'm keeping an eye on that because the lawsuits and legal costs add up. We're not there yet, but that's just an area I'm keeping an eye on. Everything else seems to be reasonable at this point in time. We still have the winter ahead of us. We never know what's going to happen with the winter, but everything else looks reasonable. I got to tell you automobiles still doing pretty good at 34.6%, compared to 33% through the year and year over year. We're within about 30k of where we were last year at the same time. So strong revenues. Interest is pretty anemic still. But that's really not a big driver. We lowered that budget there. So from a revenue perspective, we look decent. From an expense perspective, we're OK. Again, I'm keeping an eye on legal. And the reason I say that is because if we start to get into the area where I need to transfer money, probably going to be looking at contingency to do that. Just luck would have a contingency account. We have not tapped it, but that's where I would probably look at. But don't forget, we also would use contingency for winter maintenance if we needed it. But just we'll do the best he can with the salt budget he has this year. But we have a heavy winter. He's got to do something because we all know that prices of salt went up. You put money in the budget next year for that. So just a quick heads up on that. Again, we encumber things. So sometimes when you look at things, you'll see the trash contract encumbered, it just skews the number. But that's because we committed to that PO for the year. Chairman McGrath asked anybody have any questions, comments, motions? Seeing none she moved on.

K. MRI Manpower Study

Selectman Roy was recognized and said Yeah so on the November 9, 2020 meeting (this was said in error. Selectman Roy was referring to the 11/9/2021 meeting), we had a discussion about having a manpower study done of the Town Hall. I guess we never kind of close the loop on it, so I just wanted to do that. And I guess make a motion to contract with MRI to do a manpower study of the Town Hall employees. That makes sense. So Town Hall departments. This was seconded by Selectman Morin. The Town Administrator then said so I reached out to MRI just to get an idea. And as I thought, this study would be somewhere around \$15,000 approximately based on what the parameters were that I understood. And it'd probably take approximately two months to complete such a study. There's probably going to be pretty broad. There's going to be a lot of interview. There is no budget for that. So frankly, it will probably come out of contingency, which is, you know, that's \$75,000 and we haven't spent anything. So if you want to do it, it would come out of contingency account. 5940-298. it's going to be approximately \$15,000 could be slightly more, could be slightly than less, and it'll take at least two months based on what I received from information.

The Chairman then said so just to clarify, the study would involve looking at the departments and whether or not they have adequate manpower. Selectman Roy replied yes, in Town Hall. The Town Administrator added, I qualified that this is not looking at Police, Fire, DPW. It is basically that's just a function of...Chairman McGrath said just in this building. The Town Administrator continued saying, I articulated the departments, so they're aware somewhat of what they'd be looking at when they got the rough order of magnitude from them.

The Chairman then said I think that I think we should do that because it's clear to me that there are some departments that need additional help. And...Selectman Roy added but I'd like to see that quantified, right? The Chairman replied absolutely. But I mean, I'm just saying some departments may need more than one. Others might not need any additional help. But I think I think it's a good idea to get that information. Selectman Roy the said so can I just amend the motion a little bit so that maybe we do a not to exceed \$18,000. So if it goes over a little bit, then? The Town Administrator replied I would actually sell you to not exceed \$20,000 because he thought that was the upper end. Selectman Roy then said then that's how I would amend my motion. Selectman Roy made a motion to contract with MRI to do a manpower study of Town Hall employees, not to exceed \$20,000. This was seconded by Selectman Morin. Carried 4-0.

L. FY23 Deliberative Schedule Voting

The Town Administrator explained you received correspondence from the Chairman of the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee took, I believe, a vote last week, last Wednesday at the Budget Committee meeting, basically asking that the Board direct or ask their selectmen representative to the Budget Committee to abstain from voting during the fiscal twenty three budget discussions. I believe the same request was made to the School. If I understand correctly, school took no action, didn't vote one way or the other. I didn't know that when I wrote the memo. So basically my recommendation is, well, deny the request, but you can certainly do nothing.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said I think there was I think Attorney Lefevre gave us an opinion about that, that we actually don't have the power to do that. The Town Administrator agreed saying you don't. Selectman Roy went on to say so, you know, I would support that motion to deny the request. I mean, because it would kind of be meaningless. Chairman McGrath asked so are you making that a motion?

Selectman Morin said I just would like to hear from the School Board because I know they discussed it. School Board Representative Diana LaMothe replied saying yes. The School Board did not make a

motion to request that the liaison, which is myself, would refrain from voting on fiscal year twenty three budget decisions, and we referred to the same RSA 32:15 appointed members have the same voting rights. The Board, cannot prevent the voting rights. We did bring up a discussion, though, that you know, the appointed members serve a term of one year, so perhaps we could bring up the discussion after deliberative session is over after the deliberative schedule is completed to see if that's something we would want to consider for the next liaison, which would begin, you know, in March of next year. So it's something we would consider discussing further. But at this point in time, it did not make sense to make any changes, especially with the budget starting tomorrow. Their review starts tomorrow.

Chairman McGrath asked Selectman Roy do you have anything? Selectman Roy replied no, I have nothing. Chairman McGrath then asked anybody else? Seeing no further questions Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to deny the request from the Budget Committee to direct the selectmen, ex-officio member of the Budget Committee, to abstain from voting during FY 23 Budget Committee deliberations. Carried 4-0.

9. Remarks by the Town Administrator

The Town Administrator said I'll be brief. The Town Offices are closed on Thursday in honor of Veterans Day. Thank you to all the veterans out there, but Town Offices will be closed. Obviously, the police, fire and I believe hired DPW department will still be working. Also, the Town budget books will be delivered to the Budget Committee tomorrow evening. As you recall, you made some changes. They've been put through the books, so the books will be delivered tomorrow at the Budget Committee meeting, and I believe we start December 1st. So that's just a highlight. I think that's all I have.

10. Remarks by the School Board

Ms. Lamothe was recognized and said as I believe you've heard, we are beginning a search for a new superintendent who will begin July 1st. Last evening, we selected a professional search organization to help us with that search. We also need to form a search committee as soon as possible, and we will be seeking input from the community. It is one of the pillars of our strategic plan is strong connections with community, so I want to take the opportunity to share in this meeting. We will be using a search committee interest form. It is in process. We'd like to identify those who would be interested in serving on the search committee and then for those who may not have time to serve on the committee. There will be other opportunities for stakeholders to provide. Input is an important decision and again, we value community connection. Once we have more details about the process and the timeline, that information will be shared on our website and Facebook pages.

11. Other Business/Comments by the Selectmen

Selectman Gagnon: Thank you, Madam Chair. So a couple of things tonight simply, I want to remind people it is hunting season. I saw people posting online about concerns about hunting, which always come up this time of year. I actually had a brief conversation with Laurie Weissgarber, our executive

secretary, and she was kind enough to actually put some information linked to state rules and regulations around hunting on the Town's website for residents to further look into. So I thought that was very helpful. I thank her for that effort.

I also spent some time with Captain Bianchi last week. I was very thankful for him to provide some time. He sat down with me and we actually reviewed when we talked about the budget last time electric vehicles I provided him with, with two muscle cars to look at, as well as an electric vehicle. I did some research for him about police organizations around the country showing him quotes financials. He had actually some really good questions about will electric vehicles interest or interfere with their radios. I contacted the director of a testing house. I reached out to Tesla themselves and reached out to Motorola and again put together a lot of this information for him to kind of digest. We had we had a great time. It was a beautiful day. He took a ride. He took a drive, an electric car. He walked away with a pretty big smile. At least he had fun. And I think he appreciated and enjoyed his time, and I want to thank him for taking that time to speak with me realistically about that opportunity.

And finally, I'd like to provide you guys forgive me here. I know we don't always see eye to eye, and sometimes you guys can be a pain, you know, to work with, but I appreciate it. And so with that, I got you a little something. I figured we signed so many documents that it'd be nice to actually have something to sign them with. And this includes you, Mr. Malizia. Just a little token of my appreciation. I'm certainly learning a lot from you guys. This is an interesting experience. I'm sure it's going to be interesting for the next three years. I look forward to really making a team effort out of all of this. Chairman McGrath replied, you mean guys and gals, guys and gals? Yes, Madam Chair, thank you. So thank you. That's all I had tonight.

Selectman Roy: So today it was brought to my attention that there's an issue with potholes in front of the driveway coming out of Wal-Mart. So I reached out to the DPW Director and to our State Reps and State Senator. I heard back from obviously our DPW Director and one state rep. Representative Rice and Senator Carson. There seems to be some question about who is responsible for that, whether it's the state, because the state owns that road or Wal-Mart. Both Senator Carson and Representative Rice indicated they will try to follow up with the DOT about how to get that resolved. What I am going to suggest is that at our next regularly scheduled meeting, we put that on the agenda. And then if we have to follow up with them via a formal lever to the dot or whatever to try to get that resolved because from the pictures I saw, it could be a very, pretty serious issue. So I don't know if we need a consensus to do that or?

Selectman Morin asked Selectman Roy did you get an updated email that the state says it's on Wal-Mart's property and not theirs. Selectman Roy replied I did not get that email. Selectman Morin then said yeah, there was one this afternoon. I don't know what time I got it. Selectman Roy then asked so then who? Who, who forces Wal-Mart to act I guess becomes the question. Selectman Morin said that would be us. It's our Town. That's the thing it's not a state road. It's on their property. That's what the e-mail said.

Selectman Roy then said so the pictures I saw....Selectman Morin interjected saying I took I took a right to look at it. And it's, you know, you can go either way where it is. Selectman Roy then said but then who enforces that because somebody's got to fix it? Selectman Morin said it's got to be this deep. The Town Administrator said so I'm not sure what enforcement mechanism we have to force somebody on private property to fix something. Selectman Roy replied well, it's a public safety issue. The Town Administrator replied it's still private property. That's the concern. I mean, I'm trying to pass the buck. It's like, I'm not sure we can...Selectman Roy replied I know but maybe we could do some research about how we can enforce that because again, it's a public safety issue, then I think we have some obligation to try to address it.

Selectman Gagnon said OSHA? And Chairman McGrath then said it might. Well, it might be a matter of putting a blockade over the across their driveway. The Town Administrator said oh,

blockade across their driveway. There been a blockade on the pothole, which people run over and drag it out into the road. Chairman McGrath replied No, but I'm talking about the entrance. The Town Administrator replied I can only imagine the lawsuit that's going to come from that. Chairman McGrath replied yeah, I mean, that would make them sit up and take notice and maybe make some changes. Selectman Roy replied so maybe we can look into alternatives into forcing them to go.

Selectman Morin the said If you mind, I'll read the email. This is from Jess. I have talked with the State District 5 on West Road a number of times, and their response is that it is Wal-Mart's problem. State Department District 5 on West Road told him told Jess that he tried talking with the store manager, but he or she is always in a meeting. Selectman Roy replied oh I did see that. But then there were there were two other emails, one from Representative Rice and one from Senator Carson who's gonna try to follow up the DOT. So I think maybe our first step is we give them the opportunity to do that. And then if we can't get anywhere, we again we research what our options are to force Wal-Mart to fix that. You know, I don't I don't think we need any help causing accidents in Town. Selectman Morin then said it is bad. Absolutely.

Selectman Morin: The only thing I have is Conservation Committee took a walk in the Musquash property and somebody actually cut the lock on the gate at the power lines, drove down there with a truck and dumped a whole lot of trash and all kinds of stuff down there. Actually cut, cut the gate and then they went out further in the trails and they found a stolen ATV. So Jess has replaced the lock, and he's going to put boulders across that so people can't get in there. That's the only. Again, just want to bring it to the Board's attention in case you get a call that we can't get in there. That's why they did it. Selectman Roy asked does that restrict access to any of the utilities or anything? Or are they? Is that part of it? And are they aware that he's blocking it off? Selectman Morin replied yeah, he'll make the contacts.

Chairman McGrath: And I'm the last one, and I really don't have any comments. However, the two gentlemen that are sitting up in the back of the room that I can never remember their names, they had some points that they made tonight about development within Town and to try and get that so that it's all done at the same time that you're and I'm paraphrasing what you said, but I don't know that we can do that, but we can certainly have a discussion with our Town Attorney and with the land use Town Engineer, Town Planner. But I don't think that that's something that we can accomplish. Because people choose to develop their property and then they choose it on their timeline, their own timeline. And you can't you can't force that. I don't think. Anyway, we'll take that up and try and get an answer for you may not be a satisfactory answer, but an answer nonetheless. Ok. That's the end of the public session.

12. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Gagnon at 8:48 p.m., seconded by Chairman Morin 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. Carried 4-0.

Chairman McGrath entered Nonpublic Session at 8:48p.m. thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public is asked to leave the room.

Chairman McGrath entered open session at 8:50 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session

1) Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve Chief Buxton's request to buyback 400 hours of vacation time. Carried 4-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. by Selectman Morin seconded by Selectman Gagnon. Carried 4-0.

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

Marilyn E. McGrath, Chairman

Excused Absence
Bob Guessferd, Vice Chairman

David Morin, Selectman

Kara Roy, Selectman

Brett Gagnon, Selectmen