

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the July 12, 2022 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairperson Roy the meeting of July 12, 2022 at 7:12 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Deputy Tice
3. ATTENDANCE

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

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Rob Buxton, Fire Chief; Gary Gasdia School Board Representative; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT - there was none
5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

A. Recognitions

Chairperson Roy said, as we move onto Recognitions, Nominations and Appointments we have three members of the Hudson Fire Department being recognized for 20 years of service to the Town of Hudson. Lt. Todd Berube, Lt. Martin Conlon and Lt. Mike Mallen.

Lt. Berube is not here tonight so we'll move on to Lt. Martin Conlon.

Chairperson Roy asked Lt. Conlon to come forward and said, Lieutenant Marty Conlon began his career as a Firefighter with the Hudson Fire Department on July 1, 2002. He was promoted to Lieutenant on July 1, 2016. He plays an essential part in the department's protective clothing program and is responsible to oversee that each member has the proper equipment needed to safely and effectively perform their firefighting duties. As Lieutenant, he mentors the junior firefighters he serves with to help them learn and grow in the profession. He also serves as a Director for the Hudson Firefighters Relief Association. We appreciate his contributions, dedication and service to the department and the community over the past 20 years. Congratulations!

Chairperson Roy the asked Lt. Mallen to come forward and said Lieutenant Mike Mallen began his career as a Firefighter with the Hudson Fire Department on July 1, 2002. He was promoted to Lieutenant on November 3, 2019. Throughout his career, Mike has been a mentor to those who have worked alongside him. A man of many talents, his background in IT has been an asset to the Fire department. Most recently, he has been an integral part in bringing their teleconferencing project to fruition, allowing the department to provide interactive training to their members virtually. Additionally, his assistance with the departments SharePoint page has been instrumental. We thank you for your service, dedication and contributions over the past 20 years to the department and the community. Congratulations!

Chairperson Roy then said and I have I have one more. Although he's not here. We got an email today that told us that Attorney Joe Tessier, by a vote of 5-0 of the Executive Council, is now Judge Joseph Tessier. So he will be leaving our service, and I'm sure he will he will do the State of New Hampshire's justice system well. Congratulations to Judge Tessier.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

The Chairperson asked, does anyone have anything they'd like removed for separate consideration? The Town Administrator asked that items D1 and D2 be removed. Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve consent items A, B, C, D3 and E. Carried 5-0.

The Town Administrator was then recognized and he explained, when I was reviewing the agenda today, I looked very closely at the checks, they're actually made out to the Friends of Benson Park. We are not the Friends of Benson Park, so the checks have been sent over to them. They need to be removed. No action needs to be taken. So it's been corrected. It just got on the agenda, but the checks got mailed to them. It's their money. So thank you. Chairperson Roy said so we don't need to do anything. To which the Town Administrator replied, we don't need to do anything. Just removed it and that was it.

- A. Assessing Items - none
- B. Water/Sewer Items - none
- C. Licenses & Permits & Policies
 - 1) Hawker Peddler License - NH Food Bank Food Truck
- D. Donations
 - 1) Friends of Benson Park \$100 from Roger Dionne
 - 2) Friends of Benson Park \$100 from Kathleen Ogden
 - 3) Recreation Dept. Summer Program \$3,100 from the HPEA
(Hudson Police Employee Association)
- E. Acceptance of Minutes
 - 1) Minutes of June 14, 2022
 - 2) Minutes of June 28, 2022
- F. Calendar

7/13	7:00	Planning Board - Buxton Meeting Room
7/19	7:00	Municipal Utility Committee - BOS Meeting Room
7/20	6:00	Library Trustees - Hills Memorial Library
7/21	7:00	Benson Park Committee - HCTV Meeting Room
7/25	7:00	Sustainability Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
7/26	7:00	Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on June 28, 2022

1.) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to hire Evelyn Hynes-Brock for the position of Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector, effective July 5, 2022, at step one (1) with a rate of \$19.03 per hour. Carried 5-0.

2.) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to adjust IT Director John Beike's salary from \$105,277 per year to \$107,910 per year, effective July 12, 2022. Carried 5-0.

3.) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to amend the motion made at the Board of Selectmen's meeting of June 14, 2022 - motion by Selectman Gagnon, seconded by Selectman McGrath, and carried 4-0 "to hire Madison Merchant for the position of Firefighter/EMT in the Fire Department at the contracted salary of \$17.18 per hour (step 1) This assignment will be a nonexempt position in accordance with the International Association of Firefighters Local #3154." Adding that, after the conditional offer was made, Ms. Merchant was unable to meet the terms of the conditional offer, therefore creating an open position." Carried 5-0.

4.) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to hire Mitchell Rufiange for the position of Firefighter/EMT in the Fire Department at the contracted salary of \$17.18 per hour (step 1). This assignment will be a nonexempt position in accordance with the International Association of Firefighters Local #3154. Carried 5-0.

5) Selectman Morin made a motion to adjourn at 9:39 pm. This was seconded by Selectman Gagnon. Carried 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Londonderry Fire Radio Request

Chairperson Roy recognized Chief Buxton who said, Good evening Chairperson Roy and members of the Board of Selectmen. We're here this evening to bring the Board a request from our Londonderry partners. As you're aware we're coming to the end of our radio upgrade and the tower installations that have been taking place and we received a request from the town of Londonderry who would like to locate one of their resources actually on the tower to improve communications along the West Road area off of 102. I have attached a draft memorandum of understanding that they would like to see us entertain. It basically provides opportunity for us to have the ability to say no if they wish to upgrade. We're going to share costing if there's maintenance that needs to be done on the system. And if they wish to expand their footprint on the tower, they would have to get permission from us. Obviously, there was also under the radio equipment, you'll see there is a opportunity in there for us to say no based on interference. So they'll engineer the frequencies to make sure that there's no interference and impact on any of the radio systems. And remember that that is not only that is a both a Fire and a Police transmission site for the Town of Hudson. It will be what is called a receive site only. So it is basically set a set of ears on the West Road corridor for Londonderry in the back side of that hill. They need, some help there. That additionally provide an increased level of safety for our employees that operate over in that area also providing mutual aid.

It basically outlines the ownership and access to the site and they would be installing one independent microwave on the location. So I certainly am open to any additional questions that may have. I can tell you when they came forward with recommendations, we basically started talking about, you know, what they needed for space, what the impact was, and was there any availability for them to potentially give us a hand hardening the site? What do I mean by hardening the site? That is basically backed up by battery power? There is no generator on that location, which I think they thought there was when we're building the location, we haven't gotten to that portion yet. So we would certainly I think it would be within our scope to basically go back them and say, hey, if you're willing to give us a hand hardening the site and split the cost for the maintenance on your portions, we may be amendable to this, but that is just my suggestion to you as a Board.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and asked doesn't the DPW also have space on those? Chief Buxton replied, so the Public Works Department has what is called a single transmission site, which is actually on Merrill Hill. The Fire and Police Departments operate a simulcasting system for public safety, which is transmitted off of three different locations. So Merrill Hill, the Police Department, Public Works Facility on West Road and one fourth location now with your upgrade, which will be

Central Fire Station. So we went to a simulcasting system for public safety. And if you remember halfway through the project, we folded Public Works into that to improve their radio communication and their transmission site will be on Merrill Hill, which is where the Police Department is solely located today. Selectman McGrath then asked, so there won't be any kind of. I know that you, the Fire Department and the Police Department were having difficulty with the transmissions at some locations. Chief Buxton replied, yeah that's one of the engineered requirements is that they would be unwilling to locate their... if their frequency interfered with any of our transmission, either transmitting or receiving, that's an automatic no to the proposal.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said and to that point, interference isn't black and white. It screws up I think it would just be noise. So is there a level of noise you're willing to accept? I'm assuming that that level of noise will decrease your overall range, but it's not going to cripple the system. So saying you give us interference while they're always going to give you interference, but how much is damaging. Chief Buxton replied, yeah, but there are there are frequency ranges that play very nicely together and at least on face value, it appears that they are far enough away from us. When they went to the split band system, so they took all the bands and they split them in half and they created, you know, say at seven that turned into 14. Right. And then they kept splitting them to create more public safety channels. It appears that they're far enough away from us there'll be no crossover, which is very important, and there can be filtration that goes on that to get it down. But the reality is that that reduces to your point range that the radio signal can travel. So we're not really I would rather not entertain that. Selectman Gagnon replied, okay, and one small one, does this add? So obviously all electronics give off some kind of radiation. This is intentional radiation. Does this add to the overall radiation of the site to any kind of dangerous level? Chief Buxton replied, so the reality is they are not transmitting from that site. They're only receiving. So they're not putting anything out. They're just taking it. Selectman Gagnon replied, got it. Alright thank you sir. That's all.

Seeing no further questions from the Board, Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to approve the proposal and sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Londonderry and the Town of Hudson, subject to review of Town Council. Carried 5-0.

B. HPNHMA 2023-2024 Legislative Policy

Chairperson Roy recognized the Town Administrator who said, so the New Hampshire Municipal Association, NHMA, basically holds a legislative policy conference every two years leading into the upcoming legislative session. We're coming off the second year. So this basically is a predecessor to NHMA developing positions on various initiatives that they want approved or that they're recommending. You can see a list. One of them that came from us originally was the reduction of the abatement interest from 6 to 4% that went through this process. So NHMA does this conference in September. Typically, I've been representing the Town, I go represent the Town, and the Town designates me to act on the Town's behalf. You've got quite a bit of documentation here. There isn't any specific policy. What they're basically doing is saying, you know, we support this or we're not in favor of that. So if you look, they have committees, they have the General Administrative and Governance, they have the Finance & Revenue and they have one more. Where those committees work to develop either policy positions or positions in nature may, based on their member communities, wants to wants to represent. So in essence, what it is, is basically a conference where we towns and cities go and express our vote or our Yes, we agree with that, No, we don't agree with that. And the Board is free to submit a floor proposal. I think they're due by August 12. So if you had something that you wanted to submit. We submitted that that abatement reduction by a floor proposal. That's open to do. And should any floor proposals come in, they'll come back to this Board and I'll get your Do you support that or do you not support that? Because, quite frankly, you never know what you're going to get. But typically, NHMA is advocating on behalf of the municipalities, they're trying to represent our interests. When I say our interest, the collective towns and cities that they that they basically lobby for, so that we are we have a voice in some of the

legislative process. They're very, as you know, active in the legislation, the legislature. And so NHMA represents or purports to represent our interests. And this is how they figure out what our interests are. So that's sort of a big picture. I think this is probably the fourth or fifth iteration of this that I've been involved in. So they've opened it up to all the member communities to cast a vote. It could be the chairperson, it could be another designee, but typically it's me because it's during the day.

Chairperson Roy asked, does it anybody have any questions? Selectman Gagnon said and just to be clear, so you'll go there and if any, whether we put something down on the floor or another town, put something on the floor...The Town Administrator said, if another town puts up on the floor, they have to do it by a date specific. It would come here, we'd get a copy of it before. So if you want to take a position, you know, we're totally against that vote no when you get there or you know, that's fine, vote yes. Selectman Gagnon replied, thank you for that. And is there any other circumstances where you would just kind of vote in your own professional opinion without our input? Or is it always going to come back to us as a circle. The Town Administrator replied, without any further input if you're basically supportive in general, I would just assert your vote that you're that you're not opposed to any of this. So for some reason, you're opposed, as a group, to something that needs to be known. Selectman Gagnon replied, got it. And so forgive me, I haven't read all the details of this, but I think I would like to, if I want to give you that feedback and something stands out and I bring it to this board saying, I don't think I like this line item, can we talk about it and then give you guidance? The Town Administrator replied, that would be the Board's opportunity to articulate a position if you had something in particular you wanted to express opposition to. Selectman Gagnon asked, and when would that be due, sir? The Town Administrator replied, so the conference is in September, so it would have to be before September. Let me just be a little bit more specific. I think there was a date that was September 23rd is the conference. So you're talking before September 23rd? Selectman Gagnon replied, okay. Thank you, sir.

The Town Administrator then said typically, again, if you look at the majority of this, it's pretty much stuff that you've either seen or they're asserting, hey, we're supporting you, getting your rooms and meals, tax revenue or supporting you getting your gas tax revenue, because sometimes there's motions that get made to do things with that. We support you getting a share of the pension they should be getting from the state. They cut that years ago. NHMA lobbied and I believe got some restoration of the state contributing to our pension costs. Those are the kinds of things that we're talking about. They don't get it to the specific law. They get into kind of the broad picture. Selectman Gagnon replied, okay. All right. Thank you. That's all I have.

Selectman McGrath then asked, didn't you say it was due by August 12th? The Town Administrator replied, the floor proposal. So if somebody wanted to submit a floor proposal, something that was very specific, like we submitted a proposal for the abatement interest reduction that came from us. That's where that that's the genesis of that. That came as a floor proposal. So any floor proposal, whether it's from us or any other member community, I think they're due by August 12th so that they can turn around and redistribute it. Because when you're getting maybe that specific, you probably want to have a position on that and maybe it's benign and maybe it's something you really don't like. Any town with H should get this, you know, you want to be careful of that. So but if that was to come to fruition, I'd bring it back clearly. Selectman McGrath then said I read this, so I have no input.

Seeing no further questions from the Board, Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to designate the Town Administrator as the Town of Hudson's voting delegate at the 2023- 2024 New Hampshire Municipal Association Legislative Policy Conference in September 23rd, 2022. Carried 5-0.

C. NHDOT 10 Year Plan

Chairperson Roy recognized Selectman Gagnon who said thank you, Madam Chair. So this is fairly generic. But this came down from National Regional Planning Association, at one of their last meetings. They talked about the New Hampshire DOT is opening applications for the ten year plan. Now it's called a ten year plan, but it gets revisited, if I'm not mistaken, every two years for either adjustment or new projects. So I guess what I'm looking to ask my fellow colleagues here is do you or the department heads you oversee, have any potential projects that are new or old or want to be dropped or changed that we should discuss here and hand over to NRPC to bring to New Hampshire DOT. So you might not have anything, any ideas tonight but keep it in mind if you do or your department heads do you know we can. The Chairperson asked, when are those due? Selectman Gagnon said thank you, sir. I knew it was yeah, it was August, I believe. Chairperson Roy said August 5th. Selectman Gagnon said I have the email here. I can double check. I lost it. But anything that comes to mind to anybody? Any plans? Projects?

Chairperson Roy said can we just revisit it maybe on the 26th, if anybody else, if anybody does have something that they want to, they want to talk about and they have an opportunity to talk to the department heads and their committees and stuff and they want to, again, bring something up. Selectman Gagnon then said, and to that end, Madam Chair, I mean, I have an idea in mind. I've passed it to Mr. Groth. Him and both Jay Minkarah from NRPC said it was a pretty decent idea. So they're trying to work on kind of putting something together that I'll be bringing in front of this Board for your collective thoughts on that. And if you are amenable to that, we can pass that along. The general theory is that was a bike path for Hudson, nothing too crazy. But again, I'll be bringing that forward officially to you guys for discussion in another meeting or two.

Selectman McGrath then said so I would suggest that I don't know who has Land Use and Engineering, but I would suggest whoever is the liaison for that department needs to talk to Mr. Dhima because he covers the traffic problems. Selectman Gagnon replied, I can make sure I forward this email to him. I believe this. Chairperson Roy said I believe he was on it, the original one, if I'm not mistaken. Selectman Gagnon added, I believe he is. But I will reach out to him to make sure he has nothing pending for this. And that's all I had. Thank you, Madam Chair.

D. Revenues & Expenditures

The Town Administrator was recognized and he said so this is the end of the year. But understand, this is preliminary and it's unaudited. So as a matter of fact, you had a manifest in here tonight that you had more expenses that'll hit this, that'll hit these books. But as of this report, we spent 97.5% of the general fund budget. So, fairly close, but that will be adjusted because again, there were more expenses. There was a final trash bill. There are other expenses that will hit. It was a tight year, but we managed to come in in a positive fashion. Some of the reason why we underspent was Rec programs. We didn't run all the full Rec summer program last year, so I think there was about \$140,000 something with the Rec money we didn't spend. We saved quite a bit on the workers comp and the property liability last year because the record for the year before we were in the depths of the pandemic, our insurance premium was pretty low because we just didn't have the same amount of claims that we typically have. So that was about another geez, I think that was pretty close to \$92K for the worker's comp for \$42K for the property liability. So you can sort of see those things were more pandemic related. The continuation of some of that pandemic. Police and Fire had vacancies which if you take it in, totals about \$100K between the two of them.

On the positive side, and that's positive the real positive is we're 110% of the motor vehicles. So we still took in \$545,000 more than we budgeted. Still was pretty strong, all things considered. And building permits were \$78K over budget. So again, another strong year. So those revenues, whilst we don't spend it, it does go into the, it goes into our fund balance potentially. So you might have some flexibility down the road to either reduce the tax rate further or do a project or whatever. So

overall looks pretty good. But again, not completely final. And even when it's final, the auditors may make a couple of adjustments to pull expenses. Like I didn't get my final legal bill yet that'll get pulled into the year. So it's always tight. But we ended in a positive note, which is what you want. So I think I think it was a... it was a tight year. Departments really tighten the belt fairly early in the year so that they made sure that they came in and we were able to absorb, it appears, the earned time without having to dip into any fund as we had requested. So at this point I don't anticipate having to dip into that, but we had that just in case. So pretty positive.

Chairperson Roy said and we typically audited in August, our audit? The Town Administrator replied, the field work will start in August. So they will be here typically the first and potentially through the second week of August. So all their books have to get closed and everything has to get buttoned down so that the auditors can come in and they'll go through a payable manifest, they go to payroll, they go through all kinds of transactions. The Chairperson asked, and we're on track to be prepared for them to come in? To which the Town Administrator replied, Lisa and her team are working very hard to do that. Yes, it's a very... it's a very stressful time of the year. I lived through that many years back and it's quite stressful. Summer is not fun when you're in the Finance Department.

Selectman Guessferd then said I have a couple of questions regarding revenues. I'm looking at the sewer fund and I'm thinking it's probably just timing, but we got the collections of 52% versus....so is there bill, is there is there the recent bills people coming in to pay or how does that work? I'm just not....The Town Administrator replied, so this money's coming from capital reserve funds. If you look if you look at probably the third line from the bottom of this from capital reserve. Selectman Guessferd said the 1334. The Town Administrator said we have not recognized any of that yet. That means, as a matter of fact, I think you just approved something coming from the capital funds at the last meeting. That's typically an entry the auditors will make. If you look further up, like we were pretty close on our consumption charges, on our base charges, but those kind of adjustments, they actually write that onto the books. For us, it's one of the adjustment entries they make. Selectman Guessferd then said it would be the same thing with like the cable? The Town Administrator replied, cable is a revolving fund. So quite frankly that's revenue in and expenses out. Like EMS is no longer part of our operating fund budget. It's totally separate by the vote of the voters.

E. Budget Committee Requests

Chairperson Roy said we sort of started this discussion, the last meeting. I'll let Selectman Morin speak to where we are with. Selectman Morin then said what's taking place. The Budget Committee's making a lot of requests for information and as we voted last, last meeting to hold off, because the employees right now are busy and the Town Administrator can speak more on hours of what it's taken to get this. I understand they need to get their information, but some of the information, I'm not sure what it relates to their Committee. So that's what we've got to figure out, because we're putting a lot of time on our employees doing this and getting all this stuff together. When I don't know to where it's going to go and how it relates. It's getting it to get to be. I mean, Lisa Labrie, the end of the year she was getting it and I know she got an email the other day again asking for it and I know she sent part of it, but she doesn't have time to get it all together. And it just it's getting to be a drag on a lot of the employees, a lot of time being put into this. And we've got another one. Mr. Cole sent me an email while I was out last week and I can't find what his email is, so I've got to get back to him and find out exactly what the request was because Mr. Malizia didn't have it either. So I may have just put it in the file, but I've got to find it. Selectman Guessferd asked, the email from from Bill? Selectman Morin replied, yeah, it was on the 27th of June. Selectman Guessferd said because I may have that.

Chairperson Roy then said I have a question. Are they asking that sort of like new things be created solely for their....for them? Selectman Morin replied, at this time it's a lot of information. It's just a lot of information. And I can't find it. So I got I got to have them resend it. Selectman Guessferd then said and there's a meeting tomorrow night, correct. To which Selectman Morin replied, no. It's cancelled this month.

Selectman Guessferd replied, alright, so we still have a little bit of time. Selectman Morin replied, and I understand they have the right to information, but we got to kind of take the load off our employees, too, because and again, Mr. Malizia can speak to that. Chairperson Roy then said right. I mean, this is particularly for the Finance folks. This is a very busy time of year. I don't know that adding to that without knowing the reasoning, you know, what are they what are they looking for the information for. You know. Selectman Guessferd said what is that going to help them do in terms of their mission. The Budget Committees analyzing of the budget. Chairperson Roy said right. Right. And I look at things like grants, which I understand the point. If we're getting a grant that that does it. It's my understanding you can probably correct me if I'm wrong, but that we still, even if we get a grant, we still need an appropriation to go. The Town Administrator replied, you gross up the budget if you get an unanticipated grant. If we know we're going to get a grant, we'll put it in the budget. But if we don't know that you gross up the budget and you expend against that that appropriation. We get single audited. We have more than I think the number is either 500,000 or 750,000. So every year our auditors come in, they specifically look at just grants. So schedules get prepared for just the grants, whether they're all fully prepared. Right this second, I can't tell you. We have all the data, we have all the information, but it may not be in the schedule. They will get it and they will. We always want to work with everybody. We want to make sure they get the information. Chairperson Roy replied, understood. The Town Administrator explained, sometime the timing is just a little difficult because it's not just sitting there. You sometimes have to put it in a format that maybe somebody else understands and it makes sense.

Selectman Morin then said and let me make it clear, the school, the school is getting the same. Mr. Gasdia added, yeah, we're getting we're getting the same type of requests. I know our Business Administrator is working like crazy to get to get the responses. And so, again, it's the timing of it. You know, it's know same thing. Our year ends June 30th. We have a new superintendent. There's a lot going on, but we're working on it.

Chairperson Roy said yeah, yeah. I think we just have to figure out what the balance is. Right? Because. Because our employees are really here to serve all as citizens, not a specific board or committee. Right? So how do we balance them being able to do that without overwhelming them and getting their job done to do that? Selectman Guessferd then said, yeah, I mean, if there's a specific purpose which they haven't really stated...Selectman Morin interjected saying, no they know the stuff that we provided was just information at this point where, where it's going to be in the final. I don't know if they're going to use it at budget time or not; that I can't answer. I'm going to assume they're going to use it at some point. Selectman Guessferd responded, well, you would think that that's where they're heading with it, right? Is their analysis of the budget, especially with grants, right? Well, you're spending all that money, could you, you know, could you take something out of the budget that you would and use it under a grant. You know that sort of thing. I think that's where they're heading with it, I'm not sure, but I think they need to state that. They need to specifically state this is what we're, where we're heading with this and we'll help them as much as we can, as much as we're able.

Selectman Morin then said basically what I'm understanding, if the Board all agrees with what Selectman Guessferd just said I send an email requesting that, exactly what they're going to need it for... Chairperson Roy said ask them for the purpose. What is the purpose of their interest? I would say. Selectman Guessferd said what is their mission. Right? Right. I would say it is a general thing. Like when you make a request, please state the purpose for the request. Instead of every time you get an email, you email them back and say, you know.

Selectman Gagnon then said and I'm listening to everything here. And, you know, it's tough because some of the residents may think the Budget Committee has a job to do. You know, they need to balance and check us and they're a separate board. So, you know, the Budget Committee may say we don't need to give you a purpose. We have a task to do. I'll give you my oath of office, I guess. But I guess I reach out to the Budget Committee and say, look, if you you know, we need mutual respect here no matter what's going on. You know, if you can let us know what you're what you're interested in, we'll do our best to try to find that for you. But if you don't trust us and you don't want to tell us your purpose and ask us blanket requests, then we're here to to question where are you

getting at? And it just keeps the maybe mistrust, maybe it's just too strong a word going. So I guess, just in all due respect, if we could just if they could give us their purpose, we will try to find them what they need.

Selectman Guessferd then said and understanding the timing and the time that our employees have to spend to put this information together, when some of the information, I think is already pretty much is kind of there. Chairperson Roy then said or available publicly. Selectman Morin said it's just public information and a lot of this stuff they can find. Selectman Guessferd said right to know. We just don't want their being busy work that takes our employees away from what they're doing with their job description and duties.

Selectman Morin said that's the only concern and that's been the problem is the time that it's been taking and again, the end of the year when we got well, we got one. And I know there's a second one that I got to find out. You know, she was very busy doing all that and hey, we're trying to find all this other stuff. Selectman Guessferd replied, right. Chairperson Roy then said and, you know, I guess, quite frankly, if the Finance Director doesn't have the time to do that, then then we need to push back a little and say, hey, you know, she she can't get it to you by this date, but maybe she can get it to you by this date because there's, you know, audits going on and end of year stuff and all of those, those things. So it's not like a no no, but it is like like we need.

Selectman Morin replied, and to your point, they're not having a meeting this month. And like I said, I just got an email where's the information. Well we're not going til August anyway, so. Chairperson Roy said don't worry about it. Selectman Guessferd said we're working on it, right. Chairperson Roy then said Yeah, yeah, yeah. You know, like I said, we just they're not there to fill the service of one board right by us or the Budget Committee of the Planning Board or any of that. Selectman Morin replied, okay, thank you. Chairperson Roy responded, you're welcome. Can you please cc me or bcc me on that email? To which Selectman Morin replied, yeah. And as soon as I figure out what that other one is, I'll let you know what it is.

Chairperson Roy asked Selectman McGrath, do you have anything? To which Selectman McGrath replied, I have nothing. I was going to make a point, but it's kind of got lost in the discussion.

9. Board Liaison Reports

Selectman Gagnon: To be honest, I don't think I have much for you tonight at all other than the NRPC ten year plan. I don't remember seeing too much action with the Chamber of Commerce other than, you know, they do have activities and events going on. Take a look at their website Sustainability Committee. I haven't joined since our last meeting, so no update for that and no other major item. So pretty light tonight.

Selectman Guessferd: A couple of things. Let's see I think first last night the Cable Committee met we hadn't met for a couple of months, as I mentioned last time. We're working on updating the bylaws and the of the committee. But the biggest thing right now and we're going to see it here soon, it may be as soon as next meeting, maybe the one after is the the Comcast contract is going to be up for renewal. It's actually past renewal. And the big the big the big two big things that are happening with that is the Comcast is going to add an HD channel for us. We're going to have to be our fourth channel. So that's the good. That's good news there as well. Should be able to enhance our programming, maybe allow for some more real time live sort of things that are going on. The other item on that that's we've we've really been talking about for a while is upping there's a 4% right now fee, that user fee that is in the contract and the maximum you can do through FCC regulation rules is five is 5%. So that funds 80% of that funds the cable, the cable stations. So that's the money that they use and the revenues that they have that enables them to essentially operate. So where

given the growth of that of that department, of that unit entity, we've were amping up the 5%. Comcast has no problem with that. And so in the end, we've negotiated that. We've had a couple of meetings with them with Comcast. And so the contract is almost ready for primetime for take out all the all the the red lines and and for final review. So we are going to see that soon. Like I said, it could be as soon as the next meeting, but that's again, that will need bit more of that money. And the other part of that is the other 20% goes into the Town General Fund. So we do get we do get some revenue from that as well. And it's only charged to Hudson resident subscribers and only the cable portion of the bill is where that is charged. So that's what's going on with the cable.

Planning Board has been reviewing some smaller projects, some things going on. We are going to be having another workshop very soon to continue to work on the regulations and then new regulations to continue to make them a little bit more straightforward and easier to use for those folks that are coming in for applications, etc.

And the only other thing is Rec Department continues to run their summer program. Things are going well there. I think they're in their third week now and they're things are going well with regard to other things that are going on. Senior center, lots of programming going on with the senior center, things like corn hole, walking clubs, things like that. So there's good things happening there. Bingo's returned. Everybody's happy with bingo. So that's all good. Fall soccer there. It's the signups are registrations are pretty much over but you can still get them in get them in late. Softball great. And leagues are going great. Men's and women's and the summer program, like I said, it's it's going pretty well. So Rec Department continues to do great things as well and moving forward in through the summer. So that's what I got.

Selectman McGrath: I don't really have anything the Municipal Utility Committee didn't meet since the last time I gave you a report. The Police Department, they have a couple of sensitive cases. And I'm not I don't feel I feel that I should bring that up at all. I don't want to put them in a difficult spot. And I think that's just about it.

Selectman Morin: Conservation, they have a draft policy for land access to the town forest. They made a few changes to it last night and they're going to send it off to the Town Attorney to get approval. And then it will come here in front of us, Merrill Park. They had a discussion back in 2020. There was a plan to do the I want to say boat ramp. It's more of a kayak ramp than a boat ramp to fix the steps going down and make it wider for the Fire Department to get their boats down there. So they voted last night for \$10,000. They're going to go to the Planning Board, see if there's any Rec money to talk, any of the guardrails along the river's edge. And if it's going to cost too much due to the way wood is right now, they'll get some big boulders from the landfill, put those so people can't go off the edge and and fix those steps and things of that nature.

While we're on that, I received an email from a resident today who took a walk in Merrill Park, and when I got there to meet with them, a police officer also showed up. We took a walk down to where the trees were cut and they had built benches out of those tree stumps and they had put that new plastic wood on there. So they have nice seats. Somebody set them on fire. Chairperson Roy said well, it was very nice of them. But again, a couple of issues other than the fact that they set them on fire, they. Selectman Morin said set them on fire. And then there was another area where there was a campfire down there. So police took a report and now they're going to do direct patrols down there and try to find, you know, we got we got to basically catch them in the act if they're quiet. But they did light the bench, one of the benches on fire. So the police are working on that. And a report was taken.

The Conservation Committee is looking to have a new logo. So they're going to start a competition to have somebody design one and then they're going to pick a winner. They're going to advertise it at Old Home Days at their booth, and they're going to start it. You should be receiving something, Gary, reference to having the schools, the kids participate in that so that they will officially start when

school starts to October 31st. And that's when they'll pick the winners. And the last thing is, the August meeting was canceled. That's all I have. There's no Budget Committee.

Chairperson Roy said Benson's Park. Selectman Guessferd said we have a roof. Chairperson Roy said we do. Yes. It looks really nice. Selectman Morin said the rest of the barn doesn't but the roof looks good. They did a great job. The Town Administrator said they did a great job. Water tight. And they did a great job. We actually got the small front part. I mean, they did a superb job. Selectman Morin said and I think there was only 3800. The Town Administrator said only \$3,800 dollars in plywood. And actually, if you recall, where the metal was that was where the cupola was. There was nothing underneath the metal. Chairperson Roy said so it was open? To which the Town Administrator replied yeah, it was just the metal fastened to the rafters. There was nothing which is probably where the water was coming from. So now that's been resolved. It looks. Great. Selectman Morin jokingly said I think if anything happens, at least we'll have a nice roof.

Chairperson Roy then said and then there seems to be a lot of activity at Benson's Park. I've seen a lot of concerts. Selectman Morin said that's mostly through the Friends of Bensons. So not the Committee. Selectman Morin then said oh, and the bridge is gone. Chairperson Roy said Yeah. Yeah, it was stolen, from what I understand.

Chairperson Roy: So even though they won't, they didn't meet since our last meeting. I'll talk about the Library a little bit. They have a full summer program. Also, they offer museum passes. They have a reading challenge, they have a concert series. They have all kinds of things that for all ages to participate in. So if you're looking for something that's inexpensive and and fun, you can go to the Library and they probably have something that fits your age group in your demographic. And that's all I have.

10. Remarks by Town Administrator

We already talked about the Haselton Barn. For those who haven't been there, the Transfer Station is almost complete. It was paved last week. So if you go in, you'll see an excellent product. I went over, looked at everything the walls, the bowl yards, the paving. It's going to be great for the residents when they go in and use it. The way they're going to orient the dumpsters. It's going to be able to service more customers at a time. So any delays or any of the long lines should really be mitigated with what they did. So it's come out great. It's not finished. They haven't done the lines yet, but they're real close to being done.

And just a real quick thing, the police facility renovation bids are due Friday, so we would anticipate getting those bids all in on Friday. We've got the money, we've got the bond and all that. So now let's get the bid the team will have to work through and figure out what's the best value for the town. But they are due Friday and that's it.

11. Remarks by School Board

Very quick update tonight. New superintendent started July 1st. Hit the ground running. They've had a lot of meetings with the cabinet. They had a whole meeting today to start thinking of the next year and get an assessment of how things are going and where we can go in the future. And he sent out his first communication to the public today. All anyone in the system got an email. It was also available on the Facebook page and on the website. So we're off to a good start. That's it.

12. Other Business/Remarks by the Selectmen

Selectman McGrath: I have nothing.

Selectman Guessferd: Hope everyone had a great 4th. Enjoy your summer!

Selectman Gagnon: And just really simply actually to add on to your library access and the options they offer. Myself, as someone who works from home and during the summer and wants to travel and enjoy the outdoors, the Library offers numerous, I think for now, wireless hotspots that are cellular hotspots for free. You can pick them up, they pay the cellular service and it allows you to for me to go camping with my my family and still do work out in the woods. So a great option to think about this summer. But that's it. That's all I have.

Selectman Morin: Nothing else tonight.

Chairperson Roy: So the only thing I have is Old Home Days is coming up. I think its August 11 to the 14th. I am looking forward to judging the cow pie bingo so that is all I have.

13. Nonpublic Session - there was no nonpublic session held.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. by Selectman Morin seconded by Selectman Guessferd. Carried 5-0.

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

Kara Roy, Chairperson

Bob Guessferd, Vice Chairman

David Morin, Selectman

Marilyn McGrath, Selectman

Brett Gagnon, Selectmen