

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the September 12, 2022 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Selectman McGrath, sitting in the role of Chairperson this evening, called the meeting of September 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ATTENDANCE  
Board of Selectmen: Brett Gagnon, Dave Morin, Marilyn McGrath  
Excused Absence: Bob Guessferd, Kara Roy  
Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant
4. PUBLIC INPUT - there was none
5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

A. Appointment

David Leary - Municipal Utility Committee

The Town Administrator explained Mr. Leary was interviewed at our last meeting to serve as a member on the Municipal Utility Committee. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to appoint David Leary as a member of the Municipal Utility Committee with a term to expire 4/30/24.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

The Chairperson asked, does anyone have anything they'd like removed for separate consideration? Seeing none, Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to accept Consent Items A, B, C, D, E & F. Carried 3-0.

A. Assessing Items - none

B. Water/Sewer Items - none

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies

1) Tag Day Permit - Humane Society for Greater Nashua

D. Donations

1) Two Homemade Cornhole Boards for HPD from Hudson Resident Corey Jimmo

E. Acceptance of Minutes

1) Minutes of September 12, 2022

F. Calendar

9/13	7:00am - 8:00pm	State Primary Election Day
9/14	6:00	Right to Know Committee - BOS Meeting Room
9/14	7:00	Planning Board - Buxton Meeting Room
9/15	7:00	Benson Park Committee - HCTV Mtg Room
9/20	6:30	Board of Selectmen Workshop - Location TBD
9/20	7:00	Municipal Utility Committee - BOS Meeting Room
9/21	6:00	Library Trustees - Hills Memorial Library
9/22	7:00	Zoning Board of Adjustment - Buxton Meeting Room
9/27	7:00	Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes Taken After Nonpublic Session on August 23, 2022

1. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to authorize the Police Chief to hire Gary Rodgers as a part-time School Crossing Guard with a starting salary of \$17.50 per hour. Carried 5-0.
2. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to authorize the Town Administrator and Police Chief to hire School Crossing Guards. Carried 5-0.
3. Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to increase Police Chief Tad Dionne's salary to \$127,847 per year, effective August 28, 2022. Carried 5-0.
4. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to hire David Avery for the position of Dispatcher in the Fire Department at the contracted salary of \$18.98 per hour (step 1). This assignment will be a non-exempt position in accordance with the International Association of Firefighters Local #3154, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Carried 5-0.
5. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to hire Mark Catlado for the position of Inspector in the Fire Department at the contracted salary of \$26.36 per hour (step 1). This assignment will be a non-exempt position in accordance with the Hudson Support Staff Union, AFSCME Local 1801 as recommended by the Fire Chief. Carried 5-0.
6. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to accept Chief Buxton's retirement, with much regret. Carried 5-0.
7. Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to appoint Deputy Chief Scott Tice as Interim Fire Chief with a salary of \$121,000 per year, effective September 1, 2022. Carried 5-0.
8. Selectman Morin made a motion to adjourn at 10:26 p.m. This was seconded by Selectman Gagnon. Carried 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing - Hudson Special One-Time Highway Payment-in Accordance with Senate Bill 401

The Town Administrator was recognized and explained, as you recall at the last meeting we had received news that we were receiving a one-time block grant from the New Hampshire DOT in the amount of \$467,498.25. This was based on the passage of Senate Bill 401 at the last session. So again, it's a one-time payment to the Town. After conferring with the Attorney, we thought it would be best to have a public hearing to accept these funds. These are unanticipated block grant funds. So we've scheduled a public hearing for this evening. It doesn't look like we're going to have a lot of attendance. But it's some formality that we'll go through. And after you have the public hearing you're then able to accept the one-time payment. Selectman McGrath asked, anyone wish to make the motion? The Town Administrator replied, you probably ought to open the public hearing, just too kind of formalize it. Selectman McGrath said I'm not used to doing this. The Town Administrator replied, that's okay, I got you.

Selectman McGrath opened the public hearing at 7:06p.m. Selectman McGrath said, seeing no one in the audience. Not one single soul; I'll close the public hearing at 7:06p.m. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to accept a one-time payment of \$467,498.25 from the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation that was allocated to the Town of Hudson based on the passage of Senate Bill 401. Carried 3-0.

B. HPD Request to Advertise Telecommunications Technician

The Town Administrator was recognized and said, I told the Chief that I would stand in for him. This is the only thing they would have had this evening. So he's anticipating a retirement, I believe in his Records Department, at which point someone would probably be promoted from the dispatch into the records. So what he'd like to do is get the process started to at least get the advertising and start attracting candidates for dispatch. You're looking probably by November-ish we'd probably like to bring somebody on board. Get the training and get that seamlessly done. All you're doing right now is approving the advertising. You're not hiring anybody. You're just allowing him to go out.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said just for my clarification, a telecommunications technician...the Town Administrator replied, that's the title that we have in dispatch and records clerk. They're all, that's the formal title of those two functions. Selectman Gagnon replied, understood. Okay. Thank you. Selectman McGrath asked, anybody wish to make a motion? Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to authorize the Police Chief to advertise for one Telecommunications Technician. Carried 3-0.

C. State of New Hampshire Settlement with Janssen Pharmaceuticals/Johnson & Johnson

The Town Administrator was recognized and explained, as you can see from you packet, we received a letter from the Attorney General's Office, Department of Justice. They're apparently, looks like the DOJ reached a settlement with Jansen Pharmaceuticals and Johnson and Johnson as far as opioids goes. So there's going to be money going to the State of New Hampshire and available I believe, to us, from a grant perspective, should we apply for it from the whole opioid

mess that was created by the pharmaceutical companies. So there's basically a settlement that they, DOJ, has asked us to sign off on so that they can get the money and they can have it available for grants. We did this before. I can't remember the, I think it was McKesson. I can't remember the exact name of the company. This is the second time around that we've seen this. I just ran this by Attorney Lefevre, got his input on it. He believes it's in the Town's best interest to sign off on this at this point in time. Basically they're trying to bring all of these things to settlement so that they can start helping people recover and help pay for the cost of fighting the battle. Selectman McGrath said, if there is any recovery.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said a little more detail. I see here in the documentation, the Defendants will pay \$39.605 million dollars. \$31.5 million dedicated exclusively to abate the opioid epidemic. Obviously you said that we could apply for those grants. Do we have any idea of maybe how we might apply or what we might apply for? The Town Administrator replied, I would assume they'll have some sort of process with this kind of money. They'll probably put something out to say hey, there's money available, this is the application process. I would presume that it would probably through the Police Department because they seem to be at the forefront of this effort. But at this point in time I'm not sure what the process will be. Selectman Gagnon then said or even the scope. Not the process per say but like what we could apply for. What we could ask for refunding. The Town Administrator replied, I haven't seen any direction than what I've been provided. So I guess this is the first step in probably many steps. Without accepting the settlement we're not going to get anything. Selectman Gagnon replied, understood.

Selectman McGrath then said don't you think that the settlement would cover anyone that may have lost their life due to either taking an overdose of opioids that could be tied back to the companies? The Town Administrator replied, I would hazard to guess that that settlement would be many millions more because there probably many lives that were lost through that. I think this is more targeted to the communities that have borne the brunt of either you know, Narcaning people. Dealing with the whole opioid crisis. I didn't see anything in here that talked about them settling individual cases. It seemed to me that it was obviously stopping them from selling these opioids. I believe that was further exacerbating the problem. Or promoting them or whatever. So that's part of the settlement. I think this fund is basically available to the municipalities and the communities. Maybe even at the county level to either put in whatever they need for additional efforts. Whether it be, I don't know, more Narcan, more people. More resources. Selectman McGrath said more paramedics. Selectman Morin then said the way it's listed in the paperwork when I read it, it specifically mentioned town, county, state. It didn't say anything about individuals for private entities. It specifically lists what was covered under it. The Town Administrator said to Selectman McGrath, like Selectman Morin said, I didn't see that in this. It just appeared to be targeted towards the government entities that have been dealing with this.

Selectman McGrath then said so we've taken care of that. The Town Administrator said I would recommend that you entertain a motion to execute the settlement documents in the State of New Hampshire settlement with Jansen Pharmaceuticals and Johnson and Johnson as a primary non-litigating subdivision and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the settlement documents. Selectman Morin made this motion, which was seconded by Selectman Gagnon. Carried 3-0.

#### D. 2023 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule

The Town Administrator was recognized and said in anticipation, because the year goes by quickly and it's good to have this set up, this is the calendar year schedule for next year's Board of Selectmen meetings. Typically it's following the pattern of the second and fourth Thursday's except when elections get involved, which is the case in March. We moved the meeting back to the first Tuesday because you'll be tied up with elections on the second Tuesday. July you don't typically don't schedule any kind of workshop. That's usually vacation time for people. So that's been the practice of the Board. And in December, typically you have the one regular meeting because I think Christmas Eve, no it will be Christmas next year. So you're probably not going to want to meet on that day. So this is the schedule that's proposed. Jill's looked at it and we tried to look at all the elections. Next year's not so bad. '24 is going to have a bunch of dates in there that have to be blocked out. Primary for the presidential, town meeting, general elections. But for next year I think it's just town meeting calendar-wise. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to approve the Board of Selectmen 2023 Meeting Schedule. Carried 3-0.

#### E. 2023 Scheduled Holidays

Selectman Morin was recognized and said I just going to say if you're good this normal, so I was just going to make a motion right away. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to accept the holiday schedule for the next year. Carried 3-0.

#### F. August 2022 Revenues & Expenditures

The Town Administrator was recognized and said, it's still fairly early in the year. It's only two months in. we're about 17% of the way. Automobiles still continue to do well. We're ahead of where we were last year at this time. People love their cars. So we're doing very well with that. Even interest has picked up a little bit on our money in the bank. It's not doing great, but it's picked up from last year. So that's a positive. As I've said before we encumber things like legal. We encumber the solid waste contract. So it skews the percentages but generally looking at it, where everybody is, they're typically where they would be this time of year. Rec spends money on the summer program. Highway does a lot of paving. So they're numbers are a little bit higher than the 17% if you just looked at things on a monthly average. But they're where they should be. And at this point we haven't identified any problem areas. We are not at the winter yet.

#### 9. Board Liaison Reports

Selectman Gagnon: NRPC is meeting this week. There's a TTAC a Transportation Technical Advisory Committee. In that meeting towns, including Hudson, will be submitting ideas for the New Hampshire DOT 10 Year Plan. We discussed this a couple meetings ago. Mr. Groth provided three different ideas I believe he'll be presenting at NRPC. As Mr. Groth said NRPC will then collect all the ideas of the surrounding towns and make their own prioritized list to give to New Hampshire DOT.

School Board there's one obviously tonight, which I am not there. Sustainability had a quick meeting to discuss some basic statistics of recycling, trash pickup and that kind of thing. A pretty short meeting. I wasn't able to attend that one. I believe that's about it for this month. Pretty low-key.

Selectman McGrath then said so is Mr. Groth planning to come in and let this Board know what he's going to present to NRPC. The Town Administrator said he did. Selectman Gagnon replied I believe the last meeting or second to last meeting he did. He presented those. Remember we talked about those three topics and asked us to prioritize. Selectman McGrath replied, I guess that shows how much I listened to that. The Town Administrator then said sorry but we it was a discussion with the Board. Selectman Gagnon added sidewalks and so forth. Selectman McGrath then said I guess that's where my eyes glazed over.

Selectman Morin: Budget Committee, Selectman Guessferd stood in for me so he'll have a report when he's back. Con Comm is meeting right now so I'm obviously not there. Benson's will be meeting on Thursday.

Selectman McGrath: I have nothing for my liaison report this evening.

10. Remarks by Town Administrator

The Town Administrator was recognized and said the only thing I would do is remind everybody tomorrow is Primary Voting Day. We have the two wards. Community Center is for Ward One. Alvirne High School is for Ward Two. If you're not sure of your ward you can look online. The Towns webpage, street by street, tells you what ward you're in. if you're not registered I believe you can register at the polls. You need to bring some form of ID so that we know you're a resident. Other than that the polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at those two locations. So I urge everyone to go out and vote.

11. Remarks by School Board

Due to the Board of Selectmen meeting being held on a Monday, because of the September 13, 2022 state primary, a School Board Representative was not available to come join the BOS meeting. The School Board had their regularly scheduled meeting this evening.

12. Other Business/Remarks by the Selectmen

Selectman Gagnon: thank you. Just to add on to what Mr. Malizia stated. Hudson Cable Television provided had provided a great little synopsis of expected changes for the polling locations. So not just the locations themselves, but they have some process updates with new digital polling pads and that kind of thing. So if you haven't seen it already, I suggest you check out their social media page, Hudson Cable Television and watch their little clip about just some of the minor process changes to expect tomorrow so you're not caught off guard. Other than that, I look forward to seeing everyone hopefully a big turnout tomorrow for primaries. So thank you.

Selectman Morin: I'll just add to what Selectman Gagnon said, the Moderator let me know I'll be paying traffic cop in the morning to direct people to lines. It will be different there will be no more letters to look at. You're just going to a line. Any line can sign you in. so it's gonna be different. A little confusing. So we will be there to direct people and let them know what they need to do.

Selectman McGrath said and I'll get there at some point. Not to stay but at least to vote. So.

The Town Administrator asked Selectman Morin, did you want to mention 9/11? Selectman Morin replied, oh, yes, thank you, thank you. Appreciate that. The 9/11 Ceremony took place yesterday. It

actually went very well. It went quick but we covered everything and everybody was remembered. As always Police, Fire, Post 48 Firing Squad were all there to make it the tribute that it should be. Thank you. Selectman McGrath said when you said Firing Squad...The Town Administrator then said but the coolest thing was the hawk. On top of one of the girders. 20 minutes it was up there? It was really cool.

Selectman McGrath: I have nothing either for remarks this evening and I think we're ready to adjourn.

13. Nonpublic Session the Board did not go into nonpublic session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

*Motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. by Selectman Gagnon seconded by Selectman Morin. Carried 3-0.*

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

Absent  
Kara Roy, Chairperson

Absent  
Bob Guessferd, Vice Chairman

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David Morin, Selectman

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Marilyn McGrath, Selectman

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Brett Gagnon, Selectmen