

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the October 11, 2022 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairperson Roy the meeting of October 11, 2022 at 6:59 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Hudson resident & Planning Board member, James Crowley

3. ATTENDANCE

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

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Paul Inderbitzen, Town Moderator; Gary Gasdia School Board Representative; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT
 - 1) James Crowley, 4 Fairway Drive

My name is James Crowley of 4 Fairway Drive. I'm here tonight as a private citizen, not authorized or permitted to represent opinions of any Hudson boards, commissions or departments. I want to use this opportunity to urge a large public participation in the coming Hudson Master Plan update sessions. Also, in my opinion, some related land use development, public safety and traffic thoughts that go beyond recent events. A personal frustration I have is Hudson keeps incurring incremental increases to what is considered to be only localized traffic corridor traffic generation impacts when various independent projects are approved. However, Hudson doesn't have an overview or procedures currently in place to assess or even regulate the localized incremental impact on the existing total Hudson transportation network. I believe the majority of Hudson residents can find faults but not agreeable solutions to what should be done about the current and future traffic. The master plan can express visionary wishes, but effective regulations are needed to actually control overall traffic and responsible development. Currently, zoning of the bulk of remaining undeveloped land in Hudson, G, and G1 zoning districts encourages and permits, and I quote market forces to determine the most appropriate use of the land. That may have worked somewhat in the past. More rural Hudson, however, is a recipe for undesirable results in the future for responsible land use, development and associated traffic increases in all of Hudson.

Mr. Crowley continued saying, now back to specifically traffic. I want to remind everyone listening tonight of a saying if you build it, they will come. In other words, if you improve a roadway, you might get short term relief, but long term increases in traffic. Also, the well-studied proposed controversial highway now referred to as the Hudson Boulevard may in the long term only add traffic, not completely resolve it. In my opinion, town residents need to understand that a newly constructed Hudson Boulevard may most likely open Hudson up to even more accelerated development than currently being witnessed. So be careful for what you wish for. Will it resolve or increase the general problem? Hudson is beyond the point where simple, quick fix solutions will resolve the current traffic situation. Therefore, the future direction and outcome of Hudson's continuing growing pains will be closely tied to efforts to implement zoning ordinance and regulations to control growth and traffic with responsible development. This will require town residents to provide ongoing active participation to achieve a well-vetted zoning ordinance and regulations. Please, everyone listening tonight, don't leave any of your desired visions for Hudson to chance. I urge everyone to register for the coming Thursday and Saturday master plan sessions. This is one of your best opportunities to voice your visions for Hudson. Please don't just leave it to presently unknown market forces to determine what

may end up being unintended or undesirable. Future results. Finally, I cannot emphasize this enough. Hudson can no longer assume that simple, quick fix solutions will cure any traffic problems. Public participation is needed to determine workable solutions and the master Plan update is an excellent platform to make sure your voices are heard for maximum effect on traffic and other concerns. Thank you for giving me this time.

2) Heidi Jakoby, 94 Gowing Road

Hi, my name is Heidi Jakoby and I live at 94 Gowing Road. I want to begin by thanking you, the Board of Selectmen, for supporting the Town Engineer and the Town Administrator in their efforts to hold GFI Partners to the water pipe standards the town requires. As the new warehouse plan for Hudson Logistics Center has been proposed for Green Meadow property I hope the members of the Board of Selectmen and especially the liaison to the Planning Board, will examine this new proposal. As such, this is no longer a non-sort facility as stipulated in the original approval. It is now a warehouse and distribution facility. This single large building with several outbuildings is a new plan with an unknown tenant and needs to be looked at carefully as a new proposal. As I recall, the last proposal had many residents indicating many issues which need to be addressed by the Planning Board. But there was one issue which is squarely set on this table that is sewer allocation. As time has passed, I know that our sewer allocation continues to be a concern, as is our water allocations for the Town of Hudson. A reminder for those who may not have followed the previous sewer allocation, the meeting on January 26, 2021, had many residents raise questions and rationale for denying the sewer allocation. I do recall your approval of the sewer was in part based on the fact Amazon was the tenant and they are essential and I quote, essential for the public health, safety and welfare of the Town of Hudson, end quote. As stated in the town of Hudson Code, Section 270-17 B1 I remind this Board that the tenant for the HLC has changed. Therefore, the rationale for granting sewer allocation has changed, and I urge you to continue your due diligence on this matter and bring the sewer question back before this board for a new vote. Thank you again for your time and for your efforts to continually set a professional and transparent tone from the top.

3) Xen Vurgaropulos, 5 Muldoon Drive

Xen Vurgaropulos, 5 Muldoon Drive. I wasn't planning on not speaking tonight originally, but I appreciate everything you guys are doing. But I do have serious concerns about the safety of the town overall, especially in light of some tragic events as the recent. What I feel that the developers, all the developers that come to this town are the ones in charge. I feel that we use the town lawyer is the person who does the negotiating at the table. The boards don't seem to any kind of litigation, any hesitancy or any pushback against developer instantly results in a recess or a move the meeting so that you can meet with the town lawyer, which I don't think that's what the residents ask of you. We don't we didn't hire a lawyer to be a table of one. We hired a Board to discuss amongst each other and to do local litigation against developers or with developers, and not to instantly run to a lawyer just because we might end up in court. Well, developers have a lot more money than us, yes. But we have a lot of responsibility to the residents of this town to ensure that we're doing our due diligence and not just running to the lawyer because we might end up in court. That's a scapegoat, in my opinion. Now, I'm not, I don't have a, so I don't have a cure for the issues in town with traffic but safety is a huge concern. Some things with as far as our children and every resident, especially in the southern part of Hudson, we don't have sidewalks, but something as simple as the Planning Board speaking up and pushing back against a developer saying no as part of your stipulation for your development we want sidewalks, we need that you want to ensure more safety so that people aren't on the roads, aren't walking in the streets, for which we see every day, especially in the southern part of Hudson. We need that. We need you guys to please implore this Board and the boards that you are in charge of to make those litigations publicly with the developer and not be in fear of developer gonna bring a lawyer. I don't care about that because what I care about is doing the right thing. We pay the lawyer to do lawyer things. We don't pay the we don't pay the lawyer to do the planning for the town. And I hope that you will push this down from the top down. And please implore

the Planning Board and other boards to litigate more against the developers and not instantly go to a recess and or being in fear of going to court, because I don't think that's fair to every resident and our children. And that's all I have to say.

Selectman Gagnon then said just one quick question, sir. You speak about the lawyer. You know, as an example, if our lawyer's bills were to, let's say, double as a resident, you're balancing the cost of your local taxes with what you've projected here tonight about using a lawyer more. Are you saying that you would be okay not paying a lot, but having a higher budget for our town lawyer if that meant potentially using him more? Is that the kind of decision you're saying? Mr. Vurgaropoulos replied, me, personally, I get that Hudson as a whole has an older community and our turnover is changing, right? So the town as a whole is slowly changing to a younger community. Me as a younger resident, I don't mind paying extra money for the safety of my children. I have two children that go to school here and I pay my taxes here. I don't mind that. I know that's going to be different for every resident, but what I'm asking is if you have to use the lawyer to go to court to litigate something that the developer is not liking what you're saying, then do it. But what I see more often is, oh, well, you know, they're coming in because they come in and they stack the lawyers up here and they put on the big puffy shoulders and everything. And then it seems like not every time, but a lot of times in my eyes, instantly well, we're going to see what the lawyer says, and it's always about budget reduction. I know we get we pay him what? We pay him on a flat fee. I can appreciate the fact that we have a budget for the lawyer, but I can't appreciate it is pushing aside safety concerns of the residents just because the developer comes in here with a puffy chest. Selectman Gagnon replied, thank you for your answer, sir. I appreciate that.

Selectman McGrath then said I have something to add. Be careful what you wish for. What's on the ballot in March is to elect Planning Board members. Don't be fooled and vote in people that are developers. That used to happen when I first got involved with the town, which is a long time ago. That's exactly what took place. The developers had control of the Planning Board, the Zoning Board, the Conservation Commission, and it was a hard, very hard to get that changed. The pendulum was all the way this way, and they took control of the town. You wouldn't believe the types of development that went in. They built a house. One of the developers that was the chairman of the Planning Board at the time built a house under power lines. You might be familiar with that house that's in your neighborhood. Yeah. So, I mean, so there's you've got to be careful about what you're looking for and what you're wishing for, because an elected Planning Board an elected Planning Board elected boards overall that deal with land use, that's what you're going to be getting because people don't know who they're voting for. A lot of times they don't even know who they're appointing to some of these boards because there's been some appointments lately that I'm not happy with at all. And I'm afraid that we're going back to that time when Hudson is going to be controlled by the developers and the residents are going to be paying the cost and that's legal bills and anything else traffic. So be careful what you wish for.

Mr. Vurgaropoulos replied I appreciate that. Yeah, I don't disagree. It's a dangerous, it's a dangerous balancing act we have to do. I get it. Obviously, the interactions through the town and the boards have been difficult over the last couple of years on many different subjects. We speak of the master plan often, and it's just as to quote what Heidi said, it's a visionary plan. It seems to hold no water when it comes to any kind of planning in this town. But we we tout it like it has power. But then when the residents ask about it, it seems to get pushed back on. Well, it's okay to do that because it's zoned that way. And the prime example is I wrote a letter in and you guys probably read it. I know a couple responded to me. And gas station in the new where the five my oil is now there 18 gas stations within two miles of that location. We do not need another gas station. What on earth makes us think that we need that there? But the answer we get is well, it's allowed. Oh, yeah, I'm allowed to go to the moon, but I shouldn't go there if I don't have the right stuff to go there. Right. Like we should. Something needs to happen. We need to make changes. And though the short term might be painful, we have to look further out. We need to... we need to try harder.

Selectman McGrath replied, the changes that you suggest suggesting are in the zoning zoning ordinance, which allows all of that type of development. Do I like it? I certainly don't. I've lived here

my entire life. I can tell you about the whole south end of Hudson and what it looked like and what I envisioned it to stay like. It's far different today than it was when I was growing up here. I have a long memory. It's completely changed. Completely. Part of it was your development where all of you people live with you. Where your homes are that you're happy with that you want to stay in. That was all that was all farmland. There was a strawberry farm there. There was a... they had cows there. That was a nice, quiet area. You know, and so as much as I don't like it and I believe me, I read your letter and I had plenty to say in my own circle about my thoughts about that. But my if it's allowed in the zoning ordinance and it's driven by the master plan, right? And the voters vote on the zoning ordinance. So that way you have a say in it. And if you don't read it and you don't learn about it and you don't try and find out what it really means, who's to blame? You know, you can point fingers all you want, but it really comes back to getting involved, which you people have done, but getting also getting knowledge and figuring out what's in the zoning ordinance. What what does it allow? How big does the lot have to be? What are side setbacks? Front setbacks? You have to get educated. And if you don't, you have no one to blame but yourself. So, you know, I mean, believe me, I've been preaching this stuff for as many years as I can't believe how many years it's been.

Mr. Vurgaropoulos replied, I agree with you. You you've been doing this a lot longer than may have only gotten involved over the last three or four years. And but I see some things outside way beyond you guys at state level, let's say the NRPC. So there was 700 hundred plus residents that responded to the survey for the master planning survey for the NRPC. One thing that I noticed in the NRPC, there was double talk and questions. The outstanding the majority of the questions in that survey stated that the residents of this town wanted more open space and they wanted safety and all that. But there was a couple of questions that were doublespeak. So it was like and this is controversial subject. Everybody knows the the highway, whatever you want to call it, Circumferential, Hudson Boulevard, whatever we're calling it of the day. There's one question in there that I 100% completely disagreed with the way it was worded, because I know that the state level will use that one question to say, the Town of Hudson wants a highway. And that's not right, because the way that question was worded was to say, do you want this? But if not, maybe this. And it was all pointing to the highway. It was a double question listed in one word. And you guys probably know which question I'm talking about.

Selectman McGrath replied, no, I don't. I actually don't. Mr. Vurgaropoulos then said but and I wrote in about it and I would like to see the answers. I know we saw the preliminary percentage of answers. Just no, maybe so is and all that. I want to see the verbal. I want to see my reply. I want to be able to read my reply doesn't have to have my name on it, but I want to see all. I want to see what the residents are saying when you could type in to that survey. I want to see what we said because I don't want that one question to change the outlook and continue to isolate and put Southern Hudson, especially on a complete island, completely segregated. Might as well be our own town. And you've lived here, all of you, probably a lot longer than me. And you all know what I'm talking about. It's slowly becoming more and more segregated and isolated from everybody, completely disconnected. And I don't think that's fair to the residents because like you said, not everybody does their homework. Not everybody knows what we're talking about talking, but having a state level. Use double speak on a survey to get the desired answer isn't fair to the residents. It should have been clear, concise, single question, not double speak. Selectman McGrath replied, I didn't write it, so I don't know. Mr. Vurgaropoulos replied I'm not saying. I'm just talking about. That's all. Thank you.

4) Paige Schaller, 213 Fox Hollow Drive

Paige Schaller, 213 Fox Hollow Drive. Thank you, Madam Chair. And Select Board members. I want to start by saying my thoughts and prayers go out to Gavin Hontoon's family, the passenger on the bike and their family, as well as the driver of the pickup truck. What happened on Wason Road on Sunday, October 2nd, was a terrible tragedy. In an interview with WMUR, our own Town Engineer said Wason Road was not and I'm not quoting him here, so please don't. I just know the the gist of what he said was Watson Road is not built to handle the amount of traffic that it receives daily. Residents have asked for a four way stop to be installed at the intersection of Wason, Burns Hill and

Musquash roads before there is a terrible accident there. Yet there hasn't been any action on that either. I don't think there's anyone in Hudson that would argue with the statement that we have major traffic problems, especially Wason and Lowell Roads, and it is not getting any better.

Why is traffic so bad? One reason is the insatiable development, both residential and industrial, without proper planning. An example GFI Friars Road Distribution Center and the Friars Court Apartments. The Distribution Center is being built right next to residential neighborhoods of Hickory, Fox Hollow and the Friars Apartments. And I know, I know the mantra. It's zoned for it. I get it. But just bear with me on this. When the apartments were in the planning phase, it was decided to have a right turn only exit to go southbound on Lowell Road and a right turn only entrance from southbound Lowell Road. That's all well and good, but human nature is what I see almost daily. And I live in Fox Hollow, so I'm driving by that all the time. So I see many drivers just going, exiting and taking the left and going northbound or using the turning lane to turn left and enter into Friars Drive, whether it's to go to the industrial park there or whether it's to go into the apartments. So it's inevitable, though, that we will have a bad accident there. And then what is the accident is being cleared. The traffic's going to be diverted off Lowell Road. We will have more automobile and tractor trailer traffic going through Wason, Burns Hill and Pelham Roads. By the way, remember at the intersection of Burns Hill and Pelham Road is an elementary school. For argument's sake, the accident does not happen at Friar's and Lowell Road. Say it's at Country Brook. Now, southbound automobile tractor trailer traffic can be diverted down. Friar's Drive past the apartments and children playing being picked up, dropped off by school buses and back out Executive Park. And of the accident on October 2nd. I don't know where the traffic was diverted for that one, but I imagine it was diverted somewhere putting more traffic on the feeder roads. Luckily, that was on a weekend. What do we do if that happened Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. through 10 a.m. or 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. because we all know those are the true rush hour traffic hours for this town. Not with the traffic studies tell you one hour in the morning, one hour in the afternoon. I said it during the planning meetings of the Friars Drive Distribution Center. It does not matter what the name is on the side of the building. That use is not appropriate to be directly abutting residential property. Again, I know it's zoned for it. There were weren't articles that were put on the last town meeting ballot by residents who are trying to make some zoning changes. Those weren't articles were campaigned against by our Planning Board. What can we do? We can't rely on the mythical unicorn called the Hudson Boulevard, a.k.a. Circumferential Highway, or whatever its name is this century. That's been on the books and been the solution since the 1950s. Hudson needs to look for a 21st century solution, and we need to be realistic about it and not look at our fantasy world. Hudson needs to fix the current traffic issues before adding to the problem. We need better planning and zoning. Let the town know what you think the town planning should be and attend one of the Hudson Master Plan Public input sessions virtual on 13 October or in person 15 October at Hudson Community Center. Thank you all for your time.

5) John Dubuc, 11 Eagle Drive

Hello, everyone. My name is John Dubuc I live at 11 Eagle Drive. Hudson. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to speak to you this evening. Hopeful. I want to begin with that word. I believe it's an important word for many residents of Hudson. I was hopeful in early April when I read that Amazon withdrew from the project in Hudson. I was hopeful that our town was spared from a massive logistics center that would only add traffic to our busy neighborhoods and forever change our town. This hopefulness went away when I read that a new project was being proposed for this property with an unknown tenant, and my concerns regarding traffic, noise, pollution and change all of our lives is now back in front of us. The developer's known since April that Amazon is no longer a tenant of this proposed project. Remember that this Board considered Amazon to be an essential business during the COVID pandemic. The developer has totally redesigned this new project, adding a building that is larger than any single building that was proposed for the Amazon project. They have added a maintenance building, a pallet storage area, a pump house, a truck inspection canopy and a transportation center. How is this not a new plan that should go through the proper application

and review from beginning to end? An important thing to also note, as the developer had close to six months in their redesign to add a septic system knowing that their sewer allocation was based on the essential service tenant, Amazon, which is no longer the tenant.

I would ask that the liaison to the Planning Board guide the Planning Board to understand this, a new site plan and developer needs to properly submit it as such and go through all local and state approvals with all of the new and changed information that has been submitted.

Lastly, I want to talk to you about the sewer allocation that was given to this development. I sat through many meetings and listened as both the developers, team and Board members referenced this development. As essential as Amazon was a tenant and essential services were critical during the peak of the COVID pandemic. The new tenant is unknown. We are sitting here tonight with no masks on and seats that are less than a foot apart. You can get our generators and supplies at any home improvement store. With all of this knowledge, I would urge the board to disapprove the sewer allocation it was given to Amazon and the HLC and begin discussions on whether a non-essential business that is outside of the sewer district, as stated by the Town Engineer, is allowed to connect to your sewer. Your sewer regulations clearly state in 270-17 B1, the Selectmen may in their sole discretion, grant the request to deliver sewer outside the system boundaries described in Exhibit A for public facility uses such as schools and other governmental uses for community facilities such as hospitals and public utilities, and for other residential commercial industrial uses. Then the opinion of the Board of Selectmen are essential for the public health, safety and welfare of the Town of Hudson. This facility does not meet any of these categories that must be considered when granting sewer. We just had a long conversation with Xen about what should be allowed and sewer at this location should not be allowed by our own regulations. So we need to follow what we talk about. I'll repeat what I said on May 11, 2021. We all make mistakes in life, but how we recover from these mistakes show our true character. I hope that you all do what is right for Hudson, our residents and our limited sewer allocation that we have. Follow the regulations that we have in place and remove the sewer allocation for this project that is not essential for Hudson. Do not make a decision just to avoid a lawsuit. Do the right thing and follow our longstanding and well-established sewer regulations. This could be a defining moment for all of you. I will end with this word again hopeful. I am hopeful that you that you and the Planning Board will fight for Hudson's future and do the right things regarding sewer and treating this as a new project. Thank you for your time this evening.

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

A. Nomination

Tristan Dion - Zoning Board of Adjustment

Chairperson Roy said as we talked about in the last meeting there was one applicant for the the Zoning board of Adjustment that was not available for his interview. Is Mr. Dion here? If you want to come up. So if you could first state your name and address and can you tell us a little bit about yourself and why you want to be on the ZBA?

Mr. Dion replied, absolutely. So I grew up in the area. I grew up in Tyngsborough so right across the border. I've always kind of considered this area my home. And you know, as such, that's kind of what drove me to move back to this area after being in the service. So graduated from Tyngsborough High. After that, I entered the Marines. I worked as an avionics technician, worked on a lot of classified equipment, worked on aircraft. While I was there, I worked on a lot of a lot with the Habitat for Humanity, So I spent a lot of time building houses. When I was down in Florida, I was helping with disaster relief efforts down there. It tied in nicely to my time spent as a teenager framing houses. Once I left the Marines, I spent some time in Billerica and from there I worked as an engineering technician. That's where I started really getting into the groove of getting a feel for local politics, local zoning boards. It wasn't my intention, but I was given the position as a facilities director for the

company that I worked for at the time. So I spent a lot of days and hours battling with the local zoning board and the local planning board of Billerica. And I will say it was not fun. They beat the crap out of me day in, day out. But I learned a lot and I actually kind of enjoyed it, to be honest. Worked there for eight years, not only as the facilities director, but working as a systems engineer. So day in, day out, I work with international standards and laws for medical devices. These were all lifesaving medical devices. So every decision, every decision that I made, every law that I looked up, it was things that were very critical, things that I had to weigh with a very heavy hand, that my decisions of how I interpreted these laws and standards really impacted thousands of lives on a daily basis. And, you know, the skills that I've learned and the skills I've developed over the years of just having to look through and dig through international standards and the laws and really only understand the letter of law, but also try and understand the spirit and the intention of what was behind it and trying to levy a heavy or a soft hand, depending on the situation. And I think that translates well to a lot of what I've been hearing tonight. You know, I moved here three years ago, right before COVID in March of 2019. And things like the distribution centers that are here. This is a growing town. Everything from the people behind me that I've been hearing is things that have to do with the Zoning Board. I almost feel like I have daggers at my back right now for what I want to apply for. And as this is a growing town, eventually this town is going to run out of space. There's going to be more and more applications for variances. There's going to be more builders wanting to build things that I don't think fit the current scope of what the people who live here might want. And I think that a lot of these decisions are going to have to be weighed with a very light touch to make sure that the town stays the course of what the people want.

Chairperson Roy replied, thank you. Does anybody have any questions? Selectman McGrath said I do seeing that my colleagues aren't interested in questions. Have you attended any of the Hudson Zoning Board meetings? Mr. Dion replied, I have witnessed them, but I have not in person actually gone to them. Selectman McGrath replied, so how have you witnessed them? Mr. Dion replied, I've watched old videos that have been online, but that's about it. Selectman McGrath replied, so you haven't, you haven't gone to a meeting? Mr. Dion replied, I have, not personally. Selectman McGrath asked you haven't watched any of the recent meetings? Mr. Dion replied, I haven't been personally watching any of the recent meetings. Unfortunately, my work schedule up until recently, I worked a night shift. So it did not, it was not conducive to me being able to actually attend in person. It was not buy wants to not go. It's I physically could not go. Selectman McGrath asked, and has your work schedule changed? Mr. Dion replied, yes. Selectman McGrath asked, it's going to allow you to attend these meetings? Mr. Dion replied, yes. My work schedule allows for me to be here at a reasonable time to actually attend the meetings in person. Now that I actually have the freedom to do so, I'm actually excited to be able to play a little bit more involvement with town activities, be able to come to these meetings more often. It's just something that I grew up with. My mother worked for the Town of Tyngsborough as the tax collector there for about 20 years. My grandmother was the tax collector in Tyngsborough all of her life. So it's something that's run on my family. Selectman McGrath said tax collecting.

Selectman McGrath then asked, so do you know anyone in this room or on this Board? Mr. Dion replied, I have met yourself, Brett, a few times. Other than that, not personally. Selectman McGrath said, say that again. Mr. Dion replied, Brett. Selectman McGrath replied, yeah. What about him? Mr. Dion replied, I have met you informally a few times outside of that. No, I do not know anyone in this room personally. Selectman McGrath asked, so you don't have a relationship with Ms. Mrs. Roy? Chairperson Roy replied, So, so I'll clarify that. We actually did meet at National Night Out. We had a conversation. Mr. Dion then said oh, that's true. I'm sorry. We did meet. Chairperson Roy then said yes. And I actually reached out because we had talked about volunteer opportunities. And I had told you of this opportunity. Mr. Dion replied okay, yeah. Selectman Gagnon said and that's where I met you as well. Mr. Dion replied, yes. but outside of that, I don't know anybody personally. I've never really met anyone outside of that. It's all been informal in passing.

Selectman McGrath then asked have you familiarize yourself with the Hudson Zoning Ordinance? Mr. Dion replied, I've gone through it, I've skimmed it. It's not something that I would say that I am very familiar with. I think that I would be a little wary of anybody that says that they are have things

like that memorized due to the fact that people's memories are fallible. I think that any time that you're going to make a judgment call about making a variance or something, you should be referencing the standard that it's based on. You should always be checking your homework. You should never just have things in the back of your head. You can have a working knowledge of where to look, but I don't think you should ever actually try and have it memorized. Selectman McGrath then said so to clarify, I didn't ask you if you would memorize them. I just asked you if you looked at them. Mr. Dion replied, oh, absolutely. Yeah. Selectman McGrath replied, thank you. I'm done.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said thank you, Madam Chair. And I held my breath a little bit there to let my fellow colleagues go first, because I do speak a lot, which I know. I want to first thank you for your service for the military and your volunteering service. It's very impressive. For me, what I was impressed with your interview today is not per se that maybe you don't know the zoning board, but the way you spoke was very well because you talked about your skill sets and examples of where those skill sets have come from and how you can use that skill to translate into whatever you work on. So to me, I think that that matters most is using your fluid knowledge and placing it in any position you're in. So to me, that holds more weight than someone who just is, has a good memory. I myself have a terrible memory, so I can't remember a lot of stuff, but having a critical mind I think becomes far more important in most situations. So in that aspect, I think I greatly support your volunteering efforts here today. I think you would be well skilled for the position. So thank you for standing up.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said just a question. I'm a veteran myself, so I mean, supporting those veterans organizations and volunteering in that way is very laudable. Have you gotten involved in any local, you know, any town volunteering besides coming here? I mean, this is this is a great step forward. You know, anything any other organizations or causes? Mr. Dion replied, yeah, I in the past, I've worked with 22 Kill, so I don't know if you're familiar with that. It's the Veteran Suicide Prevention. I did a ton of work with that years back, and a lot of their leadership has kind of moved out of the area, so I stepped away from the program. I don't really like the direction it's kind of gone towards in the years present, so that's why I stepped away from a little bit. But I did work with that. That's pretty much the largest I've done. Know your basic standard. I've helped out on the local soup kitchens, things like that. I have helped out with some of the food drives and food pantries for the local churches.

Seeing no further questions, Chairperson Roy said so thank you. So what we typically do is we take it into consideration. We vote on it the next the next meeting. Yeah. And then, Ms. Laffin, we'll let you know. Mr. Dion replied, Absolutely. Perfect. All right. Thank you all for your time. Thank you so much. It was a pleasure meeting all of you.

B. Appointments

Chairperson Roy said so that brings us to the next area of appointments. So I guess that brings us to the next the next area of appointments. I think that it would be prudent for us to defer voting on any of these appointments until the next meeting so we can fully consider Mr. Dion as well as Mr. Martin and Mr. Weissgarber, who we have already interviewed. Does anybody have? Selectman Guessferd replied, I agree. I agree. Selectman Gagnon said I think it's fair. Selectman McGrath said I think you've already stated how you're going to vote. Chairperson No, I haven't. Selectman McGrath replied, I think you did but in any event, it'll be interesting. Thank you. Chairperson Roy said so we'll defer all of these. The Town Administrator added, till the next.

Zoning Board of Adjustment (1-member term to expire 12/31/23, 1 alternate member term to expire 12/31/22)

Norm Martin (alternate member applying for full member seat)
Rich Weissgarber (new applicant)

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairperson Roy asked, does anyone have anything they'd like removed for separate consideration? Chairperson Roy then asked that items D1,2 and E1 be removed for separate consideration.

Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to accept Consent Items A, B, C & F. Carried 5-0.

Chairperson Roy then said So the first one that I want to that I removed item D, I only did that so that we could thank the folks that made those donations. Donations and in particular Digital Credit Union. They are continually supporting the community with donations to the Library, to the Police, to the Fire. So I just wanted to take a minute and recognize that they are continuous supporters of the community. And then I removed E, which is our minutes from the last meeting, just for a correction under five-a nominations, Mr. Martin actually applied for the ZBA, not the Municipal Utility Committee. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to accept Consent Items D and F as amended. Carried 5-0.

- A. Assessing Items - none
- B. Water/Sewer Items - none
- C. Licenses & Permits & Policies
 - 1) Raffle Permit - Sparkling River Condo Association
 - 2) Tag Day Permit - Alvirne High School Friends of the Music Department
- D. Donations
 - 1) Donation of \$1,200 to the Benson Park Tree Donation Account from Dawn Lehman
 - 2) Donation of \$2,500 from Digital Credit Union to the Fire Department
- E. Acceptance of Minutes
 - 1) Minutes of October 11, 2022
- F. Calendar
 - 10/12 7:00 Planning Board - Buxton Meeting Room
 - 10/13 7:00 Zoning Board of Adjustment - Buxton Meeting Room
 - 10/13 7:00 Board of Selectmen Budget Review - BOS Meeting Room
 - 10/17 7:00 Conservation Commission - Buxton Meeting Room
 - 10/18 7:00 Board of Selectmen Budget Review - BOS Meeting Room
 - 10/18 7:00 Municipal Utility Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
 - 10/19 6:00 Library Trustees - Hills Memorial Library
 - 10/19 7:00 Board of Selectmen Visioning Session - Buxton Meeting Room
 - 10/20 7:00 Board of Selectmen Budget Review - BOS Meeting Room
 - 10/20 7:00 Benson Park Committee - HCTV Meeting Room
 - 10/24 7:00 Sustainability Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
 - 10/25 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on September 27, 2022

1.) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to hire Matthew Ryan as a part time maintenance assistant at the Police Department with a total of fifteen hours per week, and a starting salary of \$15.00 per hour. Carried 5-0

2) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to approve DPW Director, Jess Forrence's request to buy back 200 hours of vacation time. Carried 5-0.

3) Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to appoint Interim Fire Chief, Scott Tice as the Fire Chief, effective September 28, 2022, with a review in six months. Carried 5-0.

4) Selectman Morin made a motion to adjourn at 10:48p.m. This was seconded by Selectman Gagnon. Carried 5-0.

B. Water Service Piping - 161 Lowell Road (deferred from 9/27)

Chairperson Roy recognized Town Administrator, Steve Malizia who said, as you're all aware, there was a presentation at the last meeting from an applicant looking to get the Town of Hudson to waive the requirements for Made in the USA water piping. I was asked to contact the Town Attorney. While in the interim, the applicant has withdrawn the request for the waiver and will be installing Made in the USA water piping at the facility. So at this point, no action is necessary.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. September 13, 2022 State Primary Debrief

Chairperson Roy recognized Town Moderator Paul Inderbitzen. Mr. Inderbitzen began by saying, Good evening. I sent you a little summary, plus the statistics that I've been keeping for a number of years on the primary that was held September 13th. We had a 22.4% turnout, which actually, if you look down, is a little better than we've done with the midterm state primaries in the past. So a little bit better turnout. The numbers were that's only and part of that is because the total checklist went down too by 4,500 names after the annual the post census. I don't like to call it a purge, but they removed people who had not voted in, I think, two or three cycles at all. So those are, they all sent a letter. And most of them come back undeliverable because they're either deceased or moved away. And never, we didn't know that. So our total checklist is now about 15,838 people. So the percentage is up a little bit, but with 3,552 ballots cast. And again, mostly in the Republican side, the Democrat the Democratic side didn't have a whole lot of contests on their ballots. So it was our first use of the poll pads. We did that intentionally because we knew this wouldn't be a real heavy election. My impression and from both the ballot clerks and the public that it went quickly went well. We had a steady day. People came in pretty regular. But if you're looking at the statistics in terms of 143 voters per hour at the Community Center and 128 an hour at Alvirne, and that was pretty low. But it was spread. It wasn't all coming in at one time. It was spread out through most of the day. So that worked, worked very well. People were pleased with the turn; with the way they were able to get through the checklist. The checklist clerks felt it was a lot easier than having to page through a book and find a name and check it off. And it was also more accurate. I just did a report. I had to do a report to the state 30-day report, the first use of the poll pads. And we did. We had to maintain a backup checklist, paper checklist in case there's a failure. I don't know how long that will go on until

the poll pads are certified by whatever group is certifying them for the state. And we'll be doing that in November as well. But I had people set that. I had to have some extra people to sit there and they took those slips when you checked in and voted. They took the slips and they entered them on a paper checklist and that was pretty steady as well. However, I think some of those slips got missed because the number on the paper checklist was what, 26 less than what we had in the poll pads for check in. The poll pads check in was 35, 50, 35, 44. Only eight off from what the ballots cast was. And that we did see some problems in the reports. We the reporting system. We're just learning how to use it. We couldn't do anything until we had a result to look at. And we saw some things that we had to ask questions about. But a couple of people got entered in twice. We actually had people who registered the day of voting and said, no, we're not going to vote. We just wanted to register. Meanwhile, they had been checked in, so there is a way to correct that. We didn't know at the time how to do that. So we're in we're still in the learning process. But I thought the day went well. I did not hear too many complaints. I don't know if the Board members did, but if you have any questions, that would be we had new registrations were 103 are absentees were 176. I have to say our absentee registration or voters requests are well over 300 for November. So that is going to require a little bit more work to take care of. And I'll answer any questions you have.

Selectman McGrath said Paul, what was the number that you gave. How many? How many voted? Is it 15,000. Is that the number? The Moderator replied, no, that's our checklist. Yeah. 15,838. That includes 103 new ones. Selectman McGrath then said so the gentleman that's sitting over here, 15,838. We should begin trying to get those people to show up for the visioning session. There's only one visioning session and one on Zoom. I don't I don't anticipate that too many are going to zoom in for those meetings. But that's right around that number. That would be a good number to try and get to go to these visioning sessions and you get a real taste of what the people wanted the town to look like and agree.

The Moderator then said as I stated in my letter, I should have started out with this. I really have to compliment both the ballot staff that we have, but the Town custodial staff. Wayne was a big help in getting things over the DPW. I mean, they're doing double duty. I used to just go Monday morning set up and I'd be there till 1:00 and then I'd go home and I could wait till the next day. Now I have to go back at three at the high school in order to set that up. They do a tremendous job doing it. They did it quickly and they come back at 8:00pm to tear down the high school because they have to get ready for lunch. And that works. That went very well. So they just did they did a fantastic job. A lot of people helped out. Chairperson Roy asked was the school custodial staff also helping? Because when I was there, there were some folks that weren't DPW, folks that seemed to be helping. I want to thank them if they you know, if the school is custodial helped. The Moderator replied, yes. And I'll be talking to the School Board about that. They were very helpful. I was gonna wait till after November. They were helpful in terms of getting the area we needed. We needed a cooler in the little cafeteria so they could put out water and food. And they were they were helpful in that respect. I coordinated that with the head of the custodial services at Alberton, and they were helpful. They brought us some extra chairs with cushions on them because we have people sitting there all day. At least we have two shifts, but we do have some people that want to stay the whole day. So they do. We have a number of people that do that plus myself.

The Moderator then said the job, it's getting more complicated. Two locations. It's getting very, very complicated. Not complicated in terms of what you have to do, but just complicated in terms. It takes the whole day set up the day before I started working on the primary in in July. And if I had, if I wasn't retired, I'd be in trouble because there's just so much to do. Coordinating the people. We did have to have extra people. We had a good staff. I'm hoping to have we had a few people that couldn't come to the primary that will be here in November. So I'm hoping we have enough people to do all the different jobs because there's, the absentees that takes a few hours. It might take longer than that. The people at the Supervisor of the Checklist, we needed more people there to take registrations. I'm sure we'll have new registrations. Then there was those who were giving out the ballots, those who were marking the checklist on the paper, the paper checklist. There are a lot of different areas. And then we had some new requirements at the ballot box itself, because if people over voted the ballot, the machine wouldn't take it and they had to either fix it. Most people said, Oh, I didn't know. So they

went back and fixed it. We only had a few people that said, Oh, I don't care. So those had to be hand counted. But we did have a lot of hand counts because of this concern of people. They did a lot of write-ins of the people that were already on the ballot. Which made a longer night. And because of that, we won't be doing preliminary. We didn't have our results till almost midnight just because the doing the write-ins. We had to do the write-ins. You had to add those numbers to the candidate that that they belong to, even though they were already on the ballot. And it makes it a lot longer. The Women's Club does that for us at night. They come in fresh and they do all those write-ins. There were a lot. So I think they'll probably be in November. I just wish people would realize that there's nothing wrong with our tabulators you know, they count dots. That's all they do is count dots. But the misinformation and stuff that's out there, it's just that what people will believe just because they read it on Facebook, I'm amazed.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said thank you, Madam Chair. So a question to you kind of about more theoretical about your position not having any idea when you may want to retire and play some golf, but do you feel like you're setting up your position and all the positions under you for long term stability? So, you know, you're talking about we have more voting locations, we have more responsibility on you and you're a genuinely nice guy and you're doing your best to you said you're retired and spend a lot of time doing this. Let's say you retire tomorrow. Do you think we could have someone come in and pay them and have them have enough time to do what the job requires? The Moderator replied well, let me let me say this. I've taken on a lot of stuff working with two different town clerks. And, of course, Roger being new now. There were so many things that needed to be done I ended up helping a lot in that respect. Let me let me say this. My term is up in March of '24, and I would like to work over the next year and a half with someone who was interested in being a moderator and show them the ropes because it's when I walked in cold in 2007, it was a wakeup call. I mean, we were there. It was the new clerk as well, and both of us didn't know what we were doing. And, you know, 3:00 in the morning, we still hadn't finished everything. So we've done a lot. We've created a lot of forms; we've created a lot of organization. And I would like to be able to think right now I'm healthy, I don't have any health issues and but you never know. Things can happen. You just, you know, at that point, I'll be in March of '24, I'll be 75 and yeah, maybe I'd like to I don't want to give up working the elections. I love doing it, but maybe not being in charge or helping someone learn the ropes because it does take a while. There are so many different aspects, so many different requirements. Every time the legislature meets, there's new requirements.

Selectman Gagnon then said so I guess if I may just follow up with that and finish, can you lead us by the hand and kind of tell us what you need to prepare for that? If you want us to look into an assistant moderator or something of that extent to help train, just can you let us know what you need to make sure that your position is stable if you decide you want to go play golf? The Moderator replied, well, it's yeah, maybe we should have a discussion about what I actually do. I had somebody send me an email once saying what is actually the moderator do? And I had to sit there and I think a page and a half or two-page letter later, I still didn't I didn't feel that I adequately described what the different steps were, you know, food, the personnel, I mean, just the personnel, enough getting trained. Now you need training on the poll pads. You need training on the tabulators and we're going to need new tabulators. LHS is committed to making the Tabulators work through the 2024 elections. After that, we're going to probably have to get new ones. I'm going to meet with you Thursday on my budget. I'm going to talk to you about some of that stuff. But yeah, I think, you know, if we could sit down and I think somebody needs to know, I think what I really feel is that we ought to have an in-house person who is responsible for coordinating the elections. The moderator is responsible. There's no question about that. It's an elected position. And the law is very clear. The Board of Selectmen is responsible for the location and the setup and that sort of stuff. Moderator is responsible for the day of the election and but I also get all the people I do the food, arrange for the stuff afterwards. Usually I'm working three or four days after the election just to get the numbers correct so we can send our reports up to the state. It's there's a lot of coordination and I think it'd be nice to have someone in house who would be a coordinator for that. The clerk is so busy. I mean, he does a lot. Patti before him did an awful lot of stuff, but. We worked well together. I worked well with Roger. But there's just so many other aspects of that job that when it gets to an election time, you can't put it aside.

Chairperson Roy asked, does anybody have any thoughts? Selectman Morin asked, just if we did an assistant, would that have to be in an elected position? The Moderator replied, no. I could name a moderator pro tem in case I'm not around. That would take over. And I do appoint a number of assistant moderators, all the ones on the ballot boxes, are assistant moderators, because technically the moderators or the assistant designee is supposed to be on the ballot boxes or selectmen, which we've used some time on the ballot boxes, but it's not an elected position. It's the moderator is the only one moderator and the clerk.

Seeing no further questions from the Board, Chairperson Roy said, well, thank you for all the work you do and your staff, all the ballot clerks and all the checking people and all of that. I know they work very long hours on those days and it's much appreciated. The Moderator replied, well, it was a good start for the poll pads. It'll be interesting to see how November I'm expecting at least 2 to 3 times the number of people. I'm thinking I'm looking at 8,000 or 9,000 based on previous state elections, midterm state elections. You have to go back to 2018 if you want to look at the statistics, don't go on 2020, because that was such an unusual circumstance with COVID and everything else. But it's I'm expecting maybe 8,000 to 9,000 people for the November election. Selectman McGrath replied, I'm hoping for 15,000. Chairperson Roy replied that would be nice. Selectman Guessferd then said you know, I'm sorry. I should've said something. I just wanted to say this is the first election I've worked as a selectman, and I was, too, was very impressed with the staff, the professionalism, how much knowledgeable everybody was and how organized it was. So, yeah, as we've said here, I'd love to see that continue and that same kind of transitional mode of whenever that happens. But it was very, very, very positive. The Moderator replied, thank you. We do. We do our best.

B. November 8, 2022 General Election

Chairperson Roy said the November 8th general election. I guess we have a conflict. The Town Administrator said you have a scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting. So you have basically two choices. You could go to the 7th of November, which is the night before. We typically avoid that. It's also a Budget Committee budget review night. So I would recommend you go to November 1st, the previous Tuesday. That way you're not running into any conflict that I'm aware of and you would have the regular meeting from the eighth on the first. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to reschedule the Board of Selectmen meeting of Tuesday, November 8, 2022 to Tuesday, November 1, 2022. Carried 5-0.

C. Town Clerk/Tax Collector Resignation

Chairperson Roy recognized the Town Administrator who said so as you can see in your packet, we received a resignation from the Town Clerk/ Tax Collector effective this Friday. This happened a couple of years ago when Ms. Barry, the previous Town Clerk/Tax Collector, resigned. We have a Deputy, so it's my understanding under the law that the Deputy is in charge for up to 30 days. That's the period of time where you would appoint, and you are the appointing agency, until the election in March. So I believe the last time we looked at staff members, we/you basically interviewed interested staff members. You have that option. You have the option of doing that and/or going out to see who may or may not apply. But time is important in this case. And you could certainly we could certainly go out and look, don't know how quickly we could accomplish everything. And potentially you're bringing in somebody that has no idea how it works. We may want to or you may want to look at who may or may not be interested internally. Chairperson Roy replied, right. Right. But then the issue becomes there's no one interested than we have that shortens our time period to address it. You know what I mean?

Selectman Gagnon said and if I remember correctly, wasn't Roger's competitor during the election, someone who already worked in that position? And then my question, that would be would she be interested? Chairperson Roy replied, just so we have the timeline, when Ms. Barry resigned, Mr. Ordway was appointed interim, and then there were two people. There was another, her name escapes me now and then both of those folks applied for the interim position and then ran for the. Selectman Gagnon replied, got it. Got it. All right. Thank you for that clarification. Chairperson Roy said I don't know, if I don't know what the interest would be but I get concerned that we wouldn't have to a lot of time to address it. The Town Administrator replied, that's correct. Chairperson Roy then said so I don't know what the thoughts of the Board are, but. The Town Administrator then said it has to be a resident just to make sure that that's clear.

Selectman Morin asked, has anybody had any discussions with anybody in that office? The Town Administrator replied, one of the persons that I was going to discuss with today was out today. So I have not had any discussion today. Selectman Morin then said if we have those discussions and if he gets somebody, we can bring it back next meeting. The Town Administrator said don't forget your meeting on budgets for several nights. So if we needed to...Chairperson Roy said yeah, we could stick something in there for that one. For that one issue. Yeah.

Selectman Gagnon then said do we want to do plan A and plan B simultaneously? Ask someone internally and put it out. And if we get two applicants, then decide it's better to choose between two, then be stuck. Chairperson Roy replied, well, I'd almost like to see where Mr. Malizia gets when he discusses with who's there, because that's the other for a short period of time I'd rather have somebody that has a little bit of experience there. I mean, we obviously can't. Yeah.Yeah. We can't control who gets elected in March, but for that short period of time I'd like is a little disruption in that office as possible. Selectman Morin then said especially with what's coming to the election, tax bills and all that we don't want. The Town Administrator said we'll have more information Thursday.

Chairperson Roy then said so if you could like, blast us, blast us and email, tell us how you made out, I'd appreciate it.

D. September 2022 Revenues & Expenditures

The Town Administrator was recognized and said so we are a quarter of the way through the year 25%. Again, not a lot to report at this point. Things are sort of where they should be. As I keep repeating incumbent things like the trash contract, the legal contract. So you'll see some things that look overspent, relatively speaking, but that's because we do purchase orders from major things. So at this point, I don't cause for alarm. We're not in the winter yet. That's obvious. Obviously, critical registrations continue to do well, 26%. They're running a little bit ahead of last year. So I don't know. Everybody's getting the cars, There's no chips. So but we continue to do well on that. So it's a good thing. It's it is a good thing. It is a good thing.

9. Board Liaison Reports

Selectman Gagnon: Not to too much. Nothing more on the Sustainability Committee. I believe they had the council meeting last month. NRPC tomorrow has a Technical Transportation Advisory Committee. They're going to be reviewing the project. So not only our products that we submitted, but the products from other towns and add a NRPC level prioritizing them. It's going to be tomorrow. I will report back as soon as I know where our project stands to let you guys know how it fell. And then they were reviewing a regional transportation model. That's really it for my liaison assignments right now.

Selectman Morin: I had a Budget Committee meeting. We discussed the fire truck. We discussed the ARPA money and the CIP. There were a few requests to bring back to the next meeting. I've already met with Mr. Malizia to try to get that information out to them. I have forwarded, I got from the Fire chief a spec sheet of what the fire truck was because they couldn't understand what we were buying. So they got a spec sheet for that so they could look at that and we'll see where it goes from there. Chairperson Roy asked, and where is the fire truck? Is it still in Lawrence? Selectman Morin replied, it's still in Massachusetts. Takes a couple of weeks to prep them.

Selectman McGrath: Nothing from Municipal Utilities and nothing from the police department. However, I did have conversations with him over the last several days. Chairperson Roy said he's out.... Is he still out of town? The Town Administrator replied, he's back.

Selectman Guessferd: Let's see. Nothing on the Cable Committee. Planning Board, obviously, there's there's a lot of things happening. The visioning sessions are the the most or one of the most current things. So we're encouraging people to sign up for both. They can do the zoom or not. And the obviously the in person want to try to fill that Community Center, if we can, on Saturday with folks. I don't think we're going to get 15,000 people in there. But it would be nice if we did, right. If we try. Selectman McGrath said we've got some people in the audience that might try to drum up some support. Chairperson Roy and Selectman Guessferd both replied, I hope so. Selectman Guessferd continued saying, and, you know, the other big item is, as we've seen some public input on tonight, the Hillwood project is back on the table for review. So tomorrow night, our meeting is at the Community Center to accommodate a larger potential group that we're expecting tomorrow night. And we begin that process on the revised plan and and how we how we how we handle it. And so they'll be there'll be a lot of, I think, things moving forward there. There'll be a lot of interest, a lot of town interest, which which is always a good thing. And that's what I have. Yes?

Selectman Gagnon asked, if you don't mind me asking you a question. Can you maybe not tonight, another time, can you explain to me the technical difference between a new applicant and a revised applicant? Because in your statement, and I believe the Planning Board is considering this as a revised. Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah. I mean, and I'm going to have to get back to you on the specifics. I don't want to speak out of out of just speculation or or not not full knowledge. So, yes, I'm going to probably have a few details filled in for me tomorrow night as well, I'm sure. So, yes, absolutely. Selectman Gagnon replied, let me know. That'd be great so I understand.

Chairperson Roy: So I was at the Library Board of Trustees meeting last week. They reported a very successful summer reading program that included participants from the age of two and up, including adults. And I guess their one complaint was the prizes they have for the adults weren't adult enough. I guess they were geared towards more kids, but it was the first year that they had combined the summer reading program to just having one program instead of one for children, one for teens, one for adult's kind of thing. They had a tremendous amount of participation and went really well and they look forward to doing it again next year.

The Friends of the Library reported that they'll they will have book giveaways at and I believe we're talking about this already Santa arrival the day after Thanksgiving. So if you're at that, your kids can get a free book and then they publish their operating schedule for 2023. So that's all I have.

Selectman McGrath then said can I make a comment? So about the Planning Board and the Hillwood development and all of that, please, whatever. I'm aiming this over at this side of the table. Don't put anything on Facebook that you don't want held against you or held against the Town. Please don't do that. I know, I know. There's certain individuals that really like to put things on Facebook. They think it makes them important and all of that. But that causes.... I'm aiming it at you (Selectman Gagnon). Selectman Gagnon replied, oh, I thought it was Gary. Selectman Guessferd then said that's inappropriate. That is an inappropriate comment. As a personal comment about people on the board here, I think we need to we need to keep those kind of comments to a minimum. Selectman McGrath replied okay, so, in other words, he shouldn't be posting anything on Facebook that's going to come back to haunt the town and cause the town to be facing a lawsuit. That's all I'm

going to say, because that happened before. Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah, I would I would agree in general that those are things we shouldn't be doing. Absolutely. Chairperson Roy said I would agree that it's inappropriate to... Selectman Guessferd said to point out individuals on that. We have to be careful. And this Board is people look at this Board and if they feel like we are not handling things, if we're handling things in a more personal nature, that and I've talked to townspeople, they don't like that. We need to be above that. We don't need to be aiming comments at different people on the Board. And I think we just need to be careful about that, all of us, because it's really it bothers me a lot when I hear those kind of comments, those little side comments, those little things that tend to kind of dig at each other. We really should not be doing any of that. And I'm not saying that to anybody in particular. I'm saying that to everybody here. We really have to be above all of that as we move forward. Our behavior needs to be professional and toward each other and toward the Town. So that's all I'm going to say at this point, because I'm more of this is coming up.

Selectman Guessferd then said on a positive note, I forgot, I can't believe I didn't say anything about the Rec Department. So we'll end this on a positive note. So they had a woodshop night last week. They raised some good money for annual Recreation Department Scholarship. So that's good news. Turnout was really good. There's a kind of yoga yoga program in town. Now they're testing an interest level of those of small child children, 3 to 5 years coming with their parents. That begins next week. There's a couple of contests, October contests for pumpkin carving and decorating that are going on. There's going to be Amazon gift cards as prizes, and that ends on the 27th. I think we mentioned also that there's going to be the Speedway is going to have the annual Fright Night that's going to be happening. The comedy show. We have actually are going to have another comedy show. We haven't we had one a while back a little while ago. And as you know, we used to do these all the time and the tickets are going on sale tomorrow. And it's actually the date is November 12th. So that should be fun. They always you know, they always have a great turnout for these things and they always get some really good comics. So this would be a very nice town event. And then the senior programs are going well. There was a fall cookout. There's a field trip coming up tomorrow and there's a brains and balance class that's seems to be having a good turnout as well. So for the team yourself, and that is the rec department. I'm sorry, I just forgot to report that.

10. Remarks by Town Administrator

The Town Administrator was recognized and said the only thing I have tonight is we kick off budget season for Fiscal Year '24 this Thursday. So the first budget meeting for the Town will be Thursday starting at 7:00pm. We'll have the information posted online so folks can read it if they like. I believe you all got your budget materials, if I'm not mistaken. So we will start in earnest on Thursday at 7:00pm.

11. Remarks by School Board

School Board Chairman, Gary Gasdia was recognized and said thank you. Great. Thank you. So school is, I would say, getting back to normal. We've had obviously a few interesting weeks. You know, there was obviously the accident that was referenced earlier. We do have support at the high school for any students that need it. And a fund was established. There is information on Facebook. I believe it was done by the Alvirne Boosters for the families. You know, the passenger student is still in the hospital recovering. So it's going to be a long journey there, just as everyone said, you know, whether it's Wason Road or anywhere else, especially now with the getting dark, just keep your eyes open and hopefully we don't have to go through anything like this again. Other news; budget season starts for us as well. We have meetings on the 17th, 20th and 26th and everything will be available on the website. Sau81.org before then for anyone that wants to look.

This past weekend there was the Salem Band show. The marching band performed. They did a really nice job. One of the consent items in here was that the Friends of Music are going to be trying to raise some funds. If all goes well, this will be a year that our students go to Disney and march down the mainstream. However, as you can imagine, the prices are a little bit higher than they've been in the past. And since the students weren't in school, they don't have as much. They don't have the normal three years of fundraising that they have. So any hope anyone can give would be greatly appreciated. And finally, our FFA folks just continue to win, whether it's at the Deerfield Fair, the Big E or anything like that. They represent Alvirne and Hudson really well and seem to always come in first and everything they do. So off to a good start.

Chairperson Roy said congratulations to them. And where is the fundraiser for the Friends of...Mr. Gasida replied, it's in your packet at Market Basket, I believe November 5th and 6th, I believe is what. And Ayotte's State Line.

12. Other Business/Remarks by the Selectmen

Selectman Guessferd: I'm all set. I've said what I need to say

Selectman Gagnon: Thank you. So let's see here. I have two questions. One, for my own knowledge, I think we asked if anyone wanted to join me. I believe it's called the Lower Merrimack Advisory Committee. Have we had any applicants for that? Do we still have open seats there? The Town Administrator replied, not to my knowledge. Chairperson Roy then said if we haven't had any applicants could make another push on that? Selectman Gagnon replied, I think it's a pretty important group to be part of.

And then lastly, I guess to touch on this kind of easily, but just really to ask questions here. There was a press release and I've had people reach out to me about the accident and that the press release two employees were quoted and they seemingly seemed to contradict each other. I'm not pointing fingers. I'm not trying to make a problem with it just for the sake of being factual. Do we have a process to review any statements that leave, not by who should do it or who shouldn't, but just to make sure that it's being said the same way that we don't contradict each other? Is that, is that an issue or something...is there a process. Selectman Morin replied it depends, depends on which you're talking about. Are you talking about the police have a press release. They put out their investigation and then you're talking about Channel nine? Chairperson Roy replied, yeah, it was an interview. Yeah, it was an interview on I think MUR, is that channel nine? Selectman Morin replied, I'm not sure what what was the contradictory? Selectman Gagnon replied, I believe and this was told me by at least two individuals that the Police Chief said it had I quote here because I didn't read it myself. But hearing through it, the Police Chief said had nothing to do really with with traffic per se that had other other variables to it and that a Town employee seemed to be hinting that it had to do with traffic and he was referencing traffic problems and all that doesn't seem like a big deal. Selectman Morin replied, oh no. I can tell you from experience that road is a very bad road. He was saying nothing that is not true. You know, many fatals have been out on that road? It's just circumstances related to this crash were different. That's all. Selectman Gagnon replied, and that's all I'm getting at. Chairperson Roy then said I think it's about having in situations like that, having sort of a unified message so that people....Selectman Morin said but I think, again, we had the police investigation report and they said what they found when the interview took place on TV, specific questions were asked and the answer was given that it is a bad road, I can tell you it's a bad road. And the police sent out numbers. I have them, but they gave them '19 and there was 70 crashes on Wason Road from '19 to now. It's a bad road. But then I asked, what about this intersection over here? Same time period. 54. This is a controlled intersection. So. So where is the problem? Is the problem the real road or is the problem the intersection? I don't know. You've got a controlled intersection with 54 crashes in the same period of time. The one right right here. So and that's what we're saying, that that's a dangerous intersection, but it's controlled. So what is the cause?

Selectman Gagnon replied, and I guess my and I'm not disagreeing. Those are all factual and it's all unfortunate situations. I guess what was raised to me in the way I interpret it was the traffic concern or discussion is one in its own. And then reporting on what happened in this unfortunate accident is a different cause. Selectman Morin then said and I just should I don't disagree, but the way I saw the interview on TV was the question was asked and he said a factual statement, the road is dangerous. He didn't say anything that contradicted the police. He just said the road is dangerous. And I fully agree with him that the road is dangerous. This intersection is dangerous. We just have lucked out that we haven't really injured or killed anybody there yet. So that's what I'm saying? Selectman Gagnon replied, yup, thanks for your opinion. Okay. That's all I had for that Madam Chair.

Selectman McGrath: I am going to request that our next regular meeting to have a discussion about the Zoning Board and their actions. Chairperson Roy asked, anything specific? Selectman McGrath replied, just some of the some of the motions that have been made and approved and some of the actions that have taken place. The Chairperson then asked, did we want Mr. Buttrick or Mr. D'Addario there? Selectman McGrath replied, perhaps both. The Chair asked the Town Administrator, can you invite them to the next meeting? The Town Administrator replied, yeah, if that's what you'd like. Selectman McGrath then said there may be others that should be there, but at this point, I think just those two.

Selectman Morin: I got nothing.

Chairperson Roy: The only thing I have is I mentioned it several times is the visioning sessions are coming up, can find the information on the website. You can either go on Zoom, I believe it's on Thursday night. Is that? Yeah. Or you can go to the Community Center on Saturday. It is a great way for you to get you're your thoughts about what you want the town to look like out there. And I encourage every citizen to attend one of the sessions.

Selectman Gagnon said Madam Chair, I'm sorry for interrupting. Forgive me. Just on that note, quickly, I had someone else reach out to me to the Town web page, didn't actually have the master planning information on it. It's currently being held by NRPC's web page. I did let Brian Groth know that. And so I think as of yesterday or today, he said he's going to try to fix that. So just so the public knows, if you're looking for on the town website, it may not be there yet. It should be. But you can also search NRPC as well. They're hosting the master planning references. Chairperson Roy replied, thank you for that clarification.

13. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Gagnon at 8:24p.m., seconded by Selectman Guessferd to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:2, III (a) Strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining. 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. (I) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Nonpublic Session was entered at 8:24p.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 was asked to leave the room.

The Board entered open session at 8:41p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session

1.) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to retain the services of former Town Clerk/Tax Collector Roger Ordway, for the period of October 17, 2022 through December 31, 2022, at the rate of \$30.00 without benefits. Carried 5-0.

2.) Selectman Guessferd made a motion to adjourn at 8:41p.m. This was seconded by Selectman Morin. Carried 5-0.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:48 p.m. by Selectman Morin seconded by Selectman Gagnon. 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