

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the December 13, 2022 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairperson Roy the meeting of December 13, 2022 at 7:24 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Police Captain Dave Cayot.

3. ATTENDANCE

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

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia - Town Administrator; Jerry Bento, John Debuc, Lt. McElhinney - Right to Know Committee; Craig Putnam & Kate Messner - Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee - Elvis Dhima - Town Engineer; Bill Collins - Conservation Commission Chairman; Tad Dionne - Police Chief; Police Captain - Dave Cayot; Police Sergeant - Pat Broderick; Jill Laffin - Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Robinson Smith, 48 Burns Hill Road.

Robison Smith, 48 Burns Hill Road. I'm here to talk about concerns of traffic safety and loss and road. First, I would like to thank the Traffic Safety Committee and the Board of Selectmen for reviewing and initiating inquiries into long overdue, overdue issues impacting Wason Road. I feel it is important to evaluate the safety issues through a multi-tiered effort by providing the best possible outcome for the residents as a whole. I would also like to thank our Director of the Department of Works, Police Chief and Town Engineer for expressing their concerns and insight, reflecting the limited resources to initiate safety improvements. These underfunded constraints highlight the need for improvements not only for the residents but also their staff. With the continued growth of Hudson, along with our surrounding communities, the impact of a recent death of a minor and the increased potential for future accidents in Wason Road, my hope is the Board can formulate a plan to manage the safety of the road of the road through immediate and long term solutions.

Some of these solutions could be installing traffic calming speed feedback signs to address excessive speed, installing rumble strips in areas where vehicles routinely cross the double yellow line into the median and providing areas along the roadway for law enforcement officers to safely turn around and cite drivers for speeding, etc. All of these recommendations will help our community ensure safety for residents, children, pedestrians, motorists and town employees. Wason Road has used has been used as a major thoroughfare bypass in our community since the approval of the former Stop and Shop now utilizes a Goodwill. It was the improvements made to the intersection of Wason and Lowell Road that has transformed the original purpose residential collector road into a major thoroughfare. Yet this transformation does not have a safe area for residents to get their mail, walk or even allow delivery drivers to pull over without blocking the roadway. The roadway is even used by trailer semi-trucks, which creates increased safety issues when the trailer crosses into oncoming lanes, navigating the sharp bends and blind curves in the roadway, the semi-trailers have a length of 53 feet, not including the cab I'd like to mention.

The Board of Selectmen should continue evaluating these deficiencies and develop solutions with respect to town committees and departments before we have another tragedy. The road currently has over 40,000 vehicles using the road and with continued regional growth, these numbers will only increase. It wouldn't surprise me if we were to see 60,000 vehicles per day within two years. This is why having a responsible plan, managing increased use in mitigating hazards for drivers along the along with the community is now essential. Other roadways such as Burns Hill Road also deal with similar traffic issues that will need to be addressed in the near future. After speaking with the different shareholders in our highway, police and engineering Departments, there seems to be budgetary constraints, making ongoing safety improvements and the investments into the town's infrastructure and roadways. Mr. Thatcher expressed concerns over children walking along Virginia Drive and Burns Hill Road being used as a major cut through, I might add, on their way to and from Nottingham West Elementary School. The school even lacks sidewalks to keep children off the street. This is concerning from a parent's perspective, especially when the winter, I'm sorry, during the winter,

when roads are poorly lit and children are forced to walk in the street through standing water and snowbanks. Plus, the school zone and its proximity have not been reviewed or revised since the school was built in the 1980s. The intersection lights installed with Pelham and Lowell Road, along with the traffic volume, has dramatically increased since these school zones were established. This in itself sets our community up for another potential accident on our best day, or a potential fatality on our worst.

For these reasons, I feel having a capital reserve fund is an essential element to tackle recommendations made by our traffic Safety Committee. This will prevent the budgetary burden on our police and highway departments making tough decisions between salaries for their staff, fuel for their vehicles or salt for roadways. A capital reserve fund would allow continued improvements outside of our traditional impact fees and allow continued safety improvements for our community. The Reserve Fund would also ensure these departments have the ability to initiate and fund improvements. Otherwise, there is little incentive to pursue safety projects due to the financial implications impacting these departments limited operating budgets. Secondly, our Highway Safety Committee and our Selectmen need to have a running list to further identify safety issues in our community. Categorize and priority. Categorize the priority of the hazards and estimate projected costs associated with improvements. This will allow responsible budgeting for the capital reserve fund and allow the committee to provide recommendations for the improvements based on the community's needs. This will also help the community make responsible improvements and gradually improve the safety of the community as a whole. Mr. Smith paused telling his young son who was sitting next to him, best behavior. Thirdly, the Hudson Boulevard may never come to fruition. The community now needs to begin reviewing the process of improving existing roadways and infrastructure to mitigate the safety issues created with the overuse of residential roadways now use as major thoroughfares. This will likely require much more investment in improvements than the proposed boulevard due to the lack of state funding subsidies. Having a plan to bridge the gap between the current situation of residential roadways used as temporary highways and making the now long overdue improvements will be a likely will be a key funding aspect impacting Hudson's existing infrastructure. Whether the town decides expanding existing roads, installing sidewalks, drainage and vehicle breakdown lanes. Or building a purpose built boulevard is going to be an essential component impacting the ongoing safety of our community.

Finally, my request for this meeting is that the Board of Selectmen initiate the following; request for a capital reserve fund on the ballot with potential funding. Utilize the ARPA surplus funds to install permanent speed feedback signs along Wason Road. Install turnaround parking areas along Wason Road for police and emergency safety vehicles. Provide deterrence of vehicles driving into oncoming lanes through rumble strips or traffic divider. Ensure trailers semi-trucks are prevented from using Wason Road as a bypass, with posted signs reflecting a \$500 penalty after Goodwill and at the end of the roadway. This is something that other towns have already posted in other areas as far as the fee being a \$500 fine. Number six, provide a system of evaluating safety improvements based on need costs and priority. And seven expansion of the existing school zone for Nottingham West School, along with providing a sidewalk in front of the school. Further enhancing safety in our community. Thank you for your time and I look forward to any questions the Selectmen may have. Thank you.

Chairperson Roy said, I don't think anybody... does anybody have anything? Selectman Gagnon then said so I did take some notes. Thank you for speaking tonight. And I know as a father it's tough, but we listen fully. I did take some notes and I thank you for your time. Mr. Smith replied, thank you, guys. Thank you. And Merry Christmas.

Peggy Huard, 13 David Drive

My name is Peggy Huard, 13 David Drive. I'm here tonight to follow up on several emails I sent all of you. I have not heard a response from any of you except for an auto response from one of you. Thank you, Mr. Gannon. I need a response from you to take my complaint and my concerns to the next level. Don't know if you want me to reiterate my concerns for the record, but they surround the latest tax bills which have come out with a despairing or haphazard increase, significant increase for some, decrease for others. And on the surface it looks like it's from warrant articles. But as I dug in over the weekend, I've determined that it's from an incredibly abusive appropriation process. The, I have the, my tax bill and I have the rate letter from the New Hampshire Department of Revenue. And that clearly shows that the actual tax burden, the tax commitment did not increase enough to create an \$00, \$1,000, a \$1400 increase on a number of individual's tax bills.

What has happened, the overall valuation for the town has only increased 48%. My own valuation increased 66%. Others increased 75%. In addition to the disparity between the individual valuations, the public utilities and the commercial properties, they have enjoyed a significant decrease in their tax burden. So this town has utilized an abuse of assessment to redistribute a tax burden unethically at a time that is difficult for very many

people, creating burdens for the elderly at double their tax burden from the first part of the year. While these corporations in your community and the utilities that are supposed to be carrying their weight have enjoyed a significant decrease. So I'd like a response. I've talked to Mr. Michaud and I know that the abatement process is available, but this is not an abatement issue. This is an integrity issue. This is a flaw in what you've done for an assessment. It's not going to end here. If I have to go through an abatement and anyone else in my predicament, you're not going to be able to follow the criteria for the abatement process. Because interesting enough, the trick is, yeah, you're going to argue that our assessed value is at market, but everyone, so many other people is not, and that is pulling their tax rate down and shoving it over to another individuals in a very unethical distribution.

So I'd like a response because I do need to take this outside of this town and I do need to know where you stand. What are the remedies other than abatement? What is your opinion on what happened? Is this a mistake? I keep looking at my emails hoping for, we're sorry Mrs. Huard, this is a mistake. We're going to be issuing new bills, but that hasn't happened. So if any one of you could respond, I would appreciate it.

Selectman Gagnon then said so I certainly can't answer all your questions tonight. I thank you for your time. I do find what you say interesting. I'll put that out there. As an individual of five here on this Board. I don't know what to do, to be completely honest to you. You know, we hired a third party company to do this work, and that's not my expertise. So with a cliff notes, can you maybe give me a recommendation on what? And I don't mean this be, honestly what you recommend that I would do to speak with my colleagues and to speak with a professional organization we hired to do these assessments and to to say that we think you did it wrong. But I'm not an expert to prove you did it wrong. How do I do that?

Mr. Huard replied, well, I mean, you can take a look at your your top commercial properties to begin with. Wal-Mart, Sam's, BAE, the Goodwill property, all of the corporations they've enjoyed like \$10,000, \$20,000, \$30,000, decrease in their taxes. You can look at the letter, you can show them that, ask them for their spot testing. They were supposed to spot test to see how these market values weighed against something, I don't remember the exact terminology. I don't really know what the answer is. I would have hoped that someone on this Board had a little more expertise than just to take someone's report. Doesn't it concern you that the corporations have decreased in such a magnitude while you have elderly people who are already receiving exemptions, double their taxes? Mine increased by \$800 and should have only been a couple of hundred based on the warrant articles. There's been no warning. The warrant articles did not get anyone ready for this. This is taxation above warrant articles. This is an abuse of taxation geared to a certain group of individuals. Not everyone has this increase as a disparity across the community and it's unacceptable. Selectman Gagnon replied, thank you. Ms. Huard then said, I don't know what to tell you to do. I can tell you I can show you what happened. I can give you all of my analysis in detail as to who has what decrease and what increase. I can show you the different companies which I've given you a list of sample of those. Selectman Gagnon replied, not at this moment, but thank you. Let me let me sit on that information. Ms. Huard replied, thank you. That's it? That's all?

Selectman McGrath then said I'll just make one comment. I haven't received my own tax bill yet, so I can't even respond. Ms. Huard replied, brace yourself, Marilyn. Brace yourself. Selectman McGrath started to reply, well, I mean...Ms. Huard interjected saying I've done your calculation based on Vision, so brace yourself. Selectman McGrath replied you're ahead of me because I don't have my tax bill yet, so. Ms. Huard then said well, they're available to anybody on the website. Everyone can access theirs. And you're all in for a rude awakening. Thank you very much. Have a nice holiday.

Heidi Jacoby, 94 Gowing Road

My name is Heidi Jacoby. I live at 94 Gowing Road. I wanted to begin by thanking all of you for all the hard work on the Right to Know policy. I know that it's in the packet this evening and it's very impressive to me that it goes beyond the minimum requirement that was requested. And I am sincerely grateful for all that hard work. For the Right to Know as I know, it takes a lot of time and effort to do that.

I also wanted to just share with the public the letter I wrote as a follow up to the sewer allocation for the Target Hudson Logistics Center and get it into the public domain.

"Why the Board of Selectmen need to vote on granting sewer for the Target Warehouse Development site plan which has been proposed for the Green Meadow Golf Course Property.

As the Target site plan needs new permits from both the state and the town, as there is currently no process for "amending" a site plan in the Town of Hudson as affirmed by Brian Groth.

1. The Target site plan which, if approved, will cause the Amazon site plan to become null and

void, and the sewer allocation that was provided to the Amazon site plan will no longer be valid per Hudson Town Sewer Code § 270-17, D (2).

- §270-17, D (2): Allocation expiration. All new sewer allocations issued by the Board of Selectmen pursuant to this section will be void within 90 days from issuance unless within that period of time a subdivision or site plan application for the same use described in the sewer allocation request has been accepted by the Planning Board as a completed application pursuant to RSA 676:4. Furthermore, all new sewer applications will expire for any approved subdivision or site plan if any subdivision or site plan becomes invalid pursuant to HTC § 289-41.

2. If the Target Warehouse site plan is approved by the planning board it will not have sewer as sewer can only be granted by the Board of Selectmen when a property is outside the sewer district as we know this property is outside of the sewer district as stated by the Town Engineer Elvis Dhima during the January 12, 2021, Board of Selectmen meeting, the meeting minutes note Elvis stating:

- "The applicant has made a request to ask the Board of Selectmen for sewer allocation for this project because currently they are outside of the sewer district.

Therefore, according to the Hudson NH Sewer Regulations the applicant must request a Sewer Allocation for the Target site plan.

3. When the Amazon Warehouse received sewer allocation and the Site Plan (with sewer allocation) was approved by the Planning Board on May 5th, 2021, the builder had 90 days to file that approved site plan with the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds per Town of Hudson Sewer Limitation Allocation Procedure § 270-17, D (2).

Unfortunately, they have lost that approval since they missed this deadline, and only recorded it on September 9, 2022 well passed the 90 days.

- §270-17, D (2): Allocation expiration. All new sewer allocations issued by the Board of Selectmen pursuant to this section will be void within 90 days from issuance unless within that period of time a subdivision or site plan application for the same use described in the sewer allocation request has been accepted by the Planning Board as a completed application pursuant to RSA 676:4. Furthermore, all new sewer applications will expire for any approved subdivision *or* site plan if any subdivision or site plan becomes invalid pursuant to HTC § 289-41.

4. As you can see from the above last line the sewer is allocate to the site plan (not to the property). The sewer allocation that exists is allocated to the Amazon site plan and not the Target site plan (which has not gone before the Board of Selectmen for a vote).

- §289-41: PLANS approved at PLANNING BOARD meeting, but not signed and recorded at Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds. PLAN validity shall be as required in § 276-9 of the LAND USE REGULATIONS.

5. The approval of sewer for the Amazon site plan was provided because Amazon was deemed "essential" by the Board of Selectmen and an essential business outside of the Sewer District can be granted sewer according to 270-17 B 1 therefore, sewer was granted to the Amazon site plan. At the January 21, 2021, Board of Selectmen meeting Attorney Smolak stated to the Board:

"In terms of delivery, as you know with COVID these types of facilities have taken on increasing prominence in delivery of essential goods so for example it's not just a TV or furniture it could be a generator, someone's generator goes out they depend on that generator for power, that's an essential item that could be delivered in a days' notice or a couple days' notice so that pipes don't freeze and things to that nature. So there are goods here that are delivered that are essential to public health, safety and welfare."

- As stated in Town of Hudson Code Section 270-17(8)(1). In furtherance of the new policy of allocation, the Board of Selectmen establishes the following standards to be implemented for the allocation of municipal sewer capacity. Except as provided in this subsection, the Board of Selectmen will not approve new sewer allocations from the remaining sewer capacity for any use located outside of the system boundary as described in Exhibit A; provided, however, that the Selectmen may, in their sole discretion, grant a request to deliver sewer outside the existing system boundary described in Exhibit A for public facility uses, such as schools and other governmental uses, for community facilities, such as hospitals and public utilities, or for other residential, commercial/industrial uses that in the opinion of the Board of Selectmen are essential for the public health, safety and welfare of the Town of Hudson.

6. Items that have no bearing on the sewer allocation and the need for the Board of Selectmen to vote on sewer for the Target site plan are:

- There has been no change in Land use thus those regulations have no bearing on this decision especially since the sewer was not allocated to the land but to the Amazon site plan.
- 276-9 Plan and Permit Validity does not apply as the Amazon Site plan becomes null and void once the Target site plan is approved. The Target site plan needs all fresh approvals from both the town and all NH state agencies that have jurisdiction over site plans, per Brian Groth as neither the Town of Hudson nor the State has the ability or procedure to "amend" an approved site plan (all permits and approvals need to be applied for again, as this is the Target site plan).

7. You have looked at other developments that are outside of the Sewer District and their plans include Septic Systems and do not ask to connect to sewer as they are not essential services to the Town of Hudson. One example is the Terrace View Drive Development. The minutes of the February 8, 2022, Board of Selectmen meeting shows Selectman Gagnon with an exchange with Elvis Dhima "I think I know the answer, but just to clarify for me, this is within the sewer district, this? Mr. Dhima replied, no. these are all septic. So they're going to have water, but not town sewer. So they're all going to have septic systems." This is an example of why we have a sewer district and how the Board of Selectmen enforced the regulations.

8. There is a Sewer Frequently Asked Questions section on the Hudson, NH Town website which addresses properties outside of the Sewer District:

- Question - My property does not have Town sewer. How can I get connected?
- Answer - Your property has to be in the sewer district to connect to sewer (map located in the Engineering Department and the Sewer Utility office). It also must have sewer access. Please call the Sewer Utility office (886-6029), the Engineering office (886-6008) or the Highway Department (886-6018) for more information.
- <https://www.hu9.sonn.gov/sewer/@gmy-property-does-not-have-town-sewer-how-can-i-get-connected>

I want to reiterate that I believe the Board of Selectmen owe it to the town and to the developer to make sure that they clearly do or do not have a sewer allocation for the Target site plan, which is significantly and distinctively different from the Amazon site plan. I look forward to understanding your decision. Thank you for serving the town of Hudson, NH to the best of your ability and for your time and dedication to representing the members of this community.

Sincerely,

Heidi Jakoby
94 Gowing Road
Hudson, NH 03051"

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

A. Interview

Municipal Utility Committee (1 alternate member vacancy expiring 4/30/25)

Karl Huber Jr.

Chairperson Roy recognized Mr. Karl Huber Jr. of 23B Clearview Circle, applying for an alternate member seat on the Municipal Utility Committee. Chairperson Roy asked Mr. Huber to tell the Board a little bit about himself and why he'd like to serve on the Municipal Utility Committee.

Mr. Huber began by saying, Sure. So my background, I've moved up from New Jersey to Dunstable, Mass. And I took on a very strong interest in joining the Water Commission in Dunstable. And I did that just with being so involved in the town. And that lasted for 20 some odd years until we moved from Dunstable to Hudson. I went through a great time of trial tribulation when I came on to the position at Dunstable, Mass DEP gave me a rude awakening, made me aware that Town had Dunstable with a new infrastructure, was four months and some odd days away from having to go and re-permit. We are a small water system was 101 connections. We needed to go and upgrade our infrastructure before we had to go through the permit process. So we did that. The great success we had a great infrastructure, pure water quality was perfect. What I started to learn how to do is work with the various different organizations in town. Board of Selectmen, Roads Planning Board, Advisory Board, Financial Committees. But the other thing is I also learned how to work with outside communities. As I mentioned, we were a small unit. We needed to depend on outside agencies for operator. So we worked with small water systems very familiar with Whitewater, who I know works with the Town of Hudson. We also worked with neighboring towns. So we had to go through, during my tenure, we had to put in compliance issues. We had to get storage up. So we put on a project, put a storage tank. We needed to put an infrastructure together. We needed to upgrade our roads, we needed to license. We needed to do so many things.

Mr. Huber went on to say, I'm retired. My wife and I, our kids are growing up with families. Dunstable house was too big. We decided to downsize, came over to Shepherds Hill, and I went through the website and I reached out to Valerie and Barbara and Bill Abbott from the Municipal Utility Authority or Committee, and they said, Karl, yeah, there's an opening for an alternate. I said, Perfect. They invited me to their meeting last last month, sat down, gave my same introductory speech, and I'm very interested. I, I enjoy working with. I've been in the software industry. Mechanical engineer by degree worked in the software industry for 35 years. Global. I developed partnerships. I worked with all of my organizations within my company. I have a great track record as I listed as references on my application through the Town of Dunstable. Board of Selectmen Representative. My successor. The Chairman of the Water Board. My secretary, Bob Bostwick from the DEP, who was our our district chair and a bunch of other folks. So if it comes to if you if the Board needs contact information for any one of those persons, I'd be more than happy to provide that. I miss what I did. I miss what I did. It was a volunteer job. It was an elected position. I got elected for each and every consecutive three-year term. I chaired the Board. I worked with the road department. I worked with so many other departments because Dunstable is small, but we still we were a utility. We were a regulated utility.

So I found myself answering to a lot of the town's folks because they were worried about develop. I started doing an intercity municipal agreement collaboration with Pepperell or even with Tyngsborough, but in Dunstable, small town, you can't do too many things too fast because everybody gets worried that all of a sudden we're going to lose our little quaintness. But sticking through that, the guy from New Jersey, as I was called when I first came in, I got along with a lot of the other departments. I got along with the citizens. As a chair, if there was an issue with the water power issue, brown water, I went and I talked to that customer. My email was on the town profile as a person to contact. So I had people calling my house. I, I used to leave 1:00 in the morning because there was an issue PD, PD would call us. I was the first point of contact on Dunstable PD. They would call us and say, Hey, Karl, something's going on with

the pressure. So I developed the emergency procedures, rules and regs rates, and I also served on the Master Planning Committee for Dunstable. So I love the town. We moved in when our kids are small. It was a great educational facility. Both of my kids are now grown. I have four grandchildren and I love you know, when we moved to Hudson, I said to my wife, I said, I've got to find a place where I can continue on. So here I am.

Chairperson Roy replied to Mr. Huber saying, well, we appreciate you applying. Does anybody on the board have any questions? Selectman McGrath said, I don't have any questions. I just have a comment. You were at the last Municipal Utility meeting that I was at and you were I think that you were a welcome presence. Mr. Huber replied oh, yeah. Oh, it was so nice to meet everybody. You know, Bill Abbott and I. Barbara, Valerie, you know, we we connected email wise, but I just reached out. I just said, is there any opportunity? And I said, even if it's in help in any way, shape or form, I built content for the website, I built the profile. It's just communicating to the customers, to the users, to the residents. In my mind, I've always been that way, and it's been successful for me in 35 plus years in business.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said excellent presentation. You hold yourself very well to my opinion, I would think you're probably over suited for the position, but you're an absolute welcome. With that, I'm going to make a motion. No one else has a problem with it to appoint you here. But may I also recommend you may not even get enough work to to refill what you missing? So keep an eye out for an NRPC, a National Regional Planning Commission. Based on how much you say you can do; you may take both of those. Maybe something interests you. Mr. Huber replied, I can do baby steps. Selectman Gagnon replied yes, but you know, you're very, very well qualified.

Chairperson Roy then said so, Mr. Gagnon, as we typically do...Selectman Gagnon said my bad. Chairperson Roy went on to say, what we typically do is we take your application, and at the next meeting, we will vote on it. Selectman Gagnon said sorry about that. Mr. Huber replied saying, Jill was very very nice to give me the education because I said, what do we need? What do you need me to bring anything? Very receptive. I appreciate the welcoming. Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said I mean, just to reiterate, I feel like you're you're eminently qualified for this position and I think you'll be an asset. You will be an asset to both the Committee and to the Town. So even though we're not voting tonight, I'm I think I'll be in support of your appointment. Mr. Huber replied, looking forward to help in any way, shape or form I can. Chairperson Roy then asked, anybody else have anything else? So again, we'll vote next at our next meeting. Thank you for coming in. We really do appreciate you stepping up. And yeah, you have quite a presence. So I look forward to working with you. Mr. Huber replied, thank you for having me. Happy holidays. Merry Christmas.

B. Appointments

Benson Park Committee - (1-member vacancy expiring 4/30/23, 1-alternate vacancy expiring 4/30/24, 1 alternate vacancy expiring 4/30/25)

Scott Anderson

The Town Administrator explained, we interviewed Mr. Anderson at the last meeting. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to appoint Scott Anderson as a member of the Benson Park Committee with a term to expire 4/30/23. Carried 5-0.

Conservation Commission - (1 - member vacancy expiring 12/31/25, 1 alternate vacancy expiring 12/31/25)

Ken Dickinson

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to reappoint Ken Dickinson as a member of the Conservation Commission with a term to expire 12/31/25. Carried 5-0.

Planning Board - (1 alternate member vacancy expiring 12/31/25)

George Hall Jr.

Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to reappoint George Hall Jr. as an alternate member of the Planning Board with a term to expire 12/31/25. Carried 5-0.

Zoning Board of Adjustment - (1 - member vacancy expiring 12/31/25, 2 alternate vacancies expiring 12/31/25, 1 alternate vacancy expiring 12/31/23).

Tristan Dion

Chairperson Roy then said so next is Mr. Tristan Dion, who was just recently appointed, but his term expires at the end of this year. So I will entertain a motion to reappoint Mr. Tristan Dion as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, with a term to expire of 12/31/25. Selectman Gagnon made this motion. Selectman Guessferd seconded it. Carried 4-1, Selectman McGrath opposed.

Dean Sakati

Chairperson Roy The next one is Mr. Dean. Sakati was currently an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Administration. He has requested that he fill the position vacated by Mr. Etienne. He is currently, what is his term currently end? The Town Administrator replied, it ends the end of this month, the alternate term ends the end of this month. Chairperson Roy then said so he's applying for appointment as a regular member of the board again to fill Mr. Etienne's vacancy. So I will entertain a motion to appoint Mr. Dean Sakati as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment with a term to expire of 12/31/25. Selectman Gagnon made this motion and Selectman Guessferd seconded it. Chairperson Roy asked, any discussion? Selectman McGrath said I have a question. Has Mr. Sakati taken advantage of any of the training for the Zoning Board? Chairperson Roy replied, he's in the audience. I believe he has. So if you want to come up, Mr. Sakati.

Mr. Dean Sakati, 11 Fairway Drive came forward to respond to Selectman McGrath's question saying we were offered training. Unfortunately for the date it was offered. I was in Florida at a conference so I could not attend, wanted to attend, heard it was great. Would actually advocate that we do it more often. I think it increases the professionalism of our boards for people to understand. It's not a, you know, having served now for a year at your challenge, Madam McGrath, when we I think it was both myself and Ed Thompson were having spirited conversations regarding some of the functions of the Board. You asked us to step up and and serve. Had done that for a year. And you know, they're complicated. They're very complicated. There's a lot to learn. And I hope that in my service in the last year, I've been a force of good and helpfulness to the community and hope to be able to continue that.

Selectman McGrath replied, just a comment. If you had taken the training. I would have been more than happy to vote for you. But because you haven't and you didn't take take that opportunity, I'm not going to support your position. Mr. Sakati replied that's I appreciate that non vote. But again, I was at a conference so we should offer it more often so that we all have the the ability to to do that. Selectman McGrath replied we'll see about the next time it comes around if you would take advantage of it.

Selectman Gagnon was then recognized and said thank you, Madam Chair. Quickly to that point, was that training recorded, sir, do you know? Mr. Sakati replied, I'm not sure if it was. Selectman Gagnon asked, was it publicized on on cable TV? Mr. Sakati replied, I don't know what was publicized. It was publicized at

our Board meeting. It was in October. Selectman Gagnon replied, okay. Chairperson Roy added, yeah, so you might want to just reach out to Mr. Buttrick to see if he has a recording of it. Mr. Sakati replied, that'd be great. I've heard others who went. Said, fabulous. It was really good.

Selectman Gagnon then said so I guess I assume seeing your passion, that you wouldn't be opposed to either watching the meeting if it was recording or taking a training that's available to you that's digital. Mr. Sakati replied, absolutely not. Everything that we can do to increase the professionalism of our boards is a step up for us all. Selectman Gagnon replied thank you, sir.

Chairperson Roy asked, any more discussion? Seeing none, the Board voted 4-1, Selectman McGrath opposed for the reason stated.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairperson Roy asked, does anyone have anything they'd like removed for separate consideration? Selectman Guessferd asked to remove the calendar, Item 6F.

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

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said that the Planning Board meeting location for the 12/14/22 meeting is the Hudson Community Center. Seeing no further updates to the calendar, Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to approve the calendar as amended. Carried 5-0.

A. Assessing Items

1) Veteran Tax Credits: map 149, lot 001, sub 057, 36 Glasgow Circle; map 156, lot 008, sub 020, 2Madeleine Ct.; map 156, lot 005, sub 036, 58 Brackett Lane; map 149, lot 001, sub 106, 8 Scottsdale Drive; map 197, lot 078, 27 Winnhaven Drive; map 131, lot 040, 3 Timothy Lane; map 111, lot 017, 151 Robinson Road; map 117, lot 026, 5 Parker Drive; map 117, lot 026, 5 Parker Drive; map 216, lot 014, sub 094, 40 Reflection Drive

2) All Veteran Tax Credits: map 168, lot 068, sub 047, 327 Fox Run; map 241, lot 031, 37 Dracut Road; map 133, lot 088, 7 Sandalwood Road

3) Disabled Veteran Tax Credits: map 157, lot 059, 28 Robin Drive; map 253, lot 054, 22 Williams Drive

4) Solar Exemptions: map 139, lot 046, 11 Hummingbird; map 230, lot 022, sub 025, 34 James Way; map 125, lot 003, 30 Woodcrest Drive; map 160, lot 027, 63 Rangers Drive; map 111, lot 017, 151 Robinson Road

5) Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed/Timber Warrant: map 209, lot 001, 48 Friars Drive

6) Prior Tax Years Abatements: map 116, lot 94, 45 Senter Farm Road

7) 2022 Abatement Applications: map 176, lot 21, 196 Central Street; map 176, lot 23, Central Street; map 148, lot 29-1, Marsh Road; map 222, lot 18-1, 220 Lowell Road; map 138, lot 100-1, 225 Webster Street; map 177, lot 5-1, 10 Shadowbrook Drive

8) 2022 Property Tax Abatement: map 175, lot 34-17, 7 Village Lane

9) 2022 Property Tax Abatement: map 147, lot 17-34, 50 Lexington Court

B. Water/Sewer Items - none

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies

- 1) Raffle Permit - Hudson Fish & Game Club
- 2) Raffle Permit - Brennan's Smoke Shop
- 3) Pole Licenses - two (2) new poles on Library Street
- 4) Hawker/Peddler License - B&B Catering
- 5) Hawker/Peddler License - Spring Hill Catering

D. Donations - none

E. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of November 22, 2022

F. Calendar

- | | | |
|-------|------|--|
| 12/14 | 7:00 | Planning Board - Buxton Meeting Room |
| 12/15 | 7:00 | Benson Park Committee - HCTV Meeting Room |
| 12/15 | 7:00 | Budget Committee - Buxton Meeting Room |
| 12/19 | 7:00 | Sustainability Committee - Buxton Meeting Room |
| 12/20 | 7:00 | Municipal Utility Committee - BOS Meeting Room |
| 12/21 | 6:00 | Library Trustees - Hills Memorial Library |
| 12/26 | - | Town Hall Closed |
| 12/28 | 7:00 | Planning Board - Buxton Meeting Room |
| 1/02 | - | Town Hall Closed |
| 1/04 | 7:00 | Budget Committee - Buxton Meeting Room |
| 1/09 | 7:00 | Cable Utility Committee - HCTV Meeting Room |
| 1/09 | 7:00 | Conservation Commission - Buxton Meeting Room |
| 1/10 | 7:00 | Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room |

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on November 22, 2022

1.) Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to forward Hudson Police, Fire and Town Supervisors Association Contract to the Fiscal Year 2024 Warrant. Carried 5-0.

2) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to authorize Chief Assessor Jim Michaud, to buy back 100 hours of earned time. Carried 5-0.

3) Selectman Morin made a motion to adjourn at 10:02 p.m. This was seconded by Selectman Gagnon. Carried 5-0.

B. Right to Know Policy

Chairperson Roy recognized Mr. Jerry Bento, Mr. John Dubuc and Lt. Steven McElhinney of the Right to Know Committee. Mr. Bento began by saying, Mr. Bento began by saying, thank you, Madam Chair. Good evening, members of the Board. Tonight, we'd like to address the additional feedback that we received at the November 1st meeting and the feedback from the Town Attorney and the Town Administrator.

First item the Town Attorney references that our policy indicates that electronic records shall be provided in native format, and he references that the law 91-A does not require that the records be in native format.

We feel very strongly that they should be in native format and the reason being that it provides the author the date created the tracking information what actually when that data was actually created. Speaking as a recipient of right to know, some right to know requests from the town we were, I was unable to determine all that information, all that detailed information from some of the records that we received. And consequently it required additional requests which took town time to redo the requests where if we had had the that data, the metadata or the native format, that would have been first time out would have been solved. We would have received the information and we would have better understood the information. Town Attorney also indicates these are his words, but there are a variety of issues comma, metadata, confidentiality and comma, etc. Metadata is the native format information that we again feel very strongly about that confidentiality the town deals with confidentiality on right to know requests, I'm assuming every single day or on every single right to know request. The policy that we're presenting that's before you tonight does not change that at all. You still have to deal with the confidentiality of the documents.

The other item that the Town Attorney referenced was our initial requirement for you to have a public hearing. And he didn't see anywhere.... he questioned your policies. What was that following what your policies and procedures were? We had a discussion at the November 1st meeting regarding a first reading, second reading, and if that is... you indicated you would like to do that potentially. I do see it on the agenda further on for discussion. We included that in the policy in section 3.1, how to make changes. Changes to this policy can be presented by the town or the public to the Board of Selectmen. Changes should be discussed during a regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen's meeting, first reading and then presented at a subsequent meeting, second reading for public input and Board of Selectmen approval. We feel that that is would satisfy your requirement to make sure that the public knows. Although I know you are challenged, as we were as a committee, getting public input at meetings.

Mr. Bento then asked, are there any questions at this time? Chairperson Roy also asked, does anybody have any questions? Selectman McGrath said, I have one. So the Town Attorney made recommendations to you about how this document was to be written and any any updates that he had. And you didn't accept all of them? You disagreed with some and didn't include them? Mr. Bento replied, on the native format we disagreed with his recommendation because we feel that the native format strengthens the document, strengthens the information that the town will provide.

Selectman McGrath then said so let me ask you a question about that. Does that, does the State regulation for the right to know, does that have that component in that document? Or do you disagree with the state's right to know? Mr. Bento replied, the State Right to Know policy does not reference native format at all. Mr. Dubuc then said it does not say that you don't need it. It doesn't say that you do need it. Chairperson Roy asked, it doesn't, it doesn't mention it. I just want to be clear? Mr. Dubuc then said one thing I did want to add about native format is that when you're doing a right to know the town is doing a right to know fulfillment, the native format is the format that you have, the documents, you're not recreating anything. So if you're taking email and you're converting it to PDF, that's an extra step. If you take a Word document and convert it to PDF, it's an extra step. So it's actually saving time. It's saving time and it's actually giving what the document is to the folks that are asking for the right to know request. There is no extra work to provide documents in native format. It's actually less work than providing it in a non-native format.

Selectman McGrath then said, what was his what was the Town Attorney's criticism of doing that as opposed to following the state's right to know law. Mr. Bento replied we are following the state right to know law. Selectman McGrath replied not really, cuz you didn't... Mr. Bento interjected saying this is not his words. Let me read his exact response. Section 2.2 C states that electronic records shall be provided in native format. I do not believe that is required by the Right to Know law. Certainly it is permissible for the town to provide native format electronic records, but there are a variety of issues; metadata, confidentiality, etc. He doesn't say that this policy violates anything in the law. We're just supplementing it with additional information that we feel strengthens the towns response to right to know requests and allows the town to be more transparent and to provide and to lessen the amount of time to provide information.

Selectman McGrath then said so let me just make this statement. I happen to I happen to agree with the Right to Know law. I think that that's a necessary thing that the state has adopted, towns have adopted. But what concerns me is that you're not taking the advice of the town's attorney. That and it's his job to defend us, not us as a Board of Selectmen, but us as a community. So that concerns me. And for that reason, I can't, I can't approve this the way it's written. If you followed the state's guidelines, I would. Lt. McElhinney replied the state's guidelines is less restrictive and allows or doesn't necessarily prevent us, but our policy recommendation will provide more transparency to the people of Hudson and provide more information to them. And while we're not required to do that, I don't think it's a bad thing that we're that we're offering more information. As much information as we can with these requests.

Chairperson Roy then said so I just want to be clear. It also doesn't prohibit us. Lt. McElhinney replied, no, it doesn't. Correct. Right. We're offering almost an additional service, providing more transparency and holding ourselves to a higher standard than the rest of the state. Chairperson Roy then said and the attorney and Attorney Lefevre indicates that in his response. Correct, that there's no there's nothing it's not mentioned, I guess, is the point. So it's not we're not violating any of. Lt. McElhinney replied there's no penalty. Mr. Bento added by leaving this in we're not exposing the town at this time to anything whatsoever. And that's the words I was looking for in his response; don't do this because there was nothing in there that says that. We're not exposing the town. We're residents of the town, we are employees of the town. We don't want to expose the town at all any more than normal day to day business does so.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said I wanted to hear what the lawyer said. My only question is he said confidential several, you mentioned. So what was his concern? Did he relay that to you guys? Mr. Bento replied no, he did not. Lt. McElhinney added and I'm not sure because we obviously we always have the ability to redact information and then respond to that. So we always have the option to redact. And if someone has a question about what's redacted, there's a process to respond to that and go back and forth and figure out if that information will be released at a later time. So it doesn't restrict us in the future. Selectman Morin replied, I just don't understand. He said that, but didn't give you a background. That makes no sense to me.

Chairperson Roy then said I think 91-A and you guys probably know. I know we are required to redact certain information, like personal information. You obviously can't. The Town Administrator added well attorney-client is privileged too, you can't.... Chairperson Roy replied right, right. But you can't put somebody's name and Social Security number right? On on a response. You have to redact at least a piece of that. Right? So. Selectman Morin replied, no and I understand that. But my concern is, is we know that and there are rules that we already follow and rules. But he still said confidentiality. So I wish he had said something. So we understood. But it's not a reason to drag this out anymore. I mean, we got rules to follow anyway.

Selectman Guessferd added, yeah. I mean, I think it just comes down to the information, like you said, the information on the, on the native format data. But as you said, I mean it happens with Freedom of Information Act requests as well. You have to redact certain information. And no matter what. and this, this doesn't and again, I'll I'll I'll kind of support the same thing that this does not violate the state Right to Know regulation. Not at all. What it does is it just drills down a little bit more and specifically. So I get it and understand the concern, but I don't think we're exposed here at all.

From the audience, Mr. Huber who interviewed earlier in the meeting for an alternate term on the Municipal Utility Committee, interjected saying, Madam Chair, if I could. Again, coming from the software industry, dealt with this all the time. So there may be a way talking to counsel where when we when we talk to getting information and providing the natural source, which is what the metadata file is, if responded, the client, the person on the other end, if there's line item in the verbiage that says we would like to collect the metadata, which reflects everything and we could redact because in the software industry we did that all the time. But to your point, it is the true untouched data for that person. And if and if the receiving, the person understands what the situation is and if we represent that the right way, it might work to everybody's benefit. Thank you so much.

Chairperson Roy replied, you're welcome. I would agree with you that it makes us more transparent to have the metadata. Does anybody else have any? Selectman Morin said I just got one other thing because we're all going to talk about this today and then it's all going to go away. In your policy, what is the statement for training for new employees because of how this policy works? Is that in there somewhere? Chairperson Roy then said I think I actually asked that question to say yes, and I'm not sure. Selectman Morin added, we need that we need that. That has to be in the policy, because if it's not in the policy in writing, it's like I said, we're meeting here tonight and, you know, working here, if it's not in the policy, we're going to forget about it. Mr. Bento replied, I believe we had it in there at one point. Lt. McElhinney added, and then I think we had talked about we had removed it and advised that it was going to be it was going to have to be pushed out to department heads. Obviously, how the Police Department handles the training of 91-A requests in response to it is going to be different from DPW and that policy implementation was going to be a division kind of division by division to provide the best service in response to the town and the citizens. If your point if if we're negligent in saying something to the effect of training will be conducted, do you believe that would satisfy?

Selectman Morin replied, I agree with you what you said Department Heads because you're totally different than DPW. But the employees need a basic training on what this means to them and what it means to the town. And they have to get it when they're newly hired. This has there has to be a policy on some type of training for the employees in general. Has nothing to do with Department Heads. You bring up a very good point. That's different. But for the employees themselves, that has to be in the policy. Mr. Bento then said, at the September 27th presentation, we did reference training in the presentation itself. I don't believe it's in the the policy. Does every town policy indicate that to be training? Or is that more of a new hire? The Town Administrator replied, orientation everybody gets a copy of all the policies typically they have to sign off that they've read it and understood it. That's typically what happens. Mr. Bento asked, as opposed to having it in the policy also or both? The Town Administrator replied, typically it's in each policy it's typically just overall.

Selectman Guessferd then asked so would that would that cover it then from the perspective of of our onboarding policy essentially that they have to? Selectman Morin replied, yeah it just we do need to make sure that happens because I can tell you I never had I never had this kind of training and I could probably say, you know. Lt. McElhinney added and I think to to your point, I mean, this this probably only affects less than 1% of the entire towns.... Selectman Morin replied, but it doesn't because if if somebody writes an email and for some reason it gets referenced into a right to know, it could be the junior firefighter to the department head because it may be related to that subject of the right to know. Selectman Guessferd added they need to understand, yeah, what their responsibilities are or limitations are and be aware, right, that what they write. Mr. Dubuc then said we did have a discussion from pretty good discussions on on whether town training that this policy should dictate how the town trains their employees. Selectman Morin said you don't have to dictate. You just need to put in the policy the employee will be review this or whatever. So it's part of the policy.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and said just a comment. Let's face it, this really is going to apply to the land use department mostly. Because I can't foresee that there's going to be a whole lot of people coming in for Right to Know requests about finance or maybe the Assessor's office. But, you know, I think it's really geared more and that's what this suit was about. It was about land use. It was about the Planning Board decision, about zoning decisions. So that's really what we're talking about here. That's what I think. Lt. McElhinney replied, if I could respond just a little bit to that. The Police Department, we receive them all the time, and my wife's an administrator and at Merrimack Public Schools, and they the school system gets 91-A requests all the time. They're less formal, but that's what they are. They're 91-A requests for IEPs and student records and things like that. So it encompasses more than, I think, just the Planning Board and some of these other. Selectman McGrath replied but I think that that's really what precipitated it. Lt. McElhinney replied it's certainly what precipitated, I think, this Committee. But our hope is that this policy will address any future issue with with any division or department.

Chairperson Roy agreed saying right. Because that's not the only, you know, in a year it could be, it could be it could be the Finance or the Budget Committee. That precipitated this but this does not cover just the land use boards. Right? It covers the all of the the departments in the town. Selectman Morin then said, and I'd like to say I don't want to hold it up, but I would like to see something from the Committee referencing that in the policy before we'll do what we ever got to do. But I'd like to have that come forward for sure. Lt. McElhinney added and we can certainly reference some of the other town policies and find similar language and we'll address that.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said just a thought. Selectman Morin, would you be able to make a motion tonight to say I approve this policy if you add this? Selectman Morin replied that's what that's what I just said. I don't want to stop it. That's what I said. Yeah. Selectman Gagnon replied okay, so the motion is that to approve this policy with a statement that says all new employees must sign off that they've read this. Selectman Morin replied, because, you know, even the employees we got now, this is a whole new thing compared to what they're used to. So everybody's going to have to review it.

Chairperson Roy asked do we do we still use that that system where everybody gets the email and they have to go? The Town Administrator replied, yup. I forget what it's called, but yes. The Executive Assistant said it's Power DMS. Chairperson Roy replied, yes, exactly. Once this gets approved, that would go out on that. The Town Administrator said push it out there and everyone has to sign off on it. Selectman Gagnon said so the motion would be something the effect of we approve this policy, I won't because I was on the committee, as long as it's pushed out through Power DMS. Selectman Morin said no as long as it's documented on the policy, there will be training to new employees. Selectman Guessferd added as long as the policy addresses training. Selectman Morin said right, exactly. Selectman Gagnon asked, Jill, did you get that in a functional. Chairperson Roy asked, well does somebody want to make that motion? Selectman Morin asked are we done with discussion first?

Mr. Bento then said Madam Chair, can I just ask a question of Mr. Malizia? Is there standard verbiage that we should be using to add that in? Can you provide that? The Town Administrator replied I'll have to look, I'm not sure off the top of my head if it's in policy or not in policy. Typically, any new policy gets pushed out to all employees, but I don't know if it's stated in every policy. Selectman Morin replied no, it doesn't. But I'll take I'll take the Fire Department, for instance. They get a probationary manual and its part it will be part of that manual. That's where I'm going. And and, you know, new hires over here, however they do it, they have to have a review of the policy somewhere. I just would like to see it in there, because this is we've already seen where this has gone and where it can go in the future. And we need to make sure that we, make sure it doesn't go there again. Mr. Bento replied so then I'll reach out, Mr. Malizia tomorrow. The Town Administrator added there's typically a list of policies, we can obviously put it on that list. People get a copy of those policies. Chairperson Roy then said, so and then I just have an administrative question would be effective today? The Town Administrator replied, it's effective whenever you want to make it effective. Seeing no further questions *Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to approve the Right to Know Policy with the addition of verbiage within the Policy on how employees will be trained on Right to Know.* Selectman Gagnon asked, do you guys mind if I vote on it even though I was on the committee? Is that okay? There was no opposition to Selectman Gagnon voting. Chairperson Roy called for a vote. *Motion carried 4-0-1, Selectman McGrath abstained,* for the reasons stated.

Chairperson Roy then addressed the Right to Know Committee saying, Again, I want to thank you guys and mostly for your patience with us. The back and forth. I think it's a good policy and you guys did a great job. Mr. Bento asked, does that mean the Committee is ending or are you going to continue the Committee? Selectman Morin jokingly said, you're not over to the training things done. Lt. McElhinney said we'll get it done right away then. Chairperson Roy then said so we will reserve to reestablish the Committee if needed. We will reserve that right. Mr. Bento replied, okay. Thank you very much. Merry Christmas, everyone.

C. Hudson Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan

Craig Putnam and Kate Messner of the Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee were present for a follow-up to their presentation 11/22/22. Chairperson Roy began by saying, next is the Hudson Community Power Electric Aggregation plan. And this is I believe that we're where we have just a limited discussion on the new verbiage for the warrant article. Mr. Putnam replied, that's if that's what you would like. Yeah, that's fine. Chairperson Roy replied yeah, if we could if we could. I don't want to cut you off, but we have a very long agenda. Mr. Putnam replied, nope, I understand. Thank you for the time this evening. I'm Craig Putnam, 59 Rangers Drive. Kate Messner 10 Third Street. And so I will move directly to the warrant article discussion then. Chairperson Roy replied, I would appreciate it. Thank you. To which Mr. Putnam replied, it's not a problem.

Mr. Putnam began by saying, so there have been since the last meeting a number of discussions and iterations for text. And the goal was to try to keep the text to a minimum, but yet as clear as possible regarding the opt out nature of the proposed plan and to also be accurate regarding any rate related statements. And so I had provided two suggested warrant article texts, and they're virtually identical. The difference and I'll just flip to the second one here is highlighted in the red. It's basically in that last sentence where there's any difference between the two. And I think either of them would be fine. I don't particularly have a preference. Should I, should I read that text? What's what's appropriate to do here? Chairperson Roy replied, so I don't know. Was does the Board need him to read it or do we just want to sort of go into if we have questions? Mr. Putnam added, and if you want to wordsmith it on the fly, we can do that, too. Selectman Morin said, I've already red it. Chairperson Roy added, yeah and it's in the package. So it's part of the public record, I guess. So are there questions?

Selectman McGrath said I have one question because I've read this over and this is probably I don't know how many times I've read it over. The suggested warrant articles, the fifth line down the last sentence. The plan will initially provide lower electricity. Can you I mean, talk about that? I mean, initially. So what does what does that really mean? Does it mean like the first month you, you might, might see lower rates and then the next month that might go up? Is it going to be like a bouncing ball type of thing?

Mr. Putnam replied, so I added the word initially very deliberately, because I wanted to be very clear that the rate is not guaranteed over time. Eversource Rate changes over time. Hudson Community Power's rate would change over time as well. The wording here includes initially because that initial rate that's published, when we're talking about that transition over to standing up Hudson Community Power, that initial rate will be known, it'll be published and that rate will be good for some period of time. The goal is obviously to keep the rate as stable as possible over time, but market conditions change and so the rate will from time to time change. How long that period of stability would exist for at any given point in time is hard to say. It depends on market conditions. The Hudson Community Power would be working with a power procurement partner and they would be layering contracts out in time and so on in a, in a way that is different from the way Eversource has to purchase power. They can only purchase contracts for six months at a time. And so the goal is to have greater rate stability and lower rates than Eversource. But I wanted to make sure that we didn't leave any misconception around that the rate would always be guaranteed to be lower than Eversource because it cannot be. It cannot be guaranteed.

Selectman McGrath then said just to go one step further. And I think we probably I know I've asked about this and we probably talked about it, but I want to be sure we talking about the supply portion of your electric bill that's going to be impacted by this, I'll call it a program. Mr. Putnam replied, primarily yes, it is the supply portion. I'll note, however, that the delivery portion of your bill has a number of components that are affected by your use. How much power you used can affect the delivery side. So if you use more of those numbers on the delivery side can go up a little. But primarily this is about the supply side. So there's nothing that that is being done in this community power proposal that that is directed at the delivery side. It's all about the supply side.

Selectman McGrath then said so, I'll just, this will be my last statement because I'm, I'm essentially I've read this I don't know how many times now and we've talked about it. At least this will be the third or the fourth time that we've talked about it. But the supply portion, it's, it's not a large it typically is not a large dollar amount that we're talking about. The basic bill of your electric bill, that's the larger portion, that's the larger dollar value of your your bill that you get the supply portion. So I've signed on with a supply, somebody that's going to provide the supply for my electric bill. That's locked in for a period of two years. That's not an initial this month it's going to be this much, next month it's going to be something else. It's going to, like I said, like a bouncing ball. So. I I'm kind of at a loss as to understand.

Mr. Putnam replied, so you have a contract and the contract you've agreed in that contract to a particular rate for that two-year period, the rates for Eversource's supply jumped dramatically in August. They could drop dramatically as well. What goes up can well come down. All right? So you were protected with your contract when the rates went up dramatically because you already had an agreed to price locked in prior to that rise. But suppose for the sake of argument that the rates suddenly went down, you continue to pay the higher rate, right? So. So it can cut. It's a sword that cuts both ways. Selectman McGrath replied, right, right.

Selectman Morin asked, What's the history of other communities that have done this and finding has the price gone above the normal supplier? Mr. Putnam replied, it happens not often. And the safety valve for everyone is that if you. So whenever Hudson's Hudson Community Power's rate would change, that would be advertised in advance. You'd know 30 days ahead of time what the new rate will be and when it's going to change. And if you don't want that new rate, if that happened to be higher than Eversource, which is the question that you're asking, you can leave Hudson Community Power on the spot, basically. I mean, at the end of a monthly billing period. And so you leave and there's no cost to do so. There's no penalty to do so. Later on, hopefully the rate will be lower than Eversource's rate, you can rejoin no cost. Selectman Morin replied, I see that being a problem for you. Mr. Putnam then said, well, it's something that would be baked into the models. Selectman Morin then said and that was my concern. Last last meeting we had the discussion when the complaints come in. Who's going to handle them? And I can tell you, if the rates go up again, it's going to be a couple of years from now and everybody's going to forget. And these are the people that are going to do it. So if we make a motion tonight, I am going to either in the motion or an amendment that you don't have to have it today. But we have to have it in place before this goes into effect, a plan on who's going to handle complaints because it's not going to come to Town Hall. Mr. Putnam replied, well, I've already made a proposal. We've skipped over the slides to request to to not discuss that. I'm prepared to discuss it, though, if you'd like. Selectman Morin replied, yeah, I have, I have a before I vote on it, I want to hear how the complaints are going to be handled because this is not a town.

Mr. Putnam replied, right. I understand. To which Selectman Morin replied, okay, thank you. Mr. Putnam then said I fully understand what the concern is. And and I have a.... Chairperson Roy said if you want to go back to that. Ms. Messner then said, can I just ask, was your point that's going to be a problem for us. You mean attrition? Selectman Morin replied, when the complaints are coming in people are going to go to the easiest phone number to make their complaint. And unfortunately, these people aren't going to be able to answer the questions. I want a definite this is how we're going to handle this. Mr. Putnam replied, understood. And I there's, not I think. There are two parts to the answer; two time frames that are important to understand. So it sounds to me Selectman Morin that you're referring to after we're up and running and a rate change happens that's not in the favor of of communities at that point. Hudson Community Power is up and running. We've partnered with with companies. And so just I'm going to switch to a different slide here for a second. So one of the things that. Let me let me back up for a second.

Let's suppose that we are successful through tonight and the warrant article in the spring, it passes and the Board decides at some point in the future after that, to stand up Hudson Community Power and part of the process for doing that would be deciding who do we want to partner with for power procurement and retail customer services. So listed up there are what Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire, who they're partnering with already for the wave one towns that are intending to go live this spring.

Selectman Morin said and I don't mean to interrupt you. I understand this part. And they they do it. I just want to know in the end, run. Mr. Putnam replied, in the end, run the retail customer services, whether it's through Calpine, because Hudson decided to partner with CPCNH or one of the for profits, would have a similar kind of thing.... Selectman Morin interjected saying I really don't care who we partner with. I understand what you're saying. Mr. Putnam replied, that would just it would be required piece of what we would be looking for in a partnership. We wouldn't go forward without it. Selectman Morin replied, and and I understand your frustration here, but something else just came upon us tonight with with your warrant article. Was that one word that Selectman McGrath just asked you that that was all new. We hadn't heard that. Mr. Putnam responded, I had not put that in initially. there it is. I had not put that word in previously, but I had spoken to it. Selectman Morin replied, well, when it's in writing, it's a whole different thing. Mr. Putnam again said, I had spoken about that previously. Selectman Morin replied, that's that's my concern. I'm all set. Thank you.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said so my understanding, I mean, the way the way I look at this is that this the warrant article is going to be a barometer. We're going to be able to, based under the conditions of what Hudson Community Power would exist as with the with the opt out or and all the other language. This is going to be a barometer of what the citizens of Hudson want. And if and then we will take the cue from that. If they say no, they vote no on it, then it ends there. If they vote yes, then we at that point need to sit down and say, how what are we going to do? So at least at that point, we're going to be doing a lot more of this. Selectman Morin replied, no, but I understand that. But some of the emails that we've already received with some of these questions before we have a vote, we probably should have an answer that they can make a good vote on. So some of these have already been questions. Selectman Guessferd replied, so I don't disagree with that. Yeah, no, I understand what you're saying.

Chairperson Roy then said, and I think my my comment to that would be Mr. Putnam has been here a number of times. He's had one public meeting. There's another public meeting. So if they have those kinds of questions first, I think he's he's the gentleman that.... Selectman Morin interjected saying I understand that. But again, where do they come to us? Us. That's my point. Chairperson Roy replied and I understand.

Mr. Putnam then explained, so what I have proposed and I sent this to Mr. Malizia is a is a short term solution, let's say between now, well, it would run from now till when you stand up Hudson Community Power and we have a "for real" customer service organization to direct people to. All right both I've spoken with Ms. Messner and myself were were willing to, if you will, have office hours to use the term that I used when I was teaching. All right. And have some set times that we, one or the other of us are available to field questions. I've already spoken with Linda Pilla at the Library. She said, No problem. We'll get you a room on a regular basis. We don't normally do that, but for this they do that and pick a pick a day, pick a time. Ms. Messner added, we would alternate it. We would we would have different, you know, some in the evening, some in the afternoons, some on the weekends, whatever. And he says we'd be willing to in my case would be eager to. This is where I come in where I say I can lend a hand; more of a hand. Pretty much the heavy lifting has been on Craig for for just about everything. I have decades of customer support experience and I look forward to this portion of it. Mr. Putnam then said, so I would see this lasting from essentially now through to the point of when a real customer service organization has been partnered with.

At this point Selectman Morin said, if nobody else has any questions. I'll make a motion to move the warrant...move it to the warrant. Chairperson Roy replied, I actually, I do have a little bit of a wordsmithing. Mr. Putnam replied, sure. Which one would you like? Chairperson Roy replied, so if you go to the second one and I'm open to comment on that, the very last line to me, I think it would be more clear if it said it just said initial participation in planning can be declined, after which enrollment becomes voluntary. So you take out the "automatic". Mr. Putnam replied, drop the automatic. Ms. Messner said, I think that's a good point. The Town Administrator asked, what are you saying? The Chairperson replied, so so you just. Selectman Guessferd said it does say it's an opt out program. Chairperson Roy agreed saying, yeah, it says opt out up there and then you just take out so initial participation in the plan can be declined. Ms. Messner said automatic. The Town Administrator said, take out the word automatic. Chairperson Roy

agreed saying yeah. The Town Administrator then said and everything after declined. The Chairperson replied, yeah, well no, no, we can leave that in there. The Town Administrator replied okay. Mr. Putnam then said sorry, let me make an edit here. The Chairperson said, again, if anybody has any comment on that. Selectman Gagnon replied, I'm in alignment. It's fine with me.

Selectman Morin said I'll make a motion with the amendment. Selectman Gagnon seconded the motion to move to the FY24 Warrant the following amended warrant article: "To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Hudson Community Power plan, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to implement the plan, and to take all action in furtherance thereof, pursuant to RSA 53-E. The Hudson Community Power plan is an opt-out program that offers more flexible electricity procurement. The plan will initially provide lower electricity rates for residents, or it will not launch. Initial participation in the plan can be declined, after which enrollment becomes voluntary."

The Chairperson asked, any more discussion? Selectman McGrath replied I have a question about what you were just talking about. Can we go back to the last slide? Mr. Putnam asked, the one I had before? Selectman McGrath replied, I'm talking about the one you were wordsmithing. I can't see that from here. The Town Administrator said the warrant article. Chairperson Roy added, yes, if you could leave it full page so she can ask. Selectman McGrath then asked, so you're going to strike automatic and just leave the words. Initial participation in the plan can be declined. How would they go about doing that? I mean, that that needs to. Chairperson Roy replied, well, I think we talked about this last time. I don't think that's going to be the warrant article. We were trying to make it. But in their information that they've been providing for this whole process of how that would work. Selectman Guessferd added they're going to be process, providing information to the to the consumer, 30 days ahead of time right before this happens. And the consumer at that point will have an opportunity to opt out before it even hits.

Selectman McGrath then said so just, just to comment. I'm in favor of this. I just don't want people to be all of a sudden one day wake up and say, hey, I didn't agree to be signed into this. My bill should be with so-and-so or some other company I'm not into. I don't want that. And who gave who gave you the authorization to make me do that? I don't want, I don't want to have to answer those questions. Chairperson Roy replied, and I get that. But that's why it's a warrant article, because then the people get to vote on it. We're not deciding we're entering this program, the voters are. Selectman McGrath replied, but like I said, I'm in favor of this. I've signed up for my own to take advantage of lower rates. I just don't want people to be one day wake up and say, who gave you the authorization to do that without talking to me?

Selectman Guessferd replied, and my my view is we're going to do everything in our power and they're going to do everything in our power to inform people ahead of time. Now, I can say and I think we can all say that somebody there's going to be somebody out there no matter what, who isn't going to read their mail, who isn't going to go to Hudson TV, who isn't going to vote, or there will be a few people, no matter what we do, who are not going to know. And there may we may get a few phone calls. The idea would be to minimize those phone calls, right? I mean, obviously you don't want anybody to feel that way. But a couple of people, some people may because they're misinformed or uninformed because they don't they haven't taken advantage of the things that we've provided to them. And I think I think you're saying that you're going to, there's going to be multiple options in multiple time frames. Mr. Putnam added, at least three different communication methods. Selectman Guessferd continued saying, to, to inform people of what's going to happen. Selectman McGrath replied, and they haven't had the joy of watching these meetings. Selectman Morin added and as they said last meeting, there is legislation backing the way this works. Selectman McGrath replied saying like I said, I'm in favor of it and concept. I just have issues. Selectman Guessferd added, I don't I don't normally support opt out programs, things like that. You know, when you have somebody who comes to you and says, well, if you don't if you don't decline this, then we're going to keep charging you. I'm not normally in favor of these things, but this is a different animal. And it took me a while to kind of realize and figure that out after our initial meeting.

Mr. Putnam then said, and back to your point and the question around the word initially in the previous sentence is that that initial rate will be lower than Eversource or we don't go live. So at the worst, the

person who is not aware of it, their bill will go down. Selectman Morin replied understand what you're saying, but it's kind of like the hook and bait, you know what I mean? But I'll move the question. The Chairperson said so a motion's been made and seconded. All those in favor, *motion passes 5-0*. Selectman McGrath said, begrudgingly, aye. Chairperson Roy then addressed Mr. Putnam and Ms. Messner saying thank you for all your hard work and again with your patience with us.

D. ARPA Working Group Project Recommendations

The Town Administrator was recognized and said so the ARPA working group met last Thursday and there were 16 submissions for projects or efforts to be considered. And after reviewing all of those efforts, there are a list of recommendations here, not in any particular order. The committee felt that it was important to recommend these to the Board. I suppose in their totality we have approximately 1 million, not approximately, we have \$1,075,203.57 remaining. In other words, after we've accounted for what we've done or what we've committed to do and what we're not doing, that's the balance of the \$2.6 million approximately, that we have left. The projects totaled here total to \$954 650, which gives you a bit of room, still gives you about \$120,000 because again, some of these are estimates. I don't know what gas tanks are going to really cost. So we wanted to make sure we had some room and we certainly wouldn't do something if we don't have the money, but we certainly wanted to make sure we could kind of maximize get the best bang for the buck. And at this point, the recommendation is the HVAC at the Community Center, HVAC here, gas and diesel tank design and construction over at the DPW. That's where the diesel tanks are and the gas tanks, the catch basin cleaning, storm water pumps and Robinson Pond phosphorus reduction. Those things are actually in the budget. If this was to pass, the Budget Committee can make a motion to remove those monies from the budget and actually reduce the operating budget that's being proposed to the voters. So with that said, that's the recommendation of the working group. If there's any questions, Selectman Moran and I were in attendance. Unfortunately, Selectman Gagnon couldn't make it, but that that's where we all came out when we ranked or voted on or considered the projects.

Selectman Morin added, there was lots of discussion trying to help the tax rate for this year due to the situation we're in, plus help the tax rate in the future by taking on some of these bigger projects. That's why you see both in there. So we tried to help in both ways. Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah, it's it's kind of its, it's really evident and I think it's a good set of projects.

Chairperson Roy then said so, so I have I have some queries. So I thought we were going to do the HVAC Community Center out of the Capital Reserve Fund, the town. The Town Administrator replied, the Board never voted to do that. We have about \$150,000.... Chairperson Roy interjected saying but we didn't we didn't get the, the bid never came to us. To which the Town Administrator replied, no, it's coming it's the next thing.... Chairperson Roy replied, under the ARPA program, but it never came as a. the Town Administrator replied it's actually following this. But yet you are correct. Chairperson Roy then said so I, I guess my question is, why wouldn't we go down that plan? There's money available, correct? The Town Administrator replied, there's money in a capital reserve fund. Chairperson Roy responded, right. And this is an appropriate project for that. To which the Town Administrator replied, it's a town building. Correct. Chairperson Roy replied, okay. So I guess, again, my question is, why would we do it out of APRA funds when we have other funds available? Selectman Morin replied, we discussed that at length, actually, and we came to determination if we spend all that money and have another emergency and then spend the APRA fund somewhere else, we won't have the money to fix whatever comes up next. Chairperson Roy asked, how much is in the Capital Reserve Fund? The Town Administrator replied about \$150,000. So this would clearly take pretty, pretty much more than half of that. So I think the thought process was keep that in for other because that's all town buildings, not just...The Chairperson replied, and I understand that. Cuz when I go there I'm thinking okay, why don't we kind of split the baby and maybe we do the Community Center out of the CRF and we do the Town Hall out of ARPA. The Town Administrator replied, one of the strong focal points of the ARPA money was things like ventilation and that that sort of health sort of component of it to that was I know the first go around, that was a strong discussion when we

had it. These projects ranked five and six the last time. So we had four that we had advanced and this was project five and project six. And it truly does meet the spirit of and the recommendation of the ARPA where you're trying to improve the health and safety, health component of things. So I throw that out there.

Selectman Gagnon then said, Madam Chair, if I may, just for clarification, to understand what your thought process is, if I were to follow you and say, okay, let's let's take money out of the CRF for one of the projects and take out of ARPA, do you have another project in mind that you would rather so the ARPA money fund? Chairperson Roy replied, so I do. I actually did it. I couldn't get myself to resolve the amount, the cost of that project with what the value at the end would be. Right? Selectman Gagnon asked, which project? Chairperson Roy replied, so I didn't bring it forward just because, again, the estimate I got, I couldn't. But I will I will tell you what it was and I think it's something at some point we need to discuss. We, we have a problem here, right? Selectman Gagnon replied, many. Chairperson Roy continued saying, and it's not I don't think it's typically a bad problem, but we have an uptick in public participation in meetings and we have small meeting space. We all know what the Community Center is like. Right. So my my thought process was, was we take a building that we actually own Oakwood, the old rec center, and we we refurbish that as a meeting space. Again, the cost to do that far outweighed what I could, I could, I could wrap my mind around to benefit the town. But I still think it's a discussion that needs to be made at some point because if we continue to have the public participation that we want all the time, then neither this or the Buxton Room are really appropriate. And and as we all know, the Community Center is somewhat uncomfortable and the acoustics are bad and things like that.

Chairperson Roy continued saying, but I would just be curious if you said there was like 19 other projects, what else we could do if we switch this around? Because I do have other questions like that and I don't know the answer to this. So depending on your answer might just resolve my question. The catch base cleaning is that part of the sewer department? Like is that self? The Town Administrator replied, saying no it's part of our MS-4 permit that we're required by the EPA and DES to maintain our infrastructure so that we're making sure we're not discharging certain things into the river and the water bodies and the watershed. Chairperson Roy replied so that's not typically done out of the sewer or water fund? The Town Administrator replied no. The Chairperson replied okay. All right. And then I guess the same question would be...The Town Administrator replied those are out of the general fund. Chairperson Roy asked the storm water bmp? The Town Administrator replied that's out of the general fund. Best management practices and the Robinson Pond was also out of the general fund. So that's the tax avoidance piece that Selectman Morin spoke about.

The Chairperson went on to say then my other question is sort of around longevity of keeping gas and diesel tanks. You know, at what point do we start addressing that cuz it's gonna become cost prohibitive at some time, at some point to keep up with the environmental regulations of those those types of. Selectman Morin replied but if you build the new ones, you'll meet all the environmental and if we get the bigger tanks, we're going to get a better price on fuel because we're buying more. We were trying to look to the future, again and we if we started, we could probably get a deal at a gas station around here, but it probably wouldn't be as cheap as we could buy it. The Town Administrator added, I believe above ground tanks have different requirements in in-ground tanks. We're not talking in-ground tanks. We're talking the diesel and the gas tanks that are above ground that what would be replaced. So, yes, there is permitting, but it's I think it's different than when you're in the ground.

The Chairperson asked, does anybody else have anything. Selectman Gagnon replied, I just want to leave you with, I like your first thought process, and I think I know where you're going with your second. To add to that value, if that conversation ever comes up in the future, if you do get rid of this room while you can expand offices down here so there's a value to that you'd receive as well. The Chairperson replied, it's still, it's still. Yeah. Cuz, cuz unfortunately, that that that building has not been occupied for a number of years. So there would be expensive things like updates to HVAC. Selectman Gagnon replied we have a new roof on the Benson's barn. We do go in there. Selectman Morin laughed saying, good one. Chairperson Roy laughed saying, roof looks really nice. Does anybody have anything else? Seeing no

further questions, *Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to approve projects listed above in the amount of \$954,650 using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Carried 5-0.*

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. 12 Lions Ave HVAC Contract

Chairperson Roy recognized Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima. Mr. Dhima began saying, Thank you, Chairperson Roy. Good evening, everyone. As you spoke about this little bit earlier, this was on the list. Hopefully you'll get it approved tonight. So we're good to go. In a nutshell, the original equipment there, it's basically failing. It's getting harder to replace it. It's getting harder to patch it. So the Rec Director reached out. I basically utilized the Fire Marshall, myself, Bruce Buttrick. We used to do HVAC and went through a design-build approach, which is basically what we have is what we need. You figure out what the equipment is and tell us what we need to do. And that's kind of what happened. We had a mandatory pre-bid meeting for contractors attended out of those four to submitted a bid. They were at about 80 grand and \$104,000. The 80 grand is actually an HVAC contractor and then \$104 is a GC that's going to hire an HVAC person that's going to work under him. So that's why the discrepancy is there. Between the two contracts the equipment is the same. I did the evals kind of looking around. They both have good reviews in North Shore is the low bid is basically what's being recommended tonight. They've done good work around great reviews and pretty straightforward, very comfortable with what they're planning to do. And the only challenge will be just getting the equipment. It's going to be a while, so hopefully we get this done before the summer starts, but that's about it in a nutshell. So with that said, our recommendation tonight is to move forward a little bit. I'll take any questions you might have.

Selectman Guessferd was recognize and said yeah, it looks like you went through a good process. Let me ask, did you consider as part of the I want to whether you said the they proposed the same equipment, there's opportunities for high efficiency equipment to be able to get rebates. Are we gonna, are we gonna be able to take advantage of any of that with the equipment that we're getting through this to perhaps give rebates? Mr. Dhima replied, I've not seen they they they point to the brand they're going to use, and it's the same one. But I'm not sure if there's going to be any anything that's going to allow us to, you know, do a rebate or anything of that sort. I think that will probably be evaluated when we get the shop drawings and started going over exactly what we're getting. So it'll be evaluated then. So I really can... we did not go by there out put an RFP there saying we need equipment that's going to provide us...Selectman Guessferd said X efficiency or whatever. Mr. Dhima replied, well we are going for a more efficient. We're going to get more efficient equipment smaller. That's going to be running better with filtration. They're going to do the document. But I'm not sure if I can tell you that we're going to get money back. We're using certain things. We're obviously going to. The plan of attack is to have more efficient. It's definitely got to be more efficient than what we have there. I can tell that much. If you've seen the compressor there, it looks like it came from Ukraine, hit a couple of times by a Russian missile. So we definitely going to get something better than that, smaller, more compact. But I don't know if we're going to get any money back through a rebate. I will ask obviously, the contractor. Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah, as you work through the project, I think it would be a good idea to kind of make that part of the conversation. Mr. Dhima replied, I think that'll be evaluated probably when we started getting exactly the model and the type and see if there's any rebates there. But I can tell it will be more efficient than what we have, that's for sure.

Selectman Gagnon then said to that point, Energy Star, I know for consumer goods, Energy Star, if any of these Energy Star, you can get governmental kickbacks for environmentally friendly. I don't believe commercial product has Energy Star ratings. Is that correct? Mr. Dhima replied, I don't know for that. I don't know what this is going to mean. Selectman Gagnon replied that's what you're looking for. The Chairperson then said, I know it's not it's not a kickback. It's a rebate. Mr. Dhima replied, I know what you mean. I but yeah. We can get more into it and I, and I'll ask the contractor, but.

Chairperson Roy then said so can I just make a suggestion like going forward is if we're going to do these types of projects, we consult with save, Save Energy New Hampshire, because they, they can provide that information to us. Like what products would provide rebates, if any, or if our our project qualifies for any rebates or anything like that. I'm just saying. Selectman Guessferd added, have it be part of the process. Chairperson Roy replied, yeah, just as part of the process. Mr. Dhima replied, the only thing you have to keep in mind is if you put a brand out there or a certain product you want to use, you're going to limit to who it's going to work on what. That's the only constraint. So let's just say that you have someone, a distributor that all only do an X, Y and Z. And if you put it out there saying, I only want X, Y, and Z, now you're going to limit yourself. Chairperson Roy replied, all I'm suggesting is we consult with them and then if it's available, we can take advantage of that. Selectman Guessferd added, again, it's just part of the process. Mr. Dhima replied, no, I hear you. Selectman Guessferd said, not mandate that. The Chairperson said it's just part of the process. Selectman Gagnon then said you could help save the world. Elvis. To which Mr. Dhima replied one AC at a time. One HVAC at a time. Yeah. You know what? If we move forward with the RFP for the building here, which is part of what you approved, we can definitely look into that. Why not? Absolutely. We'll have to do a reverse a little bit of a reverse on the language on the RFP itself, but I don't see why not. Sure. Selectman Guessferd said why not. See what ya get. Mr. Dhima replied, I want you to be happy before Christmas. I don't want you to leave, why did he say no? Yeah, absolutely. Sure.

Seeing no further questions *Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to approve the contract for construction services for the HVAC System at 12 Lion's Ave to North Shore Home Energy, LLC, for the amount of, not to exceed, \$79,650 and to charge the costs to account #7205, as recommended by the Town Engineer and Finance Director. Carried 5-0.*

B. Water Supply Feasibility Study Contract

Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima was again recognized and said thank you. Chairperson Roy, as you know, we've been impacted by the PFAS issue around this area. We have come to an agreement that a water feasibility study needs to be conducted to basically determine which way the town is going to go moving forward for current needs and future needs. And we'll be hiring our consultant Weston & Samson for the services. This will be paid at 100% by Saint-Gobain at this time. I'll take any questions you might have. Seeing no questions from the Board, *Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by selectman Guessferd to award the contract for Engineering Services to Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. in the amount, not to exceed, \$195,782.09. Carried 5-0.*

C. Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant

Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima was recognized and explained thank you again. As you recall, there's been a lot of discussions about funds available from the federal government related to new facilities that have to do with recycling transfer stations, things of that sort. What you have in front of you tonight is an opportunity to see if it's worthwhile pursuing this. Now Public Works and Engineering staff has been attending some of the EPA seminars related to this. There's a lot going on and it's very broad. But this particular one we're looking for is has a minimum of half a million dollars for a project and a maximum of 4 million, and has a total of 40 million available. We would obviously be pursuing the maximum \$4 Million to basically pursue some kind of recycling facility at the Transfer Station at this time. It does not require a match from the town, which is kind of a big deal because that's usually what triggers us to kind of walk away from things. So there's no financial commitment from the town. To expedite this process and give us a better chance of winning it, not that is guaranteed, but it's worth pursuing. We recommended that we hire our transfer station consultant, CMA Engineers, to help us out with these

efforts. We've done this in the past with other grants that we've pursued, so it's in line with that. So I'm in front of you tonight to ask if you wish to move forward this or not. I don't take any questions you might have.

The Chairperson asked, anybody have any questions for Mr. Dhima? Selectman Guessferd said, I'll offer the same comment I made on the last time we did one of these. Just there's no rates, right? But I read through and it said, you know, standard engineering rates and do they bill it? Because it says \$7,000 not to exceed. So they're going to bill us monthly or whatever at their standard rates? Mr. Dhima replied you should have the rates on the back. Selectman Guessferd replied, oh the rates are on the back? To which Mr. Dhima replied, check the last page. Selectman Guessferd replied, oh, I didn't check the last page on those. Mr. Dhima replied, I take notes every time you ask for something. I, I remember on the last meeting, so you should have a breakdown of the rates. Selectman Guessferd replied, perfect. Perfect. Thank you. Mr. Dhima then said I actually asked when I got the quote. No, no, no. Selectman Guessferd said I apologize. I apologize for not looking at the last page. Mr. Dhima then said I had you on the shoulder there. I said what about the rates? I called them. No, it was it was good. And actually they had them revised. But yeah, that's in place right now. And the billing will be based on the rates. Selectman Guessferd then asked, and these will be fixed? Mr. Dhima replied absolutely. Selectman Guessferd replied, my bad. To which Mr. Dhima replied, no, no it was due to a comment last time. So it was good. But it's included now.

Seeing no further questions, Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to waive the bid process and to award the engineering services to CMA Engineers Inc., for the amount of not to exceed \$7,000 using Engineering account #5585-225. Carried 5-0. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to authorize the Town Engineer to file for the grant. Carried 5-0.

D. Warrant Article Q - Appoint Conservation Commission as Agents to Expend from Forest Management Fund

At this point chairperson Roy recognized Bill Collins, Chairman of the Hudson Conservation Commission. Mr. Collins began by saying, Good evening, Madam Chairman. Last night we had a lively discussion at a Conservation Commission meeting in regards to these two warrant articles, and at this time we're going to remove the proposed Warrant Article R. That one was going to state to spend up to a certain amount of money from that Conservation Commission. And we're going to move forward, with your endorsement of the Q, yeah, Warrant Article Q asking for the Conservation Commission to be appointed as agents to the Forestry Maintenance Fund.

Chairperson Roy then said can I just ask who the agent to expend is now? Is it the Board? To which the Town Administrator replied, I believe it's the Board because you've not named anybody else. Selectman Gagnon then said with all due respect, I don't believe so. I think to expend money from the forestry fund, you actually need a warrant article every time to do it. This is the most efficient way because by designating them as an agent to expend, they can spend it at any time they want from this point forward. The Town Administrator then said the sample article is the second page just so you know what you're looking at. Mr. Collins then explained, the whole premise behind this is that we are now maintaining three town forests in the community. The Conservation fund has been used in the past for certain projects within these town forests, but they're unique lands. The the fund or the money that's in the fund currently is to be used for the maintenance of trails, kiosks, things like that on those properties. And we feel it's a better use of that money for those particular for those three properties than it is coming out of the Conservation Commission fund, which is supposed to be used for land acquisition and and other avenues. So we'd like your endorsement on this. If there's any questions, I'd be happy to answer them. Seeing no questions, Selectman Morin made motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to move Warrant Article Q - Appoint Conservation Commission as agents to expand from Forest Management Fund to the warrant. Carried 5-0.

E. Request to Accept Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program \$15,000 Grant

Chairperson Roy recognized Police Chief Tad Dionne and Sergeant Pat Broderick. She also recognized Captain Dave Cayot who was in the audience saying, I know Captain Cayot is in the audience and I just want to take a minute to congratulate him on his graduation from the FBI Academy. Chief Dionne replied, thank you. Thank you. Yeah, we're very happy to have him back and very proud of him. So I'm here before you tonight to accept the Awarded Domestic Cannabis Eradication Suppression Program grant. We were awarded \$15,000 to cover both salaries and equipment during the eradication of marijuana in Hudson which falls under several specific categories in the attached documentation. Before we before I ask if there's any questions or if we go forward with the motion. I wanted to bring Sergeant Broderick in to discuss the state of kind of the situation in Hudson at this point.

Detective Broderick said good evening everyone. I'm just here to brief you kind of what we're doing with our drug unit, newly formed in 2021. They've been very hard at work. We've also, just like to highlight some of the things that we're affecting not only just in Hudson, but regionally. Fentanyl is still one of our prolific things that we're dealing with. It is our number one problem in the state and region right now and now flooding the rest of the country. We are dealing with an upsurge of methamphetamine, specifically crystal methamphetamine coming in from the Mexican border. We are seeing a huge uptick in the area for that right now. The price of methamphetamine the last four years decreased 50%. The quantity that's actually coming into the country has increased and the purity rate has increased to well over 95% purity, which is something that we did not see five or six years ago in this area. We've never had a methamphetamine issue in this area other than small pockets.

Detective Broderick went on to say, we're also currently dealing with cocaine and crack issues, just as we always have. They've never really slowed down. But what we're now seeing is the mix with fentanyl in those things. So people that are users of crack or cocaine are now being more affected by the overdose issue that we're now seeing. So we have another population of users or addicted people that are now being exposed to this fentanyl scourge. That being said, we are also dealing with a clandestine or counterfeit pill issue in the country, specifically in this region, not only in Massachusetts, but in southern New Hampshire. That issue is now affecting our youth when it comes to pills. They are using pills because they believe that because of the fact that they're prescribed by a doctor, that they're going to be safer just by that fact alone. However, cartels and smaller organizations have caught on to this and thought what a great way to make money than to start making our own pills using clandestine drugs such as fentanyl, Adderall, excuse me, methamphetamine and other sorts of not easily procurable benzodiazepines that are in this country. So we are seeing people that are creating their own benzodiazepines using fentanyl, Oxycodone and Percocet's, using fentanyl, as well as Adderall pills and other stimulants that are prescribed or historically prescribed. But they're actually now including methamphetamine, because they're making these pills to look like the real McCoy in an effort to make money.

That being said, one of the largest areas in the state dealing with an overdose issue is across the bridge. We luckily have actually been pretty good so far for this year when it comes to our overdose issues, overdose deaths. We have had many overdoses. However, we have not had to deal with an overdose death in over six months. That being said, we have been partnering with our neighbors across the bridge using the Grant Shield program very effectively over the last year, where we as an agency and in combination with them and the Hillsborough County Sheriffs have made over 156 drug related arrests with that program, specifically focusing on that Granite Shield money. That being said, we are all still dealing with an uptick in violence and property crimes. The regional assessment, both through the FBI, HIDTA and DEA, is determining the main driver of all of our violent crimes in the area and property crimes is all drug related. They are seeing a specific uptick right now with firearm seizures related to clandestine black market marijuana sales through transnational gains and national agencies that are organizations that are moving throughout the, throughout our country now because it's no longer an issue in California. We're now seeing California drugs making their way here. That includes poly drugs, not just marijuana.

Sergeant Broderick continued his update saying, that being said, in the Town of Hudson, when it comes to our clandestine grows, not just marijuana, but also psilocybin, we've had four just this year alone, I was actually reminded while walking in here there's actually five. We had a gentleman in the south end of town who was cultivating his own. We executed a search warrant on the town, on his residence, excuse me. And we ended up recovering not only marijuana, but methamphetamine, cocaine, ketamine, psilocybin, mushrooms and large quantities of not just user amount of marijuana, but obviously distribution level marijuana and psilocybin. And those grows, we've also procured 15 firearms at one location and five firearms at a second location. And that's pretty much where we're at with our State of the Union here in Hudson.

Chief Dionne then said so anyways, I thought it would be a good idea to, while we're presenting the grant in general also kind of bring you up to speed where we are. I've mentioned this before. Sergeant Broderick is a subject matter expert in this, had seven years with the HIDTA team, but as well I've mentioned before, if we had more, if we had more narcotic officers, we probably have more narcotic cases and more narcotic arrests. But with that in mind, do we have any questions?

Chairperson Roy said, I just, um cuz I forget, but but we carry Narcan right? We have Narcan available for overdoses. To which Sergeant Broderick replied, no, ma'am. The Fire Department does. The Chairperson then said, okay somebody in town does. And then just sort of make a statement that we all know that we're never going to arrest our way out of this problem. Right? There's got to be. Chief Dionne replied, we can't arrest our way out of murder either and I think that we have to continue to prosecute it. Sergeant Broderick added, as long as it's legal. Chairperson Roy responded, and I don't disagree with the whole the pills and the methamphetamine. I mean, I do take issue with our somewhat archaic marijuana policy, but that's that's. Selectman Guessferd then said that's a whole different thing. That's not a policy discussion here. Chief Dionne then said, Chairperson, to your point, I think that part of our programs are always education and as well as diversion. We use we use we use a threefold. The third is prosecution enforcement. Chairperson Roy replied, and I and I appreciate that cuz then you and I have talked about that. Chief Dionne replied, yes, we have. The Chairperson then said it can't just be prosecutions. That's just never going to help.

Selectman McGrath then said, I'd like to speak, but I think Mr. Gannon had his hand up first. Selectman Gannon then said so thank you very much. I did read over this. I found it interesting, to say the least. And I'm drawn to the first page. Bullets one, two, three and four. Simplifying it. Marijuana cultivation on federal lands, causing environmental hazards, marijuana cultivation including money laundering and on tribal lands, that kind of thing. Also dating back to we had this discussion maybe about a year ago, maybe six months ago. And so I'll be fully transparent. I think it's important to be consistent. I don't think what was presented tonight has swayed my thought process from before. With all due respect, sir, you named a lot of dangerous substances that I don't disagree with you on, but in that speech you mentioned marijuana once. I don't think, as of right now I'm no expert. But based on that, I haven't really flipped my decision on this. So I'm going to respectfully decline the acceptance of this. But I certainly appreciate your hard work, your your expertise. It's just my my personal stance based on maybe my limited understanding of the situation. But that's where I stand.

Sergeant Broderick then asked, can I just add something to that then? To which Selectman Gannon replied, please. Sergeant Broderick said, I understand everyone has different views on cannabis. I understand that we're living in a world where within the year could be legalized. We all have different views on how it should be managed. It can be managed through taxation. It can be managed to for education, manage for substance abuse. That's great. In the end, though, the legalization of alcohol in the twenties, there were organizations put in place to make sure the tax man gets his money. To make sure that people aren't abusing the legalization of alcohol. Right now, we're in a place where it is illegal in this state to have marijuana. It is illegal in the sense of we still exert your funds, the funds of the town. We still have an obligation to enforce that law. This is a way of supplementing our budget to give us money and take less money from the town and allow us to use federal money to do our job and give us equipment that we don't currently have access to. The previous year when we got this grant, we got money for clothing that we need for our detectives to do their job, that they are required to do search warrants in their

own personal clothing, or we can purchase clothing with this money for them. We're able able to buy a camera for them that we had an outdated Coolpix Nikon. If anyone has a concept of that, that was the camera that I had when I was a detective in 2010. We upgraded to a DSLR last year because of this money. This money just offsets a budget. It doesn't stop what we're doing. It just helps us spend less of the town's money and pull in federal money to offset our budget and hopefully make more money available to help other aspects of our agency and the town. Selectman Gagnon replied, thank you for that.

Chief Dionne then said, if I could, Broderick, could you discuss who what state takes the most of this grant money? Sergeant Broderick replied, California. Chief Dionne then said where it's 100% legal because they still use the money for the same reasons. To your point about the fact that we're trying at that point, they're still trying to stop people on the black market, so to speak. And that's exactly why they take, they accept the most money of the grant from the federal government. So all the states are using it the same grant. And we do have an obligation to enforce the laws of New Hampshire one way or another, whether we had the money from the federal government or not. It's coming from the Town of Hudson or it's coming from the federal government. Selectman Gagnon replied, fair point. Thank you for that.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and made a motion, to authorize the Hudson Police Department to accept the Domestic Cannabis Eradication Suppression Program (DCE/SP) Grant, which was awarded by the US Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration in the amount of \$15,000. Selectman Morin seconded this motion. Selectman McGrath then said I'd like to speak to it. So thank you for the presentation. I know that I know that there's a big problem throughout the entire country. I hear it every single day, and I hear more of it every day about all of the the drugs that are coming in across the border. And it's aimed at killing killing our people, our citizens, because either they're drug addicted and they don't realize what they're getting or they they use it thinking that they're going to be able to be saved. And it's it's a very scary prospect. Fortunately, I don't have children. I say that but I also have nieces and nephews and I worry just just as much about them as if they were my own and just as much for other people in this town that may lose a child or a loved one, whether it's a child or a husband or wife or girlfriend or a child, you know, a child in the school system, if they get poisoned by this medication, by these drugs that he's been talking about, you can say never mind killing them on the road. It's killing them in their bedrooms. They walk in in the morning and they find their kids on the floor with no chance of calling them back. So thank you for what you do. I think you do a great service for the Town of Hudson and for the United States.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said whatever your opinion is on marijuana, that's fine. But all the other stuff they talked about, they can use the money. And I got to ask...Chairperson Roy interjected saying no they can't it's for marijuana eradication. Police Captain Dave Cayot was then recognized and said so anecdotally, I don't have the numbers in front of me, but, you know I manage all these drug investigations that we're doing and overseeing with this ERAD money. And I can tell you anecdotally, over 50% of those investigations lead to those other drugs that you were talking about. So, yes where this money is for marijuana eradication. But when we're doing this, we're finding the methamphetamine, like Sergeant Broderick talked about in over 50% of these cases we're finding the drugs. We're finding the heroin; we're finding the fentanyl. So I know we're getting hung up on the marijuana part about this, but this is allowing us to do the job we've been asked to do by you guys and the taxpayers. And this is offsetting the taxpayer's money to allow us to do more of this. So that is just my input. Chief Dionne added and it doesn't prohibit us from using a camera that we purchased because we use it for that investigation from using the camera for other investigations. It doesn't prohibit us from doing that.

Selectman Morin then said and I would just like to finish up if you two haven't had the chance to do it right along with either the PD or the Fire Department, you should. You've got to go see this for real. Been there, done that. It's going to give you a whole different outlook when you're when you're dealing with the person that's down, the family. And what this does, it's not just they have the overdose and that's it. It's a long thing. And the the amount of stuff that these guys see and have to put up with, you know, and that's why he came forward with the wellness officer. That's a perfect example, because what they see day in and day out, I would I would ask both of you do a ride along with both of them and go see this for yourself.

Selectman Gagnon then said Madam Chair, if I may, and let me be clear, I have a very fine line with this topic specifically. There is no doubt I don't support what you guys do when it comes to other hard drugs. And a lot of what was talked about tonight was death and really injuring people. My personal opinion is that isn't that isn't the marijuana side of it. I mean, all the other hard drugs and all all of it, all that's bad going on with it, there's no doubt I will support that. I'm with you guys. I think my my fine line in the sand is just a little further on this topic. And based on reading this contract, as the chairperson stated, two items one, two, three and four about what this grant was made for. That's where I'm basing my decisions, which just simply the marijuana part of it. And I don't believe people die on marijuana. Maybe I'm mistaken, but when it comes to anything else and what you guys go through and health officer, don't even get me wrong, I absolutely would support that. And I have a little understanding of the hazards of the position. I would never want to do your job.

Captain Cayot then said if I may since you bring up the topic, I would invite you to come for a ride along with our drug unit and see this and see that when we're doing these marijuana efforts, all those other things that you say you don't want in town, come along with this. And not getting this grant takes away \$15,000 that, yes, it falls under that marijuana grant. But like I said, over 50% of those cases have those other drugs that came with it. So it's taking \$15,000 away from doing those extra activities.

Sergeant Broderick asked, could I just add something? I mean, my experience is different than some other peoples in this room, anecdotally, obviously, because I don't have the numbers to back it up. I've seen more firearms and more violence surrounding marijuana sales than I have fentanyl. I have been involved in numerous investigations in Lawrence, Massachusetts, New York City, LA, Florida, Dominican Republic, where I've not seen a single gun, I've seen more guns coming out of a house in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire because they converted it to an indoor grow and they had guns lined up at every single window because they were afraid of being robbed by other drug dealers. Not by the police, not by some guy trying to steal their weed. They're trying to get, there's weed, there's money. They're afraid of getting robbed. They have guns there to protect their investment. And like I said, this is anecdotally, but I've seen more guns with marijuana and seen more violence with marijuana than I've seen with fentanyl and I've seen with methamphetamine.

Chairperson Roy asked anybody have anything else? Motions have been made in seconded. *Motion carried 3-2. Selectman Gagnon and Chairperson Roy opposed.*

F. Police Safety Revolving Fund Warrant Article

Chief Dionne was recognized. Chief Dionne Began saying, thank you. So I'm here before you with a proposal for a warrant article establishing a Public Safety Service revolving fund. The Hudson Police Department is budgeted for police cruisers, outfitting police cruisers, police cruiser maintenance and associated operational costs under 5630 of the police patrol cost center, which is involves the automobiles and large maintenance. We are asking to establish a fund which generates 50% of the revenues that come from the police detail cruiser fee to be deposited into PSS revolving fund and the money be allowed to accumulate from year to year. Should the voters approve of this, this would be go into effect July 1st, 2023. The revolving fund would provide for a funding mechanism that would include operational costs and capital funding. For instance, capital funding, like vehicle purchases. With the establishment of the fund that would offset the costs related to the automobiles, large equipment maintenance, tires and other equipment related to public safety services in the police department budget. We want to do this due to rising inflation, increase prices on police vehicles, associated costs and lack of inventory. We feel this is a pathway towards direct revenue created from the police vehicles and apply directly to police vehicle costs.

And I'm going to give you an example. Last year, for instance, the Hudson police detail fee, so we charge \$15 an hour at a police detail for the cruiser. That's separate completely of what the what the fee is for the

police officer. And the police officer fee has an associated administrative fee built into it as well to help pay for the price or the cost of actually administrating. Having finance bill, having a lieutenant handle the detail list, having a dispatcher take a phone call for a request for detail. So there's already there's already money in that in the in the in the amount that's billed to the to the requesting party in the price for the police officer. The details are \$15 an hour for a cruiser regardless. Last year the police detail fees accumulated \$48,720. So in in in a situation like this, if we had a similar year of about \$50,000, we would be asking for 25,000 of that to go into that right now, that goes into the general fund. But we are obviously paying for maintenance with that. We are paying for when the police cruisers are in effect, working at a detail, they are they're going to break down related the tires. It is a direct pathway towards taking some of that money that's generated in revenue and actually putting it back into putting it back into that line where we can use it to purchase cruisers. It would be very specific, obviously, and the agent for the spending would be the Board of Selectmen. And I'm welcome to any questions you might have on this.

Chairperson Roy asked, anybody have any questions? Selectman Morin said I'm just going to say, looking at it, it's going to save the taxpayers money because this doesn't affect them at all. This is coming from outside details which will take care of some of the costs that we have to encumber through the town. And we'll you know, we'll give them a benefit like the EMS revolving fund, same type of same type of thing. Chairperson Roy said I just have a question. It's just a question for clarification, cuz it says or public safety services equipment needed in conjunction. What other things besides vehicles? Chief Dionne replied, that's a great question. It's established in the law in the RSA that's mentioned here. But essentially, if it could be used for a I think a detail would be used for it, which includes highway construction, but it also includes events. So for instance, like a like an electronic signboard that says, you know, old homes, a parking over here, something like that, traffic vests, flashlights, any any traffic signs, anything that would be that would also be necessary for a police service type event. But it is specific in the law. So we just tried to follow the law on that. Chairperson Roy replied, okay.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said fairly simple one. This is a pretty long warrant article. Is there any way to wiggle this down? Chief Dionne replied, the way the law is written, yeah, there's no wiggle room. The Town Administrator said if you go back and look at the EMS, this is the prescribed language. I reviewed it with the Attorney. Selectman Gagnon replied, all right. The Town Administrator then said shorter is good but not always legal. Seeing no questions, Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to forward a warrant article to establish a Police Safety Services (PSS) Revolving Fund. Carried 5-0.

G. Application for Payment from Capital Reserve Funds

The Town Administrator was recognized and said so what you have is a list of seven requests for capital reserve fund reimbursements. These are, you are the agents to expend on these. These were projects that were approved. Had been through the process. And now we're going to get payment back from the Trustees. The Trustees have asked that you just take a vote to make sure that we've crossed every T and dotted every I. So it's basically a formality. But in essence, what you're doing is approving the request for \$1,430,981.30 to be reimbursed from the Capital Reserve Funds that are in the Trustee's possession. Seeing no questions from the Board Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to approve the disbursements from the accounts listed above in the total amount of \$1,430,981.30. Carried 5-0.

H. November 2022 Revenues & Expenditures

The Town Administrator explained, we are 42% of the way through the year, which is basically five months. And at this point in time, looking at it, everything seems to be trending in the right direction. Nothing, no real major anomalies. We do encumber legal, we encumber trash. So those always skew a little bit higher at the beginning. But typically where we should be right at this time of year. Motor

vehicles continue to perform well, 44.8%. We're up basically \$118,000 over last year at the same time. So folks are still registering vehicles and that's continues to perform. And there's a little bit of a bright side interest is going in the right direction. I think we've taken in more interest in the first five months than we did the whole year last year. So obviously when the interest rates rise, it helps our investments. We're certainly not back to the days of big money, but we're getting there. So that does help to alleviate the burden on the taxpayer because all these are offsetting revenues.

I. Proposed Procedure for Enacting or Revising Board of Selectmen Policies

The Town Administrator explained, the Board talked about having some sort of first and second reading type of procedure for policy. If you want to adopt policy to give an opportunity for public input. So I didn't reinvent the wheel. I looked at what the school does and basically took what the school did and kind of put it into town language in a town format. And basically what we're proposing is should you wish to enact a policy with the first reading, which is the policy, what it is, what you're trying to accomplish, and then you would have the opportunity to approve it at a second meeting. You could take public input, you could take public comment, you could have more discussion, but it would be a two-step process. And again, this is what the school does. So they call it first and second reading. But in essence it's how do you want to enact your policies going forward?

Chairperson Roy asked, does anybody have any questions? Seems pretty straightforward.

Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve the proposed procedures for enacting or revising Board of Selectmen policies. Carried 5-0.

J. BOS Follow Up Visioning Session

Chairperson Roy began by saying so we had we had a visioning session back in October with Mr. Rick Alpers from PRIMEX. I thought it was a really good discussion that we had about the town and where to go. But I don't think to Mr. Alpers point, we actually came up with a vision for the town. We had a lot again, a lot of good discussion. So he's offering up a follow up meeting and I guess I will take thoughts about from the Board.

Selectman Guessferd said so at that during that meeting. So he and he's going to have a vision statement for us based on everything that we all the input we gave him, he's going to list those then create goals. So where where we're heading next is that he's going to present that vision statement based upon what we said, and now we're going to be drilling down to the next level with your goals. So that's really, so we're continuing down the road. So we'll have a vision statement, I'm not sure what it's gonna say. Chairperson Roy agreed saying, I know. Right, right. Selectman Guessferd then said but and hopefully I know you weren't present at that one. Right? Or were you there? Selectman Morin replied, no, I wasn't. Selectman Guessferd replied this will be this will be a good follow up for all of us. S

Selectman Morin then said it is a good follow up, but I think we need to wait for our goals. And there's three reasons why. 1) we're waiting for a master plan that may change our goals, because that's what the master plan says. 2) We may have a new board, so it's only a couple of months away. 3) And then I'm getting it's the third one. Budget. Budget might pass, so that may change our goals too. And that's so if you wait till after March, I mean, it's not that far away. And then then you've got an idea what the town wanted. We'll have a better idea where the master plan's going and we can take those and work those, because that's what the people, the people make the decision on the budget, which is going to affect us, our vision, no matter what. The master plan is, what the people want. That's why we had all these visioning sessions. So we should wait to see what that's going to lead us because that's going to help us. I mean, if we just go and set goals and then it's totally opposite of what we're receiving for information, it's kind of a.

Selectman Gagnon replied, so so to that point, I don't disagree with pretty much everything you said. But for clarification, is this just a second round of creating a vision statement, which in my mind is simple sentence? Chairperson Roy replied, so, so, in my mind, and Mr. Guessferd reminds me Mr. Alpers is supposed to provide us with a vision statement. The Town Administrator replied, I think my talking to him, I believe he feels that it needs to be a bit more work articulating where you want to go and what you're looking at, like the types of goals you are. A vision, statements great, but to Selectman Morin's point you've got a little bit more work to do.

Selectman Guessferd replied, well, and that's fine. But this says to help create goals, to create goals, which is and I don't disagree with you at all, I do think we probably four goals, we should wait until the master plan is updated. But this states create goals. So so if we're if the purpose of the visioning session is to is to is to try to massage the visioning statement itself. Selectman Morin replied, I think that's a different thing. When you said goals. Selectman Guessferd replied, that's what this (agenda) says.

Selectman Morin replied you need to make a list. Well I know we got to see what the public wants first. Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah, but just from, you know, from what was said in that meeting, I remember him saying that it's all we're having this discussion here, because he had said at the time, well, I'll come back with a vision statement and then we're going to go for goals. So absolutely. I so I would I would, I would try to go down that road. I don't think if we're going to have a visioning session, a follow up, then it should probably be to continue to work the visioning statement, not to create goals. Chairperson Roy replied, and I would agree with that. I don't think we got to the point during that meeting of having a...Selectman Guessferd replied, it was kind of a free for all.

The Town Administrator then said but that's this Board sometimes. The Board has different opinions. Chairperson Roy then said so I think I think maybe we can get a clarification whether we his intent was to sort of massage that visioning assessment or to actually set goals. Because they are two different things. And I think honestly, quite frankly, we'd have to have a solid visioning session visioning statement besides the three things you mentioned to set goals. Right? Selectman Guessferd replied, well, the hierarchy, you know, as as I've understood it, is vision, master plan, goals. And we're not there yet. Chairperson Roy then said so I guess if maybe we could? To which the Town Administrator replied I'm assuming though, next week is out. He talked about his availability for this month. It's probably not realistic at this point. Selectman Guessferd said see if we can set something up in January. The Town Administrator replied we'll see what he's got available.

9. Board Liaison Reports

Selectman McGrath: I have nothing.

Selectman Gagnon: You've heard from the power aggregation and seemingly the Sustainability Committee tonight. And NRPC has a meeting tomorrow night. Nothing that I remember dramatically from the School Board, so no, ma'am.

Selectman Guessferd: Okay, so we've already mentioned tonight that the Planning Board meeting tomorrow night will address Hillwood. It will be at 7:00 at the Community Center. And that's, that's our focus for, for tomorrow night.

As far as our Community Television committee, we're not meeting this month. We're going to try to meet in January. We just really haven't had much to discuss lately.

As far as the Rec is concerned. So we have basketball in full swing. They're actually putting together a female high school basketball league. They're going to try to do that. And with hopeful they'll get some interest and be able to to put a league together. That would be that would be excellent. And I'm going to

follow up on the last meeting we had on this Southern New Hampshire tour of Lights. So there's a lot of excitement around it, a lot of fun putting it together as a full list of participating recreation departments and addresses. It'll be on the website and the Facebook page, the Rec Facebook page, and we encourage the public to take a drive, go around and look at the lights, and all Hudson addresses that are entered will be entered into a raffle. So if there's an address in town here where the lights are on the on the tour, they'll be entered for a chance to win a gift card with a restaurant in town. So that's a that's, that will be a fun thing for the next couple of weeks.

And then the Seniors are having a holiday get together on Tuesday. And for members with some activities and and pastries and things. But the big news on Sunday third annual Santa's sleigh ride through Hudson and Santa is going to be traveling through town. So it starts at 12:00 PM from the south end of town. There's a full street by street route that's been uploaded to the website and to the Facebook page that's on Facebook. Selectman Morin said I heard a rumor he requested warm weather. Selectman Guessferd replied, I heard that same I heard that same rumor. Although he wears a very, you know, very warm suit.

Selectman Morin: Budget Committee finished up the school's. Thursday night is the wrap up for schools. We've been moved to January 4th, so we will be after the new year for the wrap up of the town.

You saw Mr. Collins here tonight with the warrant articles for the conservation. And the only other thing is a while back there was funds to put mapping together for all the town properties for hiking and trails, and they were making pamphlets and maps. Well, this is, they had NRPC in last night. This is the first one they presented this just to have a look at. There's a few minor changes. This one is for the Colburn Forest. But as you can see, it's got a map of the trails. Information what's allowed in there and what's not. Some special items on the thing. So they're going to do that for all the properties. And I'll leave this upstairs in the Selectmen's office so you guys can see it up there. they're hoping to have these out in the spring. It will also the same thing will be on the website and you can get it on your phone.

Selectman Guessferd asked, similar to Benson's? To which selectman Morin replied, yeah. Benson's is going to be a little different because all the historical things in there but it's going to be the same concept of the map. Chairperson Roy said so can I just ask; can I just ask a question? Is that, like, available through All Trails? Selectman Morin replied, yup it's gonna be everything. Selectman Gagnon then spoke up saying, actually sorry, I don't think it's All Trails. It's more of a hiking app. People may have mapped the trails. But I think what she's she's talking about a specific app called All Trails which I use there are what he did NRPC actually hired they GPS mapped and they have their there's a different app for the trails not All Trails.

Bensons Committee will be taking place on Thursday night, but I'll be at the budget meeting, so I won't be able to attend that. That's all I have.

Chairperson Roy: The only thing I have is a ZBA met last Thursday and probably the most important thing that came out of that meeting is they published their 2023 calendar. So that will show the dates of the meetings and then what when packages are due to the Zoning Administrator so they can get on the agenda so that that's available on the website. So if you have something you think needs to go before the Zoning Board, you should check out the website and. Or call Mr. Buttrick and he can help you out with that. And with that, I will entertain remarks by the Town Administrator.

10. Remarks by Town Administrator

The Town Administrator was recognized and yeah just a real quick public service, just to remind everybody that transfer station hours in the winter are changing so they'll be open the last Saturday of the month, which is December 31st, January 28th, February 25th, on March 25th. That's the

one day that they'll be open for refuse and whatnot. And that's the last Saturday of each month, 8 to 12. And the other thing I'd like to wish everybody happy holidays and Merry Christmas, because this is our last meeting before that.

11. Remarks by School Board

There was no School Board member present.

12. Other Business/Remarks by the Selectmen

Selectman McGrath: Just wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Selectman Morin: All I got to say is public input was very interesting tonight, very like Deja vu.

Selectman Guessferd: I'll echo what Selectman Morin said beyond that, yeah, happy holidays. There's a lot of different holidays happening. Everybody just be safe. There's a lot of things going on and, you know, do yourself a favor get a designated driver if you need to, whatever it is. But enjoy your family, your friends, and and stay safe.

Selectman Gagnon: Thank you, Madam Chair. And if you forgive me, I have a little bit to read today just to let you guys know. So, Madam Chair, with the support, I'd like to read this statement to the Board.

I moved to Hudson about six years ago and hopes to settle down and build a family. It wasn't long before I set out to find ways in which I could participate and serve my community and in certain role taught to me by my parents, I found my gateway to community service through volunteering with the Hudson Conservation Commission, a role in which I developed my passion for protecting the natural environment. In doing so, I met some wonderful volunteers and really got to know how local town boards operate. People like Bill Collins, Ken Dickinson, Paula Hubert and of course, Jennifer Russo welcomed me without judgement, saw my potential and provided nothing but guidance and support to help develop my role.

Excuse me. The Commission worked hard to build and maintain trails, learn about forestry practices, start new sustainable logging operations. We sent out notifications to landowner expressing our intent to protect various properties around town and joining residents to protect 70 Rangers Drive one of the newest town forest. From there we increase contributions to the Conservation Fund from 50 to 75% to help protection efforts. In the following years, I continued to champion numerous successful petition warrant articles that created town forests for both residents and wildlife to enjoy for generations to come.

Unfortunately, at the same time, I was going through some difficult personal life challenges an abundance of public scrutiny. Alas, as they say, whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger. And indeed it did. It becomes I became stronger for it, stronger from the unwavering support from so many residents that I have the utmost respect for. I use that strength to pursue my candidacy as a Hudson Select Board member. At first, sitting at this table was overwhelming and invoked a variety of emotions. The first few months were nothing short of tumultuous. We experienced massive warehouse projects. We responded to tremendous amounts of community engagement, and we were involved in setting Supreme Court case law. Twice. We bid farewell and welcomed incredible new department heads. We allocated millions of dollars of American Rescue Plan funds, and like many others, we dealt with an economy and supply chain issues. We experience significant disagreements, but we have also had meaningful compromise that has served the community in positive ways. Because of the shared value as a Select Board I think we have collectively grown together in a positive way, and I mean that. I'd like to take this minute to highlight that point. Specifically, I think we can all agree it was uncomfortable when we all started working together, but I honestly and sincerely am proud of where we are now. We listen to each other, we ask good questions,

we provide constructive criticism. We even make and second motions between each other and which we never would have done a year ago.

It's on this positive note, I'd like to tender my resignation. This announcement comes with considerable regret because I feel I have not upheld my pledge to complete all three years of my term. I do not take this lightly. I take pride in honoring my commitments and doing a job I was elected to do. Not too much longer. Family is only priority I hold higher than my commitment to serve my community. My family will be selling my home in Hudson to pursue a new path, one that leads me out of Hudson unfortunately. I only wish I was allowed to serve, but unfortunately, only residents of this town may serve on elected boards. The good news is I'll be nearby and still a part of the local community. I would like to acknowledge and thank each of my peers sitting at this table. I think we can all recall the humble beginnings in which we all first sat at this table. We all did so with the intent to help Hudson progress into the future through compromise, research and logic. Whether you have agreed with me or disagree with me over the past two years, you have all played a formidable role in shaping me as the leader I am today. And I thank you for that. I would also like to thank the volunteers who elected, or I'm sorry, the voters who elected me, and I hope you will appreciate the last two years and understand the choice I've had to make to support my family I love so much. That is all.

Chairperson Roy: Thank you. I just have one announcement and then one comment. So 11:30 on Saturday will be Wreaths Across America at the Hills House. So if you can attend, it's a worthwhile ceremony to witness.

And then to you, Mr. Gagnon, I think all of us understand what it takes to step up to sit around this table and step up. So I want to take I want to thank you for doing that and for your service to this community. And I know that you'll be an asset to whatever community you choose to be a part of. Selectman Gagnon replied, thank you very much, ma'am.

13. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Gagnon at 9:54 p.m., seconded by Selectman Morin to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:2, III(a) Strategies or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining. RSA 91-A: 3 II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. Carried 5-0.

Nonpublic Session was entered at 9:54 p.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 10:14 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session

1.) Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to hire Stephanie Sabetti as a Part Time Legal Clerk, with a starting salary of \$21.77 (step 1) per hour, all in accordance with the Hudson Police Employee Association Contract. Carried 5-0.

2.) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to forward the Hudson Public Works Union AFSCME Local 1801 Contract to the Fiscal Year 2024 Warrant.

3.) Selectman Guessferd made a motion to adjourn at 10:19 p.m. This was seconded by Selectman Morin. Carried 5-0.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:15 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

Selectman Brett Gagnon resigned at the end of this meeting.