

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the August 23, 2022 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairperson Roy the meeting of August 23, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Deputy Fire Chief Scott Tice
3. ATTENDANCE
Board of Selectmen: Brett Gagnon, Bob Guessferd, Marilyn McGrath, Dave Morin, Kara Roy

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Elvis Dhima, Town Engineer; Jess Forrence, DPW Director; Rob Buxton, Fire Chief; Scott Tice, Deputy Fire Chief; Tad Dionne, Police Chief; Dave Cayot, Police Captain; Paul Inderbitzen, Town Moderator; Brian Groth, Town Planner; Chairman; Gary Gasdia School Board Representative
4. PUBLIC INPUT - there was none
5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

A. Recognition

20 Years of Service - Captain Dave Cayot

Chairperson Roy invited Captain Dave Cayot of the Hudson Police Department forward and read the following:

“Captain David Cayot began his Law Enforcement career with the Hudson Police Department July 1, 2002. After graduating from the New Hampshire 129th Police Academy, he was assigned to the Patrol Division. He was elevated to Master Patrol Officer in December 2007. In July 2009 he was transferred to the Criminal Investigation Division. In 2012 He graduated with honors from the New England Polygraph Institute. He has worked his way through the ranks being promoted to Sergeant in December 2014, then promoted to Lieutenant April 2017 to his current promotion as Captain effective April 2019. Captain Cayot is currently the Special Investigations Bureau Commander.

Captain Cayot received the Hudson Police Department Life Saving Award in 2008 for stopping a woman from jumping off of the Veteran’s Bridge. In 2010 he received the New Hampshire Grange Officer of the Year Award. Captain Cayot has received many letters of recognition for conducting excellent investigations. He volunteers his time as the Hudson Police Department representative to the New Hampshire Special Olympics. In September he will be heading to the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy.

Captain Cayot graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a Bachelor’s Degree, majoring in Chemistry with a minor in Business Administration. Captain Cayot and his wife Kim live in Merrimack, New Hampshire with their son’s Alexander and Zachary. Captain Cayot is dedicated to his job and has certainly been an asset to the Hudson Police Department.”

B. Appointment

Tim Lanphear - Zoning Board of Adjustment

Chairperson Roy explained Mr. Lanphear was interviewed at our last meeting to serve as an alternate on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to appoint Tim Lanphear as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment with a term to expire 12/31/24. Carried 3-2. Selectmen Gagnon and McGrath opposed.

C. Nomination

David Leary - Municipal Utility Committee

Chairperson Roy invited Mr. Leary forward and asked him for his name and address for the record. He replied, David Leary, 2 Bradford Circle, Hudson. She then asked Mr. Leary to tell the Board a little bit about himself and why he'd like to be on the Municipal Utility Committee. Mr. Leary began by saying, well I'm retired now. I've been in three different careers. I had 35 years in the heating and air conditioning business. Then I went into facility management and from there, for the past six years, I just retired last year from teaching at New Hampshire School of Mechanical Trades - Air Conditioning. And I've also been active in youth baseball. But I've enjoyed working with when we lived in Gilford, I enjoyed working with the plumbing inspectors and the town and helping out when needed on looking at stuff. More like inspectional services. And I've enjoyed volunteering for different committees and things. I've served on several boards for trustees for condominium associations. I heard you were a Wentworth grad, so am I. and Northeastern as well. So if there's anything else you'd like to know about my background.

Chairperson Roy asked, does anyone have any questions? Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said thank you for volunteering, first and foremost. Have you been to a Municipal Utility Committee meeting yet? Mr. Leary replied, no. I'm a fairly new resident. We moved from Gilford to Hudson to be closer to our daughter down in Massachusetts. We've been here for a year and you know. The past year has been a little rough health-wise because of Covid. So I'm no longer really active in the youth baseball programs that I was active in up in New Hampshire. I'm a certified umpire in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. I've worked a lot of the little league and high school games too. But I'm looking forward to staying active. There's only so much golf I can do. So anything I can do to help out around the town would be great. Keep me busy. Selectman Gagnon replied, I definitely feel like it's a good fit. A good first step. If you change your mind, the reason I say this is some of your backgrounds very interesting and I think we would certainly love to have you in multiple facets throughout the towns committees. If you'd like to start here and if you ever wanted to change, don't just give up. Come let us know and maybe we can put you somewhere else if need be. I think it's a first good step to be involved with the town and I appreciate you standing up to do so.

Mr. Leary then said the New Hampshire Aviation Museum is trying to get me to volunteer at a mentor because of my aircraft background. I'm a licensed air craft mechanic and private pilot too. They've been wanting me to mentor some students with the home build craft. I haven't quite decided. It's a bigger commitment. Its three days a week. I don't know if I can do that on a regular basis. But I'm going to think about it. Something to keep me busy during the winter, which would be nice. Selectman Gagnon replied, excellent. And like I said thank you and if you ever need more things to volunteer for I'm sure we have openings we can put you in. Mr. Leary then said wherever I can help out at, great. Donna in the water department is the one that conned me into volunteering.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and said, I don't have any questions, but I have a suggestion for you do to your background with baseball and youth the Recreation Commission could probably use your expertise in that area as well. So I mean it's something to take a look at the programs that they

offer if you're interested. Mr. Leary replied, sure, we're still familiarizing ourselves and what is available on the committees, but anywhere I can help out would be great. Anything to stay busy. Selectman McGrath said but that way you'd be around young children and mentoring them. So that might be something you'd find enjoyable. Mr. Leary replied, I'm not too familiar of what all the committees are and what they do but as I phase into things I'd be more than happy to help out. Thank you.

Seeing no further questions from the Board, Chairperson Roy said thank you for coming in. what we usually do is we interview now and at the next regularly scheduled meeting we'll take a vote.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

The Chairperson asked, does anyone have anything they'd like removed for separate consideration? Seeing none, Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to accept Consent Items A, B, C, D, E & F. Carried 5-0.

- A. Assessing Items - none

- B. Water/Sewer Items
 - 1) S-UTL - 23-01, 12 Sousa Blvd.
 - 2) S-UTL - 23-03, 17 Scenic Lane

- C. Licenses & Permits & Policies
 - 1) Raffle Permit - Friends of Benson Park

- D. Donations
 - 1) Benson Park Tree Replacement Donation of \$1,200
 - 2) Benson Park Tree Replacement Donation of \$1,200 from Jennifer Harris
 - 3) Walmart Keurig Coffee Maker & Beverage Refrigerator for HPD

- E. Acceptance of Minutes
 - 1) Minutes of August 9, 2022

- F. Calendar

8/24	7:00	Planning Board - Buxton Meeting Room
8/25	7:00	Zoning Board of Adjustment - Buxton Meeting Room
8/31	6:00	Right to Know Committee - BOS Meeting Room
9/1	5:00	BOS & School Board Joint Mtg - Hudson Community Center
9/5	-	Labor Day - Town Offices Closed
9/6	6:30	Board of Selectmen Workshop - Rodgers Memorial Library
9/7	7:00	Budget Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
9/8	7:00	Sustainability Committee - Buxton Meeting
9/12	7:00	Cable Utility Committee - HCTV Meeting Room
9/12	7:00	Conservation Commission - Buxton Meeting Room
9/13	7:00	Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes Taken After Nonpublic Session on August 9, 2022

1. Selectman Gagnon made a motion to adjourn at 9:16pm. This was seconded by Selectman Morin. Carried 5-0.

B. Serious Incident Reporting Policy

Chairperson Roy recognized Town Administrator who said so the Board directed the policy be drafted. I worked with our attorney, our labor attorney, Mark Broth, who has served us for many years, in drafting the policy. I believe the policy was sent to all members of the Board of Selectmen for any comment, input, whatnot. I don't believe we received any from the Board. It did circulate to the Department Heads. The two chiefs did have some recommendations for some language updates. Mostly to clarify some certain things. Timeframe to report for example. Kind of trying to define what is a serious incident. Maybe by dollar value. You think about a thousand dollar deductible, that's a scratch on a bumper now a days. So that doesn't really strike us as very serious. So we tried to put together a policy for your consideration that will report serious issues, injuries, I mean serious injuries. Not a twisted ankle type of injury. To either us or, if we're part of it, to somebody maybe out in the public. If there's some sort of accident or something. The intent is just to have some sort of notification for the Board. Again this is the policy that we came up with. When I say we, I circulated it to all Department Heads. I got feedback from the two chiefs, who probably deal with the most serious incidents on a regular basis.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said and you might have said this so please forgive me, but are governmental entities, like ourselves, under the jurisdiction of OSHA? The Town Administrator replied, no. Selectman Gagnon then said, we're not. So, then their definition of serious...well, we could leverage their definition of serious injury reporting, is our document kind of in line with what OSHA's serious injury reporting? The Town Administrator replied, so this is what our attorney provided based on his experience with the world of labor. I'll use that as an example. I'm not sure if it conforms with all the OSHA. Again, I worked with him to prepare/propagate this policy, which I believe is what the Board directed.

Chairperson Roy asked anybody else have anything? Selectman Morin said, I just got one question. This is good for reporting and when yourself (Chairperson) and I talked we had some serious incidents. What's going to come, the outcome of this? After we get notified. I'm good with that. But I didn't see what the outcome is going to be. Chairperson Roy asked, so are you looking for like maybe a follow up....Selectman Morin said I thought that's what we were more going towards. The Chair then said, but we'd have to know about it first. Selectman Morin said, right. No, no, I understand that but. Chairperson Roy then said so, so what are you thinking for a follow-up period? Selectman Morin said, I don't know, see. I thought that's what the attorney after we had discussed what the attorney had said I thought that was gonna get included in here but I don't see anything to that point. Chairperson Roy said, okay, I guess are you looking for something like there was a claim made against or a suit against the Town or are you looking for like a time period. Selectman Morin replied, I think this Board needs to understand its liabilities. We can get a report, that's all and fine. And we received one the other day. That was good. We were notified without this. But what is the follow up?

Chairperson Roy then said okay, I think I need you to be a little more specific on what you're looking for. Selectman Morin replied, well there has to be some type of paperwork done, investigation has to be done. I understand about the employees. They explained that to us. But there's got to be some type of follow up that this Board can receive some type of information, either with names crossed off....Chairperson Roy asked, like a closeout report? Selectman Morin replied, yeah. Just because we know the incident happened. But we don't know what our liabilities are gonna be or what it's gonna lead to. Chairperson Roy then said, right. And how long do you think it should take to get a closeout?

And I know that's hard....Selectman Morin added, it is because depending on the situation is. I mean six months would probably good...but it depends on what the situation is. I mean like an incident we had the other day we know what happened and it's all taken care of. Chairperson Roy replied, right, right. Does anybody else have any thoughts?

Selectman Guessferd said I think that's a good point though. Chairperson Roy agreed saying, I do too. Although six months seems like a long time to....Selectman Morin replied, it is, but depending on you know....Chairperson Roy replied, right. Selectman Guessferd added, lawsuits get involved or anything it takes time to go through it. And we'd end up with.....his is what happened. This is the Town's potential liability or if a suits been filed or whatever. I mean those things can potentially go on for months. Years. Selectman Morin added, right, but we should have an idea where we're going with that. Selectman Guessferd then said maybe like a final report. Chairperson Roy then said like a closeout report within six months. Is that what you're thinking? Selectman Morin replied, I think that would be a fair...six months. Chief Buxton spoke up saying, I think some of it comes down to how long the investigation takes. Maybe multiple reports? Selectman Guessferd said but no later than six months for a final or like you said it could be longer. Right? Selectman McGrath added, how about six months for an update? Chief Dionne added, and a re-extension if you need it. Selectman McGrath then added, this isn't rocket science here. Chairperson Roy then said to the Town Administrator, okay, can we add some language in? Selectman Morin added, I was just gonna say we should run that by the attorney so it gets drafted.

Selectman Gagnon spoke up saying, Madam Chair, slightly different topic and a little along what I spoke about earlier. In the policy, which is one page, it notes serious injury. But in the attachment in the application to fill out per say, it just says injury. I would just like to see, if you're gonna call it serious injury in the policy, call it serious injury in the application just so people aren't confused. And to further that point, I would recommend a definition of what serious injury is. I mean it's up to interpretation. I know we're all reasonable but still, it's up to interpretation. I think a definition of serious injury may be applicable to add to that. Again going off what OSHA would be a dismemberment, something being cut off kind of thing. Whatever their definition would be.

Selectman McGrath then said so why don't we ask the two...the he police chief and the fire chief? Have we ever had an incident where someone's had something cut off? So that that would relegate to a serious injury or a serious injury would be someone that was in a car accident and they had....Selectman Guessferd said internal injuries. Selectman McGrath continued saying, internal injuries, a fractured skull. I can't imagine that we have anybody within this these departments that they've had any kind, any kind of limb or whatever cut off.

Chairperson Roy then said so I just think that they that he does if you look at the last sentence of paragraph three, serious incidents may also include at the discretion of the department head any incident where employees or town of property is involved, which by nature is grave or urgent and may be likely to cause injury or death. Selectman Gagnon replied, All right. Yeah, that certainly adds a little to (inaudible). Selectman Guessferd said I'm not sure you can get a lot more specific than that. Selectman Morin then said, no. But my concern is if we have to transport an employee to the hospital, it may not be urgent or death. But if we transport again, one of our employees was injured, there should be some type of notification. Again, we don't need names. Just the employee got in some type of situation was transported to the hospital. Correct? Selectman Guessferd then said and the report on the back does talk to that just says, was there an injury? Chairperson Roy then said but I mean, I guess the point is, it doesn't necessarily have to be an injury. I mean, it could be a heart attack. You know, we could have a. Selectman Morin said, right, you know, and that's a serious heart attack. It's a serious thing. The Chair agreed saying, it is. It is. You know.

Selectman Morin then said anything that took place within a town property, you know what I'm saying? Selectman Guessferd replied, saying yeah. Yeah, it's hard. It's hard to define it, right? To say this exactly is a serious injury. Selectman Morin then said you know, because we could have a civilian injured on some town property. Again, that's going to be definitely a liability. Selectman Guessferd added that's going to be on us. Selectman Morin replied, right. You know what I'm saying?

Selectman Gagnon said there is some definition. I mean, outside of the government entity, you know, public employers, there are I was on a response team where there's a definition of what serious injury is and exactly what reporting is required to OSHA. And so that's why I just think we can mimic that. That's all. I'm trying to find it now. If I come up with it, I'll send it to you.

Chairperson Roy asked so do we want to do we want to add some of this stuff and take a revisit at it? Selectman Morin replied, I think we should run it by him and see what he says. Yes. Chairperson Roy asked, does anybody have any other suggestions? Selectman Guessferd replied, no, but I think that's important. I think...I do think that's important to. Selectman McGrath said I read this thoroughly. I read it from page, first page, all the way through the last page. And I don't have any questions because I think I'm a reasonable person and I can understand. Chairperson Roy replied, thank you. So are we all done with serious incident? Selectman Guessferd replied, yes.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing - Bush Hill Road Right of Way Donation

Chairperson Roy recognized the Town Administrator who said, as you're aware, we had this discussion, I believe, at the last meeting or the previous meeting. We've advertised for a public hearing. We're receiving a donation of approximately 8,000 square foot of land over in the Bush Hill area to help us realign parts of that road, as that is a donation to the Town that has value we need to hold a public hearing. The public hearing has been advertised for this evening, so I recommend you open a public hearing.

Chairperson Roy said I'll open the public hearing at 7:20 p.m. Is there anybody in the audience that would like to comment on the Bush Hill Road right away donation? Seeing none. I will close a public hearing at 7:20p.m.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to accept a donation of 8,082 square feet of land from the owner of Map 201, Lot 010 and Map 201, Lot 001. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to authorize the Town Engineer to complete the necessary Right of Way Transfer. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to authorize the Public Works Director to complete the necessary road improvements by October 1, 2023. Carried 5-0.

Selectman McGrath then said can I... can I ask a question before we move on? What I have in my packet doesn't correspond with the motions that were just made. The Town Administrator replied the last two are the same. When I looked at it today, I realized we have to actually accept the donation. And Mr. Dhima didn't put that in his memo. Selectman McGrath replied, so I didn't have that. And I don't think any of the others...the Town Administrator said you wouldn't. You know how you look at it how you look at things the last minute and you say, oh, you know what, we need to accept it first. Selectman McGrath replied okay. I just wanted to make sure that I've got whatever everyone else has.

B. September 13, 2022 State Primary Election

Chairperson Roy recognized Town Moderator, Paul Inderbitzen. Mr. Inderbitzen said Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I just wanted to update you on the preparations for the September 13th primary election. As you know, we purchased electronic poll books for checking in voters on voting day and in place of the old paper checklists. The Poll Pads contain the same information, and only that information, that the checklist had the paper checklist had, name, address, party designation. Those are the three things. That's all that's in there. Nothing else is downloaded from Election Net, which is the statewide database. This their use is going to improve the check in process and it's going to provide statistics and reports that we require for the state that we used to have to do manually. So it's going to be it's going to be a help in filling out all the paperwork that the state requires us to do. Now, the state also requires, when you use poll books, that we have to have a concurrent paper checklist that's being kept up to date as the election goes on. Seems like a double duty, but it's not quite so that the slips that come out of the Poll Pads, printed slip, they'll go to the ballot table, they'll get their ballot. Those slips are then going to go to people that I'll have working to actually mark a paper checklist. I guess that's in case there's a failure or the Poll Pads die or something like that. It hasn't happened yet in all the cities and towns and the states that have used these, but that's what the state wants to do because this is so new for us. I think we're only the fifth or sixth city or town that are using these in New Hampshire. They have hundreds of them out all over the place. So we will have people doing that as part of the job. So I had to I have to make sure that I have people throughout the day to be able to do that.

There's also the state is also requiring us some new additional requirements for the ballot boxes where you put your ballots in. And this is to catch those people that mark too many candidates. If it says vote for four and you vote for five. Before it just blanked out that vote. Nobody got to vote unless you did a recount. You wouldn't catch that somebody had put in an X across one of them or something like that. Now it's going to be the poll...the tabulators are going to reject those and those are going to have to be counted by hand. So this is going to increase our hand count at the end of the night. I don't think we do get a lot of over votes, so they call it, but I'm not sure. We won't know until we try this. And this is why the state is they want to gather this information.

This came out of the Windham thing where the fold actually in the ballot actually created an over vote on a number of, hundred, a couple of hundred ballots that were absentees that were folded straight ballots aren't a problem, but people do mark more than one. So it's there's going to be some instruction with the people who are on the on the ballot boxes. It's going to be a little different. So I'm going to have to have some meetings with them to go over that. So it's going to be... this is a little bit more complicated. Every time the legislature gets together, we get more complicated stuff.

As for the presence of the Board members, I do ask that you let me know when you will be at the polls, or I've already have some information from some of some of you. You have the authority under the law to appoint your own pro tem selectman. But as we have done in the past, I also have that authority. If you don't do it, I usually appoint a couple of people selectmen to have so that we have they say a quorum, but they don't mean a quorum in each location. Now, I'm not sure how that location works, but you know, we have three, three I should have three selectmen in the in the location, in the polling places I'm using plural until I hear differently from the state. That seems to be reasonable. So I'll have a couple of people at each location designated as selectman and of our workers, and they've done it before. And there's really not a lot you need to do except that the Constitution says that you shall... the selectmen *shall* attend. I kind of like that. I thought that was kind of interesting when I read that. So I just want... let me know what your plans are. Now, four of you are in Ward One and only one of you is in Ward Two. So I am going to ask that at least, at least one of the people I think the Chairperson is going to be not get there till later because of work. I'd like at least one person to be in Alvirne so that we have the presence.

Mr. Inderbitzen went on to say, it's going to be a little bit different this year. There are no A/B lines. It's all going to be the next...you go to the next ballot clerk, they're all going to have the ability to check

in anybody. So that's going to reduce those lines. But we're going to have to have people up front. I call them greeters. They're going to say, oh, you can go to that one, you can go to this one, because people are going to be looking at where's the A and B line, where's the M line? So until people get used to this, it'll be a little different. So I would ask that you kind of help me out with that, if that's possible, and the people that we have. So I just let me keep me apprised of your plans for the day. I'd appreciate it. I will have backup selectman, as they say.

So I'm having a general worker meeting next Tuesday, the 30th at the Community Center 7:00p.m., if any of you could, could make it. I know you guys got a lot of meetings, but really, to find out what we're going to be talking about meals, positions, what we have to do, and then we're going to I'm going to have to have some follow up meetings with the ballot guys, with the ballot clerks, the box, the checkouts. We're going to have to do change back people who are undeclared that can take either a Republican or a Democrat ballot and then they want to change back to undeclared afterwards. We're going to have to have that set up, too. So I'll be working with the supervisors on that and making sure we have enough people to do that. So with that, I hope you can attend next week. I think you might find it helpful. And just so you know what's going on, it would be helpful. So with that, I can answer any questions anybody might have.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said last year we had several legitimate questions Selectman Gagnon had some questions about legal things going on at the polling. And I saw there's some webinars for government. Do you know, do you have a list of those when those are taking place? Mr. Inderbitzen replied, I'm going to one Thursday. The State of State's office is doing they've been doing training around the state. I'm going to one out in Atkinson. That was the closest. There's one in Manchester, but that was at night. So I'm going to that one. Selectman Morin said they said there were I saw it I saw it on Channel 9, said there were going to be webinars for those who could not make them a in person class. Mr. Inderbitzen replied, yeah. I haven't seen them posted yet. The ones that the one I'm going to and I've encouraged, you know, the Clerk was trying to get to one. He's on vacation this week. And of course, this week is when most of them are and or the ones that next week are, you know, Berlin, Gorham, they do move them around the state, but then they have said they're going to try to put them on as a webinar of some sort. So I have but I have not seen any posting or anything yet. So if I find out anything, then I'll pass that along to you.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said thank you. So I think that evening on September 13th, we have a Board meeting. Chairperson Roy replied right. That's the next point of discussion.

Mr. Inderbitzen then said sorry about that. But that's the way it works, because it's usually the second Tuesday of every, uh, of the month. So and when we have elections, so, you know, if there's anything that comes up and I'll let you know if there's anything. There's been a lot of things happening that I didn't anticipate. We've had to rent hot spots since Community Center does not have a secure Wi-Fi. The school does, but the Community Center doesn't. What we do, what we've done, and what a lot of towns have done and they said they love it is, we have rented I'm going to put them in my budget for next year to purchase two they call them cradle points, but they're hotspots, but they're secure hotspots. They only interact with the Poll Pads. There's no outside connection. There's no ability to go to get into them. They just talk to the Poll Pads and back. They're very secure. And so we need to buy some of those in the next budget, hopefully. And even the Supervisors are asking, gee, we don't have we don't have enough Poll Pads because they can actually do registrations on those, which I didn't realize at the time either. So they're going to each have one at each location. We have eight check-ins, so we have ten Poll Pads. So we may want to, especially for the bigger elections, you can also lease them from LHS for short term. So but we're probably going to do that. So that was an additional expense I didn't plan on. Plus, we needed to rent another machine as a backup. I'm still trying to find a box for it. Nobody has any. The machine isn't any good if we don't have the ballot box to go with it. So we're trying to get that. So all it looks like I only have two boxes at one location and three at the other, but if one of the if one of the machines dies or gets jammed because like the one time we had the snowstorm, the machines jammed. We have we do have backup machines that we can then use. So we've already got those in place and we'll be testing those out probably next week.

Chairperson Roy asked, and that's a public meeting, right, if I remember correctly, for the testing of the ballot box. Mr. Inderbitzen replied, yeah. The Clerk will post that. I've got a feeling we're going to do it at the Community Center because I'm going to ask the ballot box people that usually serve there to do to be part of that testing process so they can see what the message is. There'll be new messages coming across on that little screen that'll tell you. And we've got to tell people we can't look at the ballot to see what's over voted. But it's going to say you have an over vote in governor's office. So that little screen will say that. And we going to have to figure out a way to ask the voter, do you want to get a new voter? You do want to just not even bother. And we don't know what's going to it's kind of confusing. And the state making it very difficult to manage this without getting people upset, which is what we don't want the voters, it's going to be different.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and said I have a question. While you talked about party designation, what happens if the voter gets to the...to the line or the front of the line, and they declare themselves as a Democrat and they say, oh, no, I'm a Republican and you've got it wrong. So how are you going to rectify that? The Moderator replied, the only way is...it is too late. Now, the time to change your party designation was, I think, May 30th or something. It was some ridiculous date. I don't know why they don't allow you to do it ahead of time because I'm urging people to check their status before they do that. Yes. If someone comes in and we've had it happen, get they get angry with the ballot clerk. They say, well, you're eligible for a Democratic ballot or a Republican ballot. And they say, I've never been in that party. They get sent over to the supervisors because they can go into election net and they can say, yes, you took we can look it up. You, you took a Democratic or a Republican ballot in 2018 at the primary. The last primary, well, 2020 was the last one. And you never change back and they get upset. But what can we do? You know, this is what the law is set up and the people forget to change back. Selectman McGrath replied, so there is an ability to go back and look to see when they when they voted that. The Moderator replied, when they're very busy on the busy elections they make, they make it tough. But they take the information down. They say, we'll get back to you. And then people get upset and they say, well, you can always take that ballot and write in, but really, that doesn't do any good for you if you if you're writing in Joe Smith Chairperson Roy said not in the primary. Mr. Inderbitzen continued saying, who's yeah. Who's a Republican on a Democratic ballot.... It it doesn't go anyplace. It's a Democratic vote for Joe Smith. And, you know, it doesn't really go anywhere except as a write in. So but if you want to express your preference, you can do it that way. And some people do it.

Selectman McGrath then said but so is there an ability for just to try and avoid that from happening? You know, people being upset and not realizing that they had actually selected that ballot at some point. Is there anything that HCTV can do to post a notice, know a streaming notice about ballots and? Mr. Inderbitzen replied, we're going to do a PSA actually. We're going to do a demo of the check in process so people will know what to expect. And we're going to do a PSA. And I want to cover check your status as your priority status. You can do it easily through the Town website. It takes you right to the secretary of state. So all I do is put in Hudson and you type your name and address your name and date of birth. And it brings up your status where your polling place is, the hours and everything else. So we're going to we're going to stress that so people can find out and hopefully the legislature will change that date. I don't know why it's so early that you have to change your party status so early before a primary.

Chairperson Roy asked, anyone else have any questions? I'll turn it over the Town Administrator talk about... The Town Administrator said so it's very simple. You have a meeting scheduled for September 13. That's your normal Tuesday meeting. I put it on here to see if you want to change your meeting to September 12th, which is the night before the election. It's up to you. But typically I think you like to avoid being on the same day as the election.

Chairperson Roy said just, yeah, so I know Selectman....Selectman Guessferd interjected saying I'm I'm going out of town, not going to be back until Monday night. I'm not even getting into into the into Boston until about 8:00p.m. so I will not be able to make that meeting. Chairperson Roy said and I am the same situation. I'm traveling that weekend and I will not be back till Monday night.

Selectman Morin said, so can we move it to Wednesday? The Town Administrator said I don't know. I don't know what else you have and we're conflicting with Planning Board and whatnot. The Town Administrator said once you have a quorum of three, you can do the meeting on the 12th. Chairperson Roy said so I guess does anybody else have.... Selectman Gagnon said, it's not ideal. I have a School Board meeting but I can obviously. School Board Chairman, Gary Gasdia spoke up saying, we don't mind if you miss. Selectman McGrath added, I'm sure you don't you.

Selectman Morin then said its two weeks away, but never mind. I was going to say you got anything for agenda yet? But it's two weeks away. The Town Administrator said we still need to make it through this agenda first. We'll see what happens. Chairperson Roy asked, well, do you see anything like how long it might be? Is it typically.... The Town Administrator replied, I'll put nothing on if you tell me to. I'll make it real quick. We typically do try to be mindful of that. So if it's absolutely necessary, we'll put it on the agenda. If we can wait, we'll kick it the next one.

Selectman Gagnon then said is it possible to take a meeting on, you know, not here at the Community Center of all of us. A real quick meeting. The Chair replied, I don't... I don't know how practical that would be because there's a lot of other stuff going on that. Selectman Guessferd said people watching. Chairperson Roy replied, yeah, yeah. The Town Administrator added logistically I don't think it's going to work. Selectman Gagnon replied, I know we can't televise it but we can take meeting minutes and make it official if it was really quick but okay.

Selectman Morin said I make a motion we cancel the meeting for the 13th and the way we got meetings coming up, what's the following Tuesday? The Town Administrator said the off Tuesday is the 20th. Chairperson Roy said and then that would give us two meetings in a row. I guess that was why we asked a question about how much, cuz then it. Selectman Morin said but if we cancel and something comes up that's all. Chairperson Roy replied, right, right. The Town Administrator said I would say do the 12th. We'll try to keep it to a minimum. But there's always going to be housekeeping. There's always odds and ends, content items, assessing items. We'll do that. The three people that are able to come will come and we'll go from there. And if something is important, you want to kick it to the next meeting. We'll kick it to the next one. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to move the September 13, 2022 Board meeting to Monday, September 12, 2022. Carried 5-0.

C. Project Solicitation - NH 10 Year Transportation Improvement Plan

Chairperson Roy recognized Town Planner, Brian Groth. Mr. Groth began saying, Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Board members. Good to see you. So the Nashua Regional Planning Commission right now is accepting or is beginning the process of selecting projects to be put forth to be included in the state's ten year plan. They do the solicitation every two years. The deadline to submit an initial project proposal was August 5th, just a couple of weeks ago. So I submitted three projects that have discussed at several different levels, whether it was at the Planning Board during master plan sessions at the Highway Safety Committee or elsewhere. The timeline for this is a little elongated. So although the submission to get the initial proposal in was a couple of Fridays ago, it's going to take a few months for NRPC and their subcommittee of the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee to review these proposals and narrow down a list. Not all communities submitted proposals. Some communities submitted one, some submitted many. So I put in three here with the notion that it would at least get in for that August 5th deadline. And then I would consult with obviously this Board and the Planning Board to see if there was support to keep these projects in the queue for this this two year period.

The advantages of getting in the ten year plan, obviously, one, it makes it eligible for state funds by having these submitted. And by the way, the after they've been submitted, they get vetted by NRPC and their engineering consultant in terms of cost and feasibility and they sort of refine the proposal. But it also makes it more likely to be funded by other grant sources like the Transportation Alternative Program, CMAC or just budget items within the Commission. So with that, I'll just give a brief overview of the three submittals.

The first one in your packet is about completing an initial segment of sidewalks from about midway down Ferry Street between the Veterans Bridge and Central Street with intersection of Central and Ferry Ashburnham Street. There's a gap in the sidewalk network there. We do have sidewalks going from the bridge to about Gloria Avenue at the intersection of Ferry Street, and that's about halfway down and then it ends. So this this first project proposal is to complete that sidewalk segment to meet the intersection of Central and Burnham/Ferry. I'm saying that because Ferry turns into Burnham at a certain point, but most people refer to it as Ferry Street, and then the sidewalk would then meet where there are some gaps around that intersection and then carry on towards an end. Well, what is used as sort of a pedestrian entrance to Benson Park. And so one of the objectives or one of the things that this would accomplish is it creates a pedestrian connection from the bridge, from the Merrimack River to Benson Park. And the reason why that's significant is because we are submitting this through a regional planning commission. This incorporates a reasonable aspect to it in terms of connecting a recreational asset to a regional network, but also locally.

Mr. Groth went on to say, it obviously connects a lot of densely populated neighborhoods, community facilities, schools and so forth with recreation and other sidewalk networks. I included some cost estimates. And you will see in this one and the other ones, the numbers they used here are using rates received from the Engineering Department. So for the sidewalks, the estimate per linear foot was to include an asphalt sidewalk and granite curb, and that was about \$90 bucks a linear foot. For other items sort of the crosswalk facilities. Those are estimates coming from, again, from the Engineering Department for individual equipment we've looked at.

The second item in your packet is along Route 102 or Derry. Derry Street. Derry Road as the infill and the sidewalk network. There's, as you might notice, driving north from here up to Alvirne, up to Hills Garrison Elementary, the Rodgers Memorial Library, you'll see that we have sidewalks going for a strong stretch and then there's some gaps and then it starts back up again. So we often see students having to walk in the shoulder for a portion of that way. So this proposal would be to fill in those gaps. It's obviously an important connection. It will require feasibility analysis due to right away issues, ensure that we have the right of way there and also included in the estimate some funds to improve a crossing across the area.

The third and final was a recent development that came out of the Highway Safety Committee, and that was to improve the safety of some of the crossings along Lowell Road. One of those areas would be the intersection of Central and Lowell, where we do have some sidewalk equipment or crosswalk equipment there now, but that could be improved. And then the additional two areas are to improve crossings. So one at Roosevelt Ave and one roughly at Winnhaven. And this could include crosswalk beacons that are not stoplights, but they do provide extra attention to someone attempting to cross the street. And it is state law that if someone's in the crosswalk, the vehicle stops. So while it is not a stoplight, the intent is to draw attention to make that a safer opportunity to cross. So in addition to the beacon, another part of this proposal would be to provide some curbing to bump out. So instead of having to cross the entire length of the shoulder and both lanes, you'd reduce that to less of the shoulder area so that the pedestrians crossing the vehicular way for a shorter span.

Mr. Groth then said, so I'm happy to answer any questions as best I can. I would note the other item that I think would be important for us to consider is how we would prioritize these projects. Just simply rank them 1 to 3 so that when the subcommittee at the Planning Commission goes to rate these projects, they have an understanding of how the Town feels about them. Thank you.

Selectman Morin said well, where we're going to prioritize one is a state road and the other are town roads. Will we get more effect if we go for a state road versus a town road, especially where the state road brings us to Alvirne and you said you had students in school? Mr. Groth replied saying I do think that the route to the school and the library in both schools is, in my mind, would perhaps be the most significant and should be the number one priority. While, all three of these do deal with state roads, this that one in particular would extend beyond what is under local jurisdiction in the urban compact area.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said thank you, Madam Chair. And thank you, Mr. Groth, for your work on this. This is very interesting, and I definitely support the theory behind what you're doing here. I had three questions for you. Can you tie in a little bit of what you presented tonight with both the existing master plan, which we know is quite old, and your new work into the master plan? How is this really tying in to what the residents want? Mr. Groth replied saying, sure. Thank you. Well, a very common theme that we saw, and you can even see it in some of the older iterations of the master plan. But a particularly was stressed in a lot of the outreach we did. This go around is the desire for safer walking connections, sidewalks, sidewalks and people stressed expressed the desire for cycling opportunities as well. But the whole notion of being able to get around town outside of an automobile really came out strongly. So this is hopefully responsive to that desire.

Selectman Gagnon then said and the last question for you, thank you for that answer. That was great. How would this you might have spoken this a little bit. How would this increase recreational activities both in Hudson and in the region? I mean, we're trying to apply for potentially a New Hampshire DOT ten year plan. And you talked about getting some regional grants as swimmingly. You know, if we're going to get high on our priority list, we're going to show that this isn't just for Hudson residents, but it's for regional residents. Can you speak to that and how again, these seemingly I mean, they're expensive, but in the scheme of things, smaller projects feed into a bigger regional benefit. Mr. Groth answered, that's right. So particularly the project to complete the sidewalks along ferry out to Benson Park that would represent sort of a baby step or piece of a larger puzzle. And that's sort of the allure of that from outside of Hudson's standpoint, is that when the Nashua region, they have the Souhegan Rail Trail and Nashua has plans to improve that trail, and some of the... they want more bike lanes and improved sidewalks, things like that. Then that extends beyond Nashua as well out to the west. So by improving our connections into that, it benefits the region and so makes it more attractive to that regional committee because it draws in. Benson Park could become somewhat of an anchor in that trail system, so it becomes recreational opportunity for you. This is a step towards. Expanding recreational opportunities locally and regionally. Selectman Gagnon replied, great. Thank you very much for that, sir. I appreciate it. That's all I had.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and said first, is your name groth or growth? How do you prefer to be pronounced? Mr. Groth replied, Growth. Selectman McGrath replied saying, Growth. Growth. That's what I thought. But I just wanted to make sure. Another question that I have is that did you consult with the Town Engineer and the DPW Director? Yes, I did. Selectman McGrath replied, you did? And the cost for all of these different projects. Who is going to fund those? Mr. Groth replied, if we're successful, it would be the state. To which Selectman McGrath replied, but if we're not? Mr. Groth replied if we're not, having them as part of this plan makes them better candidates for other grant programs like CMAQ, which is Congestion Mitigation, Air Quality. We received some of those funds before. The lane widening project down near the Sagamore Bridge is funded by CMAQ. There's also the transportation alternative program and both of those grants have a focus on even though it's a lane widening down there because the essentially the theory is reduce congestion, but it also supports non-motorized modes of transportation like walking and biking. So by getting these projects on that plan, it makes them more likely to be funded by other sources as well. Selectman McGrath replied, but there's no guarantee of that? Mr. Groth replied, correct. There's no guarantee.

Selectman McGrath went on to say, do we have any projects along any of those areas that would be that this development that's being planned and either in the pipeline to be developed or not, and if so, is are those available for contributions to any of these projects? Mr. Groth explained, as one example, there is the, a site plan for Bluebird Self-storage on Central Street, sort of across the street

from Benson's Bakery. And as part of their site plan, they were required to improve and continue the segment of sidewalk that came up to their property and then ended there. So as part of their site plan approval, they were required to carry that forward. They also, when they, if and when they apply for their certificate of occupancy, they'll be required to pay an impact fee. And so impact fees are collected for the transportation impact that a project would have. And if a local match is needed by any grant programs, that that would come up as possible, those impact fees could be used for that local match.

Selectman McGrath then asked, how about any of the projects that have already been approved? And the one that I'm thinking of is the one on Lowell Road on the Friary property. Any funds from that that we've collected? Any impact fees to the roadway to the infrastructure of the town? Mr. Groth replied, yes. I don't know the figure offhand, but we did collect a sizable impact fee for that development. Selectman McGrath replied, so that can be used for some of these projects if we don't get any grants. If we don't get any other funding. Mr. Groth replied, correct. The impact fees could be used for to fund partial parts of some of these projects as well. Selectman McGrath replied, thank you.

Chairperson Roy asked, does anybody else have anything? She then said, I just have two questions, I guess, and one's sort of on the line of what Selectman McGrath was just talking about. Putting this on on the ten year plan doesn't preclude us from pursuing other funding, whether it's a federal grant or a state grant or using impact fees or any of that. Mr. Groth replied, that's correct. It commits us to...it does not commit us to funding it in any way. Correct. Chairperson Roy then asked, and then when was the last time we submitted a project? The Town Administrator replied, I think we did the Circumferential Highway a couple of years ago if you recall, that was on a ten year plan, maybe two, three or four years ago. Chairperson Roy replied, Okay. That's all.

The Chairperson then said so I know I have some motions here, but I guess my question is, do you want the motions in the priority that that with the prioritize list or does it matter. Mr. Groth replied, if the Board would feel comfortable with that that would be great. If the Board would like more time to consider the priority, the prioritization of that, that's fine as well. I can come back at your September 12th meeting, but if you have a sense tonight that works as well.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and said so we should have some information from the visioning sessions that took place a couple of years ago that should give us an idea of what the the people that attended those visioning sessions would like to see and where they'd like to have sidewalks and whatever other things that they'd like that would give us an idea. And if we're having more visioning sessions, one of those scheduled for.

Chairperson Roy replied, I don't know that NRPC scheduled those yet. Mr. Groth added, no, we haven't scheduled yet. We're going to speak to that at next week's meeting. But looking at late September or October for an in-person and a Zoom outreach session, we did have the survey running. We have over 600 responses, which is a very solid number. I know it doesn't seem large in light of the population of Hudson, but in terms of masterplan surveys and other planning surveys, that's a very large number and it is statistically significant. We are considering doing another push on that survey this week through social media, through our Facebook channel, but also NRPC's social media channels, to just see, do one last push to get as many more responses as we can. But the results that we got from the 2019 sessions, those are available online. And they did report back a lot of desire for improved sidewalk and sidewalk and cycling. We heard a lot of people want to be able to walk to places and Benson Park being one of them.

Selectman McGrath then said so, so again, when are the visioning sessions for...Chairperson Roy replied, they haven't been scheduled yet but he's looking at the end of September or....Selectman McGrath then said September and October. So shouldn't we wait until we get those results? Chairperson Roy replied, if that's the will of the Board I don't have a problem with that. Selectman McGrath replied, I mean, I think that I think we should.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said I'd just like to ask the Chairman of the School Board and Police Chief about safety for Derry Road with no sidewalks. Chairman Gasdia replied, I mean, I'll defer to the Police Chief as far as actual safety. I mean, on the surface, I would prefer if all kids were walking on...Selectman Morin said I mean, it's a school. I get people want to walk to Benson's. I understand that. But our priority is the safety. Chairperson Roy replied, right. Selectman Morin, I can tell you that it's horrible. Selectman Morin replied, I know that. I was out there with the police chief earlier this year. No, I know, but. Chairman Gasdia replied, that's a dangerous road. Chairperson Roy added, and there's kind of no light from the True Value to the Circle K to slow people down or nothing to slow people down on this very wide straight road.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said Madam Chair would it be possible to give Mr. Groth correct the okay for this evening to proceed with these three options and then wait for the visioning sessions to provide a priority list. Chairperson Roy replied, that was my that was sort of my question. Do we want to just to them, the way that he has the motion laid out and then work on the prioritization at another meeting, which which is what Selectman McGrath suggested. Selectman Gagnon then said and if I may. Mr. Groth is that would that work with you? I know kind of you have timelines to hit as well for the ten year plan and work with NRPC. If we say yes, we like these three ideas, go as you see fit from here on out. And in two, three, four weeks or so, we'll hit you back with the priority we want. Does that work with you? Mr. Groth replied, in terms of priority? If it's September 12th, yes. If we wait for the second round of outreach sessions to happen, we may miss the boat and we'll have to wait for the next round two years from now. Selectman Gagnon replied, thank you. So I think that's very important.

Chairperson Roy then said okay, you just need us to approve the plans to go on the on the, on the ten year plan right now. Right. We don't need do you need a prioritization by September 12th? Mr. Groth replied, that would be ideal. Yes. If not the committee, NRPC.... I mean, they're going to prioritize the list as a whole. So not just Hudson's projects, but all of them.

Selectman Guessferd then said it sounds like it sounds like most of us are are focused in on on the safety aspect of the Lowell Road, ah, the 102 project to Alvirne. I'm kind of sensing that. Selectman Gagnon said, so, number one? Chairperson Roy said I would agree. Selectman Guessferd said, I would think that that should be at first the highest priority. Do we have any....Selectman McGrath then said well, I. I mean, I think I think that that makes the most sense. And to keep children, whether they're teenage children or young first graders, kindergartners, we all want them to be safe, right? I mean, I don't have kids, but believe me, I want kids to be safe. And so that makes the most sense. Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah, I think we have a consensus on that. Chairperson Roy added, on the first one. Selectman Guessferd replied, the first one, yes. Selectman McGrath then said but the others, I think that we need to we really need to look at what was said at the visioning sessions and using that data and whatever comes up out of the other visioning sessions, if they happen, you know, then we can use that data as well that will give us some guidance going forward.

Chairperson Roy replied, and I understand that and I don't necessarily disagree with it, but I don't know that we have that kind of time, I guess. Selectman McGrath replied, well, we can look at the old, the previous and at least get that at least have that information. I mean, that if we can't get the other visioning session going before that timeline, then we can use what we have. Selectman Guessferd replied I was I think some of us participated in some of the at least one of those visioning sessions. I remember clearly a lot of discussion about sidewalks and crosswalks and and safety. And so I think we'll see that when we look at the ones that were done a couple of years ago and hopefully again and I don't I think it's a good idea to look at what we're going to do in the future. But I think at a very minimum, we probably need to focus in on on the one for sure. And and if you need that decision like the 12th, right, I guess we'll say that the 12th we make we make the decision on the other two, at least for now.

Selectman McGrath then said and just a final comment that I have, because it infuriates me beyond words that we had a project on 102, not Brian, the previous planner that was here. And I don't mean John Castle. It was the one in between, didn't require cap fees. He didn't calculate a cap fee for a big

project on Derry Road. We could have gotten money for the sidewalks. We could have. I mean, all of that could have been taken care of by that one project. And it infuriates me and it will continue to infuriate me until the end of time, until the end of my time. And because it was it was a lot of money, a lot of money that this county, this town could have benefited from. The taxpayers could have benefited from that money.

Selectman Gagnon then said Madam Chair, so just one last thing, I think we all agree on, on what priority one should be. It's the work for the school. The only two left are an additional sidewalk between...on Ferry Street to Benson's or a better quality crossing. If I take what everyone's kind of laying out tonight, wouldn't putting a sidewalk where there isn't a sidewalk clearly a better safety than just increasing crossings that we actually may already have. So wouldn't that already kind of define two and three? Chairperson Roy replied maybe. But I think to Selectman McGrath's point is that it depends on what the citizens want. What the citizen lays out is priority. That's that's what we should be looking at. Selectman Gagnon replied, of course. Of course. Chairperson Roy then said I mean, like, I guess the thing I think the first priority is, is sort of a no brainer it's 102 and we fill in that gap. But the other two, I think we should have the opportunity to look at at other information to make sure that we're in line with what citizens want.

Selectman Gagnon replied saying so I guess with that and I completely agree with that, should we give Mr. Groth the the ability to say, hey, if you look at the past visioning sessions, you digest the data and then you prioritize which ones you think the visioning sessions point to, or would you like to have that discussion in this forum? Chairperson Roy replied, I think should be had in this forum. Mr. Groth then said I can tell you the previous outreach sessions resulted in strong desire for increased pedestrian safety. That's across the board. And when we look at our sidewalk network and we want to improve it, we should be looking at improving, extending from the existing network we have rather than have a fragmented network. So in terms of the various street project, this is a logical extension. It's literally a gap in our existing network. So I think that the current master plan outreach results we have speaks strongly to that. The crossings on Lowell Road, while they are responsive to that as well, they also it also came up to the attention of the Highway Safety Committee who recommended this as well. So I just wanted to add those two items.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said who do you envision walking to Benson's? Because if you take the neighborhood that runs between Ferry Street and Central Street, Central Street has sidewalks all the way down to Burnham Road. And then the sidewalks extend a little farther past that, probably down to just past Bluebird. So there are sidewalks there that people in that neighborhood or people walking to Bensons could just go that route for this point. And the safety on Lowell Road could get addressed, which is a lot more dangerous and a lot more traffic versus Central Street or Ferry Street. But who's visiting that's going to walk to Benson's? Out of the data that you got?

Mr. Groth replied, well, from just from the outreach session it's not identifying particularly who. But I will tell you that when there are unsafe pedestrian conditions or unenjoyable environment in which to walk, people don't. And when those conditions are provided and there is a pleasant environment and a safe environment to walk, people do use it. You'll see more people walking. Anecdotally, I know friends of mine with young children that, you know, the early teenage years that are experiencing a little freedom and trying to navigate the neighborhoods in Hudson. And they're a bit confined. They're limited to where they can go because at a certain point, it becomes unsafe. So it's not....so youth is one aspect, but I think it's for recreation. Just getting out. Out of the house and going for a walk. So I think it's not just transportation, but it's also the recreational aspects and quality of living issue. Selectman Morin replied, there is a gentleman that lives in that neighborhood I just talked about that has some concerns between Adelaide Street, Adelaide Street, and a little farther up where they start a Ferry Street because they have they walk every morning. I get that. But the way it was presented, it was to get to recreation areas. There are sidewalks at this point on Central Street. Yes. Is it a little farther? Absolutely. But there are sidewalks. Mr. Groth replied, they don't reach all the way to Benson Park right now. Selectman Morin replied, no, no. But they get a lot closer than Ferry Street do. Mr. Groth replied, correct. But that because there's that gap in Ferry Street stops at about Gloria Ave right about a Dairy Queen and then they pick back up again for a little bit. Selectman Morin replied,

so Central Street goes all the way to just past Bluebird. So there are sidewalks for that general. Mr. Groth replied for Central Street, yes. Mr. Groth said I see what you're saying from those neighbors. They can drive down to Central, right?

Selectman Gagnon said and just to add to that, sir, I think I've been paying attention a little bit to kind of what Nashua was doing, what Brian spoke about earlier. The Souhegan Rail Trail is in its works, but it may actually end right at the twin bridges. So if we were to extend that, yes, what you're saying is absolutely valid, you could wiggle down to the existing sidewalks and make do. But if we were to extend that trail that's currently proposed, we can make a nice straight route right up Ferry Street, right to Benson's Park. So you tie Benson's Park into both Hudson, but also Nashua. And if the rail trail is finished to Milford, New Hampshire. Selectman Guessferd said for biking, not walking, yeah.

Selectman Morin replied, I don't disagree with that. But if we're worried about safety, which Lowell Road, a lot more dangerous road where we already have sidewalks people can use for now to get us to that location, then that would be the better number two pick. Selectman Gagnon replied, I'm okay with that. Selectman Guessferd said plus it's a little more economical.

Selectman McGrath said I just want... one more comment. We should be more concerned about Hudson residents than a regional resident. I mean, right now we're representing Hudson. Hudson voters. Hudson taxpayers. So, I mean, it's all nice. It's all pie in the sky type of thinking. But we have to we have to concentrate on our voters, our citizens, our taxpayers. And it's nice to hear that the others want to talk about it and use it and use Bensons. And we've got people complaining about others from other areas coming to Benson's and using Benson's Park. There's a finite number of people that can come there.

Chairperson Roy said and it would go both ways. I mean, Hudson reticent. It would expand Hudson residents to the Souhegan Rail Trail and those types of activities. It's not just people coming into Hudson, it's also Hudson folks using those....Selectman McGrath said I can't control that. I don't think any of us can.

Selectman Guessferd said right now how many people from Hudson are going to be going that way? That's it's not an easy an easy route to take across the bridge to the other side over in Nashua, that part of Nashua. So if they did extend it on the other side, the rail trail, that would make it a lot easier, obviously, and better to get through that part of town. But and would benefit. But I agree. I mean, this is about the safety of our of our citizens here first and foremost. And it's nice to have the park and it's a great regional thing draws people here. It helps businesses if people come into town. But public safety. I hear you.

Selectman Gagnon then said last little tidbit, though, is if you can't have your cake and eat it, too, we can't ask for state funds and regional funds, if we're not going to give them a value. They're not going to just dump money on us if we're going to say, oh, we'll take your outside money, but it's just for us. The whole point of state funds and and regional funds is that we are a community. Selectman McGrath replied saying so that's that's part of the discussion that I'll be happy to have at the end of this meeting, because Nashua hasn't been a friend to Hudson in a long time.

Chairperson Roy then said, okay. So just to kind of loop back, are we going to prioritize tonight or are we going to put that off to the 12th? Is everybody ready to do that? Selectman McGrath replied, I'm ready to put it off. Selectman Gagnon said, I think the prioritization seems pretty clear. Selectman Guessferd said I think so, too. I think. Chairperson Roy said so I think what I'll do is I'll make a motion, the motions first, and then we can talk about what priority.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to approve the Route 111 Bridge to Benson Park Project from submission to 2025-2034 New Hampshire Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan. Carried 4-1. Selectman McGrath opposed.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to approve the Route 102 Sidewalk Infill Project for submission to the 2025-2034 New Hampshire Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to approve the Route 3A to Lowell Road Safety Crossing Project for submission to 2025-2034 New Hampshire Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan. Carried 4-1. Selectman McGrath opposed.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to make the Route 102 Sidewalk Infill Project the first priority. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to make the Route 3A to Lowell Road Safe Crossings Project for submission to the 2025-2034 New Hampshire Ten Year Transportation Plan. Carried 4-1. Selectman McGrath opposed.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to make the Route 111 Bridge to Benson Park project the third priority. Carried 4-1. Selectman McGrath opposed.

Following the last vote, Selectman McGrath said I'd like to explain my nay votes because I think that we should have waited until we found out what the results were from the last visioning session and seeing what they want, what the people that attended those visioning session, which by the way, I wasn't one of them because I, I listened to the Town Planner and his advice that I should attend because I had a platform other than going there. So I think that we should at least look at the results from those visioning sessions. And therefore I voted nay.

D. Request to Apply - Walmart Community Grant

Chairperson Roy recognized Fire Chief Rob Buxton who said, Good evening Chairperson Roy, members of the Board. Tonight we're before you to request permission, and permission only to apply for a Walmart Local Community Grant. This application is a rolling process, so basically we have the ability to apply for a grant between \$250 to \$5000. And we're looking to utilize this money to continue our mobility of our Inspectional Services Staff. So purchase some surfaces to utilize with their hot spots in their vehicles to make sure they can do the reporting in the field and not have to come back to the office and do reporting at the end of the day. So we've certainly been working with John Beike, on this and depending on how much money is secured, they would come back and ask you for permission to accept it. So our request tonight is to apply for the grant. Seeing no questions from the Board, Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to authorize the Fire Chief to apply for the local community grant sponsored by Walmart.

Selectman Guessferd said I'd like to just ask a question. With Wal-Mart, it tends to be like a process of a during the year. If you apply earlier in the year, in their year, that the money is much more available. Is is this a calendar year thing or is this? Chief Buxton replied, they have a rolling application period now so we haven't hit that bump in the system. Selectman Guessferd said, you haven't? Okay. Chief Buxton then said we've been very successful. They've been very supportive over the years. And we've had good luck with this process. Seeing no further questions from the Board, the Chairperson took the vote. Carried 5-0.

E. Request to Purchase Sweatshirts

Chief Buxton was again recognized and said Yeah so we had a recommendation to purchase a supplemental sweatshirt with the Hudson Fire Department logo on it for staff. We have over \$20,000 in donation money, so this seemed like a good opportunity to leverage that for \$3,400

to buy everybody a supplemental sweatshirt. So we're looking for the opportunity to do that this evening and extend our thanks to the members of the community that have offered us those donations over the years as we've been stockpiling and done things from time to time. We bought in, we've purchased everything from thermal imaging cameras out of that fund to safety vests over the years. And this was another opportunity for us to do an employee appreciation type scenario without hitting the operating budget. So this was a good use of that opportunity for us.

Selectman Morin asked, you're going to be able to wear these on shift? Chief Buxton replied if they'd like to. Selectman Morin then said so it will be an approved uniform? Chief Buxton replied we'll give them that opportunity, their choice. Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to authorize the Fire Chief to withdraw \$3,450 from the Fire Department donation account #4557 to be used to purchase sweatshirts for the department. Carried 5-0.

F. Request to Advertise - PT Legal Clerk

Chairperson Roy recognized Police Chief Tad Dionne. Chief Dionne began by saying, Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. So I'm before you here today to request just to advertise for the position of our part time legal clerk. We have a vacancy open, and I would like to fill that part time legal or advertised for that clerk. It's a 29.5 hours a week position at the beginning salary of \$21.77 according to the collective bargaining agreement.

Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to accept Chief Dionne's request to advertise for a part time legal clerk. Carried 5-0.

G. Police Facility Expansion and Renovation Contract Award

Chief Dionne was again recognized and said Captain Cayot is passing out a packet we actually received from Northpoint Construction on August 15th. I thought it was a good visual for you all today. So as you know, Captain Cayot is our project manager on our renovation. So that's why he's here before me. So he can help answer any questions we might have as we go forward. But I want to take a brief opportunity to kind of run you back in time to where we are today and how we got here along that timeline.

So essentially back in 2019, Chief Avery had requested an independent assessment for the current and anticipated spatial needs that we would have at the police department in July of that year. MRI, Municipal Resources Inc. completed that assessment, which noted some concerns in our spatial and our workflow and our security issues. Based on that assessment, a conceptual design and a construction budget, which I know you've all seen by now, was completed September 3rd, 2019, which proposed about 5,775 feet or so square feet of an addition, and also about 9,544 square feet of renovation at the existing police department. The concept, the conceptual design was based with the mirror study in mind, as well as to what we need spatially, what we need for security, and also what we need in lines of workflow. So in March 2020, obviously we went to warrant article with that on the ballot. With a cost of about \$4.5 million plus bond and we did get a majority vote but we did not get the required 3/5.

We did that again in 2021 March where we went forward to appropriate a similar amount. But at that point I think we pulled out the carports that were in our conceptual design again, that failed at the vote. However, we did get a majority at that time, but again, it wasn't the 3/5 that were required. So in October of 2021, we actually went back at the drawing board to at least look at what the increased, what inflation, what supply chain and what the pandemic was having, what kind of effect that had on the cost. We then presented for a warrant article in March of 2022. We went on the ballot asking voters to appropriate \$5,000,928 and 980 excuse me, \$928,980 plus bond for the renovation and

expansion of the police facility. That did pass. And of course, inflation also skyrocketed at that point as well. Again, in the supply chain, continue to have issues which brought us up to writing up a request for proposal at that time. So I will say that Captain Cayot authored our request for proposals with a lot of help from Chief Buxton and also the Town's Engineer, Elvis Dhima with regard to the RFP.

The RFP was called for a design build services to design and construct services for the addition and the reservation renovation of the police facility. We did invitation to the bid was sent directly to five vendors and we also advertised on the town website. We held a mandatory pre-bid meeting in June, June 13th of this year, where we asked anybody who was interested to make sure that they're there at that meeting. We had 12 interested parties. Again, Chief Buxton and Elvis Dhima were much assistance to us. They provided some subject matter expertise at that, some of their knowledge and experience in dealing with commercial contracts.

On July 15th, we received three bids from the following. There was a base contract plus carports is what you're looking at, and that's on the memo that you have. So it's from Northpoint Construction. From Meridian Construction and from Hutter Construction. And the figures you see before you are a base contract plus two carports that we were looking at. That we were looking for. We then formed a source selection team of six to review and evaluate rate proposals. A committee was made up of three of the Hudson Police Department members. That was myself, my project manager, and our assistant project manager, Lieutenant McElhinney. We also use the resources of Chief Buxton again and Towns Engineer Elvis Dhima. And I also took up a while back, Rich Weissgarber had asked me if I ever need any help with this years ago that he would be available. So we also asked him, because I knew he had some subject matter expertise as well. We read all the proposals in detail. We met numerous times in person. We spoke on the phone. We began to compare and contrast all these contracts in order to kind of compare them as apples to apples. After a number of meetings and discussions comparing and contrasting all the proposals, we sent some initial questions back to the contractors. After getting those answers, we felt that all three were fairly close and we wanted to, at that point, exercise our privilege to have interviews.

So on August 15th, we had interviews with all the companies who were interested. We had three interested bids, I mean, and on their proposals. After completing the interviews, our committee independently rated all three of the proposals on the memo before you. It shows you how we how our rating system was at the conclusion of rating them independently. Northpoint Construction came out with a point total of 856.66. Hutter Construction 770.83. Reading Construction 714.16. I will say that all six of us rated them independently. All six of us had Northpoint Construction first.

Ultimately we found Northpoint Construction was the most transparent in breaking down all the costs for us. We found Northpoint had a number of subcontractors come out to the site on different dates in order to give accurate costs for the work to be completed. We found that Northpoint Construction gave us some additional value with adding a retention pond. We found they gave us additional value by adding some parking spaces in the front of the building after we have an addition, parking is going to be at a premium. So that was that was...even though it was a small amount, it had some significant value for us. Northpoint had more allowances set aside in case there were going to be issues, and we found that to be an advantage for us. During the interview process. Northpoint was exceptionally prepared. We found them to be exceptionally transparent and they were very candid. At the conclusion of that, I think we were we are very confident that the community will get we'll get what we were looking for in the building and expansion and the renovation from Northpoint Construction.

In conclusion, I would recommend that the Board of Selectmen award this contract to the contractor with the highest score, which was Northpoint Construction. And the motion would be to award the bid for the Hudson Police Facility Expansion and Renovation contract to Northpoint Construction for the amount not to exceed \$5,928,980 using account #6210. But we welcome any questions you might have at this point.

Selectman McGrath then said just for everyone's knowledge about this. Northpoint is a local contractor, correct? Chief Dionne replied, that is correct. Selectman McGrath then said and I know that the town has used Northpoint previously and have been satisfied so. I think those should be mentioned. And I think that the voters would feel more comfortable knowing that.

It wasn't in our source selection, but it is an added bonus that they would...subcontractors would likely be very local as well as Northpoint being a local business right down the road. Selectman McGrath then said and so if there were a problem, they could be easily contacted, they could easily respond quickly so that there wouldn't be a lot of downtime. Chief Dionne replied, I would agree.

Selectman Gagnon said so I'll be honest. I sit here thinking big part of my job is to scrutinize you and see what we're doing with our taxpayers' dollars. And I have to say, I'm really impressed. Maybe just I'm a new guy at this. I don't do this often. But what you've written, what you've shown here, the way you've explained the interview process and what you quantified and so forth, I think is phenomenal. I mean, for \$6 million, it should be you did a great job. I think you lived up to what the residents have asked you to accomplish. So at this time, I have no question. I applaud the work so far. Chief Dionne replied, thank you. I will say that we did have help and we know what we don't know. So we went to try to get some help and some expertise behind that.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said so I have a few questions you've answered. Actually, some of them already. I mean, one of mine was consistency amongst the the interviewer or the the evaluators. That's good that you had that that everybody kind of saw things the same way. You made cost 50% of the weighting and it looked like you said all three of them were qualified. All three of the bidders. Chief Dionne replied, that's correct. Selectman Guessferd then said what about cost was I mean, cost can be...was it simply if they're less expensive, they get a higher score? Or was it was it more what do they provide you for that cost? Almost like a should cost, you know. Are they under bidding? Like, for example, you Hutter. Did you kind of feel like they were under bidding the job a little bit? Chief Dionne replied, well, you you're taking words maybe out of my mouth a little bit. But, yeah, so you're absolutely right. And it wasn't about to use the cost as a category wasn't just about being the low. Correct. It was understanding are we are we seeing all the costs that are presented? The breakdown from Northpoint was enormous and we did have difficulty getting similar breakdown in similar areas. So in certain areas there was a concern that was raised simply because we got a number that was 100% lower than maybe two other contractors and that really concerned on a major a major area. Like for instance, electrical, for instance, that would raise an issue for us. And we were trying to ask some questions and bring that out of the other contractor, for instance, and we couldn't get that answer. So that also factored in, even though cost wasn't in that particular case, cost was higher on Northpoint, but we had a clear, concise breakdown, and there wasn't any question where that money was to be spent in that budget.

Selectman Guessferd then said well, I'm a sucker for a good IMS, Integrated Master Schedule, and it's pretty good here. They seem to have done a very nice job with their proposal. It's refreshing to see that at the local level. I guess the only other question I had that I haven't is so and maybe it's an obvious thing, but so their bid was \$100,000 more than what we have. And we are asking you're asking us to approve it at the \$100,000 less, you selected them. Typically in a competition, you'll select them and then you'll award it at the selected amount, at the at the proposed amount or the amount that they've bid. So where do we where do we get that hundred thousand in terms of?

Chief Dionne replied, well, that's a great question. So in some of the allowances, we believe that the money lies there and those allowances will not be spent. And that's what we get. And I, I would go as far as saying, okay, for instance, we asked for an allowance to your to your question, we asked for an allowance for \$50,000 for retaining wall. There's no retaining wall in that design that you're looking at now. Those are the final designs. It's still part of the conception, but there's no need for a retaining wall in that. So that that's an example where that money lies in that allowance. Selectman Guessferd then asked so you're going to you're going to entertain, I guess I'll call it a negotiation for that last hundred thousand or maybe something under that. I don't know. I mean, I'm not sure. What is your strategy here? You're not going to award them. You can't award them at the price that they've bid.

Chief Dionne replied, that's correct. Selectman Guessferd then said so you're going to have to engage them in some level of negotiation at this point? What is your goal? Chief Dionne replied, we are.... I guess the best way to put it is that there are certain areas where I we don't have to use certain allowances. And we don't we foresee that those allowances are probably not going to be necessary if all things go well. And no matter what the project will, we if we have to go without certain things, we can do it. In this particular case, we honestly feel the most we are going to get the most out of this with Northpoint. The most value for the taxpayer. Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah, I'm just. I'm not questioning the decision at all. I just asking you how you're going to get there.

Chairperson Roy said can you give me an example on one of those allowances that you would that I guess on your list to not pursue to make that up? Chief Dionne replied irrigation. I don't foresee that we're even having more grass. But you know, so what irrigation is something that can come later. Certain furniture, I believe that we may have other methods. If we if we come to that, we may have other methods to provide. Certainly like the retaining wall is an easy one. The existing generator may actually supply. Existing generator is likely. We have an allowance for a generator, the existing generators likely of capacity to handle the addition. So there are certain areas where we have that wiggle room and we do feel that we're not going to need those allowances and that we'll be able to make this work. Selectman Guessferd said so you'll have basically you're going to be taking some scope out of your proposal and then negotiating a final price. Chief Dionne replied, that's correct.

Selectman Morin said I just got one question because we just went through it. They got to make money. That's what they're for. We just got a fire truck that we thought we were paying one thing and because of the cost went up, we're paying a lot more. Do we have anything in there just in case that happens? Chief Dionne replied, I suppose we do. It's interesting you ask that. Northpoint has an escalation contingency that's included in our contract for \$112,000. Selectman Morin replied, thank you. That's all I have.

Selectman Guessferd then said and is there any sort of I'll just say sort of liquidated damages or anything if they don't deliver on time in accordance with their schedule? In other words, are they going to owe us back anything if they don't make it on time? Chief Dionne replied I don't know about that one. I don't believe so. Captain Cayot said we haven't finalized the contract with them, and that's something that will be discussed as we finalize. Selectman Guessferd then said the only time you would probably do that would be if there was a true cost to us. I mean, it's not a it shouldn't be a penalty. Chief Dionne then said to that though I think I was you know, they had a great interview with us. So those type of questions were raised. And to all three contractors, point, one of the issues that they saw is the biggest challenge would be getting certain supplies, certain supplies in on time. Northpoint had a pretty good plan on how they do that. It was actually excellent. And so to your in order to maintain the timeline, the certain things were going to be moving very quickly right from the beginning. And it was its equally important for us, for any of the contractors that we had, that we could actually be at a point where we have a contract by September 1 in order to help facilitate that to get our schedule on time. So to your to your point. I did, they did actually. That was that was comments that came up. And also in the interview, they had a very a very good plan for that.

Selectman Guessferd said yeah, I know you had scheduled it 10%. So the only other thing I had was sort of payments. Would you you've worked out a payment schedule with them throughout the process. What is your payment? What are the payment terms looking like? Chief Dionne replied I don't know that yet. That's something we will have to work out. Yeah, we honestly that's I mean, the entire part of the actual getting the contract going is something we have to hit the ground running with. Selectman Guessferd replied I'd be interested once you nailed those things down. That'd be good. Thank you. I appreciate it.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and said I have a question and it's probably probably going to sound a little odd, but given your line of work and given that you're dealing with people, all kinds of people on a daily basis, and you get...you can read signs from the people that you're dealing with, whether or not they're truthful, whether or not they are trustworthy. I would expect that from a police officer and your line of work. So is that part of the equation when you selected Northpoint that you felt

more comfortable with their answers and with their honesty and integrity? Chief Dionne replied so I think I can speak for Captain Cayot when I said the most comfortable we thought we felt in the whole process was when we got to the interview process, because we even though we don't know the field, we do... we do have a lot of training in how to read and how to read body language, how to read people. So that is funny that you ask that question. That was for me, it was definitely the most comfortable part I felt in the source selection process once we could sit down with people and see them. I think that we had two of the interviews were extraordinarily candid, so we felt that way, I think, in two of the different interviews. Northpoint was one of those, so it definitely played into it. I think the interview ended up being very integral for us. Having the interview. Having the opportunity to sit with the team, have an opportunity to go round the room with questions. And the way they answered it, they were they it was just it was it was a good it was a warm it was a warm feeling at that point. Selectman McGrath replied, thank you. I know I would expect that answer. I don't ask a question that I typically don't know what I'm going to get for an answer. So it doesn't surprise me. I just think that sitting with the people and interviewing them and getting a feel for them and giving you a line of work that that would make sense, that you feel more comfortable with one as opposed to the other, the other.

Chief Dionne replied that was like another reason why just on that same point is we're comfortable in conversations with people, especially in an interview setting. We did need help for the actual what we're dealing with, because it's not either one of us... neither one is involved in building commercial buildings or renovating in projects like that. So I will say that in this case, and I mentioned it because I don't know that you have it everywhere, but whenever we ask for support from other departments, we get massive amount of supports from other departments. And I will give back. And I know Captain Cayot would too. We get back whenever we can for that same reason. I don't know if every town has that, but we asked Chief Buxton and next thing you know, he's, he's helping us out with samples. He's, he's, at our building. I'm sure he had other things to do. And Elvis Dhima, same thing. I mean Elvis calling me even when, you know, just to check on things and make sure you do this. It's just it was extraordinarily helpful and we couldn't have done it without him. By no means we couldn't have done it without them.

Chairperson Roy said I just have one quick question. More of a clarification. The back of the building is entirely fenced? And that is provides enough space to secure not only the police vehicles, but the police officers personal vehicles? Chief Dionne replied, the police? Yes, yes, yes. We will have enough room there for that. That is correct. I mean, we're dealing with the boundary lines at that point, but we do have that room there. And to another point, even the fencing, I will say the breakdown on the fencing and the electronic gates was much better from Northpoint as well, because we actually could see that that made sense for the amount of linear foot that we're looking at and what the cost would be. But yes, it is a kind of a good rendition on that to if you could see a little bit more of it on there. And there's looks like there's a top down view. To kind of get an idea up to as well. Chairperson Roy replied, okay. That's really all I had. Everybody else asked my questions.

Seeing no further questions, Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to award the bid for the Hudson Police Facility Expansion and Renovation contract to Northpoint Construction. The amount not to exceed \$5,928,980, using account #6021 as recommended by the Police Chief and the Finance Director. Carried 5-0.

H. Benson Park - Train Station Asbestos Abatement

Chairperson Roy recognized the Town Administrator who explained, I had received correspondence from Mr. Madden of the Benson Park Committee looking to possibly get the asbestos inside of the train station abated. Mr. Madden got, I believe, two quotes. One was from A-Best, the other was from the company that did the asbestos abatement down on Sagamore Park Road for us. The A-Best company came in, I believe, at \$3,500. What this basically would do is would abate the asbestos inside of the train station proposing to use monies from the Capital

Reserve Fund for Benson Park. It would just be another item that we would check off the list so that down the road we wanted to start working there the asbestos has been abated. It would be safe to proceed.

Chairperson Roy asked, does anybody have any questions? Selectman Morin said the two members of the Committee are here. Does the Board want to hear why they want to take the asbestos out and what the plan is for the future of the building? Or I mean, we're spending the money that's got to have a plan where we're going with it. Selectman Guessferd replied yeah, I think so. If they can give us a brief explanation. Chairperson Roy said I know that this has sort of been in the works for a while. We've talked about it a few times. Welcome. How are you?

Mr. Madden started off by saying my name is Jack Madden. I'm a member of the Benson Park Committee. Mr. Ralph Elliott also introduced himself as well. Mr. Madden went on to say I'm sort of the project officer for the train station. The initial concept for what we would use the train station building for was presented to by me to the Benson Park Committee well before I was a member of the committee. It was at least five years ago and I also brought that up. The Benson Park Committee had me come and speak to the Board of Selectmen. The intent would be to eventually be able to rehab the interior of the building back to what it was circa 1916, for which we have layout plans that were provided to the Interstate Commerce Commission by the then Boston and Maine Railroad. So we have some documentation, documentary evidence that we obtained from the Boston and Maine Merit Historic Society. Then the use of the building inside, we can get artifacts from the Boston and Maine Railroad Historical Society that pertain to the Boston and Maine railroads operation in the Town of Hudson. Also the relationship of the train station building itself with respect to Benson's Park, because the Boston and Maine provided service to the Hudson Center train station, which was originally located on Greeley Street, behind where the Grange Hall is. And animals were brought, shipped to Benson's Park and shipped from Benson's Park to other zoos in the nation. And the Boston and Maine Railroad provided passenger train service from Boston up to Hudson Center station for people to then go to Benson's Park. So it'll be able to show the history of the Boston and Maine Railroad in and its predecessors in the Town of Hudson.

We can show the importance of the railroad to the town and to Benson's Park. And there's also sufficient space probably in what is the old freight room, which is the end of the building closest to Kimball Hill Road. It's the ones got the freight door on the on the side of it. That area could be used for meetings by any organizational element of the town. I think we figured out that we can have I think we can put I want to say it's 44 people in there. I'd have to verify that. But the idea is that it then could be available for use, not necessarily by the Benson Park Committee alone or the Friends of Benson's Park, which of course, is a separate 501(c) 3 organization. But I don't know. Boy Scouts. Girl Scouts, the Library group. Any kind of a thing like that. So it just gets a...that would give us a little bit more space to help support the other organizational elements of the town.

Chairperson Roy asked, does anybody have any questions? Selectman Guessferd replied, on the contract so it looks like you got two bids. It really does look like the best decision. It seems like the other company put a lot of...there's a lot of risk mitigation in there. And of course, there needs to be. I'm glad that the motion that we're making is isn't really talking about low bidder. They are the low bidder, but it seems like they're also the better company to do it. From what I can see, because when you're talking about abatement, yeah. Mr. Alio replied talking about bidders, originally when we started this project, probably two or three years ago, we did go with three companies, but we did narrow that down to the two companies within this past year. Jack did the legwork and met with three different companies originally. Mr. Madden added, yes, when we did the original bidding in fall of 2019 on A-Best Abatement and two other companies bid. The ACM Demo wasn't on the radar at that time. and A- Best Abatement was the better value of the three. And when we wanted to, we actually get funding and move forward with this. We went back to a best because they were the the selectee, if you will, back then and they retooled their bid for inflation and so forth. And then we reached out to ACM Demo because they had been recently used by the town and me and that's why we actually had a total of four bids on it, but narrowed it down to A-Best. Selectman Guessferd

replied, Yeah, A-Best didn't have a lot of additional terms and conditions and things like that in their contract so.

Seeing no further questions *Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to award a contract for the abatement of asbestos inside the train station at Bensons Park to A-Best Abatement in the amount of \$3,500 using Benson Park Capital Reserve funds. Carried 5-0.*

I. Hudson Special One-Time Highway Payment (Senate Bill 401)

Chairperson Roy recognized the Town Administrator, The Town Administrator explained so we received notification that we will be the recipient of \$467,498.25 worth of additional highway block grant funds from the NHDOT. This was due to Senate bill, I think 401 where they are putting more money towards communities for their roads and paving projects and whatnot. I conferred with Jess Florence. Jay Twardowsky, who's the supervisor at the Highway Department, and Lisa LaBrie and our attorney. It was recommended that we have a public hearing to accept the money. And after the public hearing, Jess and Jay will pave additional roads. So we'll get more paving done this fiscal year. That may get some done now and hold over. This money can actually go more than one fiscal year, but I'm sure they'll use it pretty rapidly. So bottom line, what I'm looking for tonight is for you to schedule a public hearing at the next meeting so we can accept the funds and then give direction to these these guys to go forward and put this on, put this money towards paving in the town. And it should be really used for paving in the town is not to use to defray other expenses. It's basically for the maintenance of our roads.

Chairperson Roy asked, does this help us recover some of the projects we couldn't do as a result of the budget? Mr. Forrence, Public Works Director replied, absolutely does. Yeah, we we had to put off several streets because of the cost of the asphalt and everything we had done. And we had promised people, Selectman Morin met with me and a gentleman that was quite adamant and we just told them which see you next year. And there was a number of residents we did. And with this money coming available when I was feeling pretty strong on not getting too much objection during the public hearing, we turn things around in the way we look at things right now, this time of year, we want to get main arteries done before school starts. So that was the Bush Hill. We're going to do Speare Road because that's part of the circumferential highway and then we'll go into other areas. But to get those two done and then plan on using the money, if there's no objections further out, this will make a make a big help in going forward what we had to set aside. So yeah, big relief.

The Town Administrator added, so this is one time just so everybody knows that this is this is doesn't happen often, so it's best to take advantage of it. Mr. Forrence added, and the other good thing about this that we didn't know and Jay picked up on it is our paving contractors sent out a letter after the bid was awarded to a lot of communities and they were seeing how much they were short in business going out there paving because everybody cutting back. They actually put out a letter to us saying that if you come up with any additional money, they will take a good, good amount off on that paving cost. So Jay held their feet to the fire. So we'll be able to get a little bit more. I think if they could reach through the phone and pulled that back as soon as they saw this grant go out, they probably would have, but it was too late then. So we'll be able to do it a little bit more with following through on that. So, yeah, we're hoping that the public hearing goes well.

Chairperson Roy asked, does anybody else have anything? Selectman McGrath said I just have a question. So is this based on the vote that they just took in the Senate to pass a lot of money? Schumer and that crew? The Town Administrator replied, no, this is this this is something the New Hampshire Senate. This is one of the bills that came up. The Senate sponsored the bill. The Senate and the House of Representatives in New Hampshire approved it. And now we're the beneficiary. Selectman McGrath replied, it's just that every other day we're hearing that Washington is spending more money. The Town Administrator replied, yeah, this is in New Hampshire, spending more

money. Mr. Forrence added, and we want to spend that money. The Town Administrator replied, yeah, we're not going to leave it on the table. Selectman McGrath replied I don't blame you. I just had to ask the question.

Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to hold a public hearing on September 12, 2022 to accept a one-time payment of \$467,498.25 from the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation that was allocated to the Town of Hudson based on the passage of Senate Bill 401. Carried 5-0.

J. Goose Control at Benson Park and Robinson Pond

Chairperson Roy recognized Jess Forrence, Public Works Director. Mr. Forrence said, first of all, I didn't introduce Jay. He's the Street Division Supervisor. He's in charge of what I basically say, everything above ground. The other supervisor is in control of everything below ground. Jay oversees the parks foremen and taking care of a lot of this. Some of the selectmen got a videotape from a resident that showed Robinson Pond at its early morning worst that that we see a lot of mornings after the geese have been there through the night. I tell you that we take it very seriously. We don't want people swimming in what you saw there. We have the Parks Foreman going there every morning. He unlocks the gate to get in there. And by the time he leaves, the area is clean. But it happens every day. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays we are not there. Monday mornings and we show up it could be really, really good or I won't say shitty, but it could be really. But that's because we are not there. We don't know how to take care of Robinson Pond.

Mr. Forrence went on to say, we got a pretty good idea. Jay's got a pretty good idea on handling on trying to do Benson's Park. That's another one. If you could venture down in there first in the morning, we have the VaConn truck in there, washes stuff. We have the street sweeper in there sweeping the asphalt part of it. We've tried everything as far back as the old road agent. I mean, when Kevin was here, we met with Fish and Game out there. How do we control the geese? They said, Do whatever you want, but don't touch them. Well does that limit it? So we've tried balloons, we've tried floating things. We've tried animals that you put out there. And it works for a couple of days. They get used to them. They come back. So Jay's got some ideas just to go bring it forward. And that's the only reason I'm here, is to bring it forward that we are working on it. We don't leave it like this. We don't like it like this. It's just something we have to continue to fight. I think that train coming from Boston to Benson has brought the geese with them and we haven't got rid of them yet. So but we're going to work on it this spring. Right now, most of them are gone. They got their pen feathers back and they can fly with their young. But we feel later on this, this year and then spring time, if you have any questions or Jay can explain what we will probably try doing spring time to do this. It's just so labor intensive. It's difficult to chase the geese away and get our regular work done, too. So Jay's got some ideas. He's done a lot of research on chemicals on lawns. That is not. Um, toxic to people. Jay, if you want to talk about it.

Chairperson Roy said hold on a second. Selectman McGrath, did you have a question? Selectman McGrath said yeah, just one. Have you contacted BAE over in South Nashua? Because they had that problem when I was there and. Mr. Forrence replied, I met with them and the old Digital building in Merrimack. I don't know if people know of that. It was, but that was another place that had a real big problem. And what they ended up doing is put a fence around the whole thing. It was only a foot and a half, two feet tall, but they put it all around the ponds out there. And if you see the one at the old Digital building in Merrimack, it's quite big. So that was one of their things that we were going to try this year, maybe not put a fence, but put up a post with two wires going through it. We talked the Fish and Game on it and they said yes, as long as the turtles can come out to hatch and so forth. This interrupts the geese trying to get back to the water. They're safe in the water, they're vulnerable on land and Jays, get the chemical. We've looked at everything. Lights, lasers, it's we tried having our own party down there with so many lights going off. And then the people in, you know, the people intrude on everything. So it makes it very difficult. But Jay will talk about the chemical part of it.

Mr. Jay Twardosky, Public Works Street Division Supervisor, began by saying, so the, the product.. We're very limited of what we can use in Benson Park to begin with as far as chemicals and then of course being near the water. The product we're looking at is it's actually made up of corn oil, peppermint oil, garlic oil and a few other oils along with methyl anthranilate, which is basically grape flavoring. It really irritates their respiratory system. It irritates their stomach. It also comes with an invisible dye that you can only see under a black light, but geese can see it, so it makes the grass unpalatable. And if they can't eat, then they're not going to hang around. It's not a cheap product, but being just a regular oil base product, it's also got some isopropyl alcohol in it to help distribute it. We can use it on the foliage. We can use it on roads, on concrete, on structures, anything we want. You won't see it. It has a pleasant smell to us, to geese, it doesn't. You got to put it down every time it rains, you get know, every time you mow, not every time you mow the lawn, but every couple of times you do that throughout the season. And along with some other harassment techniques in the late winter, early spring, you can sign up for an E- Permit through the US Fish and Wildlife Service to for egg and nest depredation, which you get to start in February and look for where they're nesting and then you can destroy the nest, destroy the eggs. And between that and harassing them whenever they're around we should be able to get a pretty good handle on getting the majority of them out of there.

Mr. Twardosky went on to say, so we are dealing with resident geese. They're not migratory. They're covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which means they're federally protected. But they did come up with this depredation order where you don't have to actually get a federal permit. You can just sign up for an E-Permit and then you just report back to them how many nests, how many eggs, each year. And that alone will slow the population. It doesn't necessarily get rid of the geese that are there. And that's what the harassment and the spraying of the oils does.

Mr. Forrence said how exciting was that? It's just to show, and that's the only reason we're here is this show we are working on it. A video states everything bad doesn't show anything good. But we are trying to work on it. Like I said, Jay says we're going to go into this chemical treatment part of it and see what that'll do. We've had Fish and Game down there guiding us on things to do. Most likely their response was, most likely this will work for you for three weeks. And then they'll get used to everything and it won't bother them anymore. So it's ongoing. Robinson Pond is an everyday thing. We can't we can't see what they do once they're in the water. When the Fire Department or whoever comes down and does the testing down through there, they take a sample. I think it's four feet out in the water. I'm not sure the distance and they get the numbers they do. So we can't touch the water. We can't go into the water to do whatever we do. And trying to go out there and pick up this stuff probably wouldn't help anyways. So I just wanted the Board to know what's going on, what they're doing. So nobody's sitting there saying you know...we are. We're trying.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and said I've just I've got two things. So the birds aren't going to you're not going to be harmed in any way? Mr. Twardosky replied, Correct. They're just they don't really like continuous harassment. And if you do the continuous harassment, along with making their food sauce unpalatable, they won't be able to eat it. They'll move on somewhere else. And so before you could actually get a relocation permit, which is actually physically catching them and relocating them somewhere else. And that just there's a number of permits you have to go through before you can get to that point. You have to document a number of years of a multifaceted operation of trying to mitigate your geese problem before they'll even think of giving you a permit to relocate them. And it's considerably even more expensive. Selectman McGrath then said so this idea that you have is that and fencing with fencing would work as well. Mr. Twardosky replied, correct. But the fencing keeps them from going from land, from the land to the water. And if they can't easily go from land to water, they're going to go somewhere else where they can. For them, safety is a big issue. Also like along the pond, down at Bensons if we leave the vegetation, grow up along the edge to 2 to 3 feet tall instead of keeping it manicured and right up to the water's edge. That also deters them because then they can't see any dangers. So they have a hard time going from the water to the land without that.

With that barrier there, they can't see any danger, any predators coming at them. And they'll just they'll move on somewhere else.

Selectman McGrath then said and the other question I have is not related at all to this, but are you the fellow that renovated the cannon or built the... So you need recognition for that because I don't know that you ever really got the recognition that you should that you deserved and should have gotten. So thank you for that. Mr. Twardosky replied, thank you. I appreciate it.

Selectman Morin asked, that spray, is that the \$450 a gallon? Mr. Twardosky replies, yes. Selectman Morin then asked, and what's the mix? Mr. Twardosky replied it's a concentrate. It's about a half ounce to a gallon. So depending on how often you have to put it down and your square footage and how much you put while you're putting down. So it's hard to give you an estimate on exactly what it's going to cost until we're actually out there spraying it to know what we need to put down. And they recommend once a week for the first three weeks and then after that you should be able to do it once a month unless you get a lot of heavy rain or, you know, it should be good for 3 to 4 mowing's before it's all grown out.

Selectman Morin then said and my other question is, you guys aren't going to win this battle. And my concern is if we put the fence around the pond, what's that going to do to fishing and all that other stuff? We're going to get... we're going to we're going to kill one problem and make another problem. Mr. Twardosky replied, so this will go right on the water's edge. And it's just, it'll be short posts with just 2 to 3 wires, four inches, eight inches and maybe a 12 inch off the ground. And that's just to keep the geese from being able to walk up. But people will still be able to go right to the water's edge, step over it if they need to. Selectman Morin replied, I just could see a fisherman getting hooked on the. You know we're gonna have fish everywhere around the park, you know what I mean? Mr. Twardosky replied, yes and you know, we're going with the post and wires rather than an actual installed expensive fence. So if it gets if it's not working or it gets too much of a problem for people, it's easily removable and we can remove it in the fall. So it's not getting damaged through the winter.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said I'm reading I think my answer here, as I said, the last discussion we had with the last gentlemen, you guys did a great job. I'm kind of scanning over a lot of this stuff. You obviously tried a lot, have a lot of data here. I'm very impressed. What I was getting at is now that the transfer station is finished and you did such great updates with that, I would if you had the time to make an update on on all of the effort and work you have done put into this topic. I think the residents would be pleased to know how hard you're working at this. And I know I am. Mr. Forrence replied, absolutely.

Chairperson Roy said I do have a question about the long term environmental impact of that of that product. I was okay with a corn oil, peppermint oil, garlic oil. But then when I got to the methyl, whatever it is that that raises a question to me because that does not sound like a natural product. Mr. Twardosky replied, it doesn't. But it's basically they actually use it in food. It's a grape flavoring or grape scent.

It's very minimal. There's not a lot of it. It's just enough to give that scent because geese really do not like grape. They don't they don't like grape vines. They don't like the flavor of grape.

Chairperson Roy replied, right, but does it does it affect the soil at all? Does it leach into the waterway? Does it do any of that? Mr. Twardosky replied, it does not. It's very minimal what you're putting down. It'll degrade in the environment. So it's basically organic. It sounds like it's not organic. The product pretty much is organic. There's been nothing that I've seen that shows methyl anthranilate does any long term damage.

Selectman Gagnon asked, do you guys have the hazardous data sheet for it? That would explain that? Mr. Twardosky replied, I don't yet, but I can get it. That's not a problem. It'll come with the product to begin with. But I can also get it beforehand and make sure. Selectman Gagnon replied, Yeah, the little I know on those data sheets it should tell you right there. Mr. Twardosky replied, absolutely. And we would have to have it in our MSDS book anyways just for using it.

Mr. Forrence said this product is used across the country. You know, Hudson isn't the only one with the goose problem. Chairperson Roy replied doesn't make it environmentally friendly. Mr. Forrence replied, I totally agree with that. Sometimes the sheets don't tell all the story. Mr. Twardosky replied I've looked at a few different ones and this is the one that'll be our best effort, the least amount of problems. And we can use it in Bensons where the deed restricts what we can use for chemicals in air and whatnot.

You know, when we plan on applying this to the beach at Robinson, but we get that data sheet and if there's anything that shows any problem with anything, because we have people with blankets laying out on the in the park and Benson's, we wouldn't want that to happen. And then we were going to try doing on the beach at Robinson Pond. Mr. Twardosky added, if something comes up we go through the MSDS or something else or somebody brings up any problems, we'll give it to the Fire Chief, have him look at it.

Chairperson Roy then said but it's just like one more point we don't want to solve one problem and creating another. You know?

Selectman Gagnon then said just a kind of a simple question, if you might, I think when I emailed you the complaint from the resident. I quickly Google searched a flashing light which you got I think jokingly said that you've looked into as well. I mean, there are no other options like that? I know... Mr. Twardosky replied so those low intensity strobe lights, it's another form of harassment. So it makes it so they can't sleep at night. Selectman Gagnon replied, correct. Mr. Twardosky replied, and we can certainly look into that. I actually have it on the sheet. In an area that we can't patrol at night. Even though they say you can make it vandal proof, nothing's really vandal proof. And down there by that by the ponds, you know, we can definitely try it. But I, I would say if some of this other stuff doesn't work, then we would, we would resort to that to also help because they're just they're small lights. They would easily be removable, even they say they're not. But as a kid, you can there's a will as a way. Selectman Gagnon replied, understood. Thank you gentlemen.

Chairperson Roy said all right. I think that's it. You didn't need anything from us, right? Mr. Forrence replied, no. That was just informational thing after talking with the selectmen here. And I just wanted to make sure everybody knew that we were out there doing what they do. Morning meetings are centered around this sometimes. Mr. Twardosky added, other than this, you know, until we... our hands are pretty much tied on what else we can do with these without getting the removal permits. And like I said, that's a pretty involved effort. And then it can get pretty expensive actually relocating the geese. Mr. Forrence added, to have their brother and sister move in again, you know, so it's an endless. Selectman Morin said we can always rent a fox suit and have Jess running back and forth. Laughter. Mr. Forrence then said I brought my own drone down there and they laughed at it. So we're going to try anything we possibly can. Chairperson Roy said all right. Thank you for all your hard work. Appreciate it.

K. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Parameters

Chairperson Roy recognized the Town Administrator who said it's the appropriate time of the fiscal year, we're going to be looking at next fiscal year budget seasons coming. So typically, we provide or you provide direction to the departments, what you expect from them when it comes to their proposed budgets for Fiscal 24. Given the way the economy seems to be, i.e. inflation, some other factors out there, it's probably prudent to come out with a level funded directive. Last year I think you granted some relief, one and a half percent, I think up to. We've had two years in a row of a default budget and the times seemed to be fairly good economically. Now that people maybe feel economically we're in a difficult time. I think we're probably looking at another default budget, to be frank, and I think we should get ahead of it and do the best we can to manage what we have if there's something critical, again, submit separately for the Board's consideration potentially as a warrant article, or you could certainly have a discussion. But again, my concern would be two

default budgets in a row. I'm not sure that people feel confident with the level of inflation that we've had, that they'd be passing a budget. So I put that on the table as, as a conversation starter. But it's up to you as to what parameters you'd like to give to the Department Heads.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said just my layman understanding and I totally agree with you, if we're expecting another default budget, which probably is probably high, I guess for the sake of discussion, what's the point of even trying to make a budget or even have this conversation if the probability of a default budget is going to fall back on? Because anything we decide here is going to get thrown out the window. The Town Administrator replied, so the first year we had a default budget that we didn't expect to have, we were \$775,000 delta between the default budget and the budget you proposed last year, we were at \$500,000 between the budget you propose and the default budget. Be nice to get that number closer so that we're not, you're not having to work hard to figure out what you're cutting.

Chairperson Roy said at the end of the day, it's the Budget Committee's budget that goes forward to the people, right? The Town Administrator replied, that is correct. Chairperson Roy then said so, you know, sort of sort of your point, I am not sure it matters either what we put forward, cuz I don't think the Budget Committee is going to entertain that. On the other hand, that we are, as he said, in some sort of precarious economic times here. So I think even in an ideal world, I'm not sure that we could tolerate an increase in, in any significant increase in our budget, just as where we are economically. Selectman Morin added, and there's still that option if somebody needs something, we can do a warrant article to that nature. So if there is a great need, we can still do it. But I agree too we probably should... being here all the the years I was here, in past experience, when we're in this situation, zero budget, we're not going to do well. Selectman Gagnon agreed saying oh, absolutely. Oh, absolutely, yeah.

The Town Administrator then said now, contractual items such as any labor contract that had out years that covered. Our health insurance things, those get covered. So as you're well aware, the labor and benefits piece, typically that is what it is because we're bound by either labor contracts, which get counted in the default budget or health care increases which contractually we're obligated on the labor contracts to provide. So when I say this, you're basically going to have the portion of the budget that we, that you, actually control. Chairperson Roy replied, which is actually relatively small. You're talking about maybe 20% of the budget that's what I'll call discretionary, right? That we have some control over. We're not bound by some contract or some legal requirement to spend that money. So we are talking about a small portion of the budget, essentially, but it becomes the most important portion when it goes before the voters.

The Town Administrator went on to say, we anticipate having to labor contracts. I put a couple of items on here for that. But the Supervisors unit and the Public Works unit, they're coming off of their contract. They'll expire at the end of this fiscal year. So separate warrant articles. So there's two warrant articles right there. You'll have this budget, you'll have a water budget and a sewer budget, which, by the way, have not been defaulted, but those are also paid for by the users, by the user fee. And those rates have not changed in many, many years. So I think there's confidence out there with that. But just looking at where we are inflation wise, let's not forget we just did a reassessment of property. So people are concerned they don't know where they're going to be. We don't control technically a lot of the budget again because of the labor pieces, but I just think the direction should be level fund, if you have something critical identified separately, as we've done in the past, and the Board can determine whether they want to prioritize something differently or put it in a warrant article.

Selectman Gagnon said if I may, the last thing is, is there any departments because of inflation are going to see higher costs? So off the top of my head DPW. The Town Administrator said everybody does for gas and diesel. Chairperson Roy agreed saying fuel costs. And I know what you're saying, like asphalt, that's increased tremendously. But even like electricity. You know? The Town Administrator then said actually we're locked into a contract. So we were prudent enough that we're through, I think, November of '24 with the current agreement. And if you recall, we changed all the streetlights to a lower led product. And I believe by next fiscal year, at least by the end of it, we'll be

realizing the savings there. So this Board, this town, has done things to mitigate those pressures. So, yes, we have some but not we're not getting hit with a .22 cent per hour rate increase that that Eversource hit everybody else with. We're not. Selectman Gagnon replied, no, I think my takeaway there was simply if we agree that DPW is going to get hit with inflation cost, do we give them a little headroom, say, hey, you can increase your budget because you're going to get hit directly with inflation costs versus other departments may not as much. The Town Administrator replied, if you recall during some of the conversations we've had about how we're going to fit into the default budget, one thing you have in Highway, Public Works, you have the paving budget which you can trim back to prioritize other priorities. So you have a luxury that we're fortunate, we're going to make up a whole bunch of that with this money you just you just sent to public hearing. But frankly, I think this is where we're at. It's like anybody at the kitchen table, they look at this, what I got coming in, this is what I got to deal with. Maybe I don't eat steak, I eat hamburger, or maybe I do this or maybe I do that. Departments know their budgets. They know what they need to do. Sometimes we benefit from vacancies and positions. You know, we'll hold back maybe on something, particularly with the bigger departments. It makes a big difference. You know, sometimes you somebody retires, somebody else comes in, they're single, they don't have the same medical plan. So you get some give and take in the bigger departments. Again, I think the message to the public is, yes, we're we understand people's concerns as far as inflation goes and as far as us trying to keep that tax rate manageable for the residents out there.

Selectman Guessferd said I think we have to account for energy. We have to account for fuel that Department Heads need to do that. And it's not just DPW, it's, it's the police, it's fire. Anybody that has vehicles and extended energy costs, they're going to have to come up with those cuts somewhere else. You know what I mean? The bottom line is, if people are going to provide us, and I hate to say this with a default budget, they may not be able, the critical things we may not be able to get some of the things some of the services that we have been expecting within that budget, because they're going to have to come in, the Department Heads are going to have to come in and say, all right, I've got to increase this. I have to. That's the reality. Something else over here is going to have to go if we're going to level fund and they're going to have to make those tough decisions and tell us what those tough decisions are and make sure that we're letting the public know what those tough decisions are, because, because that's really what's going to drive the vote in the end by them. By the by the citizens saying, are we willing to we we're used to great services in this town. We are. I mean, I'm used to doing more with less all the time. But there comes a time when we are forced to have to make tough decisions. And in the citizens of this town need to understand that, unfortunately, you know, it's just it's just it is what it is. And the Department Heads have to do that. It's hard. Chairperson Roy said I think we've done well, but I think a third default budget would be difficult. It would be because the idea that you just brokered about doing more with less has a very illogical conclusion. Selectman Guessferd replied, It does. It does. The School Department talks about doing that all the time. Chairperson Roy said right. Eventually you're trying to do everything with nothing, right? So yeah, I think we just need to sort of get it through this year. Selectman Guessferd said get as close to the default as we can. Chairperson Roy said I think I just think people are really concerned about the the economic conditions right now because I'm not I'm not historically, I'm not opposed to small increases in the budget. I just don't know that we can do it this year. It's impractical. Selectman Guessferd replied, and Madam Chair, you mentioned the reevaluation, regardless of whether that's real or not, the impact on the citizens is here is in their heads. It's another factor. And we're the ones that they're looking at and saying it's it's their fault.

Selectman Morin then said and I think the real impacts coming as soon as the cold weather gets here and by the time vote comes around, people are going to have enough and that's how they're going to vote. Selectman Guessferd said yeah, I hear you. The Town Administrator added, and you may get a default budget, but it may not be as painful as because the delta will have been considered.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and said I think that we need to have a level, level funded budget this year based on what I'm hearing and excuse me, people are really concerned not just here but nationally, very concerned with with the direction of the country and the spending. And, you

know, I alluded to I alluded to that when I asked the question about Jess and Jay about Benson's Park. People are really concerned about this excessive spending that Washington is doing, and it's going to make the problems that we're facing today. Once that really hits the population, what we're dealing with today is going to be minimal in comparison to what it's going to be. And people I know, I'm concerned about the spending that's going on in the country and what impact that's going to be, because they don't seem to be recognizing that people are hurting and people are the baby formula is hard to come by. Food is hard to come by for some. They're saying that the food banks are empty and people, people that haven't used food banks before now have to. And they're looking for help. So and I don't think the Hudson is any different than anywhere else in the country. And I listen to the news. I'm as you know, I'm a news hound. So I'm listening to it all the time. I'm concerned about our spending for the Town, but I'm also concerned about the School portion because I what I'm hearing, if it's true, they're going to be coming in trying to get the addition to Alvirne passed. And I think that what is that, 27 million? Selectman Gasdia replied, that was the number as of last night. Yes. Selectman McGrath went on to say so \$27 million compared to what we put before the vote. That's I don't, I can't see that passing. But when it comes to the schools maybe that will be more the voters can see their way to do that. But I know as one voter, I'm going to be voting no on that because it just doesn't make any sense. You know, if if we were in a better financial situation....Selectman McGrath stopped and asked Chairperson Roy, am I bothering you? To which Chairperson Roy replied, no. Selectman McGrath continued saying, , and, you know, so if the town and the country were in a better situation, then I'd be more amenable to spending that kind of money. But I don't think we should increase our budget, nor do I think the school should either, unless they're trying to attract teachers. Chairperson Gasdia then said just for the record, we do have a teacher's contract. So, yes, there is a lot on the school side. And to what was sort of alluded to here, part of the problem we have right now is that although the number is huge, we're seeing the effects of sort of being behind for many years. And it's, it's an interesting spot to be in. And the renovation is partly driven by the fact, again, with money, the state is offering up some money this year that potentially we can get. Selectman McGrath then said that has a trickle-down effect. Chairman Gasdia replied, sure it does. Selectman McGrath then said that hits that hits people in Hudson, but it hits people all through the state that have to pay for. Chairperson Gasdia replied, the question then becomes if they're going to give the money away anyways, do you want to go for it? Or, you know, because that money, the trickle down from the state, you're paying either way so that... but I hear you and that was our discussion that's been our discussion at many of our meetings is exactly what you're saying is is this the right time? Is it not the right time? If we don't do it, is it going to be less right? Because the history has been whatever the number is this year, it's more next year. And so it's it's tough. But I hear everything you're saying. It's an interesting time to try to budget. Chairperson Roy added cuz it doesn't make it less necessary. It just makes it more difficult.

Seeing no further questions *Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to direct Department Heads to submit level funded budgets, exclusive of labor and benefits for their proposed Fiscal Year 2024 budgets. Any large projects or warrant articles shall be submitted separately for the Board's consideration. Carried 5-0.*

L. Public Works Dept. AFSCME Local 1801 Successor Contract

Chairperson Roy recognized the Town Administrator who said I'm a little ahead. We've not received a request to negotiate, but I anticipate it coming. So just from a housekeeping perspective, as you're all aware, there's a negotiating team consists of our Labor Attorney, myself, the Finance Director. Typically the department head. In this case would be Mr. Forrence and a selectman member of the team. Selectman Morin is the liaison to the Public Works Department, so logically it makes sense that he would be the appointed selectman. So if you're all concurrence, the *motion will be to appoint Selectmen Morin to the negotiating team for the Public Works AFSCME Local 1801 Union successor contract. Selectman Gagnon made the motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd. Carried 5-0.*

M. Hudson Police, Fire and Town Supervisors Association Successor Contract

The Town Administrator was again recognized and said I also have we also will have the Supervisor's contract coming up. And there is not a typical, not an assigned liaison. That contract covers professionals up to including deputy fire chiefs, police captains, other professionals. So it's spread across multiple organizations in our town. So again, I have not received a request to negotiate. I anticipate getting it and just to be ahead of the curve, I wanted to get a member assigned. We don't have any meeting scheduled yet, but somebody can volunteer to do it or you can appoint someone. But again, the team would consist of the Labor Attorney, myself, the Finance Director and the selectman representative. Chairperson Roy asked, does anybody want to volunteer? Selectman Guessferd volunteered. The Town Administrator said so typically the meetings are typically during the day. Yeah, we try to be accommodating, so. Selectman Guessferd said I'll let you know what my schedule is to and I'll do my best to accommodate. Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to appoint Selectman Guessferd to the negotiating team for the Hudson Police, Fire and Town, Supervisor Association Successor Contract. Carried 5-0.

N. July 2022 Revenues and Expenditures

The Town Administrator explained, not much to report. It's one month in so the year is pretty immature at this point in time. We have encumbered the solid waste contract. We've encumbered money for legal. So when you look, you'll see percentages that are not in keeping with, you know, we're 8% of the way through the year. But because we encumbered, it shows a higher rate of expense. One good bit of those auto registrations continue to do well. We're slightly ahead of where we were last year after the worst month. So I don't want to doom and gloom everything, but for whatever reason, people love their cars and they keep registering them. And we get we get a portion of it in the state, gets a portion of it. So that is not dropped off. So at this point, there's not much else to report. It's one month into the year.

9. Board Liaison Reports

Selectman McGrath: So for the Assessing office, I talked to Jim Michaud today about the calls that they've been getting and for to look at their property valuations and protest what they think is inaccurate or unfair information. So they've gotten 298 calls, which represent less than 3% of the property owners in Hudson. So only, you know, that's a small, small number. I would have expected it to be higher. And so I think they did as well. But they're still holding meetings and they can do it over the phone. And that's most of the most of the people have used the phone to schedule. And so they're going to they're closing it off on Thursday. Thursday morning, by noontime, people can call to schedule an appointment to talk to the Assessor about their assessment and protest. And the other thing, if they've if they've looked at this, the protesters are complaining, whatever you want to call it, they'll get and the evaluation comes back in its lower or there's a change in it, they'll be notified by that on the second notice before October 1st. So I think that's about it that I have.

Chairperson Roy asked, Mr. Malizia, i there any way we can put together maybe a PSA on how that whole property revaluation? The Town Administrator replied, we put stuff out there. The problem is it gets, to explain things, it gets pretty detailed. Yeah. that's difficult for folks to sometimes. But we put we put that data out. We try to look at how do you put less data out. But the problem is then it doesn't really explain what you're trying to tell them. The best thing, if people do have questions, they can call the Assessing office. They're very helpful. They've been fielding calls. It's not just the Vision. It's also been our folks that that answer things. And they always try to be responsive to the public. Not

always easy for everyone to understand it. We've put information up and it's like, okay, how much do you put out that it makes it meaningful?

Selectman McGrath replied but they've done a really good job of responding to residents' complaints or concerns, and they've taken a lot of a lot of a lot of calls, but not as many as you'd expect. So I don't know if there'll be another surge in that before Thursday, but that's the deadline that they can call and talk to the Assessors.

Selectman Morin: You just heard what Bensons talked about at their meeting. There has been no Conservation or Budget Committee meeting since the last time we were here.

Selectman Gagnon: So only a few. Similar to Mr. Morin, Sustainability Committee meeting was cancelled for August. I did partake in an NRPC presentation that was on two parts. One, there was a presentation about New Hampshire receiving funds and building a plan for EV charging stations across the state, which I thought was very interesting. And a lot of the major highways, they said that actually New Hampshire is very dry in terms of charging stations in comparison to Maine, Vermont and Massachusetts. So because we're a big tourist state, they are very interested in connecting that, to bring a lot of the tourism with the new electric cars through New Hampshire, as well as our surrounding states. They also talked about clean diesel initiatives as well. With that, we heard a little bit from Brian tonight. I've been kind of just talking with him here and there about the ten year plan, what he provided tonight, just kind of giving some feedback. Those are great conversations. We've had the Chamber here. I'm looking at their news. They have a PM networking event at Karscene Thursday, September 8th from 5 to 8 p.m... They have a lot of other events going on as well, which again, you can you can find on their website. And I think that's all I have for you tonight.

Selectman Guessferd: Planning Board meeting was canceled since the last meeting. We are meeting tomorrow night. A few things to go over as far as the only other thing is Rec. Just a little bit of a Rec update as I tend to do here. Men's softball is wrapping up tonight with a championship. Soccer numbers are great for the soccer assignments for the kids. 550 kids signed up the most in like ten years. So that's awesome news to get on that. So they're starting their season. Senior Center and any seniors out there, they're hosting a senior center luau this Thursday at the community center. So get on over there, get your get your flower leis and everything and have a good time. They have a DJ, dancing, etc.

Summer Programs program was a great success. Just ended up just wrapped up on Friday and great partnership when we have Tad here, Chief Dionne but the HPD did a lot of good work this summer working with the kids and they delivered ice cream to them on Friday and the final day. So it was very successful program. After not having that sort of program for a couple of years. It was it was good. So and that's pretty much all. I have nothing on Cable at this point.

Selectman Morin said I got a quick question. Do we have any numbers on how much it's changed since Chrissy took over? Because there's a huge amount of programs going on now that we've never had and you're hearing nothing but good things. It's got to be huge. Selectman Guessferd replied, right. Let me let me look into that and bring that up. You know, but, yes, I think the numbers are much bigger than they were before. Chairperson Roy said it does seem to be a much more active recreation department. Selectman Guessferd said a lot of energy. She's got a lot of great ideas. She thinks outside the box and does different things that nobody we didn't consider before. So absolutely. Yeah. I'll see if I can grab some more information. Selectman Morin added, it's just its just gone crazy over there. Selectman Guessferd added and it's and it's a great asset to the community. You know, people don't necessarily realize how important it is, you know, strong recreation department in terms of a great community. Chairperson Roy added it gives people things to kids, particularly things to do. Right? Selectman Gagnon added, I couldn't agree more. She is she is an absolute professional that I

don't think we see a lot in the local government world. We are we are very lucky to have what we have. Selectman Guessferd added, absolutely. Excellent. That's all I got.

Chairperson Roy: Thank you. I like a lot of the other folks. I haven't had a meeting. I do have a Library Board of Trustees meeting tomorrow night and a meeting on Thursday. So next I'll have something to report. With that, I'll turn it over to the Town Administrator for his remarks.

10. Remarks by Town Administrator

The Town Administrator was recognized and said not many comments than I had, just a reminder, I believe the Board scheduled a visioning session for September 6th at 6:30. That'll be at the Rogers Memorial Library. We're able to secure that. I think it's I think everybody's aware of that. But I just wanted to put that out there that that will be at the Rogers Memorial Library on September 6th, two weeks from tonight at 6:30pm. I have nothing else.

11. Remarks by School Board

School Board Chairman Gasdia said, great, thanks. So. Last time I was here, I know I missed the last meeting, but I talked about the need for hiring. We're in a better position than we were in, but we still have a lot of needs. So if you do know anyone, especially paras, para educators, we're down 14 para educators just at the high school. To give you the scope of how many people we need. One thing that we wanted to make sure we hope won't happen is having teachers leave during the year. So we implemented a retention bonus for all of our all of our staff, custodians, and nurses, anyone that's a member of the District. It will be a \$1,000 bonus for everyone full time. They will be paid half way through the year and then at the end and also attracts to that as a referral bonus that will work the same way, hoping that they attract folks. And this will come from the ESSER funds. So it's not coming from directly from the tax base. But we felt that that's one thing where we're hoping it's so important to retain because we're at such a fragile point. If a teacher or two were to leave it really be detrimental.

The other thing back to school, August 29th is the first day of school tomorrow where we're welcoming all of the teachers at in the morning. And just a reminder to folks that are in the District, the free lunch program that was funded by the government for the past three years has ended. So lunches will be charged. And it's very important that if you qualify, you fill out a form. It's estimated that if you fill out the form and you qualify, it will save \$500 a year per child for the cost of lunch. And on top of that, we get funding based on the number of people that actually do it. So if you qualify, it's completely anonymous, completely confidential. Please fill out the form. It will save you a lot of money. And so that's it.

12. Other Business/Remarks by the Selectmen

Chairperson Roy: I'm going to start off because I think this is important for the public to hear. So in the case of the Town of Hudson and SAU 81 versus the Hudson Budget Committee, the court issued a decision on August 15th. They found that the section of the bylaws that that limits voting to At-Large members is void, that the ex-officio members that would be the members appointed by the Board of Selectmen and the School Board must be permitted to to vote in all Committee matters. And finally, they found that any Committee actions that were taken without permitting the ex-officio members to vote were null and void. So the entire decision is on the Town website if you if you're interested in reading it. And so then my final mark is now that we have that settled, I hope we can now move on to do the work that we were all elected to do with that.

Selectman McGrath: I don't think so.

Selectman Morin: All set thank you.

Selectman Guessferd: The only thing I want to mention is Old Home Days was a great success. From what I can see. I went over. I was over there a couple of times and there was a lot of folks there. The setup was different this year than it has been in the past. It was it was just great. It was I just want to say to the committee, great job looking forward to next year's event as well. But it was very well done.

Selectman Gagnon: Nothing tonight thank you.

13. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Guessferd at 9:51p.m., seconded by Selectman Gagnon to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Nonpublic Session was entered at 9:51 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 is asked to leave the room.

The Board entered open session at 10:18 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session

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

7. Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to appoint Deputy Chief Scott Tice as Interim Fire Chief with a salary of \$121,000 per year, effective September 1, 2022. Carried 5-0.

8. Selectman Morin made a motion to adjourn at 10:26 p.m. This was seconded by Selectman Gagnon. Carried 5-0.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:26 p.m. by Selectman Morin seconded by Selectman Gagnon. Carried 5-0.

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

Kara Roy, Chairperson

Bob Guessferd, Vice Chairman

David Morin, Selectman

Marilyn McGrath, Selectman

Brett Gagnon, Selectmen