

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the October 25, 2022 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairperson Roy the meeting of October 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by DPW Director, Jess Forrence

3. ATTENDANCE

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

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Scott Tice, Fire Chief; Tad Dionne, Police Chief; Jess Forrence, DPW Director; Lisa Labrie, Finance Director; Gary Gasdia School Board Representative; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

A. Appointments

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

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

Chairperson Roy explained we had three interviews for one full term, full member term to expire 12/31/23 and one alternate member term to expire 12/31/22 for the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The three nominees are Norm Martin, Rich Weissgarber and Tristan Dion. Do I have a motion to appoint anyone as member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment with a term to expire 12/31/23?

Selectman McGrath made a motion to appoint Norm Martin to the full member. Seeing no second, the Chair said, there's no second, motion fails.

Do I have another motion? Selectman Gagnon said I think I move to appoint Tristan Dion for the full time member. Selectman Guessferd seconded this motion. Chairperson Roy asked for any discussion. Selectman Gagnon then said, so, Madam Chair, like. Like always, I take these pretty pretty honestly and think about who is best for the position. I took a couple of notes here. I said, you know, I've known Norm for a little while in politics. He's a good guy. He means well. He tries hard. He has passion. I appreciate that. He has a lot of experience that can't be ignored. He has a good heart. Certainly means well. And I said he does represent how the town used to be. And keeping with the older ways of thought is my interpretation. Same with Rich. Rich, he has said he goes above and beyond and he tries to learn new skills as necessary, which is very honorable. I had a note to myself, sometimes I don't like the way he makes some decisions, but that's that's not a criticism against him. I guess. He's an honest guy. He serves very well. He has some good skills. He's a good lead. And then Tristan, Mr. Tristan I thought came very well as well. You know, he's a new, new individual to

town. His background, his professional skills, the passion that he he portrayed in what he got himself involved with, I thought just stood out a little bit more to me. And so I think that's why I'm tilting in his direction tonight. But I'm not I'm not making it up by any means by saying this was easy or a clear cut. Norm, you did certainly stand out to me, and I honestly mean that. You had some good references that came in that I really took to heart. But in my honest opinion, I'm trying to place the best, most qualified individual, and I believe that's Tristan.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said yeah, I think I probably, I actually support probably of the three and I probably should have, I missed second in the first motion and it went kind of quick. I do support Mr. Martin. I just want to make sure the Board understands we've received a lot of input, positive for Mr. Martin. Mr. Dion absolutely. Seems like he's qualified, doesn't have a lot of experience with regard to zoning. He does have experience, similar experience, interpreting international laws, things like that. So I, I recognize I think any of these three individuals will probably do, do well. I think there's more of a learning curve with both Mr. Weissgarber and Mr. Dion. So I know it's kind of awkward because, like I said, I probably should have seconded the motion for Mr. Martin at the time. And and again, understanding that the people in our town do come forward and take the time to write us letters, to do things and support certain certain candidates. We need to listen to that. And that's, you know, so I probably will not be voting for Mr. Dion. I just want to make sure... it's not because he's not qualified, it's because I just believe that the experience that Mr. Martin brings, we haven't heard anything negative about him. I remember a year ago when I came onto the Board, there was some negativity surrounding. And I think that's that's seems to be a bit in the past. I think there's been some some changes in behavior and things like that. So again, kind of a strange situation, but I just I'm not going to support the motion for Mr. Dion. Selectman Morin asked, who first and seconded it? Chairperson Roy said, Mr. Gagnon made the motion, Mr. Guessferd seconded. Selectman Guessferd said I seconded for discussion. Selectman Morin asked, do you want to rescind your second? To which Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah, I'll rescind my second. I was going to just second for discussion. Selectman Morin said then we can take that up afterwards.

Chairperson Roy said, so, all right, so now I have a motion and no second. Does anybody want a second? Mr. Dion's? Selectman Morin made a motion to appoint Mr. Martin to the full time member. This was seconded by Selectman McGrath. Chairperson Roy asked, any more discussion? To which Selectman Guessferd said there's something else I think I wanted to mention. So Mr. Martin has, like I said, he's served on the Board...oh, it was actually more of a question. What is his current? Chairperson Roy said he's an alternate member of the alternate member of the ZBA. Selectman Guessferd asked, but what is his expiration date on this current assignment? Mr. Martin, in the audience, said this December. Chairperson Roy asked of 2022? To which Mr. Martin replied yes. Selectman Guessferd said okay. That was really all I wanted to mention there.

Chairperson Roy then said I will not support Mr. Martin. My position hasn't changed that I think that both Mr. Martin and Mr. Weissgarber showed an inability to apply laws and regulations to to situations on the ground. So I won't, I won't support him. I also see an opportunity here for us to....so it struck me not too long ago that we seem to pull from the same folks all the time. It's the same volunteers all the time that volunteer for everything. And I think we have an opportunity, whether it's as a full member or an alternate member, to have some some new some new folks in here, come into the fold so that they so that they can grow with the town, they can they can give that perspective. I think it's sometimes it's a perspective we we miss. Right. Particularly somebody like Mr. Tristan, who's starting a new family and doing those kinds of things. So that's where I stand. So does anybody else have any discussion?

Selectman McGrath then said well, I'll speak on behalf of Mr. Martin. He served for a number of years without any complaints or criticisms. And he made one silly comment that he shouldn't have made, that people took offense to. But if they had realized that the Zoning Board, with the exception I think, of Mr. Martin, who is there as an alternate. Mr....the current chairman of the Board. And I can't...The Town Administrator said Mr. Daddario. Selectman McGrath said all I could think of is Gary, because that's my brother's name. And anyway, and I think pretty much the rest of the Board are fairly new members. The Town Administrator said Mr. Pacochia has been there for a long time. Selectman

McGrath said Mr. Oh, he's been. Yeah, he's, he's been there for, for a long time. But like Mr. Sakati who wrote a letter recommending Mr. Martin be appointed, he's a relatively new member. The other gentleman from that neighborhood, he's a new member on the on the Zoning Board. The person that you just appointed a month or so ago who hasn't served on the Zoning Board, and he's a real estate person. He's new. And now you're going to be putting on, I expect, Mr. Dion, who's going to be a new member. He hasn't seen a meeting. He hasn't watched a meeting. He hasn't attended. Chairperson Roy said well that's just not true. No, he said he watched the meetings on on TV. Selectman McGrath replied, no, he didn't say that. Chairperson Roy replied, he did. Selectman McGrath responded saying he said he wasn't to. Chairperson Roy replied, go on. Go on. He watched meetings. He didn't attend, but he watched them. But go on. Selectman McGrath said in any event. And, so most of the people that are on that Board, with the exception of maybe three, are new members. So it's we've got new people. Some of the. Mr. Etienne also is a member of that Board until December. And they're making decisions that their inexperience is showing. And so one of the cases that that they just voted on not to... not too long ago, we've got a lawsuit against the town because they were inconsistent in their rulings. They make.... I mean, so and this is a very serious board and it needs experienced people. It doesn't mean that they should all be experienced, but the majority of them should be so that they could guide the newer members in in what their positions are and what they should be doing. And that's my opinion.

Chairperson Roy said I just I just want to clarify that my opposition to Mr. Martin isn't because of some comment he made a year ago. It is because he demonstrated an inability to read and understand and RSA and then supported what forced us to file suit against the Budget Committee because, again, he apparently cannot read and apply the law. So that's where I'm coming from.

Selectman Guessferd then said Madam Chair, I understand where you're coming from. And I know we had an extensive discussion about both of those individuals. Mr. Martin and Mr. Weissgarber, in that in that application. Selectman McGrath asked we did? Did we have that as a conversation of the Board. Selectman Morin replied, when we interviewed them? Yes. Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah. Yeah. So we did have that conversation and we did talk about that. And, and I don't disagree that in this particular instance, they certainly, I think they were influenced greatly as well. But at the same time, you know, that one, that one instance I get believe me, I'm the liaison to the Budget Committee and it's been it's been a difficult relationship recently. A couple of things I want to I want to mention I support what you're saying about diversity and let's say diversity, but additional new people on the boards. And I fully support Mr. Dion joining the Board as an alternate. And hopefully he would apply because we're only talking about two months here for the alternate position, it's only going to go until December. So we're going to be seeing this again. But I'd like to see somebody who's who doesn't have experience with the Board to if they come on, they come out as an alternate, they learn and then then they can come on, if we if we so appoint them, they'll come on as a as a permanent member or a full member.

Selectman Guessferd went on to say, the only other thing I want to mention is in terms of this was not an easy decision for me. I spent a lot of time thinking about this over the last several weeks, and I was I was all over the map. I was on both sides of this. And then we we continue to get more positive feedback with regard to Mr. Martin. I personally discussed it with, through email, with our Zoning Administrator as well, who provided for me was kind of a very balanced evaluation, I guess I'll say, of Mr. Martin. But in the end, I believe that that he supports him being on the Board. So this wasn't something that I took lightly or that I'm just making a knee jerk reaction to or, or reacting to something that's happened in the year ago or, or more recently. And like I said, this was a very difficult decision for me. But in the end, I think what would tip the scale was the support that he had. And I can't I can't ignore that, the support that he had. I think he had three or four different folks that that emailed us supporting him. So that was that was an important factor for me. So it's a mixed bag. I'm not sure it's a, it's a 100% optimal, but I'd like to see him continuing, based on that and a permanent or again, as a full member.

Chairperson Roy asked, any more discussion? Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said yeah, I don't want to drag us on too much. This is interesting. I do actually agree with some of the things that

you said, Selectman McGrath. You know, I think a good mix of young and a good mix of more senior with knowledge is good. I took it to heart. I like that thought process. I am with the Chairman as well. You know, I am concerned that an RSA that was seemingly pretty easy to read was misinterpreted. I think that was a major, major miss. But I'd like to think that with Mr. Martin's passion and awareness, if you're surrounded by other good people on that Board, I think if you're in the right group, you may you may rise above that and serve serve in a better capacity. And for the sake of of agreeing with my fellow colleagues here and being a little less contentious, I think I probably could support Norm Martin full of full member if we generally agree to put Tristan Dion as the alternate member so that he could get that experience and start his volunteering experience in the town, because I think we need to welcome him into some kind of position because he's he's got a good background that we shouldn't let go.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said let me clarify what you just said. So we're going to vote for Martin as long as we get your guy. Is that what you just said? Selectman Gagnon replied, well, I guess technically speaking, yeah, I that's I say I like Martin for the full time member. After listening to all of your input. Selectman Morin replied, I just didn't know we negotiated things now for votes. Selectman Gagnon replied, well, that's just my thought process. I figured. Selectman Morin replied, just wanted to get that out there. We'll bid for people. Gotcha. Selectman Gagnon replied, I have no problem stating that.

Selectman Morin said I agree with Selectman McGrath and Selectman Gagnon on, it's a very young Board. I also received the same emails that Selectman Guessferd did, and I actually had a discussion on Saturday with a member of the Zoning Committee who had some very good words for Mr. Martin. So I'll vote for Mr. Martin, too. Absolutely. Thank you. Selectman Guessferd said and one of the things I'll just make a final comment here, given that there is concern and it's not without merit, about ability to interpret laws, and I think there was also some concern about making sure that we're addressing updating updated ZBA ordinances and standards, which was I think is an area that we have to make sure. This expires a year from now, a year and two months. I know myself and I know you sit on the zoning board yourself. I will be certainly looking closely at the things that are going on. And when this position comes back up for reappointment, I'll certainly be taking what happens in the next year into account and making a decision to continue with Mr. Martin when he comes up for, if he does decide to, to to apply again. So, you know, I think we need to look at all of them that way, actually. And we're entering in a very key part key we're getting a key piece of our town's history here. There's a lot of things that are that are up for, thought process, understanding where we're going in the future. And the ZBA is a big part of it. Like you said, it's a serious board, ZBA, Planning Board, they're serious boards, so we need to be paying attention. We need to be seeing what's going on and hopefully be able to provide some guidance as well.

Chairperson Roy then said, I will say that not without reservation, but I may have been swayed as to Mr. Martin, in the fact that it is a year and two months and we can look at it again and can see where it goes. Sitting on the Board, I'll just comment that I think that the Board does do a good job. They do take it seriously. They do look at things in a reasonable and I guess logical fashion. The case that you speak of was probably bound to be end up in court anyways. So you know, you can have your thoughts about why that happened. But I think the ZBA does a good job of and they to give them their due and I know I know you weren't there the last time, but I know I'm guessing you've watched there's been some training that they've taken advantage of from both from our Attorney and from the NHMA. So that being said, does anybody have anything else? All those in favor of appointing Norm Martin to be a full member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment with the term to at 12/31/23. All those in favor say aye. Motion passes. Selectman McGrath asked unanimously? To which Chairperson Roy replied, yes. Selectman McGrath replied, just checking. You said you weren't going to vote and you changed. Chairperson Roy asked, did you hear? Selectman McGrath replied, no I heard, I just heard you but I didn't hear you vote.

Chairperson Roy continued on asking is there a motion to appoint Tristan Dion an alternate of the Zoning Board of Adjustment with a term to expire 12/31/22? Selectman Guessferd made this motion and it was seconded by Selectman Gagnon. Chairperson Roy asked if there was any discussion.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and said I'm not going to be voting in favor of this motion. Chairperson Roy called for the vote. Vote carried 4-1, Selectman McGrath opposed.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairperson Roy asked, does anyone have anything they'd like removed for separate consideration? Seeing nothing, Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to accept Consent Items A, B, C, D, E & F. Carried 5-0.

- A. Assessing Items - none
- B. Water/Sewer Items - none
- C. Licenses & Permits & Policies
 - 1) Raffle Permit - Knights of Columbus Council 5162 Hudson
 - 2) Outdoor Gathering Permit - Mill Cities Alliance
- D. Donations
 - 1) Donation of \$2,500 from Digital Federal Credit Union to the Police Department
 - 2) Donation of a tree, valued at \$276.75 for Library Park from the Lions Club
- E. Acceptance of Minutes
 - 1) Minutes of October 4, 2022
 - 2) Minutes of October 11, 2022
- F. Calendar
 - 10/26 7:00 Planning Board - Buxton Meeting Room
 - 10/27 7:00 Zoning Board of Adjustment - Buxton Meeting Room
 - 10/31 Halloween - Trick or Treat 6:00-8:00pm
 - 11/01 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
 - 11/02 7:00 Budget Committee - Town Budget Review - Buxton Meeting Room
 - 11/07 7:00 Budget Committee - Town Budget Review - Buxton Meeting Room
 - 11/08 7:00am-8pm - General Election - www.hudsonnh.gov/clerk for more info
 - 11/10 7:00 Budget Committee - Town Budget Review - Buxton Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on October 11, 2022
 - 1.) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to retain the services of former Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Roger Ordway, for the period of October 17, 2022 through December 31, 2022, at the rate of \$30.00 without benefits. Carried 5-0.
 - 2) Selectman Guessferd made a motion to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. This was seconded by Selectman Gagnon. Carried 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing - Acceptance of Homeland Security Grant - HFD

Chairperson Roy recognized Fire Chief Scott Tice who said, Thank you, Madam Chair. Good evening, Board members. So, in December of 2021, Chief Buxton received permission from the Board to apply for the Homeland Security Emergency Management Grant to purchase emergency management equipment consisting of a light tower with an onboard generator, two signboards and a trailer mounted generator. On September 30th of this year, we were notified by the state that we did receive this award. So I'm here tonight for the public hearing and acceptance of the grant in the amount of 137,994 and there's no local match.

Chairperson Roy replied, okay, great. So I will open a public hearing at 7:24 p.m. Is there anyone present who would like to speak on this matter? Seeing none. I will close the public hearing at 7:24 p.m. and I will entertain a motion to authorize the Chief to accept the 2022 Homeland Security Competitive Grant in the amount of \$137,994 as recommended by the Fire Chief. This motion was made by Selectman Guessferd, seconded by Selectman McGrath. Carried 5-0. Chief Tice thanked the Board.

B. Taylor Falls and Veteran's Memorial Bridge Update - Engineering

Chairperson Roy recognized Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima. Mr. Dhima began by saying Thank you, Chairperson Roy. Good evening, everyone. As you well aware, Tylor Falls and Veterans Memorial Bridge is in need of repair. Town of Hudson and City of Nashua has been working on this project since 2018 to do an evaluation and a design. Those were done through a warrant article and we identified one of the two bridges to be repaired using ARPA funds. We were scheduled to go to bid in December. We were notified this month that this bridge, both bridges, were in the ten-year plan in 2030. I told them that's too late. We were ready to go out. So all of a sudden we got in the first of the line. So the funds will be available as of August of 2023.

With that said, we need to do a couple things to get us the federal funds that we need. So that's why I'm in front of you tonight. Basically, some of the things we need to do is an environmental process permit. It's called NEPA. A couple other things that New Hampshire D.O.T. would like us to go through, similar to the LPA project that we're doing widening is Lowell Road, and it's for the amount of \$30,000 which we're going to be splitting with City of Nashua. And with that said, I'm in front of you tonight to inform you that we have we are getting \$2.5 million, up to \$2.5 million in federal and state money for these twin bridges. And we do need to do a bit of additional work to get access to that.

And with that said, I have two motions in front of you tonight to approve the engineering services and second one, authorize me to wrap up the revised amendment that we need to work the City of Nashua for the additional funds we need to split. That said, I'll take any questions you might have.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said I think just a quick clarification. You lost me slightly on the history of how this proceeded. We used ARPA funds to do the engineering? Mr. Dhima replied, no, warrant article. ARPA funds have not been used yet. So we put aside \$475,000 to do the construction piece. So that has not been utilized. That can go back into the pot of money. Selectman Gagnon asked, when you say pot of money, you mean the ARPA pot of money? To which Mr. Dhima replied, correct. Selectman Gagnon then said because we did talk about ARPA for this. Mr. Dhima replied, correct. And you did put aside \$475,000 for the bridge. But we don't need to do that anymore because federal money is available. Selectman Gagnon replied, that's what I want to clarify.

Chairperson Roy then said can I just clarify? So we've used none of that money. Didn't we do an engineering piece for this? Mr. Dhima replied, for another project, Lowell Road and First Brook. So

we have two projects going on related to bridges. The Twin Bridges, you have not utilized any federal...you have not utilized any ARPA funds for this. Chairperson Roy replied, okay. Mr. Dhima then said the evaluation was done in 2018-19 through the budget under Engineering, and then the actual design was done through raising \$125,000 through a warrant article to do that work. I think. Was it a warrant article? The Town Administrator replied I believe it was, yeah.

Mr. Dhima continued saying so Nashua raised \$125,000. We raised \$125,000 for a total \$250,000. The bids came in. We actually utilized \$80,000 between the two of us out of the \$250,000 and now it's going to \$110,000. So we're still way under half of what the money we raised is. So we're way under budget. But this additional funds are basically going to help us to do the additional steps that the state and the feds want us to do it to get access to these funds. They have a checklist. We're halfway through. We have done the project. We've done the design, which has got to go through like a traffic committee, a budget committee, which is public hearings for certain things, and then the environmental permit, of course. And that's what this fund is of for.

Selectman Gagnon said last follow up question Madam Chair, last I remember to the engineering we were going to do is more of a rehab, right? Taking the deck off. If I speak the right term and kind of relaying down. Is the goal still as simple as the goal is still the same as before? We're not going any further with redesign of the bridge because it's now been on the ten-year plan and funded. Right? It's the same plan. Mr. Dhima replied so the same plan we have the design that the same ones have been submitted to the state and that's what we're going to execute, which is basically removing the asphalt, removing the membrane, assessing the deck, making sure if there's any issues we either replace a portion of it or patch a portion of it. But yeah, we're not envisioning just start taking the deck off, which is a concrete piece is holding the thing together. So there's going to be work associated with a handrail, with a guardrail, with the streetlights. Some of them are kind of a little bit they're not where they're supposed to be, let's put it that way. Things of that sort. There's some work associated with bearings, especially on the Nashua side. There's some issues with how the bridge sits. So we need to look into that a little bit and and that's basically it. So the funds will be available next year. So we're now have to race against the clock to get all these tasks done in six months to make sure that we're in line to go out to bid, get that locked in. And we're probably looking at about a year. We're going to do both bridges. Not at the same time, one at a time, because I still like to work here for a little bit longer. Selectman Guessferd jokingly said we'll be building a river.

Mr. Dhima went on to say, Chairperson Roy the construction piece will be done by Nashua like we discussed in the past. So we are still going to finish up this piece, which is a design similar to the evaluation. But when the construction starts, that portion will be shifted to Nashua. So it's really a 5050 as far as the effort goes from the engineering, because I think they came up in the past. So they'll be taking that over. Everything is being done as far as the bids to match their language. But when we get to that point, the Board of Selectmen will have to sign a new contract or a new agreement with Nashua about the construction piece, which which we have to share. It's just beautiful. It's going to be 80% covered by the state and 20% by the by the municipalities, but that 20% then gets split two ways. So it's really 10% that's going to cost us. So, max, we're looking at \$250,000 each. That money can come out of the bridge rehab program, which the town is going to get access in December, about \$680,000. So I don't foresee using the ARPA funds to even make up the difference for that 10% we need. We're going to be using bridge aid money that's coming in similar to the paving program that you guys have access to recently with Mr. Forrence. So they'll be similar in use, but much bigger amount for \$480,000 versus \$680,000 that we're going to get for bridge. So we're in good shape.

Chairperson Roy then asked, the funding is coming from the state, right? Because I thought you said at some point that it was coming from the federal government, but it's coming from the state. Mr. Dhima replied, the state is going to manage it. But it's my understanding that they're getting money from the feds. It's it's federal money. Chairperson Roy replied, right but we're getting it from the state? Mr. Dhima replied, we're getting it from the state. Yes. And the state is going to manage it similar to the LPA project. So they're going to be a project manager assigned to it. We're going to be

working with them. They get access there. They give it to us. We do the reimbursement. Yeah, the state will be managing it. Yes.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said if nobody's got any other questions I just got a question on the motion. We have two sets of twin bridges, should we say Veterans or Bridge and Taylor Falls Bridge. You have twin bridges in the motion. Mr. Dhima replied yes. Selectman Morin then said cuz you have the Sagamore. Those are twin bridges too. Mr. Dhima said do we have? Which is the other twin bridges? Selectman Morin replied Sagamore Bridge. There's two. Mr. Dhima replied oh that's right. I never think of that because those are not ours.... Selectman Morin said the state would come in and fix those instead of these. Mr. Dhima said I feel like those are not ours. Those are federal like the turnpike. But I totally understand. so yes, whatever works for the Board. Chairperson Roy said so it's Taylor Falls and the Town Administrator and Selectman Morin replied and Veterans.

Selectman Guessferd said so just to clarify. Yeah, we did or didn't set aside any ARPA money for this? Chairperson Roy replied we did. The Town Administrator added we're not going to need to. Selectman Guessferd then said so we can use that money for something else? To which Chairperson Roy replied yes and Selectman Morin said after we're all done I was going to ask if we could either put it on the agenda or talk about it now to get that group going again. The Town Administrator said we'll talk about that next meeting. Chairperson Roy replied, yeah it's going to be a much more robust discussion. But there was an update. I had requested to be on the next agenda. Yeah, we can talk. Talk about what our next steps are for that money now. So anything else?

Selectman Morin said I don't my glasses so I can't read. Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to award the revised contract for the Taylor Falls and Veterans Bridges Engineering Service to Dubois and King Inc. in the not to exceed amount of \$110,291.00 with Hudson's 50% of the share of the cost not to exceed \$55,145.50 from the 5585-225 Engineers services account as recommended by the Town Engineer. Carried 5-0.

Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to authorize the Town Engineer to work with the City of Nashua to update the 2020 Municipality Agreement. Carried 5-0.

C. Pennichuck Water Wholesale Water Supply Contract - Engineering

Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima was again recognized and said Thank you, Madam Chair. As you're well aware, we've been dealing with the PFAS issues at one of the two wells, which we had to shut down in June 2021. We've been purchasing water from Penicuik to make up the difference. I got Mr. Malizia to start working with Pennichuck to see what a better ways is. If we're going to be doing this for the short term until we figure out what we need to do with the wells. So that triggered basically a discussion with Pennichuck about a better contract for us and them now that we be purchasing more water for them year round. So with that, I think we came in front of you not too long ago to get the ball rolling and this board approved that. We're back again because PUC finally, PUC staff, Pennichuck, and us finally came up to a final agreement. There were some minor changes here and there, but the biggest thing is the Town is getting approximately \$225,000 credit for all the water we've been purchasing from June 30, 2021 to present, which is going to be applied to the rates that we're going to get approved. So that's a big win for the town. There was a lot of back and forth pushbacks. I, I was surprised. But long story short, we got that through. This is ready for prime time. We felt it was enough to come back and get a final blessing from the Board before we execute this at the PUC level. And that's what this is tonight. Basically getting the final green light from the Board to move forward.

Chairperson Roy asked, any questions? Selectman Gagnon said quick question, sir. I had a question for a resident. Can you just briefly explain this is not going to affect their rates, the water rates? Is it?

Mr. Dhima replied, you can thank Mr. Malizia for that. The Town Administrator replied, it's actually better for the water rate because it's a cheaper cost for us to purchase it. Selectman Gagnon asked than to pump it ourselves? The Town Administrator replied, we don't have the capacity to pump ourselves because one of our wells is shut down. So what we were doing was buying water from Pennichuck under an old agreement. We've negotiated this agreement at a much lower unit price. So every little savings we get, we make sure we hold on to so that we can hold our rate as it is right now. Selectman Gagnon replied, excellent. Good to hear. Mr. Dhima then said so the difference between the old contract that we have and the new one that's going to be executed, we're talking about just under \$1,000,000 in savings. That's what we're talking about. So if we left the old contract in place and executed that for what we're buying, it will be additional million-dollar cost. But if we...The Town Administrator said because we're guaranteeing to purchase a certain amount of money, they can enter into this type of agreement per the PUC. They have these agreements with, I think, Anheuser-Busch, for example. I think there's another location, maybe Milford. They guarantee that they're going to buy X amount of water. They can then enter into the special contract that that because PUC doesn't want the Nashua customers to be harmed. In other words, they can just give us a discount. But because it's a guarantee, it works out beneficially for both sides. Selectman Gagnon replied, thank you. All right.

Seeing no further discussion *Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to approve the latest Wholesale Water Supply Contract as recommended by the Town Administrator and the Town Engineer. Carried 5-0.*

D. Hudson Water Utility Operation & Maintenance Contract - Water

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima was recognized by Chairperson Roy and said, so believe it or not, we're getting close to five years having Whitewater work in town. Time flies when you have fun. Per our contract, we need to notify them six months prior to the license, I mean prior to the contract expiring, to which way we need to go. So that's why we're in front of tonight. I need to provide them with an answer by the end of December to, you know, if we're going to go out to bid or not. We looked at everything. The rates are not going to change. We're looking at an escalation between 2-5% similar to the regional contract. There's some benefits of not going out and having this locked in, especially this year when the inflation was 9% and they could not hit us more than 5% because there was a ceiling set on that. So looking at all the pieces that we have in front of us, we believe that we best serve the town by continuing with a five-year extension on the current contract we have in place. Because the rates, the labor, the fuel, the equipment and everything else is still locked in from 2018. They have their annual rates based on the inflation, but that hasn't been less than two and no more than five. So I think we're still in a good place. I think if you go out, we're going to have to have some numbers we're not going to be able to deal with. That said, I'll take any questions you might have. Seeing no questions from the Board, *Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to extend the Water Utility Operation and Maintenance Contract to Whitewater, Inc. by five years as recommended by the Town Engineer. Carried 5-0.*

Conservation Project Update

Selectman Morin was recognized and said if I may change the order of business a little bit. We had a Conservation Committee meeting the other night we had a discussion in reference to Merrill Park, where Elvis is here. Can he give you an update on that? Chairperson Roy replied, sure. Mr. Dhima said Merrill Park. Selectman Morin said we talked about what you got to do with the state and what's coming moving forward. Mr. Dhima asked are we talking about the boat ramp? Selectman Morin replied, yes, yes. the repair. Mr. Dhima replied, the repair?! I'm sorry. I apologize. Yes. So too many

balls in the air. So, as you well aware, Con Comm. put a \$10,000 towards this project, had to do with rehabbing the existing boat ramp access path to the to the to the river. And we filed with the state. We got some feedback as far as the alteration of terrain permit goes before we do any work. We submitted the second round, so we're hoping to get the permit. The original amount was \$400. Now as I close to \$900, so they got to eat too, I guess, which is okay. We have a contract ready to be executed as far as tree clearing, which is about a, the design we have in place requires about nine or ten trees. We're going to have additional public hearings about this as we get close to construction, but I'm hoping to have the permit by the end of this year and cut the trees this year as well. We will not remove the stumps. This can be done the following year. There's also some discussions about Brox doing some work at their site related to wetland, and part of the project that they're working on is providing or completing projects in town that they can get credit for related to wetlands. So we're looking at a mechanism to see if Brox will help us out, fund the construction piece of this project if possible, or help with the actual material or whatever for that project. Once the permit fee is done. That back up obviously is DPW. I'm sure Mr. Forrence would love to have someone else do that instead of them because they've got plenty to do, but we'll have to see. So that's kind of where we at. We're hoping to get the permit by the end of the year and I'll provide an update to the Conservation. Obviously the Board of Selectmen as well. But once we get that done, I'm hoping to cut the trees this year as well. And then next year, depending on Public Works or how these other pieces work out, we'll try to get that done next year. That's where we at.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said just really simple. You use the term boat ramp, but if I'm correct, it's more of a walk down kayaking ramp. Mr. Dhima replied, I keep saying boat ramp because I keep referring to the Fire Department just walking the boat down there. Not the actual back up into it. It's not. it's really 6 to 8 feet wide. It's a kayak access. It's really when I think of a boat, I don't think like, you know, a motorboat. That's right. I'm thinking more like a you know, for a Fire Department equipment that they can carry. Chairperson Roy said it's a carry in. Mr. Dhima said that's right. That's exactly it. Selectman Gagnon said just so people at home will know. Mr. Dhima replied, yes. There's no yeah, there's none of that. So I'm hoping to get that done.

Mr. Dhima went on to say, now, as you know, there is discussions about what's going on with Hillwood, obviously, and providing funding for a boat ramp at this park. I believe the amount is 1.5 million. I think the Board of Selectmen will have discussed this, depending how that goes, we'll deal with that them. This funding they're talking about, it's a different location. This is an access that one is a full blown out boat launch, as you were referring to earlier. But I don't know where they're at that. We'll have to wait and see how things play out. But there is there is that out there as well. And the spot for that would be Merrill Park.

Chairperson Roy asked okay, so that that put in, has it been redesigned or is it just kind of fixing it and updating it a little bit? Mr. Dhima asked, the one we're working on? To which the Chair replied yes. Mr. Dhima then responded, the one we're working on we simply going to regrade it. We're going to make it a little bit wider than it is right now due to erosion. We're going to make sure there's no erosion damages any further and basically trying to keep it with the same native materials that exist today. And instead of having pressure treated, steps it will be boulders or rocks that can basically not wash away or get damaged. And that's something long term. But as far as the other one, there will be a blown out design. You know, Army Corps of Engineers, all that stuff. So that's kind of where we at with that particular project. Selectman Guessferd asked, we saw a diagram of that before, right? Chairperson Roy replied, yeah. She then asked so anybody else have anything else? Seeing nothing further from the Board Chairperson Roy thanked Mr. Dhima for his update.

E. Proclamation - Small Business Saturday

Chairperson Roy explained, so the next thing on the agenda is a Small Business Saturday proclamation. I think we've done this in the past. I received the email, Mr. Malizia has

added the flyer that went with it and the actual proclamation. So, does anybody have anything about that? Seeing no questions from the Board Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to issue a proclamation recognizing. Saturday, November 26, 2022, as Small Business Saturday in Hudson. Carried 5-0.

F. FY24 Budget Wrap Up

Chairperson Roy recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia who said, so, as you are well aware, we spent two evenings, I believe, last week reviewing the Department Head budget submissions. So there are still some items to wrap up. This is a wrap up session. The reason I say that is because the budget books are due to the Budget Committee on Friday this week. So essentially this is your opportunity to finalize the budget. You've got several documents in front of you. I'll just quickly touch base. Budget summary, default budget, outside the budget requests, and warrant articles. So we'll take them in order.

Budget summary is basically a summarization of where you are right now. You made some modest changes the other evening. You transferred some money between contingency and the community grant program. You also added a couple of thousand dollars to the community grant program. So simply put, this is a recalculation taking that into account.

As we stand right now for the operating budget, you're looking at an operating budget, not including more articles of approximately \$4.88 per thousand. So just to give you that parameter, I believe this year the rate was for \$4.70. So just to give you an idea. Chairperson Roy asked, and that's the total tax rate? The Town Administrator replied, that's for the town. We're only speaking about the town's portion right now, which is what you control. So just to put that into perspective. So what I recommend at this point in time is we take a quick look at the revenue. As part of that, I provided you with some revenue sheets because I didn't know who would bring their book and who wouldn't. So this is the revenue estimate. When I say revenue estimate, this is the monies that offset the tax rate. Motor vehicles, all the money we charge for permits that there's fines, recreation programs, all of that, all of those items are in this revenue. Along with the proposed use of \$600,000 worth of our unassigned fund balance to help level the tax rate. That's a number we have been using for several years now. We used it this year. So that's built in or baked into this revenue number and all the numbers that you, that you saw preceding this have this revenue estimate baked into them. So are there any questions on the revenue? I'm here to answer them. If not, I recommend you approve a Revenue number of \$17,273,931. That's the offsetting revenue to offset the tax rate for the town. Selectman McGrath made this motion, which was seconded by Selectman Guessferd. Carried 5-0.

The Town Administrator went on to say because I'm presuming the Water and the Sewer budgets are acceptable to everyone. In other words, there's really no outside the budget request or a no reason to do anything else with those budgets. I'd recommend that you make a motion to forward the Sewer Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$2,157,003 to the warrant. This motion was made by Selectman Morin and seconded by Selectman McGrath. Carried 5-0.

The Town Administrator then said, and similar for the Water Fund. I recommend that you make a motion to forward the Water Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$4,526,001 to the warrant. This motion was made by Selectman Morin and seconded by Selectman McGrath. Carried 5-0.

We will touch base on the default budget for the Town, depending on what you do with the outside of the budget request. But if I could draw your eyes to the next set of documents, which is the default budget documents, just so you have a sense of where the default budgets are. So if you look at the first sheet, you see the Fiscal '23 budget for each of the three funds. Each of these funds has a separate warrant article. Therefore, there's a separate default budget calculated. If you look at the second column, where it says FY 2024, that is, that will be, barring any changes on the general fund,

that will be the default budget for the various funds. And if you go to the last column, you see the proposed budget \$33,119,228 for the town. If you see the increase decrease, that is the difference between the default budget and the budget that's proposed that you have in front of you. So to put that into perspective, two years ago when we got our first default budget handed to us, we were about \$775,000 difference.

The Town Administrator went on to say last year we were a \$505,000. Now we're \$275,000. We are getting closer because we haven't had anything for two years. So quite frankly, it stands to reason it's going to shrink. It's going to get closer. So the public, when they go vote or the voters when they vote, they'll see two numbers. They'll see the budget number and then they'll see the default budget number. And should they vote no, they get the default. The reason this may not be final is because you may be taking some actions on the outside the budget requests that I think there were a couple of items I heard that were mandated by law and if you choose to do those, I'm going to put them in the default budget. So we're going to just not talk we're not going to deal with the general fund right now, but we can deal with the water and sewer because you've approved those budgets. So I would recommend that you make a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Sewer Fund Default Budget in the amount of \$2,145,341. Selectman Morin made this motion and Selectman McGrath seconded it. Carried 5-0. The Town Administrator then said I would also recommend you make a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Water Fund Default Budget in the amount of \$4,517,958. Selectman Guessferd made this motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath. Carried 5-0.

FY24 Outside the Budget Requests

Okay, so we've done that. Now we're on the Outside the Budget Requests. So this was the outside the budget requests that had been presented to you during the various budget hearings. This summary was already in your budget book, but for ease and convenience, I've pulled it out. It's basically in order, I think, by department number. And you can see that they total, and these are outside the budget requests, they total \$702,827 in their totality; they'd be \$0.14 on the tax rate. So this is for your discussion, at least start the discussion. What do you want to do?

Selectman Morin was recognized and said I know there are a couple of Department Heads that have been doing some work on their outside the budget request. Do we want to hear from them before we take these up to see if there were changes? Selectman Guessferd replied, absolutely. Chairperson Roy replied, yeah. So I know the Fire Chief has worked on. Selectman Morin added and the Public Works has also. Chairperson Roy said so why don't we hear from Public Works first.

Jess Forrence, Public Works Director, came forward and said, thank you. Good evening. You know, with Public Works, the first time I came in, it was trucks, trucks, trucks, trucks. We need to do trucks. We need to do trucks with the Board. Asked for me to go back, talk to the other three makers. They said, Yeah, good luck. We're getting the same thing from Ford there and they had that three-day window that they were talking about to go forward. We got some close numbers from them. They aren't guaranteed whether we do it tonight or Budget Committee, whichever way you do, I would like to put the \$90,000 for the first year's payment into the budget or into a warrant article. When/if it's approved, we can go out to bid. This way we're guaranteed to get to the low price, which we're not we're not sure of right now what manufacturer that might be, but that's a concern to us to have it for after July 1st. And that's discussion. Whatever you guys want to do. The part that hurts is we were looking at discussing, we were putting curbing on certain ones from Mountain View and Pasture were use in the street sweeper. Well, it didn't make it all the way the, the bottom part of the conveyor started acting up. We got it back to the shop. Estimated cost on repairing that is \$35,000 and that is this year. That's not July 1st. That's something we'll have to come up with before spring. Before we start street sweeping from all the sand we put down throughout the winter.

The Public Works Director went on to say, sitting with Mr. Malizia, he pulls his glasses down and asked me, where are you going to get the money? And it's like, I don't know. So I came up with a list of things not only to look for July 1st because I know we're going to be in tough shape, but to look at April 1st, what we can do without, what we can stop doing. And there's a list of them here. I'll go

through park maintenance. There was \$28,000 in that for just the maintenance of the parks, mowing them all through there. I can cut that down to \$9,000. We won't fertilize, we won't shrubs, we won't do a lot of those things. Grounds, chemicals and other ones. \$5,000 will cut it down to \$4,000 because we still do have to do some of the treatment. The other one, the grounds landscape in \$7,000 we'd bring it down to \$5,000. That's \$2,000 total of \$19,360. But we want to start that first part of summer, you know, to look to help with the hurt of not only gas and diesel and salt and all the rest of them that we're going to run into the end of June. So and that'll give a pretty good indication of what the people want come July 1st. March will tell us where we're going if the budget passed, you know, we're kind of happy with everything. But until then, we got to find the money to do this. Everybody says town wide paving. It's going to hurt, town wide paving. You know, we're at a point where we don't want to give up anything. The other option, Bensons bathrooms. close them. That's with Merry Maids and our cost of everything in there is \$12,775. Bring it to \$6,500 and put in four porta potties. Hard life, but that's where it is. The other thing is, you know, goes with it is bathroom supplies. That's \$3,000 a year for the paper goods. So that's what I would like to start. Come April 1st.

Selectman Morin asked, just to clarify, because Chrissy was here the other night, specifically asked if there was no fertilizing for the for the fields. We have a very good rec program she has built up. I'd hate to take that down. That does not include fields? Mr. Forrence replied that does not include ball fields, 9/11 Memorial or the Firemen's Memorial. Selectman Morin then said okay so it includes is town buildings, Library Park, things to that nature? Mr. Forrence replied, correct.

Chairperson Roy asked, so that list, how much total did you just cut? Selectman Guessferd added, from '24 right? From the '24 budget. Chairperson Roy replied, yes. Mr. Forrence replied, \$19,00, \$360, \$6,000 and then \$3,000. I was going to get my calculator but my phone's off. Chairperson Roy said okay, alright. So, so, so let's, let's just back up. So you found 30K that you can cut from your, your budget to support some of your out of budget requests? Mr. Forrence replied, well the big number starts July 1st. You know what I mean? We've already spent most of all that rest of the money. But I will start cutting...Chairperson Roy said okay we're talking about 2024 budget. Yes, this is what we will cut. Chairperson Roy said so you gave us actually a number. I'm not saying it's legitimate of out of legitimate or not, but out of budget requests. That if I did my calculator right total \$388,150. Mr. Forrence replied, no. Selectman Guessferd said the out of budget requests, to which Mr. Forrence replied, oh, I'm sorry. Out of budget, yes, yes. Chairperson Roy went on to say alright, and then the 30K that you just went over would come out of would support some of that some of that? Mr. Forrence replied, going forward.

Chairperson Roy then said what what I think might be a good idea because you have so many of them is that we kind of talk about them a little bit and I get a consensus, I guess, from the Board. For instance, replacement generator. Is that something that we want to entertain as a out of budget request or do we want to? The Town Administrator said so if I may, you started a reserve fund with \$30,000, that's in it right now. Depending, I'm assuming I don't know, there's a warrant out to put another 30K, which could give you 60. The Public Works garage has the oldest generator at this point, so that would be the first one to replace. So I don't see why you couldn't do it out of that fund. That's what the fund is set up for. So if he, if and when he needed to do it, it would come from that fund. So it does not need to go into the budget. Chairperson Roy said that's sort of where I was, but I guess to get a consensus of the Board that we take that out or no? Anybody else have any thoughts on that? Selectman Morin replied, no, cuz that generator's going to die one of these days. We're going to need to make sure we have some money for that. That's all. The Town Administrator added, that's what the capital reserve fund is for. Chairperson Roy replied, right. Selectman Gagnon suggested take it out of the out of budget. Chairperson Roy agreed saying yeah, right. What I'm suggesting is we take it out of the out of budget. The Town Administrator agreed saying you're not adding it to the budget, you're removing it from the list because we'll have money in the fund. Selectman Morin replied, yeah, absolutely. okay.

The Town Administrator said not to jump around too much. But if I'm not mistaken, Mr. Forrence, when Mr. him and Mr. Dhima were talking the storm water VNP that you need to do, I think it says \$20,000 here. That's mandated. Chairperson Roy added as is the contract services for the catch

basin cleaning at \$30,000. I think it was also mandated. The Town Administrator said and for that matter the Robinson Pond design and construction for that part of the storm water permit mandated. Yes. The Town Engineer, who was in the audience, agreed this was correct. The Town Administrator went on to say so basically you have \$105,000 plus another...you have \$125,000. If you were to add those monies to the budget, you're certainly increasing the budget. But they would also increase the default budget, which is why I said defer in doing the default budget. So whether they vote for, whether people vote for the budget or not, it's covered...Selectman Guessferd said it's going, it's going to be in there to be covered. So let's yeah. The Town Administrator went on to say it will have an impact on the tax rate. I'm not going to kid anybody. It does impact the tax rate but it but from a budget perspective, should the budget not pass, that would still be a viable because it will be in the default budget because it's required. Chairperson Roy said because it's required by either some law or regulation. The Town Administrator replied EPA/DES regulation. So because of that, you can justify putting it in the default budget. Chairperson Roy added because the fines will probably be more than? The Town Administrator replied you will be out of compliance and you'll most likely get fined daily.

Chairperson Roy then said so, so those so those, those three things would get added back, get added into the budget and then also become part of the default budget is that my understanding? The Town Administrator replied, that would be, yes, that would happen. So if I look through the motions, if you wanted to do that, you would *motion to move department 5554-221, Public Works equipment rental contract service for catch basing cleaning outside the budget request in the amount of \$30,000 to the FY 24 budget. Selectman Gagnon made this motion and Selectman Morin seconded it. Carried 5-0.*

Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to motion to move to department 5554-406 Public Works drainage construction design to construct storm water VMP's outside the budget request in the amount of \$20,000 to the Fiscal Year 24 budget. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to move department 5585-225 Engineering, engineering fees, Robinson Pond design a construction outside the budget request in the amount of \$75,000 to the Fiscal Year 24 budget. Carried 5-0.

Chairperson Roy said okay, so now I guess we get down to some of the more difficult things. I'm not seeing a lot of options as to the increase in the amount, the cost of road salt. I mean, we live in New England, so I don't know how we manage without road salt, you know?

Selectman Morin asked, is the striping mandatory, too? Mr. Forrence replied, the yellow lines are mandatory. The white lines are just you know, it was like driving up 111 when they didn't have it, even though the white lines would have helped at one point. We watch, like I said earlier, because of the budget restrictions and the cost of the paint going up so much. We'll look at streets. Like I said, this year, we didn't tackle Webster Street, the big, long road that would have cost us money. The lines are okay. There's not a lot of traffic on it. Other streets that we added white lines to, we made sure Wason Road was done to look pretty. Did Bush Hill this year because of what it is. But we cut back on a lot of other streets, Melendy Road and stuff like that that we've done in the past that is still in pretty good shape. So we will do that year after year if we have to.

Selectman Morin then said, so my question, who mandates that that they get painted? Mr. Forrence replied, that is a federal law. It's in the fed manual. Selectman Morin asked can that go in the default budget where it's a mandate? The Town Administrator asked, so it's mandatory? Mr. Forrence replied, it's mandatory that you... there's a mandatory two things. You cut brush on the side of the road so all street signs are visible and you paint yellow lines. Selectman Gagnon said yellow lines? To which Mr. Forrence replied, yellow lines, not white lines. Chairperson Roy said in the middle of the road. Selectman Morin said at least it's something. The Chair added so you know where the middle is. Selectman Guessferd then said so the obvious question is how much of that 70K is for yellow lines? Selectman Morin said oh, we can figure it out. Selectman Gagnon said half. Mr. Forrence said we still, we still have more to do a couple more streets we want to get paved. Selectman Morin

replied, right, no but I'm just looking because it's mandatory and we put that in the default budget? Chairperson Roy then asked and then how much of how much of what you're asking for to Mr. Gagnon's point is is the yellow and then how much is the white? Mr. Forrence replied, well, thank you. Chairperson Roy jokingly said, I know making you all do this all this math. Selectman Gagnon said I'm saying half because two yellow lines in the middle, two white lines on the side. Mr. Forrence replied, right. You know, good, good feature on, on, on what we do, but we, you know, jump from street to street. Some needs only one yellow line, some needs two. Let's go with half you know. Well if you look at it this way there's a two yellow lines in the middle of the road and it's two white lines on either side. Chairperson Roy replied that what his logic was. I don't know what else to say. I could break it down if you wanted something back. Selectman Morin then said well, I'm just trying to see if we can. The Town Administrator said we don't have time. It has to be tonight. So I would think \$35,000 if the Boards, if the Board wants to, you know, put that in and the Board says we believe based on the conversation that's mandated, then we would. Selectman Morin said we could check them. But if we can. The Town Administrator said no, we're going to have to do that tonight.

The Town Administrator then said just to refresh everybody, the default budget is your budget. There are rules or our regulations. You know, you have to be mindful of what you're putting in and what you can and can't put in. The Chairperson said it's mandated. The Town Administrator said if he, if they can point to statute law that says you have to do this, I think you have a good, you have a good argument. Mr. Forrence then said and I think the yellow line falls back on even the police department, where if you don't have a line down the middle of the road and some don't have it, if it's very small or in a neighborhood, anybody can pass anybody. Chairperson Roy said that's a scary thought, to which Mr. Forrence responded, that's a very scary thought. That's why we take care of the big roads the way we do. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to move Department 5552-262 - Public works line striping, line striping and marking funding outside the budget request in the amount of \$35,000 to the FY 24 budget. Carried 5-0.

Chairperson Roy went on to the next out of budget request. Gasoline. Selectman Morin said we got no choice. The Chair replied, that's what I'm thinking. Selectman Guessferd added, gasoline, diesel and road salt in my mind. The Town Administrator then said, I cannot by law put those in the default budget. Just so you're aware those cannot go in the default budget. The Chair replied, I understand. I think the salt one is a safety issue. And then Mr. Forrence has no control over the price of fuel. Selectman Gagnon spoke up saying just one question on salt actually. Have you ever, can you ask can you even do like bulk buys? The Town Administrator and the Chairperson both replied, he does. Mr. Forrence then added, yeah we get state bid. Actually, we get salt less than Litchfield, the people just over there and a lot of different communities because we use so much. So it is a bulk buy on that way. Selectman Gagnon then said we have a bulk buy for Hudson. Can you join with other towns like power aggregation? Mr. Forrence replied, it is. All the surrounding towns as far out as Portsmouth I believe his jumped on the state bid. The state bid comes in and we all jump on the same thing. So it cost us less in fuel than going to Keene or someplace out there. And that's a factor in the cost, not the cost of the salt. Everybody pays the same pretty much it's the fuel costs that they get it on.

Selectman Guessferd said alright so we need to put those into our budget. The Town Administrator replied so if that's what the Board wishes to do, the first motion would be to move Department 5552-304-Public Works Gasoline Increase from \$2.65 to \$3.08 per gallon outside the budget request in the amount of \$10,750 to the FY 2024 budget. Selectman Gagnon made this motion, seconded by Selectman Morin. Carried 5-0.

The Town Administrator then said the second motion would be to move Department 5552-305-Public Works Diesel Increase from \$2.65 to \$4.21 per gallon, outside the budget request in the amount of \$54,600 to the FY 24 budget. Selectman Gagnon made this motion, seconded by Selectman Morin. Carried 5-0.

The Town Administrator then said and a motion to move Department 5552-308 - Public Works Road Salt Increase in per ton price, outside the budget request in the amount of \$118,800 to the FY 24 budget. Selectman Gagnon made this motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd. Carried 5-0.

Mr. Forrence then addressed the Board saying and if I could just for a second, show you five years ago and six years ago, Halloween day/night, we had those terrible storms. Once we get into Tuesday, I think I'm ahead of the game. So we're looking at it that way. Every day we go through closer to April, we're ahead of the game. So I appreciate that. Thank you.

Chairperson Roy continued with Public Works out of budget requests with Plow Blades. Mr. Forrence said that is what it is. You plow snow, you wear blades out. We've gone to carbon blades to try getting them. The Town Administrator spoke up saying, I would tend to think in a budget as large as ours that in contingency or some other account we could cover the \$8,000, we could cover the \$4,000. I'm not trying to be you know, those are modest amounts that I think you can safely not include. Chairperson Roy replied but we can come up with somewhere? To which the Town Administrator replied, we would have to should the need arise, but don't forget we have contingency money and you know when we have vacancies in positions it always gives us a few extra dollars.

Selectman Morin asked, would that be worthwhile if for some reason we have a lean winter and have money left over to buy those at the end in the spring? So we have them for next year? The Town Administrator replied, yeah, of course. Mr. Forrence replied we try doing that at the end of, oh, I don't know, the last day it's going to snow so we're always.... the Town Administrator jokingly said April 1st. Mr. Forrence said the latest snow I had to plow I think it was April 14th. Chairperson Roy said I remember a mother's day storm so there's that. Mr. Forrence went back to Selectman Morin's question replying, so we do that now. We try keeping everything we keep, try keeping the salt shed full, not knowing the last day we're going to plow snow or treat at least treat the roads.

Chairperson Roy went on to the next out of budget request, sander replacement. The Town Administrator said, same thing. I know it seems like a lot, but that's one of those things that. Mr. Forrence said if we need it, we will find it. Chairperson Roy said okay so you're suggesting we don't put that in the budget? The Town Administrator replied, correct.

At this point Selectman Gagnon spoke up saying, Madam Chair, I mean, I had some notes from our budget meeting about potential cuts, so maybe I bring those up later and say, would we consider these cuts to put that in just for the sake of discussion at a later point. That's what I have in front of me here. Just some notes. The Chair asked, okay for that particular line item? Selectman Gagnon replied, no, just just I looked at everything for this department and thought, okay, if he wants to put most of this in, I had the things I would vote yes for and then the things I would try to save money on to somewhat balance it out. We've done a whole lot of different things tonight, but I still have some things to throw out for discussion to potentially reduce if we want to throw in something like the sander.

The Town Administrator then said, conversely, if Mr. Forrence can make that business decision too, he could do it. In other words, if he needed a sander, he might find something in his tires account that he has to go another six months. Mr. Forrence spoke up saying, with the budget we're in right now is so lean. That if wintertime come, I would look at the fertilizer, the looming and stuff like that to take care of something we really need. So that is something I can do right in house. Selectman Gagnon replied, okay. Chairperson Roy asked him okay? To which Selectman Gagnon replied, yeah, for now. I'll bring this up later. The Chair replied, alright, so then we're on to trucks.

Small Equipment - five one-ton trucks. Chairperson Roy said refresh my memory is that sewer and water? The Town Administrator replied we spit it typically between the Public Works general fund and the sewer account and I think drainage. It doesn't all seem to be here because I don't know if you gave me all the numbers, but that's typically what happens. So some of the cost is borne by the sewer because it gets used in the sewer division and that's from the sewer users. But he's talking a pretty good sized number here.

Mr. Forrence said it is. And we all know where vehicles have gone. What hasn't? But the best we have come up with is for the five vehicles for the first year's payment. And we've even kind of got the

interest rate locked down to 4.6%. Who knows how long that'll stay, but about \$90,000 for the five trucks for the first year. And that's completely dressed. That's plows, sanders, everything on them. But I can't guarantee that's what the number is going to be. Chairperson Roy replied, so I just I just want to make sure I understand it. So then the town operating budget portion of that would be \$30,000. Is that my understanding? The Town Administrator replied I'm trying to work that out right now. So I believe you do 50% to streets, 25% to drainage, which both of those are in the town budget and 25% to sewer. So let's see \$22,500 goes to sewer. Chairperson Roy replied, yeah, that's what I don't understand because you were talking about \$90,000, but on our sheet it says \$12,000. The Town Administrator said that's what he had originally. I don't know where the other numbers came from. Mr. Forrence then said 'm sorry, what was the number you had? Selectmen Guessferd, Gagnon and the Chair replied, \$12,000. Selectman Guessferd added, that's on there. I don't understand that. Selectman Morin joked, if you can get that we'll give you a raise.

The Town Administrator then explained, so basically of that, if it's \$90,000, of that \$68,500 hits the general fund, \$22,500 hits the sewer fund. So some of the cost is borne by the sewer. Selectman Guessferd said so it will impact the sewer budget as well. To which the Town Administrator replied it impacts the sewer budget, it will not impact the rate, but we'd have to revisit the sewer number. Chairperson Roy asked, okay, so I guess how much would we have to add? What's the dollar amount? The Town Administrator responded, so you're basically adding \$90,000 of which of which \$45,000 of it goes to 5552-403. Then you're putting \$22,500 in 5554-403 and you're putting \$22,500 into 5562-403. Now they're just splitting it up half a quarter and a quarter. I know that was quick. So sorry. I don't do math well, so...the Town Administrator replied, I just did it in my head. To which the Chair jokingly replied, don't ever ask me to do that. We will not like the results. All right, so what do we want to do? Mr. Forrence jokingly said I'll gladly make a motion to transfer Elvis' money and if the Fire Chief wasn't still here, I'd take his grant money anyway. (the room erupted in laughter).

Selectman Morin asked, can you get away with less? Chairperson Roy added that's sort of what I was thinking. Can you get do, like, three? Mr. Forrence replied, no. You know, and I'm replacing the truck that I drive. When I when I took the position, it was the road agent's old truck. I took it. It needed help. It's plowed its entire life and so forth. Can we go to four? Yes, I could go to four. Reluctantly. Absolutely. I come to the Board I tell them what we need and to make everything so it works. Not only summer, but winter. The Chair said, so my question will be, because I think it's where we need to focus is where will that impact on things like road safety? Mr. Forrence replied, all our one tons have sanders on them. Their task through the snowstorms, because that's everything to us, their task is to do dead ends, to cul-de-sacs, do the big intersections. The big trucks, the six wheelers just keep on going. We have a truck go down, which is very likely it happens another time, whether it's I don't care if it's a fan belt, I don't care if it's a windshield wiper motor. We take one of those trucks off of dead end street or a cul-de-sac, or don't send them to the library right away, and jump on to that plow route to continue plowing while this truck is down. Hopefully, we don't have to tow it back. And hopefully if it's in the middle of the night when we do. So every truck is important to us by far. Every truck is important to us.

The Town Administrator informed the Board, four vehicles is \$72,000. In other words, it's \$18,000 each for payment in the first year, which means \$36,000 would go to our streets, \$18,000 would go to drainage and the other \$18,000 would go to the sewer. So you lessened it somewhat. But that's the split. If you did four. The Chair asked, is that what you want to do? Selectman Guessferd said I say four. I hate to do it. I really do. Mr. Forrence said that means my butt stays in a bumpy old truck for another year. The Town Administrator joked, you're a bumpy old man. We'll give you padding. Selectman Guessferd said you can join my grumpy old man club. The Town Administrator said if the Board wants to do it, that *motion would be to move to Department 5552-403 \$36,000, Department 5554-403 \$18,000 into the sewer fund and Department 5562-403 \$18,000. Selectman Morin made this motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon. Carried 5-0.*

Selectman Morin jokingly said I know where you can get a silver F-150. Chief Tice laughed and said you might have to remove some decals. Mr. Forrence then said you know, the people. The people we talk to on trucks, a number of them said, Yeah, we have this in stock, but it's red. We have this in

stock. We have two coming in it's black. You know, whatever, whatever it is, we have white trucks. But if that was a deterring fact that we would take out a can of spray paint some day and make it white. But I think we'll be okay going forward. Thank you.

Chairperson Roy said okay we're onto the hiring an associate planner. The Town Administrator explained, so I believe you had a discussion about this the other evening. Selectman McGrath interjected saying, I thought it was supposed to be a shared position between Zoning and Planning. The Town Administrator replied so there'll be some synergy or some work together because they are two different disciplines. Brian and Bruce prepared a little memo for everybody. Selectman McGrath replied, oh swell. The Executive Assistant handed out a memo from the Town Planner and Zoning Administrator. Selectman McGrath then said, I think we should have a discussion in public about this, to which the Chairperson asked why? How will we? Selectman McGrath replied, well, I'm just saying that..

Selectman Morin asked, we have what, a total of seven positions? A total of seven positions. Four from fire, one from police, associate, and then depending on the part timer for the zoning administrator. Chairperson Roy replied, because right now that's under contract. The Chair then said to Selectman McGrath so I honestly don't...Selectman McGrath replied, so if you don't want to go into non-public, I'm not going to participate in this discussion because there's a reason why I can't support this. Chairperson Roy replied, well, I guess, how does, how does that fall in in any of our options to go into non-public. Selectman Gagnon said I'll look. The Town Administrator said I'm presuming it would be a reputation of a person. Chairperson Roy asked, so do we, do we want to do that now? Do we want to go into nonpublic now and have this discussion and then reconvene? Selectman McGrath replied well, either that or we can take up the other items and then go back to this. Because if the Police Department is here for something, there's no point in keeping them here to have a and it's not going to be a long discussion, but it could be. The Town Administrator replied the police doesn't have anything on the outside the budget request. They had a warrant article, which we haven't gotten to yet. Chairperson Roy asked Selectman McGrath do you want to include in that discussion the the next item on the out of budget request too? The NRPC part time code enforcement assistance? Selectman McGrath replied, yes. Chairperson Roy replied, okay.

So then we'll move on to the transfer station, the scale house design.

Selectman Gagnon then said and Madam Chair, if I may, to give some context this discussion, just to read off some examples to make sure we know are going into nonpublic for: all discussions held and dismissed this, only the following matters can be considered for nonpublic dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or disciplining, an investigation to charges, the hiring of any person as a public employee, matters which discussed would likely affect or adversely affect a reputation. The Town Administrator said that's it. Selectman Gagnon asked, would that one fit? Selectman Guessferd said that's the one right there. Selectman Gagnon then said all right, that's gonna be RSA 91-A:3 II (C). Chairperson Roy thanked Selectman Gagnon to which he replied, you're welcome.

The Chair continued with the out of budget request for the transfer station scale house design. The \$50,000. Town Engineer Elvis Dhima came forward saying I understand the long term. Mr. Dhima said I'm here to take any questions you might have related to this item and so will Jess. Mr. Forrence. He's hiding. Chairperson Roy then said I'm struggling with stuff like this. Like I understand the long term benefit of it. But, but this year, I'm struggling with this one. Somebody convinced me.

Selectman Gagnon said I'm pretty for it right now. Strictly on the matter that it's stepping up in the direction of making revenues which, which is a huge goal. So I guess the question, the only criticism or question I would have is if we didn't get that money this year. You guys are you guys have done a lot of momentum in upgrading the transfer station. You have some really great ideas that I'm all about, about turning it around, making them more environmentally friendly, making it revenue producing. You don't get this \$50,000 this year, is that drastic going to set you back in the momentum

that you've built so far? Mr. Dhima replied, yeah, I mean, there's two pieces to it. You lose a year, obviously. And then the other piece is obviously everything gets more expensive and then the supply chain, I don't know, we don't know which way it's going to go. All we hear that it's getting harder and harder to get things and scales are not any different. So that's my biggest concern. The one thing we know for a fact is that we started this transfer station project at \$550,000 and we know that we ended up at about 800 and \$900,000. So we know that much and that was only a year apart. So that that is the biggest challenge. But I think one thing that the Board can consider if you choose not to go this way, might be if the board decides to bring the group back and maybe put this in the ARPA project list, it is infrastructure related, it is something to that. Selectman Guessferd said we're saving money somewhere else we already know that. Chairperson Roy replied, right, that's what that's what I was just discussing with him.

Mr. Dhima replied, I know I'll be in favor of that. And I know Mr. Forrence will too, but I think that could be a Plan B if the Board chooses to do so. Selectman Guessferd said use that money for that purpose, to which the Chairperson replied, right because we're not going to use that \$475,000 at least. Mr. Dhima replied, at least. Right. Selectman Gagnon said okay. I like that idea. I'm on board. Selectman Morin was recognized and said I just got a question. If we put this engineering and get this plan, it's considered shovel ready, correct? Mr. Dhima replied, correct. Selectman Morin then asked, would that open us up to grants or federal funds to do this project? Mr. Dhima replied yes. That is one of the reasons why the bridge project got the funds moved into the next year because it's considered shovel ready. And that was the town objective. When we started this thing in 2018. We didn't want to pay for that. We didn't want to pay for this our own pocket. But the state had no funds. So we said, We'll get this done. There's a lot of money coming in and it worked out exactly as we planned, this particular one. As the previous fire chief would say, even a blind squirrel gets a nut once in a while. And this was one of those. But yeah, you're absolutely right. Selectman Morin reiterated, so it would be it would open us up to funding, to which Mr. Dhima replied, yes, there's a lot of money coming in from all directions. We don't know. We got, I got an email today, for example, for some other funds that are available. So, yes, it's one of those. But if this becomes through ARPA, we can get access to this right away. On the design. We don't have to wait until June so you got that on the other hand. If the Committee comes together and they reshuffle everything and this is considered one of those projects needs to be done, you can actually get the design, put it on the shelf and see. Selectman Morin replied, and I tell you what with the response you're getting from the new the new setup up there, it's probably, citizens will support it because it's a heck of a lot better and that will just add to it.

Chairperson Roy asked, so do we want to move this to the ARPA Committee or do we want to leave it in the budget? Selectman Morin replied I'd like to move it to the ARPA Committee. The Chair replied, I'm not opposed to that. Yeah. Selectman Guessferd agreed saying another source. Yeah. Mr. Dhima jokingly said as long as it makes it on top list. We can probably get it in but it won't be on the top five. (laughter) but we'll see, we'll see it, we'll see how that goes.

Mr. Forrence jokingly said I nominate myself and Elvis to the ARPA. He went on to say, this is a big like I said, big nut going forward, but I think it's something the town has to do. Pinard was in today, Tony, from Pinard, talking about getting some recycle barrels up to Sheppard's Hill. And on the wall I had the picture of the transfer station that I brought to the open mic night that we had there with the school, and he was looking at it and he says, you know, he says it's a good possibility, a year or so, we could help you fund this. And they would be looking for a long term contract on dumping. You know what I mean? So that's something to sit down and just talk about in a year. See what they want to do. And that would probably help out quite a bit. So there's options opening, but we just got to get out on the road a little bit to see what's best for the town. Chairperson Roy replied, okay, great. So we'll move it to the to the reshuffle of the ARPA, which again, it's on next week's agenda. Ms. Labrie asked, this is for the transfer station? To which the Chair replied, yeah. Mr. Dhima said I'll be there for that one, I guess.

The Town Administrator then said well, what would end up happening is if I'm presuming you'd want to reconstitute or reform the Committee. So that would be a project the Committee would consider.

Chairperson Roy replied, right. But I'd like to see for the whole Board to see where exactly we're at. And so how much can we open it up or not? Selectman Guessferd said considering the money we just got the bridges. To which the Chair replied, right. Right. So and then what we haven't spent and what we've overspent, what's cost more that we didn't anticipate all of that so that we have a good overview of where we are with ARPA money now and then reconvene the committee and take it from there.

Mr. Dhima then said and in November, very soon we're going to get the bid coming in for Lowell Road and First Brook. So we will know what the cost of the construction of that third project is we're working on. So we have a cost for the design already done. We're under budget on that one. We put \$650,000 for the construction piece of Lowell Road bridge, but our estimate right now came at \$450,000-\$480,000, so we might be having a bit of money there as well. So we'll see what the numbers comes in, but we'll have a better idea to where that's at very soon, within a couple of weeks or so when the bids are in. So we're going to have that locked in as well. Chairperson Roy replied, all right. Thank you.

Chairperson Roy then said so our final out of budget request is three staff vehicles for the Fire Department. He did send me some updated numbers. Chief Tice came forward and said good evening again. So after after our discussion the other night, we went back, we really took a look at what we were trying to accomplish with our vehicle replacements, what we, what we really needed. And we contacted Ford because my concern was the lack of availability of a Ford Explorer. And what they explained is the police interceptor package, Ford Explorer is what's not available currently. That's really you know, we looked at what we needed. We don't really need the police interceptor package. We can get by with a kind of consumer off the lot normal explorer, which they indicated they didn't think was going to be an issue on availability. So we were able to revise our numbers, so we were able to reduce the cost of the vehicle by \$3,159. We also took a look at the what were we doing for a fit up with the vehicle. We can go with something a lot simpler than what we were looking at and try to reuse some of the equipment of the vehicles we would be replacing. So we were able to cut that by \$8,434 dollars. We were factoring in potential 10% inflation. We cut that to a potential 5% inflation. And I neglected to factor in also the potential trade and value of the vehicles we were getting rid of. I discussed trade in value, but we didn't factor that in. So that dropped our original request by \$68,940.05 to \$122,006 4805 over the course of five years, so dropped our annual lease payment \$15,832.04. So that would leave us with an annual lease payment of \$30,490.35. Chairperson Roy asked, so that becomes your new out of budget request? To which Chief Tice replied, yes.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said as I hinted that last time, too, for the sake of discussion asking you, you said two vehicles are at 90,000, 95,000. One was at 60,000 miles. If I asked you, what would the cost be for just two vehicles? I don't know if I can support replacing a 60,000-mile vehicle unless you show me pictures of serious rust damage. I would tend to throw that out for the discussion. Chief Tice replied, I would say that would be because all the vehicles were quoted the same price. It would be \$20,000...roughly \$20,000. When we look at some quick math, because it would be. Selectman Gagnon said you have three vehicles at approximately \$30,000 estimate? Chief Tice replied yeah, probably because we'd only be trading in two vehicles. So it would be about that. Selectman Guessferd asked what would that do to you operationally? Chief Tice replied, operationally depending upon I mean going by the mileage and not by the years we took care of that vehicle. Hopefully it would make it the five years. My goal is to get all the vehicles more on a replacement schedule. So we're not; right now we're paying a lot of lease purchase payments because we were behind on all our upper all our apparatus. So I'm trying to get to a point where I can space them out a little more so we're not making so many payments. So my goal is to not replace another vehicle for five years. So the five years that we're paying on these that my hope so my hope would be that it would last another five years or really six years from now.

Selectman Gagnon asked do you know how many miles you put on these? The 60,000-mile vehicle? How many miles? I don't know who that runs that vehicle. How many that? Chief Tice replied, I'm actually surprised that that one so low on miles, I know Deputy O'Brien had that vehicle for several

years and didn't travel as much, whereas the Explorer that Chief Buxton had is several years newer and has 35,000 more miles on it. So it just was the amount of use. So if we needed to take care of, take care of that vehicle and make it last longer, we could monitor the mileage on the vehicles or rotate them around if needed. If we had somebody driving more miles and somebody else.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said I was just going to say they can take whatever car that they don't treat in and give it to somebody that's not going to be driving as much and save it. And my biggest concern, I talked to the Chief today to make sure that there was a second command car just in case something happens and they're going to have that. Selectman Guessferd said so two could work. Chief Tice replied yeah.

The Chairperson asked, all right, so what does the Board want to do? Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve \$20,490 for the out of budget expense for two vehicles out of Department 5730-404 Department Fire for truck replacement of two vehicles. Carried 5-0.

The Town Administrator said to the Chairperson, if you wanted to take a brief nonpublic you'd have to entertain a motion to go into nonpublic under 91-A:3 II (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. Selectman Morin made this motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

The Board went into nonpublic session at 8:47p.m. The public was asked to leave the room.

The Board reentered public session at 9:07p.m.

Chairperson Roy said we will continue our discussion on out of budget requests, particularly to hire an associate planner. Is the first one. And then to contract with NRC for a part time code enforcement assistant. So let's start with the associate planner. What is the will of the Board?

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said thank you, Madam Chair. Out of a lot of discussion, I'm still seeing the value in adding a full time position here. I would probably not support the part time position below it to save a little bit of out of budget additional expense. I just think with the master planning, the visioning sessions, you know, trying to get our ordinances, our zoning in line, really taking a future stance about the way Hudson should be shaped and move and input from our residents is a very, very high priority, I believe, from what townspeople have said and I personally believe is very important. I see this role, even if it is split 50/50 or somewhere thereof, between zoning and planning to allow us to have better code enforcement as well. I still see that being a very high priority, and I'm always biased to future minded positions and future minded actions, and I think this is one. So I really strongly think I'm going to vote for this full time associate planner, against the part time code enforcement, assuming they will share. And then that's going to lead me into some thoughts about the warrant article as far as adding headcounts to other departments as well.

Chairperson Roy asked, anybody else? Selectman McGrath said I am not going to support this under any circumstances.

Selectman Morin asked the Town Administrator, can you just explain that it's already a position? The Town Administrator explained, so the position is a position that's been authorized but not funded by the town for some number of years. So in the roster of positions, this was always a position. There just has not been any funding applied to that position. What you'd be doing effectively is adding funding to the budget for that already authorized position.

Chairperson Roy said I still don't know. Mr. Guessferd do you have any thoughts? Selectman Guessferd replied, I think. I think I'm in, I'm in favor of. I really understand what you're saying. And I'm really concerned about. About a lot of different things, but. But I'm kind of landing in the same place as Selectman Gagnon in terms of if we hire the associate planner or we hire one and fund it, then that shifts the ability for us to get some zoning enforcement done by having this person also handle some of the administrative aspects of zoning. And you know I do, I understand. But I on the other side, I do understand the fact that, you know. You know, the gap widens between default and our budget. And the only thing there is, again, I think citizens need to make decisions. And if they if we put this in. They're going to need to understand that if they if we go back to a default budget, this doesn't happen just like a lot of the other things don't happen as well. There is a consequence to that action. And but, you know, I do see that we would have the work to be able to be able to give that person a, you know, gainfully employ them, put it that way. Just that's where I'm that's where I'm that's where I'm landing. It's not an easy it's not an easy one. It's not cut and dried for sure for sure. But maybe we put it in the hands of the citizens to decide, but we don't. Because one of the other things that we're also talking about is positions, which we're going to talk about soon. And if we change this over to something different, it's just going to be one more thing. I mean, maybe maybe it is. And I think no matter what we do, the citizens will have to decide, you know, when they vote and stuff. We just don't want we don't want our citizens to just throw up their hands and say no, which is what they've done in the last two years. So that's the other side of it. I can be convinced.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said at this time we only have eight warrant articles. Should we throw this on a warrant article? Chairperson Roy replied, so we do but I think I could find that piece of paper because I have all these papers. Three of them are three warrant articles are related to positions. Selectman Morin asked, have we got anything from the zoning yet? Chairperson Roy said that's an out of budget request. Selectman Guessferd said I'm pretty sure there will be a few I just don't know what they are. The Town Administrator said so we don't know, there's the operating budget for the water, general fund, and sewer. So that's three. Presumably we'll have two contracts, labor contracts; that that adds up. Rumor has it that we may have to forward something to reaffirm our optional veterans tax credit. I think something in the law is going to necessitate us doing something not moneyed, but an article. But we don't know. We could have one, two, four, six zoning articles. That's not monetary. Right now you have the monetary list, but you have to include the three budgets if they all have an article and possibly or probably two labor contracts. That's what we've got. And don't forget, citizens can petition through January 10th.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to move Department 5571-100 Planning, Salaries and Benefits Hire Associate Planner, outside the budget request, in the amount of \$113,351 to the FY24 budget. Selectman McGrath was recognized and said so is that going to eliminate the position that we currently have for the part time help from NRPC? The Town Administrator replied, I would presume we would not need that. Chairperson Roy agreed saying, right. Selectman McGrath then said, I would presume so too. I just wanted to make sure. I'm not voting for this but... Selectman Morin said I think he said that. The Town Administrator added, that would be the expectation. Chairperson Roy added, if I remember correctly, in the area of \$30-40,000 per year? To which the Town Administrator replied, up to. Yes. Seeing no further discussion, the Chairperson took the vote. Carried 4-1, Selectman McGrath opposed.

The Chairperson then said the last one is the NRPC part time code enforcement. But I think we've wrapped that up into the into the higher associate planner. So we're all done with that today.

The Town Administrator then said so I'm going to give you a number and I think the Finance Director might be calculating another number whilst I'm giving you the number. If you could figure out what we did for the budget. The Finance Director replied, so the total, including the \$2,000 from the other night is \$551,991.00 The Town Administrator then asked, so can you, do you have a bottom line for the general fund? Can you tell? Ms. Labrie replied, general fund is \$533,991. The Town Administrator replied, no I mean the total. Selectman Guessferd added the total dollar amount. The Town Administrator said we were at 33 million something. Ms. Labrie said this is 32,491,341 ahhh, 967. This is on the roll up page.

The Town Administrator replied, yeah. That doesn't sound right though. Ms. Labrie said this probably doesn't include the warrants. So this is the increases. The Town Administrator explained how to find the total. After a moment Ms. Labrie said \$33,651,219. The Town Administrator said sounds about right. Without a calculator.

Selectman Guessferd said isn't that 800K? Chairperson Roy replied, no. The Town Administrator said you were at \$33,119 so you added about half a million. Ms. Labrie said you added \$533,991.

The Town Administrator then said now, don't forget some of that, and I'll give you the default. But for now that's the General Fund Budget. Chairperson Roy asked and we'll adjust the default budget based on? The Town Administrator replied, I have the budget number after you vote. That's the number as it stands. I think you said, I don't know if anybody had anything else, but that's the number as it stands. I think he (Selectman Gagnon) did. But he talked when Mr. Forrence, when you came and talked about the highway stuff.

Selectman Gagnon replied, oh yes, sorry. I had a note to myself and I lost it. Not that...this is a lot of tough discussions tonight. And I do understand we're trying to be delicate, but we talked a little bit about what was required by law. Not that this is per se, but the right to know stuff. And we had discussions before about a server which would be, I believe, not a physical server, but instead a cloud based subscription type cost. And again, although it isn't the law requiring us to do it, it's pretty consistent with with most towns or cities our size, it's going to help us reduce liability. And if it approximately costs us, I think I think annually is about \$12,000 for subscription. And just remind you the Right to Know law suit that we had cost about \$40,000. So if \$12,000 a year lowers our liability from getting hit with a lawsuit again for 40K or more, it starts to balance itself out. So I want to put the discussion out there to consider a \$12,000 or approximately that amount to be added to the IT budget for that subscription for an email archiving server.

Selectman McGrath asked say that again, what's the amount? Selectman Gagnon replied, I believe the IT Director says about \$12,000 is a subscription per year. Selectman McGrath replied, so that's per year?

Chairperson Roy said I just and I know it's the last night, but I just I thought that it was like \$12,500 for the first year and then like a \$2,500-year subscription. Selectman Morin said right that's what I remember hearing too. Chairperson Roy said so it would be like \$15,000 this year and then it would be \$2,500 going forward. Right. Selectman Guessferd said because it was an upfront investment, yeah. Selectman Gagnon replied, right. That starts to ring a bell. Thank you for that clarification. Selectman Guessferd said but this year would be the \$12,000. Chairperson Roy said well it will it be 15,000 because \$12,500 plus the subscription costs. So it would be, if I'm doing the math right, which you should never trust me. I think it's \$15,000 for this year. And then going forward it'd be \$2,500. Yes, that was my understanding of what Mr. Beike had had indicated.

Selectman Gagnon then said I can if we have the sake of discussion tonight, if we approve it or not, I can certainly talk with them about the exact number, but that is the intent. Chairperson Roy said yeah, I would support that because I agree that there would be a reduction in our liability. It would help us be more transparent, you know, just because stuff is easy to find and, you know. Selectman Gagnon replied and it puts us on par with with almost everybody. It's pretty normal. Chairperson Roy added, communities of our size. Selectman McGrath asked, what were the communities again? Selectman Gagnon replied, so I know Nashua has it. Selectman McGrath replied, that's a city. Selectman Gagnon went on to say yeah but I mean we're we're still pretty good size. I mean a lot of the larger cities it's pretty normal practice to have it. The discussion I had with Mr. Beike is he wasn't going to look into it until we made a vote on it. And we've discussed it. We never really made a vote on it to authorize him to look into more research. But he did talk to Nashua. The gentleman on the Right to Know Committee was a he used to work for towns in Massachusetts, so he had input for other towns that this is pretty normal practice as well. Selectman McGrath asked, and who was that? To which Selectman Gagnon replied, Mr. Dubuc. Chairperson Roy added it was Mr. Dubuc cuz I watched that meeting. Selectman Gagnon went on to say he was, he worked for town IT. So he had

a lot of input about, about this being pretty normal and professional world. It's absolutely bottom line normal.

Chairperson Roy then said I just think again, it would, it would help us prevent some possible liabilities there. We we could be more transparent. You know, there wouldn't be an issue because I'm running into it right now that you have a size and it wouldn't matter that you have a certain size on your mailbox because it would be archived. So once I delete it, it's still somewhere if somebody needs it. You know. Selectman Gagnon replied, it could be noted that it's actually more efficient, too, because someone like Mr. Beike could go in, just search, get the stuff and it's done rather than, you know. Jill, can you please give me your email and Mr. Dhima, please give me your email. And having these employees take their time and their paid time to go dig through their stuff and collect all of it, IT could do a quick search and be done within minutes. Selectman McGrath then asked, so is this the lawsuit that the town had to settle on and pay out money to.... Chairperson Roy said no, this is the lawsuit that that form the Right to Know Committee. that was part of the settlement. Selectman McGrath replied so that was part of the settlement. So there was a settlement fee that was paid. Chairperson Roy replied, I don't believe they paid out money. The Town Administrator said we got paid. we got money. Selectman McGrath asked, we did? Chairperson Roy replied, yeah, I believe...Selectman Guessferd interjected saying and we got \$40,000. The Town Administrator added we got \$40,000 and as part of the language we agreed, the Board agreed, to do a right to know committee and whatnot. But we didn't pay. Selectman Guessferd added we got our legal fees back. The Town Administrator continued saying, we had legal fees incurred and we recovered those legal fees from the.... Selectman Gagnon said we got lucky this time, but. Selectman McGrath said I guess I'll have to ask my questions later.

The Town Administrator then said when you say this year, are you talking this fiscal year? Are you talking next fiscal year? Selectman Guessferd said added to the budget. Selectman Gagnon said added yeah add it to the '24 budget. The Town Administrator then said so this wouldn't start till after July. Chairperson Roy replied, correct, right. The Town Administrator replied just to make sure everybody's clear on that, because I hear this year and it makes me, which year are you talking about?

Chairperson Roy asked anybody else have anything? So I don't know what the line item is for? The Town Administrator said 5330 is the department. Chairperson Roy said I think this would be a general IT wouldn't it? The Town Administrator replied yeah, 5330 is IT but I just have to figure out I'm assuming it's software? The Chairperson replied, I think it's hardware and software. Selectman Gagnon replied, first year hardware and then software. The Town Administrator replied the simplest thing is 5330-412. It's a very simple. Ms. Labrie asked and how much are we adding? The Chairperson replied 15,000. I would say 15,000. The Town Administrator said somebody would need to make a motion. Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to add \$15,000 to line 5330-412 for the fiscal year 2024. The Chair asked Selectman McGrath, do you have a question? Selectman McGrath replied, no, I'm going to abstain because I'm not I'm not convinced. Carried 4-0-1, Selectman McGrath abstained.

The Town Administrator then addressed the Board saying, so now your number, if you're counting, is 33,666,219. That's where you stand right now. As far as the general fund operating budget, \$33,666,219.

Chairperson Roy said so I think that finishes our out of budget requests. The Town Administrator said so if that's the case and if you're done, you'd entertain a motion to forward the Fiscal Year 2024 General Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$33,666,219 to the warrant. Selectman Morin made this motion. It was seconded by Selectman Guessferd. Carried 4-1. Selectman McGrath opposed.

The Town Administrator then said I would also look for a motion to forward the Fiscal Year 2024 General Fund Default Budget in the amount of \$33,004,067. Selectman Morin made this motion and Selectman Gagnon seconded it. Carried 4-1. Selectman McGrath opposed.

Warrant Articles

The Town Administrator explained, so now you have warrant articles. That's the last section that I prepared for you. This is a list of the warrant articles that have been submitted through the various departments. And basically, they're organized by hiring, then by funding for capital reserve funds, with the final one being the consideration of the town clerk/tax collector. So I recommend you walk through each one and determine what you want to do. I will say this you are not; you don't have to do all of them or any of them tonight. You have time. You had to do the operating budget. But warrant articles in theory, you still have time to do. What does that mean? You could still receive warrant articles, as you will for the two contracts so you can still forward those on to the Budget Committee. Obviously you don't want to wait till the last minute. I would recommend you do things if you can sooner rather than later. But I'm just, you don't have the same urgency that you had on the operating budget. I know for one fact here, unless the Chief has something the firefighter one doesn't have any dollar figures associated with at this point in time, unless something changed. Chairperson Roy said for this fiscal year. Chief Tice, from the audience said, we haven't seen that grant information come through yet. The Town Administrator went on to say, so you would probably be hard pressed to forward something that you don't have all the data on at this point in time. Doesn't mean you can't do it down the road. It just means I would probably recommend that you don't do it without information.

Chairperson Roy asked Chief Tice, so I guess in the spirit of efficiency, are you prepared to for this to go forward tonight or no? The Town Administrator replied, he doesn't have the numbers. Chief Tice replied, no I am not. Chairperson Roy then said so we can we can take this one off. Do you know when you'll get numbers? Chief Tice replied we're kind of at the mercy of the federal government. Selectman Guessferd asked, this is the, is four firefighters? Chairperson Roy replied, this is a grant.

Selectman Gagnon said Madam Chair, before we go forward, I just want to clarify how this process works. I believe maybe it was just myself was misunderstood last year. But should we take two votes on each warrant article? One to say if we push it to the warrant or not, and the second vote to say how we, if we support it or not, I know some people can say I'll push it to the voters to have them vote, but I don't support it. So should we take two votes per warrant article?

The Town Administrator replied, it's your warrant. So if you're supporting things as a body that you don't that you don't support, why are you doing that? Chairperson Roy then said no, no. But but I think what his point is, if we, for instance...The Town Administrator said don't forward. Chairperson Roy continued saying no, we forward it, but it's a vote, say 3 to 2. Right? And one person says...The Town Administrator said well, three to two is recommend. Chairperson Roy replied, well no, no. That's to forward it and then that doesn't necessarily mean... I might want the voters to decide. That doesn't necessarily mean I would recommend it. Selectman Guessferd said it's unusual that we would usually... I don't think I've ever seen that happen before. Chairperson Roy replied, right. Selectman Guessferd continued saying, it's our warrant articles, we certainly could do that. And we've got to make sure the message is clear to the voter if we do that. Chairperson Roy replied, but well only one thing appears and that's the recommended portion. Selectman Morin said, but why would we recommend if we didn't want it to go forward? The Town Administrator said not recommended 1-4. Why would you do that? Selectman Morin said why would we recommend to move it forward if we don't agree with it? Selectman Guessferd said we're going to kick the can down the road, voter. The Town Administrator said, it's your warrant is what I'm trying to tell you. Chairperson Roy then said well, no, no. I do see it as two different things. I might say that I want to push something and let the voters decide. But I don't personally, you know, I don't agree. Selectman Morin said well in theory we should just say yes to all of them and let them decide. There should be no...I mean. The Administrator explained, but that's what your, part of responsibility, is to decide. Selectman Morin said exactly let them decide. Selectman Guessferd then said, on the other side of that... Chairperson Roy said I see it as two different issues, but sure.

Selectman Guessferd replied, and I understand the two different issues, but without a vote is what you're saying, that we don't even vote on the second piece. So in other words, we vote to push it forward. But then the vote is 1 to 4 against, right? Is that what you're saying? So what would be that?

What would be that theoretical warrant? How would it look? Chair so I think it would be individual Board members. And so we'll take the four firefighters. Right? I may say, well, let the voters decide, but then I might say, well, from a sort of fiscal standpoint going forward, I understand that, that I wouldn't want to support it. So I wouldn't necessarily recommend it. You know? Selectman Morin asked, so you're looking to do like the Budget Committee does, is that what you're saying? Because that's what they do. Chairperson Roy said honestly, it's more...The Town Administrator said because it's your warrant. It's not their warrant.

Selectman Morin said no, I understand that. The Town Administrator said that's the difference. Selectman Morin said that's what she's saying. Chairperson Roy said honestly in my head that's more logical to me. Selectman Morin said but again, if you're forwarding it then... Chairperson Roy said well I wouldn't necessarily recommend that we forward everything. I mean, if there was... Selectman Morin replied, but if we if we all said yes, but if we say no and don't forward it, that shows that we're not in favor of it because we don't want it to go forward. Selectman Guessferd then said I mean, it's almost a self-fulfilling prophecy, I'll say. So if we forward something and then I would assume that we would also say how we voted on it to the voter or not. The Chair replied, I would presume. Selectman Guessferd continued saying, so it's on the ballot, as you know, whatever it is, and it says not recommended by, not recommended by the Selectmen 2 to 3 or whatever. That's what it would say, right? The Chair replied, possibly, yes. Selectman Morin asked, so why is it there that. Selectman Guessferd went on to say well and the problem I have, the problem I have there is, is that so many of those voters are going to be looking, look at these they don't they don't do a lot of research themselves, right? So they're going to vote no because they say, oh, the Selectmen didn't want it. Selectman Gagnon replied, not always. Not always a lot of times. Selectman Guessferd continued saying, it's it's going to be most of the time. I mean, you're talking about some of your conservation articles. But but the point is, I mean, sure. I mean, we could do it, but I could the majority of the people, most of the time, are going to say, why should I vote for it, especially in this environment where we have you know, there's a lot of pressure to.

Selectman Gagnon then said we don't have to do it for everything. It just gives us the option, if we have one, that we're torn on. If not, if they're cleared all, if we don't agree with it don't put it to warrant. Selectman Morin replied if you're torn on it, vote no. Selectman Guessferd said we're going to have to vote on one way or the other. I mean, again, if you want to do that, fine, we'll do it. But I'm just not sure. I'm not sure I'm sold on it either. Chairperson Roy replied, okay. Well, I guess what's the will of the Board? I'm only one person. The Town Administrator then said so devil's advocate, when you get petitions, clearly those are ones that come from outside of the body. The body would not, you didn't sponsor it. You would vote yes or no. Or here's another scenario. Go to Deliberative Session. Somebody says, let's put another \$100,000 in there and then you reconvene at the end and say, no, we're not we're not recommending that. We had our article. You've changed our article. Selectman Gagnon interjected saying there are articles that have... the Town Administrator continued saying, these are your articles is all I'm trying. I know I keep saying the same thing. These are your articles that if you don't support it in the first place, why are you forwarding it? Selectman Morin said why vote for them? Selectman Gagnon then said because maybe I want to see, you know, see if I'm in touch with the voters. Maybe I say, look, I don't think it's, I don't agree with it, but let's see what the voters think. And if they they don't pass it, then maybe I was right. Selectman Morin replied but you are. If you forward it and they don't pass it, then, you know. The Town Administrator then went on to say the other thing is, too, if you forward things that you don't want to do or don't believe in, why are you clogging up and making a lengthier warrant? Selectman Gagnon replied, yeah I guess I'm not saying it for everything. I don't see it being an argument for everything, but just having the ability to have that as an option. But again, if we only take one vote, so be it. Just want to put it out there and ask. Chairperson Roy replied, okay, all right, let's move on.

Does the School take one vote? Selectman Guessferd replied, it's a very interesting topic. Selectman Gagnon replied, okay. All right. Moving on.

Chairperson Roy said all right. So I guess he doesn't need to stay, right? Scott, right? The Town Administrator replied, you can do whatever you'd like. I'm assuming you're not going to take any action on that one, because you...The Chair agreed saying, right. The Town Administrator went on to say but he does have an apparatus reserve fund. The Chair replied, oh, that's right. The Town Administrator replied, I don't believe there's any more input you'd need from anybody unless you. Unless you wanted it. You heard input the other evening. You have a list. If you have questions, you could certainly ask. But. It's up to you. Chairperson Roy replied, so that's fine.

Warrant Article D Higher Police Patrol Officer

The Chair said the first one is Police Patrol Officer. Selectman McGrath asked anybody want to make a motion to forward? The Town Administrator said if you wanted to forward you'd make a motion. The Chair said so actually, before we do that, Chief, can you come up cuz I have? So when we spoke last week...so it says hire police patrol officer, but we were talking about a wellness officer. Chief Dionne replied you asked us to change the language. The Town Administrator added so if you read the language, says the police officer will replace a patrol officer. So we're hiring a patrol. Selectman Guessferd said it didn't describe what it was. It's actually hiring a patrol officer to replace the person that would go into the wellness position. You know, I just wanted to make sure it was clear. Selectman Morin said and see, that's that's kind of like what we just talking about that's going to throw the voters off because they're thinking you're getting a police officer and when nobody gets educated, why do we need another police officer when it's a whole different thing that we're trying to get? Selectman Guessferd said if we want to reword it, that's fine. Selectman Morin said I just don't know if we can because we're moving, we're making a position. Because we don't have it now. Selectman Guessferd said we're not hiring a wellness, right. Selectman Morin replied, we're making a position for that. So why can't we? The Town Administrator said you're assigning somebody the duties of it. So it's still a, it's still a police officer. They're getting they're getting different duties, but it's still a police officer, probably a master patrol officer, if I had to speculate.

Chief Dionne asked, the wellness officer? Yes. The Chair then said but, but couldn't we just do like plain English? Like after the whole, shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise an appropriate. This will create a new wellness officer position? Selectman Morin replied, I think we should, I really do. Chairperson Roy said cuz I still don't think.... Selectman Guessferd said it's not. It's going to have a much better chance to pass if we if we address the wellness piece up front. To which the Chair replied, right. I mean, I just think. Selectman Guessferd replied, that's the whole idea here. Chairperson Roy said right. Just put a sentence in there this will create a new position. Cuz it's not a wellness position, cuz it's not creating a new patrol officer position. It's creating a new wellness position.

Selectman McGrath asked, how about if you just said hire patrol officer to be known as a wellness officer? Wouldn't that do the same thing? To which Selectman Guessferd replied, the person we're hiring isn't going to be the wellness officer, correct? Chief Dionne replied that's correct. Selectman Guessferd continued saying they're replacing that position. Yeah, it's weird. I mean, it's. Chief Dionne added we're hiring a backfill to create a position.

Selectman Gagnon said seems so easy to me. I say just you're hiring a wellness officer and you open it up for applications. You know who you're going to hire. You hire him. And then later on down the road, we have this meeting. Chief Dionne replied, that person is already hired. I suppose. You're filling a position. I guess so. I was worried. I'm worried specifically about that. I mean, when we. If I place someone in the Services Bureau who wasn't previously there, we're not hiring the officer, right? We're just moving them into a position. The Town Administrator said you can assign them duties as long as their patrol or master patrol officer, you're assigning duties, that's up to you. What division they're in is immaterial. You have 52 authorized people. If you do this position, they come out and now you're going to need 53, right? The Chief replied I have 51 authorized people. The Town Administrator said 51, I'm one number off, sorry.

Chief Dionne jokingly said I like 52 better. He then said I think I am worried about the wording. I do want the wording to be presented so that it's most accurate as to what we're actually doing. Selectman Guessferd said we want the people that show up at the deliberative session to know that. Chief Dionne continued saying, we're appropriating funds. Chairperson Roy said we're creating a new position that doesn't currently exist. I think that's the the important message there, that it's not just a patrol officer. We're creating a whole new position. Selectman Morin then said and I got to tell you, as much as we need, if it's higher patrol officer, we're not getting out. I won't vote for that because we're not telling the people what we're really getting. Selectman Guessferd replied that's fine. I'm just, I'm struggling with the wording. I agree with you that that's the only way we're going to get it right is if we we we say it's a wellness officer that's being created. Whatever it is that wellness piece is, is to me at the forefront of this.

Selectman Morin then asked, do we need to get a legal interpretation on the wording before we do this? The Town Administrator replied in the end, DRA does it, but you're not going to get DRA to agree to anything at this point. You know what I'm saying? Can we get Dave Lefevre to write something? Yeah, I guess he could write something, but it may not be what you want. Selectman Morin replied, well, no. That's my concern. Cuz I just. If you write police officer, you're not going to get it. Selectman Guessferd said it's just too many words in the title to say, like to replace. Do we say create? Do we say create wellness officer position? Chairperson Roy replied, so what I suggest is that there's another line after the very first line that says this will create a wellness officer position. Selectman Guessferd replied, I know but I think what Dave is saying, it's got to be in the title, too. Dave replied it does. Selectman Guessferd replied because that's what people are gonna see. Chairperson Roy replied, so then why don't we just call it that? Create a wellness officer. Instead of hiring. Because we're not hiring anybody. Selectman Morin added, we're actually hiring a person to fill a position that we already have. With a wellness officer we do not have. Selectman Guessferd said so creating wellness officer position, right? Chairperson Roy replied, right. Selectman Guessferd then said and funding it? To which Selectman Morin replied, I'm not even sure we're going to get it anyway. Chairperson Roy replied, No, I get it. I get it too. But I think it should be as clear as possible. Selectman Guessferd replied, I support the concept of what you're doing right. I support the concept big time. But it's yeah, I think it's got to be there. So if we say create wellness officer position, maybe that's the title. That's what we do. And we just leave the wording pretty much the way it is. We just put the title in there that says create.

The Town Administrator then said Create Police Wellness Officer Position. Shall the Town.... Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. And wages/benefits to hire one police wellness officer position. That's you're doing, right? Chairperson Roy replied, yeah. This officer will be assigned to the Police Services Division as the wellness officer. Get rid of the words "will replace" and just say "will be assigned to the Police Services Division as the wellness officer serving the police department, the community of Hudson". That we have authorized a position. You can take somebody current, move them and backfill that person. You're done. Right? Does that make sense to you? Selectman Guessferd asked now, if for some reason, let me just make sure if for some reason this doesn't pass, does that mean we can't? What are you going to do?

Chief Dionne replied, well I'm going to.... The Town Administrator replied, that does create an issue, because if you're identifying it here and it doesn't pass? The Chairperson interjected saying you cannot then create it. No is no. The Town Administrator went on to say you could call it a happiness officer. Chief Dionne replied, it's difficult because I don't I don't have the I really don't have the people. I don't...if we were fully staffed, it would be different. I would definitely have a different approach at this point. But we're not. I really can't be fully staffed right now. So that's kind of the issue. That's kind of the issue we're at. So, yes, it would be a different approach, I suppose, to that. Chief Dionne went on to say, but I, I also say that if we can agree on some language, which I think that that works, you know, this is it's up to me to sell this to, you know, I have my own work to do. If we're if this passes this Board then I have my own work to do in order to get this message out as to why. It's the why. Like what I talked to you about, I need to talk to everybody about.

Selectman Gagnon said I'm gonna go out on a limb here and probably look bad, but I'm going to tell you my honest opinion. I'm in full support of the wellness officer. So if you make the wellness officer and I think from what you're telling us, it's hard to fill. You have three open positions right now. And this would make for open sessions. Right? Because you move him to the wellness. Chief Dionne replied that's correct. Selectman Gagnon went on to say it's hard to fill those positions right now in your line of work. So what's the big deal if you have three open positions versus four positions, why are we even having this discussion? Why not make the wellness officer and just call it a done day? Chief Dionne replied to be quite honest with you, I can't fill my positions because I don't have the money to run the Police Department by filling those positions. I'm... you know, we're in a default budget, so I'm leaving vacancies in order to make ends meet. Selectman Gagnon replied oh, so you're leaving vacancies because of the budget not because you can't fill it? Chief Dionne replied, that's correct. That is correct. No, I mean, we're in the process of trying to hire right now. And in all honesty, yes, we are...we do not have a pool of applicants just knocking down the door. That is, we are competing with every agency for the same named people that are in line. Literally. I mean, if I called Salem PD today and asked about a guy just interviewed yesterday, they'll tell me they just stalked him and that he's this way into their process and this person is this far into Nashua's process. We're really communicating the same pool of people. But I do have an applicant pool, and we are in the process of trying to fill one of those vacancies right now. But I'm trying to do it very strategically so that I don't overburden the taxpayer or and go over my budget. That's exactly what the problem is. That is much more of a problem than the lack of applicants. Selectman Guessferd then said you're going to have another opening soon.

Selectman Gagnon then said that's my point, is that what's the difference being three or four. Chief Dionne replied, it's a great question. I understand where you're coming from, honestly, I understand where you're coming from. But the bigger concern is that, you know, I can't run fully staffed anyways. Selectman Gagnon replied okay, thank you.

Selectman Morin then said so I gotta go on Selectman Gagnon's comments then. If you don't have enough money to fill your regular officers, should we just go a year and keep the officers what we can on the street? Where you don't have? I get this. After the talk I did a lot of looking into this and but he's got a point. I mean, if we can't fill the officers that we need for patrol and he's a school resource officer too, that means you're going to have to fill that position, which is going to take another officer off the street per se, right? Chief Dionne replied that's correct. Well, we're taking another off the street, but I would then be filling that. Selectman Morin replied but he's gonna be detailed to the right versus. Chief Dionne replied, I would be filling his position. I mean, there is a challenge with the applicant pool that. Selectman Morin replied, oh no I understand and there's a challenge with your budget. I fully get it. Chief Dionne replied, it compounds itself. It compounds its own self. I mean, you have the whole problem of of running minimum staff on two of three of your shifts every day. And that in and of itself is not beneficial for the wellness of the police officers. I personally, I feel so strongly about it. That's why I...Selectman Morin replied oh no and I think you heard from the Board that night that they also do too. But Selectman Gagnon brings up a good point. Chief Dionne replied and I would be here right before you again next year. Selectman Morin replied, and I would hope so.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and said so how about if we rename this leave and hire police patrol officer but put in the words that will function as a wellness officer. Did someone already say? The Town Administrator asked as a title? Selectman McGrath replied, as a title? The Town Administrator then said title is a title. It's not the body of the warrant article. So I mean, the title is just a.... Selectman Morin said we just want to make sure that people understand what they're getting with the title. But the body is what they're voting on. They're not voting on titles. Selectman McGrath then said but I mean, doesn't that kind of cover the the problem that we're having trying to put wellness officer in as opposed to a patrol officer?

The Town Administrator replied, I think what I said was Create Police Wellness Officer Position, which is maybe a same variation what you said. Selectman Guessferd said maybe a little different. Yeah. Because if we're not because we're not actually hiring the wellness officer. We're hiring the police officer or we're hiring the patrol officer to replace the wellness. So we're actually creating that position, right? The wellness position. Right? Chief Dionne replied, and I'm looking at it as obviously,

it's like I said, it's a compounding issue. I feel this is a recruitment and retention would be a tool for recruitment and retention as well. So, you know, it's and you know, it's a mutually beneficial role for the Town itself as well.

Selectman McGrath asked, do you do you think that would help in recruiting officers to that position. Do you think that there are officers out there that that could function? Chief Dionne replied, I think, you know, obviously I, I speculating slightly on that because I, I don't know the overall effect on the applicants today, but I think if they were checking boxes as to what we do versus and they were actually comparing what they might get from another agency and they knew that we had someone assigned to that role, I think that would be something that would attract people. I certainly think the retention end of it would be very strong because that's that's the whole idea. That is one big chunk of what the whole program is, is to help help people and first responder role to be resilient and to keep them instead of losing them from burnout, substance abuse, from what have you. That's the one way I think it's important. That's the biggest reason why I think it's just as important whether the economy is in the tank or not in the tank, because if it, if it, if the flipside is if it does have an effect and it really does what it does, what would happen if we don't have that as we continue on in the same environment that we're in.

Selectman Gagnon then asked but can't you still have the wellness officer, though? You'd be losing someone on the street, but you can still make a wellness officer, which we all fully support. Chief Dionne replied, I could. I could. And I think what I was trying to we are I'm I met minimum staffing on two of the three shifts. So it would be so in other words every we have someone take a day off on two of my shifts and I have to cover it with overtime, you know what I mean? So and that's that's because I'm at minimum staffing. The shift that I'm not on minimum staffing the second shift and that's the busy one. That's the most busy shift. So we're not at minimum staffing there. So, you know, I don't want to necessarily go down to a situation where I'm minimally staffed on all. But that may be where, like I said, I, I have to look at it. I have to understand where I might be if this doesn't pass and I would have a second approach. I'm not quitting on it. And so I would have other approaches on it. And, you know, I it's not like I can pull from Services or the Schools and I can't take the resource there. The only other area I have is Detectives. And, you know, I we have plenty of work in Detectives right now, too. So it's a balance act.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said I'm just, you know.... I get it. I get it. I just got the concern that you're handling it now, per se. You know what I mean? I don't know. I'm having a tough time with this one, Chief. I really am, you know, and it involves me. It could involve me personally. But we're dealing with it. Maybe not 100%, but he does an outstanding job. I've been part of stuff that he that he's done and it's getting done and just, I don't know. Chairperson Roy then said it's not that I don't support the concept. It's just I don't know that this is the year to do it. That's where I'm at. Chief Dionne replied, I understand. Selectman Morin then said can we, can we....no because actually, I want to bring up the next one too. The fire guys, next. Anyway, so we're not going to, I don't want it defer it. Selectman Gagnon then said you know, Dave, we could do is you can take one vote to put it to the warrant and then not support it. Selectman Morin replied, absolutely. Absolutely. Absolutely. But then that's not fair. Because that leads these guys on. You know what I mean? That's not fair. Selectman Gagnon replied, no, it's a joke.

Chairperson Roy then asked, so what is the will of the Board? Selectman Guessferd said well, we gotta vote, right? To which the Chairperson replied, yeah. Selectman McGrath said I fully support it, so. And whatever we call it, I support that position. Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to move Warrant Article D, Hire Police Patrol Officer, to the warrant. Motion Failed, 2-3. Selectmen Gagnon and Morin and Chairperson Roy were opposed. Selectman Guessferd then said it's not recommended. The Town Administrator said it's not forwarded. Chairperson Roy said it's not forwarded. It won't go on the warrant. Selectman Morin added but a petition article can come in on it. Chairperson Roy said which we have to put on. Like the petition warrant articles. Selectman Guessferd replied, right, right, right. I know we have to do that. Okay.

Warrant Article E, Fire Four (4) Firefighter/AEMT

Selectman Morin said I know, I understand the Chief doesn't have any numbers for this, but I would like to bring this up for discussion too. We're in the same boat there. I mean, and nothing against the Fire Department. That's my place. Chairperson Roy said I had the conversation with the Chief already about it. Selectman Morin went on to say they got their three stations. They got all new apparatus. Selectman Guessferd said come on up Chief. Selectman Morin went on to say, you know what I mean. They've got all new trucks, they're doing well. They've got manpower that we've never seen before. Again, this one a year we could put off, probably.

Chairperson Roy said yeah. So that was my question is I think I asked the last time that SAFER grants come up every year, so. Chief Tice replied, correct. Yeah. So if we were to not do it this year, we would have an opportunity next year to revisit this. Chairperson Roy replied and that's as I indicated to you, that's kind of where I am with that. Chief Tice replied right. I understand that there's a lot of other priorities and I understand where we are economically. So if we need to put this off a year and have another discussion about next year, I completely understand.

Selectman Gagnon then said and if I may, but both yourself and the Chief who left probably disheartened. For me, this is not we don't support you. It's just that I see Town Hall. You guys are all kind of suffering. You know, you all need something. But the people in Town Hall, I feel like, have suffered the longest. And so that's why I've kind of put my support this year with backing up some actions in Town Hall. And as Mr. Morin said too, you know, your departments, you run them excellently and they do very well. So I'm hoping you can hold your breath for a year to let Town Hall get a little or a little ease this year because they certainly need it. Chief Tice replied, yeah, trust me, I don't take this as not being supported. It's clear we have a lot of a lot of needs in Town. And like Selectman Morin said we've made some good ground lately, so I'm really not in a position to complain.

Chairperson Roy then said cuz I think if we could, we would all give everybody what they wanted. It would make our world much easier. Selectman McGrath said not necessarily. Chairperson Roy went on to say but we don't have that. That is not the reality is these guys, it's not possible. Yeah. So do we need to do a motion, not to forward it? The Town Administrator replied well, it's probably best because you didn't forward the last one. Motion to move Warrant Article E to the warrant just for clarity purposes. *Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to move Warrant Article E to the warrant. Motion failed, 0-5. All Selectmen opposed this motion.* The Town Administrator then said it will not be forwarded to the warrant. The Board thanked Chief Tice.

The Chairperson then said, I honestly think the next ones are a little bit easier. They're the Capital Reserve Funds. My general feeling about capital reserves funds as they are, they are fiscally responsible because we don't have to go back and ask the town for lots and lots of money. The Town Administrator explained, the intent is to basically what we would call a savings account, but to anticipate expenditures that we know we routinely need to make. So these a little bit shorter. I think we've had more in the past. I say more, but this is a pretty responsible, pretty short list. So I throw that out there.

Selectman Gagnon said, and for the sake of discussion, Madam Chair, the Property Reevaluation Capital Reserve Fund, not that I don't support it, but do you think? Selectman Guessferd asked, do you want to go down these one at a time? Chairperson Roy replied, yeah I was just going to go down. Thank you.

Warrant Article F, Funding for Police Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

Chairperson Roy explained, so the first one is, the first CRF warrant is Funding for Police Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Is there any discussion about that? Does anybody want to make a

motion? Selectman Morin made a motion to move Funding for Police Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to the warrant. This was seconded by Selectman McGrath. Carried 5-0.

Warrant Article G, Funding for Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said not that I don't support it, but I mean, I'd be hard pressed to think that after a year of reassessments and all the whether it was right or wrong, uproar, people would vote for this just because of the name. The Town Administrator said we do them every five years so we need to start saving for the next one. Chairperson Roy added, right. And they tend to be expensive, right? And we have to do it. We don't have a choice. So either we ask for the \$25,000 between now and five years from now, or we go and we ask for whatever...Selectman Gagnon replied, so it's worth a shot even if it's no. Chairperson Roy replied, Right. Right. Because in five years, we're just doing it again. Anyways, we have to come up with the money. Selectman Guessferd added, that just has to be part of the presentation when we present it to them. Selectman Gagnon replied so they're going to have to eat this whether they vote yes or not. Selectman Guessferd replied, we have to pay for it. And quite frankly we may decide to do this earlier, you know. If the economy changes. Chairperson Roy replied, right, right. You know, it's required every five years. That doesn't mean if something changes in the next three years that we don't...Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to forward warrant article G Funding for Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund to the warrant. Carried 5-0.

Warrant Article H, Funding for VacCon Truck Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

The Town Administrator explained there's one highlight on this one. This is split 50/50 between the general fund and the sewer fund. So half the cost and it's \$15,000 is borne by the general fund. \$15,000 is borne by the sewer fund because the vehicle services is both the sewer system and the drainage system. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to forward Warrant Article H, Funding for VacCon Truck Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, to the warrant. Carried 5-0.

Warrant Article I, Funding for Fire Apparatus Refurbishment/Repair Capital Reserve Fund

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to forward Warrant Article I, Funding for Fire Apparatus Refurbishment/Repair Capital Reserve Fund to the warrant. Carried 5-0.

Warrant Article J, Funding for Generator Replacement/Repair Capital Reserve Fund

Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to forward Warrant Article J, Funding for Generator Replacement/Repair Capital Reserve Fund, to the warrant. Carried 5-0.

Warrant Article K, Discontinue Combined Office of Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Chairperson Roy explained so then the next one is we're back to a personnel matter. And so this is to discontinue continue the combined officer of the town clerk and town tax collector. So essentially and I'm going to I know we've talked about this before, but I'm just going to say it for the general public. We would have an elected town clerk and an appointed tax collector, and that would it would not be hired until July 1st 2025? The Town Administrator replied it would not become effective until after the next election, after this election. So in March of 2024. After March of 2024 that whoever's in the combined position would be the clerk, the other position a collector would be hired by the Board. The

tax collector is hired by the Board. Chairperson Roy asked so does anybody have any discussion? Selectman Gagnon made a motion to forward this to the warrant Madam Chair. Selectman Guessferd seconded this motion. Carried 5-0.

Chairperson Roy said I think that ends our warrant articles. The Town Administrator replied those are the warrants that you had this evening. So again, I anticipate two labor contracts. Potentially an article that will be not moneyed, but it will be for the veteran's tax credit. Something changes in the law. I think you may have to re adopt the alternative of the optional credit. Just a heads up. I don't have all the data on that yet.

Selectman Gagnon said I think at some point we'll have a discussion on the power aggregation stuff. I know they send an email to you to for consideration. Chairperson Roy replied, I think as we just discussed, I don't know if I actually forwarded that, it be on the agenda for the 15th. Not as a public hearing, but as a further discussion to see if they've answered any of our concerns or have any other information that might be helpful for us. The Town Administrator asked, do you mean the 22nd? I think that's your next regular meeting. Chairperson Roy replied, maybe, maybe. Sure. The Town Administrator said I'm just saying that's the next regular after. The Chair replied so the 22nd. I apologize. The Town Administrator replied, I just want to make sure I didn't miss something. Selectman Guessferd said next meeting after this? The Town Administrator replied, yeah the next regular meeting after next week is the 22nd. The Chair then said I just apparently want to spend a lot of time with you folks. So I think that closes the budget wrap up discussion.

The Town Administrator responded, unless anybody has anything else. I didn't have anything else. Selectman McGrath replied, I'd like to delay this a little longer. Chairperson Roy laughed and said okay, let's do that.

9. Board Liaison Reports

Selectman McGrath: I have nothing.

Selectman Gagnon: Really quick; the Power Aggregation Committee and the Sustainability Committee met last night to talk about trash and recycling statistics. Most of the discussion was embedded in their subcommittee for the power aggregation, which we've all discussed and heard the presentation. We were kind of, I guess, as they would say, licking their wounds and seeing how they want to proceed, how they understand the concerns and how they want to respond to those concerns.

NRPC I joined a Complete Streets meeting. They talked about same old kind of stuff. They talk about the ten-year plan that a lot of them are bicycle and pedestrian projects and different topics in that aspect. I missed the executive meeting because we had a budget committee meeting and I will look to Mr. Gadia for a School Board update since I also missed your meeting because of our budgets. That's it.

Selectman Guessferd: I'm looking for a Rec update. Don't have one right now. But we do. On the Rec Department there's going to be a comedy show coming up on November 12th. the proceeds will go to rec scholarships for for the high school. They had the Fright night. It went well. I don't have a lot of details. But I heard it went very well. So that's that's an annual event that I think is just really, really a good thing for the town.

The Senior Center activities keep going on. So everything is moving forward and continuing. And Christie's doing a great job as we have soccer's getting getting going. The Town Administrator spoke up saying, actually that's coming to an end. Basketball is getting going. Selectman Guessferd replied, basketball is coming, yeah. So they had sign ups and and adult basketball as well as the kid's basketball. So there's there's a lot there. And it seems like every time of the year is and is busy for them. So just keeping the program going everything's going well.

So as far as Planning is concerned, I think I might have mentioned the big thing right, right now. I mean, it's it's the new Hillwood amended plan. It's actually the new plan and we're treating it as a new plan. So there was concern amongst the citizens that that were going through some sort of a fast tracked process. But they're not. I mean, this is looked at as a new plan and just want to make sure that anybody watching, the citizens understand that we're going through the same process they went through before. So that was presented two weeks ago. Saturday we had a site walk down it at the golf course. They were very accommodating in terms of it's a Saturday, right. And there's golf going on. But they closed off one of the courses and we walked the site. There was a lot of folks there, probably maybe 30 or 40 people that showed up, a lot of citizens. And it was I think it was if you didn't if you didn't do the one before and you weren't as close to it before, it was very informative. So it was it was worth doing. Our next our next meeting is, I think, the 9th of November, not our next meeting, but where we're going to go over this again. We're going to we're going to take up the continued planned review. So that's moving on.

Tomorrow night, we have a Planning Board meeting. I think there's four, four plans on that agenda as well. And we are going to be talking about zoning amendments. So that's that's what's happening there. So there's a lot going on in that area right now that there's we're we're looking at a lot of things. Of course, as we've said, it's driven the zoning articles and all that are driven by the master plan and all of that. And I think I think we may need to, as a Board, have some discussion soon about that master plan and the vision and all of that so that we can help to kind of again, this is part of our job is to set, set that vision and to try to move things forward to what the town and the people in the town want to do going forward. So there's I think there's going to be some more discussion there. I'll let you know if we put it on the agenda for one of our upcoming meetings. As far as that's concerned.

Nothing happening new with the cable committee. So I think that's it.

Selectman Morin: Conservation had their meeting last night with the Green Meadow project. They went over the conservation easements and everything and the more conservation land. So that's in the progress. They also attended the walk through with the Planning Board. And that's about it.

Chairperson Roy: Okay, so I only have a couple of things. I was not at the Library Board of Trustees, meeting because I was at our Board of Selectmen meeting.

The ZBA had some training by Attorney Buckley from New Hampshire Municipal Association. So that was good. And then I know that a couple of folks that weren't able to attend did watch it on TV.

And then the only other thing I have is we do have a new fire truck in town, the new Seagrave. Very exciting. Now, all of the fire trucks are the same, made by the same manufacturer and the fire department's trained up on them at this point. And they're all equipped and everything is my understanding. Selectman Morin said so if you want to know the new one, look for the number. So it's the only way you're going to tell. Chairperson Roy said it's engine two.

10. Remarks by Town Administrator

The Town Administrator was recognized and said mine's very brief. I really don't have much after all the budget stuff, but just remind me, next Tuesday is the Board's next regular meeting, so departments are aware of that. But next Tuesday, and I believe the Budget Committee starts next Wednesday. So stay tuned.

11. Remarks by School Board

School Board Chairman, Gary Gasdia was recognized and said All right. Thank you. So similar to what you all did, we're in the middle of our budget. We have a budget meeting tomorrow night. We may wrap it up then if not it may go over to our meeting on the seventh.

We also, at our last meeting, continued our series on looking at the assessment data for all of the grades. We did the elementary school earlier last month. We did the middle school at our last meeting. We're doing Alvirne next. And the idea here is really understanding the test scores and really doing a deep dive in them on my time on the Board this is the most in-depth we've ever looked at them with the hope of now we need to figure out how to improve them. Because we have great teachers, we have great students, we have great parents, but we've got a lot of work to do to get these schools where they need to be.

School is going on. We're at the end of fall sports season, so some of our teams are. Our final football game is Friday night. We have the, I know the girls' soccer team started their playoffs today, so a lot going on there. Our FFA team is at Nationals, so they won the state, as I talked about before. They're at national competition this week. We had a good number of students win Jazz All-State for instrumental and choral, with the couple being top in the state for the entire whatever their instrument was or if they were singing. And the really big news I probably saw all over Facebook yesterday, Colonel Christian Cheatham was named New Hampshire Teacher of the Year for 2023, which really is phenomenal. It was a great ceremony yesterday. The commissioner of education was there; His family was there. They were the first lady of the state was there. And he had no idea. I mean, obviously, he knew he was in the running. He knew all that. But as far as he knew it was, we're going to celebrate Junior ROTC. And then so it was a really phenomenal ceremony and I can't think of a better person to represent Hudson in New Hampshire. So that's awesome. Congratulations to Colonel Cheatham. And that's it.

12. Other Business/Remarks by the Selectmen

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

Selectman Gagnon: no ma'am

Selectman McGrath: I have no remarks. I think I've said enough tonight.

Selectman Morin: I got nothing.

Chairperson Roy: So I guess the only other thing is I want to reiterate the congratulations to Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Chris Cheatham for being awarded the Teacher of the Year. And with that, we'll move to non-public session.

13. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Gagnon at 10:19pm.m., seconded by Selectman Guessferd 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. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Nonpublic Session was entered at 10:11 p.m. thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public was asked to leave the room.

The Board entered open session at 10:19 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session

1.) Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to appoint Deputy Clerk Donna Melanson to the position of Town Clerk/Tax Collector effective October 25, 2022 at her current rate of pay and benefits level. Carried 5-0.

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

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:19 p.m. by Selectman Guessferd seconded by Selectman Morin. 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