

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the November 22, 2022 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairperson Roy the meeting of November 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Hudson resident & HEAC member, Craig Putnam
3. ATTENDANCE

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

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Craig Putnam, Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee; Kate Messner, Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee; Elvis Dhima, Town Engineer; Paul Inderbitzen, Town Moderator; Scott Tice, Fire Chief; Jess Forrence, DPW Director; Gary Gasdia School Board Representative; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Robinson Smith, 48 Burns Hill Road

Hi. Robinson Smith at 48 Burns Hill Road in Hudson, New Hampshire. So after working with Selectman Gagnon, it looks like we are making some headway regarding the Wason Road situation. But I think it's important for the community as a whole to have some clarity and transparency regarding what we're doing right now and what actions the Board has taken so far. So if we could go ahead and clarify some of this for the community. Selectman Morin then said I guess first, we need a clarification what headway we've made. Chairperson Roy said Mr. Gagnon. Selectman McGrath then said not only that but is Selectman Gagnon speaking for the entire Board? Chairperson Roy replied if Mr. Gagnon wants to speak to that. Selectman Gagnon replied saying, sure so yeah, what we did was I talked to the gentleman and he gave me his full speech from last time what his recommendations were. He went over what he did. He contacted a lot of the different department heads and he actually made some recommendations. And so simply, I took his recommendations and I forward it to the Police Chief, as well as Jess Florence and the Engineer, Mr. Dhima. And I said, Are these suggestions viable? One of the suggestions that seemed to boil to the top was a small parking area of sorts on Wason Road. And the gentleman said that he's already spoken to a lot of department heads about that, and it seemed to be a valid idea to speak about. So all I did was simply pass the information along. And then I asked Mr. Forrence, as well as the Police Chief, if they would talk about it at the next Highway Safety meeting. And I believe that date is early December, December 6th, something like that. So they said that they would they would discuss it. They obviously know what the gentleman's recommendations are and then get back to us on, you know, on the Board, on what they think is possible.

Chairperson Roy then said and that small parking lot you're talking about is that land that we currently own. Selectman Gagnon replied, yes, ma'am. To which the Chairperson replied, okay, okay. Does that answer your question? Selectman Gagnon said does that cover about? Mr. Smith replied, Yeah. No, that's wonderful. I'm just trying to keep everybody on the same page, and I think that's important, especially throughout this process. Another aspect is it's been brought to my attention that the highway, the Traffic Highway Safety Committee doesn't have any type of capital reserve fund. So any type of improvements essentially have to come out of their yearly budget and you're asking them to essentially do a feast or famine situation. Where do we buy salt for the roads? Do we buy fuel for our trucks? Do we buy resources for our police department to go ahead and make safety improvements for the community? I don't think that's really a fair situation for those departments. And I think that having some kind of capital reserve fund that we could appropriate funds and yearly to make improvements to the safety of the community would be an ideal scenario.

Mr. Smith continued on saying, let's see. Thirdly, having a yearly evaluation of potential road safety projects for commencements would be a good scenario for the community. Having a list of different areas where we can make improvements to increase that safety. I believe it was Mr. Thatcher brought up issues on Virginia Drive and he's concerned of his own children even going down to Nottingham West, just walking there. Now the school does not have any type of sidewalk in front of the school. You're in the wintertime. You're asking the kids to basically walk next to the snow banks where they're likely to get hit by a car or something like that. So I think having a plan for some of these other areas in the community would be a very good scenario moving forward. And then finally, after reviewing the meeting last night I'm sorry, the meeting, the previous Board of Selectmen meeting, it looks like we have a surplus of about 600 some odd thousand dollars associated with the ARPA funds. I think that placing some of those funds in a reserve capital fund would be a smart way of managing some of these resources, number one. And secondly, I think that appropriating or earmarking some of these funds associated with the safety issues on Wason Road is a step in the right direction.

Chairperson Roy replied saying so, so the only thing I'll comment on is using ARPA funds to create a capital reserve fund. I'm not sure that the rules of the ARPA, the American Rescue Plan Act, would allow us to do that. Mr. Smith replied, so we can spend the ARPA funds, but the funds that they offsetted in our normal budget, we can appropriate that to a capital reserve fund. So that would make sense. Chairperson Roy replied, right. That would still have to go before the voters. Mr. Smith replied, sure. Yeah. And I'm sure having some sort of capital reserve fund would have to as well. To which Chairperson Roy replied, Right. That's what I mean. Like before we could ever a fund, a capital reserve fund, we'd have to create it first.

Selectman Gagnon then said, if I may, you brought up a good, good point. I looked to Selectman Morin too maybe at the next time we meet for the ARPA meeting, we could either ask Jess or Elvis if ARPA funds could be used for a small police only parking lot. If that's even a valid idea for that money. Selectman Morin replied, we'd have to find out because there's actually several questions that we need to get answered on the ARPA funds before we move forward. Selectman Gagnon replied okay. So we can at least ask if that's possible. We're working on stuff right now. Mr. Smith replied, that's wonderful. Anyway, I thank you for your time. I'm sorry about the tone of the last meeting, but it's just been very frustrating over ten years and then finding out a fatality and it's just awful. So I very much appreciate your time. Chairperson Roy replied, thank you. Thank you for your input.

Tim Wyatt, 139 Barretts Hill Road

Tim Wyatt at 139 Barretts Hill Road. Just briefly. I want to let the board know first thank you for your service. I am in favor of the Hudson Community Power Initiative that's being brought by the Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee, primarily for the benefit of our neighbors who are having a lot of trouble paying their electric bills and but also for a number of other matters that will be addressed by this program. I attended the presentation last week and looked at the plan. It's pretty long and so I didn't get all of it. But and I also saw the the workshop that you all attended. And I think actually you're already in agreement that it sounds pretty good. But there's a couple of things that I believe will be answered tonight later on in the agenda. And as with other matters of the town that have been somewhat controversial in some ways, I appreciate the board has been able to make a decision to bring to the town the ability to vote on these matters that could be helpful to the residents. And thank you very much.

Heidi Jakoby, 94 Gowing Road

My name is Heidi Jacoby and I live at 94 Gowing Road here in Hudson, and I just have a statement tonight. Public Engagement, Transparency, and Curiosity I would argue are critical to the functioning of any town. I have heard from each of you that the public needs to take more interest in the town. As you know I have taken that too heart.

I want to thank each of you for your continued service to the town, as selectmen and as liaisons to various committees, throughout the town. I know this is all very time consuming and it is appreciated.

Today I want to address the Planning Board liaison Mr. Guessferd directly. Unfortunately, after the November 9th planning board meeting I was informed and shocked to hear all public input has ended. There was new information presented on the 9th and I know there are more reports and information to come.

I have spent well over 30 hours reviewing the documents for the Target Hudson Logistics Center Project and I have a variety of questions I would like you to ask the developer. I know this is a new project and I am just flabbergasted at how the planning board is using waivers and references to the old Amazon project so freely. Alas some waivers have already been granted, and I for one disagree with the rationale used to grant them.

Since the Planning Board continues to reference the Amazon Project I would hope that you Mr. Guessferd and all of the new planning board members have reviewed that documentation and have considered some of what was said in those reports and meetings.

On November 9th I had 13 questions I wanted to ask, not for or against this project, but wanting clarity on a variety of issues that were not clear in the reports, nor were these issues brought out by the planning board. Today I will try and be as concise as possible.

1. Property Values: Even though the Amazon project was approved the peer review of the real estate report stated and I quote:

AER Preliminary Observations ...While acknowledging Mr. Reek's effort and general approach, comparability is an inherent issue in the Logistics Hudson setting, because there is, in fact, no sufficiently close comprehensively comparable experience in the State.

Being there are NO close comprehensively comparable experiences in the state one can agree with Mr. Reeks that there will be no effect, but one can also conclude that there will be a significant effect on real estate value. I would argue as did other residents that this is clearly an issue, which was never resolved, and with another year having gone by, I do not understand why the planning board has not required a new peer review of the new real estate report?

2. Water: There will be cuts into the ground over 35ft deep in some areas. What information has the applicant provided to show that the aquifer that may supply wells in the area would not be disturbed? This cut is close to the river so I would think it would have some effect. What would be the relief for residents who may lose their well?
3. Aesthetics: Having participated in the focus groups for the town Planning process, one thing that was a main topic was the Aesthetics of the town. Would the planning board please ask the applicant about how it might improve the aesthetics of this site as viewed both from the river as it is a recreational river, and from the Sagamore bridge, as many enter our beautiful town? We know eventually solar will be placed on the building why not ask the builder to adjust the berm and sight lines to include the extra height of the solar panels to ensure the residents cannot see anything on the roof?
4. Traffic: At the last meeting, we found that Target will be sending 25% of the traffic down through town to route 102 or 111. Assuming that is correct then what traffic mitigation should be considered further down and through town? All mitigation stops at Wason Road. What about the roads beyond Wason? Especially where there are more pedestrians, bikers, and students.
5. Public Safety: I noticed the Police report was not in the file for the last planning board meeting and I look forward to reviewing that as well. Having done a great deal of research on the impact of adding an over 1 million square foot warehouse to community infrastructure, the statistics are clear that there will be a significant drain on our Police and Fire, just look at Fall River, MA. I am urging the planning board to look much more closely at the statistics and to make sure we can staff all shifts with this influx of need. More questions need to be asked and answered here.
6. Monitoring: Please be clear on what type of monitoring will be done going forward: traffic, sound, light, air, water, etc. be specific as to the consequences of being outside the set parameters. There needs to be clear and meaningful consequences and a process for maintaining good order and transparency. Why not require the developer to have a night sky consultation with the association to ensure the best lights are used in this case when it is built? Why has there not been a sound study which takes into consideration the river and how sound travels over water?

Clearly, I have many more questions. There were over 70 stipulations in the approval of the Amazon facility. I want to encourage Mr. Guessferd and the rest of the planning board to look at those stipulations with fresh eyes as this is still the first warehouse of this size to ever be built in New Hampshire and never has one been built so close to a residential area. Does there need to be more stipulations or some better wording of the ones which exist on the Amazon plan? Hudson is a test case, an experiment, this has never been done.

We have elected you to do what is in the best interest of the town. As we are the test case for such a warehouse, please take extra care in reviewing this new project. Time has passed, things have changed, and this project needs a fresh look and fresh consideration.

I hope you have taken my earlier letter concerning the sewer allocation into consideration and I hope to be hearing more about that in the future.

Infrastructure continues to be a concern throughout the town, staffing of our police and all emergency services is of critical importance and needs to be carefully considered with every decision. I really do appreciate all the work all of you have done, and I appreciate this time to make that statement. And I do have a printout, if you'd like one. Selectman Guessferd replied, absolutely would like that.

Selectman Guessferd then said I want to make a comment. Just just from my perspective, I am aware that there was no public input at that meeting. I don't believe that that was intentional, per se. In other words, I don't think public input has ended unless. What gives you that? Ms. Jakoby replied, after the meeting I went up to the Chairman, Mr. Malley, with Mr. Groth also and asked if there would be additional public input, and they said there will not be any additional public input. Public input had ended unless there is a major change in the site plan that has been proposed. That was my understanding of what they informed me of, and that's the only reason I came here today. Selectman Guessferd replied, Okay. And I will I will look into that as well. Okay. Because that's that's kind of I wasn't involved in that conversation. Ms. Jakoby replied no you weren't. Selectman Guessferd went on to say I did talk about the fact that there hadn't been public input that night. And as far as I was concerned, that was not it was it was more of a mistake. But let me talk let me talk with the Chairman and Mr. Groth and we'll, certainly, as far as I'm concerned, we'll make sure we at least address your concerns. I'll do I'll do my best to get those out there if there's not public input. But your input will be if you give me that information, yes, I will pass it on to the Board. Ms. Jakoby replied, thank you so much.

Janie Delano, 18 Blueberry Lane - submitted electronically for the public record. Ms. Delano had originally submitted public input electronically on 11/15/22. The Executive Assistant forgot to add it to the agenda to be read for public input. Ms. Delano then sent a follow up email 11/20/22.

On Wednesday, November 30, 2022, 2:00AM Janie Delano tadandpole4@yahoo.com wrote:

"To whom it may concern,
I requested that my input be recognized at your public meeting as you will note below.
To make it easier "Due to my inability to attend night meetings, please enter this into your record as I am opposed to the Opt Out proposal."

My opposition was not "counted" that I can see or hear.

And at your meeting 11/28/2022 again it was not stated however it was repeatedly stated --5 people spoke very favorably, not exact wording yet close.
and "14 people were referenced to being there, (not a BIG representation but my 1 vote matters. So in essence, 15. Or 6. (If not more that were not mentioned)

Please recognize my (and others if there are those) objection.

Please give people accurate perspective.

I watch every meeting.

I vote in about every election.

I am one of those 2500 or 3000 you speak of, voting residents.

Thank you.

Janie Delano
18 Blueberry Lane.
Hudson Nh

On Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 02:31:10 AM EST, Janie Delano <tadandpole4@yahoo.com> wrote:

Good Day,

Perhaps saying there was a "vote" in the sense that it was an official "vote", no the selectmen did not vote.

Let us say then that it was agreed, 3-2 that you come back with more information i.e. on an Opt In plan.

And the warrant as was presented did not move forward.

Semantics in my view.

Any town resident can now choose a lower electric rate without this plan as you and others suggested by stating already some of the selectmen have chosen. As I too have already chosen my rate.

So to have residents of our town chosen what is best for them without this Aggregation Proposal.

In my view (and many others) we do not need a "government" proposal to obtain lower electric rates.

I know you believe differently. That is fine.

For you or anyone else to suggest that

" But understand that a vote against such a warrant article is a vote to deny your neighbors the ability to choose for themselves whether they wish to participate in Hudson Community Power (and save money) or not."

our vote against this is to deny our neighbors to save money is simply false and an unwelcome narrative.

People know how to save money all by themselves and it is unwelcome for someone else to dictate/suggest/etc. how

I will save money or

how my neighbors will save money.

To address the issue of a locked in rate, we have locked in mortgage rates, bank rates, car loan rates--all locked in.

To suggest this is bad is a fallacy also, in my humble opinion.

Due to my inability to attend night meetings, please enter this into your record as I am opposed to the Opt Out proposal.

I appreciate the selectmen recognizing the "problems" associated with this premise.

Thank you for responding.

Janie”

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

A. Nomination

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

Scott Anderson

Chairperson Roy invited Mr. Anderson forward and said and you're applying for one full member term to expire April 30, 2023. Mr. Anderson replied yes. Chairperson Roy then said why don't you tell us a little bit about yourself and why you want to be on the Benson Park Committee?

My name is Scott Anderson, resident of 22 Weymouth Court here in Hudson. I've been here living here now for almost seven years. In the past, I've worked and done landscaping and agriculture and horticulture related work in general. And for most of my career I worked at Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass. On the grounds department there as an arborist and lead horticulturalist. And I feel my background and everything can be an asset to the park and the care of a valuable asset in the town. Chairperson Roy replied, thank you. And if I could comment. Phillips Academy has a beautiful campus, so if you have anything to do with that, Congratulations. Mr. Anderson replied, thank you. To which the Chairperson replied, you're welcome. Does anybody have any questions of?

Selectman Gagnon said yeah. A quick question, if I may. Thank you. I noticed on your application you said also potentially interested in the lower Merrimack Local Advisory Committee. Can you give me a quick blurb on why you kind of swayed to the Benson Park Committee and not that committee? They're both very. Mr. Anderson replied, that was I haven't learned as much about that yet. I've just heard recently mention about it in meetings here and different conversations. So I'm not quite as familiar on that end. I do really appreciate the environment and have concern for it and everything. Selectman Gagnon replied, well excellent. I am sure your skills will be used no matter where you sit.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said just where you live. I know there was some landscaping issues down there. Is there a committee where you want a committee that helped get that rectified within that development? Mr. Anderson replied, I actually sat on the board of directors for Sparkling River Condominiums for about five and a half years. I did not run for reelection this past September. That was personal to some degree because my wife had just retired and we want to do a little more other activities. Selectman Morin replied, I just know there was some issues with trees and things like that. So you're familiar with how all that works? Mr. Anderson replied, yes. to which Selectman Morin replied, excellent. Thank you.

Chairperson Roy then said anybody else have anything? I think as Ms. Laffin explained to you, we will vote on your your application at the next meeting and she'll let you know what the result is. Thank you very much for coming in and volunteering.

B. Appointment

Conservation Commission - (2-member vacancies expiring 12/31/25, 1 alternate vacancy expiring 12/31/25)

Carl Murphy (incumbent alternate member)

Chairperson Roy explained there is now a... and then we have an appointment to the Conservation Committee. It's Mr. Carl Murphy. He's an incumbent alternate member looking to apply for a full membership that expires on 12/31/2025. There's one existing vacancy. Is that my understanding? The Town Administrator replied there will be a vacancy at the end of December. Chairperson Roy went on to

say Mr. Kallgren has opted not to be reappointed, so there will be a vacancy at the end of December. So I think we probably all know, Mr. Murphy, if anybody would like to make a motion to? Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to appoint Carl Murphy as a member of the Conservation Commission with a term to expire 12/31/25. Carried 5-0.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairperson Roy asked, does anyone have anything they'd like removed for separate consideration? Selectman Morin said I just have a quick question on D, if I could. Chief, was that a donation from the VFW to you and the Police or was it separate. Chief Tice, who was in the audience, replied, two separate. Selectman Morin then asked they were the same that you received today. To which Chief Tice replied yes. Selectman Morin then said can't we just throw it on tonight because we're doing the VFW donation anyway? Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to include a \$300 donation from VFW Post 5791 to the Hudson Police Department. Carried 5-0.

Chairperson Roy asked, does anyone else have anything? Selectman McGrath said I'm just going to speak to item 6B-1. She then said I just want to make a point that the person that is applying for that is no relation. So. So I can vote on it, but I just wanted to bring that up. I don't even know the person.

Selectman Guessferd asked that item F be removed. I'll speak to F, it's real quick on F, there is a meeting shown for the Planning Board on the 23rd tomorrow night. That meeting has been moved to next week which is actually on, on the, on the calendar already here. So just want to remove that from. F.

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

Chairperson Roy then said so I'll entertain a motion to approve consent item F as amended. Selectman Guessferd made this motion, seconded by Selectman Morin. Carried 5-0.

CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Assessing Items - none
- B. Water/Sewer Items
 - 1) Sewer Abatement - S-UTL-23-05 Acct. #5358
- C. Licenses & Permits & Policies
 - 1) Pole Licenses - 25 new poles located throughout Town (see documentation for addresses)
 - 2) Raffle Permit - Sparkling River Condo Association
- D. Donations
 - 1) Donation of \$300 from VFW Post 5791 to Hudson Fire Department
- E. Acceptance of Minutes
 - 1) Minutes of October 19, 2022
 - 2) Minutes of October 20, 2022
 - 3) Minutes of October 25, 2022
 - 4) Minutes of November 1, 2022

F. Calendar

11/22 7:00 Budget Committee - School Budget Review - Buxton Meeting Room
~~11/23 7:00 Planning Board - Buxton Meeting Room~~
11/24 Happy Thanksgiving - Town Hall Closed
11/25 Thanksgiving Recess - Town Hall Closed
11/28 7:00 Sustainability Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
11/29 7:00 Budget Committee - School Budget Review - Buxton Meeting Room
11/30 7:00 Planning Board - Buxton Meeting Room
12/01 3:30 Trustees of the Trust Funds - Buxton Meeting Room
12/07 8:30 Highway Safety Committee - BOS Meeting Room
12/07 7:00 Budget Committee - School Budget Review - Buxton Meeting Room
12/08 7:00 Zoning Board of Adjustment - Buxton Meeting Room
12/12 7:00 Cable Utility Committee - HCTV Meeting Room
12/12 7:00 Conservation Commission - Buxton Meeting Room
12/13 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on November 1, 2022

- 1) Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to seal the minutes of the first nonpublic session held during the 10/25/22 Board of Selectmen meeting. Carried 4-0-1. Selectman McGrath abstained.
- 2) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to adjourn at 10:19 p.m. Carried 5-0.

B. Hudson Community Power/Electric Aggregation Plan - HEAC - Decision

Chairperson Roy recognized Craig Putnam and Kate Messner of the Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee. Mr. Putnam explained that Henry Hendron of CPCNH was planning to be there but there was a scheduling conflict. Mr. Putnam then said So thank you to the Board of Selectmen for having us back this evening. I've got a few slides to go through to address some of the outstanding issues from the last time that we met. So what I'd like to do this evening is to review sort of the current state of affairs, both from the standpoint of the aggregation committee itself, as well as the recent happenings with Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. I'd like to discuss the public hearing that was held a week ago tonight and then move on to a warrant article discussion, which is sort of part of the public hearing and then open it up for any Q&A from from you folks.

So when we met last was the workshop on October 4th and it was it was quite clear that there were some level of uncomfot, discomfort around the opt out nature of the draft plan as written. And Mr. Herndon and I saw three clear takeaways from from the meeting that we were asked to address, and they were to basically there was a desire to better understand the demonstrated cost savings from similar programs in other markets. More information on the success rate of opt out versus opt in plans. And finally, there was a desire expressed to ensure that we were going to make every effort to engage and inform the public about the program.

So let me take those in turn. So the first takeaway, which was to four for the Board to better understand the demonstrated cost savings. So the next day Mr. Herndon provided results or provided the following to the Board of Selectmen. And the the text is there from a message that he had sent to the Board. And basically it cites a study that was conducted in Massachusetts comparing community power rates to utility default rates. And the bottom line is highlighted there, which was average supply rate savings were 12.6%

for residential customers and 11.2% for small commercial customers. Now, we acknowledge that that was for a different state. The rules are somewhat different, but at least it's still Eversource. And so the results that we could expect should be at least somewhat comparable. We can't predict them at this point. We're too far away from being able to do that. But those are the kinds of numbers that have been achieved elsewhere in the country as well. At this point Selectman McGrath said can I make a suggestion? To which Mr. Putnam replied sure. Selectman McGrath then said so this is, this is concerning just the supply portion of the electric bill that most people receive. Mr. Putnam replied, that's correct. Selectman McGrath went on to say and I think that in order to... so that people understand exactly what they're what they're signing. If they opt in or opt out, what they're actually doing and what their bill, a typical bill say an electric bill that you'd get maybe \$100 a month, and of that, there's a certain amount that's just the supply portion. Mr. Putnam replied, that's correct. Selectman McGrath continued saying so I would think that maybe that explanation would help people to understand exactly what you're trying to what type of money you're trying to save them, that it's not going to be the entire bill. Correct? It's only going to be a small portion. Mr. Putnam replied an excellent point. And we have material for that that we have prepared and shown in the past and will continue to do so. Mr. Putnam replied, thanks. It's an excellent point.

Mr. Putnam went on to say, I wanted to bring to your attention a recent announcement. This was from July 12. It was an announcement from the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts, from their community electricity organization. And so it's a city run program provides Cambridge, Mass. With residential and businesses with alternative to Eversource's, basic service, electricity supply. So it's essentially what we're talking about here. But this was done in Massachusetts, in Cambridge. There is a link on the Electric Committee's website to this announcement. But the one of the clear takeaways here was that they're 100% renewable energy opt up option. And that's common for these kinds of programs is now more affordable than Eversource's basic default service. It's 100% renewable and it's less than what you're paying for Eversource. What they were paying, I should say, for Eversource today on the supply side. And they're serving over 33,000 households and nearly 5,000 businesses are participating.

Selectman McGrath then said so again, the opt up. What exactly is that? How does that relate to most people? Mr. Putnam replied, if you will? I do have a slide in the deck that I can show you on that. I read through. I mean, I've read through this. Mr. Putnam replied, yeah, I had some backup slides that were not part of the packet, so I can put that slide up if you'd like. And this slide is one that is it's in the Electric Aggregation Plan. Which is where I took it from. This is the, this is the slide. And this this basically is what we would be proposing for Hudson Community Power. So the default service is the blue column. So probably set somewhere at about 5 to 10% above the RPS requirement for green energy. That's the renewable portfolio standard. That's a state mandated number that all utilities, all all suppliers must meet that minimum amount. For 2023 that'll be 23.4% renewable. So we were envisioning having somewhat greener default option and intend to beat and preferably meet Eversource's default rate at launch. But to the right are some other optional products that would be possible. Now this is all for discussion, but a basic service might be opt down. I don't care about anything greener. Give me the rock bottom price. That's that's the basic service column. And then maybe there's a couple of opt up, greener options, maybe 50%, maybe 100%. Again, all for discussion. Does that help? Selectman McGrath replied, it helps me. But does it help everybody else that people that are watching this? I mean, that's the audience that you should be gearing that towards. I mean, we need to understand it, too. But, you know, it's.... Chairperson Roy then said I think we should let Mr. Putnam go through his.... Selectman McGrath replied, he asked me a question. So I'm responding to the question. Chairperson Roy replied, I think if we let them go through and then we can ask him whatever questions we have. Selectman McGrath replied go right ahead.

Mr. Putnam continued with his presentation saying, so that was that was the Cambridge slide. Takeaway, two, was there was a desire for more information on the success rates of opt out versus opt in plans. I contacted Clifton Below, who is the chair of Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. He's the prime author of the Community Power Law in New Hampshire, RSA 53-E, which is what this whole thing is based upon. He also co-authored and sponsored the nation's first Electric Utility Restructuring Act back in 1966 1996. Pardon me. He's a former New Hampshire PUC commissioner, former New Hampshire state rep and senator, and he's also the assistant mayor and city councilor in Lebanon currently. So his reply was, was lengthy and and here it is. I've highlighted some of the key phrases there. that there are no

known cases of a municipal electric aggregation launching on only an opt in basis. New Hampshire's municipal aggregation law sat dormant and unused for 24 years because it only allowed opt in launches. There was a bill that came along later on, more recently to enable launching on an opt out basis due to the historic success of that approach that was that was done by Senator Bradley. Opt out launches typically end up serving 90 to 95% or more of utility, the utility default service. and opt in campaigns by third party suppliers serving residential customers typically garner around 5% participation. And then on a related note, after I'd received that from Mr. Below, New Hampshire Public Radio published an article on the 15th that Eversource was about to go into their new rate setting time. And Eversource was saying in the article that they're in an unprecedented position. But the key thing that caught my attention in the article was Eversource was stating that about 84% of their residential customers are on default energy service. So that comports very, very closely to what Mr. Below was saying. I think that number for Eversource, that state or I should say statewide, their service area in New Hampshire, which is not the entirety of the state. So that number might be a little different for Hudson, but but we're probably somewhere in that in that range. I'll actually have an updated value for that number for Hudson soon, because one of the things that we've done recently is we have reapplied to Eversource for updated load data and that was done a week ago. Selectman Gagnon helped me with that and they're obligated to provide that number of those numbers to us within 30 days. So by mid-December we should have updated load data and that will allow me to correct the error that you found, Selectman Guessferd, in that table in the in the document, I haven't touched it because I knew we would be doing this update. And so now I'll be able to put the correct most recent, more recent data in it. I don't know exactly what timeframe Eversource is going to give us, but it'll be more recent than the data we had before.

Mr. Putnam continued on saying, the third takeaway was that there was a desire to ensure that every effort was taken to engage and inform the public about this potential program. And so I've listed here a number of the things that we either have done or have plans to do. We got the Get Tech Smart recording date, a new date reestablished. So we're going to do that with Flo Nicolas on the fifth in the morning. We did the first of our planned public hearings a week ago today. We have another one planned for the 17th of January. Yeah, there is I believe there's already running on Hudson Community TV, some signage in between shows advertising the well, there was some that was advertising the public hearing a week ago and we can certainly update that for the future and provide additional information. We did physical signage around town with the sandwich boards leading up to and at the the elections on the eighth. We have done in the past and would plan to continue to do things like information booths at Hudson events like Old Home Days, things of that nature. And we're starting to get engaged with some of the organizations in town. I'm working on getting in front of the Rotary, but certainly interested in engaging with, you know, at the Senior Center, VFW Lions, other other organizations around town. We'll see how we fare on that.

And then finally, it should be noted that very recently on the 17th CPCNH signed a contract with a public engagement consultant, Sam Evans-Brown of Clean Energy in New Hampshire. He was formerly a host on NHPR. And what they're going to be doing is helping CPCNH engage with public engagement, planning and outreach. It is something that is critically important to the success of community power, not just in Hudson, but statewide. And we need more horsepower. And so that's that's coming on board very, very soon.

So those were those were the takeaways from the workshop. Post the workshop I had inquired about public noticing for for the public hearing that was planned for the 15th. And through some communications, I was basically asked to to stop preparations for that event. And after some email back and forth, it became clear that there seemed to be a misunderstanding about the sponsorship or who was hosting the the hearing. I believe it was felt that I was trying to do this under the guise of the Board of Selectmen, and that was not the intent. So it was good that we got that resolved. And so we then did go ahead with putting plans back in place to advertise and then hold that public hearing on the 15th. And we have now got the the get tech smart. Recording session re-established now for the fifth.

As I noted, we had the hearing a week ago today, that first hearing, 14 people showed up, which I was I was pleased to see that many people turned out for the for that event, even though that we had a fairly

short amount of time to advertise it. So before I move on to the hearing, let me let me quickly review things with CPCNH. And the Coalition is now up to 22 municipalities in one county. So continuing to grow and there are over 30, I believe the number is 35 additional communities that have expressed interest in joining. So certainly building up ahead of steam around the state, there is an enormous effort that's going on right now to prepare. Review and vote on four important documents for for moving forward with community power for these various towns. They're listed there's a cost sharing agreement and energy portfolio, risk management policy, a rate setting policy and a financial reserve policy. I haven't mentioned any of those in the past because they don't affect us at this point. I am certainly participating as other members of CPCNH and in helping to develop these policies and have them reviewed. They're still in draft form. They have not been voted in yet. But very soon they will be voted in because they're needed in order for the wave one towns that are intending to go live this spring, to be able to be stood up and function. So they would only affect Hudson Community Power if Hudson community power comes into existence. So if there's a warrant article that moves forward and it's approved by the voters, then it's up to the Board of Selectmen to actually decide to stand up Hudson Community Power. So let me just be real clear on that. A vote to move a warrant article onto the ballot obligates the town in no way, shape or form. Approval of a warrant article on the ballot obligates the town in no way, shape or form. It's only after that. Those those are basically enabling things to enable the Board of Selectmen to then later on decide, let's do this.

Mr. Putnam then said, so back to the public hearing a week ago, as I mentioned, there was a strong turnout. 14 people attended. There were a number of questions that got asked and answered during the presentation. A couple are listed here and I can speak to those if there's interest. But but overall, I want to say that the plan was was well received. There were five people that chose to come up and speak and ask, you know, directly address The Committee and they were all they were all positive. They all expressed support for what we were planning to do. And there was a lengthy discussion at the end of the hearing around some proposed text for warrant articles that I had brought to that meeting. And so the the consensus on that was so I brought three different well, actually four. I brought a proposed text or a text for discussion, let's call it that for an opt out enrollment mechanism. I brought a similar one for opt in enrollment mechanism, and then I brought a pair of warrant articles that were linked together. And I had worked with Mr. Malizia to to try to figure out how to how to do that properly. How to word that properly. And in that discussion, there were there were a couple of takeaways for us. The the clear message was the linked pair. It's too confusing. Don't do that. Keep the text as simple as possible, but be as informative as necessary. And so that's what I'm trying to do.

And basically the the bottom line was, is that the attendees expressed support and encouragement to proceed with the single opt out warrant article that that is not the one that I had brought to the October 4th meeting. That was that was that was a failure. I freely admit that was not well, well thought through. But the the article, the suggested warrant article text that I had brought to the public hearing is here. It is based on the text that the town of Pembroke has been using. And I and I adapted it for Hudson. And it's it's I guess it's a lengthy warrant article maybe as they go but I'm trying to to thread the needle here between being as concise as possible but, but cover all of the most important aspects that people would need to know in order to be able to have an informed vote on it. I was reviewing this text today and I realized that there was actually something that was missing from it. And so this this next slide is not in the deck, but it's the same slide with an additional sentence added. All right. And what was missing, in my opinion was, is there was an explanation of here's what happens if you're on default power. There was no companion sentence that said, here's what happens if you're already on a competitive electric supply plan. And so I've added something to address that this is not necessarily final, but, you know, it could still be wordsmith more I suspect. But this is this is basically what the feedback was from from folks that they wanted to see an article, a warrant article along structured like this. So that's the end of my comments. I have some others. I have the other warrant articles, if you want to look at them. The ones that I had at the at the hearing a week ago, and I've got some other backup slides if necessary. So questions, comments, please.

Chairperson Roy then said just before I turn it over, thank you for putting so much effort into getting the public out. And I watched the meeting. It was it was fascinating to me. So, you know, thank you for doing

that and bearing with us so that we can be as comfortable as possible with with what we're going to put forward to the voters. So with that, does anybody have any questions?

Selectman Morin was recognized and said people that are on budget payments. Now, with Eversource, what happens to them if they go to this? Mr. Putnam replied, the assistance plan is is addressed in the Electric Aggregation Plan. It's a required section. I can't tell you offhand which of the appendices it's in, but it's in there. That's unchanged.

Selectman Morin replied, okay. Eversource was on the news the other day talking about another rate increase, and their concerns were that they can't get enough suppliers. What's that going to do if they can't get suppliers? Are you going to be able to get suppliers? Mr. Putnam replied, it certainly is a it's a valid question. Absolutely. And I, I suspect that what's going to come into play and here's where I really wish Henry was here. But I think that the difference in the way purchasing, procurement of power would take place through a community aggregation program. It's allowed to be and intended to be different than the way Eversource is required to purchase power. They can only go into market for two 10 day windows twice a year and they buy six months' worth of power. That's it. So so they're very constrained in how they can purchase the power. A community power agency...Let's just for the sake of argument, say that we go forward. It's approved. Hudson Community Power gets stood up and we chose to work with CPCNH. CPCNH's process where they're going with this, they've already partnered with a company to do power procurement or they're in the final contract negotiations. I guess it's probably best to say that that way. But those the way that company will be purchasing power on behalf of CPCNH and on behalf of the communities that are buying power through CPCNH is such that those contracts are not limited to just six months. They can be layered, they can be different start and end dates, they can be have different timelines, time periods that they extend for so that you build a portfolio of things.

Mr. Putnam went on to say, the other the other piece of this is that part of what's baked into the rate that customers would pay through. Hudson Community Power, if we work with CPCNH is that there's a reserve fund that gets built up and that reserve fund can help as a buffer. And so it can it can be used to try to mitigate some of these different rate shocks and so on. So it's a dynamic environment. Clearly. It's an environment that's certainly coming across is stressful to Eversource in their ability to purchase power. I'm sure it will be stressful for all agencies that are purchasing power, but I think the advantage of a community power agency is that they'll have more flexibility, more leeway in how they can go about doing it. And always with the goal of having lower rates. It's probably not a terribly satisfying answer, but it's. Selectman Morin replied, well, no, that's it's up in the air for everybody. But I just wondered if they're having problems. I can certainly see this having problems. Mr. Putnam replied, yeah, it won't deny that. And I'm sure it will be challenging. Yes.

Selectman Morin then said yourself and myself had a discussion at voting and you actually brought the RSA's, which would have been probably a good thing to do the first meeting, which would have explained a lot of issues and especially people that have sent us emails saying they have rights not to go into this and they're upset about that. You're taking their rights away, they feel. And you brought it up again tonight. And again, it's going to concern me about the warrant article. You said in your plan that we're as the Board of Selectmen are going to have to approve the policies. So what that says is the Town of Hudson is supporting this and behind this. The Board of Selectmen asked you to move forward with this. You are a town government organization that put this together. So when we put a warrant article together from the town, where are the questions going to come when people, this starts, that people don't know what's going on, no matter all the stuff that you did, which I appreciate, there's going to be a lot of people. And the people that are going to be answering these phone calls, these people right here, and they don't know like, you know. You know about the information. Are you willing to have somebody from your committee available to town hall to answer questions if this goes online? Because you're going to get the questions. Because they can't answer them.

Mr. Putnam responded saying, I'm not entirely sure what I'm being asked to or I mean, you're looking at the committee. I'm not sure what you're asking us to sign up for. Selectman Morin replied if this goes online, no matter how much work you do matter the Board of Selectmen does, there's going to be

questions that come into town hall. Would somebody, be available who has the education and the information that this town hall can forward to somebody on the committee to answer the questions. Chairperson Roy said I guess my question would be at what point like before before it goes to warrant article or after? Selectman Morin replied, no, because I think it would be after because we're going to have people that pay attention and they're going to go to the vote and you know how many small voters that we get. It's going to be afterwards when the masses get this and they didn't follow. Selectman Guessferd said didn't pay attention. To which Selectman Morin replied, right. Right. You know, there's gonna be questions. Chairperson Roy then said I just want to be clear about at what point you will look for some assistance. Selectman Morin replied, it would be if this goes into effect. Selectman Guessferd said if we decide to implement it. You need it after the vote. Selectman Morin replied, right. Because the way this all looks, again, we ask them to do it. The Committee did it. Part of the town. The policies are going to be approved by the Board of Selectmen. Whether they understand it or not, they're going to see that the town did this and these people can't answer the questions. Selectman Guessferd replied, right.

Mr. Putnam then said so let me let me try to answer your question. First, there's the let's say it all, it all moves forward. And and at some point after an approved warrant article, the Board of Selectmen decides, yes, we want to we want to move forward with this. So the next major thing that needs to happen is so move forward in partnership with whom? All right. So that needs that's the big thing that needs to be decided at that point. Does Hudson Community Power partner with CPCNH for power procurement? Does Hudson partner with one of the for profits that we've spoken to in the past? That's that's a that's a pile of work that needs to be addressed later. Or we're not we're not there. Selectman Morin replied, I understand. Mr. Putnam replied I understand that that's not answering your specific question yet, but all that work needs to happen. And the reason I bring it up is, is that all of that will take months. And so it will more than more likely than not at the best we're looking at this standing up and going live in the spring of 2024. All right. So there's plenty of time for resources to be brought to bear on being able to back up the folks in town hall to be prepared for any questions that come along. All right. It's not as I'm understanding how you've you've posed the problem; it's not going to be an immediate problem. It's going to be a problem that'll happen somewhat later down the road. Selectman Morin replied, I just don't think it's fair that we put all this on our employees. Mr. Putnam replied, oh, I understand. I understand. But are you asking us to be manning the phones or backing up manning the phones. Selectman Morin replied or having somebody that they can say this is your contact person. Mr. Putnam replied yeah, I think I think that we could certainly work out something where we're backing up town resources. We either the committee or, let's say CPCNH if we partnered with them or Company X, if we partner with them for procurement, I would expect that they would be bringing resources to bear on this as well. I know CPCNH is planning an all-out, you know, campaign to to help towns be ready to do this. It's part of why they brought Clean Energy New Hampshire on board and the the procurement folks and another. Unfortunately, these contracts are not signed yet so I really can't speak to who the players are yet that CPCNH is working with, but they're very close. But they they are substantial companies that have lots of expertise in this and have done this kind of thing many times for many years across the country. So they're they're they're they're very much competent to be able to help agencies like CPCNH and then the municipalities that are signing up to do this kind of thing. I can't speak quite as authoritatively as to what resources would be brought to bear by any of the for profits if we decided to go with them. Does that does that help? Selectman Morin replied, yeah, it doesn't answer my question entirely. Mr. Putnam replied but but, but we can work something out, I'm sure.

Selectman Gagnon then said so kind of curtailing on what your point was, my interpretation of listening to you gentlemen speak your question and your answer, it sounds like, you know, we keep saying a lot of ifs, but, you know, the Hudson Aggregation Committee will potentially and theoretically work with C PCNH and will have a customer service division. Seemingly, we will let town officials here and town personnel know if you get complicated questions that you can't ask, send them to the customer service number to CP New Hampshire as its as its their project and they will be funding outreach, marketing and sales like structure. So I would think to your point it would be CPCNH if we went with them that would cover that town hall would simply just pass the phone line to them. You explain it. Selectman Gagnon replied, it sounds easy, it sounds easy, but it won't be. And the problem is, like I stated, I understand it's their project. And we had the discussion on meeting day how it was all going to work. But again, the Board of

Selectmen approving the policies. The Sustainability Committee, which is a government organization, put this together. So where are people going to assume that started? That's the issue. Selectman Gagnon replied, and we can...hopefully. I totally agree with that and hopefully we can just redirect them to the source of the true information. That's what I would see.

Selectman Morin then said just got one more thing. I'd like to get something clear and clarified because I was pretty dismayed after watching your meeting, after our last board meeting. That it came out from members of your committee that the Board of Selectmen don't want people to save money. There wasn't one of us in that room that night that said we don't want people. We had some concerns because residents called us and said they don't want to be changed. And I wasn't happy with your committee. People on your committee coming right out and saying, well, they don't want you to save money. That had nothing to do with it. What we were talking about, we wanted to make sure this done was correctly and fairly to all the residents. So I just want to make that clear that nobody on this Board made that statement. Mr. Putnam replied, I don't believe I made that statement either. Selectman Morin replied, no, I didn't say that. I said your committee. Thank you.

Chairperson Roy asked, does anybody else have anything? Selectman McGrath was recognized and said so looking at the next to the last page in your presentation, the suggested opt out warrant article. Mr. Putnam replied, yeah. This is the unedited one. Yeah. Selectman McGrath continued saying, do you expect me to be able to read that up on there? I mean, I'm lucky, I'm lucky I can read this. Mr. Putnam replied, yeah, I got to make it fit on one slide. Selectman McGrath replied, no, I understand. I'm fine with. I just can't read it from there. I have to look here, and I even need these cheater glasses to actually see it all. But my question for you is this: for the warrant article, I think that I think that this is a little too wordy. And I don't mean to be insulting anybody, but I look at things. I'm used to working with something like this and I bulletize the items so that it's clearer so you can just kind of go down. They're going to be working on a ballot and they want to get in and out of there as quick as they can. They don't want to be sitting around reading a lot of stuff. So I think, that I think that I mean, consider that making it easier to read so that they can go down line by line or bullet by bullet. And this is what this is what it's going to do for me. It's going to save me money. It'll save me money. And maybe you could even put a copy of a snapshot of a bill in the supply section of the bill, as opposed to.... Mr. Putnam asked, in the warrant article? Chairperson Roy said I don't believe you can do that in a warrant article. Selectman McGrath replied, well maybe you can't. Selectman Guessferd suggested maybe we can do it in a presentation or something. Mr. Putnam replied, sure, Sure. I can certainly do that.

Selectman McGrath went on to say I just I mean, make it as easy for the voter as you possibly can. And as informative as you can. And listen, I'm not trying to pick this. I told you, I signed up for a supply. So it's changing my bill. I don't know if it's changing it by \$0.02 or \$5 or it's not going to be it's not going to be the entire bill that they're going to be saving. It's just the supply, the supply portion of the bill. So and people need to really be aware of that so that they're not expecting to get their bill cut in half. It's going to be cut by a portion, a small portion of it. Mr. Putnam replied, so certainly all of the points that you've raised are quite valid. We're happy to and intend to address those kinds of things in our outreach and the education kinds of things that we're going to be doing. Like I said, we've already got some slides that.... Selectman McGrath interjected saying I know, but. So you had you had an outreach, right? You had a meeting here, a public hearing. 14 people showed up. I would expect that it'd be more than that. 14 people is great. I'm not saying that it's not, but it's not 20 people. It's not 30 people. It's I mean, this is saving them, potentially saving them money. Mr. Putnam replied, which is why we're trying to do things that have a much larger outreach like Hudson, you know, cable TV and Flo Nicolas, Get Tech Smart Show and so on. And so we're going to try to get as much outreach as we can and we can have sessions that are tailored, I suppose, one way or another, you know, one one on here, you know, Electric Bill 101 kind of thing. Here's the way the bill is structured. Like I said, we have those slides. Selectman McGrath replied I'm one person of this Board. One person. those are my comments. And and like I said, I'm in favor of trying to save money where you can. And I want that for all of the residents, the taxpayers of Hudson to be able to opt in. Opt in for saving saving their money on electric bill. But again I'm one person. Mr. Putnam replied, I wish that opt in could work. There's just no track record of it working. To your point around the amount of text and so on. I'm happy to sit down and wordsmith that with, with who whoever wants to work with me on

that. That's that's fine. I don't know whether you can do bulleted items in a warrant article. I have no idea, but happy to, happy to engage.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said thank you, Madam Chair. And this is probably taken, excuse me, this is probably can be taken offline or at one of the committee meetings, but I'm just reading it, you know what you have written here and I get your intent. But what comes to mind is, is as you keep saying, this is a multi-staged approach. And so I think you should look at this as the warrant article is simply to initiate one of those stages. Whereas currently the way you have it written is you're trying to cover the entire program and that may be too much. I think reading it just cover what this stage is trying to accomplish. And then the other...Mr. Putnam interjected saying well that was the original warrant article, if I might. And the problem there was is that it required there was no information about, so what am I actually voting for. Because it just simply referenced the Electric Aggregation Plan. That's a 70-page document. And so so I was trying to, you know, that one was too too extreme over there, and maybe I've gone too far in the other direction. Happy to try to wordsmith with someone.

Selectman Morin then said my question to you, Selectman Gagnon, if he said it was this warrant article for this stage, does that mean in the future we'll have to do them for the next stage and the next stage where this, this encompasses so they can move forward. You know what I'm saying? Selectman Gagnon replied, very good point. Selectman Morin asked, do you know what I'm saying, to which Selectman Gagnon replied yeah. Yeah, very good point. I, I guess just in this discussion, I would say no. I think the the only thing you need to ask the voters for is if they authorize the plan, then all the stages of who we pick, CPCNH or someone else, how we stand it all up. I don't believe the voters would need to approve anything further.

Selectman Guessferd then said right. This says to authorize the Board to develop and implement. Chairperson Roy said, Right. So we would take all the subsequent steps. Selectman Morin then said it would have to be in there just to make sure it's covered. Selectman Guessferd added, yeah that parts got to be. And then we then figure out how to do it. if if people are in support of it. I mean, that's.

Selectman Gagnon then said so it sounds like the final result is the words. Chairperson Roy then said, And I just want to be clear. So if the warrant article were to pass and the Board as a Board still didn't see the benefit of it, then we don't have to go forward. Is that my understanding? Mr. Putnam replied, that's absolutely correct. Chairperson Roy replied, All right. Does anybody else? Mr. Putnam then said so these are these are some. These are two gates that we need to get through. First one is getting the warrant article to the ballot and then getting the warrant article on the ballot passed by the voters. Neither of those encumbers the town, neither of those commits the town.

Chairperson Roy said, does anybody have any. I just have one question for you. Is this presentation and all of the information that you garnered from the first public hearing, is that available somewhere online for the citizens to see? Mr. Putnam replied, so the minutes of the public hearing are in draft form and we'll be... Chairperson Roy held up the printed slides and asked, is like this up? Is this anywhere? Mr. Putnam replied oh, this presentation? I will certainly put it on the HEC website if it's not on already there. But it will be there. Chairperson Roy asked, is that part of the Town website? To which Mr. Putnam replied, yes it is. It's, it's under the Sustainability Committee.

I'll make sure that this is there as soon as possible. Selectman Guessferd added and maybe on the front of the website. The face of the website of the town website and maybe it's also said see the new whatever just so people can. Chairperson Roy said the little like news section. Mr. Putnam replied notices section or something. Selectman Guessferd said notices section. Because that way people at least will see that. And then they'll dig down. Mr. Putnam replied, I can ask Lorrie to do that.

Chairperson Roy then asked, so do you need anything for us to do anything tonight? Mr. Putnam replied, it was my understanding from the title of this part of the meeting that there was a decision to be made. Chairperson Roy replied, oh it's a decision. Okay. All right. The Town Administrator then said you might want to get an edited warrant article for the next meeting because why pass something that you don't

know what it is. Chairperson Roy replied, right. So we would want to see it with the edited version. Yeah. So, yeah, just so we have an accurate. Mr. Putnam replied, that's fine. The Town Administrator said for the the next meeting on the 13th. Mr. Putnam then said okay. That's fine. It does not have to be. I'm not looking for anything in the way of a decision tonight. It was my understanding that there was an intent to do one. Chairperson Roy replied, okay, so then, just so we're clear after that is if we go forward, can they edit it more like everybody was talking about how wordy it was and everything? Can can it be further edited or do we. Cuz I don't want to I don't want to put something forward and then say, oh, that's not that's not the wording that everybody saw when they listened to the meeting. The Town Administrator replied, what I would advise is if he could wordsmith it slightly, give it to our attorney, have him take a look at it. If the attorney says it looks like it would be in compliance, that would come back to the Board. Chairperson Roy replied, okay, all right. Mr. Putnam said I'm happy to do that. The Town Administrator then said so you have until probably the week before the 13th approximately. We have a week or two to do that. Mr. Putnam responded saying, okay, that's not a problem.

Selectman Guessferd then said, and my comment with regard to that is I think what everybody's kind of saying here is they've got to get a lot of the detail out of this. A lot of the it's more, this is more of an explanation than it is a warrant article. And I get I get it. I understand. But I can tell you right now, people will not read through it. They'll either just say no or they'll say yes because, you know, whatever they see at the bottom; governing body vote, whatever. And so, yeah. Got to not like the original, you know, but somewhere in between where, you know, where it's relatively easy to read. It's got it's got the information people need to know is I mean I think like the last sentence is good. I mean, it will not launch unless electricity rate is equal to or less. People need to understand they're going to save money when they read this if they're going to if that's the piece of it. But I mean, again, there's more of this that's offline. But yeah, bring it, bring it down, because as it is, it's not. Selectman Morin then said yeah, just just off the top of my head, looking at it at least 30 days before the that can come right out. The Chairperson agreed saying, I don't think that's necessary. Yeah. Yeah.

Selectman Gagnon then said and I guess just so we don't step over or have issues, miscommunications like our first meeting here, are we in consensus that this gentleman can can move forward with wordsmithing, that we generally believe in the plan and that the next public hearing in January, as of right now is is okay. Chairperson Roy replied, I'm not going to hold anybody to. Selectman Guessferd said well, we want to put it to the voter. Bottom line is what are we going to put to the voters. Chairperson Roy agreed saying, yeah. I'm not going to hold anything to.... Selectman Guessferd interjected saying whether we support the plan individually or not, what are we going to put to the voters? Chairperson Roy agreed saying, right. Selectman Gagnon then said you know, again, I misspoke. I just mean. Selectman Morin replied we are we are by asking them to come back with a change. So we are. The Chairperson added yeah. But I'm not going to hold anybody to how they vote. To which Selectman Gagnon replied no, no, of course, of course. I meant the public hearing in January. That can still be planned in that kind of thing.

Mr. Putnam then said so I have a question for you, though, just so I'm clear on this. So in order to advance a warrant article onto the ballot, am I saying that correctly? The Town Administrator replied, to the warrant, to which Mr. Putnam replied, the warrant. Thank you. It needs to have at least three positive votes? Chairperson Roy replied, yes, yes. it has to have a majority vote. Mr. Putnam replied, okay.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and said I just want to I want to be clear. I'm in favor of saving the taxpayers any money that they can. It just has to be done correctly. They have to know exactly what they're agreeing, what the voters are going to be agreeing to.

Chairperson Roy then said just to help you give a little bit of a plug, next public hearing on this...Mr. Putnam replied oh, the it's planned for the 17th of January and with the 19th is a snow date. 7:00 PM Buxton. Room. Chairperson Roy replied, okay. All right. Thank you. That was my last, my last thing. If nobody else has anything. Selectman McGrath asked, is that a big enough room for you? I mean, I know you only had 14 people at the last, but. But say 30 people show up. Are you going to have enough room in that? Selectman Guessferd replied, I think 30 is good. 30 is okay. Now if you get 60, that's another

ballgame. Selectman Morin replied, well the numbers higher but we've already been down that road. Chairperson Roy said I think 34 participants and you might be pressing your luck, if I remember correctly.

Mr. Putnam then said so I will plan to come to the next meeting, which is...Chairperson Roy replied, December 13th. Mr. Putnam replied, December 13th. Okay. And I'll have... so I will work on wordsmithing this down is there. Can I work with you, Mr. Malizia? The Town Administrator replied, you'll have to give it to me if you go to the lawyer, so yeah. Mr. Putnam replied, so I will work on trying to pare this down to the minimum. Selectman Guessferd said try to get some of the steps and things out of the process, out of it. This is about a concept. Ms. Messer asked, and you need it how far in advance of the meeting with? The Town Administrator replied, the Thursday prior. I don't know the data that is, but the Thursday prior, I think it's the eighth. The Executive Assistant replied, it is the 8th. Mr. Putnam then asked, so are you folks willing to have drafts circulated to you and to comment on that or? The Town Administrator replied, I think you're best off giving it to me to get to the attorney. Chairperson Roy agreed saying yeah. The Town Administrator replied, because too many cooks spoil the broth. Chairperson Roy jokingly said we might end up with something twice as long. Mr. Putnam replied, okay, I think that's it. To which Chairperson Roy replied, again, thank you for all your work. Thank you for your time.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. November 8, 2022 General Election Debrief

Chairperson Roy recognized Town Moderator Paul Inderbitzen who was present to debrief the Board on the recent November 8th midterm election. The Moderator began saying, For the benefit of those watching the November 8th was a record turnout for Hudson for a midterm election. 62.9, 63% turnout. The best we've had before that if you look back when we had a similar total checklist was 50%. So 51%. So it was a little bit of a surprise. I knew we were going to have a good turnout, but I didn't know if it could be that good, which is good. We like to have that. I wish we could have more of it. The use of the Poll Pads was a plus. We were able to process, as you see from the statistics in total, we processed almost 800 voters and hour two locations. That, that surprised even me when I put the numbers together. About 330 from Alvirne and 460 at the Community Center. Although you have to take that into consideration that all the absentees, 850 absentee ballots, were all counted and brought in through at the Community Center. So that added something to their number. But that was pretty good.

I know there were lines and I had a few complaints about the lines, but we actually moved those lines, I thought very well. And even though you were in line around the building, sometimes it you didn't you didn't last long. I think we the morning one at Alvirne was out past the campaigners, but in 45 minutes we brought that down, which I thought was really good.

Selectman Gagnon then said, sorry to interrupt you, if I may, to that point as well, cuz I think it was a interesting discussion. The AG's office reached out to or came to me and said they had two complaints at the Community Center and he said that there's a line. And then the Chief of Police came by and said, I don't see a line. And so to your point, it was interesting because I indeed personally saw the line of the Community Center going out to the road down the main road. But within seemingly 20 minutes it was gone. When the Police Chief, started to go around. He goes, I don't see a line. So we had this discussion and it was quite interesting. So I, I applaud you, the Police, for for getting it so effectively that those bubbles of people that lined up got through really quite quickly. The Moderator replied, I think so too. And we did have a line at 11 for new registrations around 5:00 between five and six. That was a little bit unexpected. And of course, to register for the first time takes a lot longer. And even though their crew did as well as they could, there were just a bunch of people that came in at the last not the last minute, but in the evening to register for the first time. So registering ahead of time is really a plus for any election because it will take you longer to get through. And they only had one poll pad to put those new registrations into the system for voting. And having more Poll Pads would have would have moved that

process forward a little bit because they had a good crew, the Supervisor of the Checklist and their crew were really, really on top of things and they were really working hard. I have to compliment the Police Department. I know there was some parking issues at the Community Center for a while and even the Police Chief was out there directing traffic. I understand they did a fantastic job. The DPW guys did a great job of setting up and taking down and even at Alvin, where they have to take it all down at the end of the night so they can free up the cafeteria for the next day. They all did a great job and my people were all, some of them missed lunch or missed dinner, they really put an effort in to make it work. And I really appreciate that and congratulate them.

The Moderator went on to say, we had about 610 new registrations. We had 845 absentee ballots that we had to, absentee voters that we had to process and then take their ballots. It would have been nice if it was like two years ago when we could preprocess and I know the moderators are working on trying to get the legislature to do that, to let us preprocess open them up ahead of time, make sure there's a signature. If there's no signature, we can call the voter and say, hey, you didn't sign it, come in and fix that. So that would that would have helped us a little bit too. But the Clerks, the Clerks, crew, they closed for the day and came in and they did all the absentee ballots. It took a while, but they were really they said, boy, this is hard. I said, welcome to my world. But if anybody has any questions about what we did, I thought the fact that we put through so many. I was comparing some of the voters per hour through. And I'll tell you, we it was a we did a lot that was that was that was a surprise to me as well.

Chairperson Roy asked, does anybody have any questions? Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said a couple of observations and I'll just ask you. I kind of felt we were undermanned as well, especially like where we were at the table. We were at it at times it was just trying to keep up with things, you know, with getting those slips from the from the Poll Pads that they brought over to get their ballot. And with two, we can figure out, I think, the best optimal way of doing that. But I just felt in general, we were undermanned and and the people that were there, they were they were they were I was amazed at how well and how great things went, but it just felt like we needed more volunteers. The Moderator replied, I would have liked to have had a few backup people to give people a break. I did not. I did expand the law requires that if you use Poll Pads, you have to have a paper checklist as a backup where you take the slips and you mark it on a paper checklist. So if there's any failure of the Poll Pads, you've got a checklist that you can start working with. There's an alternative to that of having it. I went from two in the primary to three people and they couldn't keep up. I don't think they finished at the Community Center until 11:30 because we had to get out of Alvirne by eight, by eight or nine, we couldn't finish there. We finished it later on and you're supposed to be within 30 minutes. So that was one area where I didn't anticipate how long it was going to take to do those those sheets. There's an option of using a having a printer available where if there is a failure, you can immediately print out a completed checklist of people who have been. We're going to explore that as a possibility. We don't anticipate failures. Of course, you never anticipate failures. But all the all the Massachusetts towns, you know, the whole bunch of Massachusetts and Connecticut towns that have been using the Poll Pads right along, they've never had a problem. So we're going to look into that as an alternative to having those people, because I could have doubled that and we might still been behind. And that means I got to have six more people than what we normally have. Poll Pads is supposed to save time and people. It would have been for something that big. I would have liked to have had five check ins at each location, which like we would have possibly done for the presidential. Normally we have eight, so we have four and four. When we did the presidential, we had ten check ins at Memorial and we still had lines. So that's something we got to look at and maybe expand. But we don't have a lot of space to expand either. That's the other thing.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said I really think it's time we get out of the Community Center. During the day, we had to pull Public Works guys off the street and we had to pull Police Officers off the street because that parking lots of fiasco and I understand people come in and find the first parking lot they can. The big problem was driving around the back to the other side because they didn't know and we had to have people direct it. I think the Community Center for the amount of people, especially this showed that we had a record turnout, that we need to move it. If you put them in the parking lot of Memorial School and Alvirne there's no need for direction, there's plenty of parking. The buildings are big.

When I got there at probably 1:30, the line at the Community Center was out the door and down the side of the building to the back. I just think, you know, we need to move it out of there.

Chairperson Roy replied, so I think that there might be more than one option to explore that. And one of them is to sort of fix that parking lot as a and it's not only for for elections, but overall, like because I understand people don't know. But I also understand there's no like arrows pointed on the on the, you know, painting on the ground that says you can only go this way. Right? Selectman Morin replied, I know I understand that. But human nature is we're going to look for the closest parking lot, parking spot. They're not going to drive around. They're going to go slow and they're going to look through everything to see if there's a parking. I mean, the two schools, it's a big wide open. Chairperson Roy replied, I guess it might be worth a discussion. Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah, absolutely. The Moderator added well it is a function of the Board of Selectmen. The location and the setup is really your responsibility. And you've got two years to plan. The next one is two years from now.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and said so it might be wise for this Board to at least implore of the Governor and the legislature to make voting day a holiday. Chairperson Roy replied, wouldn't that be a wonderful thing? Selectman McGrath replied no, it would be because because the school if we need to use the schools right now, they have classes on those days and that means parking is taken up by those, you know, the high school and and the teachers and all of that. So I would think that that's something that we as voters and we as leaders for the town should be imploring, you know, our our higher ups to, you know, make this make the voting a holiday. School Board Chairman Gary Gasdia replied, just to clarify, just to clarify, we actually don't have school on those days. Selectman McGrath replied oh, you don't? To which Chairman Gasdia replied, because because it's really a safety issue. Right? We can't have the students in while you have the voters. And I think ultimately that's where we've run into issues last year when we were looking at the schools is, you know, we can have what we've done. What we did this year was we moved a couple of of the teacher workshop days so that that was there, but we still didn't have enough days. So September was a snow day, even though it was a beautiful day out. And that's where I think, you know, with a couple of years we might be able to plan, plan around that. But we can't have the we can't have the students in the school, so we don't have schools school on that day. It's just a matter of figuring out the calendar. Selectman McGrath responded, because I remember the conversation that we had before and because we were talking about looking at Memorial School as a location to vote. But the students were going to be there. Chairman Gasdia replied, so not to go too deep, but when we first started talking, the law in the state of New Hampshire would have allowed us to to have Alvirne do a remote day. They've since said you can only do remote days in the event of inclement weather. You couldn't use voting as a as a reason. So that meant we would need to close all the schools as opposed to just closing Alvirne. So that's that was a change in the law, which complicated a little more from when we first were talking last year.

Chairperson Roy then said I would put forth that we should also encourage them for automatic voter registration. That would probably help also. The Moderator added that does take up a lot of time. Chairperson Roy replied, yeah. Ms. McGrath at that is something that we should certainly explore. Selectman Gagnon then asked, could we make that type of motion tonight? I'm in support of it. Chairperson Roy replied, sure if somebody wants to craft a motion. Selectman Gagnon then asked, Ms. McGrath, would you like to say it or shall I? Selectman McGrath replied, no, you go right ahead. Selectman Gagnon said I'd like to make a motion for this Board collectively to send a letter to the Governor of New Hampshire portraying our support for a state holiday for elections. Chairperson Roy said so can I ask before somebody seconds that that be amended to include our our state representatives and a state senator? Selectman McGrath replied, I was going to suggest that. Selectman Gagnon replied, fine with me. Selectman Morin seconded this motion. Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to send a letter from the Board of Selectmen to the Governor of New Hampshire, Hudson State Representatives and Hudson's State Senator, portraying the Board of Selectmen's support to make election day a state holiday in New Hampshire. Carried 5-0.

The Moderator asked the Board if there were any other questions. Chairperson Roy replied, I just have a comment cuz I have to get on my soapbox for a second. There were 10,337 votes cast. In March of 2022

at the town election, where you get to decide how your taxpayer dollars are spent. 4,259 people showed up. I think we can do better. I just it pains me that every election is important and I get that. But it pains me that we have such a low turnout at a local election. And I and I don't want to get too partisan about it, that that people vote along a party line, makes them come out and vote. And a town election is not a party election. So that's my that's my that's my thing. Selectman McGrath then said the thing to add to your soapbox is that the March election dictates what they pay in their taxes. Chairperson Roy replied, exactly! Exactly! It is mind boggling to me. Selectman Guessferd added, I think we're all in violent agreement on this. I mean, people come out and vote, you know, for the local election. It affects you way, way more. Chairperson Roy added, Right. Directly affects you. Yes. You know? so anyways.

The Moderator then said if the members wanted to in terms of planning ahead and looking at options because one of the options would be using Memorial instead of the other, another option would be changing the the wards so that more people come to Alvirne. But Alvirne's smaller they have plenty of parking. No problem. We had no problem with parking even with teachers in the in the school. They were doing their workshops over at the CTE I think. You could have more coming there. But the cafeteria is is smaller than the Community Center in terms of space to add more booths and stuff. That's something to consider too. I was thinking of that until I said, Well, that might not work at Alvirne with just the cafeteria. Chairperson Roy replied, so I don't disagree. I just think that we need, after just changing everything, we need to really cautiously and purposefully move towards whatever the next changes may be and obviously include the school cuz there are if they can't, they can't they have to call snow day, right? Then, you know, that could detrimentally impact students. The Moderator replied, and one of the things to think about, if you look at 2024 there in February, there is a there is a presidential primary which usually has a similar turnout because it's national. And that even if I give them a date, it's supposed to be the second February, in a second Tuesday in February. But there was one time they had to move it into January because the law that allows the Secretary of State to move it ahead of any other state's primary and, you know, you don't want to do that three months before and then tell the school, oh, by the way, we moved the date up. This is not this is not conducive to good. So that's something we got to think about, too. Chairperson Roy replied, I agree. The Moderator then said, but I'm willing to work with anybody. I think I have some people on on my group that would be willing to sit down and talk about different ideas, some some very knowledgeable people and interested in what we're doing. Chairperson Roy replied, thank you.

At this point in the meeting, resident Debbie Putnam, who was seated in the audience came to the public input table and said: Debbie Putnam, 59 Rangers Drive. I was a ballot clerk and I became a ballot clerk way back when COVID first started, and I was seriously worried. We were getting reports from the Massachusetts some towns worried about holding elections because they didn't have enough volunteers to run the polls. And this I just wanted to speak in support of Mr. Inderbitzen's request to the town regarding the budget of additional Poll Pads. They are a massive game changer in checking in people and making sure everything is valid. I was able to look people in the eye and say, okay, I have verified, yes, you are in the system. This this correct. We're required to say their name to them and they're required to say name to us. Once we're required to say the name back to them three times during the check in process. So it became very transparent you know very I felt very valid for the voters. And I was thanking the young people voting for the first time was very clear and I was like, thank you so much. And to echo your plea, please come out in the March elections. But it gets back to the fact that the Poll Pads are a major game changer. And they will, if they're funded, enable us to survive the next presidential election. Because clearly there's more and more interest in the town. We hope it carries through to March, but this particular election in November shows that there is more activity in the town. So that's my only input. Chairperson Roy replied, thank you.

B. Warrant Article Need - Veterans Tax Credits

Chairperson Roy recognized the Town Administrator who said, you have in front of you a packet of information regarding veterans tax credits. Just to set the scenario the legislature passed a law this year and expanded the credit to active service. Active duty, along with certain reservists and guard. DRA is now requiring that we re-adopt our credits based on that law change. So there's a standard

veterans tax credit of \$50. Hudson has elected to do an optional veteran's tax credit of \$600 and an all veterans credit of \$600. So DRA is requiring or saying you need to re adopt if you don't readopt your optional and your veteran's all veterans, you will revert to the standard veteran's credit, which is \$50. So what I'm recommending, what the Assessor is recommending that you forward a warrant article to the warrant, it's page three of this packet, that basically re adopts the optional veteran's tax credit and the all veterans tax credit to ensure that our veterans receive the credit that they already receiving. If we don't you'll be getting a \$50 credit. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to approve FY24 warrant article(s) to readopt the Optional Veteran's Tax Credit and the All Veteran's Tax Credit. Chairperson Roy then said I just have a question about that. So the warrant article talks about which I get. But it doesn't talk about the expansion that the RSA...the Town Administrator replied, the expansion will be in the law 7228. Chairperson Roy replied, oh, okay. The Town Administrator added, so that's why that's why we're doing it because now the law has expanded. So we're just referencing the the statute that we have to readopt it. Chairperson Roy replied, okay. Alright.

Selectman Gagnon then said, question If I may, just for my lame understanding here, the the law allowed for a tax credit for veterans and so forth, and there they're expanding that tax credit to active military, correct? The Chairperson replied, correct. The Town Administrator explained, it was for retired under honorable. Selectman Guessferd then said active Guard. Active Reserve active. Selectman Gagnon asked, so do we know how many is in that potential pool in Hudson? I mean, are we going from. The Town Administrator replied, I'm not sure we have statistical information for Hudson. Chairperson Roy replied, I don't think that it's going to be. The Town Administrator continued saying, statewide I think there are approximately maybe \$6,000. Selectman Gagnon replied, okay. I just don't know if we're gonna get to get like an influx like twice as much in this line item in the budget. Chairperson Roy replied, right. I don't know, quite frankly, if too many. Title 12 or 14 folks. I mean, you'll get some Title 32 folks more than anything. The Town Administrator replied, presumably you'll get some, but it won't be. Selectman Guessferd added, yeah. I mean, they have to be on active duty, which means you've got to be stationed at Hanscom or something like that. Chairperson Roy added or you're on the Active Guard. Yes, it's not. Yeah. I don't see. The Town Administrator added, New Hampshire has many veterans, but right now there's an estimated to be about 6000 state wide. Selectman Gagnon replied, okay. All right. Just just curious. That was going to be a huge line item to encumber. Chairperson Roy replied, yeah, it's not okay. Yeah, it shouldn't be. Yeah. I don't think it'll have a huge impact on our tax rate. Okay. Seeing no further questions from the Board, the Chairperson said motions been made and seconded. All those in favor say aye. Motion carried 4-0-1. Selectman Guessferd abstained stating I benefit from it. Chairperson Roy replied oh I mean; I guess I do too. Do you think I should abstain? I mean. Selectman Guessferd replied, no, not necessarily. I just made a personal, personal choice.

C. Lowell Road Bridge - Construction Services

Chairperson Roy recognized Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima. Mr. Dhima began by saying, Thank you very much, Chairperson Roy. Good evening, everyone. First item for you tonight is the Lowell Road bridge construction phase. As you recall, this was one of the projects identified to be done utilizing ARPA funds. We got the design done, we got the permitting completed and we went out to bid. We budgeted \$650,000 for this. Our engineering estimate as we got closer to the design was \$450,000 and we went through the mandatory pre bid. Three contractors showed up and we had three bids from those three contractors. We got one for \$334,500, \$488,950 and \$492,400. \$334,500 is a qualified contractor. It's the same contractor that did the transfer station for us, very familiar with us. They did a good job. We went over the estimate to make sure we were right on target. And basically one of the items that they saved money on was the de-watering. So that's, that was basically the one thing that kind of took them below everyone else. We budgeted \$125,000 for the de-watering phase, you know, stopping First Brook, getting the culvert cleaned up. And their estimate for that was \$50 grand versus the other parties had headed over \$200,000, which was I think it was way overboard. So with that said, you have in front of you tonight a recommendation to move forward with the low bid and get this thing done. I'll take any questions you might have.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said yeah, you kind of addressed it. So there is a large discrepancy and you just explained the difference in price. So typically with the low bid, you would say that all three, all three bidders are relatively technically equal. Mr. Dhima replied, yeah, we'd like to see that. But that's not always the case. Yes. I mean, you know, but this one, yeah, we were shooting for \$450,000 knowing that was a very healthy number. The \$334,000 you know; I was a bit concerned. But the one thing that he also did is which I thought he was kind of smart, is we carried a certain amount of money for traffic mitigation there. In reality, the project is really off the road and we have a good staging area there. By many sources, Realty was basically going to be working with us to work in his area on staging. So it's really not any work on the road. So I think he went from ten grand to \$1,000 for that item. The concrete piece, which was the biggest one, I think it was right on target. I think we carried \$3,000 a yard and he carried \$3,200. So it was right there. But it was, it was between the de-watering, the traffic and I think it was something else, the erosion establishment. I think we had a healthy number and he has done it before. He feels comfortable with it.

Mr. Dhima went on to explain, and another thing to it too is which was different is in the past we have set up generators to fit the bypass system. So basically to get the brook from one side to the other, you have to have a pump system, a very significant one. So you have a primary one and you have power as well that you require. These guys are not using a generator. They're going to be using a temporary feed they'll be transferred. So I reached out to Eversource and it appears it's its very easy set up. It costs out to \$500 bucks. In the past, used to be as much as ten grand. So if some people said, I need to have a generator there and it's going to cost me \$50 grand or whatever, these guys basically saying, now we're going to have the power company give us that meter set up, just like you do with construction for a house when you have a temporary meter. So I think when they did the numbers and being familiar with this, they kind of felt that \$50 grand is a good number. They're aggressive and they'd like to try to get that done this year. Selectman Guessferd replied, okay, so so having said all that, all this is documented in your evaluation file. Okay. Mr. Dhima replied, yeah. We we don't want anyone to lose money coming to town and no one is going to retire on a job they do here. But we want to make sure that they're not doing something that they're going to regret. We don't want anyone in that position either when we're in position to get anyone out of a business. So we want to make sure that they're crossing their T's. We're trying to be fair. I think that's that's trying to build a good relationship. We had no issues with them at the landfill and that was a significant big project. They're very good with paperwork. So I asked him point blank, are you feeling comfortable with this? And they're like, yeah, so let's get it done. Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah, it's as much for me, that piece as it is for just making sure they're a responsible contractor. And and they didn't just because I've seen it in the past where somebody low bids and and they're really not 100% qualified. Mr. Dhima replied, it happens all the time. It happens all the time. And that's part of this, you know, and we don't always pick the low bid either. We have done that in the past this Board previous boards have we want to make sure we feel comfortable who we go with. Selectman Guessferd replied, it's nice you had an opportunity this time to go low bid. So. Mr. Dhima replied, it's always nice to come in and say we'll be able to save some money. But yeah, this one we are, we feel comfortable moving forward. Selectman Guessferd replied, Okay. Seeing no further questions, Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to approve the contract for construction services for the Lowell Road Bridge (116/080) to William P. Davis Excavation, LLC for the amount not to exceed \$334,500 and to charge costs to American Rescue Plan account number 7210, as recommended by the Town Engineer and Finance Director. Carried 5-0.

D. Lowell Road Bridge - Inspection Services

The Chairperson again recognized Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima who said, thank you, Chairperson. So with this one, we'll be doing the same thing we did with the transfer station. We're going to have the company that did the design be able to be standby in case we have any questions concerned. Part of this project, a little different than previous one we have, is we're going to have DES permit that we have to comply with. So basically monitoring the flow of water, sedimentation and things of that sort, any migration of any kind of fish over there from one side to the other, things like that. So we we're better off having a third party to make sure that we're not too biased about being our project and there's no issues

there. So this contract, the \$14,500, is going to cover five grand for DES compliance efforts, and then about \$9,500 is going to be related to on call services for me to call them in if I need a second opinion on anything, including steel or concrete mix, and then the bypass itself to make sure that, you know, we are setting this up right and we're we're not missing anything. And that's basically the \$14,500 providing additional support during construction.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said so when something like this, I'm used to seeing things like time and materials, in other words, in other words, billing by the hour. And like you've said here, it's up to \$14,500. I didn't see anything in the contract with like a specified rate or anything like that. I know you said the contractor's standard rates or something to that effect. but typically you would see there would just be billing out at a particular negotiated rate per hour because it looks like it's mostly labor. Mr. Dhima replied, it's basically like \$100 to \$125 on call. I think I had it in, but maybe I not included it. I think the original cost was about \$38 grand because that cost about they usually go about 10% of the cost of the construction, something like that. So if it's \$34,000, they'll do 10%, 8 to 10%. I'm like, Nah, yeah, it's Hudson. Cut it in half, it's off we went. Typically for a municipality, it's it's the standard for engineering, you know, there's a design for it and there's a construction for it. And that number is about 5 to 10%, depending on who you get and what you do. We like to do it by as needed. If I need them, I'll use them. If I don't, I don't. But the rate is basically about \$100 to \$125 and I can provide that to the board. And that's standard. You can go as much as \$175. Selectman Guessferd replied oh yeah, yeah. Mr. Dhima continued saying, I'm not looking for rising stars. We just want a second opinion. Selectman Guessferd replied, it's not so much the fact that you know of the rate itself, but it's having that rate specified in the contract. So that we know how much we're paying per hour for their services.

Mr. Dhima replied we get that information when we get the invoice. And if it's anything that I don't like, believe me, I don't have a problem saying revise. I can provide that later on if that's okay with the Board. But it's something along the lines of what they did for the design phase, and they were the low bid for that. So they've been, they've been very good, you know, providing things on time, not over budget. They actually went over budget on the design and the environmental permitting, but they did not pass that to us. They decided to eat it and that was it. So they've been good to us and they've been very reasonable on the rates. And these guys are going up every year. Just the nature of the beast.

Selectman Guessferd replied I would just say, you know, I'm not I don't have a problem with this. But this one, I'd say in the future, my advice, my suggestion is an hourly rate in the contract and they bill by that. So you know what up front, you know what the rate is up front. Mr. Dhima replied, wo what I'll do is when we cut the PO and we'll put that in as part of the backup. So all of the contract signed and then I'll provide I'll provide an hourly rate added to that. So if anyone asks when we pay, the invoices will be we'll be locked in a problem. Selectman Guessferd replied, it avoids a lot of it avoids a lot of uncertainty and issues when you get those invoices. Mr. Dhima responded, no, I totally get it. I'll let it in when we cut the PO. Not a big deal. Selectman Guessferd replied okay, great. That works. Okay. Mr. Dhima replied, thank you. Good question. You're on fire tonight. Seeing no further questions, Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to approve the contract for Inspectional Services for the Lowell Road Bridge repair to Wright-Pierce, Inc. for the amount, not to exceed, \$14,500 using American Rescue Plan Account #7201. Carried 5-0.

At this point Selectman Morin was recognized and said I have a question for the Engineer if you don't mind. Selectman Morin went on to say, I understand there may be federal funding coming. Could you talk a little bit about that? Mr. Dhima replied, so we got notified, thank you Selectman Morin. We got notified that EPA federal money will be coming down the line for recycling centers for communities like us. So Mr. Florence and I and Mr. Malizia are looking into what that means. So we're having one of our consultants look into it, there's a deadline of December 16 for notice of intent and January 16th for actually submitting the grant. So we're going to try to give something to the Board by the next meeting, which is the 13th, if it's worth looking into it, to see if it's if it's worth pursuing it for either the design, the construction, or both and looking into what the match is, if any. Could be 100%, we're not sure, but that's in the works right now. So it'll be interesting to see. But it's regarding solid waste management and recycling, which is

basically exactly what the Board has been talking about at the transfer station. So pretty exciting stuff. We'll see where it goes. There's obviously a lot into it, but I think we're in that position where there's more money than projects out there. So we could be like the Twin Bridges when we thought we had to pay ourselves. And actually, you know, we have we're in the program through an 80/20 approach. Chairperson Roy asked, do you have any idea what dollar figure?

So any idea what a dollar figure for? Mr. Dhima replied, we're going to be asking for the for the top. But I would say we could be looking at \$250,000 for the design of the entire facility, \$250,000, and it could be up to \$7 million for the actual building facility, not including the not including the scale project, which is \$50 grand for the design and about \$400,000 for the construction, which is part of the ARPA project list. Now that's been added to Mr. Malizia. So if we get something of those lines, we could very well look into piggybacking into that and morph it into that and use ARPA funds for something else. We don't know. It's hard to tell, but. We have our consultant look into it and we're going to try to put in a professional package together. So the intent, the idea that we get someone to professionally put this together and have a better chance of getting something out of it instead of us trying to do it. So they're evaluating. We're going to have something if it's worthwhile or if it's as good as it sounds, the Board will be presented with some options. We'll see where it goes. Chairperson Roy replied, all right. Thank you. To which Mr. Dhima responded, thank you. Have a great night.

E. Request to End Contract with Milton Caterpillar

Chairperson Roy recognized DPW Director, Jess Forrence. Mr. Forrence began by saying Good evening, Madam Chair. Members of the Board. Very disappointing. Back in April, I got approval to lease purchase a front end loader from Milton Cat. The beginning of November timeframe. We were notified that the machine we were looking for is not into production anymore. They said they probably would not be able to give us one until springtime. Where this is a front line piece of equipment for snow we started scrambling. We did some calling on a couple other vendors, and we ended up going down a couple of steps than we wanted to go before that. So what I would like to do is cancel the contract with Milton Cat. As long as you people are okay the second one. Chairperson Roy said so we can we can combine the discussions so we understand what the effect is on the operation. Mr. Forrence replied, yeah. So when we got the notification that we would not see this thing until spring at the earliest. They're having problems with parts and this is one of the biggest companies in the world. And so like I said, we started scrambling. I didn't say anything to them. First question I was at is, do you have anything that we could rent? The answer was no. So that's when we started looking. So we looked elsewhere. We we found what the second packet would be. So before I can buy another one, unless you guys do that, I have to erase the contract with Caterpillar.

Chairperson Roy then said okay, so can we just go to the to the vehicle that you then want to do a lease purchase on? Because unless I misunderstood you, it's not the same vehicle. Mr. Forrence replied, it is not the same. Different, totally different manufacturer. When we go through the source while we looked at not cheapest, but we look what we also get with it. Caterpillar was at the top with what we were looking for through the Sourcewell. Volvo was second and then Komatsu was third. We had to give up a lot for the Komatsu because it's more expensive than the the latter of the two. So we had to give up the plow that we wanted with it and a set of forks that we also wanted with it. So we are getting the machine for the... hopefully we're getting the machine with a bucket on it and somewhere down the road we'll get the plow and something to do it. The funding stays right where the cat was. The interest rate is still, the Kansas City Bank is just fantastic to work with. Really good. They stayed at the 3.94% as we got back in April, so that made it a lot easier going forward. So not much change on it. Chairperson Roy replied, so I guess my point about the the what does that do to the operation to not have those two add ons, the plow and the forks, what does that do to the operation? Mr. Forrence replied, it's going to slow it down. This machine that we're going to get is not the primary machine to go out and plow snow. We have another one that heads out with the grater and the other trucks to take care of Lowell Road, Derry Street because they're so wide. This one stays in the yard, loads trucks, mixes, sand, salt as the storm goes through, heads out when we have a tree down or something like that during the storm, which is not uncommon. So we have

two loaders. Right now, we have one. we'll have two loaders that we've had since I started working here 35 years ago. So it's just a good, good piece of equipment.

Selectman Morin asked are forks interchangeable between the two pieces? Mr. Forrence replied, no, no. So what we can do is buy an attachment, an adapter, if you will, to end up doing that. But the adapter only work on that one one loader. So we're going to look into some other alternatives once we get this in house and the budget is approved for next year.

Selectman Morin then asked, with our luck with contracts, any penalty getting out of this one? To which Mr. Forrence replied, not at all. I talked to Milton Cat this morning. I was hoping he'd say, I've got better news for you so I wouldn't have to sit here tonight. But he did not say that. So there was no problem getting out the contract. Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah cuz there's nothing in the contract which talks about. Selectman Morin replied, well there wasn't either for the fire truck. That's why I'm asking. Selectman Guessferd replied, right. Well, I get it.

The Town Administrator then said the other thing is we've made no payments at this point. Right? Mr. Forrence replied, right. The Town Administrator went on to say and the second thing is the other vehicle. We'll have it here in a week or two? Mr. Forrence replied, we got lucky on that also. It was in the assembly line. The company that was buying it fell through. The guy just put the Town of Hudson's name on it. No commitment or anything until I call them tomorrow morning. But we could have it as early as the middle of next month.

Selectman Guessferd then asked so how are we documenting the cancellation of the contract with with Cat, with Milton? Are we just? Mr. Forrence replied, I'm calling him tomorrow morning saying null and void. If he needs something from me, I'll put something together and send it to him. But that's all he was requesting. Just the phone call. Selectman Guessferd replied, okay. We should probably just put a memo on the file somewhere. Mr. Forrence replied, yeah, yeah. Absolutely. Seeing no further questions, Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to authorize the Public Works Director to end the 5-year lease purchase agreement for a Caterpillar 938M with Milton Cat. Carried 5-0.

F. Replacement Front End Loader Lease Purchase

Selectman Morin jokingly started the discussion saying, you know, I'm kind of on the fence now with this new one. Selectman Guessferd added, me too. To which Mr. Forrence replied that's only two of you! After some laughter Selectman Morin said Luck I live on the main road. It has to get plowed. Chairperson Roy then asked, okay, then does anyone have any more questions about the. The replacement five-year lease purchase? Seeing no further questions Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to authorize Public Works Director to enter into a five-year lease purchase agreement for a Komatsu WA370 front end loader with Anderson Equipment. Carried 5-0.

G. Resignation of FF/AEMT

Chairperson Roy recognized Fire Chief Scott Tice. Chief Tice said, so firefighter Andrew Perkins has given a letter of resignation effective Sunday. Andrew's been with us since January of 2014, so we just shy of nine years. He's going to be moving on to the Franklin Fire Department. We have we've had some good conversations. This is not any issue with his employment here. This is based on personal, personal reasons and personal choice. So while we hate to see him go, because he's been a very good employee for us and he's a really good kid, but I encourage him to do to make the decision he's making because it's in his in his family's best interest and the demotion. We're already in a hiring process, so we really don't need another motion. We're already moving forward with that. Chairperson Roy replied, okay. So you just need the one motion to accept the resignation. Anybody have any questions? I'll entertain a

motion to accept a letter of resignation from Firefighter/AEMT Andrew Perkins Effective 0800 on November 27, 2022, with the Board's thanks and appreciation. Selectman McGrath made this motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon. Carried 5-0.

H. Walmart Grant Acceptance

The Chairperson again recognized Chief Tice who explained, the Fire Department's been awarded a community grant from Walmart in the sum of \$2,000. So I'd ask the Board to authorize me to accept that, and we would follow up with a letter of appreciation to them. Seeing no further questions *Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to authorize the Fire Chief to accept the Community Grant sponsored by Walmart in the amount of \$2,000 is recommended by the Fire Chief. Carried 5-0.*

I. Release of Discretionary Easement - 274 Lowell Road

Chairperson Roy recognized the Town Administrator who said, I received correspondence from Attorney Andrew Perlman regarding property at 274 Lowell Road. He has a client buying 274 and 280 Lowell Road, and there was an unusual no development easement on that property granted to the town that expired in April 1st, 1988. The title company that's working on the property sale recommends just to have the town release that even though it's not required. It's already extinguished. So I took the request to Attorney Lefevre. He sees no reason not to do it. Matter of fact, he thinks it's a reasonable request. So I have it in front of you to release the discretionary easement that actually lapsed in 1998. Pardon me? In 1988? Yeah. The Chairperson asked, anybody have any questions?

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said yeah, just just quickly, this address, it just interesting to me that it had an easement to not build, even if it was so old. The Town Administrator replied, it was ten years. It was a ten-year easement. I don't know what the rationale was. Selectman Gagnon then said and this property 274 Lowell Road? The Town Administrator replied south end of town somewhere in proximity to trying to think past Walmart past all of that. Selectman Gagnon asked is it right in your Haffner's that open lot there? The Town Administrator replied, no no. It's much further south of that. Before it turns into Dracut and River. Selectman Gagnon then said okay. I just find it odd that there. Selectman Guessferd said on the right hand side heading south. The Town Administrator replied I believe it's the left hand side. Selectman Gagnon then said and your assumption of why a no build easement would have an expiration? Usually a no build easement is to protect the land and so forth. The Town Administrator replied, yeah, I couldn't tell you what the what the what the impetuous was back in 1984 when they did this. Selectman Gagnon replied okay. Thank you. The Town Administrator replied, nonetheless, it's expired. It's it's actually moot. But title insurance companies like to be like belt and suspenders so no reason for us not to release it. It's not in force. Seeing no further discussion *Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to sign the release of Discretionary Easement granted by Herbert Brown and Charlene Brown to the Town of Hudson, dated February 21st, 1984, as recorded at the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds Book 3159, Page 0269. Carried 5-0.*

J. Warrant Article L - Funding for Benson Park Renovation Capital Reserve Fund

At their meeting on October 20th, the Benson Park Committee voted to approve a request for a warrant article to add \$10,000 to the existing Benson Park Renovation Capital Reserve Fund. If you recall, the voters approved a \$10,000 fund funding for that reserve fund last at last year's town meeting. The fund, I believe, has a balance of approximately \$62,504. That's after we did the Haselton Barn move. So it stands to reason that \$10,000 is reasonable to replenish because obviously we have things at

Benson Park that we need to maintain and or renovate. So this would afford warrant article to the warrant in the amount of \$10,000 should you approve it. The Chairperson asked, does anybody have any questions? Seeing no questions from the Board, Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to move Warrant Article L - Funding for Benson Park Renovation Capital Reserve Fund to the warrant. Carried 5-0.

K. October 2022 Revenues & Expenditures

The Chairperson recognized the Town Administrator who said, so we are 33% or one third of the way through the fiscal year. At this point, everything looks like it's tracking very, very reasonable. Certainly, as I've mentioned before, we always encumber the trash contract and legal. But typically at this point in time, we seem to be tracking pretty much where we should be from an expense perspective. Like I don't see anything right now. I look at welfare, maybe it's coming, but right now we've managed that account pretty well and we've managed our legal affairs fairly well at this point in time. And automobiles, just keep keep on trucking. We're 36.6%, so we're ahead. I'm fascinated by that. But you know what? No complaints. It's it's great. And we even actually had a little bit of uptick in our interest. In our interest. I can see the environment's improving. Not for the borrower, but for the for the account owner. So it looks like we've actually gotten a little bit of favorable interest this past month and hopefully that will continue because all of that helps to help you make decisions on tax rate surplus, whatnot. So, so far, so good. Chairperson Roy asked, anybody have any questions about revenue and expenditures? There were no questions from the Board.

L. Right to Know Policy Public Hearing Discussion

Chairperson Roy began the discussion by saying, so it's been asked that we have a discussion about approving the policy after a public hearing. So it is, it is a deviation from the way we typically approve policies. You know, it's not an ordinance. It's it's simply a policy. But I agree that we would have a discussion about it. So if anybody has any comments about it, if they want to move forward with having a public hearing or if they just want to approve it, as we do with every other policy.

Selectman Guessferd said given this subject I think it's probably, it may be, it may be a wise move to have a public hearing. Just to be transparent is the Right to Know policy. I mean, I'm willing to listen to any side of this, but that's kind of my initial thought is you know, it's taken a long time to get to this point. We've taken several months and gone through various aspects of it. But whatever other input there is, I'm listening.

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said so I... thank you for that for that input. I mean, I'm, I think the intent here I speak for my interpretation and to reiterate what was said before at previous meetings was simply to have a mechanism where if this Board ever were, I'm not saying anyone here in this room were to be, but if the option were to be malicious to this policy in some way and change it without the public's input, I think I personally would just like to see a mechanism, if it's not a public hearing, just a mechanism to make sure that the public is aware of any changes and even, you know, have input or even sign off on any changes because this really is a policy between the people and us.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said first of all, we have a state law that already does this. So this was above and beyond the state law that we're required to do. I think they put their due diligence into it. It's been approved by our attorney. As the Chairman said, we don't do policies every time we do it. And what are we going to get out of public input? Because the Committee the Committee is the one that put this together and we have to approve it. And if somebody in the public hearing didn't like it, we still have a state law that says this is what we've got to do for minimum. So we're above and beyond what the state

law says. So we've done everything we possibly can. I mean, the committee's you know, we've even sent it back to the lawyer. The Chairperson added, a couple of times at this point. Selectman Morin replied, yeah, exactly. I mean. Selectman Guessferd replied, alright. No, and this is why I wanted. The Chairperson added that's why I want to open it up. Selectman Morin added, that's what we're talking. Because it was a request to have this discussion.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and said am I not...am I not correct, when they were here the last time the Committee Members, they hadn't incorporated all of the or made the changes that our town, the Town Attorney recommended. The Town Administrator added, there were three outstanding things. Selectman Morin agreed saying, yes. The Town Administrator continued saying this is one of them. The other two, we still have to work with the Attorney to make sure that we come to agreement, i.e. the Committee and the Attorney as to what it should or shouldn't say. I believe it had to do with native format language and there was some other piece. But this is one of the things that the Attorney, I believe, didn't feel you needed to do, but I believe that's what he said.

Chairperson Roy then said so I will tell you that I'm reluctant to do it for a couple of reasons. One, that committee that was formed was subject matter experts on it. Right. So there's there's that issue. That's the issue, again, that we talked about that it's been to for legal review a couple of times. And with we're still working with them to massage some language. And then what's to say somebody doesn't come up with another policy and say, hey, this policy is special for whatever reason, and we should have a public hearing about that. And then as time goes on, this entity gets bogged down with public hearings on on policy, which is not not something I think we should we should have. I do, and I said it before as to changes to the policy, I think I think we have the public input process. I think that if we take again, like the the School Board does a first read, second read approach to change in the policy. I think that would be a more appropriate and quite frankly, I think we should do that for every policy so that if people do want to have public input to it, they have two bites at the apple to do that. I just don't know to have a formal public hearing for every policy is.... Selectman Guessferd interjected saying I agree. So post it or whatever. Selectman Morin then said when we formed the committee too, remember we had the public input. Who do you want to represent you on the Committee? Selectman Guessferd replied yeah, true. Okay. No good discussion. I just want to make sure that.

Selectman Gagnon then said so then if I make could we curtail on what you were saying a little bit. Can we make a motion to, to kind of change the way we do all of our SOP, standard operating procedures, Chairperson Roy said policies? Selectman Gagnon continued saying to have first and second reading similar to what the School does so that we make that consistent so. Selectman Morin replied well some of that shouldn't be related to the public. Some of our policies should there shouldn't be no impact, especially, you know, if a department head brings a policy directed towards their department, then there should be no public input on that. Selectman Guessferd said I think it's a rat hole. To which Selectman Morin replied, exactly. You know? Selectman Gagnon then said so, so then how do you so I guess Chairperson, how? The Town Administrator then said what I think the School, I believe does is do they do two readings. So they have a policy, they introduce it. Chairman Gasdia agreed saying, right. The Town Administrator added, you have public input at your meeting. Chairperson Roy agreed saying, right. The Town Administrator continued saying, folks can come to public input. They're not they're not debating the policy with you. They may provide public input because there's two readings, there's an opportunity, I assume, between the first reading and the second reading for the public to make comment. The Chairperson replied, right. It's not a, it's not a special public input. It is public input at regular meeting. So you know, the policy is for the first read is published with our agenda. So on Thursday before. The Town Administrator replied, so you would expect that if you had two readings, you know people might not be aware of it. But after the first reading, if you then sent it to a second reading, unfortunately people have to pay attention to their government and they have an opportunity to come to a public input or send correspondence into the Board before you adopted a policy at a second or after a second reading. I think that's the whole thought process because I cribbed theirs and I could probably prepare something for the next meeting.

School Board Chairman Gasdia was recognized and said and I don't think you see a groundswell of people. Chairperson Roy agreed saying, right. I mean, I don't either, but it allays the the point of having above this particular policy. But it is also a kind of a compromise. And I don't think it's it's a bad practice to have a first read, second. Because it also gives us the opportunity to hear what our fellow Board members have to say about something we were thinking about. And then the second reading have a more formed opinion and discussion about it.

Selectman Gagnon then said so just just follow up. I think I'm on board with a lot of what's being said. To Mr. Moran's point, I'd assume that after this we all agree on the policy that the committee will be expunged, so they won't be really around to help with any changes in the future. Right? Chairperson Roy replied, that that would be my it would be disbanded. And I might want to think about leaving that option open to reform them if we needed them. Selectman Gagnon replied, yeah and so I think I'm totally on board. How do you solidify then the first and second reading for some policies and not others? The Town Administrator replied, so I'll just bring something to the next meeting that says, do you want to approve this as your operating procedure, i.e. two hearings two readings or whatever, whatever they refer to it as. Chairman Gasdia said first and second.

Selectman McGrath was recognized and said so I want to be clear about what the Town Attorney has recommended. Is he recommending that we do have a public hearing on on this or not? Chairperson Roy and the Town Administrator both replied, no. The Town Administrator replied you should be because you should be consistent somewhat with the same practice and policies that you're observing with all your other policies. The Chairperson agreed saying, right. The Town Administrator then said and it's not common practice to do public hearings when changing a policy. Selectman McGrath replied and I just want to make sure that we're paying attention to the Town Attorney's recommendations.

The Town Administrator then said public hears hearings require time notifications. Obviously, there's that component, but there's also an advertising you have to publicize. And we typically publicize all these, in, we still have to do it in a paper of general circulation. And because they know that it's not inexpensive to do that.

Selectman Morin then said and just to your question, you know, the Fire Department comes up with an IV policy. People shouldn't be making discussions on that. You know what I'm saying? Chairperson Roy asked, is that kind of policy even come before us? Selectman Morin replied, well, it might, depending on, you know, but but. The Town Administrator said there are other things that come up that are probably more common. Selectman Morin then said but but again, if you make this policy reference, if you make this policy, it says you've got to review every policy. We've got to review every policy. Selectman Gagnon said I get that's a concern. Absolutely. If I may, Madam Chair, just for the sake, just take a looking I know the chairman of that committee is in the audience. Is there anything that we missed or that needs to be said Mr. Chairman? Mr. Bento, who was in the audience, replied, no. Selectman Gagnon then said I just want to check. Chairperson Roy said thank you. So so we'll just wait till the next meeting and Mr. Malizia will look at a policy.

M. FY2024 Out of Budget Requests Discussion

Chairperson Roy began this discussion by saying, then so so the final thing in the public session is out of budget requests. So I think this is my thought process. I think in the spirit of transparency that we think about presenting our out of budget requests at deliberative session. And what I mean by that is, you know, for instance, we line striping was was an out of budget request that the liaison of that that department talks about like why that was added to the to the to the why we added that to the budget. Now I understand that there might be some risk to that in that gives people a chance to say no. Right? But again, I think that we, we have an obligation as much as we can to make sure that that that our citizens know what's in their budget and why we added certain things that weren't originally in the budget. So again, I wanted to open up discussion and see where we wanted to go with that. So does?

Selectman Gagnon was recognized and said if I just think can you explain a little bit more? I'm not totally following what what you're trying to lay down here. The Chairperson replied, so, so you take one of the out of budget requests, right? And the liaison for that department would say, you know, we added \$35,000 for line striping and marking. Selectman Gagnon then asked are you talking about at like the deliberative session? To which the Chairperson replied, yes. I apologize. My brain doesn't. Deliberative session. I knew what I was talking about. Yeah. Yeah. So so again, I just sort of want to open that up for discussion.

Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah, I've got a couple of thoughts about it. The first thought I have is, I mean, this year I wouldn't normally say this is something you should, you should do every, every time you have out of budget requests. Part of me is like especially some of the ones like the gas, the diesel, the salt. People need to understand, you know, that these we had we had to do this, that these were items that are necessities. They're not. You know but we level funded the budget. We told our department heads this is what we want you to do. And they tried the best they could. It came back and said, hey, you know, if we're going to maintain certain levels of of maintenance, safety, then we have to do these things. And it gives visibility right to the fact that we are in a default budget. But at the same time, there's other items here that that people might not quite have the same feelings about. The other thing is, do we want to set a precedent here, too, with regard to out of budget requests?

Selectman Morin said I think it's a double edged sword. And I think that, I'm going to say all of these things we found to be either a safety issue or let's take the staff vehicles for the Fire Department instead of getting the big Tahoe's we got them to buy the small ones to save the taxpayers money because this board felt that they needed them and it needed to be in the budget. But we went smaller to make sure we did our due diligence to make sure that they got correct. I think opening... the problem with bringing it to the deliberative session is there's only how many people there? And then we just talked about the few people that go to voting and what can be done in that deliberative session by 100 people versus getting to the unfortunate 4,000 people. And I think that's that's a problem. I think we as a Board made this conscious decision because we felt this had to get done or we would have forwarded it to a warrant article to let the town make the decision anyway.

Selectman Gagnon then said I think; I agree with that that point. The other thing I have concern with potentially just thinking of human nature, how this may play out is that I don't mean this to be cruel in any way or mean, but if I was a department head and had to do something like this or knew that out of budget expenses were going to be talked about a deliberative session, wouldn't you put put maybe controversial things in the budget and then put things that are tied to law or requirements as out of budget expenses because they're going to be showboated? So like this list, I mean, as you said originally, they're all tied to law or safety. Why, why would someone say no to this stuff and wouldn't the department head say, well, other things, it may not be as clear cut a yes. Actually put in the budget. Am I out of bounds here or would that be possible? Know what I'm saying?

Selectman McGrath then said so just a comment. It's not all about safety. There's one item in here that I'm adamantly opposed to, and that's hiring an associate planner. That has nothing to do with safety, has everything to do with convenience. Chairperson Roy replied, I'm not sure that that's true, that it's all about convenience. I think it's about getting... Selectman Guessferd said efficient. Selectman McGrath then said it's not safety. It's not safety. Selectman Morin replied, it's not safety. But it was a request by the the townspeople that that was a big topic of discussion. The Chairperson then said and, you know, my personal opinion, I guess, is that needs been demonstrated for a while now. Longer than this one budget year. But yeah. Okay. So I take all that in.

Selectman Guessferd said yeah, I think in addition to that, I mean, just again, it's making sure we're covering all aspects of this. We are \$500K over the default budget because of these. Something like that. And I know if it's \$500K whatever it is. 500-600K, something like that. The Chairperson replied with a total tax impact of \$0.11. Selectman Guessferd replied, \$0.11. Yeah. No I get it. Chairperson Roy replied, yeah. No. And I, and I understand that.

The Town Administrator then said you're not comparing...this isn't the default budget. You're \$600 and something thousand. Selectman Guessferd replied, I thought it was \$600 and something. The Town Administrator replied this is just the out of budget. You were to you were a couple of hundred thousand over the default budget just with the with the budget. Then you added this and now you're over. Also just quickly point out that it's no longer your budget when it goes to the deliberative session. It's the Budget Committee's budget. Selectman Guessferd replied, right. At this point. Yeah. The Town Administrator went on to say, so if the Budget Committee determines and if this all makes it through the budget, because again, they still have to go to a public hearing, then they go through their final vote, they can change this down or up. I don't see up, but they could change this. It becomes their budget. You're not speaking about all the other critical things that are in the budget. You're only talking about this outside the budget stuff. There are many other things that that still we wouldn't get if the default budget passed that you're not talking about. You know, I think it's fraught with peril because I could easily see one of the 30 odd people getting up and saying, Hey, I make a motion, we get rid of this. Selectman Morin then said, and we're done. The Town Administrator then said there's a fallacy that we're not transparent. We sit at meeting after meeting after meeting, we identify this stuff, meeting after meeting after meeting. I'm not going to give you a big bull's eye. Selectman Guessferd said yeah, it's kind of yeah. The Town Administrator continued saying, that's a concern. Because frankly, if you thought this was important, I'm not saying hide it. If somebody asks for it, you certainly speak to it. But I'm not so sure you want to waive this stuff in front of everybody. Selectman Guessferd said highlight it. Yeah, we don't want to highlight it. The Town Administrator said that's a concern. That's all I'm saying. And then you do it. You're going to be beholden to do it. Chairperson Roy replied right. See that is part of it. Like once we do it, we can't undo it. The Town Administrator said that's a concern. You're going to keep doing it. Chairperson Roy said, and again, that's why we want to talk about it.

Selectman Gagnon then said and so, Madam Chair, can maybe can you restate your theoretical concern and maybe we can back off the idea of doing this. Chairperson Roy replied, I'm just trying to have it try and have it as transparent as possible. And I'm not suggesting that we're not transparent. I just think that the more transparency we have, the better. Selectman Gagnon then asked so are there other ways of accomplishing your goal without doing this directly? Chairperson Roy replied, sure. We could add this little sheet to the budget, right? That that is posted online so they know exactly what we added to the budget. Right? Like we could do those those kinds of things. We can discuss it in meetings and all those kinds of things. But I just think that there's again. Selectman Guessferd replied, it's not hidden. It's not hidden.

Selectman Gagnon replied yeah, but I think to your point, if I'm understanding correctly, we need to work hard. Not only did the departments work on, we worked hard to get the budget where it is. It is higher than the default by a significant amount. But we really, I think, all cared about what we put in. And I think I'm getting what you're laying down. We just need to advertise what we did, what we did. And even though it's higher than the default budget, we we really strived hard to make that budget as effective for Hudson as possible. So you're just looking more for just better advertising on on why the numbers fell the way they did so that we can hopefully pass it? The Chairperson replied, and why we added what we did. And some of it is safety and some of it is need. Like I don't I don't know how we can get around paying less for diesel fuel, right? Like I mean, you know, we're dependent on the market, you know, but but you know, to to some of the other things. Why why was it imperative this year that we put that in not and not wait yet another year for some of these things? Or why can't the Fire Department wait for another year for trucks kind of and just be able to talk about our rationale for for adding those things back in or adding those things in?

Selectman Gagnon then said could we add a cover letter or do we already add a cover letter to the budget that people can read explaining the differences? I think we do that, right? We've a cover letter on the budget that explains. The Town Administrator replied, well there's cover letter that transmitted the budget to the Budget Committee. But I don't I don't speak for the Budget Committee, and I'm not going to I'm not going to try to. That's their budget. And like I say, I'll give them whatever facts, statistics, information they want. But it's at that point, frankly, it's their budget. So I'm not going to presume to do something for them. It doesn't mean you can't make statements at the deliberative session. You can certainly get up and speak. Again, my experience just says to me, I think you're taking a mighty big risk. And I frankly think

with the limited amount of people that go there, you may lose some of this stuff. And then and then what did we accomplish? That's just, I'm just being devil's advocate. Selectman Gagnon replied, I get it. The Town Administrator said I've sat there a long time. Selectman Guessferd then said without a large capital project on our budget this year, it's probably going to be less people coming to to our deliberative session. Like you said, there might be 30 people that show. The Town Administrator then said if I take the people out that work there, there's probably no more than 30 unaffiliated personnel people there. Seriously, if you look if you count the room and take the committee members and employees and all the other folks out, we don't get a lot of attendance, which is which is bad, not good. But it's also could be a negative because it doesn't take many people to do things.

Selectman Guessferd asked, as the Budget Committee seen? The Town Administrator replied, the Budget Committee has been through our budget. They have not taken final action. Of course they've seen that. Selectman Guessferd replied, no, no. Was there discussion or anything like that? Selectman Morin replied we really had a lot of discussion on was the wellness officer for the police department. You may see that come back. Selectman Guessferd replied, okay. Chairperson Roy said but they can't add (inaudible). The Town Administrator said when the departments came through, though they went through, they asked questions. They went through they went through and asked the questions about these particular. Chairperson Roy added and my recollection is none of it got cut. Selectman Morin replied no, nothing got cut. The Town Administrator added, at this point nothings been cut at this point. Selectman Morin said it was just questions. The Town Administrator then said, yeah, but they still have an opportunity at their public hearing after the public hearing is closed to make their final budget recommendation, which includes they could remove, amend, change because it's their budget at this point. Because at some point at the end, they need to get a budget that they can at least, by majority, recommend. You're all aware of that. So and then they'll do the warrant articles but that's, that's separate over there.

Chairperson Roy replied, okay. Anything else? No. So consensus we just leave it the way it is? Selectman Guessferd replied, I think so, yeah. I think in the end it's okay.

9. Board Liaison Reports

Selectman McGrath: I have nothing tonight.

Selectman Gagnon: Just off the top of my head. No, I think you've heard from the Power Aggregation Committee. Nothing major with NRPC and this gentleman (Chairman Gasdia) will probably speak to the school.

Selectman Guessferd: Just a couple of things. Planning Board - we are meeting next week instead of tomorrow night. There'll be a will be a couple of things on the agenda. Hillwood will be coming up again on the 14th of December. They had a second walk through last week of the property. It was, it was a weeknight. It was 3:00 in the afternoon. And so that's that's that's moving forward. So I'm not sure exactly where we will be on the 14th, but that's the next time we'll be we'll be looking at it.

As far as Rec is concerned. We had I think I mentioned last time we had a comedy show coming up, the comedy show was held. They raised some money for for the scholarship, the rec scholarship. But it was it was a great show. I showed up. I was there for like the last hour. It was it was a lot of fun. These are always great community events, people coming together and relaxing a little bit, having a few laughs. There is something that's recently come up about the what is it, the town recreation directors in the area have come up with an idea called the Southern New Hampshire Tour of Lights. There're asking for citizens who who want to have their their light displays included to call Chrissy Peterson or contact her one way or the other. They can email her or call her. Submissions are due on the 6th of December, and then once all the locations are selected, I don't think they're going to probably deny anybody. I think they're just going to put the list together and then all town, you know, there'll be a full list for the towns will

probably put it up on, on HCTV and, and then where where you can go to tour the holiday lights. So that should be a lot of fun for folks.

Just started indoor pickleball for the seniors and so far it's going great. they're having a great time. basketball is in full swing. There is a senior trip on the first next week to see a holiday show in Danvers. There's woodshop going on as well on the fourth. So a lot of things happening and especially as we go into the wintertime, you know, they're really trying to make sure that. There's things for people to do during during these colder months as well. So hope to hear about people participating in all those. Other than that, I think I'm good.

Selectman Morin: Budget Committee is probably still meeting right now in the Buxton room. They have finished the town budget portion. No decisions. As Mr. Malizia had stated, they are starting the School budget tonight.

Benson's Committee was basically housekeeping items and we discussion on the warrant article.

And Conservation did a sidewalk at Green Meadow last Saturday and at their meeting they reviewed the Hillwood project and have moved it on to the Planning Board. That's all I have.

Selectman Gagnon then said, Madam Chair, if I may, just a question. Mr. Morin I might know the answer to this, but how often do you have a Selectman meeting in a Budget meeting in the same night? Selectman Morin replied, this is the first time. Selectman Guessferd said I was gonna say, I don't think that's ever happened before. Selectman Morin added, yeah, it's first time. The Chairperson added its just kind of a scheduling thing. I know this time of year, it's not, you know, budget season. Selectman Guessferd jokingly said I'm sure he was really conflicted. Selectman Morin then added, it happened to the school two meetings ago. Yeah. Same thing happened. Selectman Gagnon said, I'm a liaison. You're not. I'm a liaison to the school. So me missing school isn't...Selectman Morin replied, no, no, but. But I'm talking the School Board member missed the meeting. Selectman Gagnon replied, got it, got it. Selectman Morin replied Ms. Whiting missed a meeting because the same thing. Chairman Gasdia jokingly said that was our deal to put him on the same night. So you didn't come to the School Board.

Chairperson Roy: So there was a meeting of the Library Board of Trustees. They introduced Dana Brenner as the new circulation librarian. He has a very interesting background. He was in the military for a while, and then he was a teacher for a while. And then he was a librarian in the prison system for a while and he chose to leave that. And now he's our circulation librarian. So and then they just did some policy updates and things like that that they're working with the Lions Club to build a pavilion on the library property, to have a permanent place to conduct outside activities and concerts and those kinds of things. So that's kind of exciting. If you haven't yet, you should check out the Library because much like the Recreation Department, they, they offer a ton of programming at free and no cost free or low cost to all kinds of ages. So yeah, we just have an amazing Library and amazing Rec Department. So if you're looking for a way to keep busy this winter, they can probably help you out.

And then the only other thing was there was a ZBA meeting last Thursday. They heard two cases and that was essentially what they what they did. So that is all I have.

10. Remarks by Town Administrator

The Town Administrator was recognized and said just very briefly, the ARPPA working group met last Thursday. Requests have gone out to departments for projects, costs, project costs and updated projects for those projects that didn't get approved. So our next meeting is December 8th where we'll be reviewing whatever we get for submissions from the various departments. And other than that Happy Thanksgiving to everybody.

11. Remarks by School Board

School Board Chairman, Gary Gasdia was recognized and said Great. Thank you. So just a few things. So as was mentioned, the School Board budget went to the Budget Committee tonight. We did a lot of creative things with our budget this year because a couple of reasons. One, we wanted to recognize the fact that we know there's some challenges out there in the economy, but we also have a teacher's contract coming up this year, which is our number one priority to get done. We're going to have a lot of warrant articles this year as part of being creative. So are the budget we just proposed is actually \$300,000 below our default because we took a lot of large items and turned them into warrant articles that would be funded out of a fund balance, because as you've heard me talk about here many times before, we can't hire anybody. Because we can't hire anybody and we have so many positions we already know we're going to have a large fund balance. So this is a way to fund some things without impacting the tax rate. So we have a good number of warrant articles being pushed out there and a good budget. So I really want to thank the School Board and the District for all their efforts there. I hope that the Town appreciates the work that was done.

The other thing, it's getting cold out. We're seeing a lot of kids show up with no hats, no gloves, no mittens. I got the when I was a dad of the kids, I got the wife saying to me, how did you let them to go to school without gloves and hats? So I've been there. But if we can do that, that would be good. They do have recess every single day and when it's cold and they don't have them.

And then finally, if you're looking for things to do well, first Class Act, did the Radium Girls this weekend, which was great, they got to be doing Beauty and the Beast in the in the spring, there's a Derry parade with the marching band on the 26th, which is this Saturday and then the winter concerts combining HMS. And Alvirne. the 13th will be the choral concert and the 14th will be the band concert. So anyone looking to do that and so that's it. So happy Thanksgiving.

12. Other Business/Remarks by the Selectmen

Chairperson Roy said, so I just have one thing and I'm not really sure who does it, but isn't Santa Claus coming to town? Selectman Morin replied oh yes, Friday, 4:00. Selectman Guessferd asked the lights and all that, like as normal? Selectman Morin replied yes and afterwards the Lions Club is holding its kids Christmas party with Santa there at the Community Center. Chairperson Roy reiterated, so Santa and the lights at four and then Santa moves over to the Community Center.

Selectman McGrath: The only thing I have to say is I hope everyone has a happy Thanksgiving.

Selectman Morin: Same, I hope everyone has a happy Thanksgiving.

Selectman Guessferd: Yes. Not much else to say there. happy, healthy and safe Thanksgiving, that's all. Please have fun. Spend time with family.

Selectman Gagnon: Of course Happy Thanksgiving. But as one of the younger folks Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving, is the biggest drinking day of the year. So please be careful. Have a designated driver, be safe out there. And thank you to our first responders for keeping us safe as well.

Chairperson Roy: I was actually surprised too. I didn't realize that New Year's Eve is no longer the biggest, biggest day for drunk driving incidents. It is the day before Thanksgiving. So to your point, yes, please be safe. Don't drive after you've drank. Call someone, call a cab, call or whatever. And then all I have is happy and safe Thanksgiving to everybody.

13. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Guessferd at 9:41p.m., seconded by Selectman Morin to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:2, III (a) Strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining. RSA 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Nonpublic Session was entered at 9:41 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 10:00 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session

1. Selectman Gagnon made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to forward the Hudson Police, Fire, and Town Supervisors Association Contract to the Fiscal Year 2024 Warrant. Carried 5-0.
2. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Gagnon to authorize Chief Assessor, Jim Michaud to buy back 100 hours of earned time. Carried 5-0.
3. Selectman Morin made a motion to adjourn at 10:02pm. This was seconded by Selectman Gagnon. Carried 5-0.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:02 p.m. by Selectman Morin seconded by Selectman Gagnon. Carried 5-0.

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

Kara Roy, Chairperson

Bob Guessferd, Vice Chairman

David Morin, Selectman

Marilyn McGrath, Selectman

Brett Gagnon, Selectmen