

## HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### Minutes of the March 7, 2023 Meeting

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - by Chairman Roy the meeting of March 7, 2023 at 7:00pm in the Selectmen Meeting Room of Town Hall.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - led by Jess Forrence, DPW Director
3. **ATTENDANCE**

**Board of Selectmen:** David Morin, Marilyn McGrath, Kara Roy  
Bob Guessferd - excused

**Staff/Others:** Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Jess Forrence, DPW Director; Scott Tice, Fire Chief; Tad Dionne, Police Chief; Gary Gasdia, School Board Liaison

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Heidi Jakoby, 94 Gowling Road

Thank you. My name is Heidi Jakoby I live at 94 Gowling Rd. I want to thank you for your continued service to the Town and your continued consideration of to go out to bid for contracts. Reviewing the packet for tonight I saw that you will be discussing whether to the Town attorney for another year or to have the Town Administrator request proposals for legal services. I am asking this Board to until after the election as you will be adding at least one new member to the Board. The current contract ends on June 30th and delaying until the next Board meeting on March 28th. In my opinion may not be detrimental to the Town's If you want to take this up today I thoroughly encourage you to authorize the Town Administrator to request proposals for legal services for the Town of Hudson. Lastly I want to recognize and thank the Board for their continued support of the Police and Fire Departments. Having met with the Chiefs recently the relationship between the Board of Selectmen and Police and Fire is just really wonderful to hear about and to the whole I thank you for continuing that relationship. Thank you.

Jim Dobens, 4 Eagle Drive

Thank you. Over the last 20 years. I do want to thank the Board for the residents of the Town of Hudson. I know it's a lot of work. It's really tough times right now but I am a concerned resident rising taxes I've seen a shift of three-million dollars from the commercial base development to the residential base. To put it on the backs of the residents I'm not happy about that. To control development with no vision that's happening across our town without complete understanding of its impact or infrastructure. Major traffic issues we have them now and there's plenty on the horizon coming. No solutions we do have stress to emergency services. I had the pleasure of meeting with a lot of them I have recently. I enjoyed the conversations. They get an awful lot done with the resources they have. I'm very proud of what they do with the relationships that they have. And they have no better supporters than myself. And a vast group of people behind me. And also we have the highly likelihood that we are meeting with default budgets in the future. I don't see that changing. Big issues for this Board and the Planning Board are principle for one. It's time for solutions. Outside of all of that one major thing that really bugs me and I'd like answers to these issues and another one come up for tonight and how we are going to handle it.

Hudson was promised a platform fire truck from a developer as it will be needed for these massive buildings get built. Instead of a truck the negotiations were for 1.4 million dollars for the truck. Well the truck from what I understand is now going to cost 2.1 million and that's not outfitted yet. When we outfit it it's probably going to be closer to 2.4 to 2.5 million. We're about a million dollars behind. Now we need to staff this before 4765. That's going to require you could say four firefighters but let's say we could handle it with three. We need to hire nine firefighters to be able to handle a fire platform truck. And with pay and benefits, gear, training probably going to cost us \$8,000 a year for each man or woman that we staff. That's another three-quarters of a million that's not accounted for. I also did some checking and we aren't going to be able to secure this truck at the earliest until 2025. Well that just doesn't set well and we don't even know if we're going to get staffing. Should these buildings go up should they be given occupancy permits until we can properly them and our personnel not put into harm's way without the proper equipment and training. I sure hope not. Why wasn't all of this negotiated and put on the developer's back. That's because there was no given to the overall impact by the Planning Board. That is why I asked for a complete town traffic impact study over a year ago. All I see being done now is a half in part traffic study. I got digging into that one by the same people that said we were good. Plus it is not a comprehensive impact for this own. It is very short sighted and now we have Planning Board doing a Master Plan without understanding all of the issues behind. How do you solve for a Master Plan when you don't have all the issues. Frankly it's embarrassing in my opinion.

So where is our plan for the Fire Department and where do we stand in a true impact study so that good decisions can be made to improve our citizens' quality of life, its residents and its first responders. This Board and the Planning Board has created a lot of this and it's time we started to provide solutions. As a side note I would urge this Board to get into the drone business for our police and fire departments. I much rather put a drone into harm's way than put one of our first responders in harm's way for a thought. Thank you.

Chairman Roy asked Is there anybody else for public input. Okay seeing none I'll call Public Input closed at 7:07.

**5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS -\_none**

**6. CONSENT ITEMS**

Chairman Roy asked does any member wish to remove any item for separate consideration.

Town Administrator Malizia responded no, but I do have an amendment. I received this today raffle permit from Fish and Game. They thought that there would be a meeting next week and they thought there would be some more time. Unfortunately that there isn't a meeting next week and I believe they're looking to do their raffle. It should say 3-26 and do a couple of days before the final meeting of the month. So if we could give this some consideration to approve that would be helpful.

Chairman Roy asked does anyone have any objection to adding this to the consent Items.

Selectman McGrath responded no, but I have a question. What did you say about the - Mr. Malizia replied if you read it, it says 8-26 it should be 3-26. Selectman McGrath said I didn't hear you. Thank you.

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Chairman Roy said I'll entertain a motion to approve Consent Items A, B, C, D, E and F. Motion made by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve consent items A,B,C,D,E, F. Carried 3-0

A. **Assessing Items**

- 1) **Disabled Exemption Application**: map 203, lot 131, 7 Cottonwood Drive
- 2) **Elderly Exemption**: map 136, lot 006, 5 York Road; map 152, lot 032, 29 Copeland Drive; map 175, lot 080, 11 Burnham Road
- 3) **Current Use Lien Release**: map 143-001-000-84 Barretts Hill Road
- 4) **Current Use Lien Release**: map 237-032-001-16 Ashlyn Drive; map 237-032-002-20 Ashlyn Drive; map 231-054-003-30 Ashlyn Drive; map 231-054-002-36 Ashlyn Drive; map 231-054-001-40 Ashlyn Drive; map 231-054-000-37 Ashlyn Drive; map 237-054-000-25 Ashlyn Drive; map 237-032-003-21 Ashlyn Drive.

B. **Licenses & Permits & Policies** - none

C. **Donations** - none

D. **Acceptance of Minutes**

F. **Calendar**

- 3/07 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
- 3/08 7:00 Planning Board - Buxton Meeting Room
- 3/09 7:00 Zoning Board of Adjustment - Buxton Meeting Room
- 3/13 7:00 Conservation Commission - Buxton Meeting Room
- 3/14 Town Election - Polls are open 7:00am-8pm
- 3/15 6:00 Library Trustees - Hills Memorial Library
- 3/16 3:00 Trustees of the Trust Funds - Buxton Meeting Room
- 3/17 7:00 Benson Park Committee - HCTV Meeting Room
- 3/21 7:00 Municipal Utilities Committee - BOS Meeting Room
- 3/22 7:00 Planning Board - Buxton Meeting Room
- 3/23 7:00 Zoning Board of Adjustment - Buxton Meeting Room
- 3/27 7:00 Sustainability Committee - Buxton Meeting Room
- 3/28 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on February 28, 2023

1. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to authorize the Fire Chief to enter into an MOU with PFFH with regard to offering an incentive day off for a referral from an employee in a covered position with the PFFH that leads to hiring, and to further allow for an additional day off to the same employee when the referred newly hired employee completes their probationary period. This MOU would be retroactive to include any member hired by referral as of January 1, 2023. Carried 4-0.
2. Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to promote Firefighter/Paramedic Craig Benner to the position of Lieutenant/Paramedic, a non-exempt position, in accordance with the International Association of Firefighters Local #3153, Step1, with an hourly rate of \$31.30 as recommended by the Fire Chief. Carried 4-0.

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3. Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to increase Fire Chief Scott Tice salary to \$127,347 effective February 28, 2023. Carried 4-0.

4. Selectman McGrath made a motion to adjourn at 9:34pm. This was seconded by Selectman Morin. Carried 4-0.

B. Board of Selectmen Bylaw Review - Selectman Guessferd - Decision

Chairman Roy asked if everyone received because I know it came in a separate email. Does anyone want to make a motion to the Board of Selectmen by-laws. Motion made by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman Roy to approve the Board of Selectmen By-Laws as amended by the Board of Selectmen on February 28, 2023. Carried 2-1.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

A. REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR TRUCK DRIVER/LABORER - DPW - DECISION

Chairman Roy recognized DPW Director Jess Forrence.

Director Forrence shared last Monday we received a text from one of our truck driver/laborers saying he was resigning from his position. And that's the only thing we've been able to get out of him since that. Selectman McGrath asked you mean the resignation. You can't get any work out of him. Forrence replied nothing. He from that day from Monday I haven't heard a word from him. He talked to Jeremy gave him the instructions on uniforms, badges, keys, Have not heard back from him yet, I got involved with Kathy Wilson to get it done legally. But we have not. I can't understand what he's thinking. But anyway we need to go forward. So I'm here tonight to do is ask for permission to advertise for a truck driver/laborer. And remember from I think it was three months ago the way that we thought the CDL training must be done by a certified trainee now. The guy that did quit on us we were training him to be that certified person. So we've got to go with the way and he has helped three guys that's in the department get their CDL license. So we're probably looking 30-35,000 dollars for this guy if we don't find somebody that does have a license to. So it's going to be an uphill battle. We've got our fingers crossed on applicants but I am asking the Board permission to have it advertised.

Chairman Roy asked does another have questions. Does anyone want to make a motion?

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath to authorize Jess Forrence as Public Works Director to post for a vacant truck driver/laborer position. Carried 3-0

B. PUBLIC HEARING -

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FY21 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT-HFD-DECISION

Chairman Roy recognized Fire Chief Scott Tice.

Fire Chief Tice began thank you Madame Chair, Good evening everyone. In December of 2021 when the fire department applied for the assistance grant to replace our portable radios some of which date back to 2004. On February 22 this year we were notified by the Office that we had been awarded that grant in the amount of \$179,012.72 So tonight I would ask that we approve and accept this grant and use our 10% , our Capital Reserve Fund for the %10 which would be \$17,901.27.

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Chairman Roy opened the Public Hearing at 7:13pm. Anyone present who would like to speak on this matter. Seeing none. I'll close Public Hearing at 7:14pm. Does anyone have any questions?

Selectman Morin asked Director Forrence how much money have we gotten from all those Grants. Chief Tice said I can get that from you. I don't have that at the top of my head. Town Administrator Malizia stated I think several hundred-thousands. Chief Tice agreed it's been quite a bit. We've done quite well with the grants. Selectman Morin interjected three-million.

Chairman Roy asked does anyone want to make a motion.

Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to authorize the Chief to accept the FY 2021 Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$179,012.73 as recommended by the Fire Chief. Carried 3-0.

C. RESIGNATION OF FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC & REQUEST TO ADVERTISE - HFD - DECISION

Chairman Roy recognized Fire Chief Tice.

Chief Tice stated so this is the second firefighter that is going to Nashua so he was just getting his letter of resignation in. His letter would be effective after March 5th. March 5th. Would be his last shift.

Chairman Roy asked does anyone have any questions. I'll entertain a motion.

Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to accept the letter of resignation from Firefighter/Paramedic Cameron Covert effective March 15, 2023 with the Board's thanks and appreciation. Carried 3-0.

Chairman Roy stated the second part of this discussion is to authorize the Chief to advertise for this position.

Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to authorize the Chief to advertise for this position. Carried 3-0.

Chief Tice said thank you very much. Have a good evening.

Selectman McGrath requested can we have Mr. Dobens make a commentary questioning the platform truck that the money had been donated or collected from the developer of the golf course property. Selectman McGrath addressing Chief Tice Can you just talk about that for a brief minute and give him an update of where that is.

Chief Tice explained currently we are waiting for Hillwood. It's up to 2.1 million and it's coming from either Hillwood or Target. So last that I had contact with them they were trying to figure out where the money was coming from. So that's all, waiting for them to give us the money. The truck itself it's from Seagrave. The prepaid price if we were to go that route is now just under two-million. A little over two-million if we paid at the end of the contract. Right now we're in negotiations with them as well. So depending on how that works out we discussed at the last meeting. You gave me permission to move

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forward with the contract once we have the money. But depending on how some of the negotiations work out with them I'd be back before I sign that just to make sure the Board is in the understands how that contract goes.

Selectman McGrath addressed Chief Tice Okay. Thank you for responding. Chief Tice asked did I answer. Selectman McGrath replied Mr. Dobens is right behind you so if he is isn't satisfied with your answer I'm sure he will let you know Tice replied we have spoken before. I'm sure he'll reach out to me for any questions. Thank you.

Chairman Roy recognized Selectman Morin.

Selectman Morin asked Chief Tice can you explain about equipping the truck and that we never equip new trucks. Chief Tice responded we don't typically equip new trucks. Usually we use what we have. This will be. It was never thought of to equip this truck. We're replacing a truck so we'll have to budget some money for that. It was not thought of unless there is to approve for the money after the contract for truck that was never really discussed. But I'm not exactly sure what the price is. It didn't come in as planned. We're waiting for them to give us the money. The truck itself

Morin asked can you also talk about how the truck is going to be used and how we're going to work with two ladder trucks. What the plan is. Chief Tice replied so the plan is for the service of this building and other buildings in town. To be effective as well with tarp units exposure up there. We have now does not have a high water way. So it doesn't have a way to supply hand lines off the tip of the ladder and there's no stand pipe or water supply on the roof of these buildings. So the intention is to be able to use our truck on these large buildings as a water way and use the straight stick ladder as the power coming up and down to work from the roof. So they'll be other benefits because there is also a master stream. And the way this truck creates that master stream separates the amount of water we can put on larger amounts of water through the master stream. It has capabilities that our current truck doesn't have and it's reversible.

Selectman Morin stated the last thing we heard and we heard for several months now it the taxpayers are pretty upset about the tax rate. And what would the cost of firefighters and how to man trucks now to keep the cost down for the taxpayer. Tice responded Right now we cross man everything. When we went with the squad back in 2013, 2015, we took squad and we stopped running the engines so much. But what we were doing with the engines we were staffing the engines primarily and ambulances and we were using the engines for service calls. We were using them for medical assistance calls. Their fuel mileage, the pumps is very low, so the fuel cost is high. Maintenance on those apparatus id high. We need to talk about oil changes, brakes, it's a large expense compared to a squad which is much more efficient to run. So we use the squad to respond to motor vehicle accidents, medical assist calls, service calls. And then we cross staff the engines and the ambulances at the stations. So if there's a medical call in the district instead of taking the engine they currently take the ambulance. That's to preserve the life of the truck and it's a much more efficient way to work from with the apparatus.

Selectman Morin commented and manpower-wise it's the squad that saves you considerable power because they're handling all the everyday routine runs you would consider the fire department. Where the ladder truck would only respond to a more serious incident as a smoking building structure, fire or gas in the building when multiple companies respond. That's why at this point we don't want the manpower because of the cost we cover both trucks. So it's not a matter of we need to man this truck because it's depending on how you send because you don't know how you're going to use it yet. Correct. Chief Tice responded yes that's how. Correct. Correct. If we - Again ladder truck is also expensive. We're not taking that

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on routine calls on a regular basis. We cross the ladder as we staff the engines. Selectman Morin said thank you very much.

Chairman Roy acknowledged Mr. Dobens. Mr. Dobens asked May I. Chairman Roy answered sure. Mr. Dobens (not at mic -inaudible) I speaking to Chief Tice I do understand. And we are going to have a lot more traffic on the road. So. What still concerns me if you have accidents and you deploy an ambulance or a squad? What when you physically have a fire. Chief Tice replied with our staffing we send an ambulance. Mr. Dobens stated our mutual aid. Chief Tice replied Correct. Correct. It doesn't matter what trucks go out. We respond to a call.

Mr. Dobens continued to ask mutual aid in the region is really going to get tapped. I have talked to other departments as well. They feel under pressure of. You know Hudson going and supporting Nashua. Then going and supporting Hudson. Because I remember working that when I went out with emergency director and getting that mutual aid agreement built back in the late 80's. So I - You've got no stronger a supported than me. Trust me. I just want to make sure that when the responders are there they're the ones running in when everyone else is running out. I want to be sure they have the right equipment. Rightly staffed. So they can handle the - Chief Tice responded thank you. Chairman Roy added have a good night. Chief Tice said you too.

#### D. HUDSON POLICE DEPARTMENT ROOF - HPD - DECISION

Chairman Roy said I will recognize the Hudson Police Chief to talk about the roof.

Police Chief Dionne began thank you. So we were here last week in a situation kind of in the crossroads with that we go ahead with the metal roof of \$184,000 for the expansion. Or we look at the problem that we have with the existing roof and do the whole thing with the expansion as well for a cost of \$222,000 plus carrying some probably around \$2,000 as well. To carry for anything that may have repairs, needs, etc. We also have a couple members from Northside Construction that came with us in case there was a couple of questions that weren't answered last week.

Selectman Roy began by saying I think what after last week's discussion what we were, I think we walked away with knowing that some of the money is going to come from. And then where would the major money for the older part of the building come from. Chief Dionne answered I did speak briefly with Mr. Malizia. We did from last week that Capital Reserve Fund was \$180,000 existing now. And Mr. Malizia dis say there is obviously the contingency contribution as well.

Selectman Roy then asked so do you have exactly what we would need from those funds.

Town Administrator Malizia stated we have \$180,000 approximately in Capital Reserve Funds for major repairs. I don't know what the bottom line number is going to be but there's a possibility that some be paid under the contract. But between that and the \$75,000 we have in contingency we haven't touched this year but again it's March so pretty good we'll have a default budget that - between those two buckets I assume we will have enough money to make up.

Chief Dionne said right and I'd like to say there are opportunities at times in the process, and Northside has been excellent with us, we tried Value engineering and there's opportunities to save some money on some locations and move them to other locations. But like I said I just don't see that as an opportunity that we are going to be able to cover that difference of about \$50, 000. That's why I come before the Board to let you know where we were.

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Selectman Roy said so I guess my question tonight is what should we make some motion and would that be. Because we don't have a dollar amount. You know what I mean .Then Selectman Morin responded the way things change is my question to. We can I can agree with it until we have a price. Town Administrator

Malizia then said it leaves with no choice so that before the end of the fiscal year you want to take it from contingency to see if that's available. To make a motion to encumber that to carry into the next year when you get a little more focus.

Selectman Morin being recognized by Chairman Roy asked the Chief do you think you'll have a price soon. Chief Dionne answered I think one of the issues is that regardless of where the money itself we do need to make, we have an opportunity to decide to order the roof. And get the subcontract going. And this is Doug from Northside.

Selectman Morin responded I understand you have orders that's why I was asking is this going to change the price. Do we need to have that is where I was going with that but where we're at we don't know yet. Doug from Northside replied There's a good chance that the cost does escalate because what asphalt base broad so it does go up. Unfortunately we're getting anywhere from two to three weeks to present material. Selectman Morin asked if we order them both and put them somewhere, that's a lot of shingles, would that order you guys? Doug replies no we would lock in and honor it. We would order the materials and it would stay either at in-house or it would stay at the warehouse.

Selectman Morin asked so if we approve the cost tonight do you have an estimate somewhere so we can put a number. Chairman Roy stated that becomes the problem. I think we support the concept. It's just that we don't know what we are approving. Right. Doug replied you know the kind of the wild card called the gray area that as soon as we rip that roof off the amount of damage that has been happening over the years. And I think that is something that we really can't forecast. We can throw an allowance at it what we think it's going to be but unfortunately nobody will know until we rip it off.

Selectman Morin then asked what if we just did for the shingles. Doug replied for just the shingles it was \$180,000 Chief Dionne interjects It was \$200,000. Sorry that was the total cost Roy asked For the portion of the building and the new building do you know how much it would cost to just for the just the shingles for old portion of the building Doug replied so just the shingles for the old building itself was 153,056. And once we rip that off let it be known too that we would bring the membrane back up. So even if there are deficient eases in the roof we would repair the large ones. But any old from the fastening of the metal that will be completely the whole entire existing building would have a new membrane so you won't run into the issue that has been ongoing.

Chairman Roy then inquired so the new part of the building would only costs about \$30,000. If that's what I have. You said it was about 153, for that portion of the building. Chief Dionne replied the new part of the building is \$69,000 in shingle. \$69,308 for the expansion. We did not originally price it out that way. We looked at it as a matching metal roof and when we went forth for \$180,000.

Chairman Roy asked Town Administrator Malizia do you have a suggestion for us. Town Administrator commented you might want to think about making a motion to do something like authorize up to \$180,000 out of Reserve and another \$50,000 out of the contingency. Just to kind of lock that in and then we can reevaluate as we get a little further along. You sought of set your standard. You're taking 180 from the reserve fund and taking 50 from the contingency fund. Morin responded and I agree. I hate to be in the middle of this but and that's my issue. We don't want to leave you high and dry but what happens. Roy interjected or it's

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200,000. Chief Dionne stated we don't foresee that at all. That's a much larger fund than I believe we need. Town Administrator Malizia said it says for the amount up to 180,000 from the Reserve, up to 50,000 from contingency.



Chief Dionne commented we are still going to work with all we can to come across the best we can. Town Administrator Malizia agreed yes. Just so you have the room just in case you know Selectman Morin stated because all the stories you're telling us when you take it off you're going to find. Chief Dionne agreed most likely, Chairman Roy interjected more than most likely.

Selectman McGrath contributed not only that the building, the new addition and the old part of the building will match. It won't be a big shift in the way it looks, I mean it's really a nice looking facility as it is now. But after hearing all the damage that's been done. I mean I'm astounded at the roof not performing like I thought it would. Doug responded the existing roof has a hematic span on it. It's actually gone over it. From that standpoint it's definitely

Selectman McGrath further stated I think it's going to be a stunning-looking building. Doug commented it's going to be a beautiful building. You won't be able to tell the proposed addition to what was there existing. I think that's what everyone is looking for. Chief Dionne commented that is definitely the byproduct that of a major improvement obviously. Chairman Roy added so that we can have a functioning roof. Dionne agreed that's the whole point the functioning roof. The byproduct it's going to look very nice.

Town Administrator Malizia read the motion to authorize up to \$180,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund and \$50,000 from the Police Facilities Roof Repair. Roy asked does anyone want to make that motion. Motion made by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman McGrath. Carried 3-0.

#### E. NASHUA REGIONAL SUPPLY AGGREGATION - TOWN ADMINISTRATOR - DECISION

Chairman Roy recognizes the Town Administrator.

Town Administrator Malizia stated we have been part of this, the Town, regional aggregation since NRPC put it together back in 2012 I believe. And we've gotten certainly very good rates. The electrical supply for electricity currently we are on 8.7 cents. That will expire upcoming November. I think the last from the default supplier Eversource was cents per kilowatt hour, so we saved \$600,000 over the eleven, twelve, thirteen years we've been involved. They've offered us an opportunity they are going out to get everything ready. So they have offered us an opportunity to participate again. And you can do so by having you sign a memo of understanding. And basically what they are looking at the other communities that are participating and they bundle our energy and they sell it at a better rate because there is a that they are selling. So it's been very successful for us. It appears this has to be done by March 10th. That's why it's on this agenda. I don't think they want to wait too much longer. They are only trying to be aggressive to get the rate at this time as I understand the most favorable price. So my recommendation is to enter into the agreement. It's well worth it for us as we do very well since 2012 but it's up to the Board.

Selectman Morin made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Hudson and NRPC to proceed in to order participate in the Nashua Regional Electricity Supply Aggregation Program, seconded by Selectman McGrath. Carried 3-0.

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#### F. PROPOSAL FOR LEGAL SERVICES 2023-2024

Town Administrator Malizia stated has he provided in a letter holding his rate to \$45 per hour for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. I put it on the agenda for the Board's consideration. You can either entertain

entering into a contract or you can entertain going out to bid. From a going out to bid perspective, I'm not an expert but I don't think you can do better on the rate. Selectman Roy commented I know I've said it before this rate is well below market value. Mr. Lefevre does excellent work for us. This associate comes we still have although some things have been we still have an active litigation the calendar so the continuity I know what I would support. Anybody else have anything. Selectman Morin inquired how many years have we been doing this. Malizia answered this will be the eighth. But we have done seven years and we are at the same rate. Selectman Morin echoed same rate. Then asked what were our legal fees last year. Total, general, off the top of your head. Malizia answered I think you budgeted about 120,000 and there is near our tenth month that we did not spend that. Selectman Morin commented I'm just thinking back to I know people want to go out to bid and stuff. But as we were talking look we are coming up with low numbers and we're spending all that money for a low number. That's why I was asking. Town Administrator Malizia replied so from a dollar perspective again you are probably not going to see this rate from somebody else. If you do it may be somebody who's inexperienced or not well familiar with the municipal side of it. I only say that. You'll certainly draw bids from surrounding towns. You will get bids from some major players out there. I can't tell you what the numbers could be. Maybe someone will match it. They are going to take some time to learn us, Hudson. That does take some time.

Chairman Roy recognized Selectman McGrath who commented so to go along with everyone else. We couldn't get a better rate. You couldn't get a better attorney. And all I'll say is two words, John Radick. And if you didn't know him who worked for the Town of Hudson, you're lucky. So I'd be willing to make the motion. Chairman Roy asked Selectman McGrath do you want to make the motion to enter into the contract so we are clear.

Chairman Roy stated I'll entertain a motion to enter into a contract for legal services the office of Tarbell and Brodich P.A. for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 for the terms specified in the Proposal for Legal Services 2023-2024 letter as prepared by Attorney David Lefevre. Motion made by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Morin. Carried 3-0.

## **9. BOARD LIAISON REPORTS**

Chairman Roy inquired do we have any Board Liaison reports. None

## **10. REMARKS BY TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

Town Administrator Malizia began if I may I put on your desk a letter from Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Chris Lizotte. She is the only candidate for the office of Town Clerk/Tax Collector on the ballot. Would have probably put this on time for the agenda but unfortunately I was out last week. She is asking for, it's a long-drawn conclusion that she will be elected, but we would like to get started with the hiring process for her replacement. One of the crucial things with this particular as you can recall, it's at last a month before they can do motor vehicle registrations. So the sooner we can get someone into the office here, the sooner we can get them up to speed, the better off We want to make sure we keep providing the customer service to the As I said working with the State it's a difficult timeline and I think it's appropriate that we get the process started. Certainly probably not going to get anyone for the next two weeks but we can go through the process and at some point be back in front of the

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Board with a recommendation to hire. So I apologize. It would have been in last week but I was asked if I can do it because the next meeting is the 28th. And that's in two weeks, three weeks.

Chairman Roy stated I will entertain a motion to advertise for the position of Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Motion has been made [Selectman McGrath] and seconded [Selectman Morin}. All in agreement say "aye". Motion carried 3-0.

Town Administrator continued our residents are voting next Tuesday. For ward locations, you can look them up on our webpage if you don't know your ward. Sample ballots are in the mail. I received mine personally at home today. So they are coming in, trickling in, depending on where you live in Hudson. They were mailed to everybody and the Town reports are available. I believe the schools are as well. We are going to scan ours up on the website. So if you want to go look at it there. There will be copies at the polling places. Or at Town Hall. You can come in right now and get one. And that's all I have because I wasn't here last week.

## **11. REMARKS BY THE SCHOOL BOARD**

Chairman Roy recognized Chairman Gasdia.

Chairman Gasdia - real quick. Earlier today there was a press conference at the Hudson police Department. A joint press conference with the Chief of Police and the Superintendent of Schools regarding an incident with the bus driver. Those details are plenty. I just wanted to take a moment to thank the Chief and all of his staff and the School District and its administration for all the cooperation initiated to bring us to where we are. It's an ongoing investigation but it is really I wish better circumstances. But the way they came together was really important and I want to thank the Chief. He represented Hudson very well today for that. Election is coming up. Thank you again to the Town for putting in the simple language. I got it today too. It was very nice. With the election you know depending on how things go I want to say to Selectman Morin thank you for all the cooperation over the years. I really appreciated it and thank you.

## **12. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN**

Chairman Roy asked Selectman McGrath do you have any comments.

Selectman McGrath: replied no, my last comment for this meeting, for this group, is good luck, Selectman Morin to Selectman McGrath responded thank you.

Chairman Roy inquired also to Selectman Morin do you have anything.

Selectman Morin responded just one thing. Today I came into town hall and I noticed Kathy Wilson was outside by a vehicle. I couldn't figure out she had a bunch of papers. She actually took the time to go outside and help an elderly resident that couldn't enter the building. She helped her to complete all her business that she needed to do here. I just wanted to recognize Kathy for taking that time to do that. Thank you and I hope everybody gets out and votes.

Chairman Roy commented so I'm just going to say that everyone to vote on March 14th. Local elections have the most impact on your life and by voting you can control your destiny. During the 20-22 presidential elections over 10,000 voters voted, In March 2022 during our Town election there was 4,259 registered voters and these are the folks that decide what your budget looks like, who decide what your development looks like, and who governs you. So please get out and vote. I know we can do better. As

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Mr. Malizia said it's March 14, 2023. There are two locations. They can be found on the Town website. And polls are open from 7am to 8pm. And that is all I have.

**13. NONPUBLIC SESSION** - none scheduled

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

*Selectman Roy concluded with I will entertain a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman McGrath. Carried 3-0. Adjourned at 7:43pm*

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Diane Cannava

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Kara Roy, Chairperson

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Bob Guessferd, Vice Chairman

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David Morin, Selectman

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Marilyn McGrath, Selectman