

## HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### Minutes of the April 25, 2023 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman McGrath the meeting of April 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Chairman McGrath
3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Dillon Dumont, Bob Guessferd, Marilyn McGrath, Dave Morin, Kara Roy

Staff/Others: Elvis Dhima, Town Engineer; Jess Forrence, Director of Public Works; Jason Twardosky, Public Works Supervisor; Tad Dionne, Police Chief; Scott Tice, Fire Chief; Christine Strout-Lizotte, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Donna Melanson, Assistant Tax Collector/Town Clerk; Lisa Labrie, Finance Director; Jill Laffin Executive Assistant

Town Administrator, Steve Malizia had an excused absence this evening.

Selectman Morin was recognized and asked for a change in the order of business. Selectman Morin then said I just want to make sure Ms. Jakoby or Mr. Thatcher are in the audience, they're not. But I'll talk to the audience. Selectman Morin went on to say, I want to take a minute to talk a bit about last meeting and what took place during the meeting. Ms. Jakoby and Mr. Thatcher are very passionate about what they do and why they want to serve. And I fully understand that. After serving this community for 40 years in many different aspects, I also take this to heart and I try to do my absolutely best. And last week that heart took over when we were having the conversation with Mr. Thatcher. People need to realize that when you're in this position, as Mr. Thatcher may be, that this might happen. People are very passionate and they're going to come after you and they're going to ask questions and they're going to be very, very to the point to make sure that they get what they need. I was I was wrong with the way that I talked to the questions, the way I put forward the questions was wrong. And I apologize. And I hope that both Ms. Jakoby and Mr. Thatcher will accept that apology. And I hope they're watching tonight. Mr. Thatcher will get my vote tonight. And again, I want to say I'm sorry, and I'll say, too, to the group. Thank you. We received I received all your emails. I read them and I appreciate it. Thank you.

#### 4. PUBLIC INPUT

Selectman McGrath began by saying so Public input. I don't know if there's rules in the in the room for everyone that's here, but we allow five minutes per person to speak. And that's going to continue until we make a change, if we make a change. So for public input, does anyone in the audience wish to address the board on any issue which the Board has control of at this time? If you do, please state your name and I'll recognize both of you in the back. State your name and address for the record.

Katherine Nardoni, 20 Maple Ave

My name is Katherine Nardoni. I'm at 20 Maple Avenue here in Hudson, and I've had things read into the record about the snow dumping at Merrill Park because I can see the entrance to Merrill Park from my house. I did get some feedback on why it's dumped there, and I appreciate that. I didn't know all of those details. I did have some questions still about I understand they're supposed to be a silt fence or something and that that's supposed to be put in before. Before the first frost or before it

freezes hard anyway. And there's also supposed to be post melt cleanup, which is supposed to be done by May 15th. And I didn't know if those are scheduled.

I also was wondering about the in the plan they're going to put in some parking at Merrill Park, from what I understand, with the new boat ramp. And if that's going to change anything about where the snow is stored in the future, depending upon where those, where that parking is. And I'd like to have it put in the town plan that alternative snow storage areas are looked at that are not in public parks. Because I know that there are rules about where it has to be as far as flowing water and not, not getting into groundwater. And I understand that. But there might be other places that could possibly work because as we know, the Merrill Park is the as it's been said, the one municipal part of the along the Merrimack River. And so it's a very kind of sensitive place. We don't have a lot of public park along the river and we want to be able to use that for all of our enjoyment.

I'm really interested in the boat ramp and that that's going to be going in. But I do wonder about where the asbestos is located in the park because I know there is asbestos in the park and whether that will be at all disrupted because of that work. Do the contractors and the tree removal companies have training dealing with asbestos? What precautions are being taken to ensure the safety? Both of the neighborhood, but also of the people who are going to be working on that project? I go into the park regularly to clean up trash. I have pictures of trash I've picked up just in the last couple of days and recycling, and I put it in my own trash and recycling. So I'm wondering if more people are going to be using that park, what kind of trash collection and removal is going to be available for people. What kind of signage will be there? Will it be a carry in, carry out kind of situation? And the town website states that there are benches and tables at the park, which they are not there. So I'm wondering if any of those will be reinstalled. Um, as this this project goes forward. Currently, there are a lot of bicycles and motorcycles using the park and kind of tearing up the area. And I don't know if there's any plans for kind of making that...making it safe for everybody. And right now I know there's a plan for the boat ramp. What kind of plan could we have for more like an all access trail or something else for that park so that everybody who's in town could use the park in a safe and convenient manner? Chairman McGrath replied, well, we certainly don't have any answers for you tonight. Ms. Nardoni replied, oh, I know. But I wanted to put it in there so that we have some ideas.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said just to clarify the boat ramp. It's not going to be a motor boat ramp. Ms. Nardoni replied, oh, I know. It's a, it's a kayak ramp. Selectman Morin added, yeah, it's just going to be steps in. The main reason they're doing it is because where the Fire Department puts in their boat where it goes down to the river. So it's not going to it's going to change it because it'll be a little better access, but it won't be a lot of boats, you know, as motor boats. I just want to make sure that you understood. Ms. Nardoni responded saying, oh, yeah, no, I did understand that. I knew the parking was only going to be for like six spots or something like that. It's not like it's going. It's a small park. It doesn't it can't use a lot of people at one time. But there will still be, hopefully there will be more people. I would like there to be people being able to go in and use their kayaks. And so I still like you know, right now, people just leave their trash there. It'd be nice if they had somewhere to put it.

Chairman McGrath replied to Ms. Nardoni saying well, I mean, leave your name and address with Jill and we'll get answers back to you. I think that there's a lot of departments that you hit that will have to respond. And I'm looking at one of them right now that may be responding to you. So if you don't mind. Thank you.

Jerome Bento, 7 Muldoon Drive

I come before you tonight to check the status of the recommendations made by the Right to Know committee to you on September 27<sup>th</sup> of last year. Those recommendations included purchasing an Email Archive Server to facilitate the storage and retrieval of emails. You approved the addition of that cost of \$15k to the upcoming budget and both the Budget Committee and voters approved the budget. I

ask tonight for the status of that purchase with the understanding that the purchase cannot be completed until July 1st, 2023, but product reviews and RFPs can be completed before that date.

Another of the recommendations was to require all employees and committee members to use the town email system to conduct town business. To date I have not seen any action by this board to make that happen. I did review the town email policy and the policy has not been updated since September of 2015. I urge the Board to make this a priority.

On a different topic I would urge the Board to keep the 5-minute time limit for the public to speak at meetings. Many of us are not trained public speakers and may take longer than 3 minutes to express our thoughts. I suggest that the 5-minute limit remain, and that the Chairperson remind each presenter of the 5-minute limit and also monitor the time. I would also like to commend the 5 individuals that have volunteered to serve the Town of Hudson on various committees. They are to be commended for coming forward and I urge you to appoint all of them tonight. I also ask that you also explain anytime you vote negative or abstain from voting on an item. As a voter, I need that information to better know your position on items when I vote. Thank you for your attention and I look forward to updates regarding the Email Archival Server and the required use of the Town email system.

Chairman McGrath replied to Mr. Bento saying, you probably have to wait until Mr. Malizia gets back from vacation to get an answer on those two items because I don't certainly don't have them for you. Mr. Bento replied, that's very that's fine. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

Selectman Roy then said Madam Chair could we possibly add that to the next agenda for Mr. Beike to maybe give us an update on At least at least the email server. I'm not sure about the email policy, but email. Chairman McGrath replied, sure and then said and I can tell you from the email policy, it may not may not be a formalized thing, but I always use the town's. I have my private for my private business and I don't do a whole lot of that, but I always try to respond for anything related to the town, whether it's the police department, the fire department, the town administrator, the girls up in the office, I use town email. Mr. Bento replied very good. Thank you very much. To which Chairman McGrath replied, you're welcome.

Chairman McGrath then said to the Executive Assistant, Jill, can you please keep the time? Because I lose track of it. Ms. Laffin replied, sure.

James Crowley, 4 Fairway Drive

My name is James Crowley, and I've lived at 4 Fairway Drive for over 35 years. And I want you to know, I wrote most of this before hearing the statements tonight. And thank you for making them. It does get to be rather passionate in here at times.

I also want to you to know, primarily based on my credentials and experience, that the voters selected me to the Planning Board a year ago. When I look around this room, I see three Board of Selectmen members that have presided and voted in Planning Board meetings alongside me. One of you even went out of his way to help obtain headphones for me at Planning Board meetings because I have a hearing deficiency. To date I know none of you have tried to use your Planning Board or Board of Selectmen authority to advocate my removal from my current Planning Board position for any reason, past or present. From that, I assume your current opinion of me is that I'm more of an asset than a liability to the functioning of Hudson government. So why do I bring all this up? Because lately, witnessing interviews by the Board of Selectmen of volunteer candidates for various town positions, I have noticed if a candidate has been involved in any past lawsuits against the town, whatever the content, it seems to be a reason to consider disqualifying a candidate. I want to remind the Board of Selectmen that before I was elected to the Planning Board, my name appeared on several lawsuits against the town of Hudson.

As far as I'm concerned, they were all necessary to resolve a legitimate issue and were not frivolous. One of those lawsuits that had my name on it was to facilitate improvement of what I, among others, felt were deficient. Hudson Right to Know policies and procedures. The resolution of that lawsuit with the cooperation of the town to do so, resulted in hopefully improved compliance with intent of the RSA rules for Right to Know which benefited the whole community. Please, please keep this in mind when voting for any volunteer candidates with involvement in prior lawsuits against the town. From personal experience, in my opinion, the lawsuit demonstrates the commitment and courage of an individual to direct Hudson attention only as a last resort to improve a town policy or further justify a particular decision that needed to be contested. Finally, I think I supply proof a candidate's qualifications to be the primary litmus test for a position, not a former involvement in a lawsuit.

And on a brighter note, just to lighten it up, I wish to thank the retiring Department of Public Works Director Jess Forrence for his many years of service to Hudson, and I greatly appreciate his contribution. I also thank the Board of Selectmen for your service to this town and allowing me this time to state my opinions. Thank you.

Dean Sakati, 11 Fairway Drive

Dean Sakati, 11 Fairway Drive. Chairman McGrath replied, I recognize the name. to which Mr. Sakati replied, and I'm on the ZBA as well. Just really quickly, I had some words. I'm going to go a little bit off script here because I would like to see Chris Thatcher be unanimously voted in the Sustainability Commission, please. So I submitted a letter. I'm going to read parts of it. I'm going to skip other parts. Please find my letter of support for Mr. Chris Thatcher, who has graciously volunteered his time to support the Town of Hudson at the Sustainability Committee. I'm reading because I just submitted this a few hours ago. I have known Mr. Thatcher for over three years and can attest that he is an exceptional candidate to serve the Town of Hudson. Mr. Thatcher has the professional and personal attributes to make him a great contributor to this committee.

Let me share a few of his personal and professional qualities, as he is one ethical and passionate in the way he in what he pursues, in the causes that he pursues in support of Hudson. He he's selfless in putting significant this is to he's selfless and submitted excuse me selfless in putting significant time and his personal reputation into what he believes is best for Hudson. Three, he's intelligent and well educated. He does his research to learn and understand the issues. As an executive at a medical device company, which he talked about during his interview, he brings to this position great professional experiences. Four he's a person of great charity. He has a big heart who is always contributing to local causes. I personally seen him donate time and treasure to local causes that he believes in. My daughter was a beneficiary of that. She did a startup and she created a GoFundMe page. He anonymously donated \$100. That just shows a little bit as it affected my daughter and her personal pursuits to create a company that was doing good for young women dancers. Chris Thatcher takes his role as an involved citizen seriously, even to the discomfort of both himself and town leadership, as we saw at the last meeting. Democracy is messy. It's essential at the local level, and it keeps engagement from both its citizens and elected leaders. Chris Thatcher's character, such that he is open to and would actively encourage citizen's thoughtful disagreement. He strongly believes that citizen involvement is essential in the running of government, hence his willingness to volunteer for the Sustainability Committee. I'm going to go a little bit off script here because I appreciate, Mr. Morin, your your apology to him. I think that's important. But I thought he was rough handled by a couple people that night. And I didn't think that was, I didn't think that was respectful. It wasn't respectful to to him. And I think it sets a tone for the for the town as a whole. I mean, things have gotten hot in this town. We all know that. The town has become emotionally supercharged. Right. And I'm sure a lot of people have said things that maybe they regret. But I think we all need to take a moment to reflect on those things. Right. And we can all I think we can all do better. And I think we all should do better.

And and you know, I guess what I'd close with is the five-minute input. I think the five-minute input should be sustained. Three minutes Have having had the pleasure of speaking before the Planning Board on

multiple occasions, I found three minutes to be absolutely disrespectful. It's too short. You could hardly get your statement out. I bet you if I'm being timed right now, I'm probably over three minutes already, right? So you find yourself unnecessarily rushing through a line of reasoning, a thought process that doesn't do anyone any service. So I would I would recommend that we keep the five-minute rule so that people can express themselves. And frankly, it may not always be well-received, but it's really important. It's a rare opportunity that these boards get feedback and we may not always like to hear it. Right? I'm on ZBA. We may not always like to hear it, but it's really important. It's the only way we can get a self-check of what we're doing. And Mr. Guessferd, you were in the military, you hot washed you after action review. You always took the time, right, to be able to self-examine what you're doing. Our boards, we have to do the same thing if we want to have high quality, modernized boards during a time that we're that we're confronted with a lot of challenges. Let's face it, things are changing rapidly and a lot of it's beyond our control. And but we have to make the best of it. Otherwise we're not going to be a great community. So that's all I have. Thank you for your time and thank you for your service.

Michael Jakoby, 94 Gowing Road

My name is Michael Jakoby. 94 Gowing Road, Hudson, New Hampshire. I had just had a couple of things in support of Chris Thatcher to the Sustainability Committee. He does a lot for this community. He works hard and has integrity, and I just wanted to acknowledge that I support him and I hope you guys do as well.

I also wanted to say that I'm opposed to dumping snow in the parks. If we can find an alternative place to put it besides Merrill Park. I would appreciate it. The other topic I wanted to address was the the Board's conduct over the last meeting. And I, I appreciate Mr. Morin apologizing to Heidi. She is my wife. Just wanted to know that. I know it's a hard job and I know that it's passionate. But the Board has to remain professional and it has to be respectful to whether it's to the residents or to each other or to other committee members that you're liaisons to. We just I know topics get passionate and it's just something that I think needs to be looked at and make sure that it doesn't get out of hand. And I do appreciate your apology, and that's all I had to say. Thank you.

## 5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

### Recognition - Deputy Town Clerk Donna Melanson

Chairman McGrath invited Donna forward and presented her with a certificate that read "This certificate of recognition is presented to Donna Melanson for going above and beyond, leading up to and during the 2023 Town Election. Your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated. This certificate, along with a gift that's inside, is presented with the Board of Selectmen's thanks and appreciation.

### Appointments

- 1) Benson Park Committee - (2-member vacancies expiring 4/30/23, 2-alternate member vacancies expiring 4/30/2023 & 4/30/2024) Judy Brouillette (incumbent member).

Selectman Morin was recognized and said I'd just like to say Judy is taking a huge participation in the committee. She's actually volunteered for secretary and she does a lot of the work, so I'd be very happy to nominate her. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Guessferd, to appoint Judy Brouillette as a member of the Benson Park Committee, with a term to expire 4/30/26. Carried 5-0.

- 2) Cable Utility Committee - (2 member vacancies expiring 04/30/23, 1 alternate vacancy expiring 04/30/23) Diane Cannava (incumbent member)

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said I just also, kind of in the same vein as Selectman Morin sitting on this committee myself, seen her in action. She's very passionate about it, as we know. She's very involved with the Cable Committee and with HCTV. So I believe that she would, it's really the right thing to do to appoint her again. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Morin, to appoint Diane Cannava as a member of the Cable Utility Committee, with a term to expire 4/30/26. Carried 5-0.

3) Sustainability Committee - (2 member vacancies expiring 4/30/23, 2 member vacancies expiring 4/30/24, 1 vacancy expiring 4/30/25, 1 alternate member vacancy expiring 4/30/23) - Christopher Thatcher applied. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to appoint Chris Thatcher as a member of the Sustainability Committee with a term to expire 4/30/26. Carried 5-0.

4) Planning Board - (1 member vacancy expiring 3/31/25, 1 alternate vacancy expiring 12/23) Autumn Scott & Rich Weissgarber both applied for the vacant alternate member seat and interviewed for the position at the April 11, 2023 Board of Selectmen meeting.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said I just want to make sure that that's the clarification. We're not, we're not recommending somebody for the member spot because the Planning Board will take care of that. Just for the alternate spot. To which Selectman Roy and Chairman McGrath replied, right.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to appoint Autumn Scott as an alternate member of the Planning Board with a term to expire 12/31/23. Carried 5-0.

## 6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman McGrath asked, does anyone have anything they'd like removed for separate consideration? Selectman Roy asked to pull item 6E-Minutes of April 11, 2023. Chairman McGrath asked to pull item A4-Solar Exemption.

Selectman Dumont made a motion to accept items 6A 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10, 6B, 6C, 6F. This was seconded by Selectman Morin. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to defer the minutes of the April 11, 2023 meeting to the May 5, 2023 agenda so they can have some spelling errors corrected. Carried 5-0.

Chairman McGrath went on to talk about consent item 6A-4 Solar Exemptions. Chairman McGrath said I'll speak to that, in the list of applicants. For that, there's a person with the last name of Michaud and I checked with Jim Michaud, the town assessor. And there's no relationship at all there. There's no familial relationship, there's no friendship. He doesn't know the person he doesn't own. Jim doesn't own property in town. So I just wanted to make sure that that was clear. So we'll vote on that separately, but that's the reason for removing it. Seeing no further discussion, Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve consent item 6A-4, Solar Exemptions. Carried 5-0.

### A. Assessing Items

- 1) Disabled Veteran Tax Credit: map 203, lot 125 - 7 Hickory St.
- 2) Disabled Exemption Application: map 178, lot 013, sub 109 - 29 Mobile Dr.
- 3) Elderly Exemption & Solar Exemption: map 197, lot 180 - 14 Spruce St.
- 4) Solar Exemptions: map 241, lot 055 -10 Deerfield Ave.; map 199, lot 031, 49 Pelham Rd.; lot 231, lot 011, 64 Gowing Rd.; map 195, lot 001, sub 002, 165 Standish Ln.; map 174, lot 067 10 Haverhill St.; map 138, lot 010, 10 Forest Rd.; map 160, lot 067, 40 Rangers

Dr.; map 200, lot 043, 80 Bush Hill Rd.; map 168, lot 107, 20 Frenette Dr.; map 194, lot 010, sub 002, 4 Warren Rd.; map 197, lot 143, 9 Hemlock St.

5) Elderly Exemptions: map 229, lot 023, 21 Ridgecrest Dr.; map 241, lot 058, 5 Brookfield Rd.; map 168, lot 054, 34 Greeley St.; map 124, lot 069, 33 Beechwood Dr.; map 241, lot 032, 35 Dracut Rd.; map 144, lot 018, 60 Lawrence Rd.; map 136, lot 032, 31 Bockes Rd.; map 168, lot 068, sub 077, 422 Elk Run Rd.

6) Elderly Exemption Re-qualifications: map 229, lot 016, 12 Ridgecrest Rd.; map 204, lot 064, 15 Burns Hill Rd.; map 147, lot 017, sub 024, 4 Lexington Ct.

7) Veteran Tax Credit: map 197, lot 019, 20 Oban Dr.

8) Tax Deferral Application: map 151, lot 005, sub 002, 38B Barretts Hill Rd.

9) Gravel Tax Warrant: map 122, lot 2 - 53 Old Derry Rd.

10) Tax Deferral Lien Releases: map 175, lot's 57 & 59

B. Water/Sewer Items

1) Sewer Abatement S-CAP-23-01, 14 Howard Ave

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies

1) Raffle Permit - Friends of Benson Park

2) Hawker/Peddler Lic. - Heavny Dogs and Catering

3) Hawker/Peddler Lic. - Trinity Solar

D. Donations - none

E. Acceptance of Minutes

1) Minutes of April 11, 2023

F. Calendar

04/26	7:00	Planning Board	Buxton Meeting Room
04/27	7:00	Zoning Board of Adjustment	Buxton Meeting Room
05/03	7:00	Budget Committee	Buxton Meeting Room
05/08	7:00	Conservation Commission	Buxton Meeting Room
05/09	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on April 11, 2023

- 1) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to hire Patrick Demarco as a part-time videographer, classified as "Regular Special Shift Employee" with a starting salary of \$15.00 per hour. Carried 5-0.
- 2) Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to hire Barbara Bouley as Town Treasurer, as recommended by the Finance Director. Carried 5-0.
- 3) Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to hire Sithoeun Prak with a starting salary of \$27.17 (step 1) per hour, all in accordance with the Hudson Police Employee Association Contract. Carried 5-0.

- 4) Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to extend the probation of Firefighter Mitchell Rufiange for an additional 3 months with a completion date of July 18, 2023, for a total of 12 months as recommended by the Fire Chief. Carried 5-0.
- 5) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to hire Francis Enos for the position of Deputy Fire Chief, a non-exempt position, in accordance with the Hudson Police, Fire and Town Supervisors Association, Step 7, with an annual salary of \$115,179.00 as recommended by the Fire Chief. Carried 5-0.
- 6) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to appoint Public Works Department Supervisors Jason Twardosky to the position of Interim Director of Public Works at a salary of \$112,671 per year, effective April 30, 2023. Carried 5-0.
- 7) Selectman Morin made a motion to adjourn at 10:29 pm. This was seconded by Selectman Guessferd. Carried 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Input at Board of Selectmen Meetings (Agenda Addition)

Chairman McGrath began the discussion by saying, so despite the comments from some in the audience about having five minutes we have tonight, it's not a terribly lengthy agenda and it's not a difficult agenda, but there were meetings that we have that are lengthy and difficult. We have a lot going on. We have all of our employees sitting here, as is evidenced by the Police Chief sitting right up front, the Town Engineer over here, Finance Director. Those are, those are, all of those people as well as others are always sitting in the in the room waiting to, waiting to get their projects heard. And by and tonight, we didn't have a lot of public input was relatively quick. But there's times when it's not so quick and we're spending a lot of time and keeping the employees here and they have to show up for work the next day. So I think that three, three minutes is more than adequate. That's my my thought. And I'm willing to listen to anybody else. And if you have any comments about it.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said I'd actually like to defer this so Selectman Morin I'd actually like to defer this so I can look at a couple other because I know the School Board's got a different one than we have, and I'd like to look at that again and see how they do it, because I know they have some very specific in their wording on how public input. So I'd like to defer it till next meeting if we could. Chairman McGrath replied, sure.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said Yeah. So I was a little dismayed when I when I saw this addition to the to the, to the agenda. And as to deferring, I guess my question would be, would we still consider this a first read because we've changed the policy that any policy changes would have a first read and a second read. But we can discuss that after.

Selectman Roy went on to say, so as I've said all along, I think that we should make decisions based on data. So I did a little research and in the last year we've had an average of 3.4 citizens give us public input per meeting. Now, not every meeting has public input. Some had more than 3.4 citizens, some had less. That equates to a mere 17 minutes per meeting if we stay at the five-minute standard. I've listened to members of this Board speak for more more than five minutes about things that are barely relevant to the issues we're facing in the town. Public input is the most important form of citizen outreach. It is something we should honor. It is a forum where citizens can tell us their elected representatives how they feel about the state of the town, or any issue for which this board has control. It takes an amazing amount of courage for a person, especially a person not accustomed to public speaking, to take time out of their life and come before this board to exercise their individual right. Public input gives the messenger a forum to

deliver that message. For us to make an informed decision, we must do the difficult thing. And in the words of our newest member, to be willing to take multiple points of view with different sets of information and make an informed decision. Even using a reasonable basis standard review, it fails at any logical scrutiny. It appears. It appears that the board is trying to diminish the voice of those folks that take the time to come and give us their input. And I am strongly opposed to reducing this from 5 to 3 minutes. I think it's the least we can do for our citizens. So that's what I have to say.

Chairman McGrath then asked, Selectman Guessferd, do you have anything that you'd like to add or Selectman Dumont? Selectman Guessferd replied, yes, Madam Chair. I see both sides of this. I do. I respect, I respect the town employees time. I respect everyone else's time. And on that part of it, I do understand the data just presented does, it was I was one of the things I was going to I was going to ask. What is that what is our average? Thank you for doing that research. Also, the other thing I was thinking about is I don't know how not only the School Board does it, but how other select boards handle this situation as well. Again, data, more data, the better. But my general feeling overall when I look at this is while it may inconvenience us from time to time. Us citizen input is important and and I do get one of the one of the citizens said you know it's difficult. I've done a lot of public speaking and it is difficult to kind of formulate if you have something important to say, to be limited to that three minutes, it does rush you. It does get you in a situation where you're you're more nervous and you may not be able to you may not present the way that you want to. Again, understand what we're trying to do here. And we do want to try to move these meetings along as much as we can. You know, I for one, do appreciate the public input. And sometimes we we get information that we might not otherwise would have gotten. So while I respect your your proposal to do this, I think I'll probably land on the other side to keep it at five minutes. Respectfully.

Selectman Dumont, do you have anything that you'd like to add, or? Selectman Dumont replied, I do. Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. A couple things. I do think it's greatly important that we seek out public input. However, in the same sense, I do think it's also just as much as important that this board or with any other board, when you look at public speaking, are able to accomplish the task at hand. So I would like to know if it was at all changed, if the speaker isn't able to get their point across in that allotted time, do they have the ability to ask for more time and how would that be laid out? Chairman McGrath replied, I don't know that. Selectman Dumont replied so that would be the only thing. And hopefully maybe we can do a little bit of research and see how other boards do it. My only worry is that you see when people do get up and speak, you have a lot of good useful information, but you also do have some that is repetitive and sometimes those issues are better off written down and given directly to individual board members to get that across as to not delay or hinder that board's agenda that night. So I think the public input is extremely important. I'd like to see if there's any other option out there or if there's a way that we can lay it out. So that way, if that person isn't being repetitive, if they're just, you know, not getting their point across, in that allotted time that they have the option to ask for more time.

Selectman Morin then said I'll stick with my like to defer this. But reading it, well, everybody's been talking. There's a lot of stuff on the policy we have now that we don't follow that, you know, if we're going to keep to the five minutes, then we need to stick to the whole policy. Everything the policy says. And we don't do that now. So like I said, I want this deferred until we can take a look at some other ones. So we have some background because as everybody said, things change, policies haven't been updated. So we should look at it and update it at the same time. Selectman Guessferd replied, okay. I agree.

Chairman McGrath replied okay, so we'll defer this until another meeting. Selectman Guessferd asked, do you need a motion and a second or we'll just defer it? Selectman Morin replied, no, it's just deferred for now. It doesn't take it off the table. Just we bring it up later. Chairman McGrath replied, we'll get in touch with the School Board to find out what they do and the Planning Board, because they have a time limit on their public input. Selectman Dumont replied, yeah. I believe, if I may speak, I believe that that was changed down to three minutes. I would look at outside to see what other communities are doing, what the state does. They receive a lot of public input as well. And just for kind of clarification from my own sense on the other boards I was at, would it be tabling this issue? Because normally I would always see a deferral with a motion and a second and a tabling the chair has the ability to put it aside and and pick

another time for the agenda. I just don't know if I'm understanding that or maybe I'm wrong, but I figured I would ask just for my own. Selectman Morin replied if you want to do a motion, that's not a problem. Selectman Roy added, I think that's actually the proper way to do it, to do a motion to defer and then a second. Selectman Morin then said we probably should go back for the minutes too, because those get deferred. Selectman Dumont replied we did do a motion to defer those. That's, that's kind of why I was asking. Selectman Morin made a motion to defer discussion on changing the Board of Selectmen Public Input allotted time from five minutes to three minutes. Carried 5-0.

B. Public Hearing - Acceptance of Municipal Boat Launch Investment Relief and Recovery Funding

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima. Mr. Dhima began by saying Good evening, everyone. As you most of you recall, we've been pursuing this for quite some time. We have successfully landed this grant. At the time of the application was submitted estimates related to the work we filed for up to \$40,000 and they have approved us for the entire amount for the work, the tree clearing, the construction and the permit portion of it for the total amount of \$33,962. The way this works is you as a Board have to accept this grant. We'll have to file the paperwork that goes with it. It goes to the governor's desk to sign it and it becomes official. This is a 75% / 25% match. 75% comes from the ARPA money that's being managed by the governor's office. And 25% match from the local comes from the Conservation Commission they were kind enough to get this going. That's how the whole this project got started. With that said, you have a few motions in front of you tonight and I'll take any questions you might have.

Selectman Roy asked I just want to be clear. Is this GOFFER money or ARPA money? Mr. Dhima replied GOFFER money. But my understanding is basically it's federal money through the American Recovery that's being that's being managed by the governor's office. But they're the ones, the governor's office, is the one that finally signs off on the grant.

Selectmen Guessferd was recognized and said I noticed within here the quote, you have the quotes that you have here. Are they still valid? They look like they've already expired, but are they going to honor those? Mr. Dhima responded, yes, I called and the answer was yes. So good question, because I was asking the same thing. But yeah, those are still good. It took a little bit longer than we expected. And I think both businesses that are going to be doing this are local, and I think they understand that. So they're willing to honor it.

Chairman McGrath then said, okay. So we need to open up the public hearing on this. Selectman Dumont was recognized and asked, was there a formal bid process for either one of those? Mr. Dhima replied, no, these were estimates. And the reason we do that, that not all the grants work the same way. Some of them require estimates so they can approve the work that you're submitting. Some other ones you can do it after the fact. Unfortunately, with some of this, we file and we don't get the grant. So it's basically it's you know, you're going out for something that you might not be able to get and it's a waste of time and a bit of a waste of resources on our end, too, as well. But not for this one. And then there's some discussions I think is going to be coming up with the next Board of Selectmen meeting discussions about increasing the threshold and they'll be brought up on the next meeting. We've talked about that in the past. Right now the thresholds are \$10,000 and \$25,000. I think we're trying to increase those thresholds to \$25,000 and \$55,000 because those numbers are based on the 90's. And now due to inflation, that ten grand back then is about \$25,000 now. So things will change a little bit if it gets adopted by the Board of Selectmen, it'll be public input for those, but we're trying to adjust those thresholds there and I think that will help a little bit with what we're trying to accomplish for these small projects.

Mr. Dhima went on to say, I will add something to your point. We had two bid openings. We had to pre bid mandatory pre bid meetings for projects that are both under a million. One was under \$70,000. And we received one party for both, for each one of them, one party. And we had to call them in to show up at the pre bid meetings. So you can go through the exercise. You might not get anyone to show up. So it's it's

tough, especially with the small jobs. But yeah, we had to pre bid meetings and we only had one party show for each one of them. Tough, Tough.

Selectman Guessferd then said, I'll just say, as you we've talked about this before, Madam Chair. Sometimes for the larger jobs, even if you only have one, it's the process and the smaller ones. I get it. I understand. And I do agree that from time to time we need to revisit these these limits. We do it in the federal government as well. You know, they they, they change things. They change limits because a lot of times it doesn't make sense. 20, 30 years afterwards. But I think the process is important. And and sometimes it might cost us, you know, when you're sitting in the middle of it, you're you're thinking, you know, yeah, this is unnecessary cost, but all these things have to be weighed, right? And it's just at times important to go through it because another, you know, so again, just always we need to be always be thinking about, you know, the pros and cons of doing that because I see more things that we waive a lot of times than what we actually actually put out for bid. Mr. Dhima responded, we just so everyone feels good, you know, after this conversation, we do have five jobs out there that we're going out to bid. So one of them is federal funded, too. So we have quite a bit out there. We're just not getting the feedback that we'd like to get, but we'll go through the process, see what we get. But the town right now, Engineering and Public Works and a couple I don't know which other ones, but we have five jobs out there right now.

Selectman Guessferd replied, I understand the frustration, though, with it. I really do. Mr. Dhima replied, It's tough. It's tough. I'm concerned. I look around and the biggest issue is labor. No one can commit because they can't get labor. That's a problem. Material is one thing. I think we're over the hump on that one. But labor, you keep hearing labor, that's not going away. That issue is going to persist. And that's going to be an issue for us when we try to get work done internally and externally for projects that we need to do and for staff here. But we'll deal with it one day at a time, right? Yeah, I hear you.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Board, Chairman McGrath opened the public hearing at 7:53 p.m. Seeing no-one present to comment, Chairman McGrath closed the public hearing at 7:53 p.m.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont, to approve and accept the grant in the amount of \$33,962 for the Municipal Boat Launch Investment Program. This grant is a 75% / 25% split with the Town Conservation Commission portion to come from account number 4619-5586-252. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont, to authorize the Town Engineer to be the principal for Hudson Municipal Boat Launch Investment Program. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to hire Kennedy's Trucking and Excavation, LLC of Hudson, New Hampshire, for the amount not to exceed \$30,000 upon receiving the grant. \$22,500 from the grant and \$7,500 from account number 4619-5586-252. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to hire Tip Top Tree Service, LLC, of Hudson, New Hampshire. For the amount of not to exceed \$2,800 upon receiving the grant, \$2,100 from the grant and \$700 from account number 4619-5586-252. Selectman Roy was recognized and said I just think is a little late to the game, but. And I'm not really good at math, but I only come up with \$32,800 and the grant is for \$40,000. Mr. Dhima replied, I knew someone was going to bring it up. So the delta is basically what we have to pay the State of New Hampshire for the Shoreline Protection Permit. We're getting reimbursed for that as well. So that's what the delta is. Selectman Roy replied, Okay. But you don't need another motion for that? Mr. Dhima replied, we don't need another motion because we already did that. And they're basically going to reimburse us 75% of that. So because we're as frugal as we are trying to get every nickel out of this. So we basically filed for the piece that we paid for the permit and they put that in as well. So that's where the delta is. If I could charge for my own time, I would have done that too. But I said no to that. Don't be greedy. Seeing no further questions, Chairman McGrath took the vote. Carried 5-0.

C. Public Hearing - Acceptance of Lead Service Line Inventory, Sampling Plan and Replacement Plan Grant from NHDES

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima was recognized and said Thank you. As you recall, we have filed for a significant size grant not too long ago. \$100,000 regarding our management of our water supply and we received that. That's in the works right now. In addition to that, we filed recently for another additional DES grant for the amount of \$40,000. This is basically related to doing a better job of information that we have regarding the water ties out there and basically recording to what we have for materials related to the connections from the main to the house. What we're looking for is basically taking all the data that we have and determine that we do not have any lead services out there. This is part of that. It's basically driven by EPA and we need to have this completed by next year. It's a significant amount of effort by our consultants being put into this, our water consultants, our GIS consultants. We at the Engineering Department also working to bring all this data database into our GIS. So we're now operators and we, the town staff, look for information it's available the second we get into the into that particular property, that has town water. But we need the additional help from the outside as well. So DES basically saying there's funds available, here it is, apply for it, show us what you're doing, show us who you're hiring, can they do the work? And fortunately, it's all been done by engineering firms that already work for us, Wesson and Sampson and CDM Smith, which is our GIS. And with that said, we've been we've been granted the full amount that we asked for. So with that said, again, the Board has to accept it and we'll have to submit some additional paperwork. Once I get submitted with the Board of Selectmen approval, we get access to the funds and move forward with this project.

Seeing no further questions or comments from the Board, Chairman McGrath opened the public hearing at 7:59 p.m. Seeing no-one present to comment, Chairman McGrath closed the public hearing at 7:59 p.m.

Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to accept the Hudson Water Sustainability Grant for the amount of \$40,000 funded by ARPA funds. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to authorize the Town Engineer to be the principal for the Hudson Water Sustainability Grant program. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to hire Hudson Water utility consultant Weston and Sampson Engineering and CDM Smith Engineering for the amount of not to exceed \$40,000 upon receiving the grant funds. Selectman Guessferd then said, I usually ask this question. So how do we pay the consultant here? What is our kind of our mechanism monthly invoices or how does, how will that work? Mr. Dhima replied, it's basically so we'll, we'll provide a purchase order and basically we'll pay them as they go based on their deliveries, okay. Selectman Guessferd asked, based on a certain amount of rates; a rate schedule? Mr. Dhima replied, yes. Which I don't have that with me because there were different ones. But yes, basically on their hourly rate and who's going to be working on those particular tasks? There's going to be multiple tasks here, like office tasks, research tasks, GIS tasks and field probably excavation tasks as well. So there's multiple ones. We still haven't figured out everything. It's kind of one of those. The money's there, but the DES still doesn't know how the program is going to work. So I'll probably have more details about it as we, we have to have a kick off meeting for these grants with the state first to figure out what the first step will be and we'll have a better idea to what their expectations are. And then we'll just kind of work around that. Selectman Guessferd asked, the contract will have a rate schedule in it? Mr. Dhima replied, yes, yes. We'll have some rates included into the into the contract. It will be two contracts. It will be a principal contract with Weston and Sampson and a secondary one with CDM Smith and they're both going to have their language in it. Yes, similar to other contracts we've done in the past. Selectman Guessferd replied, sure, sure, yeah. Seeing no further comments, Chairman McGrath called for a vote. Carried 5-0. Mr. Dhima thanked the Board and said, we've got a couple other grants in the works. Those are the millions. We'll see, maybe I'll come back for those. We'll see. We'll know in a couple months. Thank you.

D. Town Wide Paving Contract

Chairman McGrath recognized Public Works Director, Jess Forrence and Supervisor Jay Twardosky by saying this is the last night we're going to see you (Mr. Forrence) at a Board of Selectmen meeting. Mr. Forrence said stop by the house anytime you'd like to say hi. There was a gentleman that lived down the road, Mr. Anger, that used to do that all the time. Sit on the porch. And boy, he knew everybody, and I'm not far behind.

Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the Board, I'd like to hone in on what Elvis said just a couple of minutes ago. We've been looking for a truck driver labor now for almost two months. And we've called them all in except for one gentleman from Texas. I talked to him on the phone. And the first question they come in when they sit there and ask is, what can we do about starting pay? The \$21.34 is very difficult for anybody with a family. So it's difficult. We still haven't got anybody even close. You know, we hear from the next day calling and repeating that. So it is tough out there. It is tough. The Board's going to have a tough time when negotiation comes up again to try keeping the help we have.

Mr. Forrence went on saying, to get into the Brox extension. Primarily the only cost in here is salaries like Continental has done. A lot of big communities around here. They throw money at their employees to keep them. Brox has done just about the same thing, not only to keep employees, but to keep truck drivers trucks and that. That's why I'm coming before you to ask to extend. And if you recall the last couple of years we did default budget, we've had to take money out of town wide paving to pay for the first year's lease on the roadside mower for the front end loader. And that that added up to \$52,000 that Brox didn't get after they were promised, you know, the money for the paving. They understood, they understood what our needs were. And that's why we like dealing with them. We told them with the budget passing this year, everything that we had in line should be covered. So we should not have to go back after town wide paving to cover any other costs. Jay (Twardosky) has done the legwork on this on streets that we need to top. I've said it in the years past that streets aren't going to get topped, that should be. But that's what we're going to go after big time this year and then take care of the roads that are in dire need. So I'm asking the Board to look at the prices, look at the increase minimum, if you ask us. And we really enjoyed dealing with Brox and their workmanship within town, you can see their prices throughout other towns. They do a great job with us.

Chairman McGrath said well, I can tell you that I was driven around Nashua today and the roads over in Nashua desperately need Hudson's crew over there to clean up there. Mr. Forrence replied, well, they're throwing a lot of money this year at it. You know, they're up around \$9 Million on taking care of streets. So, you know, they'll get there and everything is everything is time. Everything is money. You know, next couple of years we should catch up where we fell behind for the last couple of years. So that'll be a good thing.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said Okay. Yeah. I mean, when you look at the data here, it. It really kind of screams at us. But, and what I see is that we did some research. You did some research, and you talk about one town, one city. And I get I get it that they're a lot higher. And I'm not opposed to this. I just again, it's about transparency. It's about making sure that we're doing everything we can to assure our taxpayers that we got the best deal possible. And I know we have a good relationship with Brox, and that all works out. You said that you had said here that recent bids in the area. Besides Nashua, are they were there other bids you were looking at for other towns as well? And if so, I would just say include them. That way we can see that they're all higher rather than just one data point. And I'm certain that they probably are. But I just want to make sure, again, assuring all of us that that, you know, we didn't just focus in laser focus in on one town that's a lot higher than ours. Maybe there's four that are a lot higher than ours. And that's even a stronger case for, for continuing our what I'll call sole source with Brox. So that would be my advice to you is, is that if you can at least you may have done the work and it sounds like you've done some very good legwork on this, but to just kind of expand what you put in here so that we can see it and say, Yeah, there's 3 or 4 towns and they're paying a lot more than we are, you know, for this, you know, not just Nashua, which is, you know, it's hard to compare, but you would think that there would be likely higher, you know, given or maybe not. Right? Because they're a bigger town. Maybe they

have more buying. Mr. Twardosky added they have a lot more volume. To which Selectman Guessferd replied, right. So they might be able to get a better deal. Right. So that again is a is a good data point. But just my point is that's let's document the good work we're doing to make sure that everyone understands that it's not just, you know, one city that's paying a lot more. There's a lot of towns around here and we're we're getting a great deal, you know, for our citizens. Correct. The more bang for the buck, right? Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. You're welcome.

Chairman McGrath asked, anyone else? Mr. Twardosky replied, there was a couple of towns. There's a number of towns that haven't The bids hadn't opened yet. and then there was. There was two. I had preliminary information, but I didn't have it in writing. o I didn't want to put something on here that didn't actually have the Facts on. But there have been a couple and they are significantly higher. Selectman Guessferd asked, the other ones are as well? Mr. Twardosky replied, yes. Chairman McGrath then asked Selectman Guessferd, so are you suggesting that we get that information before we go ahead with this? Selectman Guessferd replied not at this point. I mean, I don't think so. I mean, everything lends itself to saying that this is this is a good a deal. I mean, maybe we should I don't know what. Selectman Roy interjected saying, well, I mean, I think that maybe we go forward with it. But when we start to look at the policy, maybe we look at having some sole source justification language in there. So so that if they are doing a sole source, they have to tell us why. Right? And it could very well be this. You know? Selectman Guessferd then said the federal government uses something called a justification and approval or just a J and A and we used to call them sole source justifications. And it really it's just something for the file that says here's a unique capability or here's something that's so compelling that that we don't that we want to get a justification to to waive the bid process or to go out and look because there's probably other paving companies out there that, I don't know if they can do it at this level. I mean, there probably are, but it really just reinforces what you're telling us, that's all. So that if somebody down the line comes in and says, well, this is what you did, but you really did a lot more. And again, just kind of putting that in a I like the idea of a sole source justification that goes in your file done. And that way somebody comes in and looks at it and says, there we are. Yep, that's a good reason and we move on. Mr. Forrence replied that won't be a problem for Jay. Mr. Twardosky replied, it's not a problem. Selectman Guessferd laughed saying, I like the way you said that Jess. Seeing no further questions from the Board, Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to extend the town wide paving contract with Brox Industries for Fiscal Year 2024. Carried 5-0. Chairman McGrath then addressed Mr. Forrence saying, thank you very much, Jess and happy, happy retirement. And don't be a stranger.

#### E. Notice of Retirement - Firefighter/AEMT

Chairman McGrath recognized Fire Chief Scott Tice. Chief Tice began saying Thank you, Madam Chair, and good evening, everyone. Good evening. Received notification from firefighter JT Bavaro that he intends to retire as of July 1st. JT has been with us since August of 2000 when he started as a call firefighter and he was hired full time in March of 2002. In that time, he's been a really good employee of the department. He has received several different awards and citations, so he will be missed. But I certainly wish him well in retirement. Seeing no questions from the Board Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to accept the notice of retirement from Firefighter/AEMT James Bavaro, effective July 1, 2023, with the Board's thanks and appreciation. Carried 5-0.

#### F. Seagrave-Hudson Tower Truck Contract

Chairman McGrath again recognize Chief Tice. Chief Tice explained, yeah, so Yeah. So in regards to the contract, we have the contract that we discussed about a month ago that you authorized me to sign. There was two things that we were looking at in that contract. First one, I thought we could, we should change the jurisdiction to settle any disputes to New Hampshire courts, which Seagrave has

agreed to. And Steve had asked me to see if we could add any language relative to surcharges in the contract, which Seagrave was not willing to do. But they offered another option of a contract which lowered the price by about \$100,000, but then put it in the Producers Price Index, which is an inflationary index, and they would take the difference between the value of the PPI, the month the contract is signed, and the month before delivery, and any increase or decrease would affect the price. Where we have \$2.1 million from Target, and the intention is that the Target money is paying for the truck and the taxpayers are not paying for the truck and they couldn't put a cap on that; it would not be my recommendation that we go with that contract because that would be agreeing to an open ended price. And if we saw another bout of inflation like we saw this year, we would have no legal standing and it could exceed the \$2.1 million where; the first option is a contract with a set price. And that would be my recommendation. It's, there was a \$900 increase, so that contract would be \$2,079,643 for cash on delivery. Or if we did a prepay option, we would get a \$122,500 discount, which would bring the price down to \$1,957,143.

Selectman Guessferd said so they're not willing to cap the contract? Chief Tice replied, if they put the if we went with the contract with the Producers Price Index, they wouldn't put a cap on it. So it would be open ended and we'd have no legal standing if we saw inflation go up in the price of the truck went over the \$2.1 million. Selectman Guessferd then said okay, so the alternative to that is? Chief Tice replied is The original contract with the fixed price.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said so that original contract with the fixed prices is the \$1,000,957 if prepaid? Chief Tice replied yes. Selectman Dumont then said you had spoken about surcharges. Is that, that's included in that original contract as well, do you know? Chief Tice replied so what happened with the with engine two, which we replaced, which we took delivery of last year, there was because of the incredible inflation that they had in the last year, Seagrave couldn't absorb all that inflation, so they passed that on to the consumers and charged surcharges on their existing contracts. We were not in a position because of the condition of the engine that we were replacing, to have a drawn out legal battle with them over the contract because the truck that we were replacing was, should have been off the road already. So we bit the bullet. We paid the surcharge and took delivery of the truck. We wouldn't be in that same position this time if it if it came about. We do have the contract, there's a contract. They were violating the contract. So there was, I don't you know, from the lawyer, there's the contracts, the contract. And we did even with engine two, we had legal means that we could have used. It just would have been very delayed. And we weren't in a position to have that delay.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said so what I'm hearing is so if we if, it sounds to me like you're recommending that we sign the original contract. The 1.957. And so if something if they try to come back to us with a price increase on that and try to hit us with another surcharge, we will have legal standing to fight that because we don't have a truck that we are replacing. We don't have an urgent need. We would be able to go through that process without that leverage that they would have on us. Chief Tice replied correct. Selectman Guessferd then said I just want to make sure we understand it and everybody else understands it as well.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said so my one concern about if that scenario played out is if that truck is not available for Target to to occupy that building, like what would what would what would our liability be on that? You know what I mean? If they did the surcharge and we said, well, no, we'll just wait, right? And they build their building and then they can't get in cuz we didn't get the truck, you know? Selectman Guessferd said has to be part of it has to be there before the certificate of occupancy. Selectman Roy replied right, right, right. What's what's our exposure? What's our exposure on on that. Because because really, you just be hard pressed for me to pay any taxpayer dollars. Chief Tice replied right, we still we would still have about \$143,000 cushion if we held on to that. Selectman Roy asked with the prepay option? Chief Tice replied the prepay option and with the 2.1 set aside.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said so if we prepay and give them the money up front and they're going to put it away and me collect interest on it or whatever, we still may get hit with a surcharge even though we paid up front. I would say in an extraordinary circumstance, inflation, everything I've been researching, inflation has been leveling out. The PPI actually came down in March. Supply chains are

getting back to normal. So anything could happen. But it was a very extraordinary circumstance that led to that surcharge. Selectman Morin replied, but 860 days is a long ways away. Chief Tice replied, yes, but they also have some cushion built in. That's why they were able to drop the price. \$100,000. Selectman Guessferd said well, hopefully they're going to use that money to buy materials. Selectman Morin said but, you know, because they're not going to get to the truck probably until the last year of that 860 days. So it's going to sit there because they're not going to start building it today. You know what I mean? Selectman Guessferd replied, right. Hopefully they ordered a lot of the material at least. And so some of the money is utilized. But I get what you're saying. Selectman Morin said they're going to stop building it in 12 to 9 months before it's due. So it's going to be two years just sitting there. That's why I asked the question, because that money's just going to sit there. Selectman Roy added, well I think we make the same argument to them that we did with the other truck, and we get that whatever interest they made, you know, we negotiate that, negotiate that out at that time, you know, that that would be what I would suggest.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and asked but does that, that money actually sit in a I'll call it an escrow account because that's what I'm used to, an account that's not touched until materials are purchased for that truck? Or does it just go right into their general operating budget and they spend it as they as they wish? I don't see how you could get interest if it just gets pumped in and gets spent right away. Chief Tice replied It doesn't go into an escrow account. It goes into are however they put it. But theoretically it's in it's in their bank accounts and earning interest. And we did get credit for interest from the original surcharge for engine two. They did discount that based on interest.

Chairman McGrath then said it sounds a little... it sounds like it's ripe for problems. You know, on our end and on. Is it Seagrave? They're on their end. I mean, if they're not if they don't put it put that money into it. That's a lot of money. And if they don't put it into a special account, that that isn't being utilized for any other purpose other than for our truck. Then I mean, I just think that something just doesn't sound right to me. There's something that's a little fishy, and I don't I don't like to say that, but it's that's how I feel. It's and it's not on it's not on our end, but it's on their end. They want to they want to take the they want to get the money up front, which is understandable because it's a big truck. It's an expensive truck. But if we don't know what they're doing with that money, if they're utilizing it for some other purpose other than what it was meant to be used for, then we could we could end up.

Chief Tice replied, but they're also giving us a discount in the price of \$122,000. Selectman Roy added and that only becomes a problem if we don't get the truck at the end of the day because they misuse the funds. Right? Well, I mean, and just just to clarify what I mean, I don't know that I'm that concerned about it. Seagrave, and correct me if I'm wrong, is a fairly well established business that's been been around for a long time. It doesn't appear that they we've done business with them for a while now. Chief Tice added, yeah, we have four Seagrave apparatus, right now. Selectman Roy went on to say so, so, you know, I'm not. Selectman Guessferd added, they're not going to run off with our money. Selectman Roy replied, right. They're not some fly by night company. Chairman McGrath then said I'm not trying to impugn their their credentials or anything. It's just it's concerning because it's such a large sum of money and it's a long period of time in between the time we give them the money and when they actually have to produce the truck for our use. Chief Tice replied, right. I would I would imagine they have some of that money invested or in accounts that's earning interest. They're also able to prepay for their supplies to build the truck, which then they're not paying interest charges on. So it saves them money when they're building the truck and it's giving us, we could we could do the cash on delivery, keep the money. But I don't know that we're going to make \$122,000 in interest in that time.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said just to follow up, that's kind of what I was going to hint at I guess. With that discount, you'd be more, at least in my opinion, more apt to move forward with it. I think this Board needs to be willing to move forward with this project and try to push things along to eventually get there. If by the time that that truck becomes, if it becomes a problem and the money is not available or if it or for whatever reason, if they break contract again, again, that's a stipulation that Target we will have to revisit at that time. But for right now, you have to look at what's available. The money's there, the

money's allocated for that truck, the contracts available. You've done your research on it. I think it's proper to move forward with it. It's my opinion.

Selectman Roy added, I wouldn't disagree. Selectman Guessferd added, I wouldn't disagree either. Yeah, it's different than what we're used to in certain other public sectors where you're not paying any know you're not paying. We call it an advance payment to a company and to get an advance payment on a fixed price contract is unusual. But I think given the discount and all the other factors, it would be great if you could put something into the contract that would say, okay, you're going to put the money here, you know? You know, and show us your, you know, your, your build schedule and when you're going to have to buy long lead items so that we're comfortable with their process because I think they're going to try. I mean, if they're smart, they're going to order the materials as soon as they possibly can. So the long, I don't know how long the material would take to get. But and then you're right, they probably won't build it for a year or a year and a half from now or start it. So but I'm not sure we're going to be able to get that sort of detail from them. And and to me, it sounds like we got we probably have as good of a situation as we could hope for at this point. Chief Tice added, yeah, I think the last year was an extraordinary circumstance. Not, not not the norm. Selectman Guessferd asked, so you're comfortable with that? Chief Tice replied yes. Selectman Roy asked, do you need something from us? To which Chief Tice replied no, if, if you're okay with that, I will move forward with signing the contract and moving that forward. I just wanted to make sure we were completely out in the open. And you and the Board was fully aware of all the details. Chairman McGrath asked, so do we have a consensus, then, that we should move forward? Selectman Dumont asked and just to clarify that's with the prepayment of the \$1,957,000? Chief Tice replied yes. And we do have Target has wired the money to the town. So the town does have the money.

## 9. Board Liaison Reports

Selectman Roy: Selectman Roy So I usually let the School Board handle the school thing. But they're not here tonight, so I'll say that schools on vacation. The school system is on vacation this week, so please be careful out there. And then I believe it's this weekend coming up, there's they're going to build a playground over at H.O. Smith School. I know on their website there is a sign up for volunteers because it is all going to be built by volunteers. So if you have some time that weekend and you want to sign up, please do so.

And then I went to the Library Board of Trustees. Their pavilion projects is a little bit on hold right now as the big come in is almost double the donation that they receive. So they're trying to figure that out. They're going back to the donor and seeing what they want to do about that. I encourage everybody to check out the library. There's tons of programming for all ages there. And then if I could just be a little bit library nerdy cuz I find it exciting. A woman is doing a study on the benefits of public libraries in communities, and she is using, I think, about 11 patrons out of the interview, about 11 patrons out of the out of the Rogers Memorial Library to in that study. So I find that exciting. That's all I have.

Selectman Morin: Benson's Committee, they had discussion on fundraising, but there's a lot of questions whether it meets the deed requirements or not, so they're relooking at that. They're waiting on to get a report on if there's any lead paint in the old train station because they want to move forward with something with that. That is a historic building, part of the park. So they got all the paperwork from the state to move forward. That has to be submitted to see if they're going to do any work inside the building. So that's going to come, but that's probably going to take a while. They talked about park fees again for use of the parks, you know, weddings, things like that there. We're still working on that. And we had a sign donated. It was a basically a what do you call it when the old style when you made newspapers, a printing plate. Somebody donated an actual printing plate that had to be this long. And that's how they made the signs for the park. So it got donated, and that was given to the Friends of Benson's to be put in the museum. That's all I have tonight. But they have some stuff that will be coming forward to this board as soon as they get it squared away and they can start moving forward.

Selectman Guessferd: Don't have too much more updates from the the Department at this point. I do believe they closed out their their summer registrations. You know, their programs are running along smoothly. I'm sure we'll be hearing more soon on some of the newer programs and summer things going on.

As far as Planning the Planning Board, we are in the process of continuing the master plan review. There's public hearings tomorrow night on three of the chapters: natural resources, community facilities and historic resources chapters, hoping to wrap that up, get public input and finalize those chapters and move on and continue to our goal of trying to have the entire master plan updated by the end of June. That's our goal as to try to do that. And again, understanding that it's a, it's a living document. And so if there's something else that comes up, we can add it to it at some future time. But it's something that, again, the idea is to keep this on the on the front burner versus on the back burner as it's been as much as we can. But there are no there are no applications for tomorrow night. So it's focused on on the chapters of the master plan. That's all I got.

Selectman Dumont: Chairman McGrath said Selectman Dumont, you don't have committees to report on just yet.

Chairman McGrath: I don't have anything this evening either. I will tell you that I'm going to have Jill send out the committee, list of committees, and I ask you to get it back to me, one that you'd like to participate on, and I'll get back to you just as quickly as I can.

10. Remarks by Town Administrator - Town Administrator had an excused absence this evening.

11. Remarks by School Board - No School Board member present.

12. Other Business/Remarks by the Selectmen

Selectman Roy: Yeah so I guess I'll just give a little safety message. The weather is getting nicer out. It's staying out late, lighter later, so more people are outside, particularly motorcycles. So just please be careful on the road. That's. That's all I have tonight.

Selectman Dumont: I got nothing tonight.

Selectman Guessferd: Did we want to say anything about today? Selectman Morin and Chairman McGrath both replied no, not yet. Selectman Guessferd added, beyond that, I really don't have much else to say except I hope everyone has a good couple of weeks until we get on your TV again.

Selectman Morin: All I got to say is The Telegraph runs the "Best of" whatever. I want to say that our EMS service was voted number one. Our Fire Department was voted number two and our Police Department

was voted number two. Selectman Roy added, Benson's Park was on that too. Selectman Morin replied, yup, number one!

Chairman McGrath:

13. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Morin at 8:35 p.m., seconded by Selectman Guessferd to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Nonpublic Session was entered at 8:35 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 9:42 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session

- 1.) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to hire Cynthia Roberts for the position of Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector with a starting rate of \$19.03 per hour (step 1) of the AFSCME Support Staff Agreement. Carried 5-0.
- 2) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont, to appoint Donna Melanson as deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector as recommended by the Town Clerk/Tax Collector, effective April 26, 2023. Carried 5-0.
- 3) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont, to promote Lieutenant Patrick McStravick to the position of Captain at \$105,354.00 in accordance with the Hudson Police, Fire, and Town Supervisors Association Contract (step 4). This elevation in rank will be effective Monday, May 01, 2023. Carried 5-0.
- 4) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont, to hire John Layton as a full time Police Officer with the Hudson Police Department, with a starting salary of \$32.36 (step 4) per hour, all in accordance with the Hudson Police Employee Association Contract. Carried 5-0.
- 5) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont, to authorize the Fire Chief to enter into an MOU with the PFFH to adjust the classification of "years of service" in order to qualify for initial placement and movement within the step system as it relates to both new hires and current members. This MOU would become effective as of July 1, 2023. Carried 5-0.
- 6) Selectman Morin made a motion to adjourn at 9:44 p.m. This was seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 5-0.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:44 p.m. by Selectman Morin seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 5-0.

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

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Marilyn McGrath, Chairman

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Dave Morin, Vice Chairman

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Kara Roy, Selectman

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Bob Guessferd, Selectman

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Dillon Dumont, Selectman