

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the May 23, 2023 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman McGrath the meeting of May 23, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Selectman Guessferd

3. ATTENDANCE

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

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Scott Tice, Fire Chief; Tad Dionne, Police Chief; Steven McElhinney, Police Captain; Elvis Dhima, Town Engineer; Mimi Guessferd, Library Trustees Chair; Linda Pilla, Library Director; Donna Boucher, Library Trustee; Gary Gasdia, School Board Chairman; Jill Laffin Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT - there was no public input this evening.

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Appointments

1) Nashua Regional Planning Commission - (2 member vacancies expiring 12/31/26, 12/31/23, 1 alternate member vacancy expiring 12/31/23).

Tim Malley - applicant

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to appoint Tim Malley as a member of the Nashua Regional Planning Commission with a term to expire 12/31/26. Carried 5-0.

2) Benson Park Committee - (1-member vacancy expiring 4/30/26, 2 alternate member vacancies expiring 4/30/24 and 4/30/25).

Mike Catanzaro - applicant

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to appoint Mike Catanzaro as a member of the Benson Park Committee with a term to expire 4/30/26. Carried 4-1. Selectman Roy opposed.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman McGrath asked, does anyone have anything they'd like removed for separate consideration? There were no items pulled for separate consideration. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to approve Consent Items A, C, D, E, & F. Carried 5-0.

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Elderly Exemption: map 165, lot 141, 224 Abbot Farm Ln.
- 2) Elderly Exemption Re-qualifications: map 203, lot 077, 16 Sycamore St.; map 198, lot 128, 11 Belknap Ter.
- 3) Disabled Exemption Re-qualification: map 198, lot 128, 11 Belknap Ter.
- 4) Solar Exemption: map 237, lot 038, 10 Brook Dr.
- 5) Timber Warrant: map 206, lot 001, sub 002, 134 Wason Rd.

B. Water/Sewer Items - none

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies

- 1) Raffle Permit - Saint Kathryn Parish
- 2) Night Trucking Permit - Brox Industries
- 3) Tag Day Permit - Knights of Columbus Council No. 5162

D. Donations

- 1) \$200 Donation from American Legion Post #48 for Police Comfort Dog Haven

E. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of May 09, 2023

F. Calendar

05/24	7:00	Planning Board	Buxton Meeting Room
05/25	7:00	Zoning Board of Adjustment	Buxton Meeting Room
05/25	7:00	Building Board of Appeals	BOS Meeting Room
05/29	-	Memorial Day - Town Offices Closed	-
06/01	7:00	Recreation Committee	BOS Meeting Room
06/07	8:30	Highway Safety Committee	BOS Meeting Room
06/07	7:00	Budget Committee	Buxton Meeting Room
06/12	7:00	Conservation Commission	Buxton Meeting Room
06/12	7:00	Cable Utility Committee	HCTV Meeting Room
06/13	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on May 09, 2023

- 1.) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to hire Kenneth Ballou, Gabriel Burgess-Labonte, Logan Falk, Scott Levasseur, Steven Lubinger, Colin Murphy, Devon Rodriguez and Earvin Wanjohi, for the position of Firefighter/EMT in the Fire Department at the contracted salary rate of \$17.78 per hour (step 1). This assignment will be a non-exempt position in accordance with the International Association of Firefighters Local #3154 as recommended by the Fire Chief. Carried 5-0.
- 2) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to accept the resignation of Fire Dispatcher, Cody Buskey, effective May 13, 2023. Carried 5-0.

3) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to hire Christopher Sullivan for the position of Zoning Administrator at a starting salary of \$84,949 (step 1) per the Hudson Police, Fire and Town Supervisors Association contract. Carried 5-0.

4) Selectman Morin made a motion to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. This was seconded by Selectman Dumont. Carried 5-0

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Contract Award for Engineering Services at Robinson Pond

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Planner Elvis Dhima. Mr. Dhima began by saying Thank you, Madam Chair. Good evening, everyone. First item for you tonight is the contract award for engineering services for pond sampling and evaluation solutions for Robinson Pond. This is our major watershed. This has to do with our MS4 permit. Basically, the intent here is to basically figure out what the next step is to improve the water quality of this water body, which will be getting credits for on our MS4 permit as well. The ARPA Committee and the Board of Selectmen identified this one of the projects to be funded by ARPA funds. So this is 100% funded by ARPA funds. We went out to bid. We followed the process that the Board has been requesting. And this particular case, we only got one bid. It just happens to be on budget. So we're good with that. But one bid. With that said, VRB has done work for us in the past. They currently do on our MS4 permit right now. This is their bread and butter. They're very familiar with the process and what needs to be done. I will take any questions you might have and I'm recommending moving forward with this one. That's it. I'll take any questions you might have.

Chairman McGrath said VRB has been doing business with Hudson for many years now. Mr. Dhima replied yep, they've been our consultant for water improvement projects, traffic related projects. So yeah, this is not the first project in town, that's for sure.

Selectman Morin was recognized and asked is this work being done this year to try to get that pond cleared up? Mr. Dhima replied, we are going to get to work soon after the Board approval. Yes, the idea is to figure out what we can do to improve it with projects that we can afford to do. So this will identify those needs and hopefully the next step is figure out the financing to actually execute those projects. We're going to focus around the Robinson Pond boat launch. That's something that we can all relate to. It's something that everyone will be able to see. So we're going to focus on that area. That's going to be our main focus. I don't want to, I don't want to focus on a culvert that no one is going to see and they're gonna say, would you spend the money on? We're going to we're going to try to be as visual as we can with this particular project. And that's going to be our main focus.

Selectman Morin then asked, and that encompasses the beach, correct? What you're talking about? Mr. Dhima replied, we're going to tackle the beach as well. I'm not ready to talk about what we're going to do about that one just yet. I think some of you already know what probably the answer will be in the long run. It's becoming something that needs a lot of resources and attention. And it's gonna, we're going to have to make a decision soon enough. Which way are we going to go there? The Board will be presented with some options. Some of them might not be very feasible, but I think we have to we have to deal with that at some point. So we'll see where it goes. The idea is basically if we, if we're keep in that area close for most of the year, then what's the point of spending the money trying to keep it open to begin with? So we'll deal with that at some point in the very near future. But that's something that's going to be looked at under this contract. Seeing no further questions from the Board, Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve the contract for Engineering Services for Robinson Pond sampling and evaluation solutions to VHB Inc. for the amount not to exceed \$75,000. Costs are to be charged to APRA Account #7211. Carried 5-0.

B. Request for Approval of Corridor Funds - Pedestrian Push Buttons

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Planner Elvis Dhima. Mr. Dhima began by saying The next item for you tonight is a project that will be utilizing corridor funds impact fees that the Planning Board collects through different developers that come in for different projects in town. This particular one has to do with push buttons. There's a pilot program that we got access to being utilized by our consultants and our contractor. Particular intersection in town Library and Ferry's been having a performance issue with the push button. The old generation push buttons either get stuck or water gets into them or during the winter if the rain comes at a certain angle, it gets into it and it basically provides a wrong detection for a pedestrian where there isn't one there. So you'll be and I don't know if you have experienced this Selectman Morin, you probably have because you're the closest, but you'll be driving in and you'll be seeing this thing flashing for pedestrian when there's no pedestrians out there. So that was one of the, one of the criteria that we were kind of like, what can we do to do it better? Another thing is our detections right now, they blast 364 motion. The new ones are kind of focused on where the people need to be crossing. And the other piece about this new push button is that it's a pretty high tech and anyone that has limitations that can get the app and this device will recognize them as they approach and they'll get the button for them. And it's basically the next generation of push buttons. We're getting quite a bit of a discount as a pilot program. We want to try to put this on Library and Ferry and go from there to basically see if it performs well or not and then basically expand from there. This is 100% covered by impact fees. And with that said, the Planning Board did approve this and recommend this expenditure in front of you tonight to get your approval as well so we can execute this.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said yeah, just one. I know you had brought up the app, but you don't have to have the app. That's just an option. Mr. Dhima replied, no, you don't have to. This is for someone that might be using it on a daily basis, for example. And they basically, instead of trying to look to where the button is, they don't have to worry about it. They'll get the location and I'll go from there. But yes, you do not need to have the app. You don't need to have a smartphone. You can use this manual if you need to. It's just an add on feature for someone that might use this on a regular basis. Yes. Selectman Dumont replied, thank you.

With no further questions or discussion, *Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to approve and proceed with the Pushbuttons and Acoustic devices at Library and Ferry Street Intersection using Corridor Account #2070000-086. Not to exceed \$8,072. Carried 5-0.*

C. Request for Approval of Corridor Funds - Flashing Strobe

Chairman McGrath again recognized Mr. Dhima who said The last item for you tonight from me would be corridor expenditure related to white strobe bars. Again, this will be at the same location in the Library and Ferry. As you probably know, there's been significant accidents out there. Most of it is from vehicles coming from the direction downhill going towards Nashua. There's been, this has been brought up multiple times at the Highway Safety Committee and while there's different ways of looking at it at different angles our big is our way of approaching this is maybe if we provide some visual, additional visual warning to people looking at the red light. This seems to be some indication as as you come downhill, you might be looking at the next set of lights, which is a Chase and Ferry versus the one at Library. So we think with this white strobe, which is going to be located within the red light, it's going to provide additional visual warning about a red light and hopefully helps prevent further accidents and improves the safety of that intersection. We have had some significant rollovers there. We have some significant, significant amount of accidents and we're hoping this will improve it. So based on the feedback we're getting, based on the requests we've been having about this, this is where we come up with it'll cost about \$1,300 hundred dollars, \$1,400. It's 100% covered by impact fees and Planning Board has approved it. And I'm here to ask you for final approval by the board and take any questions you may have.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said so this was brought forward by a resident, sent an email to me after one of the accidents and said, we have to do something about this before we hurt somebody really bad or kill somebody. And it was forwarded to the Safety Committee and they came up with it. There's just too many accidents there.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and asked Mr. Dhima, did you all look at you know, sometimes they'll do kind of I don't know if it's tiered, but they'll do rumble strips before a stop intersection. They'll do three sets of them. So that way you kind of get that feeling that, you know, that might be more expensive. Mr. Dhima replied, so usually the highway approach, right as you come into, you know, to check in, you know, for tollbooth, the rumble strips are a little different because they require maintenance and they usually take a toll on the on the not just the vehicles, but the noise. So if you have residential around you and you start having that, there's going to be a lot of that going around in the morning or at night. And there's some side effects to that as well. Selectman Dumont replied yeah, definitely more costly. I just didn't know if you guys have looked at it compared to this, because I just didn't know if the thought is that someone's missing that light, are they going to miss that strobe too? Mr. Dhima replied or I mean, maybe there could be the next thing at some point. I mean, I've never had a problem stopping in time. The main issue is if they're on the phone. I mean, we had someone that went so hard at it that they took out the cabinet, the traffic cabinet, \$50,000 worth of damage. I, you know, at 40 miles an hour, I you know, what are you doing? So I don't think we're going to eliminate everything, but I think it's worth looking into as the next phase. So we'll have to see how successful this is and then we'll go from there.

Selectman Roy then said but I know another community that used that at a similar intersection and it helped the strobe. Because you can see it from farther away, right? And you see it as a, as a different light than maybe the one behind it. Right? You know, it just looks different. So yeah. Mr. Dhima then said hopefully it's in line with, and I've noticed this lately with, with the new cars that they have the brake lights when they have that a little bit of a blinking going on versus a red light versus like a little bit of almost like a flash to it. I think you see it on the PD cruisers, but you're seeing like regular vehicles as well. And it just it gets your attention. So we're hoping that's the case. And if we're successful here, maybe we can expand to other intersections as well and try to make everything safer around town so we can have more traffic come through because we'll be safer. Just kidding. I'm kidding. I'm kidding.

Chairman McGrath then said that leads me to my question that I had, and that was about Sagamore Bridge and Lowell Road and whether or not that would be applicable at that location, because as you know and as the police chief knows, there's plenty of people just run the red light. They don't even slow down tractor trailer. I mean, I've witnessed so many trucks and one of these days someone is going to someone is going to get killed at that intersection. Mr. Dhima responded saying, that particular intersection is state in this section. We'll have to get there to do that, they do not have any objections to the blue light that we installed out there. We can definitely look at that. Yes, we can expand on both of these based on the feedback we're going to get and you know how intense it is. But yeah, these ones, you just put the new heads on the traffic total head there and there should be it. So we'll see how it goes. But yeah I we can definitely add that intersection too. Chairman McGrath then said that intersection in mind because that really is a it's very dangerous. And I mean I've seen really very near misses and. Yeah, either the person would be killed, the person that's getting hit, or they'd be seriously injured. So we we have to do something. The state should be doing something. And the other ones that are responsible for that mess, they are. I mean, they are the ones that demanded putting that in and and not taking care of it. And someone is going and we've got so much traffic there that funnels through that intersection and it's just a matter of time. It's and I'm not trying to cause bad, bad things to happen. But I'm telling you, I've witnessed it so often as I'm going through that intersection, whether I'm a passenger in the car or whether I was driving the car at the time. And and I've gotten plenty of complaints about it, too. Mr. Dhima said so and that could be the next one, depending on how this program goes. That could be the next one. If we see an improvement, why not? Chairman McGrath replied and and the beauty of this, too, is that cap fees are paying for it, correct? Not the not the residents of Hudson, not the taxpayers of Hudson. It's the cap fees that are responsible. So, I mean, that's a that's a blessing that we have. So. Okay, so talked about that, too. I think a motion has been made and seconded. Has it yet? Not yet. Okay.

Seeing no further questions Selectmen Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont. Selectman Roy spoke up asking, can I just comment? Yeah, I just want to comment that I'm happy to see us starting to use impact fees and cap fees. I think it's been an underutilized resource for us for a while now. So I just wanted to comment on that. Chairman McGrath replied, I though they've been doing that pretty, pretty...Mr. Dhima then said, we have the main project we're working on right now. It's the CMAC project, the air quality project, then the additional lane on Lowell Road we've been working on that's basically been covered. Our 20% match is being covered by that, by the corridor funds. Corridor funds were used for Pelham and Lowell Road traffic light, obviously for the improvement of the traffic. But we, we haven't done it in a while. This is trying to get back on it again but Kimball Hill and 111 additional lane there that was done by cap fees but yeah we need to get back there is some funds that can be utilized. We're looking at ways to do that.

Chairman McGrath asked do you know how do you know how much is left in the account? Mr. Dhima replied top of my head, I don't know. There was a merger between the three zones to two zones now. I want to say different corridors have different money. I think the one that has the most right now, I think is 102. I think it has about \$400,000. The Town Administrator replied that's the one we're analyzing and we're really having to do a deep dive on that because we haven't had projects for that. The other ones we've got committed or we have the funds for them. But 102...Mr. Dhima interjected saying Lowell Road is the lowest. I know that much. Kimball is next has like \$102. Yeah Lowell Road is the one is low because that's been utilized for all the projects along Lowell Road tells you which corridor is getting the most love or attention. Chairman McGrath said, it's really the busiest. Selectman Roy then said well, unfortunately 102 tends to be one of the unsafest. I mean, it's just a matter of time before one of those kids gets gets hit or there's an accident that causes. Chairman McGrath replied no, I'm not, you know I'm familiar with Lowell Road and and Sagamore Bridge because I'm in that end of town. I'm not up on 102, but I do know that 102 is very busy. Mr. Dhima replied we're trying to utilize the 102 corridor different means. The only challenge with the 102 is that most of the 102 is state regulated. So you need their green light to do things. But we're working on a couple of things right now. Brian is, the Town Planner, is looking at a couple of things. They're trying to do pedestrian related, so we'll see where it goes.

Selectman Guessferd said Old Derry's a... Mr. Dhima replied Old Derry can be challenging too. A cut through. Yeah, yeah, we'll see where it goes. But yeah, we're on it. At this point Chairman McGrath reiterated, we have a motion and a second. Seeing no additional comment, the Board voted. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to approve and proceed with the white strobe bars purchase and installation at Library & Ferry Streets intersection, using Corridor Account #2070-000-086, not to exceed \$1,360. Carried 5-0.

#### D. Hills Library Building Maintenance

Library Director Linda Pilla and Library Trustee Donna Boucher came forward and introduced themselves. Ms. Boucher then said so we just wanted to discuss the management of the Hills Memorial Library. As you know, Hudson has a new library. In 2009, the Rogers Memorial Library, which the trustees, you know, are here to manage. And I do believe that I've listened to or read several times that the Trustees have been before the Select Board to discuss the future of the Hills Memorial Building. And at this time, I wanted to bring it back. I know that our board recently has had discussions, even with the SAU, about their, you know, their use of it, etcetera. But ultimately it's a town building and we are managing the library, the active library of Rogers Memorial Library. So I'd like to discuss how to turn that over the management to to the town.

Chairman McGrath asked did you, did you have any discussions with the School Board? Because they seem to utilize that building far more than the town does. Ms. Boucher replied, we did. We did. But ultimately, you know, we are we do pay for, you know, the upkeep of it. And we're really not the appropriate body to to manage the building. We don't really, we're not there. We're we're up the road.

Chairman McGrath asked but what did your discussions with the School Board yield? Ms. Boucher replied well, if they could maybe see, you know, a particular use for it, etcetera, and we did have that discussion, but we haven't come up with any particular plan. But, you know, like this has come up several times since 2007 when the money was talked about for creating a new library. Then we've you know, we've continued to take care of the building, etcetera. But it just doesn't seem appropriate that we're managing a library building as well as a you know, the library that is a working library. We don't own the building.

Chairman McGrath asked Steve do we use it? The Town Administrator replied, even less than they do. the thing is, the School probably uses it the most. And when they say town, that's a that's a big envelope. School Board Chairman Gary Gasdia then said, right. So we had a meeting about a year ago to look at different uses that that we could do. Because right now we use it for the School Board meeting. I think we've used it for AP testing one year and things like that. But where we struggle is it's not conducive to say put classrooms in or even put put office space in right at this point. So there really wasn't that we've come up with a a use that that would be and during that meeting we also came to not the conclusion but it's it's not our building either. So I think the first step would be, you know, one, even if we came up with an idea of to do what to do with it, it's still the town's building. So how does that translate? But as it stands right now, we use it as a meeting space. It's a great meeting space. I get that. But but any further use, we just we struggle to to be able to fit in there because of downstairs the ceilings are too low. It's not up to any of the codes that we would need to to be considered eligible to be a classroom.

Chairman McGrath asked do you have meetings there in the winter time? Mr. Gasdia replied, yeah, that's where we have our School Board meetings. But we're only even with that, we're utilizing just that one floor. Then HCTV is upstairs doing their thing, but the bottom floor is never accessed by us. Selectman Roy then said, yeah, I think, correct me if I'm wrong, but there's the Friends of the Library have their second hand books stored down there. And then does the town still store? The Town Administrator replied there might be some limited records that were needed to be under lock and key, but I think it's pretty limited. Might be some finance records.

Chairman McGrath asked has anybody ever looked at the the the will? The Town Administrator replied yeah, the attorneys have. Yeah, yeah it says library. And if you want to change that use, I believe you have to go to court. Our attorney's recommending you do something called Cypress or something. Selectman Roy replied yeah, yeah. The Town Administrator said, it's a process. Selectman Roy then said when at one turn in one discussion, when it was when that will and that deed was read, it's actually the name of the building that can't be changed. It has to be Hills Memorial Library, whether it's being used as a library or not. The problem we run into is there's a remainder man. So if we are no longer going to going to use it or we want to dispose of it, we have to find their heirs first and and it will go back to them first. The other issue that we would run into in trying to sort of dispose of that building is it is on both the United States Historical Register and the New Hampshire Historical Register. So it just makes the decisions about what we do with that building complicated right and difficult because it's not as easy as it's just an extra building in the inventory that we can we can sell or whatever. You know, it's a lot more complicated than that.

Ms. Boucher then said I just know that I have like for the library lot, I have a copy that I can give you. The last paragraph on the first page just talks about that the lands were given to the Town of Hudson for a site for a public library building with the understanding that such parts of the land as may not be needed for such library building or their proper surroundings may be used for sites for other public buildings or for public uses, as may be needed by said Town of Hudson for any proper purpose. Now I understand that that's just the lot itself. And like Kara was talking about, that it gets more complicated when you have a building put on it. But ultimately, I don't know why this hasn't happened up until now. It's just that, you know, we are library trustees for the active library and we feel that, you know, that that's a library building, but ultimately it's a town building.

Chairman McGrath asked so who's who's parking? Is that all of the School Department? Selectman Roy replied there's some fire. Some fire folks I see parking over there. So, yeah, occasionally you see a DPW truck, but not, not like regularly. The Town Administrator added its mostly it's mostly school. Mr. Gasdia then said well, that's also the parking lot that we just repaved.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said to the last paragraph you just read. I got to say the school is using it as that paragraph says. So we are using it per se. There's nothing that the Trustees and the library can think of in the future. I mean, right now we're where we're at, but in the future there's no an annex library or something related to the library that you guys could use that building for? Ms. Pilla said can I address that question? Okay, so you know me, Dave. I've been here this is my 10th year and we have gone through the hoops of trying to find good ways to make use of of the building. One of the most restrictive issues that we deal with is that anybody who wants to use the building has to come up with an insurance rider that allows them to use the building. And that's that puts a lot of people off from using it. So if you want to have a birthday party, a baby shower, first of all, there's absolutely no cooking facilities. There's nowhere to even heat up food in a microwave. There's no wash, there's no sinks, there's no there's no facilities to make use of it as a as a bona fide event room. Neither does the library have the funds to put those particular rooms in place in a room that's not on our budget. You know, it would be beyond the the ability of the library to really fund that kind of change. And in fact, at this point, the SAU is in charge of administering the people who put in requests to use the room, mostly because they're located right next to the building, and secondarily because they have one person who does it. So their their adherence to the rules is nice and strict, do you know what I mean? Whereas if you were talking to one person at the library, you might get one response and somebody else who doesn't know how it's supposed to be done might give a different response. It gets confusing for people. So all of the requests for use go through the SAU. Secondarily, as far as a branch library goes, as lovely as it is, it's only I think it's less than two miles from from Hills Library to Rogers Library. It's not a location. Like if I was looking for a location, I'd want to get down to Marilyn's area because those are the folks who have a drive to get to the library. I feel like if we're going to do anything, that's the location we would want to to put a second branch. But that's that again, is not anything that's on our on our mind at this time.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said I know we've talked about this and there's other options out there that we have discussed, but we do have a space problem here. The Town Administrator asked so who would you move? Selectman Morin replied that's why I'm looking at you. The Town Administrator said that's the question. Nobody's decided who we're going to move. Because whoever you move, they still got to come back and forth between two buildings. Selectman Morin replied well with technology and stuff and computers. The Town Administrator replied oh, I mean, I'm not saying that, but I'm saying for the general public, when they say, Oh, yeah, you got to go back over there. Sorry. Oh, no, no, no. That's over there. Selectman Morin replied we had and that's why we moved all the fire people. The Town Administrator reiterated, that's why everybody's here. They're in one location. Selectman Morin then said you know; we are short on space because we had talked other options.

Ms. Boucher then said what about this space? Meeting space. You guys could meet over at the Hills Library and then this space could be turned into more office space. Selectman Morin replied good call. Good call. Selectman Roy asked, is the Fire Chief here, hey Chief, I have a question. Is the capacity of that building big? That that room, that meeting room? Is it bigger than this? Chief Tice replied it is. I can't give you exact number off the top. But just looking at the size of that. Mr. Gasdia added we hit it one time. Selectman Roy then said because that might be something we think about, right? Because we've had issues with having enough space for for the public to to participate. Right? So that might just be something we want to I don't know that we can we can talk in depth about it tonight, but but that is. Selectman Guessferd added it is a viable idea, I think. Selectman Roy replied yeah. You know. Ms. Pilla then said this was by way of a preliminary discussion. I think I think it's come up sort of informally, often enough. And I think it was just time to to to meet with you here and and have an official discussion. Chairman McGrath replied well, I think that's something that we can give thought to. The Town Administrator added yeah, because you have to think about budgeting for things. For example, you know, I'm assuming Mr. Gagnon maintains things for you physically. Ms. Pilla replied he does. That would be one of the things that I would be very happy for him to to be able to stop doing. The Town Administrator replied which would be great, but I have nobody to pick it up. Ms. Pilla replied you have nobody. Yes, I know. So, you know. The Town Administrator replied without budgeting something.

Ms. Pilla then said and to be and to be. Yeah. And to be perfectly honest with you, the sense of ownership that he has over that building, we might not be able to stop him from coming down there and cutting the grass because you just I'm on paper I'm his boss, but I'm not actually. (laughter among the room)

The Town Administrator replied, but the bottom line is, you know, from a personnel perspective somebody needs to maintain it to its glory. Ms. Pilla replied it's a beautiful building and it requires snow blowing. It requires manpower and mulch. Those are the big and grass cutting. Selectman Roy then said I also think that we would should take the opportunity, if we're going to discuss that is, you know, updating some of the electronics, making it more, more 2023 I guess. You know, which again, I understand is a money thing. But if we're going to do it, I just don't think we should do it half ass, right? Like if, you know. Selectman Guessferd said it's not a band aid. Selectman Roy replied right. Selectman Morin said put a plan together, make sure the funding is there to do it right and do it right once. Selectman Roy replied, right.

Ms. Pilla then said the building is beautiful. It's amazing. And it's and it's been it's incredibly good shape given the length of time, for example, that the roof has been on, the roof is has been patched, but it's 100 years old. And it's amazing to think that that you could do that with with red clay tile for 100 years in New England. So that's the reason it's so good on the inside is because the outside of the building is just able has been maintained well. Chairman McGrath then said and for those that remember Lenny Smith and it's probably just a few of us in this room that do he wanted to modify that building and there was such a hue and cry over it because. Selectman Roy said how do you ruin a beautiful building like that? Chairman McGrath replied well, you know, he wanted to he wanted he was he was trying to he was trying to expand the library. To which Selectman Roy replied I get it. Chairman McGrath continued saying, you know, but. And that was the only place at the time. So, you know, he wanted to he wanted to make changes to it. And it just people were just aghast at the thought of making changes to that building because it's such a pretty building. Ms. Pilla replied it's a real landmark for Hudson. Selectman Roy added yeah every every picture you see, you know, there's two pictures, the Alvirne Chapel and the Hills Memorial Library. That's you know, that's what sort of defines Hudson you know?

Chairman McGrath then said I remember going there from, you know, when I was in school, elementary school, and got my first library card there and took out my first book about Abe Lincoln. I mean, that was I mean, that was what interested me at that. I mean, I was I was little. I wasn't very old. You know, I might have been, I don't know, maybe ten, maybe not. And, you know, so I have fond memories of that building. I haven't been there in a long time. But, you know, it's a beautiful building. And the thought of Lenny wanting to add put an addition on the back of it was just appalling, appalling to a lot of people.

Ms. Pilla responded saying I hear you. I do. So I think there are things that that could be done with the building. Unfortunately, we find ourselves not landlords exactly, but unfortunately not able to do the work that needs to be done. And and again, the Trustees by the by the the law are not allowed to own real estate. It belongs to the town. And and really, I think what they're looking to do is to is to right the wrong that was done in 2009 when it didn't just revert to the town immediately on the opening of the other library. Selectman Morin was recognized and said I say what we do, we do some research, see what it's going to involve, because as Selectman Roy said, we're it being a historic building. And on the register, that very much limits us. Right? Very much limits us. So. Absolutely. And if it's not worth it, well, to figure something out. So we probably should research the deed and the families will before we do anything. And you said they already have, right? Yeah, I believe we already have. One thing that would be helpful is maybe to get a couple of years' worth of expenses so we can get an idea because it's not really isolated in your budget. You look at the budget, it's all kind of intermingled and what it takes, what it takes, what it takes. Mr. Gagnon to maintain it. In other words, he's putting in some level of effort. I couldn't tell you how much. So we have some idea of what we'd be looking at from that perspective. And then maybe what's the systems look like in there? I have no idea. Is it still using coal, you know? Ms. Pilla replied, I do! All right. So we have the numbers for the utilities. We keep those even though the bills come in as, as a as a, you know, they're all addressed to us. But there is a separate bill for Hills for oil because that's the only building that we have that runs on oil heat. There's a separate bill for electricity, there's a separate bill for water. And so those things are kept aside. I could probably rough out a proportion of of Mr. Gagnon's hours on a weekly basis. The Town Administrator said he spends a certain amount of time a week there. Ms. Pilla replied yes he does, of course he he we have one lawn mower. It lives it at Rogers but he puts it on the little trailer and

he drives it down. The Town Administrator replied we have a Highway Department. They'd probably be the ones having to do it right.

Ms. Pilla continued saying so so yes, we can certainly do that. The the big concern, of course, it's an oil boiler. We just had it inspected and had its maintenance run and it's good for this year. It is however, someone will remember when it was installed 1970s, maybe? Ms. Boucher jokingly said go back and sit back there. The Town Administrator jokingly replied you're making this more attractive. Selectman Roy asked would there be an opportunity to convert to gas? The Town Administrator replied, I would assume. We're near gas. Selectman Roy replied yeah, I don't know where the lines run. Ms. Boucher then said no I'm just saying regardless of the state of affairs of the building or what the future of the building is. The reason why we're here is because as Trustees, we are here to maintain the library that we're using. And I just I know that it might be unknown what that library building would be used for. I think that there's some uses. Etcetera. But ultimately, I mean, we we need to turn over the maintenance of the building to the town.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said we just heard about the boiler, which concerns me. So what what made you decide this due to the maintenance? Why are you coming to us? You keep saying that. The maintenance. The maintenance. Give me some background on the maintenance. Ms. Boucher replied, it's the whole it's not necessarily the maintenance, meaning physical maintenance, just the whole stewardship of the building we're, you know, we're stewards of the Rogers Memorial Library. We just happen to have two library buildings in town. One is not actively used as a, as a library. I wasn't on the board in 2009. And so we've kicked this around and I've listened that it's been talked about, you know, before, before now a couple of times. And I admit that I you know, I did speak about it with the SAU just to bring information to the town. But that was a year ago, and we're still stewards of that building. And ultimately, the town needs to be the steward of the building.

Chairman McGrath replied, well, we're not going to make a decision tonight because we're not in that position to to do that. But we can we can get together and maybe we'll have a discussion with the School Board and and discussions among ourselves, our administration, and see what we can come up with. But I'd like to take a look at the the actual deed and will that will does that that structure, because it was my understanding and and I could easily be wrong, but it was my understanding that it said that it had to remain a library. It wasn't wasn't to be utilized for any other purpose. And I know that I've heard about Alvirne High School, that there was stipulations on the on Alvirne that it couldn't be used for certain activities which they've long since ignored. But I mean, you know, so I don't know if I'm right or I'm wrong because it's only it's only hearsay at this point. But I'd like to at least have us take a look at it, maybe have a discussion with the Town Attorney and and try to try to determine what we if the town itself can utilize it and what what purpose we'd use it for. Ms. Boucher replied so I can leave you with at least the deed for the lot. The library lot is okay. As far as the other, the building, unless you can move it. Chairman McGrath replied no, it was Mr. Hills and his wife I think that left that...Selectman Roy interjected saying right, but but I think it was left somebody else had left the land right? The Town Administrator replied mm-hmm. The land was here. The building was here. Selectman Roy replied, right, there were two, there were two donations. One was land and one was the building. There were two different families. The Town Administrator replied Webster was the land. Selectman Roy replied, Webster. That's the name.

Ms. Pilla then said Webster was the land and Dr. Hills and his wife were the building. Chairman McGrath replied that's why Alvirne has its name. I mean, it's named after the they combined I think was her name. The Town Administrator replied Alfred and Virginia. Chairman McGrath replied, yeah. Alfred and Virginia. So they combined it. That's how Alvin got its name. Okay. So I think, you know, we'll work with the School Board and we'll work with our Town Attorney and there'll be a group of us. I don't know who'll sit on that committee, but we'll work together and try to come up with a reasonable use of that building. All right. Ms. Boucher replied, thank you very much.

E. Resignation of Firefighter/AEMT

Chairman McGrath recognized Fire Chief Scott Tice. Chief Tice said, Thank you, Madam Chair, and good evening, everyone. So I've received a letter of resignation from Firefighter/EMT Mike Mulcay, which is effective August 10th of 2023. Firefighter Mulcay joined the department as a call firefighter in October of 2005 and then was hired as a full time firefighter in April of 2007. Through that time, he was a loyal employee, and we thank him for his service and we wish him luck. Seeing no questions from the Board, Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to accept the letter of resignation from Firefighter/AEMT Michael Mulcay effective August 10, 2023, with the Board's thanks and appreciation. Carried 5-0.

F. Request to Purchase Four Police Utility Vehicles

Chairman McGrath recognized Police Chief Tad Dionne and Police Captain Steve McElhinney. Chief Dionne began by handing out an updated memo to the Board. He then said, thank you. We're here before you to, originally, we were here before you to accept or to allow us to waive a bidding process and then go ahead and purchase four vehicles. Three were police utility vehicles, and one was a Chevy Equinox. But I withdrew the Equinox because I'm looking at a more viable spending. And I wasn't, to be honest, I wasn't happy with the trades we were offered. So I decided to withdraw that. For now, with trade in values and look at something else that I think will be definitely a better, a better situation for the taxpayers. So I have amended that and we're looking at purchasing three 2022 but brand new Ford utility vehicles for a total purchase of \$110,825.95 from McGovern Municipal Headquarters, which is still an award winning bid, award winner for the Greater Boston Police Council. And that's basically where we are with that. The Town Administrator added this is for fiscal 24. Chief Dionne replied, excuse me, thank you. The Town Administrator added so it'd be for next year. So nothing will be accepted or paid for till '24. But yes, get them while you can. Chief Dionne replied, yes, I'm come for you earlier because of the time constraints and the lack of supply on the ends of the cruisers. That's why we're here today. To just ask permission to make the purchase and FY 24. Thank you.

Chairman McGrath asked okay, anybody have any questions? Comments? Selectman Guessferd was recognized and asked so the price of the three vehicles, each of them is the same as before? You know, we just took the one vehicle out. Chief Dionne replied correct. Nothing has changed in the price, the original prices. Cpt. McElhinney replied that's correct. It was just withdrawing, purchasing the Chevy Equinox from the same.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said you mentioned there are 22, so they're leftovers? Chief Dionne replied, that's correct. Will they be holding those for you until you're able to make payments? They are. So. Okay. Chairman McGrath asked anyone else have any questions? If not, is anyone prepared to make a motion? The revised motion that was just given to us read it into the record to accept the police department's recommendation to purchase three police utility vehicles from McGovern municipal headquarters. And the amount of \$110,825.95. This does not include the cost of up-fitting the vehicles with existing and new equipment. The Town Administrator said before you do that, you should do the waiver motion for us. It's not on that memo, but his original memo. You should make a motion to waive the competitive bidding requirements as outlined in Hudson Town Code 90 8-1C and allow the Police Department to purchase from McGovern Municipal HQ. Selectman Morin said I'll make that motion, Selectman Dumont seconded it. Selectman Dumont said I just have one question for Chief. I know you talked about your trade in values. You're asking us to waive the bid process, but in your shopping or looking around, do you feel as though this is the best bang for that buck, I guess? Chief Dionne replied, absolutely. The price is the same one, the same price that we got last year for the cruisers when we had to. It definitely the best price we're going to get. Selectman Dumont replied thank you. Seeing no further discussion, Chairman McGrath called for a vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion number two to accept the Police Department's recommendation to purchase three police utility vehicles from McGovern Municipal Headquarters in the amount of \$110,825.95. This does not include the cost of up-fitting the vehicles with existing and new equipment. Selectman Morin made this motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont. Carried 5-0.

G. Request to Hold Public Hearing to Update Town Code Ch.98 Limits for Purchasing, Contracts & Bids

The Town Administrator was recognized and said yes, I'm speaking on behalf of the Finance Director. We took a look at the Town Code Purchasing because we're all well aware of that. And looking at the town code, we have two purchasing limits that are articulated in the code. One is \$10,000, which everything over \$10,000 has to go up for four bids or at least try to find four bids. And then anything over \$25,000 has to be awarded publicly. Those numbers were put into place somewhere in the late 80s, early 90s. Just looking at inflation and I think I articulated in my memo or it's articulated in the memo that if you just take into account simple inflation through the years, those numbers should be about \$22,000 and about \$53,000 adjusted for inflation. So what we're asking the Board is to take a look at Town Code, Chapter 98, Purchasing and Contracts and consider raising those two limits again. They've been static. And in today's competitive in today's world, \$10,000 doesn't buy what it did 30 something years ago. So we're looking to see if the Board would be amenable to that. If the Board is amenable to that, we'd need to have a public hearing so the public, if they're interested, could come in and weigh in and provide. Um, but again, we just think it's time to take a look at those limits.

Selectman Guessferd asked when did we last change those again? The Town Administrator replied, 1993 is the farthest back I could go. I think it goes back further than that. But that's the inflation data I can find.

Selectman Roy said so I just have two things. I think if we're going to do it, we should do it. Look at the whole thing. So I know at the last meeting we talked about a sole source justification policy. I think that would lend transparency to our bid process about why, why it didn't go out, didn't get four bids or it didn't go out for four bids. There could be many reasons for that to happen. But I think that a way to document that and track that and make it public is again, would just make us transparent, a little more transparent. And then the other thing I think we should look at, and this is probably maybe a little not as straightforward, but other ways to publicize because they talk about, you know, you know, newspapers and those kinds of things. The Town Administrator then said, where note we directly mail to people. Where we can find people, we directly mail them a solicitation, the RFP. Selectman Roy then asked but does the RSA allow us to take out publishing in newspapers just out of the picture? Because I just don't think it's an effective way now. The Town Administrator replied I'm not aware that they've cut that final cord at this point in time. Selectman Roy replied okay, all right. The Town Administrator replied they're starting to. But I'm not aware that it's that that's final. Chairman McGrath then said well, there's still some newspapers in existence, right? Selectman Roy replied, there are. I just don't know of many contractors that that like go to that legal notices page and says, oh, I think I'm going to bid on that. Right? Just as a practical matter, you know. Chairman McGrath replied, but it still exists so that, you know, there's the odd maybe the odd happenstance where someone does look at that. You know, so, I mean, it's like anything else, right?

The Town Administrator replied, we use the typically depending, but we typically use the Union Leader because that is really the most robust paper. People typically look at that as the go to paper in the state. You to use the Telegraph when it was more viable, for lack of a better word. We're not averse to using it. NHMA the New Hampshire Municipal Association, we use their boards. Selectman Roy replied that makes sense, right? The Town Administrator replied we direct mail things to people. We put it on our web page frequently, depending on what it is. It may even have our Facebook page, though not typically. It typically goes on our web page. And if there's a trade publication, we try to get it in there, depending on what it is. But as you're well aware, there's so many consortiums out there. There's so many purchasing groups out there. There's the the Boston one, there's the Houston Galveston one, you know, where somebody or the

state bid lists where they go out and negotiate all this stuff ahead of time. And hey, that's the number. Selectman Roy replied, Right. But but I guess my point is, the other part of what I was saying is that we should document that that we went to the Boston Municipal Consortium or whatever it's called, to buy the vehicles because that's typically the the best value for the. I just think we need to lend a little transparency to those kinds of things.

Selectman Guessferd then said we we do get challenged mostly by the Budget Committee, I think. But and if we had that in hand, some just a simple documentation that says this was the rationale. This is what we did and it would be very clear, right that and there's hopefully we wouldn't get as many challenges on those things because we do waive a fair amount of of these for various reasons. And, you know, some very legitimate reasons.

The Town Administrator then said two Recent examples Mr. Dhima was here tonight for the \$75,000 Robinson Pond went out to bid. I believe he had a meeting. We had one guy. Selectman Roy replied, right but that's all it has to say is right. The Town Administrator said Lowell Road, one bid. Selectman Roy then said yeah, this is what we did to advertise. We got one bid and it was within the budget. Selectman Guessferd added and you put it in the file. Selectman Roy agreed saying, right. The Town Administrator added, I think he actually articulated that tonight that he got the one. Selectman Roy replied, he did. But again, I just think. Selectman Dumont added just a list of where you're offering it out to. Selectman Roy replied right. And or why. So there might be a situation I've run into this before where, you know, the only person or the only company that manufactures that particular item in the 150-mile radius is, you know what I mean? So we're not going to. Selectman Dumont added sometimes you're confined to a certain company, depending on what you're looking for. But the list of where those bids went out, or at least where you where you advertise them at, would be helpful. I think it would probably be good. I don't see why it would hurt anyways. If anybody looks at that paperwork, they can show, oh, there's the five websites I see it on. There's the newspaper, look for future bids.

Selectman Guessferd then said and maybe it's maybe it's, you know, sole source justification or federal government calls them justification and approval. But it's just something that says this is what we did. It's in the file. I have one other question. You know, we say that, you know, we advertise sometimes with the New Hampshire Municipal Association. I know the federal government has kind of a general go to place called SAM, which, you know, all the RFPs and everything are out there for any company that want to, you know, whatever commodity it is, they'll go out there and see what's the various services and things are are are contracting for. Is there anything like that, you know, within the state or anything like that where besides the municipal association is there? The Town Administrator replied, not that I'm aware of municipal associations. I'm not aware of any, I know what SAM is because I had to do it for ARPA. So I know what it looks like. I'm not aware of any similar thing for the state of New Hampshire. I don't think they're that coordinated. Or bureaucratic is maybe another word. Selectman Guessferd added makes it kind of efficient, though. Selectman Roy added yeah, it really does. The Town Administrator added, there's a lot of hoops. Selectman Guessferd then said because if, you know, if you're going to bid on a job, you know, you go there. That's the place where it all goes. But it doesn't sound like you said, like you said. The Town Administrator reiterated, I'm not aware of it. Yeah, I'm not aware of any central location like that in the State of New Hampshire.

Selectman Guessferd then said, Okay. But I do like that idea, though, at least the documentation and perhaps in the policy, it just I don't know if it says it now, but that those shall be a written notification note in the file should we be waiving any aspect of this...Selectman Roy said bid process. Selectman Guessferd replied bid process. could be a paragraph. It could be two paragraphs, whatever it is. I don't think we have to necessarily...Selectman Roy said I don't think we need to over complicate it. Right? Selectman Guessferd replied right. Just specify the format and, you know, it's just. Yeah.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said and and I agree not to over complicate it, but due to the situations how do you want it written? Due to the many different reasons I mean we can't include them in so it's got to be. And how would write that? Selectman Roy replied, well it'd be simple. We sent, you know we sent it to these four publications. One we got one bid that was one bid was in the or it's a unique item

and this is the only manufacturer for it so, you know? Selectman Morin replied, I was thinking just a general thing and this reason we didn't do it this time and this. Selectman Roy replied no. Selectman Guessferd replied, oh, no, no, no, no. It's not quite as structured as that. Selectman Roy agreed saying, yeah. Selectman Guessferd went on to say, but just something there that that just required to do if we, if we waive the bid process.

Selectman Roy then said, again, I just think when people look at it, whether it's an auditor or the Budget Committee or just a member of the general public, they can see that, you know. Selectman Morin then said and if it's a standard procedure, it will happen every time we don't have to worry about it. Selectman Roy replied saying right. To which Selectman Guessferd agreed saying, exactly.

Selectman Guessferd then said I'm not trying to create a lot of work, but. The Town Administrator then said 98-7, B, paragraph one kind of articulates that already. Selectman Roy spoke up saying, so, so can I just ask a question about that as a practical matter, is that actually done? So if I went to a bid file, I would if I went to the...The Town Administrator replied I'm not going to say 100%, but I because I can't guarantee anything. I'm not going to say, Oh, absolutely. But I know that engineering, for example, he's very good with his documentation. The Executive Assistant added it's in his memo for the earlier project this evening. Selectman Roy then said and that only actually talks about if there's not four qualified bidders where there could be other reasons why you're not putting it out to bid. The Town Administrator added that's different, right. Selectman Roy added Yeah, but that should still be documented. The Town Administrator added or waived by this Board. Selectman Roy added and documented. Selectman Guessferd added yeah it doesn't really say I'm looking at it right now. It doesn't really say the documentation piece. It says that we're going to be doing all these things that, you know, at least advertised in one general circulation, maybe another short paragraph that just says that should should we wave, should this process be waived or there will be documentation or maybe we just say in general there'll be documentation, shall be documentation in the file as to the basis and justification for.... Selectman Roy added not having four bids. Selectman Guessferd continued saying waiver if, if, if applicable, or something to that effect where it actually says in here that we're going to have cuz it doesn't really it says documentation of successful bidder again all that says is that that you're going to write a recommendation to us you know, but it doesn't say anywhere in here that there'll be, it says well shall do these things but it doesn't say in the event that this that this is that there's a waiver or whatever we want to say there'll be documentation in the file or just in general there will be documentation.

Selectman Morin then said if the Board waives it, there's documentation for that. But if they've gone out to bid and they only get one back, I can see what you're saying because there's no mention of that. Anyway, we just issued a bid and gave it to somebody. Selectman Guessferd replied, right, right. Selectman Roy then said I believe that it should be more, it should appear in more than just our minutes that we approve that. Selectman Morin replied, we you know, there's a simple form they can do if they have to. Selectman Roy replied that's that's all I'm saying. Selectman Guessferd added, something very simple. Yeah. Yeah. I mean, that's my main concern is just audit, you know, and and. And ask the question. Here it is. You know, rather than combing through all the minutes or whatever for that particular purchase, it's right there in the in the procurement file for that particular purchase that you have something there that says this is what we did.

Chairman McGrath then asked Selectman Guessferd can you and Kara come up with a paragraph or a couple of lines that you'd like to see that they can use continuously? I mean, why don't we do that as opposed to. Selectman Roy agreed saying yeah. Selectman Guessferd replied absolutely. Chairman McGrath went on to say I think, you know, I think we'd all be in favor of it, so. Selectman Guessferd added Yeah. And again, something that's not too...Chairman McGrath added verbose. Selectman Roy added yeah, yeah, again, not something. Selectman Guessferd then said again, we get a lot of inquiries. And and I do know that citizens are concerned about the amount of sole source that we do like, for example, with the police vehicles. You know, we typically use a bid that was done at the at the state level, you know, the successful bidder. We rely on that. That's justification right there that we utilize. And it's and it's in there in the procurement file for that particular purchase. Okay. We'll do it.

The Town Administrator then added raising the limits, though, will assist because again, you think of all the things you're not I'm not trying to get out of doing something. I'm just saying \$10,000 today doesn't buy you anything. Selectman Roy then said you think it's prudent at this point to probably raise those limits. Selectman Guessferd replied, No, I Agree with raising The limits. Sure. The Town Administrator added if you raise the limit you're looking at the real projects that you're going out to. Selectman Guessferd replied if its over that. Selectman Roy replied we're not doing a bunch of work that's kind of unnecessary. The Town Administrator then said to Selectman Guessferd and Selectman Roy, so if you send me whatever you want, we'll talk about it the next meeting if it's ready. And we can do this whenever everything is ready. Selectman Guessferd replied okay. The Town Administrator replied I'm not going to do it twice for once. Selectman Roy replied I agree. Selectman Guessferd added, oh, absolutely.

## 9. Board Liaison Reports

Chairman McGrath began by saying so next up is the, I think we're going to combine this to the Board Liaison reports and we'll combine it with the remarks, other remarks or business by the selectmen, combine it.

Selectman Roy: So the only thing that I have is I just want to thank everyone who reached out with offers of assistance, words of encouragement and words of kindness. It's truly appreciated. And some of those offers of assistance I may take people up on.

Selectman Dumont: I had my first ZBA meeting. Went very well. Very positive. I was unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend the Benson Park Committee meeting this past week, but I'm looking forward to the one coming up. But other than that, that's it. Chairman McGrath asked, do you have any other comments that you'd like to add, remarks or comments? Selectman Dumont replied, no, ma'am. Thank you.

Selectman Guessferd: Yeah, I'll start out with Sustainability. I attended my first Sustainability meeting last night, and the main subject was the aggregation of the electric. The Electricity Aggregation Committee. And we had an interview. They had an interview with three different providers, potential providers. So we're going to select one and the one that was selected or the one that was discussed last night was the Hudson Community Power. The Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire, CPCNH. They had a very extensive, you know, presentation. They seem to have a lot of things covered. The the first kick offs are going on with the first, I think, dozen towns. We're going to learn something from that, you know, in terms of how they have rolled this out. You know, there are there are rates. The rates are lower. You know, that that they're looking to to get included. I think PSNH right now is \$0.20 a kilowatt hour. And I think the proposed rate right now for what they're going to be doing with the first few communities, I think is \$0.15. And that's kind of the the base rate. There's a couple of different levels, but but we're going to have an opportunity soon. I know we've scheduled a workshop. One of the things that we did last night, I think the workshop was supposed to be on September 19th. What we would proposing to do is to move that workshop to October 3rd, which is basically two weeks later. And one of the reasons is that as the, as the Sustainability on the Select Board, I will actually be on vacation on the 19th. So they wanted me to be here for that and we should probably have all of us here for that. This is kind of a I'll say it's kind of a big deal to try to we're moving this forward. The time frame is trying to get this to to be able to move forward with everything and get the get our approvals by the end of the year, if at all possible. So then we can move forward and launch as part of the next group of towns next spring, sometime next spring. So that's right. Now, the the the kind of, you know, the notional plan in terms of the timing of that. But it was it was a very positive meeting. I learned a lot. Things I didn't know before. So it was a it was a very, very good meeting for me to kind of catch up on on the aggregation, on, you know, the aggregation concept and everything else. Chairman McGrath asked so when do they expect it to go live? Selectman Guessferd replied, we're looking at late spring next year so we can the Select Board would, would, would, would be we'd have the workshop with the committee in hopefully October 3rd and then take we would then deliberate, try to figure out what we want to do. We would be the ones to select in the end who we would be going with to to basically

manage this. And it will. I know one of the concerns we had and we can talk a lot more of the details, you know, one of the concerns we'd had is, is the involvement of the town. You know, we're going to have to hire somebody or whatever. And the bottom line is there's it seems to be a very minimal day to day involvement by us or the administration. The administration will be done by whoever manages this, whether it's Community Power coalition or whether it's one or the other two, whoever we select. Any complaints, because I know I know Selectman Morin, we had these discussions before, complaints by citizens, anything that comes through would be would be forwarded to their customer service folks. There'll be numbers people can contact in terms of anything regarding the specifics of the of complaints or issues or concerns. So our involvement, again, would be minimal once we once we launch this. So so there's a lot of a lot of pieces to it. And that's why the workshop is necessary to kind of kick off our, kind of part of this which would be selecting the provider.

Chairman McGrath then said so people that weren't or didn't watch the the meeting, then it's going to be televised again, I would assume, or they could get they could look at Sustainability meeting. And if they if they're interested and want that information, then they can look at that meeting. Selectman Guessferd said and that would be actually I would advise for anybody who's interested is to look at last night's meeting because the majority of it was the presentation by Community Power Coalition, which really kind of described every aspect of it. We had a list of questions that we sent to all three of these providers and and, you know, everything from, you know, how we how you establish rates and and how it all works and the timing and all of it. And they all, you know, provided answers. From what I understand, Community Power Coalition provided the most detail of any of the three and they answered all the questions they asked, allowed us to ask questions. And and so it was it was pretty comprehensive. So anybody watching, I think, would would benefit from watching last night's meeting. If you're if you're interested in the in the aggregation piece.

The other thing that we're I was concerned about too, is, you know, how these things go. Right? You know, we had the town meeting in March and and now your kind of things just kind of, you know, lay low. But we need to keep this on the front burner. We need to keep people aware of what's going on. Because if all of a sudden this pops up again next year, you know, and they go, wait a minute, where's where's it been since the election? So they're going to be doing the committee is going to be doing what they can to try to make sure information is out there. We need to make sure the citizenry is is, you know, continues to kind of get notifications, you know, before the, you know, the opt out scenario that comes in when they launch. So that's going to be one of our challenges, I think, to try to keep people informed on a regular basis of where where we are, what we're doing and educated. Yes, there's going to be, I think, at least one more public hearing at one point just to kind of continue to keep it out there. We can't go six, eight months and not say anything about it. We this is something that's got to stay on people's minds. So that's Sustainability.

The only other let's see, Planning Board, we did adopt a couple of chapters for the master plan at the last meeting. Tomorrow night, we're actually going to be we're going to be working on trying to see what we have tomorrow night. So we're going to be not looking at chapters, but we're we're looking at at a procedures for some of the bylaws to to kind of maybe update some of the bylaw language. And so there's not a lot on the agenda for tomorrow night. Our Town Planner will be back. He's out of town tomorrow. He'll be out of he'll be back in two weeks and we'll be trying again, trying to finish up this chapters, the entire master plan. You know, by the end of June, we might slip into July. But I think we've made a lot of progress with the chapters of the master plan.

Chairman McGrath asked, any plans on the agenda? Selectman Guessferd replied no. No plans on the agenda for tomorrow night. It's a very my understanding is it's this time of year. It doesn't tend to be as busy with regard to plans. It can be it can be, but it hasn't been this year. So there's no plans. There weren't any plans last time. It was good in some ways because it allowed us to focus on the master plan. And so that's that was a good thing. And I think we're we're making some headway with that to get that done, because I really think everybody wants to see the next version of this and then to keep it on the front burner. And comments I made last night was that, you know, we can't just put the master plan in place and then stick it in a drawer like we did last. So so that's that's kind of exciting news there.

The only other item is the Rec. I know you all enjoy my Rec updates. The Rec Department had an Under the Stars dance last Friday and Saturday. Basically it was a parent-child dance and Friday night was sold out. I think Saturday night ended up getting sold out toward the end. So that's there's revenue associated with that which will be good for I think they use a lot of that for scholarships and but everybody had a great time. There was 500 people in attendance between the two nights. So it was very successful.

With regard to the Seniors, there was a Mother's Day Tea event that happened. Hudson Memorial School Band is actually playing at the senior center. They're coming to the Senior Center to put on. You aware of that? Mr. Gasdia replied, I knew it was, I knew it was coming didn't know the date or anything. Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah. May 30th at 10:00 a.m. So I think they're going to be excited to see that and then fall soccer registration has just opened up this week. We haven't started summer yet. I know we're always a season ahead, you know, and soccer is one of the, you know, the big hitters with them. They get a lot of lot of kids going and doing the soccer program. So it'll be running through the end of June. So if you haven't signed up by the end of June, this is why I say what I say here, because we want to make sure we get folks out there that know and they don't miss registrations.

So beyond that, in terms of comments, I just want to remind people, somebody else might be doing this as well. We have the Memorial Day parade Monday afternoon, 1:30 p.m. line up, 1:30 line up, 2:00 step off, I think. And there will be the Alvirne High School Band will be performing, marching and the American Legion Band will be as usual in the in Library Park. So it will step off. It will go to Library Park for pause and recognition of Memorial Day and then on from there. So the bottom line with this, I always it's a big thing for me as a veteran. You know, it's Memorial Day weekend isn't just an extra day off for everybody. There's a reason why we do it. And, you know, we are remembering those who not all veterans, but those who gave their lives for their country and so made the ultimate sacrifice. So it's important to understand that and that because of that, we get to do these things that we get to do. We have our Monday off for our barbecues. And while we're doing all that, we should remember, remember those folks that gave their lives for for our country. So that's all I got. Chairman McGrath replied absolutely I agree with you on that.

Selectman Morin: I attended the Chamber of Commerce breakfast event the beginning of the week or last Friday, I'm sorry. And the other thing is, I want to wish everybody a happy Memorial Day. And do we plan on marching in that? I know you got things usually. Selectman Dumont replied, I'm not going to make any guarantees. Selectman Roy said I'm not sure I'm able to march, but if I feel well enough. Selectman Guessferd said to Selectman Morin, I'll see you, buddy. To which Selectman Morin replied, all right. All right. We'll see you there.

Chairman McGrath: And I don't have anything this evening. I just again, I agree with Selectman Guessferd on the the meaning of Memorial Day and what it truly means. And it's not a celebration per se. It's to honor the all of those that gave their lives for this country and our freedoms. So and I remember it every year because I had relatives that were that served in the war, World War II, relatives that served in Vietnam. They all thankfully made it back, but they all had scars. So so it's something to be to remember what what others have done for our freedoms.

10. Remarks by Town Administrator

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia who said, I actually have a motion that I think I would like to have everybody make, so the Fire Chief and I worked together. We talked about the recruit program, recruit school for the brand new firefighters. So we worked together to identify the cost. And I've got a motion that I'll put out there so we can transfer funds to fund that. So the *motion would be to transfer to 5730 - suppression fire budget from town poor account 5151-258, \$25,000 and from legal 5200-218, \$25,000 for a total transfer of \$50,000 to suppression.* Selectman Roy asked, is that this fiscal year or? The Town Administrator replied that's this fiscal year. So there's a document in the sign folder, but I have all the backup for it. But the Chief and I looked at it, he examined the cost and it's slightly under 50 (thousand). But just to be on the safe side, \$50,000 and that should cover four weeks or whatever

it is of the recruit program, the recruit school. Chief Tice, from the audience said four weeks for six candidates, the instructors, uniforms, all that. The Town Administrator then said we just wanted to, I wanted to get that motion out there tonight so he could know where the funds are coming from. Chairman McGrath asked, so anybody willing to make that motion Selectman Roy made this motion, seconded by Selectman Morin. Motion carried 5-0.

Other than that, everybody have a safe Memorial Day weekend. Be careful. It's a busy weekend.

11. Remarks by School Board

Chairman McGrath recognize School Board Chairman Gary Gasdia who said, all right, I'll be quick, because I'm standing between you and your non-public. So a couple of things. It's the end of the year. It's not fall yet, but it's almost summer. And so a lot of a lot of activities going on in the schools. Past weekend was Beauty and the Beast play at Alvirne. I want to thank HCTV. They have recorded it. I'm not sure exactly when, but at some point it will be posting for anyone that wants to watch. Concert season is here. Last night was the band concert at Alvirne. Tonight is the choral concert. HMS is tomorrow and Thursday. There are field trips, field days, all of that stuff going on. Senior Center, as you mentioned, there will be a concert at Benson's coming up, I believe, the first week of June. I'm not exactly sure on the date. And then a lot of academic awards and CTE awards. And if anyone is unaware, there is something called a scholarship night each year for the for the seniors. And we have a lot of you know, there are a lot of scholarships that come from organizations and things like that. But we also have a lot of very generous families that have memorial scholarships and things like that. And each year is a little bit different. But in general, literally hundreds of thousands of dollars are awarded to our to our students each year. And it's a great event sponsored by the Lions Club, but made great by all of the great folks that donate scholarships. That's in June. Then there will be graduation on June 8th and last day of the year is June 19th. So it's wrapping up. And then next thing you know, we'll be registering for soccer and it's fall again. But until then, we'll enjoy the summer. So with that, that's it.

12. Other Business/Remarks by the Selectmen- this was added to the Liaison Reports by Chairman McGrath.

13. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Morin at 8:25 p.m., seconded by Selectman Dumont to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (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 8:25 p.m. thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public was asked to leave the room.

The Board entered open session at 10:23 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session

- 1.) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to rescind the employment offer to Nicholas Avellani for the position of Firefighter/EMT in the Fire Department, which was approved by the Board of Selectmen on January 10, 2023. Carried 4-0.
- 2) Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to rescind the employment offer to Scott Levasseur for the position of Firefighter/EMT in the Fire Department, which was approved by the Board of Selectmen on May 9, 2023. Carried 4-0.
- 3) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to promote Sergeant Derek Lloyd to Lieutenant at \$94,126.000 in accordance with the Hudson Police, Fire and Town Supervisors Association contract (step 4). This elevation in rank will be effective on Monday, June 5, 2023. Carried 4-0.
- 4) Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to appoint Jason Twardosky as the Director of Public Works, effective May 28, 2023 with a starting salary of \$119,080. Carried 4-0.
- 5) Selectman Morin made a motion to adjourn at 10:32 p.m. This was seconded by Selectman Guessferd. Carried 4-0.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:32 p.m. by Selectman Morin seconded by Selectman Dumont. 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