

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the August 8, 2023 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman McGrath the meeting of August 8, 2023 at 7:01 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by a Boy Scout who was in the audience.

Chairman McGrath then addressed the room saying Thank you very much. Sorry, I forgot. We're going to have a moment of silence. Yeah. We lost a resident in the town of Hudson and. What's his name? The Town Administrator replied Jim Carlin. To which the Chairman replied, that's right, James Carlin. And apparently, he donated, I didn't know the gentleman, but he donated a lot of his time and energy to Benson's Park and a lot of other things in town. So I think that we should honor his passing. Thank you very much.

3. ATTENDANCE

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

Selectman Roy joined the meeting remotely from her residence.

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Tad Dionne, Police Chief; Dr. Dan Moulis, Superintendent of Schools; Elvis Dhima, Town Engineer; Jay Twardosky, Public Works Director; Scott Tice, Fire Chief; Gary Gasdia, School Board member; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT - There was no public input this evening.
5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS - none

6. CONSENT ITEMS

*Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve Consent Items A, B, C, D, E, & F. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.*

- A. Assessing Items - none
- B. Water/Sewer Items - none
- C. Licenses & Permits & Policies
  - 1) Raffle Permit - Dalton Shumsky Foundation
  - 2) Raffle Permit - Hudson Historical Society
- D. Donations - none
- E. Acceptance of Minutes
  - 1) Minutes of July 25, 2023

F. Calendar

08/09	7:00	Planning Board	Buxton Meeting Room
08/14	7:00	Conservation Commission	Buxton Meeting Room
08/15	7:00	Municipal Utility Committee	BOS Meeting Room
08/16	6:00	Library Trustees	Hills Memorial Library
08/16	7:00	Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee	Rodgers Library
08/17	7:00	Benson Park Committee	HCTV Meeting Room
08/21	7:00	Sustainability Committee	Buxton Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on July 25, 2023

1. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to hire Victoria Hope Chapman and Edison Tan as Part-time Videographers and be classified as Regular Special Shift Employee, at the current videographer rate. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.
2. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to seal the July 25, 2023 minutes of nonpublic session. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.
3. Selectman Morin made a motion to adjourn at 10:24p.m., this was seconded by Selectman Guessferd. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

B. Hudson Highway Safety Grant Acceptance - HPD - Decision

Chairman McGrath recognized Police Chief Dionne. Chief Dionne began by saying, last meeting we were here to present the Hudson Highway Safety grant and Selectman Roy and Selectman Dumont correctly pointed out that it was a 80%-20% matching grant. I think Captain McElhinney explained the functionality of the grant. It certainly helps us provide motor vehicle interdiction when we normally would not be able to have that resource. I'll give you a good example. On the way here, I was the only I was the only non-emergency officer left in town on the way here.

So I will say it's an 80% over 20%. The 20% is soft cost. We're allowed to cost in our fuel for every hour the officer is out on a grant and also all the administrative costs that are included in that. And that is where we make up that 20%. That includes payroll, it includes compiling reports, it includes compiling information. It includes taking the request as well by Captain McElhinney. Reports that Colleen Jefferson compiles and also what Sherrie Kimball does for us with payroll. So I ask today that we would accept the \$9,000 grant total \$9,000 award we would be putting in we would be matching with up to \$2,250. And if you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

Chairman McGrath asked, anyone have any questions? Selectman Roy, do you have any questions or comments? Selectman Roy replied No. No, I'm good. Thanks for the clarification, Chief. Chief Dionne replied, no, thank you. I appreciate you both pointing that out. Seeing no further questions, Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to authorize the Hudson Police Department to accept the Hudson Highway Safety grant, which was awarded by the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency in the in amount of \$9,000. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Town Code Chapter 317 Recommendation - Close Memorial Drive

Chairman McGrath recognized Police Chief Tad Dionne. Chief Dionne then introduced Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Dan Moulis saying in case the Board would have any questions for the School, I figured Dr. Moulis would be a good person to ask. Chief Dionne then explained, so just a little history on this. A couple of I would say probably closer to a couple of months ago, Dr. Moulis myself and Principal Keith Bowen from Memorial School, were talking about safety concerns at the school with regards to Memorial Drive. Memorial Drive appears to look like a normal driveway access way to the school. It is a town way. It's an actual town road that runs from Central Street to Thorning Road. So it is one way I've personally witnessed many people not not adhere to the one way when they're traveling through, they're allowed to travel through during business hours of the school. This this causes some problems. It's on Waze so it's a way through for for large trucks They drive right through. Cars speed through there. And obviously there's actual functions going on at the school that could involve students going out to the field, etcetera. So the the and again, in your packet, you should have the letter that Principal Bowen wrote to kind of memorialize what they're seeing there.

Chief Dionne continued saying, so we brought this to the Highway Safety Committee meeting about partially closing the road, much like we do with School Street now. So we brought it to the Highway Safety Committee meeting, the Highway Safety Committee recommended closing it during school hours from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on regular school days. This would encompass closing it to any traffic that's not school related. School related meaning parents drop off is fine picking up their students for any reason. That's that's official. Even in a dismissal of even if it's an ill child whatever all that would be fine. Obviously drop offs and deliveries that occur during school hours. Anybody who has to get there, police officers, fire officers, anybody who's doing utility work or any other type of work around there, anything that's official and legit is fine. It would just asking to close it. In the meantime, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 a.m., this if it was to go that far, the school is willing to handle bringing out a sawhorse with the signage. I spoke with the director of public works as well. And any necessary signage outside the roadways could be placed out there, no problem indicating that it's a restricted access or it's closed during certain hours, etcetera. But the school would take care of maintaining the traffic and we would allow an area so that cars can get through because they're on official duty. But it would look much like it does at School Street. So in the ordinance 317-12 street closed ordinance, which talks about unless otherwise indicated the street would be closed during the times indicated we are asking that we add Memorial Drive to the schedule 317-33 Streets Closed and that it would specifically close that from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. school days from Central Street to Thorning Road, on which the following traffic shall continue to be permitted, which is school buses, parents, guardians picking up or discharging pupils. Emergency vehicles, officials in route to emergencies, vehicles, servicing schools or utilities and any other vehicle on premise for official school business. And I believe it would have to go to a public hearing at the next meeting. If you so agree.

Chairman McGrath replied I'm okay. Anybody have any questions? Selectman Dumont was recognized and said no question. I think it's just important to point out, obviously there's no residents that live on that road. I know it's in the packet, but just for anybody watching, there's no access that would be needed for that. And obviously, anybody that does need to get there would still be able to maintain that. So I'm fine with it.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said real quick. You know, we had a discussion on this. What's that going to do to School Street, where that's changed for picking up and extracting students? Chief Dionne replied it wouldn't change the School Street indications we were looking. I spoke with Mr. Malizia on this. And essentially, if you look at the way the ordinance is written for School Street, they have an asterisk and underneath it, it tells you what the confines are for that street. We would ask that there be a double asterisk for Memorial Drive and then with the double asterisk telling you what those restrictions are for Memorial Drive. So it would just be an addition. Selectman Morin replied, thank you.

Chairman McGrath asked, Selectman Roy, do you have any questions or comments? To which Selectman Roy replied, I don't.

Chairman McGrath then said Okay. I do. I have a couple. So to change the the the pattern of people not using that access, how are you going to accomplish that? Because that's probably going to be the hardest thing, hurdle, that you're going to have to come over. And how are you planning to do that? And I know that I read that there's going to be a sign from the DPW, but is it going to be a like a mobile sign where you can flash something at them so that they see it before they even get there? Chief Dionne replied I don't think we've considered having any type of, you know, visible flashing type sign. We were probably going to put up a fixed sign, but I think we were going to utilize things like the Town Crier, the social media, Facebook, our Facebook page. Obviously, schools the school would be sending out communication to all the parents indicating this. You know and so we're trying to spread the word, so to speak, and get it out there before. And that's why we're here trying to get it done before before school starts, actually, so we can get out ahead of it. And of course, just the traffic flow originally that day. Pretty much everybody knows it's first day of school. They'll see everybody out there.

Chairman McGrath replied, I'm just thinking about people that travel that roadway and use it as a cut through to go through the school. And I understand the safety hazards that are I mean, that's clear. If they drive anything like they do down near Sagamore Bridge, my favorite spot in the world. You know, it's dangerous. It's dangerous for teachers. It's dangerous for children that are in the school system. I mean, it's dangerous for everybody, but it's changing that, changing that mindset. And a lot of those people, I would venture to guess not, certainly not all, but a good number of them are probably not Hudson residents. They're probably coming from somewhere else. So, I mean, I think signage is going to be key, at least at the beginning stages until people get accustomed to, okay, we can't cut through there anymore. It's blocked off. You know, it's being monitored. Whatever, whatever access, you know, whatever you're going to decide to do with it. But I think that that's going to have to have to be done right up front before it before you start implementing it, because otherwise you're just going to have the same problem. And the problems will probably be somewhat worse because people are so used to traveling through there and they wouldn't be, as you said, where I read somewhere in this memo that that they're going at speeds that aren't appropriate for a school area.

So I think that, you know, it's like any other time when we change a traffic pattern or we add a stop sign, we typically do directed patrols in the area. We would definitely do that in this situation as well. So they'll actually be officer presence for certain amount of time during the day. I also think that we we'll be able to get the message. I mean, we could even go as far as putting a road closed ahead sign on Thorning Road, for instance. But if you travel through there during the school day, you'll notice that on Memorial Drive there are a set of cones blocking the way. So in order for someone to cut through there, they actually have to go in, go around on through, through a parking lot access, which is, you know, it's like an obstacle course, but they still do it and then get back on the roadway and then head out and they still do it. And so it's kind of funny because if you if you decided just you're going to go that way every day, it's not I can't figure it out. I mean, it's you know, instead of just traveling up to Central Street and making a turn, which seems far better, makes more sense to me, you know, just doing it that way, I think. I think it is something we'll have to change habits like any other time. And we would generally be as usual, we do a soft approach with that. We try not to write tickets to people who end up cutting through the first few times until we can educate them. Chairman McGrath replied, you have to catch them first.

Superintendent Moulis then said, that's the other thing with the signage piece, if I may, it would be similar to in-kind what we have here on Library Street, where they would be, you know, yellow prominent signs that are also mobile. So we would have them at that 7:00 a.m. timeframe as police Chief Dionne was saying. And after the school day ends until 4:30 p.m., because we recognize that we have co-curriculars and extracurriculars going on. So we'd make sure that that signage, to your point, would be prominent, visible and also mobile for that that time frame that we're looking to minimize access to that driveway and that road.

Chairman McGrath replied I think, you know, whatever you can do to, you know, like so that they know right from the very beginning that this is going to be implemented and it's going to be monitored and it's going it's going to be consequences if they violate it. So thank you.

But it's going to be a challenge for you. But I certainly understand and support doing that. It's just getting it implemented and making people honor that not a right to pass.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said speaking of her right to pass, if you put those mobile things and block the entrance at 7:00 a.m., myself and the Chief had a discussion what we're gonna do with all the parents that drop off their kids. We're certainly not going to let them all park along Central Street. So if you put that up there, people are going to get confused. So you're going to have somebody to direct them?

Chief Dionne replied, well, it is a one way, so we have room to put it up and have them come in. The letter that's supposed to go out is going to explain that from the school. It's the letter that's going out there will explain that. I don't think this is going to be an issue at all. Getting the parents in and out. I don't think it'll be an issue at all. Selectman Morin replied, and I appreciate that. But as this Board knows, we can send out letters and where does it get us? That's my concern. And if we have a big backup on Central Street, which is one of our main streets, because some people who didn't take a look at the letter park on Central Street and we're dropping our kids off and we got 30 cars lined up along Central Street, that's what I don't want. I fully understand the traffic, but we need to figure out something, how the parents are going to get in and out of there without being hindered and we end up having a backup.

Superintendent Moulis replied well, and I think to Police Chief Dionne's point, I know last year, again, I only have my one year of experience here in Hudson, that that first couple of weeks of school, we got a lot of assistance with the Police Department helping us at all of the different schools as far as entrance and dismissal times as much as they can, knowing that obviously they helped us out quite a bit those first couple of weeks as far as parents arriving. But I agree, Selectman Morin, that, you know, I think to both of your points, I think that was the beginning stages of this is it's going to be some education. And making sure to your point, Selectman Morin, that parents can get in, drop their child off or children off. And that's part of that education. And again, getting into that routine.

Superintendent Moulis went on to say, and the only other thing that I just wanted to mention really quickly and I mentioned it last night at the School Board meeting as part of my superintendent report, and I'm saying it with Chief Dionne here present. I am very appreciative to all of his help, not only with this project but staying with this project, but just really appreciate his collaboration and his help. Anytime we've needed to problem solve, you know, looking at school safety, looking at ways that we can keep our schools safe and maintain that safety. So I'm very appreciative of that. And I just wanted to say that with everyone present here this evening.

Chairman McGrath replied, thank you. And I concur. We have a wonderful police department. We have a wonderful chief of police. The whole staff is good to work with and we're very fortunate to have them. Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, to Selectman Morin's point would the crossing guard be able to assist in a lot of that. I know typically that they're out there kind of the prime time for for parents getting in and out if there was a delay anyway. Chief Dionne replied well, we'll have our student resource officer actually making sure that we're not having a problem. We will definitely put resources there. If we have if we have anybody parking there, I'll I'll have one of the officers literally sit at the side of the road and tell people as they're parking your parent dropping off, just go right ahead. We'll get them. It may we may take a few lumps if we have to move the sign back or out of the way the first couple of days. We will. I do believe this is something that we can accomplish. I certainly don't see that this will be more than maybe some initial bumps in the head or headaches.

Selectman Dumont was again recognized and said just one other thought. So drop off times, when do they typically end for that school, for Memorial? Superintendent Moulis replied, It starts pretty early. I mean, that 7:00 time, it's starting right around then or a little bit before. And then dismissals right around that 2:00, 205 time frame. So parents are starting to queue up in the queue, if you will, in the driveway before

dismissal. And then obviously, you've got the buses looping in as well on the other side of the building. So those are your most critical times, as you know, Selectman Dumont, the arrival-dismissal. But to Police Chief Dionne's point, you know, again, it's kind of a cut through with trucks and as Principal Bowen outlined. So those are the most critical points. But it starts a little bit before arrival and dismissal where cars are starting to line up.

Selectman Dumont replied I was more or less thinking that, you know, obviously you could watch it. Like you said, you're going to go through some growing pains anyways. But if you need to adjust that time, that I would say keep an open mind to that. Chief Dionne replied, the good thing is in the morning too Selectman Dumont, is the buses they queue up in the breakdown lane if you see them right all the way down Central Street, which that'll help a little bit on that end. But even the more I think about this, the first couple of days, maybe we don't put the sign out until the parents have all done their discharge discharging and the same thing on the way back. It's not necessary. I mean, and to be quite honest, the most important time is after the drop off and after the pickup or before the pickup. So, I mean, we can we can certainly adjust it as, as as the flow is working better. Selectman Dumont said if the sign goes out a little bit later or whatever. Selectman Morin was recognized and said you guys already do it over here. The signs don't go up to all the buses are done. So why can't we just do that at Memorial school once the rush over is over, you have one of your maintenance people go out, put the sign up for people. Come in an hour before you go take it down. Chief Dionne and Superintendent Moulis both replied, that's a good idea.

Seeing no further questions Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to forward the above listed change proposal of Chapter 317-33 to a public hearing. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

#### B. DPW Fuel Station Contract Award

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Engineer Elvis Dhima and Director of Public Works, Jay Twardosky. Mr. Dhima began by saying Thank you, Madam Chair. Good evening, everyone. Public Works Director and I are tonight to present DPW Fuel Pump Station project, which was identified by the Board of Selectmen and the ARPA Committee as one of the projects that was going to be funded by the ARPA funds. The first phase was the design phase. We put aside \$50,000 for that and we were able to do that under our budget, which was about \$35,000. At the time of selecting this project, our budget for the construction was set at \$600,000. Upon the final design and the permitting, the engineer's estimate came at \$862,000. With that said, we still moved forward and with the bid process, we had a mandatory pre-bid meeting which consisted of an hour meeting at the town hall and was followed up with another hour meeting at the site, going over the layout and our building and the facilities there and how the whole thing was going to be incorporated into our control system at the site.

With that said, we received three bids. Two of them did meet our requirements, which is the mandatory pre-bid and the breakdown of the schedule. There was another bid as well from Greenside that was submitted as well and did not meet our mandatory pre-bid meeting. This particular party did not attend the meeting and also they did not have it in their packet, the breakdown of the bid schedule. With that said, we have two motions in front of you tonight to make this project happen. The first one is to dedicate an additional \$100,000 from the ARPA funds to this project and then the remaining of the funds that's needed to get this project done, to come out of the paving program and to award this contract to the low bid that meets all the criteria that we had on the RFP. The project, if approved by the Board of Selectmen tonight, will consist of a fuel pump or two fuel pumps that will be covered by a canopy that will be installed and designed to today's standards. It's going to be associated with a fuel tank that's going to have gas and diesel that's going to be about twice as big as the current one. That's going to meet the needs for the Public Works Department, Police Station and the Fire Department as well. In addition to that, the fleet at the town hall in case we disconnect the pump station that's currently here right now. With that said, we'll take any questions you might have and we'll go from there.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, You said Greenside Services they didn't...they submitted a bid, but they didn't submit all the all the breakdowns that are required. Did anybody follow up with them to ask? Mr. Dumont replied, we did. I did. Selectman Dumont asked, what was the reason for not submitting it? Mr. Dhima replied, I'm not sure. They did submit them after the fact. The issue with this one is SRS, which is a low bid that attended it was made aware of that because they asked and it appears to be some history there that this has happened in the past. And SRS did submit a letter of protest, if you want to call it that, related to....Selectman Dumont interjected saying, I found that a little odd that a competing company tries to disqualify another lower bidder. Mr. Dhima replied, well, there are low bid that did not meet the the meet the mandatory pre-bid meeting and they did not submit all the things submitted. So to someone that does this for a living would not be any different than someone failing to submit a bid bond for example requirement. It's not any different. So that's what they do. And I think it's in line to, you know, it's within their right. We have it in RFP. If they have a you know, something, they want to protest, they can. I think it's their right to do that.

Selectman Dumont replied, oh, yeah. You can write whatever you want. I just thought it was a little odd, but. Mr. Dhima replied, well, it was an odd because, I mean, in my opinion, it's not odd. They're low bid. They got someone else doing the same thing and they're lower, but they did not attend it. The bottom line is that we have certain requirements where we go, certain big projects, and people are expected to follow those rules. And this particular party, that's the low bidder, did attend the meeting and did submit everything. It's basically saying, I follow the rules, this is my bid. And this person that didn't should not be doing it.

Selectman Dumont then said and then so they submitted everything. The only thing they didn't do was the was the pre-bid meeting. Mr. Dhima replied and the bid schedule on time. Selectman Dumont replied so they never submitted the bid schedule. Mr. Dhima replied they submitted it after I pointed to them that they missed it, they did it after the fact. But again, it's not any different than, you know, attending a meeting that you did not you know, there's things that are expected from a company that's submitting a \$700,000 \$800,000 bid. Some of those are to basically meet certain criteria. Selectman Dumont replied, we've accepted companies before that haven't done the pre-bid meeting. Even since I've been here. Mr. Dhima asked Selectman Dumont to repeat himself. Selectman Dumont replied we've accepted companies before that didn't attend the meeting. Mr. Dhima replied, I haven't. So I don't know where those are coming from, but I haven't had one. Selectman Dumont replied there was engineering services that was done, there wasn't a pre-bid meeting. I think it was done off of the Sagamore Bridge probably about a month or two ago. I thought it was engineering services and if I'm wrong, then I apologize. Mr. Dhima replied but we we have we have bids out there that do not require a pre-bid meeting. It might be related or referring to that. It could be it. If that's the case, absolutely. If it's not, but if it's mandatory and the reason we make it mandatory in some cases when it's pretty complex and there's certain things they need to see, such as conditions at the site, such as conditions in the facilities, such as the people that have to deal with, because those little things could add up to a change order down the road. And we want to be fair to everyone, even the ones that don't attend the meeting, that if you see certain things and because you didn't attend the meeting, it results now in a change order. We shouldn't have to get hit for that and they shouldn't have to eat it. Selectman Dumont replied, I agree. I don't believe in change orders. Mr. Dhima replied, me either. And they don't go well with this Board and previous boards. I say that from personal experience. You know, I've had a two by four thrown at me. it is. I mean, it's just a bottom line, but it's tough. And that's the name of the game. Do we want to follow the rules and stick with this? And the difference, by the way, to your point between the low bid that attended the meeting and did not attend the meeting is \$11,000. It's not \$100,000. We went and we talked about this over and over again. I'm not sure it's worth damaging our reputation as a town that does business the proper way over something like this, especially for those small amount.

Mr. Dhima went on to say and that's kind of where we're at. But ultimately it's your decision. You have a recommendation in front of you. We have come up with a way to finance this. It will be top of the line. It will be something that we never have to worry about for the next 30 years. It is going to handle the capacity that we need. Right now, the tanks that we have are, what, 20 years old? Mr. Twardosky replied they're 30 years old. Mr. Dhima added and they do not have the capacity in it. So what happens is when they have a

winter operation and they need to refuel these, sometimes they don't have the ability to have these people deliver it because they're not allowed to. This particular tank, which is going to be one chamber, split into two compartments to save money because we could have done two. Will be able to provide the capacity so these guys don't have to worry about having fuel in their tanks. They can just worry about getting the job done. In addition to that, the rest of the facility, the rest of the vehicles from the rest of the fleet, from the first responders will be able to be served by this as well at their cost. Right? Five bucks. I'm just kidding. It will be it free. We won't charge them. Promise. Just the Police Department. They in bullets. But it is a facility that's going to serve the town and the major of all the fleet moving forward. It is something that it's going to be a great asset and it's something that they don't have to worry about for the next 30 years. And we're not going to do this again, at least as far as I'm around. Jay might still be around, but this is it. Selectman Dumont replied that kind of price tag, you can't do it again.

Mr. Dhima replied this particular company has a good reputation. The one has been they've done a similar one. We did check backgrounds. We did check with the design firm. They're very familiar with them. I think the numbers overall came out pretty good below our estimate, even though it's over the budget. But things are changing. I think maybe between a combination of our budget being a little bit too conservative and the estimate doing what everything else is doing out over six months or a year going up. But overall, I think we have a good plan in front of you how we're going to finance this. And it's mostly ARPA funds.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said Okay. So just to make sure when I was reading through this, I wasn't it wasn't clear to me. I think this discussion with Selectman Dumont has just kind of made it clear it really isn't unusual in terms of contracting. If you set the rules and you have a mandatory bid meeting and the mandatory means mandatory, if somebody does not attend, then they are excluded. Even if they submitted a proposal, they should be excluded. And the other contractor has every right. And it happens. It happens in federal contracting all the time. You know, if somebody doesn't follow the rules and somebody else doesn't gets awarded. So this this doesn't surprise me. But I didn't I didn't see in here, And maybe you ought to be clear in the bid file that it said they didn't attend the mandatory briefing and that they didn't provide the schedule. That should probably be said very clearly in here. Basically that as a result, they were excluded from the competition because it did not meet the requirements of the bid.

Mr. Dhima replied to your point, we can put something in with the file that goes with this. Absolutely not a problem. It should be clear. Yeah. So if you do have a mandatory bid meeting and I mean again following the rules, right. If I know in my business, if I, if I submit a proposal and it doesn't meet every single aspect of the customer's requirements, they can exclude me from the competition if I don't meet it. So I find that that's fine. So I'm just saying just probably clean that up a little bit for the file. Mr. Dhima replied, we can add that to the motion, whatever pleases the Board. I don't have a problem with that.

Selectman Guessferd said, I have one other question. Okay. It might be an obvious question, but so we're taking \$113,000 from the paving budget. To make up the difference on this one. And I would assume you wouldn't be here if you didn't have the amount of the budget. So what are we not going to be doing in the paving budget to accommodate this? Mr. Twardosky replied some of the roads we were going to that are based right now, we were going to overlay are going to sit one more year. Some of them that have sat the longest will definitely get done this year. But some of the ones that are, you know, like I said, That are base pavement right now, they're in good shape. It's not going to hurt them to sit one more year. Selectman Guessferd replied okay. That's all I have.

Chairman McGrath asked, Selectman Morin do you have anything? To which Selectman Morin replied, no, not at this time. Chairman McGrath then asked, Selectman Roy, do you have any questions or comments? Selectman Roy replied I do not. Chairman McGrath then said, and I don't. The only thing that this is kind of. Let me I'm trying to think of a way to say it. I'll just spit it out. What happens if the US government mandates electric vehicles? Is this going to be eradicated from or not be allowed to be used? I mean, they're talking.... they're doing crazy things in Washington and nothing would surprise me. Selectman Roy asked, like what? To which Chairman McGrath replied I'm not going to get into an argument with you, Selectman Roy.

Mr. Dhima then said it won't impact it if there is additional requirements to it, it will be probably add on to this if there is charging station required down the road. What we see right now is that's usually a mandatory thing if you're going for a grant, if you're asking for certain commitments to it. We have now, we're seeing it for certain things, for certain vehicles, but it's not going to impact us. We don't see that. We also talk to the businesses that have gas stations and they don't see them going out of business anytime soon. So there's going to be a need for this as obviously things evolve, but it will not impact this project.

Mr. Twardosky added we don't have the manufacturing capacity to mandate everybody having electric vehicles. It's going to take a good 20 years, 30 years before that can be fully implemented. So as you as you renew your fleet, if they implement something, as you renew your fleet, you might have to renew with electric. But if you're not renewing your fleet, they they're not going to force you to park the vehicle. Chairman McGrath replied, I'll be long gone by by that time. I think I'm not in charge of things, but I don't expect to be around that long. So. Okay, so anybody?

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said so the new fuel station, the benefit that I would hope there would be over the course of time, it would. It would pay itself back. The way that it's getting utilized for all the departments now moving everything can even just speak to that at all. Mr. Twardosky added even just DPW, the way it's going to be placed out in front of the building and with two double sided diesel and a double sided gas pump at the end of a snow storm, it takes us well over an hour to fill up all the vehicles with the existing fuel station we have now. So we have so many guys on the clock for an extra hour just fueling up trucks because you can actually the way it's set up, you can only do one vehicle at a time. Now we can do four vehicles at a time. So we'll be saving a substantial amount of overtime over a number of years.

Mr. Dhima added, this particular pumps will be more effective and they'll be able to put fuel at a higher rate than the current one right now. So it'll be out of there instead of ten minutes, might be out of there, much less. And that adds all up. So there will be no overtime presented by the DPW this this winter. Write that down. Selectman Dumont added, every dollar we spend, we got to save to it somehow. Mr. Dhima replied, yeah, there is, absolutely. And if you think about that over a period of 25 years, that's an absolutely good point. You are going to see that reduction in over time, but also the ability to serve the taxpayers, basically trying to have those roads ready for the morning. I don't think you can put a number on that, but there's a benefit there, not just from the financial piece, but also being able to have those roads ready to go, an earlier time. Mr. Twardosky said, our current pumps run about four gallons a minute. These ones, the new pumps will be substantially more. The diesel pump can handle up to 20 gallons a minute, just like a truck stop with larger hoses.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said where we need this we had situations in the past, particularly a heavy snow storm. Ice storm between the fire apparatus and we've run out of fuel or we've had a line trying to get filled because both are so busy continually running. So this is absolutely a much better thing.

Mr. Twardosky added our current tanks, we cannot go to snow on a with our current system. So we have to get filled up after every storm. When you have back to back storms, it's real tough with any fuel company because if the roads are really treacherous, they're mandated to shut the trucks down and then you're in trouble. So we have to have the capacity. Mr. Dhima added, plus we'll look really good. They got letters going out. There might be weddings taking place. It'll be like the next Benson. You know, people going to take wedding pictures up there. It's going to look great.

Selectman Morin asked, when is this going to be done? Mr. Dhima replied it's a very good question Selectman Morin. So if they get the green light tonight, we get contract locked in. We're looking at about 2 to 3 months to get the tanks and we're hoping to be done by sometime in June of 2024. Selectman Morin replied, Okay. So we won't make the big snow that they're planning this year, okay. Mr. Dhima replied nope. This year they're still going to have to carry the five gallon buckets getting in there and to get them through. And we'll all have to probably whatever it takes to get through one more winter. But there's light at the end of the tunnel. But everything that needs equipment, you're going to have 6 to 8 months. It's just brutal. It's better than we thought it would be. But I'm going to believe it when we get those tanks 2 to 3

months, someone telling me that. We'll see. We'll see when we get them. But we're looking to get this up and running next year. We're looking at 9 to 12 months.

Selectman Dumont and that's a good question you brought up. So with that being said, if there is a delay in any kind of material, once you lock in on that contract, that number is finalized. There's no? Mr. Dhima replied it'll be finalized tonight. After that, it's not our problem. That's correct. Selectman Dumont replied, now I'm done. Thank you.

Seeing no further questions, *Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to dedicate \$100,000 additional funds of ARPA money toward the DPW Fuel Pump Station using account #7208. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.*

*Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to approve the contract for Construction services of the DPW Fuel Pump station to SRS Petroleum Services Corp for the amount of not to exceed \$791,100 using ARPA account #7208 \$678,082. And paving account number #5552-248 for the balance of \$113,018. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.*

### C. West Road Landfill Solar Farm

Chairman McGrath again recognized Town Engineer Elvis Dhima and Public Works Director Jay Twardosky. Mr. Dhima explained, Thank you, Madam Chair. Who would have thought we'd be here tonight talking about solar farms in Hudson? But here we are. There's been some legislation passing at the state. This seems to be some advancing technology and innovation. And we've done some research, and it appears that we're ready to start getting into this. With that said, there's different ways of doing it. There's a lot of companies out there offering different things. So we believe the best way to do this and approach it is to go out to see what companies can do this, what they can offer to us and have a committee set up to pick the best company that we believe it's going to do this, have the Board approve it, and lock this scope of work to basically what we can get out there. What this will look like if we move forward with this, it will be an agreement that will provide revenue to the town on an annual basis to lease the land at the landfill. That will be one option. The other option would be to have a contract in place to provide a significant savings to the town on the electrical bill in addition to what we already got, like the one Mr. Malizia has presented to the Board in the past and we currently enjoy. So it won't be competing with any other programs we have in place. Those are two options we can look at.

With that said, we will be utilizing a significant amount of the landfill already out there. It's not going to impact what we might be able to do down the road with the transfer station, converting that to a for a town or a regional recycling center. So we're going to be working around that to make sure we're not shooting ourselves in the foot. But with that said, we're looking at basically creating a revenue stream out of an area that's not currently being utilized right now. It's that space. And with that said, we'll take any questions you might have. And I have two motions in front of you tonight if you want to move forward now and set up a committee.

Selectman Morin was recognized and asked, with the field there, when a company comes in, are we still because right now we mow all that up there and all that we 100 hook for that or are they taking care of all of that? Mr. Dhima replied, It's 100% of them. That was one of the questions we asked. Yeah, it would be 100% of them. That's what we're going to seek to do. We are going to expect them to pull the permits. We're going to expect them to do the installation. We're going to expect them to do this the right way, go to the state and get everything and basically present us with, here's the scenario. What would you like to do, collect the check every year or get a huge relief on your bill from your electrical provider?

Selectman Morin then asked, so they're going to sit on our property, but they're going to take care of everything else? Mr. Dhima replied, correct. Selectman Morin replied and we'll receive from it. To which

Mr. Dhima replied yes. And in addition to that, we'll be saving the planet in a couple of polar bears. So it's a feel good it's a feel good story. I'm just saying, you know, just we got to start somewhere. Um, but yeah, it's they've come a long way and we've been researching this and we have had these in the past, but they were not quite there yet. It's a little different now and there's quite a bit of land there. The town has quite a bit of area and you know, we maintain the facility out there and there's a lot that could be utilized. So this could be another opportunity for the Board to utilize a piece of land in town to provide additional revenue or additional relief on our bills.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said I know you can't give me exacts, but when you say relief on our bill, you tell us basically no electric bill or are you talking? Mr. Dhima replied, so some of the numbers and again these are generic we could be looking somewhere between \$10 to \$30,000 revenue every year or we could be looking at \$100,000 a year on relief on our bills for the electrical for the next 25 years. So there is, it seems to be more money generated if we get relief on our bill. But it will be up to the Board to decide to either take the money up front or continue to get the relief. And remember, no matter what their rate for the electrical is, you're going to get a significant reduction because of the farming you're doing. And from what I can tell, the town has enough land to basically have a solar farm out there to generate all the power that we need for all the facilities that we operate so we can be self-efficient on that. Got our own water, sewer and our power be like North Korea here. No, I'm just kidding. But it's that significant. And I think Mr. Malizia looked into it and it was what, \$1500 households like a 2.5? Mr. Malizia replied to 2000 households of power. Was it three megawatts or something you said? Mr. Dhima replied 2.5 to 3MW hours per year. The Town Administrator added that doesn't go directly to us. It goes into the grid. Right. But that size of, you know, it's significant. It's not this is not just a couple power.

Selectman Morin then said let me throw this at you. How would that fit into the plan that the Sustainability Committee is doing? Mr. Dhima replied, it doesn't run again. They run parallel. Selectman Morin replied yeah but where he's saying 1500 households, you know what I mean? Can we just take it all and supply like you said, Hudson can own their own, you know? Mr. Dhima replied Yeah. The way and again there's different ways of doing it, but the way these operates, when they build a farm and they can generate it, they're looking for people to who can utilize it. But anyway, I think we can get into the details depending who we get to do the work for us. But yeah, it will be a significant sized project, a lot of capital put into it, not by us, but by the people that want to get into it. And it's a good location because there is a significant main transmission line on 102 that can handle all this additional electrical that will be put into the grid. So it appears to be a good project and with technology that will allow us to start looking into it if the Board wishes to move forward.

Chairman McGrath then said I have a couple of questions that I want to jump in. Selectman Roy then spoke up saying, Madam Chair, can I just ask a couple of questions just so I'm clear? The Chairman replied oh, sure. Go ahead. Selectman Roy then said, Mr. Dhima, I just want to be clear. So essentially, this company, whatever company we go with, if we go with a company, would lease the lease the property, essentially and either we get we get rent money essentially, or we get in-kind service through the electrical for all of our town facilities. Am I is that that is the correct understanding? Mr. Dhima replied, That is exactly. You got that correct, Selectman Roy. That's exactly it. You could have two of those options could be exactly what you said. Yes.

Selectman Roy then said, okay. Now, is that just town or would you, would would you would the School District also be part of that? Mr. Dhima replied that's a great question. And I you know, we can explore into that. But I will say this to your point, if the school can jump on this and can be part of it even better, that would love to see that the more the merrier. And what you will see as a School Department is a reduction on your bill. If there is a facility there big enough to provide additional power on addition to what the town side needs, whatever there might be produced there, let's just say there's 3.5MW and we use 2 or 2 and a half and the one they'll be looking for a customer if the school signs up for that. Absolutely. Yes. The more the merrier. Mr. Gasdia replied, great. Mr. Dhima added, so the school can benefit from this as well. And they can give the savings to us. No, I'm just kidding. But yeah, no, we can both benefit. From this? Yes, this could be a joint thing. It will be driven by the town, but there's additional capacity there. Absolutely. That would love to see that. And that will be part of the negotiations. If we can bring two big customers to this,

that would be ideal. Does that answer your question? Selectman Roy replied, it does. Thank you. Mr. Dhima replied you got it.

Chairman McGrath then said by the way, just I should have asked this at the beginning of the meeting. You don't have anyone in the room with you Kara? Selectman Roy replied, I do not.

Chairman McGrath then said I have a couple of questions for you. Number one, when they capped the landfill, they expressly told us that nothing could be on top of it, that any damage to it could cause the capping to have to be replaced. And that cost, I think, in the millions of dollars at the time. So how are we going to avoid that? Mr. Dhima replied there will be an engineering done to this and this will have to go through the state wastewater management review as well. So they'll have to sign off on it on top of us signing off on this. So it will be reviewed by all the agencies that have to do with the landfill. And we'll make sure that obviously that's not compromised. My understanding is that they do not use earth screws for areas, obviously that have a membrane that's only for the air that they do not. So the way they station these solar panels over landfills are completely different than what they do off of a landfill. I can tell you that we will not be the first one doing this and this has been done and proven. But to answer your question will be approved by us and the state agencies involved with the landfill. We all have to sign off on it to make sure we're okay. So we will make sure that this is done right. Chairman McGrath asked how are they going to, once it's installed, are they going to be able to do testing to determine whether or not it's been breached? The covering? Mr. Dhima replied, Yeah, we'll be monitoring this. What you would see is obviously, if you don't put any anchors in, that's one thing. But settlement, things of that sort. It's my understanding that the solar panels are not as heavy as they used to be. They're way more efficient. Another thing that we heard during the you know, the research phase is that they last more than 10 to 15 years. Now they're looking at 10 to 25 years. Some of the new generations are going as far as 30 years. So these things are much better than they used to be five, ten, 15 years ago. But that all will be evaluated at the time of the the time of the evaluating the proposal. And as I said, this will probably take about 12 to 18 months if we go through.

Chairman McGrath then said so the other question that I have two more questions for you. The solar panels, from my understanding, they do damage to birds that may land, it kills them. Are you aware of that and what type of impact is that going to have on? You know, I don't know if people care about birds, you know, but it's part of our our system, our, you know, our lives. Mr. Dhima replied yeah. It will go through the environmental review. We I am not aware, you know, that this will be this will be close to the surface area. This will not be sticking out or way above This will be close to the ground. If there's a bird that, you know, hits them pretty hard, you know, they'll be the end of it. It's not any different than hitting my back door. Chairman McGrath replied, not it's not it's the heat from them. Mr. Dhima replied oh the heat from them. Yeah, I'm not sure, but we're all doing it. It's being done everywhere. It's something we need to look into. There's no endangered species in there that I'm aware of. So again, they'll probably be part of an environmental review that they have to go through. I think if we look into this and start getting through the review process, all of these will come up and will probably be answered. And if they don't get answered, it probably won't go through. Again, we're not going to install anything until it hits all the check marks and then there will be a long process.

Chairman McGrath then said then the last question I have is, are these solar panels, are they going to be if there's a heavy hail storm such as what happened out in Nebraska? I think it's Nebraska, a couple of weeks ago, is it going to cause damage to them? Because Nebraska lost a lot of the solar panel panels were ruined. And so thus people lost their electricity because they were depending on them for. Mr. Dhima replied so to answer your question and thank you for asking that, because I want to piggyback on your question a little bit, too. What happens if they get damaged or what happens when the lease is done? They own the equipment 100%. It is up to them to keep it up to date to make sure that things get replaced, to make sure that they get in 100% out of these panels. And when that lease is over, they will be responsible for removing every single component of this outside of our land. In film. There will be a part of that agreement that will have in place. So it's not on us. If they have a reduction in that, it will be up to them to make up the difference or still pay us the money they owe us. But it will be to their interest to make sure that these things are up to date and they're running 100%. Chairman McGrath asked but what would

happen if something a storm, a catastrophic storm like that hit took out the electric for all of the customers that were getting their electricity through that system and who's responsible for getting it back up and running? And how long would it take them? Because that's the other thing. I mean, it's one thing to be without electricity for a few hours. It's quite different when it's days or weeks. So.

Mr. Dhima replied this this will be an add on. That's why it's called a farm, albeit add on to the system and basically be put into the system and available for the customers will be there if there's damage there, 100% responsible for fixing it. If there's any issues as far as customers getting the electricity or not, that is between them and Eversource not on us. We're simply saying if there's power being generated at this site, we'll buy it from you at a reduced rate. That's it. So there is nothing here that's going to impact us if there's a catastrophic event.

Mr. Twardosky added it's adding to energy reserves. I'm sorry, it's adding to energy reserves in the grid. It's the grid. So it's not going to go specifically to certain residences or certain buildings. It just goes into the grid as a reserve. And then, so if something was to happen to it, even if the whole system went down, Eversource would still supply power to those facilities.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said and so just and it's probably already been said, but there's no outlay to us of anything, of any of any costs up front, right? Mr. Dhima replied correct. Correct. There's no commitment to us until the very end when we have exactly what the Board is going to decide to do, either take the money or commit to a rate that's going to provide absolutely nothing. Selectman Guessferd then said no cost up front or anything. So I just want to clarify that, make sure that that's clear. Mr. Dhima replied yes, this is 100% on a company that's willing to put a significant amount of capital in this town to make sure that they can generate. Yes.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and he said you touched on it briefly, but I just want to make sure. So the way the land lease will be structured is that equipment, it would be on them 100% to have that removed, not after the end of the lease, but prior to the end of the lease. So that way, who was ever here will be able to go complete their inspection, make sure they fulfill the lease in its entirety and then if you want to release to them, renew whatever, that would be an option as well. Mr. Dhima replied, yes, that will be all worked out if we come to an agreement that has a solid design and is worth pursuing. But absolutely. Yes.

Selectman Dumont then said, and then the other thing that I had again, this will probably be something that you get an answer on later down the road, but impacts on fire. Solar panels get extremely hot and they burn. And when they typically when they start to burn, they're hard to put out. There have been any communication about that or do we have the system available? I mean, I'm not the one to speak on that. Selectman Morin if you would know or chief in the back. But obviously we just want to make sure that we're not. Mr. Dhima replied my take on it is we haven't had anything that I'm aware of. Obviously, it's an issue if there is a fire on a roof. Selectman Dumont replied I'm talking about the methane gas below it. Mr. Dhima replied it's a good point. You bring that up. It's not to the point that we collect the methane gas. We take samples of them. We monitor it. Absolutely. But there's not a facility such as Nashua where they're actually collecting it and burning it to heat the facility. There's none of those over there. Are they going to get hot? Sure. I don't know. I'll find out when I put my hand in there eventually and try it out. But we're not aware of anything like that. There is risk to everything. Absolutely. But I'm hoping that during the review process and the permitting process, which the state will also be involved, that we can answer all these. What I do know is that we won't be the first one and we won't be the last one to deal with these.

Selectman Dumont replied and that's why I bring them now, because I just was hoping that, you know, later on down the line we can get the answer. But obviously we want to make sure you have something in place so that way you're not stressing our fire department any more than than it already is.

Mr. Dhima replied I know they're always looking for like special shoes to get on this thing. So we'll get them some dancing shoes. No, just kidding. I you know, I do know there's a 12 inch main over there that's on the West Road. And I don't know if that's something that needs to be looked into, but I will, you know, and or

we can ask that question during the review process, during the interviewing. How do you handle this? How do you handle it at other? I'm sure we're not the first one asking that question, but that's a good question. Absolutely. Selectman Dumont replied either put in a pump system or a cistern or something along that lines just to I mean, I don't know what's over there. Again, the Chief be able to speak for it, but just I just want to throw it out there to make. Mr. Dhima replied everything is buried over there. If it doesn't get adjacent to trash, collectibles and all that, the question is, is it going to be like a forest once one takes off and off it goes. It is you know, it is fuel-based product. Those are all good questions. I think we can ask that during the interview process, to be honest with you. We don't have to wait that long because I'd like to know up front before we even get into it, we're not wasting anyone's time.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said I just wanted to state the way everything's going. The 25 year lease is it will most likely get extended or somebody else if it's working. They're going to keep making money. They're going to stay, you know what I mean? So that that's and there are I know there's a very large one in Tyngsboro, Londonderry, Lowell. So it's not this is not anything new. Selectman Dumont replied Yeah. No, I just feel like it's a question you want out there. Selectman Morin replied oh, no, no, absolutely. And related to the the fires, I know before I left, we had training on solar panels. But, you know, because you got them on the roofs now and I'm going to assume the Chief's here and can, but it's going to be the same. You shut the power off. It's a fire. You don't shut the power off well you're in trouble. Mr. Dhima added just don't put the fire out with the with the water, that's all. Shut it off manually. Yeah, those are all good questions. I think we can answer them. I think will be a good interview process and we'll see where it goes. But it appears a lot of them are doing it and I think there is some revenue to be collected here and it's a feel good project too. I mean, it is one of those things that everyone is kind of trying to be part of, and I think it's time for us to as well to jump on that.

Seeing no further questions from the Board, Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to authorize the Town Engineer to advertise for the Request for Qualifications related to solar farms at the West Road Transfer Station. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 4-0-1. Selectman McGrath abstained from voting.

Chairman McGrath asked anyone willing to make a motion to establish a qualification based selection committee consisting of the Town Administrator, Public Works Director, Town Engineer and a Board member. Selectman Morin was recognized and said I'd hate to do this to you (Selectman Guessferd), but where the Sustainability Committee has already been working on this, they have quite a bit of knowledge either a member of their Board or the Selectmen rep be that rep on this committee due to the fact that they've been sitting and being involved in this. Selectman Guessferd spoke up saying. No need. All right. All right. I was thinking the same thing. Selectman Morin made this motion and Selectman Dumont seconded it. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 4-0-1. Selectman McGrath abstained from voting.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to appoint Selectman Guessferd to serve on the selection committee. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said Before they leave, just a question on related to this. The construction going on by Dunkin Donuts on Lowell Road where they're digging up. Is that the new exit? Mr. Dhima replied I've nothing to do with that. We have started there's a few projects out there. We are starting to post traffic signs related to the widening of Lowell Road. This year we're going to be doing Flagstone to the ramp. So you're going to see a lot of construction in front of the plaza that was recently built. And next year we're going to tackle Haffner's all the way down to Flagstone. We're hoping while we're doing this construction that we get the mast arms in time. Again, we're looking at about six months delay for these. We've getting a lot of emails, so thank you for asking. We are projecting to be done with that project in August 2024. The state has being really good. I'm pleased to tell you that we're in the process of getting final approval for doing additional paving from that project and incorporating some of the paving program pieces that we had in through this project because it was adjacent to it covered by the state 80%. So we're benefiting a little bit from perfect timing between the Public Works paving program and our projects being adjacent to it. So it's a win win. And again, if the state picks up the 80% of it even better. So that's at play. We should not see too much of a traffic impact because everything is going to be off the road. But you will

start seeing jersey barriers installation along the fog line. Be aware we are going to have to deal with some streetlights issues out there because they need to be offline. So we'll have to figure that out. But we are go on that project finally only took about five years and this was supposed to be an easy one. Yeah, we're ago. It's locked in. Locked and loaded. You're going to see some serious activity out there. Thank you for your question. Have a great night. Thank you very much.

#### D. Resignation of Probationary Firefighter/EMT

Chairman McGrath recognized Fire Chief Scott Tice. Chief Tice said Good evening, everyone. On July 23rd, I received an email from Probationary Firefighter Devin Rodriguez stating that he was resigning from the Department effective immediately. We had him come in the next day, sit down with myself and the two Deputy Chiefs to try to hear his thoughts. And in essence, he said that he didn't appreciate the level of supervision he was receiving. He thought it was too much. I think his lieutenants and the senior people who was working with were doing what they're expected to do, brand new employee. They're expected to be supervised closely. He didn't he didn't like it. He didn't feel that this was going to be a good fit for him. So he decided to decided to resign immediately. I'm just glad that he decided that this was going to be the best move for him now because it gives us a chance to bring his replacement in next month. And I plan to be here at your next meeting with a recommendation for his replacement.

Seeing no questions or comments, Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to accept the notice to resign from Probationary Firefighter/EMT Devin Rodriguez effective July 23, 2023, and withhold the payout of the remaining earned time he has available. Selectman Roy was recognized and said just one question withholding his payout, is that something that we do? Is that policy when somebody doesn't give notice is that we will withhold that payout? The Town Administrator replied, it's in contract. So that's. Rated. So if you give less than a two-week notice, it would be prorated based on the notice you give. So if you resign immediately, you typically forfeit any time on the books. That's a decision you make, not us. Selectman Roy replied, okay. Seeing no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

#### E. 2023 9/11 Observance

It's hard to believe, but we're going to be coming up on September, so I'd just like to get this out ahead of everybody so we can advertise and schedule everything. But this is the annual 9/11 observance this year. 9/11 will be on Monday. So that's typical. We typically hold this at 6:30 at night so people working can attend on the weekends. We'll hold it early in the day, but on weeknights we do it at 6:30. So what I'm recommending is we hold it the Annual Town of Hudson 911 observance on Monday, September 11th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Benson Park. It's a very well attended event, and I think it's become a tradition for everybody to attend. And it's typically a draft agenda which follow the same basic program that we follow every year. So I just want to get it going so we can at least get the word out.

Chairman McGrath asked, anybody have any questions? Comments? Selectman Roy Questions or comments? Selectman Roy replied other than other than to note that you have the year wrong on the motion on the 2022. The Town Administrator replied that's what you get when you type something. When you come back from a day from vacation, you're in the wrong year. The motion has it correct though, on Selectman McGrath's script. Chairman McGrath said I did read it. I thought I don't think I read it into the title, the title of it. So who's willing to make a motion to hold the annual town of Hudson 911 observance on Monday, September 11th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Benson Park. Selectman Morin made this motion and Selectman Guessferd seconded it. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

#### F. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Parameters

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia, who said, so even though we're still in August, budget season is approaching. We typically, departments typically get going pretty much in September. But it's always the Board provides some sort of direction, what they want to see from the departments. So I've put together a memo that I typically put together with some sort of recommendation. And again, we were very grateful that we received a budget last year that passed the voters. The previous two years with default budgets. And I don't think we can take anything for granted. I think we still are in some rough or maybe, maybe difficult economic times. Inflation still hasn't totally gone away. Interest rates have gone up. So if I'm looking at it, I know I'm being conservative, but I think level fund budgets other than the labor and benefits. So we have had contracts, labor contracts that have passed benefit costs go up. We've always let that flow through the budget. But for the rest of the operating budget, which to put it in perspective, is about 29% of the budget. So labor is about 71%. All the stuff that you can control is about 29%. When I say control, that's not labor or benefits. And of that, 2.7 million is your trash contract. So you really have about \$7.3 million that you have any real modicum of control over. And that counts. Fuel paving, that's everything soup to nuts for all the departments. So again, I might be conservative, but I'm always trying to think of what's coming. We know we're going to have a Firefighter contract. We know we're going to have a Public Works contract. I don't know what else might be proposed for warrants, but the taxpayer expects us to really watch that. Bottom line. And I think I know it's not easy, but if you issue that direction, things outside of the budget or major initiatives or major projects can be identified as they have been in the past, and the Board can then deliberate what they want to add or not add to the budget or what they might want to put to a warrant article.

Again, I might be being conservative, but I'm very happy that we got a budget this year and I don't want to take it for granted. That's my recommendation. But again, I think you need to give the departments some direction. So as we start thinking and working on this, we have some direction to go.

Chairman McGrath asked anybody have any questions? Comments? Selectman. Roy, any questions or comments? Yeah, I, um. I think that we should, we should have a very modest increase. Like, I'm talking, like, 1%, 1.5%. Um, we did have two default budgets. I understand that. I'm guessing the departments are still trying to make up for that and they have to deal with the increased costs of everything. So I think to give them some breathing room and to help them move forward, we should we should do, again, a very modest increase in the budget.

Chairman McGrath asked, anyone else have any comments in relation to that?

Selectman Morin was recognized and asked if the Board would be okay with it. Could we have two chiefs come up for a minute? If everybody's good with that? Then, upon seeing Mr. Twardosky in the audience, Selectman Morin had him come forward too. You guys went through it for two years. Honest opinion. Where you at? Where you see things going? I understand where Mr. Malizia is coming from, but I also see Kara, because you're still behind two years. So really hearing from you guys. Chief Tice replied, really three, you know, the two default budgets and then a level funded budget, it's going to be very tight. We've been very conservative. We were very conservative last year to be able to come into where we were going to have to be very conservative this year to come and where we to make sure that we get to the end of the year without running out of money, depending upon, Yeah, inflation is not as bad as it was. Fuel costs seem to have at least stabilized. So that's going to help. But we have to be very conservative. And one of the areas that I'm concerned about is training and our personnel development, which is one of the things I plan on coming in next year with some increases. And if we're level funded again, that just restricts what I'm able to do.

Chief Dionne then said I mean, just everything. Everything's going up. And it's really it's so I mean, today I got a bill for \$300 for two blood draws. I used to cost me, last year, it cost me \$40 for two blood draws. This year is \$300. That's how, like, everything seems to be. It's difficult. And, you know, last year, I held back on hiring people all year long to try to get through a huge spike in inflation, a huge spike in costs for everything. This year I'm trying to get to, I'd love to get to full staff and, you know, I'm still trying to do that

strategically because I'm still worried about the cost of just about everything that we deal with operationally. So, you know, to Selectman Roy's point, it would be nice to have a little bit of breathing room. And then, of course, for me personally, we have the the expanse of, you know, the expansion, obviously. I mean, those are things I can I can bring to the Board outside of the budget. But, you know, obviously there's going to be increased costs with managing a facility that's increased by 6000ft<sup>2</sup>.

Mr. Twardosky said we've seen certain costs climb 100% certain when there's snow fighting equipment. Sanders We did a sander replacement. Just last year, they went up from \$19,000 to \$36,000 a piece for the exact same unit. Drug testing, federally mandated drug testing has gone up quite a bit. Just everything across the board. Our building's going to start needing a lot of maintenance. It's 23 years old this year. You know, we're still we still have the original roof. Most of the bay heaters in the garage are original. A lot of the flooring is original. There's a number of costs that we're going to have to start looking at in the next year or two.

Selectman Morin replied saying, so so what I just heard is this extra money won't get you anything else. It's just going to try to bring you even to where you're at because you're taking money from other places or doing without because you have no money. Correct? Chief Tice replied yeah. For us on the training side, we're going without. That's probably the biggest area that we're suffering.

Selectman Morin replied my only concern is. As we do have two contracts and the contract that's very important. And we can't afford to lose anybody else. And at some point we're going to have to do something somewhere and something's going to have to give. That's the only issue. And I don't want the contract to give. Chief Tice replied no, that's going to be very important for the stability of our workforce. Selectman Morin asked 1%, what does that do to you? The Town Administrator replied \$95,000. \$0.02 on the tax rate. \$0.02. 2% is \$190,000 \$0.04 and 3% is \$285,000, which is \$0.06. So you're adding that to the tax rate. Just keep that in the back of your mind. But those are the numbers. What does \$95,000 do for the organization? I don't know. I don't think it buys a heck of a lot.

Selectman Dumont replied I'm going to be honest. The two years on default budget and then the being fortunate enough to get the budget passed this most recent year tells me that the voters are very clear on how they want money to be spent. I don't see the \$95,000 increase given the support that you guys truly need, that one 1.5%. I just don't see it actually creating that much of a benefit for me. I think it should be level funded for this year. It was more expensive to run things the past few years through Covid. I know it was difficult. I'm not taking that away from anybody, but I think that you've got to ease into these things. And I don't think that doing an increase like that, especially something that's really not going to create that much of a benefit, is a good idea. That's my opinion.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said, there's I'm, I'm torn on this because our taxpayers have sent us messages over the last several years and, you know, to increase this, you know, \$95,000, okay. It's something that doesn't even amount to the surface paving that you were talking about earlier. Okay So it's not going to have marked difference there. But but it's there's the message that goes along with it. If we are going to increase, which should be very modest. And I am also of the opinion that last year we we told the division or the Department Heads to come back and say, okay, we level funded it, but here's what we really need for the Public Works they came in with requests for materials, you know, for increased dollars for that. And I'd say that if we go level funded that you've really got to let us know, like for training, right? This is what I need for training. I've level funded it, but I have, I need this for training. If we decide to go that route, even with the 1%, you're still going to have to come to us with certain requests and say, I need this. Whether it's 1% increase or whether it's a it's a level funded level funded sends a message to the to the to the public that, you know, we're especially in this town in this time, that we are trying to be as fiscally responsible as we can. The last thing we need is another default budget. So there's that piece of it.

Selectman Guessferd went on to say, but I really if we if we do go, no matter what we do, 1% or level funded again, I think we need to understand where the real needs are and so that we can look at it and decide do we put it back into the budget during our budget deliberations, or do we put it in as a warrant or whatever, whatever it is? But I think it needs to be very visible to us as to and I hate to say as to where that

that pain is, you know, for you. And and we're not from my perspective, we're not looking to squeeze you. I know. I know. You're being squeezed no matter what, whether we say 1% or whether we say level funded, it's to me it's more of a message than anything else. It's really not. You're right. I mean, it's not a big benefit, but maybe it's the message. I have one other thing I wanted to have the School District, talked about this at all yet on your on your side. Mr. Gasdia asked as far as? Selectman Guessferd replied I'll call them your department heads or your? Mr. Gasdia replied so yeah, so we did have a conversation at our, at our workshop meeting and you know, we operate a little bit differently than the town. A bigger portion of ours is salary and benefits. What we really are asking our District to come to is what do we need really, what is directly impacting the students and the staff and then what's everything else. And we and we want to direct that there. But we've also, we've also asked, which is a little bit different than the direction you are going here sort of make us be the bad guys on the School Board, because what we found on our side was everybody cuts before they get to us. And then we ask that final question. If you had another dollar, where would you spend? And it's again, we wish we had another math teacher. We wish we had another. So we're sort of asking them to come in with all that stuff and then we'll cut. But I think similar to to you, I don't think there's an appetite in the town for a big increase on the school side either. And we have a couple of we have two contracts that are going to be on the ballot as well. Plus, I haven't seen it, but we usually have a roof every year, so I'm sure there'll be a roof out there and a paving contract or or something like that. But but yeah, no, we're not looking we're not giving the same type of direction. But I think the end result will be a very modest budget as well.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said to Selectman Guessferd's point I can tell you this may have been just a different year, but the amount of drainage issues that we have run into this year that they're going to have to deal with. I don't know how much time you guys have spent this summer with complaints, emails, streets are flooding everywhere and it has shown how bad our drainage system is because we've gotten away with it all this year. Finally, it's caught up to us, so I know that's going to be a large expense coming in from them. The Town Administrator said maybe a warrant article. Let me people directly vote on it. Selectman Morin replied that's what I'm saying. Selectman Dumont added, I think that's the way it should go. Selectman Morin replied, yeah, that's what I'm saying is, you know, it may be better off to go level funded and go a warrant article. Because the amount of people right now that are worried about drainage that probably going to pass. I'll tell you. Selectman Dumont added, I think people would appreciate that more to to understand that we stood by what that tax rate was and giving them the option to spend the money.

Chairman McGrath asked, Selectman Roy, do you have anything you'd like to add? To which Selectman Roy replied, I don't. thank you.

Chairman McGrath said I think that sadly, I think that we the warrant article is probably the better way to approach the needs, the real needs that you have. And because it gives the voters an option of whether or not they support it or they don't, and instead of, again, not approving the budget and, you know, level funding everything, it's just, you know, it's unfair to do that again to all of the department heads and to Steve that have to try to maneuver that. And I'm losing my voice. So excuse me, but.

The Town Administrator then said, again. It's just a place to start. You need to give some direction. But again, you've always had the, you've always allowed everybody with major initiatives. So if Chief Tice needs training. He needs to identify that training. If the DPW needs to do drainage, they can identify and you can send it to a warrant article if you'd like. If Chief Dionne has some need for the facility, you can either again add it to the budget or put some sort of warrant articles out there. I don't want to do everything by warrant article. I don't want to put training on a warrant article. I don't think that's the right way to do it. No, no. The larger capital sort of things, you can point at it. People have the choice and assuming they vote yes because they know it's in their best interest, They vote yes. They vote no. I'm sorry. This is what I can't do this year.

Chairman McGrath asked, what about increasing for the Police Department or the Fire Department if or even Jay's department if they need additional staff? The Town Administrator replied so if you go over and above and add to the actual total headcount, you typically put that through a warrant article. So we've

added four firefighters, for example, across the shifts, that's been a warrant. when we've added police. I think recently, a couple of years ago, we added DPW or someone to the DPW. For the first time in a long time. Those are typically done through a warrant article unless you're replacing someone or maybe pivoting someone, but you're adding if you have 52 sworn officers, you want 54 those to go to a warrant article. And the voters decide. And the voters, to be frank, have been very reasonable with us. If you keep it reasonable.

Selectman Morin replied well see that. And that's the problem, is keeping it reasonable. Because if you look look at the Fire Department training, manpower, contract, what's the one we're going to pick? Because we can't put all three of those and then three of the Chiefs and three of Jay's because then we're not going to get that's that's the where the 1% would give them a little wiggle room. But I don't know if we're going to make it. That's the problem. Either way. We're not going to get anywhere, unfortunately. And it's it's going to be you got to tell us what's most important. And, you know, because we're not going to win either way.

Chairman McGrath replied but I think I mean, I think that the residents have been very generous with the Fire Department. I mean, they recognize the need for a good fire department, a good police department, a good DPW. So, I mean, it's just all of the extra things that they may not appreciate, but they certainly appreciate. But they certainly appreciate the first responders. And and I would put you in that category because when there's a snowstorm or the septic or not the septic, but the sewer system stops working and people are, you know, up to their ankles and sludge, I mean, no, but that's the truth. And then they they're really looking for you. So I think that people recognize when there's something that's really necessary and when there's something that's not necessary, it's just I want type of thing. So,

Selectman Roy, do you have anything? Selectman Roy replied, no, I have nothing else. It's a difficult thing.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said no I was just going to say, I think that this is just a good starting point. And again, we're going to go through, identify some major, major if there's any major problems, and then just don't hesitate to bring it forward and see what we can do. But either way, I think it's a good starting point. And I think the public would agree there since the way they've operated the past 2 or 3 years.

Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to direct Department Heads to submit level funded budgets exclusive of labor and benefits for their proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budgets. Any other major items or new initiatives or warrant articles shall be submitted separately for the Board's consideration. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

#### G. Joint Town/School Meeting

Chairman McGrath began by saying, Mr. Gasdia and I had a discussion before the meeting started. How does everybody feel about having I mean, we looked at the schedule. Steve looked at the schedule that we have. And we can't we just don't have the time for the week that Chairman Whiting suggested. So is there any other time that that we should try to meet or is it is it something that we can put off until either later in the later in the fall or the beginning of next year?

Selectman Morin replied, I would I think we should do it. I know Selectman Guessferd said you were unavailable on the 14th. Selectman Guessferd replied on the 14<sup>th</sup>. No, but I think I agree. Selectman Morin replied then just looking at my calendar, I believe I'm leaving on the 14th, so I wouldn't be available either on the 14th.

Chairman McGrath replied I don't have my calendar with me, but I know I looked at it and I think we had three meetings scheduled for that. The Town Administrator replied you have events that week. You have the 9/11. You have, I believe, the Planning Board meeting. There's a Selectmen meeting. You have a very

busy week. Just pointing that out to everybody. You may want to look at the two weeks after that. I think that'd be the 21st and the 28th. The 28th would be two weeks later, kind of right before you get to the budget season, i.e. before you start meeting with the budget folks from departments. Maybe that's a more amenable time for everybody, maybe the 27th or the 28th. I'm not going to speak for the School, but I just think you have a very busy week. That one week, it's pretty intense for people. And if other folks are going to be out of town. Chairman McGrath replied, not only that, but we have we're going to have that September 5th meeting as well. To which the Town Administrator replied you have a lot at the beginning of the month. So maybe towards the latter part of the month would be better. The only reason I say that because October then gets to be budget month. Chairman McGrath replied and then we're going to be really busy.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said I was going to say I'd be available for either one of those times at the end of September if anybody would like to meet. Selectman Morin replied, I'm available for the 28th. To which Selectman Guessferd replied, I am too. Selectman Roy replied I'm available too. That's fine. The Town Administrator then said So maybe communicate that back and if the School's available, Chairman Whiting can speak to Chairman McGrath and we'll set something up.

School Board Representative Gasdia replied, so we're thinking September 28th as the date. The Town Administrator replied, that's a Thursday. I believe it's two weeks after this, Thursday after the 14th.

Selectman Roy then said so I have I do have a question. It's sort of related. Are we doing a meeting with the Budget Committee? The Town Administrator replied No, I don't I don't think we are. I don't believe there's one. I don't believe that there is a meeting with the Budget Committee. Maybe I'm wrong. Selectman Morin replied no, I don't think there was ever a an agreement between the Board or the School Board at the Budget Committee meeting that there was any agreement on that meeting. Selectman Roy replied, okya. All right. I just wanted to make sure.

Mr. Gasdia explained, originally the plan was for October 14th. We were going to have a joint meeting and the District was talking about a minute ago was going to present everything. And it was initially agreed upon on in April. But at the recent meeting, the they decided not to do it. So we're just going to have our normal budget. Selectman Guessferd asked the School Board? To which Mr. Gasdia replied, no the Budget Committee decided. Selectman Morin then said let me make it clear, they made it clear it's two separate meetings. It's not the same thing. What they were doing and what they wanted to do with us is two totally different things.

The Town Administrator then said so I guess the consensus would be to propose a joint meeting with the School Board for the evening of Thursday, September 28th. That way we're proposing it consensus that way, if the School does it, we confirm it up after we hear back from them.

Selectman Morin then said, just so, what are the public is going to be able to come in and ask questions? The Town Administrator replied, I assume the format you did last year. Selectman Morin replied okay. I want to make that clear. Mr. Malizia then said, I'm not sure you want to do all the I don't know, you did some display things. I mean, I'm assuming you just want to give a state of the sort of the the union kind of. That's my understanding. I could be wrong, but the School Board would speak and your administration and then. Mr. Gasdia replied I think that's for the two Chairs to decide. I can give my non-School Board opinion just my Gary Gasdia opinion. I think the meeting portion of it where we try to have the Board of Selectmen and the School Board listen and ask questions of each other frankly, is a nice show, but there's not a lot that we can really do for each other. That's not the makeup of the town, right. What I heard last year was people enjoyed the ability to go in and talk to people and just sort of meet and greet and mingle and hear some things. And they did like that, you know, the folks from the town and the Superintendent and our Assistant Superintendents were there to answer some questions. So if it were me, I would make it simple and without a lot of heavy lifting and maybe there's a couple of minutes of, you know, the Superintendent gives a two minute state of the town and Mr. Malizia the other way around, sorry. The Town Administrator replied, I'll give two minutes. He'll give 20 minutes. Mr. Gasdia laughed and replied 20 minutes and ten pages of PowerPoint. The Town Administrator said that's what he did last year. Mr. Gasdia went on to say,

but two minutes each and then meet and greet and mingle. And that's what I would say is, is a done people can answer the questions and and it's light lifting on on the Chairs. It's light lifting on the employees that need to be there. But we're available for the town residents if they want that. That's my take. Selectman Morin replied, so basically what you're saying is, for lack of a better term, you set up a fire department station, a police department station, and they can go around the room and see whoever they want. Mr. Gasdia replied, whoever they want. You want to ask about DPW? They'll talk about DPW. And again, I don't think unless there's something specific like last year, I know the Police were there with here is going to be the renovation and all that. If any department wants to come with a big display, God bless you or if you just want to walk in and say, hey, I'd love to talk to the Fire Chief, great. What do you want to know? That's my take. I'm not speaking for the School Board. I'm just saying that's sort of my take on on how you can do it easily and accomplish the goals.

Chairman McGrath then said yeah you know, we all need to be cognizant of the employees like Chief Tice, Chief Dionne, Jay, all of the department heads that may be there. They've already worked a full day. And, you know, to require them to stay, you know, another 2 or 3 hours just to chitchat. I don't know that.

Selectman Roy spoke up saying, I don't think answering citizens questions is would be should be defined as chitchat. And, you know, I would say that that last year's format the feedback I got was very well received. So I kind of like the format, that format. Selectman Morin added and I think it's a good public relations for each department. And if people have got questions, they can get them. I mean, unfortunately, and I don't mean this in a bad way, but it's part of their duties. Chairman McGrath replied, well, but again, I'm just pointing out I'm pointing out the fact, you know, like these these three are they're sitting here. It's now 840. They've already put in a full day of work. I don't know where Scott Chief Tice lives and I don't know if Jay lives in town, but I think Chief Dionne has quite a drive ahead of him. Selectman Morin replied, they're all young. (Laughter from the room) Chairman McGrath replied so the only one that has sympathy for you is me. Selectman Morin replied, we'll give them a ride home if he needs it. How's that. Chairman McGrath said, Anyway, I just, you know, if people....Selectman Roy spoke up saying I don't that the actual chief has to be there, they could they could designate somebody that that presents well and can answer all the questions, you know, so it doesn't have to be the department head. It could be somebody else. Chairman McGrath replied, well, we'll let them decide if they want to be there or if they want to send someone in their place. The Town Administrator asked, so is that a consensus? To which the Board replied yes. Mr. Gasdia then said I'll have the Chair get in touch. Mr. Malizia replied, okay. Thank you.

Selectman Guessferd then said so no decision tonight. We'll just wait. Mr. Malizia replied just a consensus, because we were proposing something. We're not forcing it on them. We just want to make sure that they're amenable. We just proposed it to them.

#### 9. Board Liaison Reports/Other Remarks by Selectmen

Selectman Roy: I don't have anything, thank you.

Selectman Dumont: Just a couple of small things. Upcoming Benson Park meeting on the 17th. We've got an upcoming ZBA meeting on the 24th as well. And then, obviously, we've got Old Home Days this weekend. Hopefully everybody can go out and enjoy it and have a good time. That's it. Chairman McGrath replied, thank you for mentioning that because it's Thursday through Sunday, correct? Selectman Dumont replied, yes.

Selectman Guessferd: Okay. I'll try to keep this short. Planning board. We we have one case that we deferred what I told you about last time, the 84 lumber site over on Sullivan Sullivan Road. That's been deferred to next month, I believe it's going to be one of the meetings next month.

As far as the Rec, there's a number of things that have happened. The biggest thing I think we need to recognize is that there was 500 kids registered this year in the summer program. They broke records. That's the most they've ever had. And the program went great during the final weeks now. And they did a lot of great fun things. And there's going to be going to a Red Sox game this Thursday at 7 p.m. So a lot of kudos to the staff over there. And and Christy Peterson for just doing a great job with that. They had a summer cookout for the seniors. Tennis is just wrapped up and softball has been despite weather concerns and issues, the softball is getting ready to enter the playoffs and the women's league is currently in the playoffs. So with regard to Rec, that's what we have there.

Sustainability has not been a meeting since the last meeting, but since we met with them last time, they have submitted the electric aggregation plan to the Public Utilities Commission. We're waiting to hear back. So the idea is to hear back before our workshop with them.

And except for that, yeah, everybody come out and enjoy Old Home Days. National Night Out was a real success. Again, it was even bigger than last year. It continues to get bigger. There was more and more displays and people involved and and nonprofits that were out there. I hear the police took it on the chin again with the the water fight in the field. Selectman Morin said they cheated. I heard that they had shields. Selectman Guessferd replied they had shields this year. They still lost. But there was a lot of fun. The kids had a great time and there was a lot of different displays, so it was great. But Old Home Days, Thursday through Sunday, come on out. It's a great community event and actually there's not going to be a Planning Board meeting tomorrow due to some conflicts with some of the setting up and everything that they're doing for the the Old Home Days. So that's all I got.

Selectman Morin: There was a Budget Committee meeting. The schedule came out today. But there's going to be a couple changes because one of the dates is on Election Day and the other one was right when we got the books or something. Did you get it? The Town Administrator replied I saw something. Selectman Morin continued saying, yeah. So one of them, they've got a meeting scheduled on November 7th, which is Election Day. The Town Administrator said I put it on the eighth. It went back to the seventh. Selectman Morin continued saying so that will have to get changed. There's been a change. Last year, the Town went first for all the Budget Committee stuff and in the town meetings This year we're going first again because there was some scheduling issues that had to get dealt with. So the Town will be going first on both the Budget Committee presentations and the town the town meeting. They've requested a little bit more information about NRPC, and that is being worked on to get them that. And there was also on the general fund some questions on that that that's being worked on.

The Con Comm. meeting is next week, so I have nothing to report on that. But I do have a question. The those signs that we were going to get with the generators, did we get those or how is that moving? We I know we put in for a grant. Did that ever come forward? The Town Administrator replied you have to refresh my memory. Selectman Morin replied they had put in a grant to get those traffic signs. And what reminded me, I went up Derry Road the other day in Litchfield was advertising for police officers on it. From the audience Chief Tice replied, that's one of the things I'll be in next meeting for. Selectman Morin replied, okay, that's all I have. Thank you.

Chairman McGrath: I have no remarks. I'm going to save time this evening.

10. Remarks by Town Administrator

Town Administrator Steve Malizia was recognized and said, Well, I'm not going to mention Old Home Days because you're all covered it. Just real quick for the public. It's I know it's getting out there. It's definitely on HCTV. It's on the Web page. Comcast is moving some channels around, I think like right about now. So Channel 20, which was the public channel, is going to be Channel 6. Channel 21, which is the Education Channel is going to Channel 8. We are Channel 22. We are staying the same because I guess seven is not available. So you've got 6, 8 and 22. Just when people are looking for the various meetings that they've come accustomed to, it's being advertised on Facebook, it's on social media, it's on our Web page, it's on HCTV. But just put it out there. And the only other thing is the annual audit. The auditors are here this week. So that's going on. Finance Department is supporting that. And so far, so good. So the annual audit is going on.

Selectman Morin spoke up saying, I just forgot one thing. On Saturday at 1:30 p.m., there was quite the lineup for the dunk tank, which would be Selectman Dumont, the Town Engineer, Elvis, the Town Planner and myself. So anybody that wants to we're there. That'll be Saturday at 1:30 p.m. Selectman Dumont replied I didn't want to entice a crowd, but. Selectman Morin replied trust me. It's already around.

11. Remarks by School Board

School Board member Gary Gasdia was recognized and said, A couple things. As I always say, we're looking for people. So if you want anyone to work for the District, we have plenty of jobs, especially in the non-teaching space, whether it's the paras, whether its lunch monitors, coaches, etcetera. Go to our website and take a look. We saw tonight earlier the Superintendent was here with Chief Dionne. Great partnership there. We have a fantastic partnership with the Fire Department and the DPW. But if you watched last night's School Board meeting or if you've driven by Alvirne recently, you may notice that our driveway at the CTE Center has basically washed out. And so there's a lot of work that needs to be done there. And what what came out when we were hearing about that is the amazing work where the DPW was there, the Town Engineer was there able to actually go in with the pipes and see exactly what happened. And that partnership was invaluable because the reality is that would have all been money that the taxpayers would have needed to pay had we gone out and had to find a service to go do that. And so it really is a great collaboration with really every department across the board. And this week we saw that.

And then I'll just end with some good news. If you've been on Facebook or WMUR, you've seen this, but being in the right place at the right time and a surprise visit to the Alvirne field last week, you know, Rob Gronkowski and Dan Ninkovich of of football fame just came because they wanted to throw a 60 yard pass and surprise the kid in the barn and said, hey, can we do this And and next thing you know the Alvirne field is famous. So, you know great great experience, great experience for them. You know, as I said to the Superintendent, you invite me to all these boring things. You couldn't tell me that Rob Gronkowski was coming to the field, but he said he did not know, so I'll give him a pass. But that was a great experience for, for that, for our for our student there. So we'll end on that high note. Chairman McGrath replied that will be a lifelong memory for him.

12. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Morin at 8:51 p.m., seconded by Selectman Dumont 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. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Nonpublic Session was entered at 8:51 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 10:15 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session:

1. Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to promote Eric Dionne to the position of Public Works Sewer/Drain Supervisor, with a salary of \$107,567, step 5, of the Hudson Supervisors Association contract. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.
2. Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to promote Dan Clarke Jr. to the position of Street Foreman, with a starting salary of \$40.11, grade xvi, step 9, of the Hudson Public Works Employee Association contract, effective August 13, 2023. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.
3. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to hire Verlaine Swazelle Doyle as a full time Police Officers, with a starting rate of \$27.98, step 1, in accordance with the Hudson Police Employee Association contract. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.
4. Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to allow IT Director John Beike to buy back 250 hours of earned time. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.
5. Selectman Morin made a motion to adjourn at 10:18p.m. this was seconded by Selectman Guessferd. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:18 p.m. by Selectman Morin seconded by Selectman Guessferd. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

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

---

Marilyn McGrath, Chairman

---

Dave Morin, Vice Chairman

---

Bob Guessferd, Selectman

---

Kara Roy, Selectman

---

Dillon Dumont, Selectman