

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the October 24, 2023 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Vice-Chairman Morin the meeting of October 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Deputy Fire Chief Francis Enos

3. ATTENDANCE

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

Chairman Marilyn McGrath had an excused absence this evening.

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Elvis Dhima, Town Engineer; Scott Tice, Fire Chief; Fran Enos, Deputy Fire Chief; Jim Paquette, Deputy Fire Chief; Lisa Labrie, Finance Director; Beth McKee, Town Accountant; Gary Gasdia, School Board Member; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT

1) John Hayes, Litchfield Resident, Secretary of Southern NH RC Club

Name is John Hayes. I live in Litchfield. I'm the secretary of the Southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club, and I would like to speak to the Radio Control Club versus the solar at the landfill. My time in radio control started back when I was a junior at Alvirne back in '71. And I've been in this world of radio control ever since. And the history of the Club kind of goes back when I started with the Club, we were flying at the Kashalanas Farm down at the end of Executive Drive in Hudson, down by the river, looked to the left and the Friary was right there. So we go back quite far. We we had a flying site also down in Pepperell at the Pepperell flying at the jumper school, and that we had to leave there for obvious reasons. Airplanes and jumpers don't mix. We also had a field in Nashua called the Hall Farm. It was taken over for developers. They turned it into condos or houses. We had a field in in Bedford and that was also given up for houses and and such. And finally, before the Hudson site, we were in Litchfield and that's now a golf course. So again, developers took the land and we lost. So we're sincerely hoping, after all the work that's gone into the site in Hudson, that we get to stay. We've been there for 23 years. We've done a lot of work developing it. We've done a lot of work with the FAA, and I've gone through and I've done some some math. Based on the \$210,000 that's expected for revenue from the solar panels, and that winds up looking like \$0.70 a month for each resident of the town. And if you take the 2.67 that the census says people per household that winds up being \$2.67 a month is what they'll realize from that \$210,000. I would like to think that what we do is worth something because we can we can contribute to the town. We've been asked to stay low profile over the years, and we certainly have. Many of you probably didn't even know we were there, but we'd like to be able to offer to the town our as a resource, the club. So that's, you know, that's that's what I have to say. And I'm hoping you'll take that into consideration when you make your decision.

Selectman Roy spoke up saying, I have a quick question. How much space do you need to to run your operation? Mr. Hayes replied, well, we we fly off the top of the landfill. We have two runways up there and a helipad. And we operate those two runways and we've got shelters up there. We keep our tractor there, we maintain the site. It's manicured, you know, so it's well taken care of. We've also been eyes and ears for the recycling center down below. If anybody came in after hours we would let the the Public Works know. So we've been a resource in many ways.

Vice-Chairman Morin then said, I don't know if you can answer this question, but do you guys have an event coming up? Mr. Hayes replied, oh, we just had an event a couple of weeks ago. Yes. We wanted to just make sure you could still go with that this year. Vice-Chairman Morin replied, that's why we're asking. Mr. Hayes replied you know we we had a couple of weeks ago, but we, we, you know, keep trying to have events. It's tough scheduling around the weather that we've been having this summer. But yes, we do.

Vice-Chairman Morin replied, Okay. Anybody have any other questions? Seeing none, the Vice-Chairman thanked Mr. Hayes.

2) Ed van der Veen, 9 Newton Street, member of Southern NH RC Club

Ed van der Veen, 9 Newton Street, Hudson, New Hampshire. I'm also here to talk about the solar farm proposal for the top of the landfill. I've been a member of the Southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club for eight years. We are in support of obviously keeping the radio controlled airfield up there, but are open to maybe sharing the space as well. To answer your question, we use the top of the hill and we can fly over everything else. So there's some obviously shareable opportunities there. The site, as John mentioned, is very well done and maintained, and it carries some very difficult to obtain certifications that are just not easily replaceable. For instance, it's an FAA recognized identification area, which is something that the FAA has to approve and allows airplanes and drones to fly in a safe space away from other aircraft. We also have agreements with both the Nashua and Manchester Airports, because we are kind of in their crisscross pattern of air traffic, and we also have a 1000 foot ceiling for high altitude gliders approved, which very few radio controlled airfields have. So it gives an opportunity for people to, you know, have some, you know, a good hobby. It also gives people an opportunity to experiment with things and try new things and so forth. We the airfield has a lot to offer the Town of Hudson. It's for starters, it's a great recreational opportunity for residents, many of whom have been vested in the aerospace industry, such as BAE. We've had many members over the years, including including pilots, and we also have a lot of full scale pilots that that, that, that fly at our field as well. So they fly the big planes during the day, and then on the weekends they fly the small stuff and have a great experience with that. It's also a great learning opportunity for science technology and ROTC students, and we could obviously create some sort of joint venture between the High School and our club on facilitating that. It's also would be it doesn't currently do this, but it would be a great practice field for police and fire departments to practice flying search and rescue drones or anything that they would want to do in that area, which I believe is kind of an up and coming thing. So it's a, it's a great field. It's a great activity to help people do something that they're interested in. And we would appreciate you voting to help us stay there.

3) Cody Wojick, Salem resident, President of the Southern NH RC Club

Hi, my name is Cody Wojick. I'm president of the Southern New Hampshire Arts Club. The Executive Assistant asked Mr. Wojick to state his address for the record. Vice-Chairman Morin asked, do you have an address in Hudson? Mr. Wojick replied, for the record, I live in Salem, and obviously you you know why I'm here and what I'm what I'm hoping for. And I just, you know, I want to say that I do think there is a tremendous amount of value that we add to the community, to this this club that has a lot of history in the area and to the hobby in general. I'll give a short anecdote. Somebody came to us who wanted to learn how to fly. Their eventual goal was to fly their model airplane very long distance over Londonderry. It was a Londonderry resident and we convinced him what a terrible idea this was. And he actually, he he he learned and he became a, a, a valued member of another club closer to where he was. And he's still flying. And I don't really want to think what would have happened, who would have been digging his airplane out of their pool if, if, if he hadn't come to us first? I also, I work as an engineer. I work on small UAVs or drones, if you can believe that. But in fact, tomorrow I'll be testing a small drone that is designed for search and rescue or fire or power line inspection at the the Hudson field. So there's there's obviously there's there's three options that we have right now. We've looked at the proposals and it looks like all the current proposals have our area of the landfill that we're using, and we need to continue to operate as covered with panels.

Mr. Wojick went on to say and so we have three options. There's yes, there's no or there's to push this off and get different proposals. I would imagine there are three other clubs that are in in New York that I happen to find the Binghamton Aero Modelers and Binghamton, New York, the Flying Knights in Bethlehem, New York, the Rockford County RC Club in West Nyack, New York. Those are all RC clubs that do coexist with solar panels. But obviously we can't land, you know, and operate and park where there

are there are panels. So, you know, if you look back at our presentation, you can see the areas that we use and we do carry insurance if we are to fly over the panels and there's any, you know, the rare case of any incident, it's we can certainly cover that. And another just one more point I want to bring up. One of my best friends is a full scale airline pilot. And we also fly RC together. And he is an airline pilot. As a result of his RC hobby as a kid, I can tell you I'm an engineer as the result of my RC hobby as a kid, and I think these are professions that we're we're lacking in this country. And I think a club like the Southern New Hampshire group does a lot to to try to fill these roles. So, um, that's all I have if you have any questions.

4) Harry Peters, 2 Speare Road, Southern NH RC Club

Good evening. My name is Harry Peters, 2 Speare Road. I've been a resident of this town my whole life. And I'd like to give you all a just a brief description of how the field was built. A lot of town businesses helped us out during the during the build. You're all familiar with Nadeau? Nadeau's Farm? We asked Emory to come up and look at the field. And the weeds were like this tall. Emory came up with his plow, turned it all over for us. Went home and got another implement. Harrowed it, ground it all up, nice. Then Bill Tate came into play. He was a big part of helping us out. He donated equipment for leveling it and rolling it and getting it to the point where we could have it hydro-seeded. And Hudson Paving also donated some equipment too, to help out. John, John Grace and Norm Pelletier. Has anyone of you gone to the top of the field to look and see the site? You have? You see that we've got some fencing up. Safety fencing. Gate City Fence was there to help us with the fencing and have safety fences in place. You see the, we built some shelters with a metal roof so we can get under if it rains and keep our equipment dry. A lot of work went into the building of those two, and we have a storage shed that we purchased and brought up there for our lawnmowers and trimmers and whatnot. It's just that I would just like to say the flying sites are so hard to find, where you can coexist with the surrounding people. You're just so hard to find. I'd hate to see us lose this site, because if we do, I think it's the end of us. It would. They're just so hard to find. And we do coexist pretty well. We've been there 23 years. A lot of you didn't even know we were there. What else can I tell you? That's about it. I'm not a public speaker, so. But I hope I got my point across, and I tonight, I hope you vote to not push forward with a solar farm. Thank you.

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Recognition - 20 Years of Service - Finance Director Lisa Labrie

Vice-Chairman Morin asked the Finance Director to stand. As he then said, Lisa is the Finance Director and has been employed by the Town of Hudson since October 2003. Prior to her promotion to Finance Director in December 2020, Lisa served as the Town Accountant. Please join me in congratulating Lisa on her 20 years of service to the Town of Hudson. Thank you. Ms. Labrie replied, thank you.

Nomination/Appointment

Municipal Utility Committee - one member vacancy expiring 4/30/24.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to appoint Karl Huber as a member of the municipal Utility Committee with a term to expire 4/30/24. Carried 4-0.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Vice-Chairman Morin asked if anyone had any item they'd like removed for separate consideration? Seeing none, Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to approve Consent Items A, B, C, D, E & F. Carried 4-0.

A. Assessing Items

1) Current Use Lien Releases: map 110, lot 51- A A&B Hampton Lane; map 110, lot 49, 2 A&B Hampton Lane; map 110, lot 52 3 A&B Hampton Lane

2) Current Use Lien Releases: map 105, lot 17-2, 201 Robinson Rd., map 105, lot 17-3 199 Robinson Rd

B. Water/Sewer Items

1) Sewer Abatement: S-UTL-24-04, m/1137/004/000, 2 Harvest View Circle

2) Water Abatement: W-UTL-23-01, 48 Lowell Road

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies - none

D. Donations - none

E. Acceptance of Minutes

1) Minutes of October 03, 2024

2) Minutes of October 10, 2023

F. Calendar

10/25	7:00	Planning Board	Buxton Meeting Room
10/26	7:00	Zoning Board of Adjustment	Buxton Meeting Room
10/31	6:00-8:00 PM	Trick or Treat	
11/01	7:00	Budget Committee	Buxton Meeting Room
11/07	7:00	Budget Committee	Buxton Meeting Room
11/08	7:00	Planning Board	Buxton Meeting Room
11/09	7:00	Budget Committee	Buxton Meeting Room
11/10		Veterans Day (Observed) Town Hall Closed	
11/13	7:00	Cable Utility Committee	HCTV Meeting Room
11/13	7:00	Conservation Commission	Buxton Meeting Room
11/14	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on October 10, 2023

1.) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to have the Fire Chief prepare a survey for the Board's review by November 14, 2023. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 4-0.

2.) Selectman Guessferd made a motion to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. this was seconded by Selectman Dumont. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 4-0.

B. Hudson Community Power, Power Procurement - HEAC - Decision

Vice-Chairman Morin recognized the Town Administrator who explained, Back on October 3rd, you heard from the Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee. They had several recommendations. One was to actually stand up the Hudson Power Coalition. The other was to enter into some agreements with CPCNH, which is the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. The Board requested or asked that all the documents that were presented were, of course, vetted by our Town

Attorney, and I sent those documents to our attorney. And from my memo for his his response, he sees no issue or no issues with no problems with signing the agreement. They're pretty dense and pretty complex. But his review of them indicated that it would be appropriate, should the Board wish to sign those agreements, or have me sign them, that that would be appropriate. Seeing no questions from the Board, Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont Welcome to adopt the relevant Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire, CPCNH policies and to authorize the Town Administrator to engage Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire as Hudson Community Power's power procurement partner, as recommended by the Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee. Carried 4-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing - Donation Acceptance - Walmart TV Donation

Chief Dionne was recognized and said, good evening. Just a brief history on this. Sergeant Flynn a few weeks back, was was approached by the manager of Walmart, asked if they could help us out by donating any equipment for us. He politely declined at first, and they insisted in. Captain McElhinney had a conversation with the manager and they offered to to donate ten television sets. And kind of timely at this point to with the renovation and the expansion of the building, they were the sets themselves are four 43 inch smart TVs. There's three 45 inch smart TVs and also three 55 inch smart TVs, and it values \$2,130. Happy to take any questions you might have.

Selectman Dumont asked, will they be just spread out across throughout the? Chief Dionne replied, great question. Yeah. So we use some in the the EOC/ training area, some in offices and some even probably one at the range, etcetera. They would definitely spread out throughout the building. Seeing no further questions, Vice-Chairman Morin opened the public hearing for the donation of televisions at 7:21pm and asked, anybody wish to speak? Seeing none, the public hearing was closed at 7:21pm. Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to motion to authorize the Hudson Police Department approval to accept a donation of ten flat screen smart televisions with a total value of \$2,130. Carried 4-0.

B. Litchfield Ambulance & Dispatch Updated Agreements

Vice-Chairman Morin recognized Fire Chief, Scott Tice. Chief Tice addressed the Board saying, thank you, Selectman Morin. Good evening everyone. Earlier this year, we realized that our Dispatch and our Ambulance contracts with Litchfield hadn't been updated in quite some time. So we worked with Litchfield to update these. Most of the language in the contract remained the same. Operationally, the two departments work well together. One thing we did change, we had a 30 day notice of cancellation that we increased to six months. So if either party wanted to cancel the either the contracts, it would give the other party time to plan and the revenues were updated. This has been reviewed by our legal counsel, and the Litchfield Board of Selectmen has approved it for the revenue. Our Dispatch currently we receive \$12 per call that would go up January 1st of 2024 to \$15 a call, and 2025 would go up to \$17 a call. And in 2026 it would go up to \$19 a call on the ambulance contract. We get all the billing from our Litchfield calls, and they also pay us a stipend on top of that to have our personnel and our equipment ready. Last year, we generated about \$138 a call. With the new contract in 2024, we would generate \$175 per call in revenue. In 2025, it would be \$195 a call, and in 2026 it would be \$215 a call.

Vice-Chairman Morin asked, any questions? Selectman Roy asked are we taking over the ambulance? Cuz when I read the thing, it almost sounded like we were doing their whole ambulance. Chief Tice replied, and yes, so they're there. So we do. We've dispatched for them and provide the ambulance service for a little over 40 years. Okay. So this is not a, it's not a change. It's not a new thing. We just our contracts had expired many years ago and we hadn't upped what we were getting from them. So this is going to help us generate more revenue and bring us back in up to date.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and asked roughly, for the dispatcher side, how long does a dispatcher stay on the phone? Or I guess, how much time of our guys is utilized per call? Do you have, like, a rough idea? Chief Tice replied, it's going to vary from call to call, depending upon the call for dispatcher to take in the information, put everything into IMC, dispatch the call, get all the information out 3 to 5 minutes. And then there's, depending upon the depth of the call, the seriousness of the call, how many units are responding, how much radio traffic there is throughout the call, a medical call. There's going to be usually one Litchfield company in our ambulance going. So there's minimal amount of motor vehicle action when they travel. There's going to be more resources going, more radio talk, more phone calls to be made up. After that, a fire is going to be a lot more in depth with the amount of companies responding, the amount of radio talk on the radio, the amount of phone calls, call mutual aid. So it kind of depends on the on the call. Selectman Dumont replied, okay. Thank you.

Seeing no further questions Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to approve the Dispatch Agreement between the Town of Hudson, New Hampshire, and the Town of Litchfield, New Hampshire, effective January 1st, 2024. Carried 4-0.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to approve the Ambulance Agreement between the Town of Hudson, New Hampshire, and the Town of Litchfield, New Hampshire, effective January 1st, 2024. Carried 4-0.

C. Firefighter Mandates

Chief Tice was again recognized and explained, Okay. Thank you. Back in June, the Board helped us out with all the openings we had at the firefighter position. They allowed us to allow lieutenants to cover firefighter mandatory overtime. That expired on October 1st. At that time, we expected to have all our positions filled, and overtime wasn't going to be an issue, but we still ended up with two of those positions open. We've had one firefighter go out with a long term injury, and with the recent retirement, once we move people up, we'll have another opening. So we're still seeing a lot of shifts go to mandatory overtime at the firefighter level in October. So far, we've had 71 shifts that were mandatory overtime. And in November at this point, we have 31 shifts that are scheduled to be mandatory overtime for the firefighters. These positions, because probationary firefighters are the very new ones, aren't allowed to work overtime. We have 20 firefighters to cover all these positions. So what I am asking is if we could allow lieutenants to start covering firefighter mandates from now until the end of the year, along with Firefighter Boudreau who's on probation. But he's he's ahead of the other ones. He was hired earlier in the year, so he's close to getting off probation. This would be something would be greatly appreciated by the Firefighters. Seeing no questions from the Board, Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to authorize probationary firefighter paramedic Gerald Boudreau and all Lieutenants the opportunity to work over time for a firefighter vacancy that would have otherwise been mandated through December 31st, 2023. Carried 4-0.

D. Solar Farm - West Road Landfill

Vice-Chairman Morin recognized Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima. Mr. Dhima started off saying, Good evening everyone. As you recall, about two months ago, the Board of Selectmen gave the green light to move forward with a request for qualifications to utilize the landfill where we have for a possibility of creating or generating revenue. The Board of Selectmen created a committee consisting of myself, the Town Administrator, Public Works Director, and Selectman Guessferd. We received 11 qualified packets. Out of those, five were short listed for the interview process. At the last minute, one of them pulled out because they were out of New Jersey and they didn't feel it was the right fit. So the Committee interviewed four vendors. Out of those four, we felt that the two really stuck stood out. You have

a little comparison there on the attachments. Long story short, the Town of Hudson is looking at a revenue of about \$8.45 million for the next 40 years.

The way that works for the vendor that's being proposed, that's been recommended to you tonight, is a combination of a revenue that you're going to get every year, no matter what, based on a lease agreement, about \$14,000 per year per kilowatt. On top of that, you're going to get some funds from pilot program, which is basically something to do with the taxes. We have to work that out. And then the rest of the revenue that you're going to get is through a credit basically for your, for for your bill. The Town is going to get 2.5MW out of that, and the remaining is going to go to the School Department.

Mr. Dhima continued explaining, we're looking at a significant size project 3.46MW. We were expecting somewhere between 2 to 2.5, but this particular one is really maxing out. So overall for the next 40 years, you're looking at \$8.45 million. It's a lot of money. With that said, you have three motions in front of you tonight to consider to move forward with a recommended consultant. This particular consultant has done the Manchester Transfer Station, or landfill. I reached out to them. I got nothing but great feedback. If they had a chance to do this again, they would hire them again. Authorize the Town Administrator myself to move forward with start working on a tentative agreement if this passes in March. If it does, great. If not, we move on. And then the third one is to actually have the Town Administrator start putting a warrant article together for this, which would be in line with the Verizon agreement that we already processed. Average you're looking at about \$170,000 a year, about \$15,000 a month projected revenue. In a nutshell, you could be looking at two warrant articles that you don't have to ask taxpayers to come up with money for something like this. Between this and Verizon, which is about 200 grand a year. So it's a lot of money. It's a lot of money we don't have right now that we could have. So with that said, I'll take any questions you might have and then we'll go from there.

Selectman Roy was recognized and asked, how much space does the solar panel farm take up? Mr. Dhima replied the solar panel is going to take the area that they're utilizing, plus some of the area that's not as steep. So the top of the field, it's basically taking all the prime real estate that's at the landfill. Selectman Roy replied, so it's an acre? Mr. Dhima replied, it's more than that. Selectman Roy then said, two acres? To which Mr. Dhima replied it's about 6 or 7 acres total. To which Selectman Roy replied, all right. now have you had any any discussions with the radio club here about sharing space?

Mr. Dhima replied, there's no sharing space. It's got to be utilized 100%. We did ask during the interview process the consultants. And there is no co-existence there. It's either going to be one or the other. They do not...Selectman Roy interjected asking why. Mr. Dhima replied, because they don't like to have flying drones, there's you're producing electricity, fuel, nitrogen, electricity, whatever they're using on the panels. They just they were not in favor of that. So it's either one or the other. And the prime real estate, as I said, is the top....Selectman Roy interjected asking was any of the the folks willing to to talk about sharing space? Mr. Dhima replied not that I got out of. No.

Mr. Dhima then said, and the area that's been utilized just so everyone has an idea is 10% or less. They don't like to use the steep slopes, they only like to use the flat area. And the flat areas are the areas that can be utilized are basically the top of the field, which is basically what they utilizing right now. And then a portion of the landfill, which is basically beyond the the liner or the capped area. And that's what everyone seemed to basically come to at the end of the day when they put the proposals together. So the only thing that might be out there is basically the access road that's currently there right now, and maybe just a quick roundabout for them to get equipment in and out of there as they're servicing this. But that's about it. There's no, there's nothing there that can be close to a field that they can land gear. All the equipment that they have up there has got to go sheds, staging area, launching pads, whatever they have out there that all has to get out of there.

Selectman Roy then said, so the helipad is that ever used, and maybe one of the Chiefs can answer, is that ever used as an emergency? Mr. Dhima replied, helipad is at the shooting range, not at the top of the landfill. That's my understanding on the GIS. So it's not the same area. It's outside of that. In addition to that, you cannot land anything on top of that because ambulance or something cannot get up there through

that access road. It's not it's not meant for for an ambulance. It's too steep to get up there. So if you need to have a helicopter drop over there, one we have on the GIS for internal use shows that it's at the shooting range area, which is right off the landfill. As you come in on the right hand side. It's a flat area. It's got a nice access to it. You can drive vehicles in and out of there, not a problem.

Selectman Roy then said, I don't know how the rest of the Board feels about this, but I'd really like to see someone make a concerted effort to share space with the radio. We've had a long term relationship with the community, or they've had a long term relationship with the community, and I'd hate to see that go away. So I would not be in support of this unless somebody was willing to talk about sharing space with with the Radio Club. Mr. Dhima replied, we asked, the answer is no. So I understand your position.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, two questions. The slopes. Why are they, why are they against using the slopes? You normally see that around quite a bit. Mr. Dhima replied, it's a good question. So when they do the engineering analysis, it appears that anything over 10% it starts putting pressure on the membrane. So why they'd like to have is something that goes vertically, not on the slopes. They feel that if you go anything beyond that and everyone give a different answer, like someone was ten. Someone was 10 to 12. 12 to 15. But the rule of thumb that we got out of the four that we interviewed is that stake at 10%, because the second you start getting steeper, you start, you start pulling on that fabric basically because these things are not super light. They're pretty heavy. And on top of that, some of these guys are proposing to put in a concrete platform to sit on. So basically if it's flat, it's just pushing down. If it's on the slope, it's dragging on an angle. So yeah, out of the entire area, it's not the entire area is going to be used, as I said, only in the flat area. And that but again, these numbers are projected of maximizing those areas that can be utilized. You start cutting into that. You're not getting the revenue now.

Selectman Dumont replied and just so everybody understands, the reason for them not using those slopes is because the fear of them damaging the cap that's there for the landfill. Mr. Dhima replied, yes. correct. Exactly. They don't want they don't want to do that because that will damage. They feel that they will damage the landfill. Correct.

Selectman Dumont then said, if they're using you said about 10 to 12% of the overall area. Do you feel as though it would be a question for both of you guys that the RC Club could create a different landing path outside of that area? Mr. Dhima replied, they're too steep. What they're looking for is basically something on the top. There's nothing else that can use there that I can see of. You know, they could utilize maybe areas that right now are being used for storage, but they'll have to remove the stuff. They'll have to figure out what they could be used in another area. But then again, you have something in the works for a Master Plan there to build a recycling center down the road. I don't want to be in a position where they're putting all this money in that they've been talking about, and then ten years from now, we ask them to move again. It wouldn't be fair to us. It wouldn't be fair to them. I think they had a good use of this field. It's very unfortunate it's happened, but we're looking at a significant amount of revenue to utilize here. And it's just it's just what everyone else is doing out there. They utilizing land that doesn't have any revenue and all of a sudden it's creating revenue. Selectman Dumont replied, I think it's a good idea. I'm just trying to think if there's any possibility.

Mr. Dhima replied, yeah. I've talked to Ed. I mean, I know Ed from the Planning Board, you know, I have a relationship with him. And, you know, we talked about some of the site that could be utilized. And I think one of the areas we talked about was the Zac's Field. But as you know, the Hudson Bears are looking to build a field over there now, again. All of a sudden they're looking to come back. I don't know if it's happened or not. They need to come in from the Board. But you as a Town have an agreement with them to let them utilize that area. So they can, they they're free to reach out to them directly and see if they can work something out with them, but the Hudson Bears do have an agreement with the Town for utilizing that. There is an area up there, 100 by 120 that could be utilized, but when we capped that area from the asbestos, we use it for an area that could be for warm up, practice, things of that sort if the main field is below. So, you know, we thought that could be one, you know, one way, one place that can go, but that's about it. But again, there's another party there that the Town has an agreement with that it's locked in for

quite some time. But they can they can call them and see if they can work something out. I don't have a problem with that.

Selectman Dumont then said, for this site though, outside of that 10 to 12% area, not obviously part of this project, you think there's any way for them to improve a section of that to maintain that area, or a section of a landing strip or anything like that? Mr. Dhima replied, I don't see it. Selectman Dumont asked, just because the slopes are too great? Mr. Dhima replied, well, not just that, but because you're now bringing a lot of dirt in to level that out. I'm not sure what they'll do to the membrane, and I'm not sure if it would be fair to ask these people to hire a third party to come up with the engineering to do that, to figure out if it's even possible or not. I think if these parties, you know, the ones that look at it for the panels are not willing to use it because it's too steep. I don't see how they can, but the area that's on the top right now is pretty significant. It's over an acre or two acres, probably two and a half acres. So I think what they're looking for is pretty significant. I'm not sure it can be accomplished on the side slopes.

Vice-Chairman Morin asked, any questions? Selectman Guessferd said, I want to make a few statements, having been on the the selection committee. Well, actually, I guess we'll first ask a question. So to kind of get us to timing. So in March, if this is passed by the by the citizens, how soon would the field be unavailable. Then after March, would there be a period of time before they start building? Mr. Dhima replied, yeah, yeah, they're looking at at least 12 months to get ready to figure this out to where they need to go and start getting the equipment out of there. Selectman Guessferd replied, Okay. So during that timeframe, the RC Club could continue to operate and try to find another site. Mr. Dhima replied yes. and we're pretty reasonable. What I would do is if this passes in March, we will get a schedule from the contractor saying, this is our timeline, this is where the permitting is going to be completed. This is where the design is going to be completed. This is where we think we're going to be at the site. The construction itself only takes about three months. It's getting the equipment, getting everything ready. Once we get that timeline, I don't have a problem sharing that with the, you know, with the club and just say, hey, it appears that you've got to get out of there by no later than X, Y, and Z, but I envision that they probably have somewhere between 12 to 14 months from March of 2024.

Selectman Guessferd replied, okay, okay. So so we have that that aspect of this. Now let me make sure that it's clear to everybody what we're doing here tonight. What we're doing here tonight is approving moving forward. But it's got to go to the vote. Mr. Dhima replied, correct. Selectman Guessferd continued saying, and if the citizens vote for it, then it proceeds. If they vote against it, then it does not. So there's another opportunity there to to influence people. Now I'm as most people who know me, know I am I'm an Air Force veteran, retiree, very supportive of of of aeronautics, of engineering, of I work at BAE Systems as, as well and it's I'm and I know along with everyone else here that we're all sympathetic to to their plight and that it's possibly might be the end.

Selectman Guessferd then said one of the other things that was confusing to me tonight is a number of \$210,000 was was brought up by one of the first speakers. And I didn't know where that came from. Mr. Dhima replied, I'm not sure either. Selectman Guessferd continued saying, the numbers that we saw. So so that's that was a little confusing. But I having been there and seen the numbers, I know what the numbers are. We are tasked with doing what's we believe is the will of the people in this Town. And and everybody's important. You're important. Everybody's important here. However, I think we need to leave it to the citizens to decide what's what's going to happen here. We had a tax increase. Everyone in this room who lives in Hudson, their taxes went up last year. We had a default budget. We came back. We don't have a default budget this year. We have to think about our taxpayers. And this town is, is historically very frugal. That's a good word. I'm I'm torn on this in many ways, but it is because I am very sympathetic. But my view here, I think in the end, is that I think we need to push forward, let the Town decide, come to Town Meeting and express your concerns, see if you can do something on on our local, our local TV station. Get the word out. You know, to to everybody who, who can who can listen to it. And I and I would I would hope that you might be able to reach some additional people. But I think having seen what I think is going to be a very, very good decision to save money for this Town and bring in some revenue, my view is that I think we need to put it before the the taxpayers. Thank you and I appreciate you all coming in tonight for to speak your mind on it. And I'm not I'm not, I'm not not sympathetic. I think we all understand it's a great activity.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said one other question I thought of. The top of that landfill was that always flat? Was the who made the improvements to do that? Mr. Dhima replied, it wasn't us. So as I was listening, as they were describing what was done up there, it was before my time. I, I'm not sure what really happened. I didn't feel comfortable listening to what was said over there and what was done, especially if it was done after the cap. Hopefully there was some kind of oversight, but I think it's behind us. It's beyond this, but my understanding is from what I heard, is they put some additional fill up there on top of what was already there. It's probably why explains that, you know, some of the structures have something buried in there. Hopefully they haven't gone through the cap and all that. I'm not sure who oversaw that work, whatever work was done out there. But needless to say, the removal of these, if it moves forward, will be overseen by us. So make sure that obviously moving forward will be all set. In addition to that, this project will go through the DES permit as well, and the Landfill Bureau, which is a solid waste. So if they don't feel comfortable, they won't sign off on that.

Selectman Dumont then said, and I assume there would be some inspection of the integrity of the ground up there because of that? Mr. Dhima replied, yeah, yeah, by us. And then this gets also the vendor that we're getting because this came up a couple times, is going to put a performance bond, which means that no matter what happens to any of us here, there's going to be enough money there to have these things removed, you know, at the end of the life cycle. Not everyone offered that, but this particular one that's in front of you tonight will have a performance bond to make sure this gets out of there if we don't want to do it, if, you know, if we don't want to keep them in there. But yeah, this will go through the permitting process with the State. It's a long process. It's you know, we'll have to see what the final product look like. But are the ones in Town, ah, in the State have taken place. You know, Manchester was one of the big ones out there about the same size as ours. They were successful in that they have their own engineering firms who obviously will provide QAQC, but it's pretty straightforward. All the cables are above surface. They put everything above ground so you can see everything how the power comes in. You're going to have a main transmission line from the main entrance all the way down to West Road. That's how they're going to get to the main artery, and that's how they're going to get everything into it. And then based on that, as I said, we get 2.5MW, which our average use and the rest will go to the School if they agree to it. So they'll get a savings in their bill and we get a savings on ours. And on top of that, you get about \$50,000 a year, a check no matter what happens, it's basically a lease agreement, no matter what. It's a fixed income plus 2.5% increase per year as we move forward.

Selectman Dumont asked, do you have a deadline for these? Mr. Dhima asked, for what? Selectman Dumont replied, for these three motions; do you have a deadline on them that they have to be done? Mr. Dhima replied, I mean I like to move forward because you're in budget season and you need to put a warrant article together. But if you want to put it off, you can. Selectman Dumont replied, the only reason I ask and I'll be right up front, is I kind of have a problem with the thought that they may have put their own funding into making that now "prime real estate". If we don't know where or who did that, I would like to at least have that answer. I feel kind of bad about using an RC club's funding to improve a site, and then we take advantage of it as a town. I'm all for the Town making money and generating revenue. I think that's what we should be striving to do all the time, but I don't think it should be on the backs of a small club if that's the case. If it's not, it's a different story. But I do have a problem with the thought that they may have improved that and created that now prime real estate for us to take advantage of.

Mr. Dhima replied, yeah. I mean, if they did, you know, when they did that, it was obviously, you know, whatever they did was at their own, you know, understanding. I mean, I wasn't here when that happened, but I'm assuming they didn't say, you know, we're going to do this. And we want our money back if we get out of here. As I understand, there's no agreement right now between the Club and the Town. So, you know, we get people all the time that do improvements along the right of way, but they don't come back to town and say, I want my money back because I be pushes along. Selectman Dumont replied I'm trying to be fair. Mr. Dhima replied, no, I totally understand. But there is a line where you can do whatever you want in front of the front yard, even though we tell you that the property line is way back and then the bushes get ripped out during I mean, during the storm, during Thanksgiving, and they come back, I want my bushes back. That's not how it works. We told you where the property line was. So I understand what you're saying

and I'm all for fair. And I think this Board is probably one of the fairest ones I've had to work with. But at the end of the day, what does I really get to? So let's just say you come up with if you even find the information. That they did work for a month to three months. What does that mean? You're going to give money back? it's not like you, you know what I mean? Like I'm just trying to say like, what's the end, the end of that exercise? Selectman Dumont replied, on the same note that may also have been a mutual agreement to say that in the future, if the Town elected to do something that they were fully aware of, that that would change things. Mr. Dhima replied, but there wasn't one for this case, you know what I mean? They did the work on their own. I'm not aware that they had someone from Town.

Selectman Roy spoke asking how do you know that? How do you know? How do you know that? Mr. Dhima replied from what I heard in the discussions that I've had with the previous DPW Director, Jess Forrence. Because this was happened during the when Kevin Burns was the Road Agent and there was some kind of handshake agreement with the Town that was, you know, the Town Board or whoever gave the green light. But as far as who's putting what funding, what equipment, as you heard, there was none of that. There was a dollar amount put to it. And then you got that factor from 20 years ago to versus now. What that means, I don't know, I just I just feel like what's the point of that exercise? But it's up to you. It doesn't matter.

Vice-Chairman Morin then said, real quick. Does the club have any paperwork from the Town that you signed? Mr. Hayes said we have an a, we have an agreement....Vice-Chairman Morin asked Mr. Hayes to could you come up to the mic? Thank you. Just state your name again, please. John Hayes, Secretary of the Southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club. We have a draft agreement that was drafted up by Mr. Steve Malizia in 2019. And at that point, I think somebody from the Assessor's Office wanted to take a look at what we had up there at the field. And I think Covid also settled in shortly thereafter. So nothing ever happened on the agreement to make it real. Vice-Chairman Morin replied, okay. So right now you don't have anything documented? Okay. Mr. Hayes replied, just the draft. And before that it was it was approved by Kevin Burns, I believe. The Vice-Chairman replied, Yep. Kevin Burns. And there was no paperwork to that at all? Okay. Thank you. Appreciate it.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said to Mr. Hayes, actually, sir. Sir, sorry. If you don't mind, could I ask a couple of questions? Do you know about how much money was put into the improvements made there? Mr. Hayes replied, I don't know, dollar wise. I mean, we've we've always tried to have something in the treasury for field improvements, but there was a lot involved in that. And Billy Tate was, was a big part of providing labor, manpower, materials to, to improve the field. And so it was, you know, material was brought in to level the top of the field. So we've got two runways that are about 350ft long, and those are constantly being mowed to, to maintain it for, for flight. So we've we've put a lot of work and time into it to keep it that way and trying to do a good.

Selectman Roy then said, how about the licenses and the FAA licenses that you spoke, of the permits? I'm presuming those those costs some kind of money to. Mr. Hayes replied, the the FAA put forth a ruling that no unmanned vehicles could go above 400 foot altitude anywhere. It was amazing. A blanket across the US, and we put forth paperwork to be on a to join a panel to approve that site. And after going with the FAA, they came out and looked at the site. We went before the panel, which was made up of airline pilots, EAA, you know, just there was about 20 people on this panel and they grilled us a bit. And in the end, they determined that we were not a safety issue for the FAA. And they granted us 1500 feet, which we can fly up to 1000ft any day. But with a phone call to the Nashua Airport we can go to 1500. So it's rare to get a site, but we fall at the fringe of Nashua's air traffic control circle and just outside the corridor from Manchester. So we're kind of in a no man's land right there. That just works perfectly for what we do. And we got swamped on two sides and Continental on two sides, so we don't bother anybody. And that's always been a problem with RC sites that some homeowner will get upset and you know, and we lose it.

Selectman Roy then said, so so to Mr. Guessferd's point, I think I think that you probably need to make yourself known at this point so you can get some community support behind you. But I do have two other questions. How often is that site used? Mr. Hayes replied, almost daily. There's a group of people that go out in the mornings and in the afternoons. You know, we use it in the evenings. This time of the year, it

gets, you know, obviously evening use gets gets a little tough, but the weekends will get use on Saturday and Sunday.

Selectman Roy then said so and then my final question is, do you have any affiliation with any public safety organizations? Mr. Hayes replied, we're, every club in the US is belongs to the AMA, which is the Academy of Model Aeronautics. And they're like a ruling body. And I believe the Selectmen received a letter from Andy Argenio describing, you know, who we are, what we do, and the national level of things. So, yes, we're part of that organization. And that that organization also provides us \$1.5 million worth of insurance for the site, should anything happen. Selectman Roy replied, that's all I have. Thank you very much.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, I guess the question would be to Steve and Elvis, too. I honestly would like to know a little bit more about everything. Is it possible to do the first two motions and defer the third until and figure out where those improvements happened and how they happened? That would allow you to keep moving, although we're just putting off the the warrant article for March. I'm not saying indefinitely, I don't think it would take long to to make a few phone calls and figure out exactly what happened, and then that way everything will be out in the open, everybody can understand how it happened and how and how it got laid out.

Mr. Dhima replied, I don't know what's going to do the research for that, because some of the people are sick that I understand that were involved with this. Some of the people are no longer involved with certain companies. So unless they're willing to do the work behind me, I'm not doing it because I don't know where to start. And I wouldn't even be able to give you a quantity to how much cubic feet of X, Y, and Z were put into it, I wasn't there. I don't think Steve Malizia will be able to do that for you. So I don't want to agree to something...Selectman Dumont replied, I think Steve can answer that question. Mr. Dhima replied, no he can. Mr. Malizia replied, I know less than him. Mr. Dhima continued saying, he's not going to be able to like yeah. The Town Administrator added, and again if it's not written down. Selectman Dumont replied, no and that's fair. But it's everybody seems to be kind of well I don't know, which is fine. I don't expect everybody to have every answer to all these questions. But I would like to just at least know, hey, we did we did check through that. I think that that would be more than fair.

Mr. Dhima replied, but I don't know what to check because the only way to check is to dig it out. Selectman Roy interjected saying, well the check is, I think the check is to see if they coordinate it all with the Town. Vice-Chairman Morin then said well, first of all, let me answer the question how things used to be done here. It was a handshake and that was that. There was no documentation. We just proved they didn't have documentation until 2019. But the Club, because you guys have to keep records, should have some records somewhere that would show what you use for material and things of that nature? Yes? No? Mr. Hayes replied, I don't have any any records on that. Mr. Wojick then said, we can, we have some. We have some old treasury documents we can dig through. And try to get together as much history and relevant information as we can in the next. Vice-Chairman Morin then said, because, because the Town wouldn't have it. Because that's the way things used to be. We did a handshake and we just proved that with the 2019 document, there's no documents since then. The landfill, I don't think, was a peak at one point. I think it was just a rounded and there was probably a level top, you know, the landfills that are capped, especially like the Nashua one, what it is, it's a slope and then it's flat on the top. But who knows what happened back then in Hudson.

Vice-Chairman Morin then asked, do you have a a plan for this future recycling site? Just just a guesstimate where everything was going on the property. Mr. Dhima replied, yes, we have a layout. We have a layout that we can we have put together. And that layout was submitted when we did the grant for the recycling center. So we have an idea to where that would go. The size of that could change depending on what we deal with. It could be smaller, could be bigger, but it's going to be basically behind the existing facility that's there right now. We're going to try to use the existing garage that's already at the place, and basically put the new building behind that. I don't know if it's going to happen or not, but what I do know is two things. There's already fill out there that needs to be moved when we do this work. Vice-Chairman Morin interjected saying, just to save you. So so the building you're looking at is going behind the existing building wall we just built? Mr. Dhima replied, correct. Vice-Chairman Morin then said, so all the property

that's behind the metal building now, what's happening with that? Mr. Dhima replied, that's where it's going to go. It's not going to go behind the wall. Vice-Chairman Morin said, oh behind the metal building, not the wall. Mr. Dhima replied, that's right up the hill if you. Vice-Chairman Morin replied, okay, alright, because that's a big area there. That's why I was asking. Mr. Dhima replied it's challenging when it comes to the slope. But that's where it's going to go. It's basically going to be located between the metal building and where like the shooting range is. But not that far back, but kind of like somewhere in between.

Vice-Chairman Morin then said, all right. So what's going on with all the property that's behind the wall where the dumpsters are on both sides? Mr. Dhima replied it's wet. It's wet over there. And a portion of that, the majority, so that that area behind the wall that you're referring to is where they bring in the compost. And the other area consists of either wetland or manmade detention areas to treat the runoff from the from the transfer station. And that area can actually the additional manmade treatment, storm water treatment that comes off the actual capped area itself. But it consists of mostly of compost. Okay. And what area there. And, you know, the Public Works goes there and turns things around every once in a while. But that's where all the that's where all the vegetation comes in to gets compacted and processed. Yes.

Vice-Chairman Morin then said, okay, anybody got any further questions? Seeing none he then asked, Anybody like to make a motion? Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to select Kearsarge Energy, Boston, MA, for the landfill solar farm project as recommended by the Committee. Carried 3-1. Selectman Roy opposed.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to authorize the Town Administrator and Town Engineer to work with Kearsarge on a tentative agreement pending March 2024 approval. Vice-Chairman Morin asked if there was any discussion. Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said, what I'd like to see as part of this work with Kearsarge is to kind of now, now that we've if we've if we select them and we did, to have those discussions in a little more detail and to to see if there's anything I mean, I get it and I understand that to, to take away some of the land for the solar farm and dedicate it to the club would take, would take away some revenue and take away some, some, some of the power. But I think it's worth having the discussion with them as part of this. If there's anything they'd be willing willing to do. Mr. Dhima replied, I can ask. Doesn't hurt. Selectman Guessferd then said, I know you said that we've already asked and they said we don't share it, but let's let's at least make that part of the discussion with them to revisit it and make sure that we're we've thought of everything and balanced whatever we need to balance.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, one thing I would throw out there as part of that conversation is to ask what the possibility of improving some of those slopes, so that way they could utilize more of that area if it's not possible, I'm sure they'll have the answer very quickly for you, but oh. Mr. Dhima replied them, asking them to do so because that one I got the answer is no. They would not like to touch anything beyond 10%. It's that simple. Selectman Dumont replied, not putting anything on. I'm talking about improving those slopes to less than 10%, if that's even possible. So you're expanding the area of prime real estate, and they would be using, if possible, using outside of what's already flat there. Mr. Dhima replied, they are they are using the top and they're using an area beyond the capped area. Selectman Dumont replied, but nothing over 10%. Mr. Dhima replied, nothing over 10%. Selectman Dumont then said, that's what I'm saying, is what the possibilities are of improving those areas that are greater than 10%, bringing in fill, reducing that slope to try to utilize some more of that area. Mr. Dhima replied, yeah, the answer was no. We asked them the answer was no. They do not want to utilize, they do not want to use any area. That's a more 10%. They're only going to use the areas that already are less than 10%. Selectman Dumont then said, they don't want to use the area or they don't want to improve it? Mr. Dhima replied, they don't want to use the area. That's more than 10%. They're not bringing fill. Selectman Dumont replied, I asked the question if they would improve it. To which Mr. Dhima replied, they will not improve it, no. Selectman Dumont replied, that was the question. Thank you.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said, so you know I'm kind of listening to this and it kind of dawns on me what did they give up? I mean, there was a negotiation, right? Mr. Dhima replied they're giving the capital, that's millions of dollars to put this thing in. And then on top of that, they're providing revenue to you

to do this work. You're not putting anything up front at all. You're just simply giving the land. They're putting millions of dollars of capital. The town is not taking any risk to do any of this. They're doing the design. They're coming up with the insurance, they're coming up with the revenue. They're coming up with the capital required for this, and they're cutting you a check every year. And then on top of that, you're getting a savings on your electrical bill. And then when you're done, the School will get a break out into as well. And that amounts to \$8.5 million for the next 40 years, which is an average of about \$170,000 a year. That's it. This doesn't cost the town a thing right now. That's that's that's the benefit of this. You're not putting any of your money up front. They're coming in and taking the entire risk. And then they're locking this in for 25 years with a 15 year extension. You're not putting any of your money up front for this. This is 100% on them. Vice-Chairman Morin asked, Selectman Roy, all set? To which Selectman Roy replied mmhmm.

Vice-Chairman Morin then said, any chance we can get that put up on screen to take a quick look at it? Mr. Dhima replied, I don't have it available, but what I will do, Selectman Morin, is for everyone I can, you know, I can make whatever we have information available, anyone that wants to reach out. Vice-Chairman Morin replied if you could send it out to us again, I'd appreciate that.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said, well, I think I would like to see that put up maybe at the next meeting so that the citizens can see it. Vice-Chairman Morin replied, oh, no. That's that's fine. Are we going to still, we got a motion on the floor right now that we have to deal with. Selectman Roy replied okay.

Vice-Chairman Morin asked, any further discussion on motion number two? If we do this tentative agreement, but we're delaying till next week, what's that going to do? Mr. Dhima replied we're not going to have it, it doesn't do anything. Basically you can put this off. What this allows you is basically to use the time between now and March 2023 to basically work on that agreement. So if the if the if the warrant article passes, you can execute it on the next Board of Selectmen meeting. That's all. The sooner you can start, the sooner the revenue start coming in. That's all there is. You can wait all you want. It's not a big deal. You can wait until the next meeting.

Selectman Guessferd then said, and this warrant article, this tentative warrant article is not a budgetary warrant article. So the Budget Committee doesn't need it for next week, right? So we have a little ways to go. The Town Administrator added, you can by December. Vice-Chairman Morin then said, to tell you the truth, I agree with you, Selectman Guessferd. If people see what the Town is going to make, unfortunately, if this Board says no. Mr. Dhima then said, the whole thing started because we wanted to generate some revenue. I get it.

Selectman Roy said, I would point out that that not for nothing in what, \$53 million budget, something like that? The Town Administrator replied, pardon me. To which Selectman Roy replied the budget 50? The Town Administrator replied the town side? It's 34(million) on the General Fund. Selectman Roy replied it's \$170,000 a year. I'm just saying. Mr. Dhima then said, but those are two things that, you know, like right now, for example, the drainage capital that I'm asking for \$100,000 a year. That could be something I don't have to ask the next year, for example. I mean, it is not small potatoes. Selectman Dumont said, it's about \$0.03 on the tax rate. It is significant. But I just want to make sure we're fair. Mr. Dhima replied I get it. Selectman Dumont went on to say and everybody can look back at this and understand where where it all came from. Mr. Dhima replied, I wish we could put the planes on top of these. I don't want to be coming across here as the nay guy. I don't, I just I just want to be upfront about it. I don't want to make it more painful than it is. I'm trying, as always. I have to be the bad guy to give you the answers that you don't always want to hear. But I want to be fair to them. I want to be providing you with the information that I was provided to. I think that's my job. That's Steve's job. Selectman Dumont replied that's is 100% your job. Mr. Dhima continued saying, I wish we can make this work. I just don't see it. But I'm willing to help him out if there's another place to look at, I really do.

Selectman Roy then said but you didn't reach out to them before, before you did? Mr. Dhima replied they reached out to me. I spoke to Ed about this before. We talked about it just. I didn't talk to the entire Board, Selectman Roy, you know, to the entire group. But I spoke to one individual about it. I told them where it's at. I also told them that I don't know if it's going to pass in March or not. I've seen, you know, it's one of

those things. Selectman Guessferd brought it up. You know, if they have enough people, they feel the same way. So be it. But, you know, let the people decide, I guess. But there's a significant revenue here that could be made. A lot of communities are doing it. That's why we looked into it. We looked into this ten years ago or not ten years ago, but seven years ago, and there was no money to be made and we walked away from it. It wasn't worth it. I think we're looking at like \$5,000 a year or \$10,000. It was foolish. It was it was starting at that time. We walked away. We were not interested. But now you're looking at the revenue and it's like, how do you walk away from that? You know, if it was ten grand a year? Sure.

Vice-Chairman Morin then said, okay. There's a motion on the floor. All those in favor? Motion carried 3-1. Selectman Roy opposed.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and asked do you need a motion to defer or can we table the third motion until our next meeting? Vice-Chairman Morin replied, whatever you'd like to do. The Town Administrator said, you don't have to do anything with this. I mean, I'm going to tell you if you want it on the warrant for this upcoming year, you need to it by December. Selectman Dumont replied, I was figuring sooner than that, quite frankly. The Town Administrator replied, well, I'm just saying by December. Selectman Guessferd replied yeah, we have time. Mr. Dhima added, you got a little bit of time. Yeah. Vice-Chairman Morin asked, okay, So you want to table it? Selectman Dumont replied, I would like to, yes. Selectman Roy added, I agree.

Vice-Chairman Morin then said, could I have one of the reps from the airplane club come back up real quick? Mr. Wojick came forward. Vice-Chairman Morin said, just so we're clear, the Town Engineer is going to bring, send us a diagram of where all this is going. So we understand, but if you guys can get us the materials list and all the work that you put into it, if you have records, that would be greatly appreciated. So we can make a decision and understand what took place through those. Because like I said, the only documentation we have would be what Mr. Malizia did in in 2019 because things just didn't happen in the past. And I'm sure we can probably well, I should hope we could probably come up with some type of diagram of what it looked like after the cap was done, or at least some type of drawing. There's got to be something because it was a federal thing. Mr. Dhima replied we have ORTHOS. We have flyovers from 1998. So I think that should help. What I can do for the Board is provide what the landfill used to look like in 1998, 2005, 2010, 2015, to give the Board an idea to what things look like through the years, for the past 20 years, and hopefully that will help.

Vice-Chairman Morin addressed Mr. Wojick saying, so if we could have those for our next meeting, your information for the next meeting, we'd really appreciate it. Mr. Wojick replied, certainly. I'll do everything I can to find records. Selectman Roy asked who do you want him to send it to? Vice-Chairman Morin replied, send it to Jill. Ms. Laffin addressed Mr. Wojick saying, I'll need it by November 5th. I'll get in touch with Ed and give you my email address to get that info from you. Mr. Dhima said, and I can get you that information. The ORTHO's, those are easy to find. Just don't ask me for the quantities. Thank you very much. Have a good night.

The Board took a brief recess. The Board reconvened at 8:22pm.

E. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Wrap Up

FY25 Budget Summary

The Town Administrator was recognized and started by saying, So, as you are, recall, you spent three evenings looking through the various department budgets, speaking to the Department Heads made some modest changes in the budget. So tonight we're here to wrap things up. At some point we will review all the Out of the Budget Requests. So that's the recommendation that you do that. And then you have a series of warrant articles which you don't have to do tonight, but I recommend you get moving on some of them so

that we can get things to the Budget Committee, because I believe we start with them November 7th. I believe the books are due to them November 1st, so anything we can wrap up would be prudent to do so.

So before we get into the meat of it, I have a couple of things to just bring to your attention. The first thing is typical. I received the Nashua Transit Grant request, Community Grant request the other, Friday. So I'm going to pass this around. As you know, Nashua Transit provides service to our elderly and handicapped. So folks can utilize this. So in essence they're looking for \$3,607 more than we allocated this 24 fiscal year. The concern with this one and normally with the Community Grants we level funding, but this is based on ridership. The folks that are utilizing the service. So for a modest \$3,607, I'm recommending that we increase the community grants budget from \$104,884 to \$108,491 to accommodate this. Selectman Roy asked, do you need a motion for that? The Town Administrator replied, so the *motion would be to adjust Community Grants account 5920-259 from \$104,448 to \$108,491, to account for Nashua Transit System increase of \$3,607. Selectman Roy made this motion. Seconded by Selectman Guessferd. Carried 4-0.*

The Town Administrator then said, so another piece of housekeeping. The Finance Director and I were reviewing revenue today, and we looked at automobile registrations. And if you look at the automobile registrations, you'll find that we've done very well the last few years. In other words, we've been budgeting a certain sum of money. And through the last two years we've been we've been exceeding the actual revenues received are greater than. So I'm not trying to get in front of revenue. We're always conservative. But I think it's pretty safe that the Board could add \$100,000 to the revenue, which is basically \$0.02 on the tax rate. Kind of helps out the taxpayers by adding a little bit more revenue, or allows you to go through that list and perhaps make some decisions with another \$100,000. So my recommendation would be to increase revenue Budget Automobile Registration Account 4201 from \$5,600,000 to \$5,700,000, an increase of \$100,000. Vice-Chairman Morin asked, any discussion, any motion? Selectman Guessferd asked, Any reason why we couldn't do \$200,000. The Town Administrator replied, I'm always cautious. Again, I don't know when the cliff, when the when the market's going to drop. But I think we're always you know we're always a little bit behind. You could, but again I'm always careful with that. So I think at least 100 shows that you're moving in that direction. Selectman Guessferd replied, okay. The Town Administrator then said, whatever comes in we recognize that it just will flow to the Fund Balance if we get more than we budgeted. So I'm just trying to inch the budget up.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, one other question just for the sake of asking, because I was kind of on the same though Selectman Guessferd was, do you think it would be wise or we already have your recommendation. Split the difference at \$150,000. The Town Administrator replied, that gives you \$0.03 on the tax rate, gives you a little bit more room. Looking at the numbers that's probably a reasonable to do. So I think if you wanted to do 150 you could. *Selectman Dumont* replied, so that's what, I would make *the motion to increase the Revenue Budget Automobile Registration Account 4201 from \$5,600,000 to \$5,750,000. An increase of \$150,000. Selectman Guessferd seconded the motion. Carried 4-0.*

The Town Administrator then said, one last quick revenue recommendation. We also looked at the Unassigned Fund Balance. There was an adjustment that the auditors had made to our fund balance. So what I, what I want to recommend is we take another \$100,000 of Unassigned Fund Balance in the budget to Revenue. I think this year we budgeted \$600,000. We took a million. Selectman Roy asked, will that affect the tax rate? The Town Administrator replied, not this year, you're not looking at this year. Selectman Roy replied, no, no, I understand that. The Town Administrator replied next year it would it would save \$0.02 on the for every \$50,000 expense or \$50,000 revenue affects the tax rate by a penny. So if you take another 100 off the Unassigned Fund Balance I think that's a reasonable thing to do. So you'd be taking budgeting \$1.1 million of Unassigned Fund Balance towards tax relief purposes for next fiscal year's budget. So that *motion would be to increase the Revenue Budget Account 4999 for Unassigned Fund Balance to reduce taxes from \$1 million to \$1.1 million, an increase of \$100,000. Selectman Dumont made this motion. Selectman Guessferd seconded it. Carried 4-0.*

The Town Administrator then said, so to go back to the script, basically, now we're looking for *a motion to approve Revenue in the amount of \$18,385,038.* That just counts the monies you just added to Revenue.

Selectman Dumont asked, what would be the tax rate impact for that new dollar amount? The Town Administrator replied so you've taken, it reduces it by \$0.05. Selectman Dumont asked so we're at \$4.70 now, correct? To which the Town Administrator replied, well you have to look at next year's estimated rate for just a General Fund is \$4.75 if you estimate. So if you take 250 off you're taking \$0.05 more. So it's \$4.70.

Selectman Dumont then said, what I was going to ask was the Board with with everything that we've been going through and the way we went through two default budgets, I know that these are only warrant articles, but I think the voters do take a look at that and look at how we're trying to spend the money. I would look for a way with our General Fund to include warrant articles, not to exceed what our previous estimated tax rate was. I think of about \$4.84. Was it? So I know we did a good job everybody doing level funding. We were actually able to bring it down a little bit. But if there's any way to include our General Fund with a couple of the need be warrant articles to be right around that previous tax rate, I think would be, would go a long way.

The Town Administrator then said, so quick math. If you're at \$4.70 before warrant articles and outside the budget requests, that's about \$0.14, right. So you know, you can do the math, but I believe that's \$700,000, give or take. So that's a goal. Selectman Dumont replied yeah, that would be my goal. I just wanted to put it out there. I don't know if anybody else was thinking the same way, but. Vice-Chairman Morin asked, anybody else? I agree with you. What we really need to think about though is, is, you know, I'm going to hate to say it, but PD's got a new station and they're doing all right. Fire Departments got all new trucks, new new headquarters and things like that. We haven't done anything for the town's infrastructure in reference to Public Works I think we should look at that first and try to. We had all these issues this year in reference to. Now let me clarify. Let me clarify something. The most important thing is the equipment and safety for everybody. So that that has to go, you know, we got the the Tasers and that that's that's a priority. That's I want to make that clear. Selectman Dumont replied, no, I don't disagree. Vice-Chairman Morin then said, but other than that I think it's time that we focus on some of our infrastructure. That's my opinion. Agreeing with you. Selectman Dumont replied yeah. No drainage I know is a huge one. That was one at the top of my list as as with that safety stuff too.

The Town Administrator said, as we go through, I'll probably have some recommendations of where you might be able to take some Unassigned Fund Balance and maybe make some adjustments to some of the things that you've been presented with. Again, safety is paramount, but as we go through things, I can certainly recommend something and you all can decide what you want to do.

Vice-Chairman Morin asked, anybody else before we get started? Selectman Roy replied, no, no. Other than than I agree about the safety issue. That needs to be a priority. And I also but I also think that I understand about the DPW and their issues. But we've had a lot of discussion about town hall issues, also about space and about. Vice-Chairman Morin replied, oh no. Absolutely. But but we got to do something. I agree with you because those are the first two we're going to deal with. Selectman Roy replied so I mean that's sort of where I'm at you know, I don't discount their needs. But we also need to have a good base to manage all of that. Right? Vice-Chairman Morin replied, yeah, no, we we do need a good base, but we need to also make sure that our residents aren't getting flooded out. That's that's the other thing.

The Town Administrator asked so did I hear a motion for the revenue? Selectman Dumont made a motion to approve the Revenue with the amended numbers the Town Administrator read. Carried 4-0.

The Town Administrator then said, unless anybody's planning to reopen it we'll need a motion to forward the Sewer Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$2,426,706 to the warrant. That's again all borne by the Sewer users. No rate increase. Selectman Roy made this motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont. Carried 4-0.

The Town Administrator said, and similar to the Sewer, the Water Fund is an independent fund. No rate increase. And again, I recommend you forward the Water Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$4,371,665 to the warrant. Selectman Dumont made this motion. Selectman Roy seconded it. Carried 4-0.

Review of Outside the Budget Requests

The Town Administrator then said, so now, I believe if we go through the list in your packet, in your agenda packet, I probably best to start with the Outside the Budget Requests because those things would affect the General Fund budget. So you should all have a list. It should be the last page of that document.. So at this point I think we can just go down the list if you prefer. I believe Selectman Morin, you have motions for each one and the Board can have a discussion.

Administration - Assistant Town Administrator

The Town Administrator said the first one would be the funding of an Assistant Town Administrator position up to \$182,851. That would be a fully loaded with benefits position. Selectman Roy then said a person with experience kind of thing like that. That would be top. The Town Administrator agreed saying, this is not a rookie job. Selectman Roy replied yeah, that's that's kind of the top of the budget for that position. The Town Administrator replied I think you would attract candidates at that position, pardon me at that number.

Vice-Chairman Morin asked, any discussion or a motion? *Selectman Roy made a motion to move Dept. 5110-100, Administration - Salaries & Benefits, for an Assistant Town Administrator outside the budget request, in the amount of \$182,851 to the FY25 Budget. Selectman Guessferd seconded the motion.* Vice-Chairman Morin asked, any discussion? Selectman Guessferd said, Well, it's, well, it's a bit of, you know, it's a good it's a good size number. I think it's going to be important for us to, in terms of succession, in terms of coverage and making sure that we're, we're efficient about doing all the different tasks that that some of which Steve is taking on right now. So I think. Selectman Roy added, I think for efficiency, I think that, you know, I guess my general personal theory is if we're efficient, then we're at least saving money, right? We're not, we're not, you know, we're not paying overtime because we have whatever or whatever, you know what I mean? I think efficiency equals savings. Selectman Guessferd replied, I would agree. So I'm good with that. Seeing no further discussion, Vice-Chairman Morin said, okay, so after every motion Lisa is going to just give us an update so we know where we're at okay. Motion on the floor to move Department 51105 to Administration, Other Professional Services on on wrong one right. Oh, no, wrong one. Just the salaries and benefits. *Motion carried 4-0.*

Administration - Town Hall Feasibility Study

The Town Administrator said, so the next one is the Town Hall Feasibility Study for 30 grand. And it occurred to me that perhaps if you didn't want to put it in this year's budget, we could perhaps fund it out of the end of this year. You know, it's not unreasonable to think we're going to end up with at least \$30,000 at the end of the year. And so I know this is important, but I think, realistically speaking. Selectman Roy said, If we put it in the out of budget request, we wouldn't get it until the next fiscal year.

The Town Administrator replied, no, but my point is, if you don't put it into the out of budget request, you could do at the end of this fiscal year. So that's the pro and con. Selectman Guessferd replied, I'd say that's a great idea. Selectman Roy added, I think that's a good idea. We get it done faster. All right.

Vice-Chairman Morin asked, so just leave it alone? The Town Administrator replied, so there's no motion to forward that. That is off the list.

Public Works - Town Wide Paving

The Town Administrator explained, next one is Town Wide Paving. The Director came in and spoke to us. So on the town wide paving, I believe three years ago, we bumped that up from \$790,000 to \$990,000 on an annual basis. The Director is asking for \$100,000. I'm suggesting you put that to a warrant article and let the let the people decide, just like you did the last time. Good, bad or indifferent. If we want to bump that budget up, I think it should go to the people consistent with what you did before, I think they can say yes,

they can say no. Something that they pay attention to, they notice their roads, they notice flooding, they notice potholes, they notice all those kinds of things.

Selectman Morin said, and I can tell you, I got an email from a resident who lives on Brightside Drive that was supposed to get paved this year, but because we had to spend money in other places, that road will not be paved. So it's very important to people. The Town Administrator replied, yeah, yeah, like I said, people notice it, you know? So if that's something you want to do when we get to the warrant articles, I prepared a warrant article that you can discuss. So if we're not moving that to the budget we can cross that off the list. Vice-Chairman Morin asked, everybody good with that? Okay.

Public Works - Plow Blades, Sander Replacement, Guardrails & Fencing

The Town Administrator explained, now you have plow blades, which is you know, you start with some of the smaller things that the Director identified. So I believe the next few items are plow blades, sander replacement, guardrail catch basin cleaning and then gravel for the drains and manhole structures and things for the Drains Department, I believe, and I didn't write it down, he prioritized a few of those things. The Executive Assistant said, his first was Town Wide Paving. His second was Pipe for Drain; the Drains Department, and his third was Equipment Rental for the catch basin cleaning services for the MS4 Permit.

Selectman Roy asked, what is his, can I just ask what is his total out of...because I can't do the math that quick in my head. The Town Administrator asked, what was his (Public Works Director) total? To which Selectman Roy replied yeah, for the out of budget requests. Ms. Labrie said Public Works is \$207,575. The Town Administrator added, including the \$100,000 for paving. So without the paving it's \$107,575.

Selectman Roy asked, can we do that as a group? To which the Town Administrator replied, You can certainly do that, but I'd probably recommend you do each one only because there are different cost centers. Selectman Roy replied, okay. The Town Administrator then said, and maybe not everybody agrees with all of them. Vice-Chairman Morin then said, yeah but if we did the total cost, that would cover all of them. The Town Administrator replied, if that's what you choose to do, I mean, if you're wanting to do all of. Vice-Chairman Morin said, if that's what you think. Selectman Roy replied, yeah I think. Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, I'm kind of on the same boat, but I might split it up a little bit where you put the drainage and maybe plowing, maybe separate. Just so that way if people are looking at that, they'll understand where the money's going, you know, catch basin cleaning services, gravel, stone and pipe all relate to drainage. Obviously the catch basin cleaning services, so everyone knows that's something that we're mandated now by MS4. And if we don't do it, we'll end up paying for it in fines later.

Selectman Guessferd asked not the manhole structures in the in the grates or including that? To which Selectman Roy said, so I think what he's suggesting is that we put it in pieces. Selectman Dumont replied, things that are in like. Selectman Roy agreed saying, yeah, so plows, whatever.

Vice-Chairman Morin asked you want to just go by department then? To which Selectman Roy replied, I guess is that how is that how it's separated here? The Town Administrator replied, these are in department order. Vice-Chairman Morin replied, so we'll just go by department. How is that? Selectman Roy replied, right, but I'm not. Are you talking about? The Town Administrator replied, each sub department of each. Selectman Roy replied, that's fine. The Town Administrator then said, so as an example you might take the five five twos which are, there are three of them and that's \$8000, \$23,000 and \$4,000 which adds up to \$35,000 I believe. And if you wanted to move that, that would be \$35,000 for those three. And then if you get down to the Drainage with counting the MS4, well MS4 you might want to do separate. That's \$20,000. And then the drainage is. Lisa can add them up quicker than I can with the calculator. Vice-Chairman Morin asked, somebody want to make that motion? Selectman Roy made a motion to increase I guess, is it are we increasing the DPW budget? Is that technically what we're doing? The Town Administrator replied, yes. Selectman Roy replied, I'll make a motion to increase the budget for the DPW to account for plow blades, sander replacement, and guardrails and fencing for \$35,000. Selectman Guessferd seconded the motion. Any discussion? Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, the only thing I'd like to point out, and

obviously for anybody watching at home, is it's a major safety issue for any of the if any of these problems were to occur. And that's the reason for the increase. So it's a liability on the town, which ends up falling back on the taxpayer. Selectman Roy added, and maybe some harm to a citizen, you know, which obviously we always want to avoid. Seeing no further discussion, *motion carried 4-0.*

Vice-Chairman Morin asked, Finance Director, Lisa Labrie, can you give us an update? Ms. Labrie replied \$220,358 including the prior nights. That's how much you've added. Selectman Dumont said, okay four and a half cents. Vice-Chairman Morin then said, and that's an increase, what'd you say, \$50,000? The Town Administrator replied every \$50,000 is a penny.

Public Works - Equipment Rental

The Town Administrator asked, do you want to do catch basin cleaning services separate? That's kind of related to the MS4 Permit. Selectman Dumont replied, you bring up a good point. The Town Administrator replied, it's just a little bit more visibility. Selectman Roy said, if we go down to like the manhole structure kind of thing. 5554-221 Equipment Rental - Selectman Dumont replied, I would I would agree I think that should be separate just because. *Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to move Dept. 5554-221 Public Works - Equipment Rental, Catch Basin Cleaning Services outside the budget request, in the amount of \$20,000 to the FY25 Budget.* Vice-Chairman Morin asked Selectman Dumont, would you just like to talk on that a little bit, Selectman Dumont, where you want to do it? Selectman Dumont replied, yeah. I mean, I think it's I think it's extremely important to get done. It's a new federal requirement that the town is involved in. If we don't do it, the town will get fines and we'll be reprimanded for it. So if we don't spend, spend it here, it's going to get spent somewhere else and probably more. Selectman Roy added and probably more than what we would do to actually take care of the problem. Which should be our goal anyways. We should just be able we should just take care of the problem. Selectman Dumont added, before it's a problem. To which Selectman Roy replied, exactly. *Motion carried 4-0.*

Public Works - Gravel, Stone, Manhole Structures, Frames & Grates, Pipe

The Town Administrator said, looks like about \$47,000 I think, if I added that correctly. Ms. Labrie said, you're starting with pipe? Looks like about \$47,100. Vice-Chairman Morin said, so that would be the next five items. *Selectman Roy made a motion to add the Public Works Outside the Budget requests for gravel, stone, manhole structures, frames, grates and pipe to the FY25 Budget. Selectman Guessferd made this motion.* Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, just just so I clarify. So after this, if this motion is to pass, that will increase us by roughly about another penny. So we'll be looking at about \$0.06 added on to that for \$4.70, putting us back at \$4.76. Seeing no further discussion, *motion carried 4-0.*

Public Works - Parks

The Town Administrator explained, Benson Park Restroom Cleaning. It's a modest \$5475. It's in the Parks Division. But that's just quite simply put, the rate of that service is going up. People like a nice, clean restroom facility. Selectman Roy said, I'll make that motion. Selectman Guessferd said, I'll second that motion. Selectman Roy then said, Because it is just a matter of the fees going up, right? The cleaning service. The Town Administrator said, they're doing the same job, the same service. It's just their labor costs went up like everything else has done.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, Since I've asked already. Is there any way for this small amount to be found anywhere else in? The Town Administrator replied in next year's budget? Selectman Dumont replied, or even possibly you mention, obviously, the feasibility study might be able to be funded out of this year's budget. Do you think....The Town Administrator replied, this will be over ever week next year. That's the problem. I can't really spend it this year. I have to wait till next year for it. So this is a next year expense. Selectman Dumont replied, All right. Do you believe that there would be anywhere in next year's budget to find \$5,500? The Town Administrator replied, I can probably find that in the couch. it's all

loose change. I mean, it's not a big number frankly. Selectman Dumont replied, it's not but, you know, \$5,000 here, \$5,000 there, \$5,000 there. You do that eventually, now you have a whole nother penny on it, so. The Town Administrator replied, we'll have to make it work, yeah. Selectman Dumont replied, not saying I don't want to discount those. And if it's not possible, feel free to tell me. But I'm just looking at if there's a couple of areas you can cut out, it makes it easier to move forward on some of the other ones. The Town Administrator replied, typically, what ends up happening if he's really tight on his budget paving gets trimmed back a little bit. Selectman Roy replied, but how long can we do that without? The Town Administrator replied all the way to \$990,000. Selectman Roy replied, well, at what cost? The Town Administrator replied we're going to be driving on dirt roads in ten years. Selectman Morin then said, and that's what I just said, they didn't get their road paved. That was supposed to get paved this year because they didn't have the money.

The Town Administrator then said, realistically speaking, yes, \$5,000 on by itself is not a number to over a huge number to overcome. So in essence you could not do that. Again, we don't expect to get everything. We work with what we get. Selectman Dumont then said, motion's been made. So how do you want to handle it? Selectman Roy said, I can withdraw the motion. Vice-Chairman Morin replied, that's up to you. Selectman Roy withdrew the motion. The Town Administrator then said, so we're not forwarding that. Selectman Dumont then said, I just want to make clear, I'm not saying not to do the cleaning. The Town Administrator added, no, we're going to do the cleaning. Selectman Dumont replied, I'm just thinking it can be handled with what they have. That's all.

Engineering - Engineering Fees

The Town Administrator explained, the next one is Engineering Fees for grant writing. I mean, obviously it's beneficial to write grants. And this is for outside contractor engineering firms to write the engineering type bridge road infrastructure type grants. Selectman Guessferd asked, so the the outcome here is most likely much more savings? Selectman Roy replied, and we have a town engineer doing town engineer business not writing grants. The Town Administrator added, and some of these are specialties where you actually need someone that actually has the expertise to properly, you know, put the grant together. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to move Dept. 5585-225, Engineering, Engineering Fees Increase, outside the budget request in the amount of \$20,000 to the FY25 Budget. Carried 4-0.

Police - Facilities

The Town Administrator explained, next one is increased costs for the facility at the Police Station. I don't see how you don't do this unless you don't occupy that part of the facility, which seems. Selectman Guessferd said, it's the cost associated with the....Selectman Roy said, and I understand that. But I do have a question about why it wasn't part of the? Vice-Chairman Morin replied, see, and I asked the same question why it just wasn't part of the funded. Selectman Roy replied, right it wasn't part of the warrant article, I guess. Selectman Dumont added, he was just trying to meet the level funded goal that we, that we had put in front of him. And so he decided to keep it outside of the budget. The Town Administrator then said, these will be reoccurring costs every year. So I'm not sure it's something a warrant article to construct something. Selectman Morin said, it's for the new wing is what it is. The Town Administrator said, it's his electric bill, heat, it's for the utilities. Selectman Dumont added, the usage of the additional square footage. Selectman Roy replied, I'm sorry. I thought it was for other construction. That makes sense. Selectman Dumont made a motion, to move Dept. 5615-200, Police Facilities - increase for Facility Addition, outside the budget request in the amount of \$35,176 to the FY25 budget. Selectman Guessferd seconded the motion. Carried 4-0.

Police - Patrol

The Town Administrator said, the next one is replace Police AEDs. Certainly important. Might be something you could do at the end of the year. It's a discreet purchase. So it's not like it's a reoccurring every week next year. You might be able to eke it out of the end of this year's budget, if that's a possibility.

Selectman Roy said, I just have a really simple question what's an AED? The Town Administrator replied, the defibrillator in the cruisers, so when they respond to a call, they can actually put a defibrillator on someone. Selectman Dumont added, if I remember correctly he said, the reason for these ones was because they were also compatible with Fire Departments. So if they were able to take over, they could...Selectman Roy said, they should. They should be compatible. Right? Selectman Dumont replied, well, I guess there was one that wasn't. The Town Administrator added, but it's one of those numbers like it's a small number. But if you wanted to try to save that you could most likely try to get that at the end. Selectman Dumont said, well, the only thing I'll say is to definitely go for it. Do you? I mean, I hate to even use this word, but could you guarantee that we'd be able to fund it out at the end of this year's budget? The Town Administrator replied, there are no guarantees, but we haven't been through the winter yet. Selectman Dumont replied, Yeah. No, that's I don't. The Town Administrator replied, from an economy perspective. I mean, I can't guarantee that. If I could, I wouldn't be in this business. Selectman Roy said, I'd rather have a sure thing. Selectman Dumont replied, nope, that's why I got to ask the question. So, okay. I'm good with it. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to move Dept. 5630-325, Police - Patrol - Replacement of Police AED's, outside the budget request in the amount of \$18,975 to the FY25 Budget. Carried 4-0.

Police - Patrol

The Town Administrator explained, the next one is the Annual Contract for the Body Cams and Tasers. Last year we funded money into the Capital Reserve Fund. And that's how we paid for this year's allocation. I'm probably going to recommend you do the same thing. Do it as a warrant article. Take it out of Unassigned Fund Balance so there there'll be no tax impact. The voters have been very good to us when we've done it that way. And I think that kind of is the best of both worlds. You're not adding to the tax impact, but you need to do this because we need to finish that contract. So if we could move it to a warrant, which I've written an article for later on. We could do that. Selectman Roy said, and we want to, you said we want to take that out of a capital reserve fund? The Town Administrator replied, So what I'm basically doing is appropriating money into the fund, and we'll just take the money right out and pay it. Which is what we did this year, what we're doing this year. The Board was in agreement on this.

Fire - Training

The Town Administrator explained, So then the next thing we have is Fire Suppression Training Budget. We obviously know that's important. Vice-Chairman Morin added, yeah. And how do I say this with things that possibly are coming in the future. This is probably something we should support. Selectman Guessferd replied, well and it's been noted on multiple occasions that training is needs, needs to be more and better. Vice-Chairman Morin replied yeah, exactly.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, just a quick update of where we are for the tax rate. I'm at about \$0.07 that I know. The Finance Director replied \$61,609. Vice-Chairman Morin asked, what's that? How many cents? Selectman Dumont replied, \$0.07. I just want to make sure I was keeping track. No, I am definitely in support of the training budget. Vice-Chairman Morin said, so we're up around \$0.07. All right. So training. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to move Dept. 5730-237, Fire - Training, Increase Fire Suppression Training budget, outside the budget request in the amount of \$20,807 to the FY25 Budget. Carried 4-0.

Fire - Uniform Purchase

The Town Administrator said, the next one is the Uniform Purchase of Replacement Personal Protective Equipment. To me, that's that's a that's a must. That's a safety issue. We can't send people out without the right equipment. Selectman Roy asked, does that is the Chief still here? Chief, does that stuff expire? To which Chief Tice and the Town Administrator replied yes. Vice-Chairman Morin said, every ten years. Selectman Roy replied, yeah okay. All right I know there was some stuff that does expire. And then there's just stuff that is durable. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to move Dept. 5730-319, Fire - Uniform Purchase, Replacement of Personal Protective Equipment, outside the budget request in the amount of \$52,470 to the FY25 Budget. Carried 4-0.

Fire - Hose & Equipment

The Town Administrator said, next up is purchase some replacement hose for about \$6,500. Selectman Roy said, I guess I'll ask Selectman Dumont's question, is there some place we can find that money? Selectman Guessferd said, at the end of this year or maybe? The Town Administrator replied, as as we have a decent winter. Can we find \$6500? Yeah. It's just at some point you start to get to \$100,000. Selectman Guessferd replied, right, right. Selectman Roy replied, right. No, no, no. I understand. Selectman Guessferd then said, we need to be judicious about which ones. Selectman Dumont said, we're keeping track, we're not that close. Vice-Chairman Morin then said, Okay. So we're not going to move that one.

Fire - Fire Suppression

Selectman Roy asked, what kind of boat? Chief Tice from the audience replied, rigid hull inflatable boat, 18 foot. Selectman Guessferd then said, you know, we did discuss this during the budget discussion and a little bit I think. Vice-Chairman Morin said, we can always come back to it. Selectman Roy said, I'm curious about how often you are on the river. Selectman Guessferd said, it's part of the discussion we had. Selectman Roy then said, or on one of the ponds. Chief Tice replied, the ponds aren't the issue. It's the river. The current boat that we have, it's underpowered. It's too small. So when we have the river, when it's really flowing like it does in the spring and this past year, with all the rain, it was flowing like that a lot. There was a lot of times this year we wouldn't have been able to get on the river had we needed to. Selectman Roy asked, how often do you do it though? How often do you have to get on the river? Chief Tice replied usually a couple of times a year. It's just a matter of if we don't have it there might be an issue where somebody, somebody is in need on the river and we're not able to get out there. Selectman Roy asked is there maybe another way to do that, like a mutual aid agreement with Nashua or something that that would save us from buying that. Now, I guess we. Chief Tice replied, we do work with Nashua and we all are also on a government surplus list, so we're trying to find one that's not a retail, retail, government service, government surplus. We could certainly do that as opposed to buying one at full retail.

Vice-Chairman Morin then said, the problem with Nashua is, can this boat be carried down the boat ramp? Oh it can't. So what I was going to say is null and void then. Okay. Never mind. Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, the other thing I was going to say for calls like that, if Nashua had to give us mutual aid, do they charge? Chief Tice replied, they don't charge. Vice-Chairman Morin then said, see, and the reason I thought he was going for this boat is if we could carry it down the boat ramp, we can get in the water a lot faster because they got to drive all the way to Hills Ferry Road and then come back up the river. Selectman Roy said, and they can't drive the boat in? Vice-Chairman Morin replied, Can't. Not in Hudson. Nope. Okay. They have to carry it down. The Town Administrator then said, there may be an improvement down the road somewhere. Selectman Roy replied, right, right. But right now, I just. I'm not sure that I can get behind this for the number of one, the number of calls. And then we have Nashua to help us out.

Selectman Guessferd then said, yeah, I'm the same way. I think I'm feeling not not feeling the love on this one for right now. I mean, I do understand it. It's needed at some point, but we have to be mindful of the fact that we are still stinging from the default budgets, and we don't want to have to go back there because somebody people might think that we're spending money that we don't really need to spend. Of course people will probably some people will probably be able to criticize. Selectman Roy interjected saying, well, the other option is we could always put it on a warrant article. Selectman Guessferd replied we put it on a warrant and it doesn't pass, then we don't get it. Selectman Roy replied, yeah, right.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, you had mentioned a government surplus list. Do you have, like, a time frame where you might have an answer on something like that? Or is it just kind of open ended? Chief Tice replied no, if something happens to come up, they put it out there. For other agencies to take advantage of. But there's no there's no. Selectman Dumont replied, like, I don't know if you heard anything coming down the pipeline or anything. Okay.

The Town Administrator then said, If you wanted to again, you could maybe get to the end of the year. If we had sufficient funds, it might be something that you would consider at the end of this fiscal year. Selectman

Roy replied, yeah, I think that would be a discussion to have. Yeah, I just don't, I'm not feeling it to put it in this budget right now. Selectman Guessferd agreed saying, yeah, I'm not either. Vice-Chairman Morin replied, okay. Alright.

Fire - Trucks

The Town Administrator said, the next one I believe was lease purchase of 2023 Ford Explorer. I believe that would complete the we, didn't buy three or we didn't buy four. Selectman Roy replied, something like that. Yeah. Fire trucks 2023 Ford Explorer. The Town Administrator replied, right. That's the one we're on now. Selectman Roy asked, is that replacing a vehicle? Chief Tice replied, yes, it would be replacing one of our older staff vehicles.

The Town Administrator asked what are we up to, Lisa? Just so everybody knows. Ms. Labrie replied, \$435,000. Selectman Dumont said, Eight and a half cents. If you had this one in, brings you up to about \$0.09 a little over.

Vice-Chairman Morin then said, no motion on that? Then we will move on. *Selectman Roy* then said, hold on a second. The Ford Explorer. I'll make the motion because it's replacement. Selectman Guessferd asked, what kind of shape is is the vehicle it's replacing? Chief Tice came forward and responded So, yeah one of the vehicles we have is that 110,000 miles. The other one's at 80,000 but that's a 2011 and it's starting to have some rust issues. And then we have the and it has some electrical issues. We may have it rectified. But as it's getting older we're starting to have more and more issues with them because both the both the Tahoe's 2011,2012. Selectman Dumont replied, the one, the electric one you were working on anyways to try to sell? Chief Tice replied, to see, we were going to get rid of the worst, worst one and keep the other ones that were in the best shape for the long term. Selectman Guessferd said, I'll second your motion. Motion to move Dept. 5730-404, Fire - Trucks, Lease/Purchase a 2023 Ford Explorer, outside the budget request in the amount of \$23,095 to the FY25 Budget. Carried 4-0.

Fire - Emergency Management

The Town Administrator explained, the the last piece you have is we store some emergency management funds to the \$4,400. Selectman Roy then said, what does that mean? Like what? The Town Administrator replied, he had trimmed the Emergency Management Budget to fund some other activities, now he's trying to get it back to the original or the previous number funded, if I recall correctly. Chief Tice agree saying, yeah, that was the two to get down to the 0% increase. That was one of the cuts we made. So so some of it's for emergency management training and and some of it's for in case we have to activate the EOC.

Selectman Dumont then said, I was gonna ask did any of that have anything to do with the Covid. Was that funding allocated towards that at all or? Chief Tice replied, we did activate the EOC during Covid and we did use those funds during that time. So some of those funds would only need to be used if we activated the EOC. And some of it would be for training for specifically for emergency management. Selectman Guessferd then asked, so there's nothing in there right now? To which Chief Tice replied, no, no. The only thing we left in there was the money for the the contract to maintain the radio system. Selectman Guessferd said, I'd like to make a motion to keep that, to put that in. Selectman Roy seconded the motion, to move Dept. 5730-XXX, Fire - Emergency Management, Restore Emergency Management Funds, outside the budget request in the amount of \$4,400 to the FY25 Budget. Carried 4-0.

Recreation - Salaries & Benefits - Office Assistant PT to FT

The Town Administrator explained, so the next one is salary and benefits that was the Recreation Department taking the two part time, making it a full time position. Obviously, you've seen the activity that the Rec Department supervises and manages. The Director came in and made her pitch for that. And that's the cost basically of benefits to get a full time, to get that to full time from two part time. Selectman Guessferd asked, they have two part time. Now this takes it to one, one full time, mostly because of the

benefits, right? The Town Administrator replied, yes. Selectman Dumont added, I'm assuming the most expensive package. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to to move Dept. 5810-100 Recreation, Salaries & Benefits, Two PT Office Assistants to One FT Office Assistant, outside the budget request in the amount of \$41,144 to the FY25 Budget. Carried 4-0.

Recreation - Supervised Play - Increase Costs to Operate Summer Program

The Town Administrator explained, so the last one is supervised play. And I believe the revenue on this had already been increased from \$120,000 to \$160,000. What does that mean? We charge for the summer program. We charge for the field trips. So when the rec director put the budget together, she estimated the revenue, which I believe was \$160,000 total, which was up from the \$120,000 I believe that was budgeted. So in essence, as the program, particularly the summer, obviously the summer program, as we potentially add another councilor to keep the ratio of like 10 to 1 camp counselors to attendees, and the cost of the field trips, which we get paid for. But still we have to gross budget. Those have gone up. So that's why she requested the \$30,473 for the summer program. But I do believe we've already bumped up the revenue. Selectman Guessferd said, it sounds like it's kind of a wash. The Town Administrator replied, it will be, but it will still add \$0.01 because you already bumped up the revenue. We put the cart, my word, cart before the horse. She's already accounted for the revenue in her budget.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to move Recreation, Supervised Play Increase Costs to Operation Summer Program, outside the budget request in the amount of \$30,473 to the FY25 Budget. Carried 4-0.

Vice-Chairman Morin asked, Lisa, can we have an update, please? Where we're at? Ms. Labrie replied, \$533,998 or \$0.07. The Town Administrator replied, so just about \$0.11. Ms. Labrie replied, yes. rounding. That's what I was gonna to say but I figured would.

The Town Administrator then asked, would you happen to have a gross budget number after all that? Ms. Labrie replied, gross budget is \$35,527,448. The Town Administrator then said, so now that you've concluded the Out of the Budget Requests, that would be the budget that you'd be forwarding for the General Fund. That's the gross budget. Ms. Labrie reiterated, \$35,527,448

Vice-Chairman Morin asked, anybody got anything else on that before we move on? Selectman Dumont asked, do you need a motion to.....Selectman Guessferd interjected asking so what percent increase is that over this current year's budget? The Finance Director replied, this year's budget? I don't know what this year's budget is off the top of my head. Selectman Dumont then said, I think we're still a little bit under what the estimated was about by \$0.03. So that percentage that I'm not going to be able to do in my head. Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah. I mean, I just just wanted. Because that's what the taxpayers. Vice-Chairman Morin replied, she's looking it up. Selectman Guessferd replied, that's what taxpayers are going to be looking at. Our budget's increasing by this much.

The Town Administrator then said, they're going to be looking at the default budget versus the budget. Default budgets not we are not done calculating it, but it's probably going to be start with the three fourths \$34 million and something. It might be slightly more than that. So this will be 35 and something. So it could be a few hundred thousand dollars difference which the bigger that gap as we know the more tempting it is to vote for the default budget. Selectman Guessferd and Dumont both replied, saying, right. right. The Town Administrator added, so I'm not saying any of this isn't worthwhile. Just saying that. That's really what you're looking at really. Selectman Dumont agreed saying, that's what people look. That's why sometimes moving everything around.

Review of Warrant Articles

Vice-Chairman Morin then said, want to want to take up the first one. And then when she gets it, we can we can get that? So now we're on warrant articles. Anything you'd like to start off with? The Town Administrator replied, I do have some recommendations as we get to certain warrant articles, but if I don't have a recommendation, it's up to you folks to decide.

Selectman Roy then said, can we do CRFs as, like, one block? The Town Administrator replied, I'm going to defer on that because I might have a recommendation on at least one of them. To which Selectman Roy replied, Okay. All right. That's fine. Vice-Chairman Morin then said, alright, So why don't we change the order of business? Selectman Guessferd said, and I'll have a recommendation on one of them as well. Selectman Morin replied All right. So what we'll do is change the order of business, deal with these three, and then come back to the rest. How's that? Does that work for everybody?

At this point the Finance Director spoke up saying 6% increase over last year's gross. The Town Administrator replied, from just a gross number, right? But don't forget, that doesn't take into account all the revenue. It's just a gross number. Selectman Guessferd replied, right, right. No, I get it.

The Town Administrator asked, you said these three. Which three are you referring to? Vice-Chairman Morin replied, I don't know you said you had some. The Town Administrator replied, oh, I'm just saying as we go through, I had a few. Vice-Chairman Morin replied, no, no, we're going to do those first. And then if Selectman Roy wants to do the rest as a block, we'll do it that way.

The Town Administrator replied, okay, Warrant Article I - so what I was going to recommend is you had the Fire Apparatus Refurbishment at \$150,000. That's probably a bit aggressive. You have \$312,000 in the fund. Maybe you scale that back to \$100,000 and at least save a penny there. Selectman Guessferd asked, which one is that? The Town Administrator replied, that's I Fire Apparatus Refurbishment. I think it's worthwhile, but I think it's probably a bit aggressive. Selectman Roy asked, how much do we use out of that? To which the Town Administrator replied, well, it depends on what we're refurbishing. But big ticket. We're doing a if we do a big engine or a pumper or something, you could use some substantial money. Selectman Guessferd asked, do you know how much is in there now? To which the Town Administrator replied, Yeah \$312,312.

Selectman Roy said I think 100,000 is reasonable. Selectman Guessferd replied yeah. Selectman Dumont then said, the attachment in his paper, I think it was talking about a new apparatus was up around \$700,000 a ladder truck, around a million. Just to kind of put into perspective. The Town Administrator replied, refurbishing things gets more life out of them. It's a great program. Just looking at the warrant, you might scale it back to \$100,000 for this year. Selectman Roy replied, well, we're going to spend \$412,000 on a refurbishment probably better off just buying a new vehicle. The Town Administrator replied well that's not just one that might be....Selectman Dumont said, hopefully be a little bit. Selectman Roy replied, I understand.

Selectman Roy made a motion seconded by Selectman Dumont to move Warrant Article I, Funding for the Fire Apparatus Repair/Refurbishment Capital Reserve Fund, to the FY25 Warrant in the amount of \$100,000. Carried 4-0.

Warrant Article L - Energy Efficiency Capital Reserve Fund Funding

The Town Administrator explained, so the other one I was going to steal from Selectman Guessferd is L the Energy Efficiency. Apparently the Sustainability Committee voted not to forward. Selectman Guessferd replied well, we voted not to support it or whatever. So yeah, that was the one I was going to do. So we only have two. The Town Administrator went on to say, there's about \$56,000 in that fund. And without any real project lined up, it's probably a year we can pass on that one. Selectman Guessferd said, so let's take that off the warrant. The Town Administrator said, to not forward L. Selectman Roy made a motion,

seconded by Selectman Guessferd to not forward Warrant Article L, Energy Efficiency Capital Reserve Funding to the warrant. Carried 4-0.

Warrant Articles F, G, H, J and K - Capital Reserve Fund Funding

The Town Administrator explained, so Articles F, G, H, J, and K are the other Capital Reserve Funding for the existing capital reserve funds. Selectman Roy replied okay and does anybody have anything else about any of those funds before I make this block motion? The Town Administrator added, some of those are defrayed by Water or Sewer. And the generator case, the VacCon truck is also 50/50 with the Sewer Utility. So looking at those it's going to be approximately less than \$0.02. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to forward Warrant Articles F, G, H, J and K to the FY25 Warrant. Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, just so I understand. So we're looking at F,G,H,J,K. Okay. I'm good. Thanks. Motion carried 4-0.

The Town Administrator then said, so that's that block. And now you can resume your regular programming if you want to go back up to date. Vice-Chairman Morin said so now we are at Liaison Reports. The Town Administrator replied, we still have a list of warrant articles. We back up to Warrant Article D. Selectman Morin replied, oh I thought that's what you were trying to do; get them all done in one shot. Selectman Roy replied, I was. But this is a Capital Reserve Funds.

Warrant Article D - Hire Four Firefighter/AEMT's

The Town Administrator explained, so D is to hire four Firefighter/EMT's. I think the Chief came in and discussed that with the Board. Selectman Roy asked, is that part of a SAFER grant? To which the Town Administrator replied there's no grant written into this at the current time.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, I'll ask the question right to the Chief. So that's the most significant impact on the entire list. Is there any way to to break it up, shift it over to to a different year? Is it an immediate need? I think on your list you had that as your number two as preferred option. Chief Tice replied, yes. So I would say the training officer is a bigger need than that right now. So if I was going to support one I would support the training officer. Not saying that the firefighters, we don't need them, but that gives us one per shift to do two and two. We end up with two two shifts off balance. The other thing we could do, if it helps, we were asking for support. Without a SAFER grant, we could put it in there for a SAFER grant if they become available. It's a it's a matter if they become available in the timing of it. But I recognize where you're at with the tax rate, if that's what we needed to do to keep it moving forward. I would certainly rather see that than not not moving forward at all.

Selectman Roy asked, would it be helpful to do less than for like maybe two this year and maybe two next year? Selectman Guessferd replied you end up with uneven shifts. Selectman Dumont asked, is it possible to kind of hold off until you look into that grant? Chief Tice replied, the problem is, if we don't have approval to move forward when the grant comes out, we'll lose the grant. So but it has we have done it in the past where we've worded it that it's contingent upon a grant. So it goes through the town process gets approved. We can't hire those positions unless we get the grant. But that would give us that would put us in a position to accept the grant once that comes. Selectman Dumont asked, do you know roughly what might what alleviation that might be, or do you have any kind of rough idea? Chief Tice replied, I can't say until it comes out. It's been, you know, varying percentages over the first three years. The last ones were 100% for the first three years it covered the salaries. But until they come out with that notice and we're not real sure when that's going to come out because things that the Federal Government level aren't quite moving. Selectman Dumont replied, sure.

The Town Administrator then said, I think I've said this before. Legally, you don't have to have a warrant article to hire people. Selectman Roy replied, Right We just did that as a. The Town Administrator replied, we do it because we had an advisory warrant article 1993. We've followed that practice. I just throw that out there? Because maybe if a grant came up and it was 100%, You might think differently. Maybe it'd have the public hearing accepting a grant, and maybe you could do something then. Selectman Dumont replied,

I do like that train of thought of the grant being 100%. That sounds fantastic. The Town Administrator replied, it could be 75%. Selectman Roy said, but then it goes down as the years go on. Eventually the taxpayer and. Selectman Dumont then said, with that point, I do think it's important that the taxpayer has a say on something that large.

Selectman Roy then said, I mean, there's always a piece of me that is always wants to put it in front of the voters because they, you know, it's their money, you know? But. Vice-Chairman Morin then said, we got to be careful if we throw too much at them and we still have two contracts that we're working on. The Town Administrator added, I was just going to say, you have you have two labor contracts, I think we need to take care of folks we already have. Selectman Roy replied, I don't know if this is the year for that. Chief Tice replied, right. And recognize that one of the contracts is ours. I would certainly say that is the number one priority for the Fire Department. That's that's going to be very important. Selectman Guessferd said, I'd say we let it go. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to not forward Warrant Article D, Hire Four Firefighter/EMTs to the FY25 Warrant. Carried 4-0.

Warrant Article E - Hire One Fire Captain Training Officer

The Town Administrator explained, I think the Chief mentioned that this was a priority. Selectman Guessferd and Selectman Roy both said, I'm good with this one. Selectman Dumont said, I just want to add I think this is extremely important. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to forward Warrant Article E, Hire One Fire Captain Training Officer to the FY25 Warrant. Carried 4-0.

Warrant Article M - Discontinue the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund

The Town Administrator said, so now we drop down all the way to Article M, which is Discontinuing the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund. As you recall, that fund was established many, many years ago for the procurement of ambulances. When the town went to the Revolving Fund for EMS, we were able to procure the ambulances out of the revolving fund. So we're using revenue from the ambulance customer to help replace the ambulance. So there's I think it's 60 odd thousand left in this fund at this point. The voters vote to discontinue it, they voted to establish it. They need to vote to discontinue it. Presumably the money would just flow back to the General Fund. Selectman Roy said, I was going to ask, where does the money go after. The Town Administrator replied where it was raised and appropriated in the first place.

Selectman Dumont then said, I thought that in his paperwork it had said about the EMS emergency services or something like that. Am I forgetting? Chief Tice came forward and said we were hoping to roll that into the Revolving Fund to go towards the next ambulance. Selectman Roy asked, can we do that? Is that is that like a legal? Selectman Dumont replied, that's how the warrant article is worded. The Town Administrator replied, we'll double check it with the Lawyer. Vice-Chairman Morin asked, so hold on this tonight? The Town Administrator replied, No, I would still forward. We'll just make sure technically we're correct. Selectman Dumont then said, well I was going to say do you want to forward with a contingent upon attorney review? The Town Administrator replied all of these will be reviewed and vetted by the lawyer. When I forward them, then we'll get them vetted. Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to forward Warrant Article M, Discontinue the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund to the FY25 Warrant. Carried 4-0.

Warrant Article N - Melendy Road Bridge Rehabilitation

The Town Administrator explained, So now the next one is n Melendy Road Bridge Rehabilitation. The Engineer came and spoke to you about the way the road is going to be an issue, and we need to make sure we have sufficient funds. I believe some of this is coming from the bridge aid we got, but we just want to make sure on the front end we have enough. This was proposed to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance already. So this would be no tax impact, because you would be using the Unassigned Fund Balance of which we have sufficient monies to do that.

Selectman Dumont said, Melendy Road is utilized quite a bit, I think it's I think it's an important thing to forward. The Town Administrator replied, again, you know, we've got a lot of culverts that are classified as bridges because of the length. Selectman Guessferd said this is now a 4 or 5? The Town Administrator replied, I believe they've looked at it and determined that it was a four not a five. So that means it needs more....Selectman Roy asked, is this the one right at the end of near the pickle ball? The Town Administrator replied yes. right there. Selectman Dumont added, I guess when they got down there Elvis said it was a lot worse shape than they had imagined. The Town Administrator added, they've classified it. And so you don't want it to get below four because below four is probably going to be closed. Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah. I'm good with that. I'll make that motion. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to to move Warrant Article N, Melendy Road Bridge Rehabilitation, to the FY25 Warrant. Carried 4-0.

Warrant Article O - Establish a Fire Alarm/Master Box Revolving Fund

The Town Administrator explained, Warrant Article O which would be to Establish a Fire Alarm Master Box Revolving Fund. I believe the Chief came to us and talked about all the businesses that are hooked up to this. We would then be able to take a fee or charge to those businesses to support this system. The moneys would go in. Any moneys we needed to keep the system up to date would be in a revolving fund. Therefore, it takes it off the taxpayers and puts it onto the users. Selectman Dumont said, I just want to say, I think it's a very fair proposal. I mean, it makes sense that the people who are utilizing the service are the ones that are going to be paying for it. So, I'll make the motion. Selectman Dumont made a motion to forward Warrant Article O, Establish a Fire Alarm Master Box Revolving Fund to the FY25 Warrant. Selectman Guessferd seconded the motion. Carried 4-0.

Warrant Article P - Increase Exemptions for Elderly, Disabled and Blind Exemptions

The Town Administrator explained, So Article P was to Increase Exemptions for Elderly, Disabled and Blind. Those are three. Those are actually going to be three separate articles. There's one for Elderly. There's one for Disabled and there's one for Blind. We group them together just for ease here. But just so you're aware that when they get written onto the warrant, they will be separate. That was to raise the, I believe, income levels for those because we've had obviously the property tax increase and we just want to keep people up to speed inflation, whatnot. Selectman Roy interjected saying in line with what's going on in the economy. The Town Administrator continued saying, this predominantly affects folks that that need these programs. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to move Warrant Article P, Increase Exemptions for Elderly, Disabled and Blind Exemptions to the FY25 Warrant, as three separate warrant articles. Carried 4-0.

Warrant Article Q - Establish Drainage Capital Reserve Fund

The Town Administrator said, So, one article the Engineer came in to talk about establishing a Drainage Capital Reserve Fund. It's become evident with the amount of rainfall we've had this year that we have drainage deficiencies. And one way to hopefully get funding or get ahead of is to have a capital reserve fund. We've had pretty low, \$15,000 or \$10,000 budgets. That's not going to cut it anymore, because the things we have to do require a lot more, either engineering or a lot more work. So we let the voters decide. But basically it's to establish a capital reserve fund for drainage.

Selectman Guessferd then said, we've I think this is something people will resonate with people because of what's happened this year. So I think it's good to put in. Selectman Roy said, I'm always a fan of capital reserve funds.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, I think it's a great idea. I just had one question, probably for Steve. Is there any way to use capital improvement fees for any type of issues like this? The Town Administrator replied unless it's specifically allocated for that. Selectman Dumont replied, I know it has to go to that corridor, but I didn't know. The Town Administrator replied, you can't do repairs of things you already have. So that's or it has to be because of capacity type issues. Selectman Dumont replied, well

that was what I was....So at the NHMA that I attended to a couple of them, they brought up the issue of capacity. Obviously most of it has to do with traveling and some of it being pedestrian as well as vehicles. But couldn't there be? The Town Administrator replied if you have deficiencies, which these are probably more classified as a system that's not robust enough, you're probably not going to get away with spending. Selectman Dumont replied, I didn't know, with the more road travel, the more roads being paved. If that was causing if that would classify as an increase in capacity to use, utilize some of those funds, because otherwise the funds, if they're not utilized, they go back. The Town Administrator replied, they do. I think it's more rain. I think it's some of the infrastructure was built back in the 40s, 50s and 60s. Selectman Roy replied, it can't just be all rain. I mean, there has to be issue there. The Town Administrator replied, oh, no, we've seen some stuff this year, we've never seen before. Selectman Dumont replied, yeah. I mean I don't disagree with that. I just I looked at it increased capacity overall. But okay. The Town Administrator then said, you have some pretty specific ones that we know right now we have to do. Selectman Morin added, and we got to look at the ones we got to deal with. The pipes have been too small because it was put in way back in. Selectman Dumont replied, no way do I want to put it off. I was just really thinking about those those cap fees. Like I said, if they don't get used well, they go back. So if it could be put towards this, right. Why not? Seeing no further discussion, Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to move Warrant Article Q, Establish a Drainage Capital Reserve Fund, to the FY25 Warrant. Carried 4-0.

Warrant Article R - Circumferential Highway (Lowell Road to Route 111 segment) Feasibility Study

The Town Administrator explained, so the next one is the Circumferential Highway Feasibility Study. If you recall we had presentations on this. The State is committing, I believe, 80%. We're looking at 20%. This would be our 20% of doing a feasibility study for the southern end of the what's known as Circumferential Highway. That's from Lowell Road to 111. States basically saying, hey, you know, we'll look at it, you're going to put 20%, possibly less, but that's the max. But if you don't raise the money, you know they're not going to do anything.

Selectman Guessferd said, I think we talked about this already when we were going over it. is going to be an opportunity for the citizens to make a decision. Do we look at the feasibility or not? I think it's something we have to do here. We should do, put it that way. We've got the traffic and everything else. Vice-Chairman Morin asked, is that a motion? To which Selectman Guessferd replied, I will make that motion. Selectman Dumont seconded the motion to move Warrant Article R, Circumferential Highway (Lowell Road to Route 111 segment) Feasibility Study, to the FY25 Warrant. Selectman Dumont then said, I do just want to say the main reason for putting this forward, and I would agree with Selectman Guessferd, is to let the voters have the final say on it. It's a very difficult thing for me to do that because it puts me now over that, that dollar amount that I was striving for earlier. So I'm not happy about that whatsoever. But if the voters don't want it, I urge you to vote no. If you do vote yes. It's your decision at this point.

Vice-Chairman Morin asked, any further discussion. Selectman Roy was recognized and said, so I can't recommend this, but I understand the idea about having the voters vote on it. Right? It should be their choice. So although I won't recommend it, I do support the idea of it being a warrant article. Motion carried 3-1. Selectman Roy opposed.

Warrant Article S - South Water Tank Lease Agreement with Verizon Wireless

The Town Administrator Was the lease agreement with Verizon Wireless. As you recall, we had this discussion. We're looking to lease space on the South Water Tank. We're going to receive, I believe it's 20 some odd \$27,000 for the Water Fund, with some increase for the I think it's 20 years with the article, but basically we're not raising the appropriate amount, but we would be entering into an agreement that requires the voters' approval because it's multi-year. Vice-Chairman Morin said, and this this is a funds generated for the town also. Any further discussion? Any motion? Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to move Warrant Article S, Lease Agreement with Verizon Wireless, to the FY25 Warrant. Carried 4-0.

Town Wide Paving Warrant Article

The Town Administrator addressed the Board saying, I mentioned before, I have two more articles prepared. One was for Town Wide Paving because we did not forward anything from the outside the budget. So I prepared an article today from \$100,000 for that. If you're so inclined to put this on the warrant, that's the warrant article. Again, this is for town wide paving.

So again, as I recollect, I believe it was 2019 or so. We went to the voters, raised another \$200,000 because the \$790,000, it doesn't get you what you used to get to. You look at the price of the raw materials, the asphalt, the labor, and all of that goes into it and you're just able to pave less roads. So Director's just recommended adding another \$100,000, that's why I prepared an article for your consideration.

Vice-Chairman Morin asked, where does that put us, Lisa? If that went through. Ms. Labrie asked, are we are we counting that as an increase for the department as well? The Town Administrator replied, no, it was not in the department. We the Board didn't forward it or didn't approve it in the outside the budget. Now it's just a warrant article. Selectman Dumont said, including that I got it at \$4.94. Ms. Labrie said, that brings us at an increase of \$120,740 including that \$100,000, because we decreased, we increased 533-998. But then when we backed out, the firefighters from the from the outside the budget requests it brought our number down quite a bit. The Town Administrator asked, you're talking for just the warrants, right? Ms. Labrie said for just the warrants. The Town Administrator then asked, do you know what the number is on the tax rate at this point, if we added that \$0.02 in? Selectman Dumont replied, I think it's \$4.94. I think. The Town Administrator replied, yeah, sounds about right. Selectman Guessferd said yeah it makes sense. To which the Ms. Labrie replied yeah. The Town Administrator asked \$4.94? to which Ms. Labrie replied, that's what it says on here. I'm not. I wasn't making the changes to the same page that has everything so. Vice-Chairman Morin asked, you good? To which Selectman Dumont replied, I'm good. Seeing no further questions, Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to forward the Town Wide Paving Warrant Article to the FY25 Warrant. Carried 4-0.

Police Safety Capital Reserve Fund - Warrant Article

The Town Administrator explained, the last one I had is I spoke before. This was for the Police Safety Capital Reserve Fund. Similar to what we've done before. This I would recommend you take from the Unassigned Fund Balance. That way it doesn't cost the taxpayers anything on the tax rate, because you really do need to do this. Selectman Roy said, okay. So does this. This is establishing a capital. It's already established? The Town Administrator replied, they already have it. This is just a mechanism to fund the last year of the contract we have for the body cams. And for the, I believe, the Tasers and the shields. We did this same article last year and was successful. So instead of putting it in the budget and maybe get a default budget, we don't have the funds, this way you put it out there funded capital reserve, and you just take the money back out when you put it in. But it's coming out of Unassigned Fund Balance. This one wouldn't change the rate. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont, to forward the Warrant Article for the Police Safety Capital Reserve Fund to the FY25 Warrant with the funds coming from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Carried 4-0.

At this point the Town Administrator addressed the Board saying, I have no more. Vice-Chairman Morin then said, Lisa, do you have a final number or should we keep going? And then when you get it ready, we'll come to you.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, No, I just want to say I appreciate everyone's time and effort on this. I think it's a I think it's a really good starting point to know that our overall budget is at \$4.81, which is less than the estimated that was the previous year. And with the warrant articles, I know it's a little bit of an increase, but it gives the voters the choice to decide how they want to spend their money. So I just appreciate that.

9. Board Liaison Reports/Other Remarks by Selectmen

Selectman Roy: I have nothing.

Selectman Guessferd: Let's see. I don't have a lot tonight. Recreation -there's a comedy night coming up. Getting ready for basketball season. There's a senior trip coming up, I believe, as well. Of course, Halloween is coming up, so we have. I think Fright Night is Friday the 27th. Fright night, whatever they call it, whatever they're calling it. And it's it's a good opportunity to get the kids out and enjoy and celebrate Halloween. I don't know what the plan is for, like, are we doing a trick or treat thing? Vice-Chairman Morin replied, yeah the 31st. Selectman Guessferd replied the 31st on Halloween. Vice-Chairman Morin said 6-8PM The Town Administrator added, it's posted on our webpage. It's out there. So in Hudson it's 6-8PM on the 31st unless for some reason we get some god awful inclement weather, it will be the 31st.

Selectman Guessferd went on to say, Planning - we're still working through the the master plan. We had another another chapter that we addressed last last meeting. And this week we got tomorrow night. We have a couple of, I think, smaller projects that we're working to look at and decide if we're going to approve or not. So I think that's what I got.

Selectman Dumont: We got an upcoming ZBA meeting on the 26th. Outside of that, Benson Park was scheduled to hold their cleanup this past weekend on the 28th. I'm sorry, this this past Saturday. If it rains, it's the rain day is scheduled for the fourth. So if anybody's out there has some time to come and help clean up Benson Park, we'd all appreciate it. And like everything else, if you have any time at all to volunteer, there's plenty of open spots down here, so thank you.

Selectman Morin: The only thing I got is Selectman Dumont and myself attended the meeting on Monday night at the Community Center with the State of New Hampshire, and they just talked to the projects on the ten year plan. It was just basically an information type of meeting. That's all I have. Selectman Guessferd asked how many how many citizens showed up for that? Vice-Chairman Morin replied, probably 20-30 anyway? Selectmen Guessferd and Roy both replied that's not bad. Selectman Dumont added, Hudson had a decent representation. There was from other towns as well. Amherst, Nashua, Merrimack. Vice-Chairman Morin replied Nashua had a lot of people. Selectman Dumont added, a lot of town reps, but some citizens from Hudson showed up, which was great.

10. Remarks by Town Administrator

Town Administrator Steve Malizia was recognized and said, you stole my thunder when you said Trick or Treat so I have nothing left. I've probably spoken enough tonight.

11. Remarks by School Board

Vice-Chairman Morin recognized School Board member, Gary Gasdia. Mr. Gasdia said, I'm going to keep it quick. So about two months into school, things are going well. A lot of good activities out there. Some of our sports teams are getting ready for making the playoffs, which is great to see. I will say sort of to echo Selectman Dumont, just watching the way all of you went through your budget and really care about the taxpayer and really keep it top of mind. Just it's great to see. And for anyone watching, if you loved watching the last hour, here we are doing it tomorrow night with the School and again next Monday and probably the Monday after that. So must see TV tomorrow night at 630. So that's it.

12. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Guessferd at 9:32 p.m., seconded by Selectman Dumont to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person request an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 4-0.

Nonpublic Session was entered at 9:32 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.

Let the record show that Selectman Roy voted to go into nonpublic session but then left before the session began. Therefore she did not take part in the nonpublic session or the votes taken after nonpublic session.

The Board entered open session at 10:37 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session:

- 1. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to seal the minutes of the 10/24/23 nonpublic session indefinitely. Carried 3-0.
- 2. Selectman Guessferd made a motion to adjourn at 10:37 p.m. this was seconded by Selectman Dumont. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 3-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:37 p.m. by Selectman Guessferd seconded by Selectman Dumont. A roll call vote was taken Carried 3-0.

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

absent _____
Marilyn McGrath, Chairman

Dave Morin, Vice Chairman

Kara Roy, Selectman

Bob Guessferd, Selectman

Dillon Dumont, Selectman