### HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### Minutes of the November 14, 2023 Meeting

1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u> - by Chairman McGrath the meeting of November 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall.

#### 2. <u>ATTENDANCE</u>

Board of Selectmen: Dillon Dumont, Bob Guessferd, Kara Roy, Dave Morin, Marilyn McGrath Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant

#### 3. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Selectman Dumont made a motion, at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Selectman Guessferd 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 requests 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 5-0.

The Board entered public session at 7:12 p.m.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to seal the minutes of nonpublic session. Carried 5-0.

Chairman McGrath called for a brief recess so that HCTV can get set up.

4. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u> - by Chairman McGrath the Board of Selectmen meeting of November 14, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by School Board member Gary Gasdia

#### 5. <u>ATTENDANCE</u>

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

<u>Staff/Others</u>: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant; Jim Michaud, Chief Assessor; Elvis Dhima, Town Engineer; Jay Twardosky, Public Works Director; Tad Dionne, Police Chief; Gary Gasdia, School Board Member

\*\*Due to a technical difficulties, the cablecast and audio recording of the meeting did not begin until the Consent Items, Assessing Item 8A-2.

### 6. PUBLIC INPUT

- 1) Ed van der Veen, 9 Newton Street, spoke as a member of Southern NH Radio Control Club.
- 2) Wendy Wagner-Anderson, 150 Robinson Road, spoke in support of Southern NH Radio Control Club.
- 3) Robert Tate, Address inaudible, spoke in support of Southern NH Radio Control Club.
- 4) Harry Peters, 2 Speare Road, spoke in support of Southern NH Radio Control Club.
- 5) John Hayes, Litchfield resident, spoke in Southern NH Radio Control Club.
- 6) Wendy Wagner-Anderson, 150 Robinson Road, read a statement from a former Southern NH RC Club member.
- 7) John Stevens, 42 Adam Drive, spoke in support of Southern NH RC Club.

8) Cody Wojick, "Not a Hudson Resident", President of Southern NH Radio Control Club, spoke in support of Southern NH RC Club.

# 7. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

 A. <u>Nomination/Appointment</u> <u>Sustainability Committee</u> - Karl Huber (1 member vacancy expiring 04/24, 2 member vacancies expiring 04/25, 1 alternate member vacancy expiring 04/24, 1 alternate member vacancy expiring 04/26)

### <u>Selectman Morin made a motion to waive the rules to nominate and appoint in the same meeting.</u> <u>Selectman Dumont seconded this motion. Carried 5-0</u>.

<u>Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to appoint Karl Huber as an</u> <u>Alternate Member of the Sustainability Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2026. Carried 5-0</u>.

# 8. <u>CONSENT ITEMS</u>

Chairman McGrath asked remove consent item 8A-3 for separate consideration. She then asked, does anyone have anything else they'd like removed for separate consideration? Selectman Roy removed item 8A-2. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to approve Consent Items 8A-1, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E & 8F. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Roy was recognized regarding Consent Item 8A-2, BLTA Docket #30722-22PT. Selectman Roy said, stated that she received a lot of calls regarding this agenda item and asked for more explanation of the item. Chief Assessor, Jim Michaud came forward to explain the case and the pros and cons of the proposed settlement, to the Board.

The audio recording of the meeting picked up as Mr. Michaud was explaining that the Board of Tax and Land Appeals (BTLA) role in the settlement mediation process. He said, And they they don't order you to settle. They order you to talk about settling. And we did. And we're here today with a proposed settlement. There's no abatement. Money's being shelled out. Right. So it's a settlement that's really prospective, right, about lowering the value going forward for '24, '25 and '26 or until such time as there's a reevaluation. But there's some kind of construction, destruction of the property. So both sides are protected in that regard.

Selectman Roy replied, okay. All right. I just I think there was some misunderstanding in the public with some folks about how how this, this process works. So I just want to make sure that they understood that we didn't just give them a tax break. Mr. Michaud replied, Essentially it you know, we're looking at at value what value can we defend and when does it make sense to settle. Right? And you know, certainly the fact that there's no abatement money going out is not a reason to just say, oh my gosh, let's just approve it. Right? Because this is affecting the tax base for the community. I think it does also provide us some additional protections, actually, on the Walmart property because it lowers that assessment, assessment ratio standard, that assessment ratio metric to 80%, which is pretty good because we had settled with them at only 90%. We're already going to be below 90%. So a little wonkish when I talk about that. But it's important for those that get involved. Selectman Roy replied, All right. thank you.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said, So just to kind of further kind of bolster this, I guess we'll this decision as I was kind of confused all the motions and everything here. But beyond that, based on your experience and what you, what you understand about about these things, what would be the consequence if we didn't settle, possible consequence? Mr. Michaud replied, So that's that's an option, right? Settle, not settle counter-proposal, things like that. I would say because it is in a, in a court setting that we're going to start talking about countering and things like that, that we probably want to do that in attorney client. Right? Because we don't want to do negotiations in public usually. So so let's assume, you know, we're not going

to go forward. Right? So we fill out a Report of Settlement form, says we're unable to settle. BTLA says okay, we'll schedule out, probably schedule us out for like fall of next year, I think, on their scheduling. And we'll engage Attorney Dave LeFevre more proactively, more hours. And we will either use Vision Appraisal Corp's appraisers that we're going to need to pay to to come up with a court ready appraisal, or we're going to go outside, right, and get a different appraiser to do a court ready appraisal. And, and the other side is going to do the same thing. And then we'll have exchange of documents like a standard depositions, exchange of materials. And then, you know, we'll get ready for trial and we'll have we'll prepare our appraiser, they'll prepare their appraiser, go in front of the Board of Tax and Land Appeals, probably take a day, might take a day or more, but usually around a day. And then it's up to that tribunal to make a decision for 2022 Tax Year. They're going to make that decision in the fall of '24. Meanwhile, they will have already appealed 2023 at that point most likely right I don't know. But knowing them they'll appeal. And so we'll have a hearing for the '22 tax year. We'll try to consolidate the tax years. Right? Just have one year and whatever that one year decision is will control the years going forward up to the tax years that are matured at that point. Sometimes they don't agree to it. Sometimes the court doesn't make them do it. If if they made it so that they rolled all the years together and just whatever the decision is, we'll just roll it forward based upon the assessment ratio, whatever the decision is. Then we actually we try it once. Right? But it could be that we have to try this multiple years multiple cases and that's multiple expenses. So I don't know what would you know. Are they absolutely going to roll all the years together. I don't know that. And so we win for '22. They rolled '23 in. Then '24 comes around okay. They appeal for '24. And that wasn't ripe yet for them to roll it in. So now we have another case for '24. I mean I don't want to sound cynical, but I mean, that's just that's the way the process kind of flows. Selectman Guessferd replied, so this agreement holds us for several years with them. Right? Mr. Michaud replied, It does hold us for several years with off ramps, right, that are important to have statutorily. You want to have an off ramp for they build an addition to the building, right? Or there's, you know, a fire or something like that. So that's an off ramp. We we agree to the settlement and then we just change the number arbitrarily. And just what that would be violating the settlement. Right? So then they would appeal that. So but it would cover us up until the next reevaluation. Again, as long as the ratio stays 80% or above 80.0% or above, it would, you know, per se cover up until 2027. Well, if we did revel earlier, right? That would that would stop the clock and then we'd have a new clock. Selectman Guessferd replied, Okay. Thank you. I think it's important that we put those things out there so people understand this is not a one sided issue here.

Selectman Roy then said, and I just want to clarify. Attorney Lefevre has reviewed the settlement agreement and is in agreement with it? Mr. Michaud replied, he and so when we went to BTLA I communicated with him. So first of all, we've got filed and then we've got the Report of Settlement meeting order; communicated with him again, I'm I kind of familiar with the other side a little bit. Stavitsky. So I worked on the settlement discussion with the opposing counsel. And as far as the settlement agreement, settlement agreement comes in, then I'm like, Dave, I'm going to need your help reviewing this. There was some edits. There was some edits going along. Right? We're just making sure. Right? There's one time to get it right. We want to get it right the first time. And then he did. He reviewed it. We sent the other side. The other side was good with the changes. They weren't substantive and he did. Yeah. And there's a letter that's attorney client, but there was a letter saying. Selectman Roy replied yeah it's part of the package. So so I just want I just wanted to make sure that we knew. Mr. Michaud replied, Don't go alone. I don't go it alone. If I'm going to have a settlement agreement, I'm going to have an attorney looking at it. Selectman Roy replied, I'm a firm believer in keeping the attorneys employed. Chairman McGrath said, it depends on who the attorney is. Selectman Roy replied, that's why you have a board of bar overseers. Chairman McGrath replied, What's the matter? To which Selectman Roy replied, I said that's why you have a board of bar overseers. So you can take care of those folks that shouldn't shouldn't be practicing. Chairman McGrath replied, I happen to be very happy with our Town Attorney. Selectman Roy replied, I am too, I think he's a good attorney. anyways. Chairman McGrath asked, so, are we done with that? Selectman Guessferd said, so we need a motion, right? Selectman Morin made a motion to approve Consent Item 8A-2, Selectman Roy seconded the motion. Carried 5-0.

Moving on to Assessing Item 8A-3, Mr. Michaud explained, this is basically a retroactive abatement request. And the law allows for retroactive abatement starting with the tax year starting 2015. Before that, we were not allowed to go back retroactive, except if we met the deadlines for the current tax year. And the

Assessing Office made an error when the subdivision came in that established the other lots on Adelaide Street. It changed this acreage to 1.401. And and the property was condexed. So we traditionally will split the land in half. And we didn't do that. We left it at 1.1.401. So, so 1.405. And so the taxpayer brought it to our attention. Wants to get retroactive taxes back years. The law allows the Board to do that. And you have I think you have a communication from Attorney Dave LeFevre on this as well. Makes it very clear it is within your power to do zero, all of it, some of it whatever, you know, whatever you want to do. So I didn't put a here's the motion to do right. I gave you three sample motions. It really is within your authority within your prerogative. As a Board of Selectmen it's a non-appealable event right? You almost never see that right. But as a non-legislature specifically made it non-appealable when you're filing a late abatement application and to still let you in, didn't want to have it go beyond the local level.

Mr. Michaud continued saying, I'm inclined to I'm inclined to say go back to 2015. It was an obvious error on our part. And while people can we crowdsource our errors right, our information is out there. Everybody can see our information. We're not hiding that. We made an error. But, you know, people are busy. People have, you know, things going on in their life. And this is really a black and white, right? It's it's this acreage. It's not that acreage. This is not about opinion of value. Right? This is just straight numbers. So I have a spreadsheet that I attached. I shared all this information with Mr. Favel who is here today by the way. He's here tonight, the property owner. And you know, I gave it to him. It was probably two months' notice. I wanted to make sure he had enough time we talked. He came in a couple of times as well. I think he may not believe his '23 assessment is fair, but that's a different that's going forward for this year. Once we get the tax bills out, we can start that abatement. But it's it's just cautionary right? How retroactive you want to be right. This is by you know, I put him down for 100 acres and they have ten. And the difference is \$1 million in overlay. We might be having a different discussion. You know, I mean, this is not precedent setting necessarily, right? Doesn't really set a precedent. Right? A future board can say this board didn't know what they were doing, and they don't have to follow what you're doing. And and so it you know, it's an as if precedent. But it's really each new situation is different right. This one was plainly an acreage error on our part. So we're not hiding from it. It's an error. That's what abatements are for, to correct errors.

Chairman McGrath asked, anyone have any questions, comments, motions? <u>Selectman Roy made a</u> motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve, in its entirety from the 2015 property tax year thru 2022, as per attached spreadsheet, an Abatement for property taxes for Tax Map 175, Lots 155-001 and 155-002, including all interest as laid out in statue. Carried 5-0.

- A. <u>Assessing Items</u>
  - 1) BLTA Docket #30699-22PT: map 149, lot 73, 23 Sutherland Drive
  - 2) BLTA Docket #30722-22PT: map 228, Lot 4-7 Wal-Mart Boulevard
  - 3) Application for Abatement: map 175, lot 155-001 & 155-002, 109 & 1091/2 Ferry St
- B. <u>Water/Sewer Items</u> none
- C. <u>Licenses & Permits & Policies</u>
  1) Pole License Three (3) New Poles on Melendy Road
  2) Tag Day Permit Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign
- D. <u>Donations</u> Donation of \$1,500 from CHIPS to the Police Comfort Dog donation account
- E. <u>Acceptance of Minutes</u>

Minutes of October 12, 2023 Minutes of October 17, 2023 Minutes of October 18, 2023 Minutes of October 24, 2023

F.	<u>Calendar</u>			
	11/15	6:00	Library Trustees	Hills Memorial Library
	11/15	6:30	Budget Committee	Buxton Meeting Room
	11/15	7:00	Hudson Electric Aggregation Cmte.	Rodgers Mem. Library
	11/16	7:00	Zoning Board of Adjustment	Buxton Meeting Room
	11/16	7:00	Benson Park Committee	HCTV Meeting Room
	11/20	7:00	Sustainability Committee	Buxton Meeting Room
	11/21	7:00	Municipal Utility Committee	BOS Meeting Room
	11/23		Thanksgiving Holiday - Town Offices Closed	
	11/24		Thanksgiving Holiday - Town Offices Closed	
	11/28	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room

#### 9. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on October 24, 2023

1. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to seal the October 24, 2023 nonpublic session minutes. Carried 3-0.

- 2. Selectman Guessferd made a motion to adjourn at 10:37 p.m. this was seconded by Selectman Dumont. Carried 3-0.
- B. West Road Landfill Solar Farm Warrant Article

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima. Mr. Dhima began by saying, Thank you, Madam Chair. Good evening everyone. As discussed on the last meeting, the Town has an opportunity to create a revenue stream for the Town for the next 25 to 40 years. The Committee was set up. Together we identified who we think is the best fit for the Town. Decision was made on the last meeting to move forward with the vendor. In addition to that, we also started discussions about what that contract would look like. We got the templates that Manchester has been using. It seems to be in line to what we're going to use, and the only items left for you tonight is making the decision to move forward a warrant article in March so people can vote on this matter and we can go from there. That's that.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said, so I have a couple of questions. One, how many, how many of these companies did you interview? Mr. Dhima replied, four. Selectman Roy replied four. Okay. And the payments that they make for the for the actual electricity, are those payments made in lieu of taxes? Mr. Dhima replied, so you got this particular one that we picked. You're looking at three different things that that you're going to get money for. The first one is a credit on your bill. The second one is...Selectman Roy interjected asking, a credit for what? Mr. Dhima replied savings basically on your bill. So if you're paying \$0.13 a kilowatt you're going to be paying \$0.11. So you get \$0.02 basically per kilowatt in savings. So that's one piece. The other piece is you got a total pilot revenue, which is basically payment in lieu. And then the third piece is you're getting actually a check every year or every month, depending on how you want to structure it on a lease. Selectman Roy replied, that's only about \$1,100 a month right? Mr. Dhima replied, no it's about 40, so if you have .... Selectman Roy interjected saying it's \$14,000 a year according to your, Mr. Dhima replied the first year, so if you have the schematics or this this schedule here, you got a break down to what you make in the first year, the second year. And you basically have a total electrical savings for the first year, \$85,000, \$84,000. You got a revenue on the lease, which is about \$48,000. You got the pilot revenue, which is at tax, if you decide to go that way of about seven grand. So the total benefit for the first year for the Town, it's \$139,000.

Selectman Roy then said, so I have a question for you on this, on this thing, this this simply I can't read it. What is the heading of this, the second to the last column? Mr. Dhima replied the second, it says total

benefits to Hudson. So that's basically the total number. Yep. For the first year. Selectman Roy replied, so, so, I did a little math and that that equates to that total \$8,452,847 equates over 40 years equates to \$211.32 a year. Mr. Dhima replied, it's \$211,322 average per year. Selectman Roy replied, it's, if you if you do the math on this one, I'm pretty sure, I'll double check it because. Mr. Dhima replied if you do \$8,452,847 divided by 40 years, it's \$211,321 average a year. And the reason that you're seeing a different number every year is because you've got an escalation built into it, and you also have a change on what you could be saving in the future after 11 years. But long story short, this was provided to us by the vendor and this is their projections for this.

Selectman Roy then said, have you reached out to them about them coexisting with the Radio Club? Mr. Dhima replied, I already answered that on the last meeting when you....Selectman Roy interjected saying you just said no. But you didn't. I don't think that you asked. Mr. Dhima replied, Selectman Roy I specifically said that on the last meeting that we asked during the interview and the answer is no. Selectman Roy replied, Okay. Mr. Dhima then said, I don't know why I have to. I did answer that on the last meeting. Selectman Roy replied, Okay. Sure. Mr. Dhima replied, it was asked to everyone, can they coexist? And the answer was no. And the reason for that is you're talking with fuel and electricity. Not a good mix. That is the answer today to the same thing as the last meeting. I understand that this seems to be some model out there that they use in New York. That is not the model we're entertaining here.

Selectman Roy then said, well, then maybe we need to look for a different model that can they can accommodate. Mr. Dhima replied that is your opinion. I understand that, but what we got out of it is, and that's what they started this whole discussion....Selectman Roy interjected saying, it's not my opinion. You can look, you can look out...Selectman Morin began said can we at least let Elvis finish his answers. At this same time Chairman McGrath called for a point of order. Mr. Dhima addressing Selectman Roy said, can can I finish please? The intent here is to maximize on the revenue. And the idea is to keep this as safe as possible. And to do that is to only keep one thing out there. And that one thing is either the Club or this. They cannot be into it together. And you want to maximize on the revenue. \$211,000 is basically this vendor utilizing almost all the area that can be utilized out there. And it takes the top of the landfill and the other areas that you were doing.

Selectman Roy then said so have we talked at all about about how we compensate them for the money they invested in that in that land? Mr. Dhima replied are you asking me? To which Selectman Roy replied, yeah. Mr. Dhima replied why would I answer that? I wasn't even part of this when this happened. Selectman Roy said, okay. Mr. Dhima continued saying, I don't know what the structure was back then. Selectman Roy replied All right, that's fine. Mr. Dhima then said, I'm just saying, like, what would you ask me how are we going to compensate that? That wasn't my decision to let them out there. Selectman Roy replied, I didn't say it was. Mr. Dhima replied, but then what would you answer to that? I think that question should be answered to them, to what their expectations were when they went down this road. Selectman Roy replied, fine. Alright.

Selectman Guessferd then said, Mr. Dhima, it sounds like you're very passionate about this decision about what we're doing here. And so let's all just kind of take a breath here. Mr. Dhima replied, thank you, Selectman Guessferd. My position here is that this project started because this is what the Board of Selectmen wanted. And the reason for that is because other communities were doing the same thing. And it appears that based on some statements here, that all of a sudden this is my project. It's not my project. This is a Town project. This is something that the Board directed the staff to do. Selectman Roy asked, who, who from the Board directed the staff to do it? Mr. Dhima replied, all of you did when I came in front of you and I said, would you like to move forward with this project? Selectman Dumont said we did with the request for qualifications. Selectman Roy replied, okay.

At this point Chairman McGrath said, okay, point. Alright. Selectman Guessferd then said, Okay. But we're not blaming you. Mr. Dhima replied I totally get it. And I don't want anyone to take offense to it, but it seems like I'm asking a lot of, trying to answer a lot of questions here, way before my time. Selectman Guessferd laughed. Mr. Dhima replied, I do, and you need to understand that there's a lot of things that happened here that I don't know anything about. I'm just trying to get this thing through, if you wish to do so. If you

don't, that's fine too. But there's some things that happen here that I cannot have the answers to. And maybe this gentleman behind him do more, but I wasn't there. I can't tell you. Selectman Guessferd replied, Okay, okay. There's no, there's, we're just trying to answer some questions. Mr. Dhima replied, absolutely. And that's what I'm here to do for as long as I can okay.

Chairman McGrath then said, so I'm going to recognize Selectman Morin. We're going to go around and let everybody have their say. Selectman Morin said, what's got to be remembered is, Selectman Guessferd was talking about, he's an employee for the town. He's doing what he's supposed to do, the town, whether we agree with it or not, or we argue with him or not, he's doing his job. Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah. Selectman Morin continued saying, so we got to remember that, first of all. We're not crucifying him. He did his job. Second of all, this Board of Selectmen talked about electric police cars. We got the Sustainability Committee who's doing their electrical thing because we want it. The Sustainability Committee was all over this at the start because they think it's a good idea. We've talked about clean energy and how we want to turn this town. We've talked about solar panels on the roofs of our buildings. I don't understand the problem. The problem is let's send it to a warrant article and let the residents decide. Not this Board.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said I'm not sure what you think we're going with this, but I just want to. You know, I fully understand. I just don't think we need to bring this to a higher level of emotion here. I think we just need to address it in a logical manner one way or the other. Now, from my perspective, I was on the Committee. Mr. Dhima replied, yes. You saw the whole process. You can speak to it. Selectman Guessferd continued saying, And for the most part I was all in. But we didn't, and yes, we knew the RC club existed, but we really didn't know much at all about them, about what they did, about their contributions or anything like that. All right. And whether we vote to move this forward or not, we just, I think, need to be respectful to them and to understand. Now, I think they realize that they're kind of low key image over time has really kind of hurt them here because they haven't stepped forward before now. And we've gone through this process, and it would have been nice if we had heard from them earlier on in the process. Would that have changed the outcome? I don't know, okay. But all I'm trying to do here is just understand the various points of view here.

Selectman Guessferd continued saying, as most people who know me know, you know, I have a affinity for pilots and, and for, you know, for the Air Force and all of that. And that is that is a part of my overall kind of experience. But we have to consider who's everything that's going on here. And, and it's a shame we can't coexist. And maybe we could have been able to if we'd had their input earlier on, you know, if they've showed up with, with the troops here and two meetings in a row now. And so we can't ignore that. And that's all I'm saying. Okay. We can't ignore that. I think like I said, I was pretty much all in on this and I'm still struggling with this, you know, now a little bit more than I was. But at the same time, yes, this is going to benefit the town. We we understand that. And the taxpayers. It'd be nice if we had a few taxpayers that had come in tonight and said, hey, this needs to go forward. But we haven't had any input on that side either. So I think we need to understand that, that we haven't had anybody emailing the Board. I haven't gotten any emails. I don't know if anybody else has saying, you know, you really need to push forward with this because I don't want to ignore these folks back here. At the same time, I we need to make a decision that is the best for the Town, and that means the taxpayers of the Town. Not not us.

Selectman Roy then said, the citizens of the town. Selectman Guessferd replied, hmm? To which Selectman Roy replied, I wouldn't I wouldn't just put a cage around taxpayers. The citizens of the town. Selectman Guessferd replied, right. as it was said earlier, the tangibles and the intangibles. Selectman Roy replied, right.

At this point Chairman McGrath said, Okay. So, Selectman Dumont, do you have anything that you'd like to add? Selectman Dumont replied, No. Thank you.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said, I just want to say that that I disagree. I do think that there is probably an organization out there that could coexist with these folks. There is, there is that one example. I know it's one example, but of West Nyack, New York, where they have they have a coexisting with a radio club and a a solar farm. So I think, I think there is a way to do that. That's all I'm going to say about that.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said, can you talk about space? Selectman Roy interjected saying, how many how many acres? Selectman Morin replied, I got the floor. Selectman Morin then said, They have to be in a certain area, they have to be certain direction and they can't be on a slope. So explain that, because that is a very small area which was expanded huge from when this started. Mr. Dhima replied, so it appears based on the feedback and Selectman Guessferd, you can jump in at any time because you were there, it appears they're looking for a certain area that's less than 10% in slope. They're looking for a certain direction of the sun coming in south. They were talking about that. They're talking about spacing required between the panels so they can service them as well. They talk about access to get to these panels and servicing them. So out of that entire area that's fenced right now, which is about 22 acres, it appears that the area that's going to be utilized for this is somewhere between 6-7 acres. So it's not the entire area that's being utilized. It's only about the area that's less than 10%, 10% or less. That's what we're talking about. The more of that we can use, the more revenue you're going to get. And that's basically it in a nutshell.

Selectman Morin then said, and a follow up, how big is the airport? How much of the airport takes up that space? Mr. Dhima replied, it's about half. It's about half. Selectman Roy then said, so, it's about, it's about 11 acres. Mr. Dhima replied, no, it's about, the top area, it's about two and a half to three acres.... Selectman Roy interjected saying okay and.... Mr. Dhima continuing with his sentence said, because the whole area is being utilized for the.....Selectman Roy interjecting again said, so I just want to I just want to be clear. There's 22 acres, right? The the solar folks need 6 to 7 acres. Right? Leaving us with 15 acres, of which the radio club only takes up two and a half three acres. Mr. Dhima replied, the Radio Club cannot use any of the 15 acres left because it's too steep. The area they're using right now, it's the top of the field, which is about three acres that's going to be utilized for the solar farm. Selectman Roy replied, and the only reason that that's flat flat is because of the radio club, right? The only reason that. Okay. Alright. Mr. Dhima replied, I don't know, there was a flat area up there. They did some effort, it appears, and that's about it. Selectman Guessferd replied the area I, the flat area existed before. Mr. Dhima responded, the flat area existed before. I think you can say that the efforts probably extended it, but they did not create it from scratch. Selectman Roy then said, so now you know the answer, okay.

Chairman McGrath then said, Okay. So everybody done? Mr. Gasdia said, actually can I ask a question? Chairman McGrath replied, yes you can and then I'm going to speak. Mr. Gasdia then said, so I actually got an email on this. Go figure, right? With the revenue projections is the School District required to use the energy provider or should we just use any energy provider at all? Mr. Dhima replied you can use any energy provider for as long as you say, I would like to basically speak for the remaining of the 3.6kW. So the Town is going to use about 2.5 average. So the way it works is they're going to say who is going to be taking the rest of this credit for one point something. So if you say, I still like to use the same customer, but I like to be part of this, you will get a discount there as well. Will you use it? Doesn't matter. That seems to be our understanding. So you what what you will get as a School is basically a reduction in your in your electrical bill. The town is going to get the revenue for the lease. The Town is going to get the pilot funds. We are going to get the the delta and the savings of the energy. And then you will be getting the delta and the energy. Mr. Gasdia replied, So regardless of what the School Board, the School District does, the Town gets the same amount of money? Mr. Dhima replied, Yes, yes. Mr. Gasdia replied that was the question. Mr. Dhima explained, If you choose not to participate, what's going to happen is prior to the Town locking in the agreement, they're going to have another party around here that's going to say I will look to sign up for the for the discount. That's all. So with you or without you, it doesn't matter. Either way. This is just a matter of if it's all spoken for. They don't have to go buy another, they don't have to find another vendor for this. Mr. Gasdia replied, Okay. I just wanted to make sure we wouldn't Adversely. Mr. Dhima replied, you would not have to lock in with someone else. It's just the way they do it is a net metering program. At the end of the day, it doesn't matter who you use, you're still going to get a 2 to \$0.02 per kilowatt discount. That's all. Mr. Gasdia replied, Okay. Thank you. Mr. Dhima replied, you got it. Thank you. Does that does that make sense? To which Mr. Gasdia replied, Yeah. No, that that makes sense. Like I said, I just got an email, so I figured I'd, you know, I didn't have the answer, so I figured I'd ask okay.

Chairman McGrath then asked, anyone else? If not, I have a question or two for you, Mr. Dhima. And this is to kind of clear up some of the innuendo from this evening. You are not a taxpayer for the Town of Hudson, correct? Mr. Dhima replied, correct. Chairman McGrath replied, you're an employee. Are you receiving any benefit, financial or otherwise, from suggesting this project be adopted for the Town of Hudson? MR. Dhima replied nope. I'm just simply carrying the marching orders from the Board before this whole thing started. That's all. Chairman McGrath replied, thank you. I didn't think so. I was sure that I knew the answer to this, but just based on the innuendo from this evening, I thought that it needed to be answered. And I wouldn't expect anything different. You have done, I think, a remarkable job for the Town of Hudson. I was trying to find the better benefit for the taxpayers and the residents, if you want to differentiate between the two. So I thank you for that. And I'm sure that the taxpayers and the voters of this town would thank you as well. So that's all that I have. Anyone else? If not, we'll move on.

At this point, from the audience Cody Wojick, president of the Southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club spoke out saying, so, I was, I have a presentation explaining the cost outlay that the club incurred on this. So we were asked to give this. Chairman McGrath replied, alright. The Town Administrator said, it's in your packet. Chairman McGrath asked, where is it? Selectman Roy replied, I think it's part of this. It's part of the old. The Town Administrator said part of your old business.

Selectman Morin asked, do you need to put that on the big screen? Is that what you're looking to do? Mr. Wojick replied, yeah, that would be great. If if it's too much trouble if you all have it in your packet. The Town Administrator then said they all have it. You all should all have it.

Chairman McGrath addressed Mr. Wojick saving, name and address, Mr. Wojick replied, my name is Cody Wojcik. I'm the president of the Southern New Hampshire RC Club, but I'm not a Hudson resident. I'm a resident of Salem. Chairman McGrath then said, by the way. Can I ask you the question from the number of people that are in the audience that are speaking on behalf of of your club? How many are Hudson residents and how many are not? Mr. Wojick said, I believe we have. Chairman McGrath then said, those raising their hands are residents of Hudson? Okay, so the majority of them is probably 4 or 5 that are not. Mr. Wojick replied, our our club, we have a lot of people speaking on our behalf and our but our, our club kind of extends to a lot of areas around around Hudson for sure. Chairman McGrath replied, so they're around Hudson. They're not from Hudson. To which Mr. Wojick replied, a significant portion of our members are from Hudson, but it's not an exclusively Hudson club. Mr. Wojick then said, I do also want to bring up that when we founded the club, because we understand what a special site this is and the level of trust that the Town has given us and letting us use it, we had a cap on our membership. However, that cap did not extend to Hudson residents. In fact, when I joined the club some 11 years ago, 12 years ago, I had to wait before before I was allowed in. So. But that that cap was not extended to Hudson residents. We've always given a preference to Hudson residents. Um, so if you have no further questions, I'll go forward with my presentation.

So I'll direct you to the second slide, which is just a summary. The third slide, which is a summary of the work that we've done to improve the landfill over the years, both at the beginning and in the years since. I do want to make a correction to this slide, which is that the second bullet point says that all work was done under the supervision and permission of Kevin Burns, the Town Road Agent. That's not correct. Kevin Burns gave us permission and his blessing, so to speak. As we know, everything was kind of a handshake deal back then, but he didn't directly supervise this. He understood what we were doing, but he wasn't directly there supervising our work. You can see the cost breakdown for the work that we did at the beginning of the year. I'm sorry, at the beginning of our of our stay there, extending through to what we've done, what we've done ever since.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said, just a quick question. Knowing who is who is involved in this, and they were all builders and they had all this equipment and all that. How much of this did you actually pay for and how much was donations? Mr. Wojick replied, I can't speak exactly to how much. I know, for example, the hydro seeding we paid for out of pocket. A significant portion was donations by club members, but it's 23 years ago. This is this is the values that we could put together with the club members time and use of their own equipment. Selectman Morin replied no, and I understand that and I appreciate

that because that's what we asked for. But but again, knowing who was involved and seeing what you had for equipment and stuff, they all had that stuff. That's why I was wondering how much you actually paid versus what was donated. Mr. Wojick replied, sure, sure. I wish I had more, more accurate records, but again, it was volunteers 23 years ago. So this is this is the cost breakdown. Does anybody have any questions before I move on to the next slide?

Mr. Wojick continued saying, a satellite photo from 1999 before we began the work. This is the the next slide. And then after that you'll see the much greener picture from 2005 after the work was completed. You can see the area is the flat area is significantly larger. There's obviously grass there. The road was extended so that we could use the northeast side as a runway. The next slide showing the tractor harrowing is this this is a picture of a of a local farmer that we hired out of pocket for, for the harrowing. This was only done very, very shallow. It was not done in an effort to we we're obviously very sensitive to the membrane there and we didn't we didn't want to go anywhere near it. So it's just just at the surface to make the grass seed take. Chairman McGrath replied, well any damages to the lining would have cost the taxpayers, again, an inordinate, inordinate amount of money because the membrane would have had to have been replaced in its entirety. And it cost in the millions at the time that I, I actually can't believe I'm saying this, but actually took a tour of the landfill after it was capped. I think I've said that at this board meeting before, and we will warned about the, the lining and how how it was if it was damaged, we'd have to replace the whole thing. And it's unbelievable what goes into a capping of a landfill. You wouldn't think that it was as detailed as it was. So when I see this picture of the harrowing, harrowing is probably the right word, because when they were doing that, they could have torn any part of the membrane, and then the whole thing would have had to have been replaced. Selectman Roy was recognized and said, but you didn't go anywhere near the membrane. You didn't go that far deep. Mr. Wojick replied, no, the membrane was it was, from my recollection of of what I've heard from other members at least three feet down in any location and the harrowing was several inches. Selectman Roy replied you were well aware of the membrane to which Mr. Wojick replied, oh absolutely. We were, we were on, on, on certainly treading lightly. We understand we understand what the what the risk is. And again, we had permission.

At this point Chairman McGrath addressed two members of the Radio Control Club in the audience saying, gentlemen, up in the back row wants to interrupt you. The man replied, I can speak on the membrane. I was there. Harry Peters, of 2 Spear Road came to forward and said, we knew he was bringing a tractor up there with a plough, and harrow was going to be a big deal. And I personally hand dug down to find a membrane with a post hole digger. And throughout several areas of where we were going to blow it over and it was all three feet or better deep. So we were confident we wouldn't...Selectman Roy interjected saying you never penetrated the membrane? Mr. Peters relied, never, no. And if if it was to be penetrated, I would think it would show up in the, in the testing over the years. Selectman Roy replied, I would imagine yeah. Mr. Peters then said, but we specifically took, you know, spot digging everywhere to, to prevent that from happening. Chairman McGrath replied, we were fortunate that it didn't get torn. Mr. Peters replied, yes we are. Selectman Roy then said, I think it goes to their carefulness. Mr. Wojick continued saying, next slide shows a just a dozer grading the field or spreading some of the fill out. Slide after that shows the actual grader the grading work that we did on the field. Does anybody have any further questions about the work that we did on the field at that time or since? Chairman McGrath replied, No, I don't think so.

Mr. Wojick continued his presentation saying, moving on to some of the new information. So again, to rephrase what we said in or reframe what what we said in previous meetings. Most of us were under the impression that almost all of the solar panels would be installed on the cap of the landfill. The first time that we saw this proposed layout with the green and the blue areas was in the Town Crier, so that kind of reframes what we would have wanted to say had we known what the actual proposed layout was going to be. Again, the green area at the at the top of the landfill, at the top of the cap, is what would directly affect us. It's what would it's where we operate right now. We do not go down in any way to the area with the the blue down below to the north. So it's 40, 41% of the area is is where we fly currently. If you go to the next slide. After that, I found this other club in New York, which has an almost identical situation to us. It's a capped landfill. And in fact, if you look to the north, you can kind of see a road up to the top of the capped landfill in that same zigzag pattern that we have in 2017. They put in a similar solar farm, and just like in Hudson, they put the panels where it was flat, specifically down near the bottom. But the whole time the RC

Club was involved in the process and the solar company simply worked with them in order to ensure that that nobody's toes were going to get stepped on.

Selectman Morin was recognized and asked, how many acres is the site in New York? Mr. Wojick replied, I don't know, off the top of my head. Selectman Morin replied looking at the picture, it's a lot bigger than Hudson, right? So I can see why you could, you know, work together. Because this is a lot bigger than the Hudson site. Looking at just the solar panels itself, it's a lot bigger. And again, this landfill may be situated in a different way. They're all different. So so I don't know if we can really compare this because look look at the distance between where you said the landing field is and where the solar panels are. Mr. Wojick replied, well, I can, I can actually address that directly in my next slide where there's. At this point

Selectman Roy said, can I just ask a....Chairman McGrath replied, I saw her and I was going to call on her but she jumped in. to which Selectman Roy replied, yes okay. She then said, so do you know what the distance is, in this slide, the one the new information, one that shows the layout that you said was published in the Town Crier. Okay, do you know what the distance between the solar layout and and your, your place is? Mr. Wojick replied, so I measured in the slide after two slides past that the slide after showing the Rockland County RC club, the distance from the end of our runway to where the closest solar panel would be on our approach path on the if if panels were only to be in on the north and it works out to 394ft, these are, you know, kind of somewhat rough estimates based on Google, Google Earth, and it's 338ft from the helicopter area, which is closest to the solar panels in in Rockland County. So it's a little bit further to answer your question. Selectman Roy replied okay. Thank you.

Mr. Wojick then said, so I I'll share a little bit more information kind of. So I spoke with the president of this club, and I also spoke with the town planner who manages the Clarkstown Transfer Station and landfill, and they've been very happy with their arrangement. It's been six years since they've been in there. I spoke about if there had ever been a damage to panels caused by an RC aircraft, and they said the panels do get damaged, but it's usually by landscaping equipment, a weed whacker. They'll have to trim down the, the, the any brush or anything, and occasionally a rock would get flung, flung up there out in the elements. Things happen. The president of the club actually did tell me they did eventually have over that six years. Eventually an aircraft did hit a panel, but the company replaced it right away. They didn't charge the RC club or anything. Every RC club in the country carries is a member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, which carries \$1.5 million in liability insurance. So in the event that something happens, we certainly have the insurance to make sure everything is right. so.

Mr. Wojick continued saying, so if we if we move on to the next slide, I want to thank the Town Administrator's office for being very helpful with our Right to Know request and getting us all the information that we that we asked for. So we looked through all the communications between solar vendors and the Town, as well as any documents that were provided to solar vendors. And we didn't see any mention anywhere of the RC club. Yes, no, or indifferent. I understand that perhaps there was verbal communication, but it's just we don't have any records showing that that this was ever communicated at all. So on one hand, we have a very, very similar RC club that has managed to find a really, really great compromise and co-existence where they were involved, frankly, and we haven't been involved. We we weren't involved until we heard about this project and started coming to these meetings. So.

Final slide three requests. We are very much not anti-solar right. We're very pro solar. In fact we've installed our own solar system at the RC field. We have two small panels that provide power for the club members to use to charge their batteries or power electronics or anything for our use. And we want obviously the best for the town because we're an organization that's part of the town, and all we're really asking for here is make some consideration for us. I know that, you know, it's it's been said that there's no possibility whatsoever of coexistence in any way, but I'm just hoping there's some way we could potentially rethink that moving forward. If you did consider actually working with us on some level, we'd love for a representative of the club to be involved in the process so we can help you and make sure that everybody's needs are met and we're not, you know, we're not doing this at these board meetings. And there's been a lot of talk as well about covering rooftops with solar panels or other sites. And I understand that's a bigger chunk of work for the for the town to buy it off to, to start to replace the revenue that they might gain with

this solar farm by letting us coexist. But, you know, I really, really think it's worth it. And if there's anything that we can do to help, if we can ask, ask around or, you know, anything we can do, we're we were told at the beginning of this thing to really keep a low profile. And that's what we did. And, you know, clearly we're not doing that right now. And we're going to continue to to not do that. And we really want to be a part of a positive and very present part of the community in the town.

Chairman McGrath asked, so anyone else, anyone have any questions, comments? Selectman Roy was recognized and said, so if I'm looking at this right, you did have an agreement with the town? Mr. Wojick replied, yeah, so I'm sorry. So this this if the final slides are a draft agreement that was started between the Town Administrator's office, I'm so glad you caught that, and the club in 2019. So this is a draft. And once Covid rolled around, obviously everything was really put on hold and it was not finished. But this does show that there was some intent to give us a more permanent home here. And, you know, just continue to add history and, and good things to the town. Selectman Morin replied, so, so this was never signed then, it never, never came forward. Mr. Wojick replied, correct. Correct. Selectman Roy replied, but there was an intent. To which Selectman Morin replied, no I understand the intent but we don't have one at this time. Selectman Roy replied, well, we do have an intent. Selectman Morin replied, we have an intent, but we don't have a signed intent.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and asked, did you receive this agreement in your club did not act on it? Or how did that, how did it, I guess, fall on deaf ears? I'm just curious. I wasn't a part of the Board at that time. Mr. Wojick replied, Mr. John Hayes was he dealt with this process a little bit more closely. So. But it's my understanding that we signed everything that we that we were asked to. But I'll let him speak to it because this was addressed specifically to him. Mr. Hayes came forward addressing the Board saying, John Hayes, Secretary of the Southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club. And I'm not a Hudson resident. At the time I sat with Steve Malizia and we we talked about we had about an hour long conversation, and it resulted in this document being generated with the intent of moving forward. And the next thing I had heard was that there was a tax assessor that wanted to take a look at what we had up there on top of the the hill, and to see if there was any revenue for the town in that. And that kind of is where it ended. I didn't hear anything back as the next step from that. So but it was going to go through.

Selectman Morin replied, can you repeat what you just said again so I understand it better, when you just said somebody had to go up there. Mr. Hayes replied there was there was a request by one of the tax assessors to go up and take a look at what we had up there, to see if there was any revenue that could be gained from it. And that's where the process stopped. I don't know what the outcome of that was, and that was about the time, I think, that Covid started to take its toll. So. Selectman Morin was recognized and said, so you never signed any paperwork at all? Mr. Hayes replied no, sir.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and asked, did you guys follow up with anybody from the town during from that lapse till obviously till now when this all came about? Mr. Hayes replied, no, no. Chairman McGrath asked, anyone else? Mr. Hayes then said, there was the expectation that the assessor would do something and then we would move forward. But, you know, everything went to heck after Covid hit. Selectman Dumont replied, it messed a lot of stuff up.

Chairman McGrath then said, okay. Nothing else on this. Anyone else? The Chairman then asked Mr. Wojick, did you finish your presentation? Mr. Wojick replied saying, so after the end of the agreement, that's that's all that's in the presentation. Chairman McGrath replied, thank you. I'm certain that we'll take it under consideration. Thank you. Selectman Guessferd and Selectman Roy thanked Mr. Wojick.

Selectman Morin then said, so do we take it under consideration right now? I mean, we've heard all sides. We've got all the information. We've basically voted for the Town Engineer to move forward. All that's left is to let the townspeople decide what they want to do with this. Chairman McGrath asked, anyone have anything on this side? Anyone? <u>Selectman Morin said I make a motion, to forward this to a warrant article and let the taxpayers and the voters make the decision</u>. <u>Chairman McGrath</u> replied, thank you. Is there a second? I'll <u>second the motion</u> for, so that we can have a discussion about it. It seems that no one wants to be first or second. So I'll speak to my second. And, you know, as we've, as this Board has said on multiple

occasions, multiple members of the Board have said, we want the voters to have have the say in this. We're not going to make the decision for them. We want them to be able to vote on it and have their say. So that's the that's the reason for my vote. I think that the voters should have a say in this, whether or not whether or not they think that the both clubs should work together and find a solution, or if they think that we just want solar farms up there. I don't really know. I don't know the answer. I know how I feel and I said it at the very beginning of this whole session. I never thought that we should put solar panels up there. I never did, but and I'm not so certain that I agree with it now. I'm also not so certain, after hearing some of the presentation, that I think that the the air club should be up there, either because we've spent so much money on that, that property that I don't think we should endanger it, but that's my opinion. I'm one person. And so but I think that the voters should have a say in this. So that's the reason for my vote and that is my vote. So anyone else like to take a shot at it?

Selectman Roy said, Mr. Morin here. Selectman Morin replied, did you want to go? Selectman Roy replied, no, I didn't have anything. Selectman Morin replied, okay. He then said, again, this this Board, all of you pushed for electric police cars. We've talked about solar panels on our buildings. We've talked about saving electricity for our residents. We have moved forward for green energy. We have an opportunity here. I understand all these people out there, I get it, but we do not have an agreement. I understand they spent \$40,000, but I'm going to say it again, being in this town and being familiar with all the people that were involved in this, they all had the equipment, they all had the construction sites to get the fill that they needed. I don't know how much they spent and I wish we could we could see that, that that would make a big difference for me. But I think it was all donated. I really do. And I would understand that because most groups like this, that's how they operate. I think that the taxpayers should have the say in this, because this is going to affect a lot more people than just the people that operate up on that hill. It's going to affect the whole town. It's even going to affect our schools. And we know we're in the middle of budgets and any way we can cut budgets because we went to a zero budget on our way. So any way we can help the taxpayers, this is a good way to do it. And it's a long term thing. It's not a short term thing. I myself is I at least we can give the taxpavers the option. And the residents that live in Hudson will have their say at town meeting, and they can get up and voice their opinions just as they are here. But the whole town as a residents can hear it

Selectman Roy was recognized and said, so I will say, whether it was donated or not, they still made improvements to town land. And and if we're going to throw them off that town land, then they quite frankly should be compensated for that number one. Number two, I will not vote for this. But that doesn't mean that I don't believe that the taxpayers don't have the right to vote for it. I think that going to the to the town warrant is the right move. I just can't recommend it. I don't think it's a well thought out plan. I don't think that that they've, that any consideration has been given to the, to the radio club. I do believe that there are there are facilities as, as, as Mr. Wojick pointed out that there are facilities that that could accommodate a coexistence between the radio club and the and the solar panels, but nobody seems to want to pursue that. So again, I'm going to vote no, that I don't recommend it. But that doesn't mean that I don't believe the taxpayers should or the the citizens should have a say in what goes forward.

Chairman McGrath asked, anyone else? She recognized Selectman Dumont who said, I mean, I'll just say, quite frankly, to be blunt, I mean, there's no way that this Board could be favorable on both sides. We're tasked with with following the vision of Hudson and trying to do what's best for the residents. I don't think anybody wants to kick anybody out or displace anybody. So it's a very difficult decision. But I appreciate everyone that put information forward. So.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said, might as well give my two cents. Um, yeah. I agree with Selectman Dumont that it's a tough decision. I don't think in situations like this that it's an all or nothing. In other words, I think I'm not sure I would go to the point of saying it wasn't well thought out, but I'm not sure that we knew enough information on day one. When we started this process, I didn't even know that they existed at all. Okay? That they were on top of that. But whether they were or not, when we exited our deliberations for the for selecting the firm and I was on the committee So I, you know, I was I've been part of this whole process. You know, I was firmly in the, in the camp of, you know, let's move forward with this particular plan. However, there's been a lot of information presented, and I, I agree that that the taxpayers

should make the final decision. But we have a duty to everyone in this town to make sure that we are that we are serving everybody as much as we can. And as you also said, Selectman Dumont, you know, you know, when something like this comes up, some people are not going to like it in most cases with what we do, some people are going to like it, some people aren't going to like it.

Selectman Guessferd continued saying, but I think there's not a, to me there's not a deadline here in terms of we have to do this right now without having thought about maybe not. Maybe we do go back and do a little more work and try to see what can be done. If we come forward a year from now and we've done everything we can and the same plan goes forward, you know, we haven't lost anything except maybe a year. And I know we spent a little more money and I get that in getting there. But I, you know, I've kind of, you know, moved over. I'm very close to what this decision should be. But I believe because of all these factors, if we actually step back a little bit, pump the brakes and came forward and said, okay, let's let's look at this and see if there's a possible way. I mean, I was in the meetings, you know, there was verbal discussion that, you know, we you know, we're not it's all or nothing. But I don't necessarily think as a negotiator by trade, I think there's a way for us to possibly get this done, help the taxpayers at the same time accommodate, possibly accommodate them. I'm not sure how this is going to come out in the end no matter what, but I think we probably owe it to at least give it a little more thought and and a little more discussion with with the vendor. And, you know, the thing is, I know we may have to go out and and go do this again with a new with a new kind of plan or and we won't save as much money, we won't get as much in the lease money. But again, I like to go back to the tangibles and the intangibles. I think there's some intangible piece here that we need to investigate, which we did not do. This decision was made totally about about money, you know, saving money and getting and getting revenue in for the town, which I. I fully support. So I don't think we're doing anybody any harm here by looking at, at this a little bit closer and deciding whether or not now that we know what we know, there's any way we can do this. That's just my opinion on this. So my vote will be no. Chairman McGrath asked, to send it to the warrant? To which Selectman Guessferd replied, to send it to the warrant.

Selectman Morin was recognized and then said, never mind. Never mind. I'm good, thank you. Motion on the floor. Chairman McGrath said, motion is, Jill, can you read back the motion? Ms. Laffin replied, <u>motion</u> to authorize the Town Administrator to prepare a warrant article for a 25/40 year lease agreement for the <u>West Road Landfill Solar Farm project</u>. Chairman McGrath asked for a <u>roll call vote. Motion carried 3-2</u>. <u>Selectman Roy and Selectman Guessferd were opposed</u>.</u>

# 10. <u>NEW BUSINESS</u>

### A. Corridor Account Spending Approval

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Engineer Elvis Dhima. Mr. Dhima said, Thank you Chairman McGrath. Selectman Dumont received a request regarding installing the same devices that we've been installing at Library and Ferry about two months ago. We've been having a lot of positive feedback on that safety measure that we took out there, basically bringing additional awareness for the red lights. It seems like a lot of people are going through the red lights. That request was then forwarded to the Highway Safety Committee for consideration. It appears to be an intersection with some issues out there, with people going through the red light on Lowell Road and not providing a safe access from Birch to Lowell. We all agree to move forward as long as there was funding for this. The funding was identified from CAP Fees that the Planning Department and the Planning Board has. So this does not impact the bottom line for the taxpayer. The Planning Board approved this expenditure and is recommending that to the Board of Selectmen. With that said, I'm here in front of you tonight to ask you to execute this. And I'll take any questions you might have.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, not a question. I just want to say I appreciate it, Mr. Dhima, for doing that. It was recognized, obviously, I think, by this Board, many other boards, that's an intersection with the problem. I've heard it consistently since being a part of this Board. Had asked him to look into it. I

think it's a great way to improve that intersection. I also think it's exactly what those cap fees are for. So I just want to say that I'm for this.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said, I just want to say the Planning Board saw this. We thought it was a great idea. I want to make sure we brought it forward to the to the total board, so I'm fully supportive of it.

Seeing no further comment from the Board, Chairman McGrath said, I have a comment. You did a great job on the HCTV presentation of that. Mr. Dhima replied, for the white strobes on the intersection. We tried to, we brought it forward. It was it was it was it was something that was brought up to us to basically educate people. And I have to say, some people didn't like it, but it's distracting. And I think that's exactly what we want. We want people to be basically look at that. So they're like, I don't like it. And I was like, why are you staring? And he's like, yes, I don't want to stare. And I'm like, that's good. That's what I want you to do. So it was it's been helpful and it's been presented when we did that as a pilot program. So I think maybe other ones we'll look at, but Lowell and Birch seems to be the next one. So here it is.

Chairman McGrath asked, anybody have any questions, comments, motions? <u>Selectman Roy made a</u> <u>motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve and proceed with the white strobe bars purchase and</u> <u>installation at Lowell Road and Birch Street intersection, using Corridor Account #2070-000-086, not to</u> <u>exceed \$1,020. Carried 5-0.</u> Mr. Dhima replied, thank you. Have a great night, everyone.

B. Town Planner Vacancy

Chairman McGrath recognized the Town Administrator who explained, well aware, as you've all seen, correspondence. Mr. Groth is leaving his position as town planner at the end of November. I'm seeking permission to post for the position. I'm also seeking permission to engage the services of NRPC on a temporary basis while we search for Mr. Groth's replacement. And typically of a position of this, I like to have a committee, typically myself and two selectmen members and the Chair of the Planning Board, to review, at least vet the candidates before the top ones are selected for the Board. So those are the three things I'm looking to get this Board's permission to do. Chairman McGrath replied, and I'd Like to participate in that. Selectman Roy replied as would I. The Town Administrator replied, so when we get to that motion, you all can decide who you who wants to participate. Selectman Guessferd then said, I think we're going to be fighting this one out.

The Town Administrator said, so the first *motion is to advertise and solicit candidates for the vacant town planner position. Selectman Roy made this motion, Selectman Dumont seconded it. Carried 5-0*.

The Town Administrator said, so the <u>second motion will be to engage the services of the Nashua Regional</u> <u>Planning Commission, to provide temporary assistance until the new town planner is hired. Selectman</u> <u>Guessferd made this motion. Selectman Morin seconded it.</u> Chairman McGrath asked, any discussion?

Selectman Guessferd said, being on the Planning Board, the liaison to the Planning Board, I think just so people understand and know this. You know, we're in a very specific kind of a this time of the year and everything else, it's important that we have coverage. And so engaging with NRPC to get that assistance is going to be critical to keeping things moving forward for the next few months until we hire a new town planner. So I just want to make that clear. We did discuss it at our last Planning Board meeting.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said, Selectman Roy so I just want to ask, just so the public knows, do we do you have an estimated cost of what contracting with NHPC for this particular thing would be? The Town Administrator replied, I'll be meeting with the Director to get a better idea of that, but typically it's depending on the level of work, it could be 30 to 40 hours a month that I can't remember the exact rate, but it's somewhere in that ballpark. It depends on how busy and how much activity there is.

Chairman McGrath then said, well, and this is coming up to the slower season of not needing a lot of planning activity because, you know, there's not construction activity, right? Selectman Guessferd replied, once we get through the budget, you know I think we you know. Chairman McGrath replied, and, you know, it depends if if something is in the pipeline for a big development. But we haven't as far as I know, we haven't heard any any inklings of that happening. I think the last one was Target and they just started doing some construction activity.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, it may be the slow season for that, but it tends to be a more busier season when it comes to the zoning ordinance review and putting together warrant articles for that. So a lot of work there, which I think NRPC could definitely help with. So it would be it would be greatly, greatly needed I think. Chairman McGrath replied, yeah and no, and I and I agree with that. What I'm trying to point out is that a lot of development activity isn't going on. So it's so Planning Board isn't as busy. So but they can help with certainly other things like zoning changes. Selectman Guessferd replied, right, and we're still continuing to work on the Master Plan. We just reviewed the transportation chapter the other day. So we're we're working through all that and we'll get a need some I'll say leadership okay.

Chairman McGrath then said, so and then the next thing up is the...

The Town Administrator aske, did you all vote on that? To which Selectman Dumont replied, no. We need to take a vote. Selectman Roy added on the second motion. We voted on the first motion. We didn't we didn't vote on the second second motion. Chairman McGrath asked Ms. Laffin to read the motion back. Ms. Laffin said, <u>Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to engage the services of the Nashua Regional Planning Commission to provide temporary assistance until a new town planner is <u>hired</u>. Chairman McGrath called for the vote. <u>Motion carried 5-0</u>.</u>

The Town Administrator then said, the final <u>motion</u> that I propose was <u>to form a Town Planner Interview</u> <u>Committee consisting of two selectmen, the Planning Board Chairman and the Town Administrator, and to</u> <u>further appoint the two selectmen to the interview committee.</u>

Chairman McGrath asked, anyone have any comments? Questions? Selectman Guessferd said, well, the only comment I'll make and I might get overridden is that I am the liaison to the Planning Board, and I kind of like that idea of being involved in this selection process, as I am kind of intimately involved in that process. So that's all I'll say. Selectman Roy said, he makes a good point, so <u>I'll cede to Mr. Guessferd</u>. Chairman McGrath asked, anyone else wish to serve on that Committee? Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, I was going to offer myself to serve. I've dealt with with the planning and zoning quite a bit, but obviously I'm open to to hear from anybody else. But I know you two seem to want to have interest in as well. Chairman McGrath replied, well, I have an interest. But given my current physical condition, I don't know that it's it's fair to try and serve on that because I don't know what the next few weeks are going to bring my way. And, you know, hopefully it's all good news. But at the moment I don't really know. So so I'd, I would <u>cede to Mr. Dumont</u>, I think you'd be a good addition to that Committee. And you certainly know what's required, as do I, I mean, from the many years that I served on the Planning Board and then the Board of Selectmen. But, but I think you'll do a good job. <u>Selectman Morin said, I'll make that motion. Selectman McGrath seconded the motion</u>. Seeing no further discussion <u>motion carried 5-0</u>.

### C. FY25 Budget -Tax Collector & Town Clerk Budgets

The Town Administrator was recognized and addressed the Board saying, at the Budget Committee meeting, I believe it was November 7<sup>th</sup>, so it was their first meeting, one of the cost centers they reviewed was the Town Clerk/Tax Collector. As you know, the voters of this town approved separating that position. We had included the labor and benefit costs to bring in a tax collector, because right now there's a town clerk. So that's what we did. The Budget Committee thought it might be more appropriate to actually have two separate departments, i.e. to capture the expenses separately. So I worked with the Town Clerk.

She actually sat down and went through, no net increase. But we did divide the two budgets up. So there will be a town clerk budget and there will be a tax collector budget. When you add them together, they are at the same amount that the single budget was. This provides more visibility going forward and realistically speaking, you may start the process, but you won't have a budget to hire a tax collector until next July, which is when this budget would kick in. Selectman Roy said, you answered my question. I was going to ask you when we could hire. The Town Administrator replied, because there's no, it's after March by law, but you have no budget, so you're best off going through the process and then....Selectman Roy interjected saying, in July. The Town Administrator continued saying, having it ready to go. So if you do this and this will come back, Mr. Min will probably bring it back to the Budget Committee that the board voted to set up a new cost center, which the Finance Director set up, the town clerk, tax collector. We went through it again, as I said, no net increase. It was just divvied out between the two cost centers. But I think you should approve it so that he can bring it forward to the Budget Committee. Selectman Morin replied and that was a request from the Budget Committee, which makes sense. Selectman Guessferd said, it's reasonable. Selectman Roy said, it does make sense.

#### <u>Selectman Dumont made a motion to reallocate the town clerk/tax collector fiscal year '25 budget from</u> <u>Cost Center 5030 to two separate cost centers. Tax Collector cost center 5030 and Town Clerk cost center</u> <u>5031. Selectman Roy seconded the motion. Carried 5-0</u>.

\*At this point Selectman Morin asked for a change in the order of business. He explained, Christina Madden is here to discuss the trustees, and we can do our other business after she's all set. If the Board doesn't mind. The Board was in agreement to move New Business Item 10F to item 10D.

### D. Cemetery Trustees

Chairman McGrath recognized Cemetery Trustee Chairman, Christina Madden. Ms. Madden said, Hi I am Christina Madden Hudson resident, 23 Weymouth Court. I'm the current Chairman of the Cemetery Trustees. I just come today because it dawned on me one day that we had no liaison with the Board, and I think it would be helpful. The cemetery is kind of like a pretty steady. Not much change is going on. We can't bury there anymore, but repairs and maintenance need to be done, and I think it would be helpful to have a liaison from the Board. Once a year we go out, usually in the spring, and survey all of the town's cemeteries and see what kind of requirements we have. I liaison with the DPW and they do their best to do repairs given our current rather paltry budget. And that was another thing, was I didn't realize, like, well, when do I put in budget requests and, you know, how does that process work? And I think if I had we had a liaison, we would be better prepared for that kind of thing. It's not a huge deal. The the main thing that needs to would appreciate the liaison would be going out with us when we survey the cemeteries. So you have first-hand knowledge of what's going on out there and what needs to be done. So really, that's my request. I'd just like to know if somebody would want to step up and and be the Cemetery Trustee liaison. Selectman Roy said, I would love to except I can.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said, you said that Public Works obviously does all the work. So that liaison kind of could work in between those two groups. I mean, where Public Works. Those are all there and work with the cemetery because they work together. Selectman Guessferd replied, so that would be you. Yeah okay. That's fine. Chairman McGrath said, anyone else have anything? <u>Selectman Guessferd</u> <u>made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to appoint Selectman Morin as the liaison to the Cemetery</u> <u>Trustees. Carried 5-0.</u> Moving forward this liaison assignment will be assigned to whoever the DPW liaison is. As Ms. Madden was leaving Selectman Morin told her that Selectman Roy will be speak at the upcoming Wreaths Across America event.

### E. FY2025 Default Budgets

The Town Administrator was recognized and said, default budgets for Fiscal Year '25. They have been calculated. They are presented here for your consideration. Default budgets are calculated the same way every year. We take a review of things that are one time or that come off, and we look at things that we've entered into contractually or have contractual obligations for. Typically you'll see labor contracts because the voters have approved those. You'll see the health premiums because that's part of the contracts that we have with our folks. You'll see bond payments. You'll see a payment. That's one year we take that payment out. We put the new payment in because it's generally declining over time because the interest declines. So in essence, those are basically the components. You have the three default budgets. Just for big picture the difference between the General Fund proposed budget as it is right now, the default budget is \$482,786. The Sewer, it's \$51,534 and the Water is \$37,452. So just to give you some perspective, the details are here. Certainly, if you have any questions. Very consistent with how this has been done since we've been an SB2 community, which I think was 1997.

Selectman Guessferd said, I've looked through this. It looks fine. Selectman Roy replied, Yeah.

<u>Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to approve the Fiscal Year 2025</u> <u>General Fund Default Budget in the amount of \$35,044,662. Carried 5-0.</u>

### <u>Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Sewer</u> <u>Fund Default Budget in the amount of \$2,375,172. Carried 5-0</u>.

### Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Water Fund Default Budget in the amount of \$4,334,213. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Roy then said, Madam chair, I have a question for the Town Administrator. Discretionary spending. How much do we actually have after we take out all of the contracts and employment? The Town Administrator replied, less than 30% of our budget. Selectman Roy replied, less than 30%. The Town Administrator went on to explain, when you you look at the labor and the benefits and other contractual items, you're less than 30% I'll call it operating budget. And again, labor is subscribed primarily by your labor contracts and the number of people you have. Theoretically, you could reduce heads. Selectman Roy replied, no, no, I understand that. I just I just want sorta the people to know that we have to do certain things, like we're obliged to do pay employees. The Town Administrator replied, you're obliged to pay employees based on the contract rates. In theory you could have less employees. Selectman Roy replied, true. But I don't think, I don't think that would do us any good.

The Town Administrator replied yeah, you have to make those kind of decisions. But based on the folks that we have, that's what it costs. Selectman Roy replied, I just get a sense that the community looks at the whole budget. They think we can just arbitrarily spend whatever that budget is, that 35 or \$36 million. But we can't. We're obliged. The Town Administrator replied you have bond commitments. You have trash contract commitment. You have those types of commitments. The trash contracts \$2 million plus a year, the police bond is over half a million a year. Unless you want to default. Selectman Roy replied, and I'm not suggesting that. The Town Administrator replied, I know you're not. I'm just saying those those things. I don't have discretion over those. Selectman Roy replied, right, right. And I think that's my point to the general population is that we don't get to spend all of that money just the way we want to. The Town Administrator then said, and labor contracts, it doesn't say how many employees, but it does specify the wages, the hourly rates and the benefits that ascribe to them. So I don't have any room to change that either.

Selectman Dumont then said, to pigtail off that, piggyback off that. There could be a tax rate increase contractually, even though this Board produced a level funded budget. Correct? The Town Administrator replied, by definition, the voters in previous years have approved multi-year contracts. And those multi-year every succeeding year has a tax impact. So if you do nothing and you have a three year contract with a

labor union, you're going to pay for the second year, you're going to pay for the third year. Even if you increase nothing else, that's going to cause your tax rate to change simply because you're now having to account for those monies in the second or third or fourth year of a contract. Selectman Dumont then said, and this and going through this budget season, seeing what this board did, producing a level funded budget and we still had a slight increase. That's where those those increases would have came from, would have been contractual obligations. The Town Administrator replied certainly a large share of that. You're committed to that. There's other pieces that come in. We tried to add more revenue to help offset that. You do expand your tax base, but you're on a \$5 million base \$80 million is a penny. Penny and a half. It's it doesn't have the same impact as when you had a two billion tax base. I'm just saying there's a lot of math that goes into it.

Selectman Dumont added, but just so people can can understand exactly what we do have control over. The Town Administrator replied, if you're trying to provide the same level of service, this is what it costs. Selectman Roy replied, okay. Thank you.

# F. October 2023 Revenue & Expenditures

The Town Administrator explained, We are one third of the way through the fiscal year. 33%. At this point, I don't I still don't see anything in our expenditure side of things. Again we accrue we, pardon me, encumber for things like the trash contract and the legal stuff like that. Certainly so things look department-wise pretty reasonable. They typically where they typically are at this point in the year, automobiles continue to be very strong performer 38% about 145K ahead of where we were last year at the same point. Everybody likes a new car. And certainly the as negative as the interest rates have been for borrowers, they've been pretty, pretty good for us because we have significant investment. And this is just the town's investment. The trustees, that's a whole nother world. That's different funds. This is just the funds that we keep basically to manage our expenses, pay the school whatnot. So very strong this year. On the interest as it was the second half of last year. We continue to do well. And kudos to Finance and the Treasurer for for those those numbers. And again that's very low risk investment. We are not allowed to get into anything that you can't explain to a five year old.

Chairman McGrath said, okay, so next up is item F, Cemetery Trustees liaison, Selectman Morin. Selectman Roy replied, we just did that. The Town Administrator said, we did that. Chairman McGrath replied, I thought he did. I thought he had a report to give too. The Town Administrator said, he got the job.

# 11. Board Liaison Reports/Other Remarks by Selectmen

<u>Selectman Roy:</u> Yeah. I don't have much today. Just everybody be safe out there. It's getting darker earlier. Snow is going to fall soon. Just be careful. That's all I got.

<u>Selectman Guessferd</u>: Let's see. So as I mentioned a little bit earlier, the Planning Board has been working on the Master Plan. We haven't really had any as you as you said, we slow down a little bit, haven't had any major things. We do have a it seems like a smaller item, but it's a, it's basically a driveway concern that down on Highland Street that we're dealing with right now. And you may hear something about it later on, but it's basically it's a very steep slope. And we're we've been asked to approve a waiver and we're not inclined to do that. So because it's dangerous. So anyway, so that's the kind of the biggest thing we've been dealing with I think lately, besides the Master Plan just went over the transportation chapter, and I have a public hearing on that at their next meeting. And we've got a couple smaller other things that are coming up. So and of course, the the zoning amendments, we have some we have some zoning amendments we're going to be looking at. I think one one thing we're very concerned about is is kind of working with this, our G and G1 zones and trying to kind of reduce those. So you may see something you'll probably see something on our on the ballot for those things on the warrant. So beyond that Sustainability not a lot happening right there. Besides the, you know the electric aggregation process.

Rec- basketball is in full swing for adults and kids. Soccer ended last week. Finally, after all the weather delays they had and everything with all the rain and everything. So that's finally done. Comedy show was held this last weekend at the Community Center. It was another hit. These things are always very well attended. They raised \$795 for a scholarship account for the Rec scholarship account, which was awesome. From 50/50 raffle sales.

As far as the Seniors are concerned, pickleball has started indoor pickleball at the Community Center for the seniors. So lots going on there. And beyond that, I think don't think we're going to be meeting until after Thanksgiving again. So I hope everybody enjoys their holiday, spend some time with family and friends. It's usually one of those holidays where we all get together with our families and, and and be thankful for for what we all have. So everybody drive safely and stay, you know, stay safe.

I have a question for you though on the request coming in for zoning changes. Any citizen requests for zoning changes? Selectman Guessferd replied, not yet. The Town Administrator replied, there are two. They haven't gotten them yet. They came in yesterday or today. Selectman Guessferd replied, I haven't seen them. We will, we'll be getting some petition zoning articles. Chairman McGrath replied, I'll be interested in seeing what those are because it could be, I mean I don't know, I honestly don't know anything, but I'd be surprised at those that have not submitted zoning changes. That I would be surprised over. But I might not be too, because there hasn't been a lot of activity in that regard. Anyway, that was that was an area of interest. Selectman Guessferd replied, okay. Yeah. And that'll be coming up. So I'll make sure that I make a note of that okay. Chairman McGrath replied, all right. Thank you.

<u>Selectman Dumont</u>: Yeah I guess I'm going to piggyback off that. I was going to say ZORK Committee had wrapped up. So we had identified concerns with the G and G1 zone, came up with a few good ideas, forwarded those over to the Planning Board for their review, hoping to see that those make it to a warrant article.

Got a ZBA meeting coming up this Thursday, as well as Benson Park Committee. And just a happy Thanksgiving to everybody until we get back.

<u>Selectman Morin</u>: I'm actually going to address one of those petitions that have come in. The Conservation Committee was working on a, a the same type of warrant article reference to aquifer district, but it got put in by a citizen. And they would really appreciate if that citizen came to the Conservation Committee because they were already working on it. And they've got some information and maybe they can work together. So that's that's what they're hoping happens. Selectman Guessferd replied might be stronger that way. Selectman Morin replied, yeah, so that's what they're hoping happens. Other than that for Conservation that was the biggest thing.

Budget is we've been through two meetings so far with departments. We have one more tomorrow and then the finish. At this point we have not discussed really out of budget or warrant articles, but we're still intact as the Selectmen had forwarded the budget. But you know how that can change. So that's that's where we are right now. Mr. Malizia addressed two of the questions that they had tonight, the default budget and the splitting of the two positions for upstairs. So and then there was some other information to looking for, but that's all been taken care of by everybody. So we're moving on again. We're meeting tomorrow night and then we'll take it from there.

<u>Chairman McGrath</u>: I'm the last one. So. I'm going to comment tonight on a personal matter. And as you know, I've missed the last several Selectmen's meetings. I had a, I had a fall and I fractured my hip that required surgery. And that requires, you know, taking time off and not walking on the leg. I had surgery and the surgery had to be repeated a second time. I go back to the surgeon next week, and I'm not certain what I'm going to hear when I go back. Hopefully it's good news this time. Last time it was not such great news, but but I underwent the surgery and hopefully everything will have taken taken its place and and I'll be back

to my ornery old self soon. But I wanted everybody to know that that's the reason for my missing the meetings. It wasn't by choice. It was by necessity. I didn't have a choice. I was in the hospital for a couple of weeks after the first surgery, a couple of weeks after the second surgery. So and I just came home yesterday from rehab because I desperately wanted to attend this meeting tonight. So I made it to the meeting. We'll see what follows after. Thank you. So next up. Selectman Roy said, if I could comment, I hope, I hope you have positive results also. Chairman McGrath replied, thank you. Thank you very much.

### 12. Remarks by the Town Administrator

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia who said, very brief, just happy and safe Thanksgiving to everybody. It's amazing that it's upon us already. Every year I look and I go, oh my goodness, it's here. And you know what follows.

# 13. Remarks by School Board

Chairman McGrath recognized School Board Member Gary Gasdia who said well first welcome back. And I do hope it goes well for you next week. Chairman McGrath replied, thank you. Mr. Gasdia went on to say, a few things going on. As you may recall, a few months ago, you approved the closure of Memorial Drive at Hudson Memorial. That began on November 6th. It's going slow, but according to our Chief. And I just want to thank him and the Police Department for their partnership there. I will ask the parents to continue to slow down when you do get into the school, that is always a challenge.

Other things going on this weekend, the 17th and 18th, the High School Class Act is doing Almost Maine. So anyone that wants to go for a show, there's a lot of food drives going on at that time of year. So all the different schools have that and the 20th and 21st, if you want to go shopping, buy a pie and drop it off at Alvirne. They will then donate it to the Hudson Fish and Game for their Thanksgiving dinners. So a lot of charity going on and I just want to close with actually the last celebration we had this past weekend of Veterans Day. We didn't have school on Friday, but on Thursday there were a lot of activities at all the schools from all the way from Early Learning Center, all the way up through the high school. And, you know, there's there's always an air of what goes on in the schools. And there are things some people agree with, some people disagree with, but I hope we all can agree that the fact that all of our schools celebrate Veterans Day is a really good thing, and very proud that we do that every year. So happy Thanksgiving everyone.

### 14. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Morin at 9:21 p.m., seconded by Selectman Morin to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Nonpublic Session was entered at 9:21p.m. thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public was asked to leave the room.

The Board entered open session at 9:40 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session:

- Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to hire Owen Sullivan for the position of mechanic in the Department of Public Works, with a salary of \$25.56 per hour, Grade XII, Step 1, in accordance with the Hudson Public Works Department employee agreement, with a date of hire November 19, 2023. Carried 5-0.
- 2. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to hire Gordon Graber as a police officer with a salary of \$33.33, Step 4, all in accordance with the Hudson Police Employee Association Contract. Carried 5-0.
- 3. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to hold a public hearing on November 28, 2023 to remove alternate Planning Board member, Autumn Scott. Carried 5-0.
- 4. Selectman Guessferd made a motion to adjourn at 9:42 p.m. this was seconded by Selectman Morin. Carried 5-0.

### 15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:42 p.m.by Selectman Guessferd seconded by Selectman Morin. Carried 5-0.

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

Marilyn McGrath, Chairman

Dave Morin, Vice Chairman

Kara Roy, Selectman

Bob Guessferd, Selectman

Dillon Dumont, Selectman