

HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the January 9, 2024 Meeting

*\*Audio/video was not available for the first hour of the meeting due to an automobile accident.  
Audio/video began at 8:14 p.m.*

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman McGrath the meeting of January 9, 2024 at 7:04 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima

3. ATTENDANCE

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

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Elvis Dhima, Town Engineer; Paul Inderbitzen, Town Moderator; Tad Dionne, Police Chief; Paul Inderbitzen, Town Moderator; Gary Gasdia, School Board Member; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT

1) Jim Dobens, 4 Eagle Drive

Mr. Dobens read a statement to the Board regarding two petition warrant articles he submitted for the FY25 Town Warrant. Mr. Dobens complained that the Town's approach to planning was ludicrous. He did not feel that the town was staffed or equipped for "all this development" happening in town. He urged voters to vote in favor of the petition warrant articles he submitted.

2) Ed Van der Veen, 9 Newton Street

Mr. Van der Veen spoke on behalf of the petition warrant article he submitted for the FY25 Town Warrant. Mr. Van der Veen felt that the Southern NH Radio Control Club should be permanently allowed to use the Town's land at the West Road landfill instead, of building a solar farm there.

3) Jon Debuc, 11 Eagle Drive

Mr. Debuc explained that in his opinion the town should be doing more to stop development of gas stations, apartments and industrial buildings and instead the town should be trying to get a complex like the Tuscan Village in Salem to come to Hudson. He also felt that the town would be better off if it had a Boston area hospital with a satellite location in town. He stated that Hudson needed to work better to be a destination city.

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

A. Appointment

Planning Board (1 alternate member vacancy to expire 12/31/26)  
Timothy Lyko

*Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to appoint Timothy Lyko as an alternate member of the Planning Board with a term to expire 12/31/26. Carried 5-0.* Selectman Guessferd mentioned that Mr. Lyko was already attending meetings and learning the planning process.

B. Resignation

Planning Board Member, Brian Etienne

Chairman McGrath explained that the Board was in receipt of Mr. Etienne's resignation from the Planning Board and that Mr. Etienne is moving out of state. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to accept the resignation of Brian Etienne from the Planning Board with thanks and appreciation. Carried 5-0.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman McGrath asked, does anyone have anything they'd like removed for separate consideration? Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to approve Consent Items A, B, C, D, E, & F. Carried 5-0.

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Veteran Tax Credit: map 161, lot 029, sub 7-2, 45B Terraceview Drive; map 144, lot 021, sub 005, 22 Rolling Woods Drive
- 2) All Veteran Tax Credits: : map197, lot 163, 5 Tamarack Street; map 156, lot 008, sub 015, 5 Madeleine Court
- 3) Solar Exemptions: map 246, lot 057, 11 Chalifoux Road; map 154, lot 032, 26 Sullivan Road
- 4) Abatement Application: map 133, lot 57, 4 Pinewood Drive
- 5) Abatement Application: map 143, lot 6, 13 Tiger Road
- 6) Abatement Application: map 149, lot 73, 23 Sutherland Drive

B. Water/Sewer Items - none

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies

- 1) Hawker/Peddler License - The Blushing Rose

D. Donations

- 1) Donation of \$100 to Hudson Fire Department from Eileen Schaffizin in memory of Robert Higgins

E. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of December 12, 2023

F. Calendar

1/10	7:00	Planning Board	Hills Memorial Library
1/11	7:00	Budget Committee - Public Hearing	Hudson Community Center
1/12	2:00	Supervisors of the Checklist - Voter Registration	Town Hall
1/15	-	MLK Day	Town Hall Closed
1/16	7:00	Municipal Utility Committee	BOS Meeting Room
1/17	6:00	Library Trustees	Rodgers Memorial Library
1/17	7:00	Hudson Electric Aggregation Cmte.	Rodgers Memorial Library
1/18	7:00	Benson Park Committee	HCTV Meeting Room
1/22	7:00	Sustainability Committee	Buxton Meeting Room
1/23	-	Presidential Primary - Visit Hudsonnh.gov for more info	
1/24	7:00	Planning Board	Buxton Meeting Room
1/25	7:00	Zoning Board of Adjustment	Buxton Meeting Room
1/30	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on December 12, 2023

- 1.) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to overturn the Step 2 Grievance filed by the Hudson Firefighters Union IAFF Local 3154 for Article XVIII Insurance Grievance: Grievant Sarah Delos Reyes. Carried 5-0.
- 2.) Selectman Guessferd made a motion to adjourn at 8:58 pm. This was seconded by Selectman Morin. Carried 5-0.

B. Veterans' Tax Credit Questions from December 12, 2023 BOS Meeting

Chairman McGrath recognized the Town Administrator who explained that agenda item 7B was a follow-up to questions Selectman Roy and Selectman Guessferd had regarding the timeliness of the Veterans' Tax Credits at the December 12, 2023 Board of Selectmen meeting. The Town Administrator explained that of the Veterans' Tax Credits in question, a majority had come in after the filing date. Three of the Veteran Tax Credit applications in question had not met the residency requirement to qualify for the tax credit at the time of submittal. The Town Administrator explained that the Assessing Department will hold the applications until they meet the three year residency requirement. The Town Administrator reminded the Board that the Chief Assessor and the Assessing Department always follow the state statues regarding tax credits. The Board did not have any questions regarding Mr. Michaud's memo.

C. Personnel Policy Longevity Incentive (Second Read)

Chairman McGrath recognized the Town Administrator who explained that the personnel policy update was before them for a second reading. Approving this policy to give five (5) personal days to employees for twenty years of service would bring the policy in line with all of the union contracts. Seeing no questions from the Board, Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to to amend Personnel Policy VII, Leave, Earned Time, to include a longevity incentive of five (5) personal days for twenty (20) years of Town service. Carried 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing - House Bill 2 One-Time Bridge Payment Acceptance

Chairman McGrath recognized the Town Administrator who explained that the Town was in receipt of another One-Time Bridge Payment from the State of New Hampshire in the amount of \$144,250.76. Selectman Dumont asked if this money was going towards any certain project. The Town Administrator replied, Chairman McGrath opened a public hearing at 7:23pm. She asked if there was anyone in the audience present to speak on the matter. Seeing no public comment, Chairman McGrath closed the Public Hearing at 7:23pm. Selectman Dumont made a motion seconded by Selectman Morin to accept a one-time payment of \$144,250.76 from the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation for maintenance, construction and reconstruction of municipally owned bridges that was allocated to the Town of Hudson based on the passage of House Bill 2. Carried 5-0.

B. Public Hearing - Water Utility System Improvements Grant Acceptance

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima. Mr. Dhima explained that this was the grant he had recently been before the Board getting authorization to apply for. Chairman McGrath opened the public hearing at 7:24pm. Seeing no one present to comment, the public hearing was closed at 7:24pm. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to accept a Hudson Water system improvement grant in the amount of \$128,813.47 from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. Carried 5-0.

C. Water Utility System Improvements Grant Project

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima was recognized and explained the Board voted on December 12<sup>th</sup> to pursue state funds related to Hudson Water System improvements. Mr. Dhima explained that this grant is 100% covered by the State, there is no match necessary. He went on to explain that the scope of work for this grant consists of evaluating and identifying water improvement projects in Hudson and that he would like to use Town of Hudson water consultant, Weston & Sampson, for engineering services. Selectman Roy asked Mr. Dhima why this project didn't go out to bid. Mr. Dhima explained that where it's a state grant and not required by the State. Selectman Roy continued asking why there was nothing in the packet stating that this was a sole source. Selectman Guessferd added that the sole source form should be included explaining why this project did not go out to bid. Mr. Dhima explained that this project and scope of work is very specific and he wouldn't feel comfortable having a separate company who is not the Town of Hudson water consultant. Mr. Dhima said that he will add the form to the file. Seeing no further questions from the Board,

Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to waive the bid process and hire the Town of Hudson water consultant, Weston & Sampson, for Engineering Services for the amount of not to exceed, \$128, 813.47. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to assign the Town Engineer as the principal for this project. Carried 5-0.

D. Public Hearing - Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Acceptance

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima. Mr. Dhima explained that in March 2023 the Town filed with NH Department of Energy for a grant in the amount of \$75,840. This grant is for and equipment rebate related to energy conservation projects, and is funded 100% by State funds. After submitting a prerequisite application the Town received a pre-approval for the following: Window replacements for the entire Town Hall from Granite State Glass of Hudson, NH in the amount of \$44,165.00; Additional insulation in the ceiling at Town Hall from USA Insulation, of Manchester, NH in the amount of \$17,151.00; and LED light replacements for Town Hall from Johnson's Electric Supply of Nashua, NH in the amount of \$14,524.00. Mr. Dhima stated that all of these vendors and contractors have agreed to comply with the Davis Bacon grant requirements.

Selectman Roy was recognized and asked why the town policy to go out to bid was not followed. Mr. Dhima explained that most vendors would hold a bid for more than 30 days. Selectman Guessferd said, I'm saying it here, we need to follow that process. Selectman Roy reiterated, we have to follow the policies and procedure of the Town. Mr. Dhima replied that he would add a sole source form to the file. Selectman Roy added that we need to be transparent.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and asked if the flashing and interior trim was included in the window replacement project. Mr. Dhima replied that the specs worked out to include the technicians doing everything associated with the project.

Chairman McGrath opened the public hearing at 7:43pm.

Mr. Jon Debuc, 11 Eagle Drive spoke saying that he worked in the State of Massachusetts for 20 years. He went on to say that \$20,000 three times a year to the same company adds up. It's a lot of money on a "no bid" for the town, even if it's federal funds. Mr. Debuc added that the state procurement website is a great asset for going out to bid. He added that we are stewards of state and Hudson money, even if it's federal funds.

Ed van der Veen, 9 Newton Street spoke saying that he works in commodities and they have to get three bids on everything.

Seeing no further comment from the public, Chairman McGrath closed the public hearing at 7:47pm.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to accept an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block grant in the amount of \$75,840 from the State of New Hampshire Department of Energy. Carried 5-0.

#### E. Energy Efficiency/Conservation Block Grant Contract Award

Mr. Dhima had just explained all of this information before the public hearing was opened.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to waive the bid process and award the window contract to Granite State Glass for the amount of, not to exceed, \$44,165.00 Carried, 5-0.

Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to award the insulation contract to USA Insulation for the amount of, not to exceed, \$17,151.00 Carried 5-0.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont award the electric contract to Johnson's Electric Supply for the amount of, not to exceed, \$14,524.00. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Chairman McGrath to assign the Town Engineer as the principal for this grant. Carried 5-0.

F. Lowell Road Bridge Construction Phase Update

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima, was again recognized. He explained that the company who was awarded this contract initially, sat on it for a year and then came back to him looking for a change order, before they started any of the work. Mr. Dhima went on to explain that he felt William P. Davis Excavation was in over their head when it came to being the low bidder on this job. Mr. Dhima asked the Board to vacate the original contract for the Lowell Road Bridge construction and to award the contract to New England Construction, Inc. who also bid initially. Mr. Dhima has spoken with New England Construction and after coming back out to look at the project, they agree to honor their original bid of \$492,400. Mr. Dhima added that the Town had cut a purchase order but nothing was ever drawn from it and the original low bidder never signed and returned their contract. It was discussed that vacating the original motion and awarding the contract to New England Construction was the most efficient way to go.

Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to dismiss William P. Davis Excavation, LLC for any service related to this project. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to award the contract for construction services for the Lowell Road Bridge (116/080) to New England Construction, Inc. for the amount of, not to exceed \$492,400. Costs to be charged: the original amount from ARPA funds of \$334,500 Acct# 7201 and the balance of \$157,900 from State Bridge Aide Funds Acct# 6211-504. Carried 5-0.

G. Presidential Primary & Deliberative Session Planning

Town Moderator Paul Inderbitzen was giving his update regarding the upcoming Presidential Primary and Town Election plans when the audio and video recordings of the meeting began. He was explaining to the Board that he will not be running for re-election as Town Moderator. He said, I'll post something in the newsletter, just so people know. Um, not that I don't want to do it. I love working the elections. I want to continue them. But I've had a couple of health scares this, this fall. And I said, oh, you know, I really got to think about whether or not, you know, what if something happened last, if we had a September Primary last year, I might not have been able to be there because I ended up having surgery. So, um, just my gallbladder, but it's not a big deal. Well, it is a big deal when you get up there, but. And then I was out of commission for almost two weeks right around Christmas. So I'm hoping that we someone will step forward. And it's not a simple job. Um, it's it's not a simple job to do, but working with the new Town Clerk and the organization and I will help them along through the next few years. And I'd like to, I'd like to work the election so I would continue doing that as long as I'm physically able.

Mr. Inderbitzen then asked the Board, anything that you might have for the two elections coming up, the primary and anything else that you might have questions on. Selectman Guessferd interjected saying, I'll be able to support the primary um, in the afternoon, like I usually do. Selectman Dumont then said, I was going to add I'm available that day. If you need any help, just let me know. You can shoot me an email. Whatever works best. Selectman Roy said, I can stay as long as I can stay. Mr. Inderbitzen replied, well, yeah. I know sometimes you have limitations and not everybody can do it. Chairman McGrath then said, um, and I'm not certain that I can be there. To which the Moderator replied, and I understand that's, you know, I understand that. Selectman Morin said, I'll be there the whole day. The Moderator then said, and I think you're the only one in Ward Two. Everybody else, all the others you are all in Ward One. But I'll be moving you around. You'll still have time to go vote wherever you want. But absentee votes, uh, ballots, uh, requests are coming in kind of low. I think we're just a little over 100. So and the of course, the last day for absentee is the day before the election. Um, the last day to register for voting is the 12th. It's the last day you can register. And so I urge everybody to register if you if you want to vote in the primary, please register. It's important to do it ahead of time. You avoid lines. Although the last presidential primary, we had four I think 460, uh, same day registrations. So and they have been getting and they're upstairs. They're very active now and asking when someone comes in with their car, are you registered to vote? You want to

register to vote. So they're getting a lot of people and I'm hoping that continues. The Moderator went on to say, so I anticipate we have we got new Poll Pads for mostly for the Supervisors, uh, although they're still trying to work out how they're going to do that. But we'll, we'll make that a little, little simpler for them if they can. And those, those give us great data. And the more we use them, the better the better we are.

The Moderator then said, so um, the Town Election is going to be very the deliberative session is going to be very long with all these, uh, what is it, 16, um, warrant articles and three, uh, petition warrant articles from the Planning Board. The Town Administrator added, you don't talk about those. To which Mr. Inderbitzen responded, no, we don't talk about those because the Planning Board process takes care of that. And the Deliberative Session has no authority to change any of that. So so we won't even discuss them. But that takes us another from, what, 21 to 50 articles? That's a lot. Do we get any more today? How many? The Town Administrator replied, yeah, one. To which The Moderator replied, oh, okay. Thank you. I was hoping we wouldn't get a whole bunch more. Do you guys have anything else? We're trying to work as easily as we can. I've been using, uh, some of the Democratic ballots are in, um, we haven't received the Republican yet unless they came today. Um, so we're going to have the people having to count that. We have to count them up front. So I use I asked the Women's Club, they'll be giving me a date when they can come in, but it's all within two weeks. It's pretty tight. Pretty tight. Anything else? To which Chairman McGrath replied, no, thank you. Glad to see you're feeling better.

Selectman Roy then said, so, can I just bring something up? Um, that we might just want to think about? I think we need to think strategically about in the future, obviously not for this election, but about Capital Reserve Funds and maybe not funding every single one every year that we stagger them so that we don't end up with these 5 or 6 page ballots. It's just something I think we should think about. Chairman McGrath replied, okay.

#### H. Petition Warrant Article - Change Election Day Date

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia who explained, we received a petition warrant article. It's a valid article. It had the requisite amount of signatures of registered voters. I'll read it quickly. It basically says, Shall the Town of Hudson and the School District change the date of the elections from the second Tuesday in March to the second Tuesday in April, in accordance with RSA 40:14, which would also change the date of the deliberative sessions to a date between the first and second Saturdays after the last Monday in February inclusive. This warrant will only take effect if it passes on both the Town and School District ballots. There is no tax rate impact. You have the option of recommending or not recommending this article. It will go forward as a petition article to the warrant and to the ballot.

Chairman McGrath asked, any comments? Any thoughts? Selectmen Morin was recognized and asked first can we have the Moderator come up and give us a little history on, you know? Town Moderator Paul Inderbitzen came forward and said, this has been discussed before and actually since last year we had to postpone our election because of a snowstorm. Not that you don't get snow storms in April, but you will be less likely. Your deliberative sessions then would be in the beginning of March. You know, less likely to see difficulties in that although deliberative session when I can postpone for for a storm. But that has to be done within 72 hours, if you saw from that list I sent you, even though you have a meeting scheduled, we're going to have to run it within 72 hours. I didn't think anybody for the school side would want to do it on Sunday, Super Bowl Sunday, I tried to avoid, you know? I don't I don't think it's a bad idea. Merrimack does April, um, a couple of others have even done. I think somebody up north does May, but it's a smaller town. You know, unless it affects the finance end of things. I know the School Department had a little bit of trouble with that because they got the same petition, because if it doesn't pass in both, it shouldn't. You know, it says I think that theirs says the same thing. Because they have to notify people with their contracts under certain times. So they need to know what that. But I don't I don't think that would be a severe hindrance if they're if they're getting ready for it, depending on what the budget comes in at. Um, and if there's a contract on there that doesn't get approved, it really doesn't make that much of a difference. Um,

it might give us a little bit of a leeway. I wouldn't be opposed to it. I know some people say, oh, we're tough; we can do this. You know, things have changed. Our weather has changed. Unbelievable out there. Tonight when I'm driving in, I had to take it real slow because, well. And tomorrow it's supposed to be. I think it's raining now. I think tomorrow it's supposed to be in the 50s. So it's supposed to change over to rain. So I wouldn't be opposed if the Board felt that way. I don't know what the members feel, but the public I mean, good to see what the public feels about it. Well, it will it will be definitely discussed. So but it's something that, that I don't think would be wouldn't be a hindrance on the town side. It would be a little bit on the school side, but not I don't think it would be severe. Chairman McGrath replied, okay. Thank you.

The Chairman then asked, anybody else? Selectman Morin replied, I'd just like to hear from the School. Selectman Roy agreed with hearing from the School Board. School Board member Gary Gasdia said, So obviously the same, same warrant came into us. Um, we discussed it last night. We did not vote on it. Um, we just put out a request for anyone that was watching anyone that's watching tonight to get some public input. I think the feeling is that from a weather standpoint, it feels like a no brainer, right? I mean, you get less chance of snow and all of that. Um, the concern is that especially for teachers, the the decision needs to be made in early April. And so if we don't know if we have a contract, if we don't have a contract, if we have new positions, if we don't have new positions, it may put us at a disadvantage. Um, what we saw and again, we've never done this right. So it's all sort of hypothetical. But when we look at last year where we had a teacher's contract and we were, you know, thankfully to to the voters, we we passed it prior to us passing that contract, the candidates were slowly coming in. And when that contract passed, boom. Then we got them all. And the concern again, it's hypothetical, but my concern is if we're in the middle of April, before we know if it passed or not, a lot of teachers will have already either decided to leave us to go somewhere else or they won't. And the towns that are around us, um, like a Merrimack, um, that does go in April. Um, they have an advantage of paying significantly higher than us. So they're not in the same the same thing. Um, but again, we haven't voted on it yet, but that that really is the concern is that it may potentially hinder, hinder hiring, um, across all the positions, but really with the teachers, because in any given year, especially with the teacher shortage, we could be trying to hire 40, 50 people. And if you're a month behind all of your competing towns, that can impact you. So that's that's the concern we're trying to weigh out as we think about if we're going to recommend or not.

The Town Administrator replied that doesn't hinder us because we don't have the same cycle that you have. What it does do is it pushes our budget, probably deliberations, particularly with the Budget Committee, into the real holiday season. So I just put that in mind right now. You know, you're looking in October and then it goes to the budget committee typically November, early December. Now you're going to be doing it in November and they're going to be looking at it in December and early January. So I just point that out. The other side is, you know, if your budget passes in April, you get a default. You really got to turn the crank quickly because your fiscal year is going to be right upon you. Whereas right now, March through June, you're a little bit of time to maybe pre-plan things. You just lose that month on the other end. That's, that's just a consideration. We don't have the same issue, though, with hiring because we're not in the same situation. We don't do annual contracts. We don't we don't have to worry about that.

Chairman McGrath replied, I was wondering what what it would do, you know, to end of year stuff. You know, the end of the fiscal year. The Town Administrator replied, well you're always, I mean you are trying to, you know, catch up from March to June and make sure you're ready for the end of the fiscal year. Now you've only got April, potentially through June. It just speeds things up, particularly towards the end of the fiscal year.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and addressing the Town Administrator said, you talked about the budget process being moved. Do you have to move the budget process or could it stay the same? The Town Administrator replied, you could keep it the same, but it's going to have huge, big gaps in things. And now you deliberative session's now, two months later. Selectman Dumont replied, I was just curious. The Town Administrator continued, it just seems like that doesn't make any sense. Selectman Dumont replied, no the the gap doesn't. But I was just thinking more like you said, if budgets getting it in December and we have in November, just finding people to make every meeting, that's all. The Town Administrator replied, that's a potential I don't say I'm not guaranteeing it's going to, but I don't see people doing it. You know, we

could do the budget in July, but we don't. You know, that's just how we do it on a calendar basis in the fiscal basis. So that's just a consideration. And again if that one doesn't pass the other one doesn't count either. So I can't speak for the School. They'll they'll speak for themselves but it will go forward. You just have to decide whether you recommend or not recommend.

Chairman McGrath then said, and I'll point out um, a number of years, not too many years ago. Um, on April 1st, we had a wicked, wicked snowstorm that covered the the amount of snow...I was driving a Camry at the time, it covered the top of the the tires, and my father had an appointment to get a hearing test, and I was determined he was going to make that hearing test. So we managed to get the the car uncovered and we got up, got him up to Nashua. He wasn't happy about going, but I was happy to get him there. Um, but it's you know, that was the one year that we had we really had a tremendous snowstorm on April 1st. And I have it written in my book what the year was, but I don't have that with me. Selectman Roy replied, I will say it was in the mid to late 90s, I think. The Town Administrator added, 1997, because I just started here. Selectman Roy replied, and it was gone over the next couple of days, the temperature went up to like 60, 70 degrees and all the snow was gone. Selectman Guessferd added, I think I remember that as well. Chairman McGrath replied, but I mean, it's, you know, you can't depend on the weather at any time of the year. So. Okay.

The Town Administrator asked, so what's the Boards pleasure? A a motion to recommend or to not recommend. Selectman Roy said, I have no strong feelings about it. Selectman Guessferd added, either way. Yeah, we don't certainly want to put a lot of pressure on the town employees, but, um.

Chairman McGrath said, we need to make a decision here. And it's either, you know. Yes, no, or abstain. Selectman Dumont asked, do we have that option or is it just to recommend or not recommend? Chairman McGrath replied, you can recommend or not recommend, or you can abstain from giving a comment. Selectman Roy asked, do we, do we have to do that tonight? Can we do that like at Deliberate Session, once we get? The Town Administrator replied, I recommend that you don't do that because you're walking into Deliberative Session with recommendations or non-recommendations to the voters. I think that's sort of kind of...Selectman Roy replied then we would have some public input. The Town Administrator replied you can change your vote after Deliberative Session, which you typically do. Selectman Guessferd then said, well, yeah, that's the place where sort of...The Town Administrator replied when it comes to your recommendation you can either recommend or not recommend.

*Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to recommend the petition warrant article to change the date of the Town and School District elections from the second Tuesday in March to the second Tuesday in April. Chairman McGrath replied motion has been made and seconded I'm laughing because I'm wondering who's going to vote and who's going to abstain. Motion carries 3-1-1. Selectman Morin was against it. Chairman McGrath abstained.*

Chairman McGrath said, I only heard two ayes. Selectman Guessferd replied there's three. It's a difficult decision. Chairman McGrath replied, it is a I mean, you know, it would be different if it didn't have an impact on, you know, like the budgetary process, you know, if it's going to push it into, you know, too late to, uh, for them to comfortably work on the budgets and, um, you know, and I understand not wanting to wanting to go to a, uh, to vote on a day when or, you know, deliberative session when it's snowy and, you know, like it is tonight, but, you know.

Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah, I just, you know, we we always talk about, uh, voter output outcome, right? Voters coming out. And the question is, is this going to increase voter turnout or, or is it going to have any effect at all? You know, I mean, there's a potential it could increase voter turnout if, you know, weather's bad in March. It's it's hard to tell. I mean but I yeah that's why I said, you know for now recommend it. Selectman Roy added, yeah, let's see what happens at Deliberative Session. Because I think that's the only way we're going to get public input on how voters feel about it. Chairman McGrath replied, I mean, I'm I'm not opposed to it, but I'm not really in favor of it either, because it's, you know, it's.

Selectman Guessferd replied, I'm going to ask the public, let us know before deliberative session. Yeah. What do you think about this? Those of you who are watching, please provide your input so we can have some have some valuable input prior, especially if you're not going to be at Deliberative Session. The Town Administrator added, or they'll let you know on voting day. That is the ultimate public input. So at that point. Selectman Guessferd added, well we know the reality is that if it's recommended or not recommended, that does sway some people, you know, on things like this.

I. Petition Warrant Article - RC Airplane Club use of West Road

Town Administrator Steve Malizia was recognized and he explained, we received a petition for an article that's a valid article as a valid amount of signatures. And I'll read it for the record; it says: "allow the Southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club continued use of the West Road Landfill, Wagner Field, a Federal Aviation Administration recognized identification area. Per the agreement with the Board of Selectmen in July of 1999, the Town of Hudson, New Hampshire, will grant continued use of the West Road landfill capped area to the southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club, 501 non-profit organization, a fully insured and chartered member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, this club fosters community efforts related to the building and flying of model aircraft, STEM education, and enablement of skill creation related to employment in the aerospace industry. Many past members have subsequently established careers in aviation and aerospace. The club is in need of continued access to a suitable site for flying activities. The current site is recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration and has been granted special permissions, allowing for high altitude flights. For the past 24 years, the club has donated time, expertise and money to the town of Hudson, New Hampshire and wishes to remain a vibrant part of the community." The Town Administrator continued saying, this article has a \$0 impact on the tax rate. Again, it's a valid petition and your choice is to recommend or not recommend this warrant article on the ballot.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said, I have a question. So hypothetically, if the other warrant article which was passed for the solar farm and this one are both approved, what happens? Selectman Dumont said, I had the same question. Selectman Roy then said, well, I guess I have a question. Is the one the solar farm lease question? Is that specific to the landfill or does that not specify a place? The Town Administrator replied, yes. Selectman Morin replied, it's specific to the Landfill. Selectman Guessferd then said, so, it would seem to me, theoretically speaking, that if they both were approved that they would they would... Is it binding number one? I guess it is binding, right? The Town Administrator replied, I'm not sure it's binding. Selectman Roy added, yeah, that would be the question. Is it does it become advisory or? The Town Administrator replied, it's your land. It's the Town's land and you're the stewards of that land. You may have a choice between picking between the two articles, but I'm not sure it's binding.

Selectman Guessferd then said, that's the other part of the question. Yeah. Is it a binding? Um, but, you know, I would hope, when we talked about this before that maybe there could be some level of coexistence, but, um, it wouldn't be the same. The solar farm would have to change if we agreed that. But again, we're kind of walking down the road a little bit further, but it's just it's just kind of an interesting thought process as to how it would affect things.

Seeing no further comment from the Board, *Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to recommend the petition warrant article to allow the Southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club continued use of the West Road landfill for their activities.* Chairman McGrath asked any discussion?

Selectman Morin was recognized and said, we probably should figure out where we're going with this before we take a vote, because we could end up in a real bad situation here. I mean, we I understand these people want to fly their planes. There is no written agreement. There still isn't. I've looked into it again. There's no written agreement. They've done a lot for the town, but some of you never even knew they were there, so I'm not really sure what they've done for the town. If you guys didn't know, even know about them. And on top of that, we have pushed, this Board has pushed, for electric police cars, solar on

the buildings. We just approved a bunch of money to save electricity, heat, things to that nature. We're going to get our electricity through this, which is going to bring a savings to the town. We're going to make money on this for the town. We're hearing from our people that live in this town we need to cut the budget. While this is going to give us some money to take care of some of these issues, that we won't have to tax our residents. So I don't know where the feeling is, but I'll tell you what, there's one up here and there's one down here. I got to tell you, because everything that we.....Chairman McGrath, addressing Selectman Roy said, let him finish. Selectman Morin continued saying, everything we have talked about can come out of this. Everything. And and now we're changing our whole outlook. It makes no sense to me.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said, well, I think that that first of all, I am concerned about the plan. I think it was hastily put together and it's not well thought out. One and two, I think with a little effort, there could be a way to coexist for for both the radio club to have their space and the solar farm to have their space, and whether that's at the landfill or at another location, cuz I, I understand that there's another, um, appropriate location. But I think, again, with a little effort, we could, we could, we could get them to coexist with each other. Um, because somebody doesn't want to do that doesn't mean it can't be done.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said, first of all, I don't know why you think it's not well planned, because I have no clue how he's doing it. That's why this company came to us. That's what they do. Selectman Roy interjected saying, exactly. you have no clue. Selectman Morin replied, well, I don't know. You don't have a clue either. That's my point. So that's not our problem. Our problem is to approve it. That's why we hire employees to take care of these type of issues for us. Second of all, it's a small piece of land. And if we're going to get the ultimate out of this solar farm for our residents, for our town, they need to use the whole thing. And that was clearly stated.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said, Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said, okay, I get it. But I do get it. I understand what you're saying. And at the beginning of this, I was. I was on board. I was on the selection committee for the solar farm. But we all hear things. We all see both sides of the stories. There's, it doesn't have to be all or nothing. I definitely would like to have a a solar farm that will save the town some money. Um, you know, in the big scheme of things, granted, it's not a ton of money, even though it sounds like it over 20, 30 years. But my my point in the way I have voted on this issue is that perhaps we can take another swing at this thing in terms of the solar piece and perhaps with, you know, we can we can come up with some sort of compromise where we have a solar farm, but we also allow them to have a certain piece of this land to use. I think there's, you know, and if there's not a way to do that, then we'll know that when this comes around, just say if it comes around again next year. I know a lot of good work has been done on this. Um, but I do think that there's it's not all or nothing.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said, this Board is already put something forward to the residents to make a decision on this. Either they're going to approve it or not approve it. This Board's already made their decision. We've already done that. So now we're kind of confusing our residents by making two decisions. Selectman Guessferd replied, I would be disingenuous if I voted no on this because I voted yes. I voted no on the other one. And if I voted no on this one as well, then I'm coming from two, I'm talking about both sides of my face. Selectman Morin replied, I didn't single you out. I said, I....Selectman Guessferd replied, I understand. I understand you're talking about the Board, but that's why I'm voting the way I'm voting, because I, I supported them before and I and I need to continue to be consistent with that vote. Um, and that's why I would vote for this.

Chairman McGrath asked, anyone else? Seeing no further comment from the Board she then said, okay, I'm going to take my turn and I'm going to be consistent. I am not going to recommend that this be approved. And, um, there's a there's a reason for it. When we heard the the people that are promoting this or do the airplane, whatever they do with airplanes or whatever it is that they're doing. Um. I was of the I was of the thought process process that they weren't doing any harm to the landfill that has been capped, that I've taken a tour of many years ago and I've said it said it here. On a couple of occasions we were warned that that cap was to remain intact. We weren't supposed to do anything that could damage it. And if we did and if it were damaged, then we would have to pay. And it was over \$1 million at the time. Today, in today's dollar, it might be far more than a million. Then one of the applicants, the one that's not here

tonight, but the one that, uh, got up and gave a presentation and talked about it and presented, uh, a slide show showed us where vehicles, heavy vehicles were driving all over the landfill. Then I got paperwork from upstairs where the former, uh, Road Agent who had signed off on allowing them to use it, warned them that they couldn't do certain things on the landfill. That presentation that they presented violated everything that he told them not to do. They did it anyway. So there's a possibility that they could have damaged the landfill, the lining of the landfill and and the residents of this town, most of which of their members don't live in this town either. So I can't in good conscience vote to allow them to continue. And I'm not happy about the solar farm either, but the voters should at least have a say in that, because it's going to mean tax money for them, a return on their, you know, investment. So I can't vote in good conscience to allow this airplane group to continue to use the the landfill.

Selectman Roy then said, so, so so. I just have a couple of questions. One was was there any actual damage to the to the landfill? Chairman McGrath replied, I don't know because I don't, I don't walk around the landfill trying to find out if there's damage there. Selectman Roy then asked, and then specifically, what did what did the Road Agent tell them they could and could not do? Chairman McGrath replied, I don't have that paperwork with me, but you can get it from Jill.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said, if you look at the top of the landfill before they started and the landfill today, how much fill and extra weight was put on top of that rubber lining that protects whatever's under there. And we know there's probably everything under there. That was the issue. And the...Selectman Roy interjected saying but there was no damage. To which Chairman McGrath replied, we don't know that. Selectman Morin said, well yes, there was no damage at this point. There was no damage. So I will say but but you know what we can say today and tomorrow they can go out there and we got chemicals coming out of there somewhere, you know what I mean? Like, and it is, it's flat. We're not going to change it because we can't go dig it all off of there because that will be a bigger problem.

Chairman McGrath then said, so, taking a vote (to recommend the warrant article). Motion failed 2-3, with Selectman Dumont, Selectman Morin and Chairman McGrath opposed. The Town Administrator then said, so that motion fails. Is there a, there another motion to not recommend? Selectman Morin made a motion to not recommend the petition warrant article. Motion carried 3-2, Selectman Guessferd and Selectman Roy opposed.

## J. Petition Warrant Articles

Town Administrator Steve Malizia said, So there was a placeholder on here in case anything was received through today. Today being the deadline. And lo and behold, this afternoon we received the article you receive right now. And if I may, I'm going to read it out loud. The petition article says, "Do you favor the adoption of the town manager plan, as provided in Chapter 37 of the Revised Statutes Annotated for Hudson, the current town administrator would assume this role until his retirement or termination of employment at town manager has powers and duties afforded to it by state law, as a town administrator does not." The Town Administrator went on to say, and I didn't submit that. That's not me. Just to make the record clear, that was submitted...Selectman Roy interjected saying I think you'd have to to apply, wouldn't you? The Town Administrator replied, not according to that. So you either recommend or not recommend this article, but it does have the required number of signatures and it will go forward to the ballot.

Chairman McGrath then said, it's too bad that Mr. Oates didn't live in town at the time that we had a town manager. It's too bad that he didn't live in town when we had the town council form of government. Now there's a petition warrant article to go back to the town manager form.

Selectman Guessferd then said, how many? Let me let me ask you a question. Um, and I'm not trying to telegraph one way or the other because I see both. I see both sides of this. Um, how what was our population when we had a town manager and and we had the, the town council form of government. We

were a lot smaller, weren't we? The Town Administrator replied, so you're in town council till 1994. A lot smaller. You probably had about 20 odd 21,000 population back then. So you had town council from somewhere maybe 1983 or 85, somewhere in that ballpark through I think he came back out at '92 actually. And since '92 you've had the town administrator form of government, i.e. Board of Selectmen, five member and then the town administrator. So that's been 30 years.

Selectman Roy then said, so, so I have a question. The Town Administrator asked Selectman Guessferd, did that answer your question? Selectman Guessferd said, yeah, yeah. It's it does I mean, I think the size of the town does have something to do with it. Um, in terms of how you go, I mean, you can even look at our town as is, is, you know, large enough to to have a mayor. And, you know? The Town Administrator replied, then you'd be a city. That's be totally different. Selectman Guessferd replied, right, right, no, I get it. But I'm just saying our town is large enough where any of these forms of government could be viable. I'm not sure they would be the right form for our town, but.

Selectman Roy then said, so, so, if we went to a town manager, would we have to go to a town council or could we keep a board of selectmen? The Town Administrator replied, you can have a board of selectmen. Selectman Roy replied, okay. All right. So then then the focus would be on, on the Board of Selectmen would be on like policy and things like that. It wouldn't be so much on, on administrative. The Town Administrator replied, a town manager has the day to day responsibility. I've included, just for your own information, Chapter 37 it kind of articulates what the statute says a town manager does, but basically hire responsible for contracts, hire fire. Um. All that sort of stuff. It's it's more day to day, for lack of a better word. But you would still have policy. You'd still be elected officials.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said, an administrator versus a manager, that takes away a lot of the citizens input at that point because they're more like a mayor versus what we have now that everything comes in front of this Board. The Town Administrator replied, you wouldn't do any hiring. Probably most of the contracts, I believe it's articulated in there what what the manager would do. So does that take away? I guess that's a perception. I mean, it takes away from you. Selectman Morin then asked, so other than a name change, what's the difference other than contracts and? Selectman Roy interjected saying hiring and firing. The Town Administrator replied, to Selectman Morin saying, the town manager has a lot more day to day authority and doesn't have to, can can manage departments and can set the levels of salaries and can do a lot of things. It's articulated in there. I mean, I didn't get into everything. Selectman Guessferd added yeah 37-6 talks about all the.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, I hate to be the guy to do it, but I'm going to put you on the hot seat since you're the one in that seat doing all those operations. Do you believe it would be a better function if Hudson has a town manager? Mr. Malizia replied, I don't want to prejudice people's opinion, but I will say this, we are the ninth largest community in the State of New Hampshire, and communities smaller than us have town managers. So it's we're sort of an old holdout, let's put it that way. And what does that mean? It just means we have a ninth most populated community. Doesn't mean we're better or worse. They're better or worse. Selectman Dumont then asked, I guess. Do you feel as though this would allow your position to be more efficient in any way? The Town Administrator replied, well, yeah, I think there'd be more efficiencies because I wouldn't have to wait every two weeks to hire somebody or do certain contracts. You can read what it allows them to do. You wouldn't have to deal with that sort of all those sort of things. Um, conversely, you know, depends on what you're looking at. I could see a town manager form of government. You're probably going to go through managers more often, because they're not going to find they're not going to, you know, stay in people's good graces probably for any length of time, because they're going to make decisions that people aren't going to like. And I can see there having more turnover in that position. So you have to kind of way that too. Selectman Dumont replied, thank you. The Town Administrator added, because you know, you're the ones that hire, hire the manager. So they they do answer to somebody.

Selectman Roy then asked, what is our population? Around 26,000? The Town Administrator replied, 26,000 yeah.

Selectman Morin then asked, this like a mayor. Does this affect the schools at all? The Town Administrator replied, no. Selectman Morin replied so it's strictly just the town side. Selectman Morin then said, if we're gonna go this route we might just go look for a mayor. The Town Administrator replied, well, there's two forms of mayoral government. There's two forms of mayors. There's the there's the Nashua, Manchester model where the mayor is the mayor and runs it. There's Keene, there's Portsmouth, they have a city manager who runs things. They still the mayor's ceremonial, not ceremonial, but typically does not have the same authority. So there's different forms of mayor. Selectman Morin replied, correct. The Town Administrator added, just think of Nashua and Manchester have the traditional mayor.

Selectman Roy asked, they also have a board of aldermen, right? the Town Administrator replied, yep, yep. And but Keene, Concord, Portsmouth, they have city councils and they have a mayor. But the mayor is usually a member of the city council. And then they have a town a professional manager. Look to our south. You see that in Lowell too. So you know, City of Boston, has a strong mayor, city of Lowell, you know, figurehead. There's all different forms of government. It depends on what your community wants.

Chairman McGrath then said, it's it's a shame that the people that filled this out signed it didn't live through the time when we did have a town manager. The Town Administrator replied well, we don't know that some may very well may have well and I think some I'm sure some did. If they've been here 40 years, I'm sure they were here for for that. Chairman McGrath replied, I'm not so certain about that. The Town Administrator then said, this form of government has been 30 years because I've done it for 20. And my predecessors did it for just about ten. So. Chairman McGrath then said, and then there used to be a board of selectmen that were three members, the Board of Selectmen. Then they changed it to five, then they changed it to, I mean, the...The Town Administrator replied, government evolves and changes all the time. Chairman McGrath went on to say, iterations of different types. The Town Administrator added, there's pros and cons. Like I say, I would presume if you went to a manager, the manager has more authority to do things, may not be as tenured over time, because I'm sure that will fall into disfavor at some point in time.

Selectman Roy added, and I don't think just because it didn't work out once that that, you know, maybe the time wasn't right, maybe the person wasn't right. I don't know. But that that doesn't mean it wouldn't work out now. Selectman Guessferd then said, it's an appointed position too. Yeah we would appoint them. Selectman Dumont then said, Steve just takes over. That's the way this is worded. Steve just runs the gauntlet after this. Chairman McGrath asked he what? To which Selectman Dumont replied, Steve runs the gauntlet after. That's what it says. Selectman Guessferd then said, it says the selectmen of towns adopting this position shall therefore therefore appoint a town manager. So they're not elected. Selectman Morin then said, you know what? And again, we're taking away from the people. If we do that, that's why we should go to a mayor. Let them have the voice. Selectman Roy said, we appoint the town administrator. Selectman Morin replied, we do now. This board has the discretion in this, five of us, where you've got one person who's making some of these decisions, and that's that's the difference. We can go like we just did 3 to 2, 4 to 1. And you know there's some leeway there. When you get one person you got to remember that. That that's the difference. And depending on how strong this board is, because if you take Salem, they have a very strong manager. And a weak board of selectmen. They just handle, you know, they don't handle. And that's what you got to think about, right? There's a big change of what the citizens are going to get.

The Town Administrator then said, I believe Salem has been through approximately 15 town managers in my tenure here. So I just point that out that that's not in some communities, it's not the most stable position. Right? So it depends on what the community is looking for. You know, there's pros and cons to everything. The Town Administrator then said, don't be like Salem, that's all I got to say.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, I was just going to follow up to that. I think to Dave's point about the select members of the town manager, I think that's when the select board would be extremely crucial to have a strong select board at that point, because you're going to need to hold that person accountable for everything. The day to day activities, the monthly reports, the weekly, the weekly disbursements of money, how all that gets done. It would take some more scrutinization from the board to probably look at those things and make sure they're getting done properly, because you're not going to be

brought in on them. Selectman Guessferd replied, you're not going to have the visibility though. Selectman Dumont responded, I mean, you'll have the visibility, but it's not going to be as frequent, you know, unless if you ask for it. That's all.

Gary Gasdia, School Board representative asked, can I but in real quick? This format of town manager is very similar to what we have on the school side with the superintendent. Right? And so from a board member standpoint, yeah, you have that person. They make all the decisions. And you know, you're their their person. The thing that the board needs to decide or the people need to decide is the transparency. Right? Because again, you know, if we look at at the School District, the five of us can have our opinion that we like or dislike the people that are in the superintendent's cabinet. But at the end of the day, he hires who he wants to hire. And knock on wood, we've been fairly lucky in Hudson, but to Steve's point, you know, there have been many examples around, you know, towns around us where superintendent makes a decision they don't like, all of a sudden we find a new one. And so, you know, I think it sounds like you said this would be setting up a very similar type of government. So you can sort of see how it would work just by looking across the street a little bit. And again, you know, there's, there's pros and cons, but I know sitting on our board where that line is, is something that ebbs and flows into the depending on the strength of the board, you may or may not have any control. And if you have the wrong person in there, are they representing the people or are they representing their own interest? And so just something to think about.

Selectman Guessferd then said, I mean, on one hand, we have a number of people in our town who, you know, want to see that happen. The other question I have, um, the warrant says, do you favor? It doesn't say that we shall. This is this is advisory for sure, because it doesn't say we will. Just do you favor the adoption of a town manager plan? The Town Administrator replied, I didn't write the article. I could see your argument. I didn't say, shall. It says, do you favor it? Just I favor it. Okay. Selectman Guessferd asked, so what's the will of the people. Right? Selectman Roy then said, well so so that becomes the slippery slope. Right? Because whether they favor it and if, if we get an overwhelming yes that they favor it then, then then what do we do. Do we just disregard what, what they all voted for? Or do we? The Town Administrator replied, or someone gets up at deliberative session and amends it to say, shall. Selectman Guessferd then said, we want the people to have a say. Selectman Roy replied, yeah, right. Right. Selectman Guessferd went on to say, you know, so, you know, they may not know with which they vote. Right? I mean, um, you know, the, you know, what's happened in the past or again, I'm not sure that what happened in the past is indicative of what could happen in the future. I see the the pros and the cons of both of these. Um, but on one hand we say, you know, we want the citizens to have more of a say. And now we have an article that comes forward and says, well, do we favor it? Does anybody favor it? If they favor it, then does that do we go that route? I mean, you know, we're not the ones who dictate who should be dictating to the citizens what happens. So on one hand, I say, I'm not sure I like this, but on the other hand, I'm going let the voters decide, but the voters are going to decide one way or the other. You know, this is going up on the vote on the ballot. You know, so they'll decide one way or the other.

Selectman Morin then said, and I got to do say, I've looked at every one of these petition warrant articles, boy. And it's sometimes I wonder if they're just copying the pages. I got to say that and that that tells me something right there. You know what I mean? That tells me a lot right there. Selectman Roy asked, what does it tell you? What does it tell you? Selectman Morin replied, it tells me that there's a certain group that doesn't like what's happened. And it's all the same names on every single one of them. And yes, I'm saying it. Selectman Roy replied, and they have every right to do that. To which Selectman Morin replied they do have the right. I didn't say they didn't. I'm just pointing out it's all the same names. So let's let's not put words in people's mouths. Selectman Roy replied, I didn't put words in anybody's. Selectman Morin replied, yeah you did.

Chairman McGrath then said, okay, let's move on. So is there a motion to recommend the petition warrant article to transition to a town manager, or is there a motion to not recommend? Selectman Roy made a motion to recommend the petition warrant article to transition to town manager. Selectman Dumont seconded by the motion, with a comment. Reading through this, I really don't see a whole lot of change outside of the day to day control, which we kind of we're already kind of operating under this function now, outside of the fact that, you know, Steve will bring us everything to the board meeting, get our approval and

then go back. We you know, we have a lot of faith in our staff. And I think that this could allow for some more efficiency within the town as as we're growing, I can see the negative sides to it as well when you're giving power to all one person. But I would like to know what the people feel about that, and I hope that everybody does their research to to see actually what the differences are, because there are pros and cons. I don't think it's just an even, you know, this is a no brainer type of thing. So that's why I'm making my second. Selectman Morin was recognized and said, I will be supporting this also because I I think it's time to move on. Absolutely. I would like to see it go higher, to tell you the truth, than just the town manager. Selectman Roy replied, you can petition warrant article next year. Selectman Dumont said, deliberative session, make and amendment. The Town Administrator then said, you wouldn't have to do a petition. You're the Board. You could make a proposal to do that. It doesn't have to come in by petition. This one just happened to. But if you really wanted to go to a mayor or city, you could propose it or at least work on a charter. Selectman Roy replied, one step at a time. The Town Administrator replied, I'm not saying yeah, but I'm just saying you'd need a charter committee.

Chairman McGrath asked, so does anyone else have any comments before we vote? If not, all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye. Motion carried 4-1. Chairman McGrath then said, I'm going to vote in opposition because I lived through all of those times, and I was active in all of those times. And I'm telling you, none of them were good. So the motion has carried with one in opposition. Selectman McGrath in opposed.

Town Moderator, Paul Inderbitzen, who was in the audience raised his hand and came forward to say, as the person who will be Uh, handling this at the Deliberative Session. Uh, I would like to just. I know Steve has probably sent it to the Attorney. Usually change in form of government, have specific wording in the law. I don't know if that's. I haven't looked at this one, so I don't know. Mr. Malizia replied, we just got it this afternoon. To which Mr. Inderbitzen replied, right, there may be specific wording in RSA's that have to be in in order for it to be valid. So saying are you you know, what was what's the favor. Do you favor favor. That doesn't sound like it came out of an RSA. It's usually is shall the Town of Hudson vote to right. You know so that first of all has to be checked. Although it could be amended. That shouldn't be a problem. The Town Administrator then said, well, we can't amend it. To which the Moderator replied, no that would have to be done on the floor. And the other thing would be you could always amend to if you feel it's worthwhile studying is to set up, you know, you're making a decision based on one piece of paper that comes into your before you, when maybe it needed more study and you could always convert it to a study committee established of citizens and representatives. That could be done at the Deliberative Session. So I just wanted to make that option that you have that. But really the lawyer should tell us if the wording is not correct, it would have to be amended at the meeting at the Deliberative Session. Selectman Guessferd replied, okay. All right. That's a good comment. That's a real good comment okay.

#### K. Designation of Selectman to Post Town Warrant

Town Administrator Steve Malizia was recognized and said, One of you needs to post a town warrant and budget on or before Monday, January 29, 2024. This is an annual requirement. Typically a selectman volunteers to post it at the Community Center, Town Library, Post Office, and then they sign a certificate saying that they post it. It's in the law. Selectman Guessferd asked, actually physically posting it. To which the Town Administrator replied, Physically, physically going there and putting it up. Selectman Dumont replied, I can I can do it if nobody wants to, I guess. To which the Town Administrator replied, sounds like it's your turn. Selectman Dumont replied, sounds like an easy enough thing to do. Chairman McGrath added, I can't offer, so. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to designate Selectman Dumont to post a Fiscal Year 2025 Town Warrant and Budget on or before Monday, January 29th, 2024. Carried 4-0-1, Chairman McGrath abstained.

L. Annual Report Dedication

The Town Administrator was recognized and said, So we looked at who passed this past year, and we would recommend dedicating an annual report to Bob Clegg. James Hetzer, who was a former selectman and a long time community member, George Fuller Jr, who I believe was a fire captain, a lieutenant, and Cherrie Hebert. And I'd like to probably also add consider Bill Tate. He just passed away after this memo was written. But I think we should also honor him. I know he was a Planning Board member and probably did other things in the community, so that would be who the report gets dedicated to for this year. Chairman McGrath then said, and I think, I think I was, um, I should have recognized him at the beginning of the meeting tonight with a moment of silence. But I'll speak to that before we end this evening. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to dedicate the 2023 annual town report to Bob Clegg, James Hetzer, George Fuller Jr, Cherrie Hebert and Bill Tate. Carried 5-0.

M. Senate Bill 468 - Senator Clegg Memorial Highway

The Town Administrator was recognized and said, Jim Michaud brought this to our attention as Senate Bill 468 proposes to designate a portion of Route 111 in Hudson as the Senator Robert E. Clegg Memorial Highway. I think it's appropriate that we send a letter to the Chair of the State Senate Transportation Committee, State Senator Carson, and Hudson's delegation to express the Board's support for that bill.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said, so I just want to make sure I understand what portion of the highway we're talking about here. The Town Administrator replied, don't ask me, cuz that's up to the State Senate. Selectman Guessferd replied, because it says, well, when I read the when I read the the bill, it says from the border of Hudson to 128, which is, which is Mammoth Road. Um, so are we talking about the West? Because because if it was the east border of Hudson, it's not in Hudson. But if it was all of Hudson, you know, from the border, basically from the river. The Town Administrator replied, I can't answer your questions because I didn't write the bill. I have no idea. Selectman Morin said you say west, I would assume at the bridge because that's where 111 starts. Selectman Guessferd replied, that's exactly because they said it's Hudson land. It's Hudson. Yeah. So it's got to be all the way. I just want to make sure we're clear that it's from the bridge all the way over to Mammoth Road. Selectman Morin replied, that's what it sounds like to me. Selectman Dumont added, yeah, that was the way I interpreted. Selectman Guessferd added, I wanted to clarify that because that was a little confused when it just said the border of Hudson. It's a state road, right? the Town Administrator replied, yes you are correct.

Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to send a letter to the chair of the State Senate Transportation Committee, State Senator Carson and Hudson's legislative delegation expressing the Board of Selectmen support for SB 468, which proposes to designate a portion of Route 111 in Hudson as the Senator Robert E. Clegg Memorial Highway. Carried 5-0.

N. House Bill 1114 - Investigation of PFOA & PFAS

The Town Administrator addressed the Board saying, There's a bill in the House, Bill 1114. It's looking to extend a commission to investigate PFOA and PFOs, which are forever chemicals in water supplies. And I believe it's Litchfield, Merrimack, Londonderry and where's the other town? Bedford. We'd like we'd like it to be amended to include Hudson. And at this point in time, we feel a letter is appropriate. My understanding is, uh, our Representative Renzullo is working on it, but we still think a letter to Senator Carson would be appropriate.

Selectman Morin was recognized and said, I had heard about this and saw Hudson wasn't included, so I had forwarded an email to Senator Carson to get the information so we could do this tonight. But she hasn't gotten back to me. But Representative Renzullo got ahold of Elvis. So it's going that route. But I was going to bring this up anyway once I got the information. So we can include Hudson because we are affected by this.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said, so why would we send Senator Carson a letter about a House bill? Selectman Morin replied, to get us Hudson put on it. Selectman Roy replied, I understand that, but there are two different houses. The Town Administrator replied, she's one of the sponsors of the bill. Selectman Roy replied, oh, okay.

Seeing no further discussion, Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to send a letter to State Senator Sharon Carson, asking her to add the Town of Hudson to HB1114 for the extension of the commission investigation and analyzing the environmental impacts related to the release of perfluorinated chemicals in Merrimack, Bedford, Londonderry, and Litchfield. Carried 5-0.

#### O. House Bill 1479 Lobbying Activities

Town Administrator Steve Malizia explained, As you can see, we had correspondence from NHMA we're a member of NHMA, they do a lot of advocacy work on behalf of not only Hudson, but all the other towns and cities in New Hampshire. There's currently a bill up in the legislature, 1479, that's looking to severely curtail any lobbying using public funds, i.e., if we pay NHMA dues, they will no longer be able to do any lobbying or advocacy, for that matter, on behalf of the town. But not only would it affect us, it would affect police chiefs associations, fire chiefs associations, any other association that ties to. At least that's a stakeholder, perhaps in some of these bills from actually lobbying or speaking on these bills. So NHMA has asked us to send a letter. That's what's in front of you asking that the bill be opposed.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, I have a question, you just mentioned it. So this bill would actually take away the right to speak on those, or would it just take away the right to use public funds for lobbying those public funds. The Town Administrator replied, all public funds for lobbying. I think as an individual, I could go speak. But again, we have to be very careful with that too, because you're paying me.

Public funds means public funds. Selectman Dumont then said, well, and I was curious again I guess it would have to be kept separate accounting. But if that would hinder New Hampshire Municipal Association from speaking on it, I understand they couldn't use our funds to go lobby it, but could they still advocate? The Town Administrator replied, that's where they get their funding. So I don't know what they're going to do. And sometimes there's just plain old bad bills up there that somebody needs to speak out against. And NHMA solicits their input. We go to a semi-annual conference. They confer and say, hey, this bill, is it good or bad? Is it favor you or does it does it harm municipalities? And without that voice. Selectman Dumont replied, I know I couldn't agree more. I mean, I think New Hampshire Municipal Association is great. It's a huge asset that we have. But I do got to say, I'd be wrong if I if I said I didn't feel a little bothered about public funds being spent for lobbying just across the board just bothers me.

Selectman Guessferd then said, but the intent of the bill is, I think. Probably honorable, but what it does is severely affect, you know, us and other towns like ours. The Town Administrator replied, people would be guilty of a class A, class A misdemeanor. If they violate it, they'll be subject to discharge from employment. Yeah, it seems a bit heavy handed.

Chairman McGrath asked, so does anyone wish to make a motion to send a letter to the Legislative Administrative Committee in opposition to House Bill 1479, which would prohibit the use of federal, state or local funds for lobbying activities and establishes (I guess it's establishes) certain additional enforcement mechanisms. Selectman Roy made this motion, and Selectman Guessferd seconded it. Carried 5-0.

P. Capital Reserve Fund Payment Approval

The Town Administrator explained, this is an application for payment from a capital reserve fund. This is for the payment for the body worn cameras, for the Police Department, for reimbursement. We've been doing this for the last several years. Um, this fund was established for this purpose. You are the agency to expend the sufficient funds in the fund. But the Trustees of the Trust Funds have asked that you take a vote before they disperse the funds. That's why it's on your agenda. Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to approve the disbursement from the Police Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$69,953.44 as requested by the Police Chief and Finance Director. Carried 5-0.

Q. December 2023 Revenues & Expenditures

The Town Administrator explained we're about we're not we're about we are halfway through the fiscal year. So December was month six. The only thing I'm watching is legal. We had quite a bit of expense because we collectively bargained two contracts, and that's pretty expensive to do. We should be okay, but I still keep an eye on that. Everything else looks like where it should be. As we talk about things, we encumber things. We're just at the beginning of winter. This is really the first weekend we've had, so we'll see how that goes. I don't see anything else that's out of whack. And thankfully we're in a regular budget, not a default budget revenue. We're running ahead for motor vehicles. We're at 53.9%, which is \$120K ahead of last year's pace. Amazing. And obviously, you know, we've talked about the interest. We're \$286,000 worth of interest, which is great. We budgeted 25 for the whole year. So the interest environment, while it hurts the borrower it helps the investor. So we're doing pretty good there. So that will all flow to our bottom line and give us a better fund balance.

R. Discretionary vs. Non-Discretionary Budget

Chairman McGrath recognized the Town Administrator who said, well you asked for this to be on the agenda so as you requested, I put this on. Chairman McGrath then said, Well, I put it on because Selectman Roy had requested or, um, directed the Finance Director, Lisa Labrie, to come up with information about this. And I thought that the Board should at least have a discussion about it before it gets posted anywhere, and before it should have come before the Board, before Lisa Labrie was asked to do any of this, this work. So that's the reason why it's on the agenda tonight. Because I thought that we should have a discussion as a Board before we're, uh, requiring an employee to do that. So, Selectman Roy, would you like to explain why you wanted her to do that?

Selectman Roy replied, it's to be transparent. It's to give our voters as much information they can about the budget. And as far as it becoming for the Board first. Well, I seem to think that there's two different sets of rules, because apparently Selectman Morin can direct an employee not to answer a phone call, can go straight to a senator without coming to the Board first. But that being said, I think the bigger thing is that this information is valuable to citizens being able to vote and have all the information possible. Not every citizen, believe it or not, can go through all of the the little tiny, um, spreadsheets that make up the budget. This is just a recap of all of that.

Chairman McGrath recognized Selectman Morin who said, I'll save it for Selectmen's Comments. Chairman McGrath asked, anyone else? Selectman Guessferd replied, No. I think it's a good information for to be posted. I agree to that. That to get that out.

Chairman McGrath asked, Selectman Dumont, do you have any comments? To which Selectman Dumont replied, no comment. Chairman McGrath then said, I think we should have, personally, I think we should

have had this discussion a month or so ago before Lisa had to go through all of the, uh, the, uh, work that was required to get the, the information. And I understand that she spent quite a bit of time. And furthermore, just just to point out I'm the liaison to Finance and so I should have been contacted as well. My nose isn't out of joint because I wasn't. But it's it's the it's a courtesy that wasn't extended so.

Selectman Dumont was then recognized and he said, I'll say one thing on kind of a different note of that, that I want to give kudos to, to the Finance Director, because there's a lot of information in there. And I thought the report was done very well. And I do believe that that probably took her a significant amount of time to go through all that. So I do want to say, you know, hats off to her. That was a good job.

Selectman Roy added, it did take a lot of. It did take her some time. Yeah. And she she did work very hard and she did an excellent job putting everything together. Um, we had a lot of discussions about how much time it took and how much time she needed. Yeah, I didn't want to pressure her to have it in like 1 or 2 days. She had all the time she needed. She just, that's when she got it to me. So that's where we were.

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

Selectman Roy: So the only thing I have is today I had the opportunity I had I hadn't done this before, but if anybody gets to do it, it's kind of cool to use the 3D printer at the at the library. Wow. Yeah. They made a jig for a guitar. Guitar bridge. Um, and it was kind of cool. Three hours and like \$3.45 later, I had, I had a jig for a guitar. So if anybody has the opportunity, just kind of a cool think to do. I think kids would enjoy watching it for a little while. Lots of cool things going on at the library.

Selectman Guessferd: Um, okay. Um, don't have a lot on the Rec Department right now. I just, I think there's a comedy night happening. Um, I know the seniors were taking a trip. I don't have any information on that. Uh, basketball is in full swing. Um, so all the leagues, including the men's league, which tends to be a hotly contested league, uh, amongst our men in town. So it's a these are all really good community activities. Um, so with regard to that, um.

Planning Board- We are tomorrow night having a basically the the big event tomorrow night for us is is our public uh, hearings for the zoning articles. So because of that, in anticipation of hopefully having a lot of citizens come out and and hear about them, learn about them, give comment on them. Um, we are going to be at the Hills Memorial Library tomorrow night. Um, at 7:00. Please come in. You know, it's, um, you know, this is affecting your town. There's some pretty, um, significant zoning articles that are that are being proposed, uh, in terms of changing zoning in certain areas of town and that sort of thing. So I would encourage people to come out. This will be your first look at them and chance to comment before we before the Planning Board votes. Um, so, um, I encourage everyone to come and like I say, that's I think my, my big, um, marketing spiel tonight on that, um, and that's where we are right now and it's, I think we're, we should be focused on this, you know, for the next, you know, getting ready for the election.

Chairman McGrath said, so can I ask a question about why is the Planning Board having their meetings at Hills Library? Selectman Guessferd replied, because we're anticipating because the room doesn't hold. There's a lot of people. And there is I mean, there's a there's fire limits for people. I understand that. I'm thinking in verses the community center. We don't anticipate it's going to be that much. Okay. We think we're pretty sure. I mean, we were there for our last meeting because they were anticipating that the gas station proposal was going to come up. And even then we didn't have we had a number of people that showed up that got deferred to the next meeting on the 24th, I think. Chairman McGrath replied, I know I watched that meeting. Selectman Guessferd added, Yeah. And so that's going to probably be over there as well. But we don't anticipate that there's going to be enough to warrant, you know, going to the rec, the rec center yet. Um, you know, our chairman is, you know, trying to, you know, kind of gauge what makes the most sense for these meetings. And we just didn't want to get caught downstairs with not enough room.

Um, and that's kind of an interim sort of space that we can use that works for us. Chairman McGrath then said, so what would happen if if, uh, a number of people showed up? Because I also see comments on Facebook urging people to attend for specific plans that are going to be heard. And so what what would happen if a number of people showed up at the Hills Memorial Library and there wasn't enough room for them? Selectman Guessferd replied, we would have to postpone and Defer to the other room. Yeah. Selectman Guessferd added, yeah I quite frankly I'm going to I would I would love almost I mean part of me would love for that to happen. Right? For all these people to come out. We always want public input. But but I think the larger part of all of us realizes we're probably not going to get, you know, as many people that are going to fill that room. Prove me wrong, citizens. Come on out tomorrow night. Prove me wrong. Um, but we're going to have to have the hearing. We probably would have to, because of the timing. We would have to get the hearing done. So we might actually have to kind of limit the number of people, if, you know, if we were going to continue to have the hearing tomorrow night and more people showed up than the capacity requirements for the Fire Department. So, um, we'll we'll see how that goes.

School Board member, Gary Gasdia added, we did that at a School Board meeting where we were, we hit capacity. Selectman Guessferd added and then you had to just tell people they couldn't come in? Mr. Gasdia replied, we had to postpone, or we got some people outside and send some in.

Chairman McGrath then said, The only, the only thing is, is that if there's people there, you know, you've got, um, plans that have to be heard and, you know, in this. So I just, I was surprised because I had seen all of the, all of the, uh social media media input. Yeah, I was trying to find the right word. let's just leave it at that. And it was urging people to show up and, um, you know, to voice their opinions. Um, and I was I was wondering because I saw where it was going to be held at the Hills Memorial, and I was questioning then whether or not there would be enough room to, you know, if enough people, you know, like if it were Hillwood. The people that, the people that showed up for Hillwood, you wouldn't be able to have it at the Hills Memorial. Selectman Guessferd added, we have to, we have to make decisions, right. In terms of, well, the Chair really makes that call on, on how many people we think are going to be there and based on everything that they see and they know. Um, so, I mean, hopefully we make the right call. Um, I mean, I agree, I agree with you that I think the conservative thing would have been just to maybe go to the Rec, but I think, I think, I think this decision is probably a good one because I'm not sure we're going to we're going to totally fill that room. Right. Um, and again, I'd like to be proven wrong because I'd love to see people come out, um, and really kind of see.

Chairman McGrath then asked, so what's on the agenda for tomorrow night? Selectman Guessferd replied, Um, we're doing a public hearing of the, the transportation chapter of the master plan, and then we're doing the public hearings for the zoning articles for people to have input on the zoning articles. No other cases tomorrow night. Chairman McGrath replied, I mean, I don't watch many of the meetings because I hear you just can't. Um, but I did watch that. That one. So. Selectman Guessferd added, okay, It'll be it'll be coming up again on the 24th. So put that on your calendar. To which Chairman McGrath replied, I don't think so.

Selectman Dumont: I don't have a whole lot. Um, not much has gone on since. Since, um, the holidays. But I do want to wish everybody a Happy New Year. We've got elections coming up. I'd ask that everybody try to get out and get educated. Look at what's on the ballot. Uh, try to look at things with an open mind. A clear set of lenses is always best. So just ask everybody to get educated. Make sure you know when you vote. And thank you.

Selectman Morin: Budget Committee, the public hearing is Thursday night and the warrant articles will be voted on there. There has been some preliminary stuff, but nothing official. So that will take place then.

Conservation Commission met last night. Um, they'll be looking forward to this year doing a master plan for all the conservation land and updating the plan that they already have. Um, just just a note that, uh, the last rainstorm, a resident from the Adams Drive area had called Public Works and reported that one of the culverts off of there was pretty much totally destroyed by the rain, wiped it right out, cracked it, took it right

down and everything. So again, it goes to what they've been trying to tell us. We can't keep up with these storms the way they're going. We may end up the same situation we were with tonight's storm.

The other thing is, and this has nothing to do with bids, this just the Engineer has brought in over \$4 million worth of grants and other money to the town this year with all his input and getting things done. And I know one of the warrant articles that we approved was \$20,000 so we can continue that. And I just want people to know that we're getting our money's worth coming in, and it's saving a huge amount of money for the taxpayers of what we're getting done.

And the last thing I got is I want to address Selectman Roy's comments. I agree with you with what you did. I had no problem with that. And I think as Selectmen, we have the responsibility of the people that elected us to go out and find information to get out to them. And if you had listened to what I said, I said, I sent an email to Senator Carson to get information to bring here tonight so this Board could make a decision. I never said I made a decision on my own. So let's be careful what we say and let's listen before we comment. Because I'll tell you what, you made the same discussion when the whole, um, Amazon project started. I went to some state meetings. I made no decisions. I got information for this town. That is my job. That is your job. Laugh all you want, Selectman Roy. You know what? Just do your job. I'll do mine. Thank you.

Selectman Roy replied, I have been doing my job. Thank you very much. Selectman Morin replied, whatever. Selectman Roy replied, whatever. Yeah, sure. At this point Chairman McGrath said, okay, enough, enough. Selectman Morin then said, how about dealing with that too instead of just focusing on one person all the time too, Selectman Guessferd? Selectman Guessferd replied, I don't know you're what you're doing tonight, Dave. You're picking on people, and that's not....Selectman Morin replied, no I'm not picking on. She made a comment that I overstepped my bounds and I didn't. She's just doing her usual stuff, that's all. And I have the right to address her, whether you like it or not. Selectman Guessferd replied, You have the right. But it's just it's it's useless banter. Selectman Morin replied, no it's not. No it's not. Selectman Guessferd replied, banter back and forth is not needed here at these meetings. Selectman Morin replied, you know what, then tell her to keep her comments to herself. To which Selectman Guessferd replied, you as well. Selectman Morin replied, absolutely. I will, I didn't have to comment on this tonight until she made the comments because I hadn't planned on it. Selectman Guessferd asked, Okay. Are we done here? Selectman Morin replied Yeah.

Chairman McGrath: Okay. So I'm going to make my liaison reports and I'll have other remarks. I don't have any reports to offer, but I do want to um, I want to say a couple of things. I need to apologize to the friends and family of Mr. Tate who passed away. I don't know if it was earlier this week or earlier this month. I should have honored him by a moment of silence, and I missed it on the script. He was a unique individual. He owned a paving company, did a lot of paving within the town. Not I don't know if he was hired by the town at any point, but he he did a lot of work in town. He was known by a lot of the contractors and by some of the staff upstairs. He thought so highly. Of a former select person and Seabury that he wanted to donate something to Benson's Park in her honor. And he did. And it was a millstone, and that's dedicated to her at the opening to Benson's Park. When you go up to the nine over 11 memorial, it's so if anybody is there and sees it, that's it. At his excuse me, his donation, his request, he thought so much of her. She was kind to him and and he appreciated it. So when she passed, he wanted to recognize her and that was his method. So I think, you know, in all that he's done and for people that knew him and loved him, I'm sorry that I just forgot. I passed over it, I meant to I had a note written at home to make sure that I, I recognized him and I didn't. So for that, I really, I apologize and I'm truly sorry.

Selectman Roy said, can I make a suggestion? That we do it now, a moment of silence in honor of William Tate. The Board held a moment of silence in memory of Bill Tate.

10. Remarks by Town Administrator

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia who said So, as you're all well aware, there are many more articles this year. I think we're up to 51 or 52 articles, including 19 zoning articles. And as you're all well aware, in the past we put the zoning articles first. But I'm here to recommend that we move the zoning articles to after the town's articles to give the town ballot a fighting chance of passing. So to that effect, I've just sort of kind of put that in writing. I'm just kind of laying it out because I think to do to do otherwise. To do otherwise, I don't think would be a good idea. I mean, zoning is important and I totally support all that, but we need to get our budget. We need to get our labor contracts out. And they're very down in article 31 or whatever. I don't think that bodes well. So this is sort of the proposal here to move the articles around a little bit. I checked with the Town Attorney, who he checked with Steve Buckley to get his concurrence. Steve Buckley is NHMA and he's been in this business for 30 years. There is no prohibition about doing this. I had our attorney check the draft rules, make sure that there wasn't any prohibition. There's no prohibition. There's no reason that we can identify that we can't do this. I even told the moderator and he said, oh, okay. So I think it would be prudent for this year, given the amount of zoning articles that we put the towns and I call them the towns, they're all town, but put the towns moneyed articles and other articles first and then have the zoning follow. So if the Board is amenable, I would recommend a motion to approve the order of the town warrant by placing the town warrant articles before the zoning articles. Selectman Morin made this motion, Selectman Roy seconded it. Motion carried 5-0.

Selectman Morin asked, Mr. Gasdia, how many did you guys have? Mr. Gasdia replied, I think we have nine. Eight and then the one petitioned article that you have. The Town Administrator then said, So that's the thing. You know, you get a ballot. And unfortunately if you voters come in and they're not really up on things, they're going to look and they're going to see all these zoning things and they're going to be either confused, aggravated, or they're going to go NO. Selectman Dumont added, confused, aggravated and no. The Town Administrator added, and I'm not disrespecting zoning. That's not what I'm trying to say. But I'm trying to say is I think you have a couple of labor contracts and you have some budgets here. And I think, I think it's just important. So I just check with the attorneys and we check the rules and that's what we're recommending. So thank you for approving that.

11. Remarks by School Board

Chairman McGrath recognized School Board Member Gary Gasdia who said Um, so in all seriousness, we did just get back from winter break. Um, we do have a couple more days off. Obviously, Monday is Martin Luther King Day, and then, um, primary day, there will be no school. Um, at last night's meeting, though, I did want to just recognize, um, we we had both our CTE Ambassadors who are a group of students who, as the name implies, um, you know, really go around to area schools, go down to our, our younger students to really talk about the great things that go on at CTE. And I did just want to push that on January 31st. There's an open house and it's open to anyone in the public. The town paid a lot of money for the CTE. There's a lot of great things going on. If anyone wants a tour, uh, they'll be there on January 31st from 5:30 to 7:30. Um, and we also got a presentation from the, uh, Junior Air Force ROTC. And, um, we're fortunate in that both of our instructor instructors are officers. Typically that doesn't happen. And so we're actually in the past year of really upped our aviation ability. And six students were recognized last night, several um received FCC approval, um, licensing to be commercial drone pilots. So they it's not something that they can have. Um others received the ability to go to flight academies. Um, and there's one that is open worldwide, sponsored by the Air Force, where they will send students to an eight week training class. And when they're out, they will be actually licensed pilots. There were 171 people chosen from around the world, two from Hudson. So that's awesome. That's amazing. Um, and I believe it's the only thing in New Hampshire too, but I'm not sure about that. So I just wanted to recognize that. And I'll just end with as Selectman Morin said the public hearing on Thursday night. Good opportunity to hear the 51 articles you have in the nine that we have. 51 oh, I'm sorry, 31.

12. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Roy at 9:41p.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. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Nonpublic Session was entered at 9:59 p.m. thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public was asked to leave the room.

The Board entered into public session at 9:59 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session:

1. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to hire Jesse Dutile as a full-time Police Officer in the Police Department with a starting salary of \$27.98 (step 1) per hour, in accordance with the Hudson Police Employee Association contract. Carried 5-0.
2. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to hire Marya Figueroa as a full-time Telecommunications Technician in the Police Department with a salary of \$22.42 per hour (step 1) in accordance with the Hudson Police Employee Association contract, pending a successful background investigation. Carried 5-0.
3. Selectman Morin made a motion to adjourn at 10:02 p.m. this was seconded by Selectman Guessferd. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:02 p.m. by Selectman Morin seconded by Selectman Guessferd. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marilyn McGrath, Chairman

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Dave Morin, Vice Chairman

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Kara Roy, Selectman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Guessferd, Selectman

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Dillon Dumont, Selectman