

## HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### Minutes of the January 30, 2024 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman McGrath the meeting of January 30, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Police Chief Tad Dionne
3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Dillon Dumont, Marilyn McGrath, Dave Morin, Kara Roy  
Selectman Guessferd was absent this evening.

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Tad Dionne, Police Chief; Jim McIntosh, Dir. of Community Media; Mike Johnson, HCTV Production Coordinator; Paul Inderbitzen, Town Moderator; Scott Tice, Fire Chief; Gary Gasdia, School Board Member; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT

1) Paul Inderbitzen, Town Moderator

Town Moderator Paul Inderbitzen came forward and said, ladies and gentlemen, in the rush of things last week, I didn't have time to get on the agenda, but I wanted to briefly discuss with you plans for the deliberative session on Saturday since we don't have any other time. The Primary, I will provide you with more better numbers and we had about a 45 % turnout, which is about average for Hudson, for presidential primaries. But I have better information for you on your agenda at the next meeting. But for the Deliberative Session, I wanted to point out we have a long agenda, 30 articles, articles for deliberation. That's going to take some time. Hopefully I'm estimating three to four o'clock, but maybe we can get through some of those Capital Reserve Funds rather quickly. Depends on how many people want to talk, as it always, as it always does. I usually don't have a problem with the presentations that come from the Board, but I... told the petitioners for the petition articles that maximum of 10 minutes, 5 to 10 minutes, should be the presentation so that we don't go too long and that they had to get their information into HCTV if they wanted any slides put up. If there's any changes, it's on your agenda tonight for your assignments, Jill, just let me know what the changes are as people are going to be doing some of the items.

And I just didn't know if anybody had any questions about how we'll do it. We're starting at 9 o'clock. We'll try to keep things going the best we can, as usual. But it will be a rather lengthy meeting. People can help us out moving forward with stuff. So we'll see who's there.

The other thing I wanted to remind people of was that the sign up for open elected positions is still going on. It's good to until Friday at five o'clock to sign up. I think there are still some offices that have not been signed up for including the Town Moderator which I serve now and I'm looking forward to working with someone with the new town clerk position as it changes from town clerk/tax collector to separate positions to orient them and to bring them forward. So I'm hoping people will consider, you know, it's a service, all the elected offices, it's a service. It takes a little time, it's a little bit of an effort, but you take part in your community. And... And hopefully people will look up and see what's open and maybe consider running for one of the offices. Any questions? The Board of Selectmen did not have any questions for the Moderator.

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

A. Nomination

Nathan Muir was on the agenda to interview for an alternate seat on the Benson Park Committee. Mr. Muir did not show up. It was realized later in the meeting that Mr. Muir was called out on snowplow. He will be at the February 13, 2024 meeting for his interview.

B. Appointment

Benson Park Committee

Town Administrator Steve Malizia explained, Mr. Madden and Mr. Leone are both incumbent members of the Benson Park Committee.

*Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to appoint Jack Madden and John Leone as members of the Benson Park Committee, each with a term to expire April 30, 2027.* Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, I just want to say, I'm in full support of that. They're both valued members. They show up every time. Quite frankly, we need more volunteers like them. *Motion carried 4-0.*

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 4-0.*

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Veteran Tax Credits: map 183, lot 035, 2 Blackstone Drive; map 140, lot 018, 5 Sutherland Drive
- 2) Solar Exemptions: map 193, lot 018, 106 Pelham Road; map 194, lot 010, 125 Standish Lane
- 3) Abatement Application: map 163, lot 17, 21 Telolian Drive
- 4) 2023 Supplemental Tax Bill: map 178, lot 013-103, 23 Mobile Drive
- 5) 2023 Property Tax Abatement: map 178, lot 013, sub 103, 23 Mobile Drive

B. Water/Sewer Items - none

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies

- 1) Tag Day Permit - Girl Scout Troop 63135
- 2) Tag Day Permit - Girl Scouts of the Green & White Mountains
- 3) Tag Day Permit - Girl Scout Service Troop 219

D. Donations

- 1) Donation of \$1,000 to Hudson Police Department Wellness Account from NAMI Nashua

E. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of January 09, 2024

F.	<u>Calendar</u>		
	02/01 6:30	Recreation Committee	BOS Meeting Room
	02/03 9:00	Town Deliberative Session	Hudson Community Center
	02/03 9:00	Board of Selectmen Meeting	Hudson Community Center
	02/10 9:00	School Deliberative Session	Hudson Community Center
	02/12 7:00	Conservation Commission	Buxton Meeting Room
	02/13 7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on January 09, 2024

- 1.) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to hire Jesse Dutille as a full-time Police Officer in the Police Department with a starting salary of \$27.98 (step 1) 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 starting salary of \$22.42 (step 1) per hour, in accordance with the Hudson Police Employee Association contract. Carried 5-0.
- 3) Selectman Morin made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 PM. This was seconded by Selectman Guessferd. Carried 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing - Acceptance of Donation to Resurface the Police Firing Range

Chairman McGrath recognized Police Chief Tad Dionne. Chief Dionne said, thank you ma'am. Good evening. So back in 2022 we recognized we had an issue. We recognized a long time ago, but we decided when there were some ARPA funds that we needed to kind of attack it. So we had put together proposals. At the time looking at resurfacing the range adding some lights, mitigating lead removal from the berms, and actually taking care of the some maintenance with the trailer that's up there the surface of the the police range has been down since 2022. I think so it's about 20 years old now. So we have taken steps, unfortunately due to that, there were a lot of projects in the town. So when it came to the ARPA funding, we weren't able to get it. But we had taken steps since then to continue that process. And we're mitigating the berms in March of 2024 using asset forfeiture. So along that same avenue, Sergeant Marcotte, on his own, was just asking, trying to get some ideas of what it would cost us to resurface the pavement up there and to actually get some lighting conduit run underground before we get it resurfaced. Chief Dionne went on to say, so an entity that he had been speaking with approached him and actually said that they wanted to do it for us as a donation. So I met with members of the entity and explained to them how that would have to be and their big concern was they wanted to be anonymous. So looking into it the value of re-surfing the pavement at the range is \$50,000 is roughly \$50,000 dollars and I think in your attachment you'll see the breakdown of that. So that's what I'm here before you today to ask to accept that donation.

Chairman McGrath then said, anybody have any questions? If not, anybody wish to make any motions? The Town Administrator and said, well, first you have to have the public hearing. So I recommend you open the public hearing at 7 :12. Chairman McGrath opened a public hearing at 7:12p.m. and asked, anyone wishing to speak? Seeing no one, Chairman McGrath closed the public hearing at 7:12p.m. Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to accept the donation, valued at \$50,400.00 to resurface the Police Firing Range from an anonymous company. Carried 4-0.

B. HCTV Updated Policies & Procedure Manual

Chairman McGrath recognized Jim McIntosh, Director of Community Media. Mike Johnson, HCTV Program Coordinator was with Mr. McIntosh. Mr. McIntosh said hello to the Board and stated he'd like Mr. Johnson to present the updates to the Board. Mr. Johnson said, so a couple months ago with the Cable Utility Committee we started updating our policies and procedures at the Access Center. A lot of the verbiage in our original policies was way out of date going back to like VHS tapes. So a lot of the verbiage was updated. We updated the political policies around election season, so we have clear guidelines for candidates wanting to use the studio. We updated our submissions of media, so if a producer at our studio wants to do a show, we made that a little bit more clear that we need to have 48 hours ahead of time and what types of media will exist. We are looking for the Board's approval of just all the updates. And if you have any questions, we'd be happy to answer them. Chairman McGrath replied, Thank you. Anybody have any questions? Selectman Roy was recognized and asked, actually, it's a question for you, I guess, Madam Chair. Is this going to be like all the other policies where this is the first read and then we approve it on the second?

The Town Administrator replied, that's a good question. We probably should be consistent and do it that way. I mean, it's already an existing policy and procedure, but it's probably not a bad idea. Right. I would think that it applies to both updates and new policies. Yeah. I also believe we vetted this with the attorney, unless just in case anybody asked that. Yeah. And it was approved by the Cable Utility Committee as well. We've been working on this for actually it's been a couple of years. We started when we first built the access center in 2014 in that time to go over and review it and different members at different times have gone through different things but now it's to the point where there have been so many technological changes that we want the public to be able to read it and not think we're a bunch of idiots. People, we don't want people to submit things in the inquisitive way. incorrect format and then get upset with us. I mean it reflects in the professionalism of the whole town of Hudson in that respect. So we're just trying to keep everything up to date and make sure everybody's aware of what to do. Chairman McGrath replied, no, I commend your efforts for updating it. Mr. McIntosh replied, well, thank you. Yeah, and one thing we were hoping to was in the future going forward when you read this, they're on page 101 there. We expanded the political aspects of it, how we approach instead of just a little one paragraph thing to give the candidates more of an idea what to do and we'd like to be able to take that part out, print it, and each person that applies for any position, they can read it. So if they want to come into Hudson Community Television and present their, either present themselves and introduce themselves to the public or talk about the policies that they want to approach that they can feel free to do. So and they have the proper guidelines on doing it correctly. It also too for general access users that want to use our studio it gives us more up-to-date guidelines when they want to start a show for the public channel. Mr. Johnson replied, usually what we'll do is we'll actually have like a pre-production meeting with them and find out exactly what they want to do, what they want to use the studio for, and what our guidelines and policies and procedure are. But this just has it in better writing too as well. Clarity for everybody. Chairman McGrath replied what we'll do is we'll put it on the next meeting for approval. Now if anything comes up people can bring it up. Okay and if you have any suggestions or other things it's I know we're going to have to meet again over this one but it's going to be kind of like a living document because technology changes so fast. It should be a living document.

Mr. Johnson replied, yeah, and we might have missed something in here that somebody thinks is important, you know, and I would rather just be as inclusive as we can. So, at least once a year, we're going to review it with the Cable Committee. But if there's any approach, any changes such will come forward with it instead of waiting, I think it's been 15 years. So, I mean, VHS, what does that even stand for? Does anybody even have those players anymore? The VHS players? Mr. McIntosh replied we actually have one model that's about 15 years old, but it's a professional model, and we can do some transfers with it, but we were getting inundated with requests, and

it's one of those things that records an actual time. And if you remember the old VHS tapes, they started off recording it in two hours, and if you put it out super expanded play, it was eight hours, so it was a waste of our time trying to do everybody's thing. And there are a lot of professional services out there who do it for cheap money. The Town Administrator said, I was surprised Mike knew what a VHS was, but... to which Mr. McIntosh replied, I think he just knows the words. Thank you.

C. Fiscal Year 2025 Town Warrant Article Speaker Designation

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia who said, The Town Administrator explained, I know this looks daunting. I apologize, but there are a lot of warrant articles. As I believe you all know, there will be only four of you at the meeting, Selectman Guessferd will not be in attendance. So I try to divvy this up reasonably, um, try to also keep in mind the liaison assignments that you have. Some of you are assigned to various departments, so I tried to at least tie that out to that, but in some cases, it seemed to overwhelm and go to Selectmen Morin, who seems to be on a lot of departments. So I did try to spread some of that out. I like, for example, I think Selectman Dumont give you the public works contract. You did work on it, so you've seen it. And again, I tried to be reasonable and balance this off for everybody. But this is what I came up with. If you want to change it, you're certainly free to do so. I will say that starting with article 27, those are from the petition -- those are petition articles 27 through 32. Those will be presented by the petitioners. And actually the Budget Committee hair introduces article 2. So we started article 3 technically. I am in the process of finishing, I'm not done yet, preparing notes for all of you so that you have the introductory notes which you will be free to use. I'll make sure you get them. You'll certainly have them Saturday if I can email them out. I'll email them out ahead of time. But basically I tried to give you some top-level notes so when you get up, you can introduce the article, give the basic idea of what it's all about, and then we'll go from there and see what questions we get. But that's what I've typically done every year, so I'll have those for everybody. Chairman McGrath replied, we're lucky to have you, Steve. The Town Administrator replied, no, I've just been doing it so many years, it's just routine for me. Chairman McGrath replied, we're lucky to have you. The Town Administrator replied, so again, you're free to certainly speak your own, but I just try to give you that as a guide. guideline. I know it's helpful, so we'll go from there. The Consensus of the Board was to go with the Board that the Town Administrator had typed up.

D. NH Liquor Commission - World Cup Golf

Chairman McGrath recognized the Town Administrator who explained, this request came in, it's for the World Cup Golf Center. They're looking to I think this is a trend nowadays, there's outdoor, there's covered bays where people can do driving range, and practice their golf. They're looking simply to be able to have their alcohol. You can bring it to your table out there. The liquor commission is the one that asked the town having objections. So I took the opportunity to discuss it with Chief Dionne. We didn't see any issues with it. The Liquor Commission certainly regulates it; they just wanted to know if we opposed it, I guess, basically. So if we have no objection, they'll go forward and keep their plan.

Selectman Roy then said, I just have a question. It's more of a general question. Do we have the ability to go to the Commission to take away a license if there's an issue? The Town Administrator replied, I'm not aware we can take it away. You could certainly raise something to somebody if you thought it was appropriate. Selectman Roy replied, well, that's what I'm saying. The Town Administrator replied, I would certainly work with the Police Chief because I think you'd probably have to have some reason why you would move something. So let's just say that there were, you

know, 10 drunk driving incidents emanating from a particular establishment, you might talk to the chief and say, hey, this is a problem, if he doesn't already get to it. I'm sure he would already do that, that would certainly be on his radar.

Chief Dionne, who was in the audience, came forward and said, we have in the past worked with the Liquor Commission to shut down establishments that have had numerous issues. So the Liquor Commission has a lot of strength and we partner with them and stuff like that. Selectman Roy replied, okay, so you just go to them and you say, "Hey, we're having a problem with this?" Chief Dionne replied, absolutely. We still submit reports from time to time of things that come up and then they'll make a presence. And, you know, they have a lot of authority when it comes to that.

Chairman McGrath recognized Selectman Morin who said, just a question. I haven't seen this before. Is there a specific reason or is this something new that they're asking? The Town Administrator replied, I've actually seen it before that came in at least for one of the floral shops that wanted to sell wine baskets. This came in a couple of times. It's pretty rare. But it seems to be things that are maybe not the norm. What I'm saying is, you know, like a gas station selling beer a restaurant not a big deal but this is this is a little bit of a deviation and I think they just wanted to make sure it does the town have an issue with that. Chief Dionne then said,

Yeah, and I think they were actually, you know, this I mean they're staying in the general building they're just getting outside in that little driving pads that they have. So it's not like it's not parking lot issue. It's not something like they're gonna go out into a little area somewhere else They're staying in the building, but it's outside of where the restaurant would be. The Town Administrator then said, I'm not sure alcohol improves your swing, but hey, good luck to them. Laughing the Chief replied, you may improve the bottom line.

Chairman McGrath then said, but I have a question as well. I thought that the golf course is gone. The Town Administrator replied, where the Golf and Ski Warehouse is, over there, World Cup Drive. I believe they still are able to have the ability to give some sort of lessons and people can practice their swings if you drive up and down 102 you'll see a bunch of driving ranges with no golf course. People like to practice. Chairman McGrath replied, I just wanted to I mean, it seemed to me that I mean, I just saw the all of the changes to what used to be Green Meadow. I mean, I just happened to be in that area and it's pretty sad to see. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to send a letter to the New Hampshire Liquor Commission stating that the Town has no objection to the World Cup Golf Center serving alcohol. Carried 4-0.

#### E. Hudson's Anniversary

Chairman McGrath recognized Selectman Roy who said, yeah, so the last time we discussed this, there was some question about when the actual anniversary was and there was gonna be some research done. I don't know if it was ever done. There was also a question about the Fire Department's anniversary because I know the patch says established 1924, so this would be their 100th anniversary. The Town Administrator replied, so certainly our resident historian (Selectman Morin) probably has the information.

Selectman Morin addressed Selectman Roy saying, I can take care of both because I was Chairman of both the Fire Department and the 250th Town of Hudson Committee. For the 250th for the town we did a year-long ceremony, ended up with a parade, a ball, all kinds of stuff through the year. The town, I got it right here actually. I can give you, all the dates if I may. . Okay, so we started off in 1656 as Dunstable Mass, but it wasn't New Hampshire, it was Massachusetts. Dunstable incorporated in 1673. Then it became Nottingham Mass in 1733, the District of Nottingham in 1741. Nottingham West in 1746. That's where we got the 250th was when we went

to Nottingham West that was when it became New Hampshire. That's what's on our town seal is 1746.

Selectman Roy asked, well did it become Hudson? Selectman Roy replied, in 1830. Selectman Roy replied, okay. The Town Administrator added, none of those dates are 250. Selectman Morin replied, yeah. Yeah, they did. the 250th on when it became Nottingham West, New Hampshire, when we became part of New Hampshire. In 1930, the name was changed to Hudson, New Hampshire. Dunstable actually celebrated their 350th last year. And then the town, like I said, we held ours in 1996, related to the 1746 date, which is on the town seal.

And then the Fire Department became in June 18th, 1892. The Fire Department was part paid by the town, part paid private, and the 1924 is when everything was just turned over to the town. We had a Fire Department since 1892. The Town Administrator said, and you celebrated the centennial of that. Selectman Morin agreed saying, yeah, we had a a centennial another hundred, hundred year thing in 1992. We did a whole weekend of stuff on that one. Selectman Roy replied, okay. All right, I just wanted to follow up and make sure that we're not missing important celebrations for the town.

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

Selectman Roy: So, I attended the Library Trustees Meeting. and two important things is they're still working on the pavilion project. Unfortunately what happened was they were donated, they were promised a donation for a pavilion but when the estimate came in for the pavilion it was almost double what the donation was going to be so they have to rethink how they're going to do that to get a pavilion but they're still working on it.

The other thing that came out of it that I personally find interesting is they're looking to do a court petition, which is a petition to override, essentially override a will donation, and it's for the Zolonis Fund that they haven't been able to effectively spend the money because it's so restricted to just Lithuanian type things. So they're looking to go to court and see if they can get a more expanded donation from the court. So they're gonna work with the Town Attorney to do that. So that's the library trustees.

The other thing I wanted to say is I wanted to thank all the petitioners that put together petition warrant articles. It really demonstrates that there's people that care about our community and proving their community, whether we agree with them or not. not, they did put themselves out there to put together what they think is best for the community. So I just want to take a minute and thank them.

Selectman Dumont: We had a Zoning meeting on the 25th and our next one is on the 22nd. As always looking for people to come out and volunteer. I just want to say thank you to everybody who did volunteer in the Primary Election. I thought it went well and it seemed very smoothly from in my opinion. So I just want to thank everybody for their time also.

Selectman Morin: - I have nothing tonight. I haven't had any meetings since our last meeting.

Chairman McGrath: And then the last one and I got an email. email today from Jim Michaud, the assessor. He wanted me to let people know the assessing department wishes to make the public aware that the filing deadline is April 15, 2024, to apply for veterans tax credits, disabled veterans tax credits, and elderly, disabled, blind veterans tax credits and solar exemptions. Contact the Assessing Department for more information. So that's a notice for everybody that wishes to avail themselves of those credits. And that's all that I have from my perspective.

10. Remarks by Town Administrator

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia who said Not that this Board needs to be reminded but just for the general public. Deliberative Session for the Town is Saturday, this Saturday, February 3rd, starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Community Center. The school will be the following weekend, February 10th, same time, same place, but we are February 3rd, 9 o'clock Community Center, I think it will be pretty lengthy. There's a lot of information, and that's all I have.

11. Remarks by School Board

Chairman McGrath recognized School Board Member Gary Gasdia who said I gotta say, Madam Chair, what an efficient meeting, 7:32p.m. so I'll keep it short. We have Strategic Planning Sessions for the School Board, for the School District. We did a strategic plan a few years ago. It's time to renew that. The first one actually happened tonight at 7:30, but there'll be other ones, February 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. at the Hudson Senior Center, February 14th. 9:00a.m. at Rogers Memorial Library and then there'll be some virtual ones later on in the month. Anyone that's interested in finding out more or participating in just giving your ideas of what would make the School District better please come to those or of course you can always email the Board and the Superintendent and then as we, as I say just about every time if you're looking to get involved and you want to work for the district we have plenty of openings go to SAU81.org /careers.

And we do have an opening on the School Board, one three-year spot. So as Mr. Inderbitzen said, you have until 5 p.m. this Friday to declare your candidacy. That's it. Thank you.

12. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Morin at 7:35.m., seconded by Selectman Dumont to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with any body or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph. (i) Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 4-0.

Nonpublic Session was entered at 7:35 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 7:59 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session:

1. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to hire Corey McLaughlin for the position of Firefighter/EMT in the Fire Department at the contracted salary rate of \$18.14 per hour (step 1). This assignment will be a non-exempt position in accordance with the International Association of Firefighters Local #3154, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Carried 4-0.



2. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to hire Connor Roche for the position of Firefighter/EMT in the Fire Department at the contracted salary rate of \$18.14 per hour (step 1). This assignment will be a non-exempt position in accordance with the International Association of Firefighters Local #3154, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Carried 4-0.

3. Selectman Morin made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. this was seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 4-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. by Selectman Morin seconded by Selectman Roy. Carried 4-0.

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

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Marilyn McGrath, Chairman

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Dave Morin, Vice Chairman

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Kara Roy, Selectman

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**ABSENT**  
Bob Guessferd, Selectman

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Dillon Dumont, Selectman