

HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the February 13, 2024 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman McGrath the meeting of February 13, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. Nonpublic Session
Motion by Selectman Guessferd at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Selectman Roy to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 4-0.

(Selectman Dumont joined nonpublic session at 6:50 p.m.)

Nonpublic Session was entered at 6:30 p.m. 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 7:28 p.m.

Motions made after Nonpublic Session

1. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to seal the minutes of the first nonpublic session of February 13, 2024. Carried 5-0.

3. CALL TO ORDER by Chairman McGrath the meeting of February 13, 2024 at 7:32 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall.
4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Conservation Commission Chairman, Bill Collins
5. ATTENDANCE

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

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Jim McIntosh, Dir. of Community Media; Mike Johnson, HCTV Production Coordinator; Jay Twardosky, Dir. of Public Works; Paul Inderbitzen, Town Moderator; Scott Tice, Fire Chief; Bill Collins, Conservation Commission Chairman; Jack Madden, Chairman, Benson Park Committee; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant

6. PUBLIC INPUT - there was no one present for public input.

7. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

A. Nomination

Nathan Muir a candidate for the Benson Park Committee came forward to be interviewed. Chairman McGrath asked Nathan, why are you interested in serving on the Benson Park Committee? Mr. Muir replied, so my main reason is I'm pretty passionate about about environmental conservation. And I own a landscaping company in Hudson. And so another reason I want to join

is just to contribute something to the town. And Benson Park is a big part of my childhood. So I figure it's a good opportunity to kind of keep Benson Park alive and help maintain it.

Chairman McGrath replied, thank you. She then asked, anybody have any questions for Nathan? Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, I don't have a question, but would just like to say I did see him at a couple of meetings. He spoke at the last one. He seemed very passionate about helping at Benson Park. I think he'd be a great addition to the board. Chairman McGrath replied, Perfect. Anybody wish to make a motion? The Town Administrator interjected saying, so typically what we do is we take it under advisement and at the next meeting, you make a motion to appoint. Chairman McGrath addressed Mr. Muir saying, so at the next meeting, and then after that, that'll be done. So thank you very much for coming in.

8. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman McGrath asked, does anyone have anything they'd like removed for separate consideration? Selectman Guessferd asked to remove items 8E-1 & 8E-2.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to approve Consent Items A, B, C, D, & F. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Guessferd stated that he was not present for the two meetings and wanted to pull them.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to approve the minutes of January 30, 2024. Carried 4-0-1. Selectman Guessferd abstained.

Selectman Roy asked to amend 8E-2 to correct "Chairperson Roy to Chairman McGrath". Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman to approve the minutes of February 03, 2024 as amended. Carried 4-0-1

A. Assessing Items

1) Veteran Tax Credit: map 149, lot 001, sub 040, 2 Glasgow Circle

2) Disabled Veteran and Regular Veteran Tax Credit: map 167, lot 025, 114 Highland Street

B. Water/Sewer Items - none

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies

1) Pole License - One (1) new pole to be located on Central Street

2) Pole License - One (1) new pole to be located on Heritage Circle

D. Donations - none

E. Acceptance of Minutes

1) Minutes of January 30, 2024

2) Minutes of February 3, 2024

F. Calendar

02/14	7:00	Planning Board	Buxton Meeting Room
02/15	7:00	Benson Park Committee	HCTV Meeting Room
02/19	-	Presidents Day - Town Hall Closed	
02/20	7:00	Municipal Utility Committee	BOS Meeting Room
02/21	6:00	Library Trustees	Hills Memorial Library

02/21	7:00	HEAC	Rodgers Memorial Library
02/22	7:00	Zoning Board of Adjustment	Buxton Meeting Room
02/26	7:00	Sustainability Committee	Buxton Meeting Room
02/27	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room

9. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on January 30, 2024

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.

B. HCTV Updated Policies & Procedures (Second Read) - Decision

Chairman McGrath recognized Jim McIntosh, Director of Community Media and Mike Johnson, HCTV Production Coordinator. The Town Administrator then explained, HCTV updated policies and procedures. Second read. I'll recognize Mr. Macintosh and Mr. Johnson. So this is the second read of the policy that you reviewed at the last meeting. I'm not aware of anybody had any questions or any concerns, but is the board's policy to at least look at this to give the public opportunity? If there are no comments received, no other input. So if that's the case, you make a motion to approve the HCTV updated policies and procedures. Selectman Morin made this motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd. Carried 5-0.

C. Additional Transfer Station Passes

Chairman McGrath recognized Public Works Director, Jay Twardosky. The Town Administrator explained, I think sometime back the board had a discussion with the public works director regarding the potential of some additional passes for folks who either need them or request them, and maybe quite possibly want to pay for them. Mr. Twardosky has prepared this memo, and it's here for your discussion. Chairman McGrath replied, and I read the memo, so I don't have any questions, but others might. Selectman Morin said, I think it's good. Selectman Dumont added, I think it's good. Selectman Guessferd said, yeah, I thought it was great, yeah. All right, next one. I think a lot of people will be happy that need the additional passes, so. Mr. Twardosky replied, Absolutely, we're making it the beginning of the next fiscal year. It gives us time to get it out there to people so they understand the procedure that I put forward. The Town Administrator asked, so can I assume the Board would make a motion to approve the additional transfer station passes as recommended by Mr. Twardosky? Selectman Roy made this motion,

seconded by Selectman Guessferd. Chairman McGrath asked any discussion? Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, So I did have just one question. I couldn't remember if I saw it in here. I know me and you had talked about it prior, but about making the passes available at the transfer station, just trying to see if that was a possibility. Mr. Twardosky replied, right now we've got it at Public Works right we if we need to we could make it available there I'd rather see them purchased in advance so we have a chance to talk with the people and see exactly what they're bringing in. That way we can make sure that it's not coming from another town. They're actually coming from their own house. I'd rather keep it that way if it doesn't work out that, you know as good as we hope it will then we can start making them available there. Selectman Dumont replied, yeah, I wouldn't make any changes obviously what you already got here. I think this is great, I just wanted to see if you know where the thought process was on obviously see how this goes and kind of go from there. But I know it was brought up by a couple of citizens, and I know me and you had talked about it, so. Mr. Twardosky replied, right, we just, we want to make sure we can still have a discussion with the residents beforehand to make sure it's not people trying to abuse the system. Selectman Dumont replied, okay, thank you. Chairman McGrath then said, I think a lot of people are going to be happy about that. So anyone wish to make a motion? To which Selectman Roy replied, I did. Chairman McGrath replied, you did? Okay. Chairman McGrath called for the vote. *Motion carried 5-0.*

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing - Acceptance of 2024 NHDES Aquatics Grant

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Engineer Elvis Dhima and Conservation Commission Chairman, Bill Collins. Mr. Collins addressed the Board saying, Good evening, and thank you, we're here again this time of year asking the Board to accept the grants provided through New Hampshire DES for continuing treatment of exotic species or invasive species. species at our local ponds, Ottarnic and Robinson Ponds. This year, the grant award is for \$36,630. 50 % match the town's, the Conservation and Professional Service fund will pay the second half of \$36,630 to cover the cost. It'll be all treatments this year. There won't be any weed pulling through DASH diving or anything like that. And hopefully it'll be a little more effective, you know than just pulling weeds.

Chairman McGrath opened a public hearing at 7:44p.m. Seeing no one present to make comment, she closed the public hearing at 7:45p.m.

B. Robinson & Ottarnic Ponds Herbicide Treatment Contract

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima and Conservation Commission Chairman, Bill Collins. The Town Engineer explained, this is the award of the contract. And as the Town Engineer stated, there are two basic vendors that do this. The state goes out and does the bid. We just use it, who they tell us to use. We completed the form the checklist but frankly, the state did all that work. So they're recommending or they're directing it towards Solitude Lake Management, who has done this work for us in the past, also. Mr. Dhima added, they do good work. And we'll take any questions you might have. Seeing no questions from the Board, *Selectman Dumont made a motion to assign the Town Engineer as the principal for this grant and contract. Carried 5-0.*

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to approve and authorize the Town Engineer to sign the attached 2024 contract for Solitude Lake Management for herbicide treatment work at Robinson and Ottamic Ponds as needed for up to \$73,260.00 the cost for this contract will be covered by the NHDES Exotic Aquatic Plant Control Grant at 50% cost match, and the Town portion of up to \$36,630.00 will be covered through the Conservation Commission Professional Services account Acct #5586-252.

Chairman McGrath asked if there was any discussion. Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said, Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to accept that the Exotic Aquatic Plant Control Grant for up to \$36,630 from NHDES for herbicide services for the spring /summer of 2024. Selectman Guessferd was then recognized and said, I just wanted to ask a question. This is a standard contract that we use every time with these guys? The terms are identical. Mr. Dhima replied, there's only two firms that actually do this kind of work right now and they have to be pre-qualified by the State of New Hampshire. But it's the same format we use every year and they have to be in compliance with the state requirements to be in the program. So it's very strict. We have had in the past only one firm, so it's very tough to go out and just get one quote and come back. But this year we were lucky enough to have two, they were very close. We are going to go with a little bid. The Town Administrator said, you're sort of jumping ahead to the next item I know but specifically for this this is the standard contract for the grant that was attached. The Town Administrator added, it's their standard contract it's the same each year, which was vetted by our attorney. Selectman Guessferd replied, yep okay. Chairman McGrath asked if anyone wanted to make a motion. The Town Administrator replied, you it was made and seconded. Chairman McGrath called for the vote. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Fire Department - Request to Apply for Four (4) Grants

Chairman McGrath recognized Fire Chief Scott Tice. Chief Tice addressed the Board saying, good evening. So we would like to apply for four grants. Only one is open at this time, and that's the Assistance of Firefighters Grant. This is something that we would use to look at mental health and wellness and instituting a program where we could send people to peer support training when that comes around, and to do mental health check ins, annual check ins. It's a two year program. So we would have one hour for each employee that they would go to an appointment where they could talk about whatever with a mental health counselor to kind of, you know, some people that have been doing this across the state, nobody's ever left. Some people, they talk about very generic stuff. Some people start talking about some basic stuff, and it develops into more, and it leads to a referral to more counseling. But it's a way to try to get people, give them the opportunity to open up and get some questions answered and get some information if they need to seek long term help. It would also include physicals and would that would also include cancer screening and cardiovascular screening.

Selectman Morin asked, is this a grant you're looking for? Chief Tice replied, yeah, it's Assistance to Firefighters. Selectman Morin asked, how much are you looking for? Chief Tice replied we're not sure yet. For this whole program, we're still putting all the costs together and whatnot. For the mental health part that we've discussed, they range anywhere from \$100 to \$150 per visit. Selectman Morin then said, okay, we're actually going to talk about this later because there is a need. I say go for it now, we'll talk about it after. Chairman McGrath said, we can defer it. Selectman Morin asked, you want to defer it? Selectman Guessferd replied, I think we should. Selectman Morin agreed. Selectman Roy added, I think we should let it go forward. Selectman Morin added, I mean this is this is important as part of that correct, yes. Chief Tice then said, and I also want to mention that we were also looking to add in a fire ground safety and survival training for the department as part of the same grant. Chairman McGrath then said, based on what I've seen lately, the firefighters have been in pretty cold water. Chief Tice replied, yes, they have; as part of the training we've been doing lately.

Chairman McGrath asked, So anybody have any questions? Seeing no questions, Chief Tice went on to say, the other three grants, so they're not open at this time, but they come and go. And sometimes they have a short application period. So we would ask for permission to also apply if, for one, they open the Walmart Local Community Grant, the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant, and the Gary Sinise Foundation First Responder Grant Program.

Selectman Dumont I'll make a motion, but first I did just want to say I appreciate you bringing this to us.

Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd I know we had a conversation a little bit ago about looking for extra money and looking at these grants. So I appreciate that. Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to authorize the Fire Chief to apply for the Fiscal Year 2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant and the Walmart Local Community Grant, the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant the Gary Sinise Foundation First Responder Grant Program. Carried 5-0.

D. Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund

Chairman McGrath recognized Fire Chief Scott Tice. Chief Tice explained to the Board, Steve and I've talked. I don't know if there's anything we can do but, when we developed our budget this year, we did have a warrant article to take the money from the Ambulance Capital Reserve, because we weren't using it anymore. We were hoping to use that money towards the purchase of the next ambulance by putting it into the revolving fund, where we fund those ambulances from, but that wasn't the correct procedure to be able to do that. So it's gotta go back to the general fund. So what I'm wondering, is there a way that we can get that money from the general fund towards the next ambulance.

Selectman Roy was recognized and asked, shouldn't we see if this passes first? Chief Tice replied, yeah, I was assuming that it passes. I was being optimistic. Selectman Roy replied, I mean I am too, but I don't want to put the cart before the horse. Chief Tice replied, I think our main question was, is there even anything that we can do or is just the procedure that this is going to go through? The Town Administrator replied, having looked at it and then double checking it with the attorney, the short answer is no, there really isn't anything you can do because you're disbanding a capital reserve fund. As we pointed out, the law dictates it goes back to the general fund. And that the revolving fund that we have that we've established a few years ago. That's basically from revenues and fees there's no mechanism that we're aware of that you can just transfer money into that. You could ask for an appropriation at the next town meeting that would be different but this town meeting is over with so that that ship has sailed the only other possibility is at the end of the year if you had money in your budget the Board might be able to repurpose that money and direct it towards an ambulance. But this money is gone. Presuming the article passes. Chief Tice replied, presuming it passes, yes. The Town Administrator then said, of course, if it doesn't pass, then next year you can make an appropriation out of it, because it was the voters that would approve that.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, So I understand, so with this one, it's done. In the future, had that warrant article been worded to move the funds into it? The Town Administrator replied, it cannot be done that way. That's how they originally had it. We vetted it with the attorney and further with DRA. That's not proper language. If you read the statute that's not permissible. You have to return the money back to the general fund. Selectman Dumont replied, okay.

I. Hudson Firefighter Conditional Offers

Selectman Morin was recognized and said I'd like to change the order of business to do I (10I under New Business) at this time. That way the Chief's still up here, if we could. Chairman McGrath replied, I don't have a problem with that. Selectman Dumont added, fine by me. Selectman Morin then said, Chief talked to me and do to our hardship of hiring people, and there is a delay sometimes between when he chooses a person to hire and he comes to the Board, he's asking that we give him the permission to a conditional offer to kind of lock things in before he has to meet with us. We still have to go through our process, but at least he can give that offer to hold the person, and so we can get that extra time. Anything you want to add to that, Chief? Chief Tice replied, that was it, and I might have been reading the town policy to literally where it talks about permission from the Board and then approaching the candidate. But with the hiring environment out there, there's a lot of openings. There's not a lot of candidates, and it's literally, there's times that if we've interviewed candidates in the past, and by the time we get to them for the conditional offer, they've already accepted a job somewhere else. It can be that quick sometimes. And being able to give them that conditional offer earlier. Sometimes can lock them in to Hudson as opposed to somebody else. Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, I would just like to say I'm very much in favor of simplifying things like this. I think this would make your job a lot easier. I think it'll allow us to retain better candidates and it doesn't take anything away from the Board. So, thank you. Selectman Guessferd said, I'm in agreement. Chairman McGrath replied, and I agree. I think that, you know, we I read that, I thought it was a good idea.

Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to authorize the Fire Chief to make conditional employment offers to qualify Firefighter/AEMT candidates prior to meeting with the Board of Selectmen. Carried 5-0.

E. Benson Park Train Station Building

Chairman McGrath recognized Jack Madden, Chairman of the Benson Park Committee. Mr. Madden addressed the Board saying, Thank you for allowing me to present to you for a decision. As you recall, in fall of 2022, we had the asbestos removed from the interior of the train station building. You know, at that time, the Town Engineer says, "Don't forget lead paint." So, we have contacted lead paint inspection and risk assessment vendors. These are people off of the state list. We got three bids for inspection and risk assessment of the lead paint. I met with the Town Engineer and his new assistant, Don Kirkland, I guess it was about a week or two ago. And they said, you know, good, you know, vendors, everything was in \$500 or one another, and they suggested that what we should also do is add on the identification of mold in the building. Now, having asthma, my sensitive nose tells me there's probably not any mold in there, but there's probably not any mold in there. but this way we will know for sure and have a document. So we added that back on. Of the three vendors we are recommending American Environmental Testing Services of New England out of Bedford, New Hampshire. Of the three, they're the only one who do the inspection for mold. So they have done an add on to their low bid for doing an assessment for mold and moisture. And so their total bid now comes in at \$2,375. Now that is inclusive of one air test. But air test sampling, they don't know how many they have to do until they're there. So I would request that you authorize selection of the American Environmental Testing Services with a not to exceed number of of \$2,500. So that would allow a second and third air testing if required. If they say we don't do it, need it, then we don't do it. And so I stress that this vendor, this is for the inspection and the risk assessment only. They will produce from this, documentation where there is lead. They may make some suggestions on how to either remove it or ameliorate it like encapsulate it with something. And then there, I would next come before you after having gotten bids from the five pages of state authorized removal contractors or abatement contractors for the lead paint and the mold. So that is my request.

Chairman McGrath replied, so do you want, I mean it says up to \$2,375, but do you want to change that to \$2,500? Mr. Madden replied, yeah, just in case there's going to be a second or third air testing. Again, if we don't need it, then we don't use it. it. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to authorize American Environmental Testing Services to perform a lead inspection, risk assessment, and mold assessment for the train station building at Benson Park for an amount up to \$2,500 from the Benson Park Capital Reserve Fund. Carried 5-0.

F. Presidential Primary Debrief

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Moderator, Paul Inderbitzen. Mr. Inderbitzen addressed the Board saying, Yes, thank you. you, ladies and gentlemen. I sent a letter to the board and I sent you our statistics from the primary. For Hudson, it wasn't anything extraordinary. It was a routine if you look past at the past presidential primaries. It's about what we've done every year. So some towns had a much bigger turnout. We did not. We had a pretty average turnout. We had 44.1% turnout for the presidential primary. Our assessment, from my perspective, is that it went pretty smoothly at both locations. I have to really thank the Police Department and the DPW. They did a fantastic job at the Community Center with the traffic. I didn't hear of too many problems. I just got the Police Chief's after action report. I haven't finished reading it yet. It sounds like with his recommendations, some of them a little bit a little bit difficult to deal with because of the spaces that we have to work with. But it was very well done, I thought. The Community Center staff got Wayne Medeiros our our custodian here at Town Hall and all the town buildings who has just did a fantastic job of helping us out and getting us all ready for that so they really they really did a good job and I can't thank them enough for that with the new Poll Pads that we purchased two additional ones at each location for the Supervisors. It actually worked out very well. They were able to manage the address changes, name changes, along with the registrations. And they also were able to, when things got a little busy, if they didn't have a backup, they would actually come and register or check in people for voting. That worked out very, very well. So I think that was a good... good move on our part to get those.

I think for the town election coming up in March, they won't be as busy. If you the last town election was a 19 % turnout. The time before that was a 27 % turnout, and that had some bond in it. So we don't have any bonds coming up this year. year. But the Supervisors, they have at town elections, they have very low new registrations, 36 last year. And the absentees were between 200- 300. So I don't anticipate March being much different than in the past. Unfortunately, I wish people would consider the town their taxes, this is their only opportunity. It's just, I don't get it myself, but our next big ones will be next fall, and I've already contacted at least the candidate, the only candidate for moderator coming up in March, and have offered to show her the ropes as we go along, and we're gonna have a meeting coming up. and I'm certainly willing, I intend to work elections anyway, I always enjoy them, and if I can offer any assistance to a new moderator, plus a new town clerk, which I guess can't take a place until July 1, because there's no money available. Selectman Roy replied, well, it's a new tax collector, isn't it? The Town Administrator replied, the position splits at that point. Mr. Inderbitzen went on to said, so whoever new tax collector, town clerk. But I would urge the Board to make an early decision as to get somebody in the pipeline, so to speak, so that we can start working on that in some capacity.

Like I said, we processed between the two locations, 565 floaters per hour over the 13 hours, which wasn't too bad. And actually, we were done about 11 o'clock when we got out of there. And then the Clerk and I spent about another half hour-45 minutes, to finalize the paperwork at Town Hall. And then since she had to be at work the next morning, I drove the results up to the Derry Police Department. We drop our stuff off at the Derry Police Department for the return of votes and everything. So set up and takedown went very well. Like I said, DPW they come in and they just they know the routine and they've done it before and they're just very efficient at doing that. And it's just after they do, then we do our stuff, so getting everything set.

And if the board has any questions, we'll go from there.

Chairman McGrath replied, I don't have any questions. I have a comment, though. I thought the first report that I read for the, what was it, the presidential primary, I found it interesting, the parties that were the number of party affiliations, because it seems to me there's more republicans that voted as opposed to democrats. I just found that interesting, because I would have thought that it would have been maybe the other way around. Mr. Inderbitzen replied more people who were unaffiliated, as we say, came in and took a republican ballot. Now, for our registrations, we're about pretty even democrat/republicans. We have a little bit more of the undeclared than the other two parties. It was a little different. It was kind of interesting how the Republican turnout was bigger than the Democratic turnout. Chairman McGrath replied, it was significantly higher. The Town Administrator added, more of a contested primary on the republican side than on the democratic side. Selectman Guessferd added, yeah, it was contested, yeah. Chairman McGrath replied, it was interesting to read that.

Mr. Inderbitzen asked, anybody have any questions? I'll look forward to well, two of you can't take part in the next election since you're on the ballot. But I know in the past, as a selectman, you have a right to serve at the election. It's part of your job. But the optics could be, we did have a right to serve at the have a selectman once who did the greeting and he was out and there were a lot of complaints cause the optics aren't good. You know, even though it's not behind the bar but they're helping out doing their job as the law requires and says you're supposed to be able to do, there was some complaints that almost look like campaigning to some people. So I usually recommend that you don't take part inside the building. You do your stuff outside, but unfortunately. So we're going to look at the kind of people we have for check in and the workers. The big thing this year for the town is that we're going to have, I haven't seen the ballot yet, we just went to LHS. Four pages, if it goes to five, I have no idea how we're going to deal with that 51 articles. The Town Administrator corrected Mr. Inderbitzen saying, 50. Mr. Inderbitzen added, I don't know how they're going to fit on.

We did talk to LHS about changing the format of the names. Last year we had the office like board of selectmen, and then on the left it said three year term, and then on the right it says vote for not more than two. People voted for three. and we had over 185 spoiled ballots because people voted too many. This time, and I asked LHS and they said, yes, the state law requires us to have that "do not vote for" not more than one or two or whatever it is.

That's a requirement of the state. They said the three year term and the one year term and all of that, that can be put someplace else. So I've asked them to put it up on the right hand side in smaller letters and they're going to do that, voting for not more than one or two, all in capitals so that it'll stand out right above where the candidates are. So I haven't seen it yet because we just asked them to do that and they said yes, programming, they can do that real easy. So hopefully that'll eliminate some of the confusion because although we don't have as much. you have two selectmen positions open, and everything else I think is pretty well, either one person running and there's only one, and even for the Budget Committee, I think there are three, and there are three positions, so I don't think that's going to be as much of a confusion as it was last year. People will be in the booths a lot longer. Yes. So there may be a backup only because of that and there are those people I know we're getting ready to send out a voter guide for before the election. The Town Administrator said, it's done. We have to wait for the school and the ballot. We have to wait for the ballot right so the rest of its done. Mr. Inderbitzen then said so hopefully people bring and people did they brought them in but then there are those voters who come in and they have no idea and they start reading every single thing. And with all those zoning amendments, it's going to be difficult. People don't prepare ahead of time. I wish people would take this more seriously. They want to come and vote, but if they don't prepare themselves, it's I'll try to maybe I'll do a PSA or something to try to get people to look at that. Seeing no questions from the Board, the Chairman thanked Mr. Inderbitzen for coming in.

G. Capital Reserve Fund Payment Application

Chairman McGrath recognized the Town Administrator who said, We have an application from the Police Department for a payment from the Capital Reserve Fund. This is for the Tasers that they are under contract for. If you recall, I believe there's a five year contract. I believe this is year five. It gets reimbursed from the Capital Reserve Fund, which is set up for the purpose of police equipment, Tasers, body cameras, and the Trustees have requested that when we ask for dispersion, the Board vote to approve the disbursement. So the motion would be to approve the disbursement from the Police Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$35,293.30 as requested by the Police Chief and Finance Director. Selectman Dumont made this motion and Selectman Guessferd seconded it. Motion carried 5-0.

H. January 2024 Revenues & Expenditures

The Town Administrator explained, This is for the revenues and expenditures for the town through seven months, which is basically 58 % of the year. I'm keeping an eye on legal. We spent more on collective bargaining than we anticipated just because we had two major contracts, particularly, took a little while to get at least the two of them negotiated. And if you recall, the Budget Committee had trimmed back the legal budget for the general legal. So I'm just keeping an eye on it. We may have to transfer money as we get a little further into the year. But other than that area, I think everything else is tracking where it should be. And I'm going to be a broken record. Automobiles continue to do very well. We're at 64% and we're about \$146K ahead of last year's pace at the same time. So people still register cars. And obviously, you know, we've talked about the interest. The climate to borrow is not great, but the interest that we are earning on our investments is very strong. We are way ahead on that. So that's good news.

I. Hudson Firefighter Conditional Offers

this item was moved earlier in the agenda to follow Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund

J. Purple Heart Community

Chairman McGrath recognized Selectman Guessferd who said, I'm going to pass out some paperwork to everybody just so everybody knows what's a good explanation. Last year I was in Danville, and I noticed that they were what's called a "Purple Heart Community." So I started making some inquiries about what it takes to be a Purple Heart Community. And I recently was talking with the American Legion who had reached out. There's a woman in Amherst who kind of coordinates the New Hampshire piece of this, you know, basically all the different towns in New Hampshire. So what I set to you, all is in front of you right now, is basically an explanation of, I think most people know what the Purple Heart is. You know, it's combat decoration. It's awarded to, you know, soldiers, sailors or airmen who have been either wounded or killed in combat action. Every town pretty much has at least one person in the town, either alive or deceased, who has been awarded the Purple Heart. I won't necessarily go through the whole history of it, everything. But the idea of the Purple Heart Community is to create a tribute to the men and women who have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal. There are signs, typically, you'll see when you go through a Purple Heart Community, usually on the main roads, entering the the community. The presence of the signs designates that the public has a visual reminder of the sacrifices paid by the Purple Heart recipients, and a notice that our town supports the military heroes. And I know our town has historically been a very patriotic town. It does a really great job of coordinating with the local veterans organizations for ceremonies and other things.

Now what happens is it's a very simple process than I thought. We don't have to go through, in the past they were saying the town administrator had to verify that there was a Purple Heart recipient, but I can't really do that for privacy reasons. So, but we do know, I mean, I know for sure, we all like, you know, at least there's one of our town historical figures who has earned the Purple Heart so and what I what I what we do now the only thing we really have to do is to make a proclamation and it's a kind of standard form proclamation and I will I will work to get that put together and then we would either at a meeting or at a separate event probably a meeting we would we announce the proclamation, sign the proclamation, and at that point, the second step is the signs. Now, the first thing I thought of was, okay, what's the cost to the town? And typically, and in this case, it happened, last Monday night, the American Legion here in town voted to pay for the signs. So there will be no cost to the taxpayer at all. There will be an ask of the Public Works Department to install the signs and to coordinate if there are any state roads that just say 102 or 111 to coordinate with the state. It's just a coordination with the state to make sure that it were in alignment. I think they contact Dig Safe to make sure that they're in the right places and not interfering with utilities, that sort of thing. And really, it's just a coordination with the state the end, that's the whole thing.

So I've come before the Board today to request support. We don't have to make a decision, per se, but support for the process, for going through the process. If we want to make a motion, we can. Selectman Morin replied yeah, I do. Selectman Morin made a motion to support Hudson being a Purple Heart Community. Selectman Roy seconded this motion. Chairman McGrath asked, any discussion? Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, I just wanted to have a few. I appreciate you bringing this forward. In fairness, I have seen the signs specifically going in and out of Litchfield. And I've always kind of wondered the same thing. So thank you very much for bringing it forward. Selectman Guessferd replied, you're very welcome. It's something I wanted to get done. The only thing I would ask is anybody out there, we will try to advertise. We should try to advertise when we're gonna do this. May not be the next meeting, but at an upcoming meeting and invite I would I would like to invite anybody out there who is a Purple Heart awardee and we will let you know when that meeting is. Chairman McGrath added, or family of a Purple Heart awardee and to come to the meeting that night and we can do the proclamation with them present and we're also going to try to get some media, Hudson Times, we'll have the TV, Hudson TV, obviously, to do that. So we'll go ahead and take care of all that and make sure that it's well advertised.

Chairman McGrath then said, I'm familiar with the person from Hudson. I mean, I didn't know him. But I was in school at the time that that happened. So I'm very familiar with it. And I would be inclined or proud to make this a Purple Heart town for anybody, whether I knew them or I didn't know them, because what they do for us is extraordinary. Selectman Guessferd replied, some of them made the ultimate sacrifice. So anyway, I just wanted to make that additional comment, and I will let the Board know when we're ready to do the proclamation. Chairman McGrath replied, great. Thank you very much. Thanks for bringing that to us.

K. Electronic Signatures on Manifests

Chairman McGrath recognized Selectman Roy who said, So I think for the sake of efficiency, that we should look at this. In thinking about it, though, and you can correct me if I'm wrong, we should probably wait until after the election, because if the town manager warrant passes, then this would not be necessary, is my understanding. The Town Administrator replied, that would be correct. Selectman Roy went on to say, so I think we, I just want to put it on everybody's radar. I think it would be a more efficient way. There is some training that would have to be done. I touched a note from Lisa Labrie about what would have to be done to get that in place. But again, I think that we should just wait until after the election the town manager thing passes then this isn't a thing, if it doesn't happen I think that we should take a look at doing that so that

the finance folks in Jill and everybody else doesn't have to wait for somebody to physically come into town hall.

Chairman McGrath replied, well, I talked to Lisa Labrie today. I also talked to Mr. Malizia to find out if he had been contacted about this, which he hadn't been. The Town Administrator replied, well, I told you, Lisa Labrie talked to me about it. Chairman McGrath replied, yeah, but Selectman Roy didn't. So in any event, I talked to Lisa, and based on what she told me, she's not in favor of it either. And so, we can wait until the election is over, but I would be a vote no on this. So in any event we'll put that off until after the election but if others are interested in finding out exactly what this would mean if the election goes the way that I think that it might not go I don't think that we're gonna be getting a town manager at least that's my hope and so if it doesn't pass, then I would suggest that Selectman Dumont, Selectman Guessferd, and Selectman Morin have a discussion with Lisa Labrie about what this would mean. So that's my thoughts.

11. Board Liaison Reports/Other Remarks by Selectmen

Selectman Roy: I have nothing tonight.

Selectman Dumont: I don't have a whole lot but I do want to just say thanks to all the volunteers that helped out the Deliberative Session. I thought it went off very well. I know there's a lot of work that goes into that behind the scenes that people don't see so I just want to say thank you.

The next Benson Park meeting that we have will be this Thursday on the 15th and then my next ZBA meeting will be on the 22nd. Like always looking for more volunteers so if anybody wants to come on and sign up come on down.

Selectman Guessferd:

Okay so tomorrow night we have a planning board meeting. We have an amended site plan and a site a site plan for a subdivision from one to two. It's nothing major for this particular one. We have coming up additional discussion on the the gas station on the corner of Lowell and the proposed gas station on the corner of Lowell and Central Street that'll be coming up in a future meeting. So that's kind of where we are right now with the planning board, hoping that our zoning amendments can pass. And that's that we put out there. So we just everybody, you'll get on the boat and see if you like them or not. And if you don't don't vote whichever way you feel is necessary.

But the other thing is Rec Department. We have some senior citizen programming that's been going on. Waffle breakfast for Valentine's Day. It's pushed off because of today's snow. It turned out the snow wasn't what everybody expected. So they probably could have had it. So that's next Tuesday. And that's it for this week's episode of Valentine's Day. And we are offering tax aid to seniors as well. And someone just needs to contact Chrissy Peterson, the Recreation Director, to set up an appointment or go to the Senior Center and do that there.

Basketball is in process for this season. First and second grade just ended. And the rest of them about a halfway through the season. Everything's going well so that's that's a big part of the record year is the basketball leagues including the adult league which by the way can be very competitive. So the only other thing is the first ever mother son sneaker ball. We've had a lot of inquiries about a mother/son event versus you know the father/daughter dances that they've had traditionally every year. So that one's coming up on the 15th of March. The mother/son Sneaker Ball, it's sold out like right away. 320 tickets in 20 hours. So obviously something that was very much in anticipation. There is a waitlist. If anybody is not on list and wants to get on the waitlist,

sometimes you never know. Openings can come up. Other than that, I think that's all I got in just hoping everybody is being safe out there I think it's a little slippery out there tonight.

Chairman McGrath said, question for you the zoning amendments that you were talking about those are the ones that are proposed by the Planning Board not the ones that are proposed by just senior not senior citizens but citizens. Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah, I mean, we welcome people to come out and vote on vote for or against them all. We want people to come out to the polls. And I guess we have another meeting or two before that, but you are correct. And the Planning Board has proposed a number of these. And there are a few that were petitioned by citizens. And so in the end, you know, vote for or against but come out and vote. That's the bottom line. We really want everybody to come out and vote. As Mr. Inderbitzen said, our moderator earlier, we don't get enough people out to the town elections that mean the most to your taxes and have the most impact on you. So I'll probably keep pounding on the podium on that for the next couple of meetings until then. And I think we really really want you to come out and vote on whatever it is for the candidates, the people that are going to lead our town, the zoning articles, which there are quite a few of, and we welcome to see you at the polls. I'll be there at the rec center, and hopefully we'll see you there.

Chairman McGrath then said, so the other comment that I wanted to make was about Chrissy. She's remarkable. She sends out these emails and it's like, how on earth do you think of these things? I mean, I'm always astounded by these creative things that she comes up with. Selectman Guessferd replied, she gets a lot of input as well, but she has absolutely raised the bar with regard to our Rec Department. Chairman McGrath replied, she's remarkable. Selectman Guessferd replied, it's a big selling point for our town as far as I'm concerned. It's a part of what makes Hudson, what it is.

Selectman Morin: Conservation met last night. It was actually a quick meeting. The only thing they're doing is, they're updating the Open Space Report. The last time it was done was 12 years ago. So that should be done hopefully by the middle of the summer they were thinking.

Budget Committee, they attended both the town and school meetings, and they've cancelled their meeting in March, their next meeting will be in April. That's all I have.

Chairman McGrath: And I don't have much, I'm just going to comment about the Police Department, they're getting close I think to the end when everything is going to be done, and Jill and I are going to take a ride out there one of these days to see and have a tour of the Police Department. I'll be pleased to to see that.

12. Remarks by Town Administrator

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia who said Just to remind everyone that Town Hall will be closed on Monday the 19th for President's Day. Just a public service announcement Candidates Night is Tuesday the 20th. That's next Tuesday Tuesday at 6:30 at the Community Center. So that's Candidate's Night for the upcoming election. Comes quick every year. The citizen's guide is almost done. We're just waiting for the ballot. Once we have the ballot, we can coordinate that with that with the School and that'll go up before the election so people can hopefully walk in with the ballot that they know what they're voting for ahead of time. That's the goal. Chairman McGrath replied, a friend of mine wants one and I have to help her with it. I should have mentioned this at the beginning of the meeting Mr.

Gasdia was unable to be here tonight he's helping a I think an Eagle Scout get his honors or whatever it is that they get and so he's that's why he's doing here this evening

13. Remarks by School Board - A School Board member was not present this evening.

14. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Guessferd at 8:32 p.m., seconded by Selectman Morin to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II ((a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Nonpublic Session was entered at 8:32 p.m. thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public was asked to leave the room.

The Board entered into public session at 8:56 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session:

1. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to seal the minutes of the first nonpublic session on February 13, 2024. Carried 5-0.
2. Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to terminate Paul Bolduc from his position of Dispatcher effective 1300 on February 5, 2024 and not pay out the seven (7) hours of earned time for the remainder of that shift and withhold payout of any remaining earned time that he has available, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Carried 5-0.
3. Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to authorize the Fire Chief to participate in an unpaid four month internship through the Army Career Skills Program with Isaiah Whiteside, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Carried 5-0.
4. Selectman Guessferd made a motion to adjourn at 8:59 p.m. this was seconded by Selectman Dumont. Carried 5-0.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:59 p.m. by Selectman Guessferd seconded by Selectman Dumont. Carried 5-0.

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

Marilyn McGrath, Chairman

Dave Morin, Vice Chairman

Kara Roy, Selectman

Bob Guessferd, Selectman

Dillon Dumont, Selectma