

HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the March 5, 2024 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman McGrath the meeting of March 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Benson Park Committee Chairman, Jack Madden
3. ATTENDANCE

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

Selectman Roy participated in the meeting remotely.

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Jack Madden, Chairman Benson Park Committee; Debbie Putnam, Sustainability Committee; Scott Tice, Fire Chief; Gary Gasdia, School Board Member; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT

1) Chris Anderson, 150 Robinson Road

My name is Chris Anderson, 150 Robinson Road. I'm here tonight as a member of a RC Club and I've been asked to spread this. If you can give me a couple, I'm really nervous. I've never been in anything like this. Chairman McGrath replied, don't be nervous. We don't bite. Mr. Anderson continued speaking saying, All right. I'm here tonight to speak about the explanations of the warrant article on the town website, specifically Article 26 and 31. Article 26 has been a huge amount of debate in this town due to the fact that if the voters voted through, it will throw the Southern New Hampshire off the Wagner Field, their home for 24 years. But Warrant Article 26 doesn't even mention our organization at all. We tried to, we tried to have this information included in our text on the Warrant Article. Due to during the Deliberative Session we were rejected being out of order. The purpose of the explanations on the town website is to educate the public about the warrant articles. And what they mean. But it completely neglects to mention the most controversial aspect for this decision for the voters. This is unfair to our organization and unfair to the voters. Controversially, the explanation for the Article of 31 explicitly states that we are seeking to use the land, under the consideration, that it is under consideration for a solar farm. But neglects to mention that we've been there for 24 years invisible. As you have said in the past it is for the people to decide with their vote on March 12th. But how are these people going to make an informed decision if they are not presented with all the facts. I would suggest the following changes to your description on the website. The Article Lease Agreement on West Road landfill, Article 26, propose a lease agreement with the Kearsarge Solar Energy solar panel farm for a portion of the capped West Road landfill. First year lease payment to the town, \$48,400. It will be increased every year at 2.5, 2.25% two five percent annually for the life of lease. The Town School District will also receive savings estimated to start at \$97,389 dollars in the first year and increasing on an annual basis for the life of lease on their electric bills based on the amount of electricity produced. Tax impact, zero per thousand. The Southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club and nonprofit has been plying there for 24 years, and this lease would remove them. Article 31, West Road Landfill Radio Control Club, by petition, by citizen petition. This petition proposes to allow the Southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club to control to continue the use of the cap portion of the landfill as they have been for the past 24 years. It doesn't elude building a solar farm or other structures in this area not used by the RC Club. This is the area where the solar panel farm is being proposed in Article 26. Tax impact zero per thousand. That's what I've been asked to say.

Mr. Anderson went on to say, and as a citizen of this town, I have a few other things I'd like to say. I have watched this transpire. I've come to these meetings. And some of you are quite committed to dismissing all the rights to the Wagner Field, a deceased builder in the town, to take a 25 to a 45 year lease. 45 years, that's 2069. How old are you going to be in that year? None of us are going to be here. And Marilyn, at the

last meeting that I did come to, you asked Mr. Elvis if he was getting a kickback from the solar farm. So I got to ask you a question, all of ya. If this field had Sousa's name on it, would we be having this discussion? People are having fun at an old dump and now we're being treated like the garbage that we covered with a membrane to be covered with solar panels. I came here tonight to show my father, father in law Daryl Wagner, that he meant something and he did something good for the town. Thank you for your time.

Chairman McGrath asked, anyone else for public input?

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. Malizia, but I believe that the wording, just to answer one of his questions, the reason why we could not include the the wording on there was because of state law with that warrant, as far as adding. The Town Administrator replied, any warrant articles, except for petitions, petitions are put forward as they're written. But any other article has to conform with basic state law and DRA, Department of Revenue reviews them, as does our attorney. Selectman Dumont replied, okay, he brought up a good point, I don't know if he's still out there, but he deserved an answer to that. So I wanted to make sure he had that clarification. The Town Administrator replied, And likewise, obviously, the petition was submitted by citizens so we did not have control over the wording of that. The Town Administrator replied, no, we do not. We do not edit, change, or make any amendments to a citizen's petition. The voters at Town Meeting could, but they come in the way they come in is the way we put them forward. Selectman Dumont replied, okay. Just wanted that clarification for everybody. Thank you.

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

- A. Nomination - Conservation Commission (1 member vacancy to expire 12/31/26 and 1 alternate member vacancy expiring 12/31/25)

John Walter

Chairman McGrath recognized John Walter and asked him, can you explain why you'd like to serve on the Conservation Commission? Mr. Walters replied, Well, I'm been in town for 20 plus years, and I'd like to make a contribution to the town that serves on a capacity that I enjoy being outdoors and learning about conservation and trying to help the areas that we need to consider conservation. Chairman McGrath asked, have you attended any conservation meetings? or watched them on? Mr. Walters responded, I've watched them on the TV channel meetings and Followed their activities to some degree. I see that they're concerned about the properties and the ones that we have conserved in town as well as expanded roles as far as as sometimes going to building sites and examining conditions for the building proposed. Those things I've done. Chairman McGrath replied, okay, thank you. Anyone else have any questions for Mr. Walter? Selectman Guessferd replied, one clerical thing, so you didn't state your address, but what is your address? But what is your address? Mr. Walters replied, 4 Riverview Ave. Hudson. Chairman McGrath then said okay, so Typically what we do is we interview the candidates and then at the next meeting we will take a vote and either appoint or not appoint. Mr. Walters asked the Board, so anything else that you? Chairman McGrath interjected saying, I don't think so. I mean you, I think you've done you do just diligence. I mean you've watched the meetings and self-acclimated to what they do. Mr. Walters replied, yeah, I try to check the agenda to see what's coming up and follow as much of the news on the TV channel and the newspaper that we have now. Chairman McGrath responded, that's good. Thank you. And you don't need to come back in two weeks unless you'd like to okay, but you know feel free to but it's not necessary.

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. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Disabled Tax Credit: map 240, lot 007, 11 Eagle Drive
- 2) 2025-2029 PILOT Agreement Renewal: map 109, lot 10, Southern New Hampshire Medical Center

B. Water/Sewer Items - none

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies - none

D. Donations - none

E. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of February 26, 2024
- 2) Minutes of February 27, 2024

F. Calendar

03/11	7:00	Conservation Commission	Buxton Meeting Room
03/12	Town Elections - Polls Open 7AM-8PM - Visit Hudsonnh.gov for more info		
03/13	7:00	Planning Board	Buxton Meeting Room
03/19	7:00	Municipal Utility Committee	BOS Meeting Room
03/20	6:00	Library Trustees	Hills Memorial Library
03/20	7:00	Hudson Electric Aggregation Cmte.	Rodgers Memorial Library
03/25	7:00	Sustainability Committee	Buxton Meeting Room
03/26	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on February 27, 2024

- 1.) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to hire Christopher Penny for the position of Firefighter/EMT in the Fire Department at the contracted salary 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 5-0.
- 2) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to amend the motion made at the January 30, 2024 Board of Selectmen meeting to hire Connor Roche for the position of Firefighter/EMT, as he has already accepted a position with another department. Carried 5-0.
- 3) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to authorize the Fire Chief to extend the probation of Firefighter Kenneth Ballou, Firefighter Gabriel Burgess-Labonte, Firefighter Logan Falk, and Firefighter Earvin Wanjohi for an additional three (3) months of the completion of their probationary requirements with a completion date of no later than June 5, 2024, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Carried 5-0.
- 4) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to seal the minutes of the February 27, 2024 nonpublic session. Carried 5-0.

- 5) Selectman Morin made a motion to adjourn at 8:38 PM. This was seconded by Selectman Guessferd. Carried 5-0.

B. Benson Park Golf Cart Policy (second read)

Chairman McGrath recognized Benson Park Committee Chairman, Jack Madden. The Town Administrator then explained, So just to set the scene this was the second hearing. Back in September you all accepted a golf cart for the use of the Benson Park Committee. Attorney Lefevre provided this template to the Benson Park Committee for the policy. So Attorney Lefevre prepared this as well as the Liability Release Form. Benson Park Committee, I believe reviewed it, it's acceptable. It's here now for you to approve, again, second reading. And clearly, Attorney Lefevre was instrumental in putting this together. So we have a policy, procedure, and a form. So if people use the golf cart, it's all spelled out. Selectman Morin was recognized and said, just see if the Chairman has any questions anything else he wanted to add before. Well, we, as Steve had mentioned, you know, we initiated a policy, went back and forth several times. The lawyer went through it and he provided a good draft. We reviewed it over a month and then voted unanimously to approve it at our last meeting on the 15th. And there was a couple of questions last week. I wasn't here and then one was you know where is the golf cart stored now? It is in the basement of the kitchen building you know and it is locked. When we received the donation of the golf cart we also got a charger for the golf cart, we got a brand new battery came with the golf cart and the power for it is regular 120 AC power. It's not like a 220 power, so we didn't have to do any modifications to the power in the kitchen building. The big decision now is how long we want the extension cord to be. It depends upon what outlet we plug it into. So make it safe and nobody trips over it. And so that is all that I have to say about the golf cart. If there's any questions.

Selectman Roy said, Madam Chair, I just have a comment. So I just, you did a really good job, it's a very thorough policy. I don't think there's any question about what the expectation is. So I just want to commend you on doing a good job. Mr. Madden replied, it was the lawyer who wrote it, Selectman Roy. Our original policy was a one pager and he came back with a four pager. In defense of lawyers we all make jokes but sometimes when you need it, it's best to have it than not have it. The Town Administrator then said, so at this point if you're good with the policy *the motion would be to approve the proposed Benson Park golf cart policy. Selectman Dumont made this motion, and Selectman Guessferd seconded it. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.*

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sustainability Committee Roadside Cleanup Request

Chairman McGrath recognized Sustainability Committee Chairperson Debbie Putnam. Ms. Putnam addressed the Board saying, Good evening. I'm presuming everybody's had a chance to review the letter I sent in. Shortly thereafter, submitting the letter of midday on Thursday, I communication with Chief Dionne and Jay Twardosky, the Director of the DPW, continued, and as a result, the DPW will be deploying one of their electronic signs at each end of Musquash Road in advance of April 20 Cleanup Day and the message at first will say, you know something along the lines of April 20th there will be a roadside cleanup. Then the day of, the message will be changed that "today is the roadside cleanup" so that drivers at as entry in each end of the road will be able to see that big sign they also Jay advised that they have approximately 10 litter crew at work signs, those orange things made with the 2x4s and stuff, and they're going to place them along the length of the road. And if we find out that there are gaps, because that's not a short road, they have some road work signs as well. Then the Chief got back to work. me and said that they're definitely committing a patrol officer and cruiser to go up and down that street during that...it's only a short time period. We're only out there for three hours, 9:30 to 12:30. We congregate at 9:00a.m., get everybody straight, everybody safe, safety vests on, and then go out.

But the concept that my husband and I were working on is, as I explained in the letter, we need to have at least eight members of the public, this is beyond the Sustainability Committee members, commit to this project. This is not something the Sustainability Committee can handle by themselves. And so, we thought that... that if we had two groups, one start at Burns Hill Fire Station, because that's a big parking area, and then the Musquash Pond trailhead, there's a significant parking area there, and that's fairly close to the other end of Musquash, not too far a walk. But that we'd all congregate at Burns Hill, get our instructions, the police officer would be there adding his gravitas to the discussion about safety, and then one crew would head to the Musquash trailhead, park their vehicles there, and start at the far end, and then one group would start out at the Burns Hill. Now, for example, the Burns Hill group could start on the right hand side of the road, and then the other group at the other end would start on their left side of the road, so that the driver is traveling that street will only see people working on one side of the road at a time. We don't want back and forth and back and forth. No. No, no, no. And then obviously we would meet at some point, and we would be in communication with the officer either. I don't know how we'll work that out, probably just a cell phone, and say, okay, we've met. Come meet us at this address, which house is closest or whatever. And then he would then escort us, basically, be present with his lights flashing while we move to the other side of the road. And so this is the safest way that we can think of so far. Obviously, I'm open to any questions that you have and any suggestions. suggestions that perhaps I didn't, you know, a matter that I did not address.

Chairman McGrath asked, anybody have any questions? Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said, more a comment than a question. We discussed this at the Sustainability meeting last week, and there was a lot of thought that was taken into regardless, you know, regarding where and what roads. And, you know, the bottom line. line was we had to pick a road that was safe as safe as possible and we're not going to do it like for example on Bush Hill Road there's just not enough you know on the sides of the road shoulders and and that sort of thing so so that we consulted with the DPW Director obviously the Police Department and and so it was well thought out in terms of the the place where we we were going to do the roadside cleanup. So I just wanted to kind of add that to, in case there were any questions about why are we doing Musquash Road versus some other area in town. Ms. Putnam then added, and my memory is that since joining the Sustainability Committee in spring of 2014, we have never done Musquash Road. Chairman McGrath replied, well, it's needed, I guess. Ms. Putnam replied, well, there are certain other roads which are in great need as well, but there are ones we've done before, and as I mentioned in the cover letter, the concept of reaching out to the residents along the particular road has yielded very positive results. They've come out and gone, "Oh, good, thank you, because I'm so tired of driving past all of this," and they're happy to help out. And of course, we're not asking for any long term commitment that morning. It's a couple of hours, and then we're done. Now that's providing we have enough volunteers that actually commit, and that Mother Nature is kind to us. Because as Chief pointed out immediately, that can get very muddy in that section of the road system in Hudson. Any other thoughts or questions? Chairman McGrath replied, I don't think so. Selectman Dumont replied, I think that's a great idea. Thank you. you very much. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to approve the Sustainability Committee Roadside Cleanup on Musquash Road to be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 9:00a.m to 12:30p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Chairman McGrath addressed Ms. Putnam saying, thank you very much. And good luck with the weather holding out. Ms. Putnam replied, and we get enough people, there's so many people on Facebook that says, "We've got to clean up these roads." But when we ask for volunteers (laughing). Selectman Guessferd said, be part of the solution not the problem.

B. Proposal for Legal Services 2024-2025

Chairman McGrath recognized the Town Administrator who said, So we've received a proposal from our current attorney, Attorney Lefevre, to continue to service the town's general legal counsel next for the next fiscal year, which starts July 1st and runs through the following July, June 30th, pardon me. Attorney Lefevre, as well. counsel for nine years. He is offering to continue his work as town

counsel at the same hourly rate, which is \$145 an hour, which is what we've paid for the last nine years. So he has offered that. If you choose to take that office, so be it. If not, we could go out to bid if the board wishes to do so. But in a little bit of perspective, we have a labor attorney, Attorney Broth, I think most of you are familiar with. His rate, \$275 an hour. We also use an attorney at Donahue Tucker for our tax cases with, I believe, PSNH, and Fair Point, and his rate is \$195 an hour, just to put it into perspective. The \$145 is certainly a bargain rate, and I think most of you are aware of Attorney Lefevre's work for the town. So it is your choice. I bring it to you. You can either accept his proposal, or if you'd like, you can go out to bid and solicit other legal bids for the town's general legal services.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said, so from my perspective, it's not just about the rate, but it is about his track record. He has represented the town well as far as I'm concerned. He has been successful in defending the town and representing the town in court. I think given that the rate is what it is, and it hasn't been raised for many years, and we're still getting the same quality of legal services, I'll be supporting this.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said, Yeah, so I want to kind of echo Selectman Guessferd's comment. You know, it is not just about the well below market rate for his dollar rate, but it is also about his track record and how well he's done. You know, I want to point out particularly to the trial that he... just, I hate to use the word one, but he prevailed wholeheartedly. Like, there was no, the town didn't have to pay anything. So I think that it is well worth our money and our time to renew his contract. Chairman McGrath replied, thank you, and I happen to agree. I mean, I think he's certainly certainly done the town well over the years. So motion has been made and seconded. The Town Administrator replied, it has not yet, so the motion would be to enter into a contract for legal services with the law firm of Tarbell & Brodich, PA, for the period of July 1st, 2024 through June 30th, 2025, for the terms as specified in the Proposal for Legal Services 2024 through 2025 letter as prepared by Attorney David Lefevre. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

C. VFW Post 5791 Loyalty Day Nomination

Chairman McGrath recognized the Town Administrator who explained, Around this time every year we get a letter from the VFW Post looking for names for employees for a Loyalty Day Award. This is an annual award that we've submitted a name for since 2003. Fire and Police have their own nominees, so this is just for basically a town employee. I've provided a list here over the last 20 odd years. You can see the names. This year I'm advancing the name of Elvis Dhima. I think he's been here for coming up on his 10th year and I think we all know the amount of grants and projects that he's completed on behalf of the town. I put this out to departments and basically, you know, this is where we're at with Mr. Dhima. So I propose his name. Again, there'll be a separate Police and a separate Fire. But this is where this is a recommendation for this year's VFW Loyalty Day award. Chairman McGrath asked, anyone have any comments? Selectman Roy? Selectman Roy replied no I'm all set.

Chairman McGrath then said I have a comment. I'm glad to see that that Elvis was nominated for this. He has a work ethic that goes beyond reproach. I've never seen anybody work so hard for the town as he has over the last few years. So I'm happy to see this. I'm happy that he's been nominated and hopefully he'll be happy with the award. Roll call, Jill. The Town Administrator said, actually, the motion would be to nominate Elvis Dhima, Town Engineer for the 2024 Hudson VFW Post 5791 Loyalty Day Award. Selectman Dumont made this motion and Selectman Guessferd seconded it. A roll call vote was taken. Carried. The Executive Assistant replied, all in favor...to which Selectman Roy replied, no, not all in favor. To which the Executive Assistant replied, I'm sorry, I thought you said aye. Selectman Roy replied, no, I said nay. Chairman McGrath replied, really? The Executive Assistant replied, four in favor, one against. (Motion carries 4-1, Selectman Roy opposed). Chairman McGrath said, that's an interesting take on it.

D. Senate Bill 468 - Senator Clegg Memorial Highway

Chairman McGrath recognized the Town Administrator who said, as you recall, back to the beginning of January, we had the board had a discussion and made a motion to send a letter to State Senator Carson, because this is a Senate bill. expressing the board's support for this bill. I also sent letters from the Board's direction to the Hudson's legislative delegation. When received some correspondence, I believe it's page two in your packet. Senator Carson recommends we send a letter to the House Representative's leadership. So for that effect, I've prepared a letter to Speaker Packard, Majority Leader Osborne, and the Chairman of the Public Ways Committee. I forget his name at the time, but we'll send those letters with your signature if the Board approves them.

Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to send a letter to the chair of State House Leadership, expressing the Board of Selectmen support for Senate Bill 468, which proposes to designate a portion of route 111 Hudson as the senator Robert E. Clegg Memorial Highway. Selectman Guessferd then said, can I have, make a.... I just want to make sure that it's it's clear. When I read through it all like we did this before the first time the letter. So the section of highway it's it's kind of misleading in some ways, but I guess we're talking about the entire section of 111 in Hudson from the river all the way to the border and it goes to 128. So obviously that portion is in Pelham. Right? So we're just talking about the portion from our border actually, both of our borders. I just wanted to clarify that cuz it almost appears that it's the eastern border and it's not even in our town but the other border of the town. Chairman McGrath then said, I think Pelham might be pretty insulted if we did that. Selectman Guessferd replied, I know I get it. So I just wanted to clarify that for anybody who might have been a little bit, I wouldn't say confused, just to clarify, but I'm good with it.

Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to send a letter to the Chair of the State House Leadership expressing the Board of Selectmen's support for SB 468 which proposed to designate a portion of Route 111 in Hudson as the Senator Robert E. Clegg Memorial Highway. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

The Town Administrator then said, Senator Carson recommends that a member of the Board come to the House and testify when this bill is heard. So the motion would be to designate Selectmen _____ to testify in favor of Senate Bill 468 at the public hearing for the bill. So I don't know if anybody wants to volunteer, but Senator Carson recommends that. Chairman McGrath replied, I'm not in a position to volunteer, so I'm taking my name out of it. Selectman Dumont said I'll say I would volunteer, but next week's election, so I don't know which way that's going to go. The Town Administrator added, I don't know when the hearing is either. Selectman Dumont replied, yeah, exactly, so I'm off of that. I guess I skate on that one. Selectman Guessferd then said, and I'm just not sure when this is going to come up for a vote I may...The Town Administrator replied, it's typically during the daytime. Selectman Guessferd continued saying, right. I'm just saying which day because depending upon the day it's a good portion of the day going up there testifying coming back so unless no one else volunteers or you know I would I would figure out a way to do it, but it's it's going to be really not our choice as to when this was. Chairman McGrath replied, okay. Yeah, I can't offer, so. All right, Jill, roll call, please. Selectman Guessferd, Dumont and the Town Administrator all replied, we're not done, we haven't moved anything at this point. Chairman McGrath replied sorry, I'm kind of. The Executive Assistant addressed the Board saying, I can check back and see when the actual hearing will be, once it's set, and move forward at that point. Chairman McGrath replied, that sounds good. Selectman Guessferd added, yeah, we don't know when it ends, that's the problem. Yeah, and I don't know how much notice we get, either. We really kind of have to keep an eye on their calendar. Selectman Guessferd added, because if I'm available, I mean, I would do it. But I'm just not sure I'm going to be available on a particular day. The Town Administrator replied, yeah, I guess I'm just going to let us know support in, and I'm not sure it's a required to do. It's just a nice to do. Chairman McGrath added, well, it also gives you face time up at the State House. Selectman Guessferd replied, there we go. Like we all need that. The Town Administrator then said, I don't want to put my hand up, but a push came to shove. I could do it for you. Selectman Dumont laughed and said, it sounds like you put your hand up. The Town Administrator laughed saying, it's folded right here, but if necessary, I would go up in there. Let's see what the hearing is when we get back to you.

9. Board Liaison Reports/Other Remarks by Selectmen

Selectman Roy: Um, I just have one remark. Last week, during the Selectman meeting, there was a number of accusations made against me. And I would just invite Selector Morin to open up an investigation and put an end to all of this, I can't say the word I want to say, but just put an end to all of this. So that's my only comment. Selectman Morin replied, Selectman Roy, you know, what? I'm not playing your game. I fell into your web last week. Ain't happening again. In due time, this will all come out correctly. We're just going to play the game correctly this time. I'm not playing your games anymore. Thank you. Selectman Roy replied, you made accusations, Selectman Morin, you made accusations. Selectman Morin replied, absolutely I made accusations. And I just said, we'll do this correctly is what we're going to do. I'm not playing your games anymore. We're going to do it correctly. Yes, I made. Thank you, Selectman Roy. Appreciate it.

Chairman McGrath asked, Selectman Roy, did you have anything else? To which Selectman Roy replied no, that's it. Thank you.

Selectman Dumont: Just want to remind everybody that time election coming up next week, obviously there's a lot of stuff on there. I really urge everybody to really take the time over the next week to make sure you go through that so everyone's educated on what they're voting on. If anybody has any questions, I would ask you to go to the source, make sure you get the right information.

Outside of that, there is a Benson Park meeting coming up on the 27th, I mean, on the 21st, I apologize, and a ZBA meeting on the 27th. Both committees are always looking for help and volunteers, so if anybody's out there willing to volunteer, I urge you to come down to Selectman's office. Thank you.

Selectman Guessferd: Okay, so we've already heard from the Sustainability Committee. We had our meeting last week. We have the clean-up, we're continuing to work our way down the Hudson Community Power. So there's a lot of good things, and there's one other thing that we're just at least looking into. It's probably whether there's any viability at all, I think it's come up several times compost. And whether or not the town, it's viable for us to do anything. So there's a subcommittee that's being formed. I mean, we're reaching out to Hudson citizens as well to be a part of that committee. To just invest, just to kind of talk about it, there's a lot of towns that participate in stuff like this. There's a lot of pros and cons. So I'm not saying anything's going to come of it. But they're looking into it. So we're just kind of to a viability of it. Chairman McGrath said, so I have a question about that. If they want to form a subcommittee of the Sustainability Committee, do they need to come before this Board to get authorization? Selectman Guessferd replied, I don't believe so. We did one with the Planning Board as well for the zoning the ZORK. So there's no need to come before the Selectmen. Chairman McGrath replied, okay. Well, because if they want to appoint people, we should at least know about it and be advised about the people that they're vetting for that committee. That would be my thought. Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, it is my understanding that the subcommittee would be formed of existing members. The Town Administrator replied, that would be my understanding. Selectman Dumont added, though I don't believe that they can appoint citizen members. Selectman Guessferd replied, okay, well that's good to know, because then they're looking for one citizen. Selectman Morin added I believe that it has to be committee members. Selectman Guessferd replied, that's a good point. Selectman Dumont continued saying at least the ones that I was a part of on Planning and that's how it was always done. The Town Administrator replied they can have other people come in and speak to them, but they can have other people come in and speak if there's a subject matter expert. But as far as the committee goes, the subcommittee is of the committee. Selectman Dumont added, yeah, you can have public input or ask questions or things like that. Selectman Guessferd replied and I think there's a couple people that want to at least, you know, contribute from the public perspective. Yeah. So, okay, that's a good point. Chairman McGrath replied, so, I'm glad I asked the question then. Selectman Guessferd replied, I'm glad you did too.

Okay, so. So beyond that, and the, again, we're continuing to review the Planning Board again, we're continuing to review the Planning Board and the station proposal application, we've moved that forward. We're into a site visit, and I think well, actually, I think the site visit was Saturday, it's not this coming Saturday. But there's a site visit done, and we're now going to get back together probably a month from now, about a month, to continue, you know, continue to work through. There's a couple waivers that they're looking for, things like that. So we're working through that process. We've had two sets of public input already. So the public has had an opportunity on a couple of occasions to make comments. And it is, you know, it is a controversial application just in terms of what it represents. But we're going through the due diligence of working through it, making sure that we make the right decision.

Chairman McGrath said, so I have a question for you. Selectman Roy said, can I ask a question, please? To which Chairman McGrath replied, let me ask my question first, Kara. I kind of jumped in ahead of you, so just hold on. The Firefighters' Memorial is on that property, and are they addressing that? And if so, how are they doing it? Selectman Guessferd deferred to Selectman Morin who was the Planning Board representative at the time of the Firefighter Memorial discussion. Selectman Morin said, when this all started, there was an agreement that they would move the Firefighters Memorial to Benson's across from the 9 /11 Memorial. Chairman McGrath replied, oh, okay. Selectman Guessferd added there is a plan, I think, to also just leave a bench there. Selectman Morin added, it's going to stay a park. Yeah, Hammond Park. But the memorial will move. Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, which I think would be beneficial, so people can actually enjoy the memorial, they'll have some more room to go and park and actually, you know....Selectman Guessferd added, it'll be over by the other memorial. In the general area of Benson's. Selectman Dumont added, I think it's a great location, it looks great where it is, but I just think for more enjoyment people will get more out of it at Benson's. Selectman Morin added, you'll be able to hear the memorial service there too. Chairman McGrath said, I just, I, no, I'm not, I'm not forgetting Kara. Um... No, I'm not. I wanted to make sure that that was being addressed and....Selectman Guessferd replied, absolutely, it was part of the discussion last week when we went over this.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said, Selectman Guessferd has there been discussion about the aquifer that runs, I believe it's adjacent to that site? Selectman Guessferd replied yeah, there has been significant discussion about that, that certainly has not gone, I'll say, undiscussed. We have a couple of members of the Board that are passionate about that piece. Again, we've had discussions on it. And I think in the town, when you look at the Master Plan too, the aquifer, the biggest aquifer in town is there, is underneath that site. To which Selectman Roy replied yeah, and that goes into our drinking water, correct? Selectman Guessferd replied, yeah. Yeah, well, no, it goes over to the river, correct? Selectman Dumont replied, our drinking water comes from Litchfield. Selectman Morin replied it comes from Litchfield. The Town Administrator replied it comes from Pennichuck's wells over in Litchfield. Selectman Guessferd replied yeah, so that doesn't go to the drinking water piece town drinking water. Selectman Roy replied, okay, I thought it might have gone to private wells. Selectman Dumont replied nope. Selectman Morin then added, along with that aquifer, the State is a heck of a lot stricter than we are, and they are the ones that are going to approve the. the permits. So they're going to look at this and it's their approval, and they have the say or nay, and we've seen what they can do in the past, so they'll review it and make sure everything is the way it should be, and the water is safe. Selectman Guessferd added, and that's a good point, because that did come up last week as well, is that the State, the EPA, the state boards, they are incredibly strict about this. So they're going to ensure that there's no issue there. Chairman McGrath said, no contamination or. Selectman Guessferd continued speaking saying, when they're building it, they're going to have to get the permits and go through all of that before they put anything in there.

I'll just go to one of my favorite topics and that's our Rec Department. Chrissy Peterson continues to do some really awesome things over there. Senior citizen programming. There's a CPR presentation on 3/19. They'll also cover information on stroke symptoms, et cetera, for seniors. The big upcoming event, though, is the Easter Bunny Waffle Breakfast on the 23rd of March. And I believe it's sold out in eight hours. hours. So some very popular events, we're doing some really good things, and people are attending in droves, I'll say. Adult softball registration is going on. That's always a very popular program in the summertime, both men's and women's. And of course, now is the time when we're getting ready for the summer Rec program. So they're accepting applications for summer counselors. If anybody is interested in

being a coming of counselor, typically look for a lot of young folks to come in and do that. It's a great part time job. That's happening now. So the final thing is Lacrosse is beginning next week. So I think that's it.

Other than that, I just want to echo Selectman Dumont's plea for people to come out. Again, we get typically about 70% or so of the registered voters that come out for the national elections, state elections, primaries. We really encourage you to come out next week. I know it's a long it's a big big ballot this year. There's a lot of warrant articles. Everyone has every household has received a sample ballot. So if you're not sure about what's going to be on there, please review the sample ballot before you get to the voting place, your voting place. Make sure you know where you're voting. And that way, it'll be a lot quicker once you get there. You'll just hopefully know where you're voting. you're going to vote for, and you'll just go down. And it still will probably take you several minutes to go through all of that. But please come out. This is what affects your taxes. This is what affects our town more personally than any other election that we do. So without trying to get on the soapbox too much, I'll jump off. And please, everybody come out and vote. Chairman McGrath replied, I'm planning to.

Selectman Morin: I had no meetings. Con Comm. is next week and Budget Committee has cancelled the meetings for the month.

I just want to echo what Selectman Dumont and Selectman Guessferd said this is the most important vote that affects you the most. Even people that rent in town because if the building owners rent, taxes go up, their rent's going up. So it is very important with everything that we have on the ballot is to get many people to come in and vote as possible on the 12th. Thank you.

Chairman McGrath: I have nothing for this meeting. I'll just echo the voting and how important it is.

10. Remarks by Town Administrator

Chairman McGrath recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia who said So just to echo voting, we'll be at two locations as been the practice. Ward One, will get the Community Center. Ward Two, we'll be at the Alvirne High School. If you're not sure of your ward, you can look on the webpage. But generally, from 111 south, you're voting at the Community Center. If you're north of that, you're voting at Alvirne. The sample ballot and explanations have been mailed to every household. They're also on the town's webpage. So you can click on the webpage. You can see the same document that you received in the mail for some reason you threw it away.

And Town Reports are available. There's a hard copy here. There'll be a hard copy at the polls and it's been loaded onto the webpage so you can look at the town report. And that's all I have.

11. Remarks by School Board

Chairman McGrath recognized School Board Member Gary Gasdia who said All right. Thank you so much. a couple things going on. Kids are back from February vacation. The Strategic Planning Committee is having another, their final public community forum. It is via Zoom or Teams or some virtual method. Tomorrow, March 6th at 1 PM, you can find the link on the District Facebook page for the the website.

Also, I think this is something that I just want to thank our Math Department head and some of the teachers. We're trying out a new program where we're going to be offering virtually after hours math support. So our math scores are not where they want to be, so we're trying to think outside the box a little bit. And one of the things that kids struggle with is we have a lot of academic support in the school. But then they get home and I don't need to tell people, we teach math a little differently now than when,

at least when I went to school, and so even the parents struggle. And so we're going to have from 5 .30 to 7:30 the ability to log on virtually and get some help from our Math Department head and some of our math teachers. And so I hope people take advantage of it and I thank the teachers for doing that. I think it's a great idea.

If anyone needs a mattress, there is a mattress fundraiser on March 10th at Alvirne. They're a good price, and they support a good cause.

Cabaret is March 16th and 17th, tickets are still available.

And I just want to end by saying to Chairman McGrath and Selectman Dumont, good luck on Tuesday. I hope you both do well, and whatever the outcome, thank you for all the service you do. This is, you know, these meetings are what everyone sees, but there's a lot more work that you have to do to prepare and keep things going. And so, whatever the outcome, thank you both for your service over the years. Chairman McGrath replied, thank you for your kind words.

12. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Morin at 7:52 p.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. (m) Consideration of whether to disclose minutes of a nonpublic session due to a change in circumstances under paragraph III. However, any vote on whether to disclose minutes shall take place in public session. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Nonpublic Session was entered at 7:52 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 8:32 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session:

1. Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to hire Troy Marcinkewich for the position of Firefighter/EMT in the Fire Department at the contracted salary 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. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.
2. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to hire Peters Sykes-Clark for the position of Firefighter/EMT in the Fire Department at the contracted salary 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. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.
3. Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to authorize the Fire Chief to hire Matthew Vowels as a Part-Time Provisional Call Firefighter, an unpaid position with no benefits, as recommended by the Fire Chief. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.
4. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to enter into a professional development and mentoring agreement with Municipal Resources Inc. (MRI) for the Fire Department in the not to exceed amount of \$29,850, subject to clarification of travel time. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

5. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to transfer \$15,000 from the Selectmen's Contingency account #5940-298 to Fire Administration account #5410-252, Other Professional Services, to cover the fiscal year 2024 portion of the agreement and to transfer \$14,850 from Selectmen's Contingency account #5940-298 to Fire Administration account #5710-252, Other Professional Services to cover the fiscal year 2025 portion of the agreement. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

6. Selectman Dumont made a motion to adjourn at 8:35p.m. This was seconded by Selectman Guessferd. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. by Selectman Dumont 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



Dave Morin, Vice Chairman



Kara Roy, Selectman



Bob Guessferd, Selectman



Dillon Dumont, Selectman