

## HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### Minutes of the March 25, 2025 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER – by Chairman Guessferd the meeting of March 25, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Deputy Fire Chief, Fran Enos.
3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Bob Guessferd, Dillon Dumont, Dave Morin, Xen Vurgaropoulos and Heidi Jakoby.

Staff/Others: Town Administrator – Roy Sorenson; Fire Chief – Scott Tice; Deputy Fire Chief – Jim Paquette; Deputy Fire Chief – Fran Enos; Town Engineer – Elvis Dhima; Public Works Director – Jay Twardosky; Public Works Supervisor – Jeremy Faulkner; Town Moderator – Paul Inderbitzen; Executive Assistant – Lorrie Weissgarber; Kathryn Griswold – (Conservation Commission nominee)

4. PUBLIC INPUT

James Mills – 118 Bush Hill Road

I live at 118 Bush Hill Road with my lovely wife Kathy who would be here except she's doing a function at UMass/Lowell. But I'm not here for my house lot, I'm here for 120 bush Hill Road which I own by myself which is probably at least the largest or, maybe the absolute largest piece of property that was impacted by Article 22. The first thing I'd like to say is I wish someone had said during deliberations for that, why don't we talk to the land owners who would be impacted by that. There's no more Hudson-Litchfield News. I don't follow the town records to find out what's going on at every meeting. I didn't find out about Article 22 until three days before the election, four days before the election and I went to see the Town Administrator. I might be the only person who's really impacted by you taking away the General 1 and turning it into Rural Residential. I'll cut to the chase. I bought that to feed my firewood business and then later my sawmill business because it's got some of the nicest oak trees which we grow right here. Some of them are the best in New England and maybe everywhere. I probably have cut less than 1% of the trees on that land for the time that I've been there. I never reduced the first lot that I bought, I only added to it and added road fronts to it and then bought Les and Margaret Erbs (?) house next door. Succeeded in putting back together 84 acres of what was a 90 acres farm from Moses Smith who fought in the Civil War out of Hudson. I will also say that in the election 2,285 people voted for that ordinance, that's 12.5% of the registered voters in the town of Hudson. So once again, since I'm one of the few people who really got impacted by that, let me cut to the chase. Over all these years Kathy and I have decided that we don't want houses on it. We have approached the town two times through the Conservation Commission. The first one went forward until all of a sudden it was no longer an issue. The second one went forward long enough for us to get permission from the Selectmen to go with the Conservation Commission to the Selectmen and get an appraisal to find out the value of my land as a buildout and the value of my land as conservation. I was willing to sell the town the back part of my land and put in permanent conservation. It's always been in current use, I've never taken it out and as it said, I've never made it smaller, I've only made it more conforming. That second one failed in a secret meeting, an executive session, and I have never been able to get the reason why. Kathy and I would really like to preserve the back of the land. So our, let me throw in a couple of other things. It was a one acre, 100 foot frontage land when I bought it. It was a lot of record so it predated zoning, then it became a two acre, 200 foot road frontage and if I was looking to make money off of it as a development that cut that in half. Then the 400 foot sight distance passed so it became hard to even to get road approval to do any kind of subdivision and then the 1000 foot cul de sac came in, and I understand that, that's a Fire Department thing, but all those have taken the economic value to someone else for my land and reduced it. So we have come to the point where we'd love to preserve the back of it, but I'd like to keep the front where I run my saw mill and my firewood operation, and I'd like to be able to retire because I'm 73 now. I don't know if I can find somebody who just wants to run the saw mill, I'm grandfathered for that. But, we always thought that if we can find somebody to buy the back for short money for conservation, I could always sell the front to a contractor, a concrete guy, a wood guy, a tree guy. I have permission to run a saw mill and a firewood processor. You're not going to get

that in southern New Hampshire anywhere now. So my point is I think you've restricted me, restricted me. But now that it's only single family houses, which we don't even want in the first place, who am I going to sell it to? Have you in fact restricted my ability to enjoy, have quiet enjoyment to my property?

Chairman Guessferd: OK. I don't think we have any answers right now, sir, but I appreciate you coming.

James Mills: This is my introduction, that's all I wanted.

Selectman Dumont: Can I offer a clarification? So just for clarification purposes, the Selectboard doesn't handle land use regulations or zoning ordinances. Just wanted to make sure you're aware. Whether or not this Board was for or against that, we had no say in that going to the ballot.

James Mills: This is just my introduction. When I talked to the Town Administrator he said this might be the best way to just start the conversation that I would like to...

Selectman Dumont: And I would agree. The best place to air it out and get things rolling, and I would agree with you.

Selectman Morin: I'm the new liaison for the Conservation Commission, I could tell you I've never heard that about your property being approached for Conservation Committee. That is, so how long ago was it?

James Mills: That last one was (inaudible) you were not on the Conservation Commission at that time.

Selectman Morin: If you would like to come to a Conservation meeting and have that discussion again, you're welcome.

James Mills: Sure.

Selectman Morin: And, we can take it up.

Chairman Guessferd: When's the next meeting? April 14<sup>th</sup>.

James Mills: Honestly, it's one of the nicest pieces of property in town. It's an even-aged 105 year old red oak forest.

Chairman Guessferd: This is off Bush Hill, right?

James Mills: Yes. It's 118 and 120 Bush Hill Road. I'm the guy with the logs in the driveway at the top of where you changed the road.

Chairman Guessferd: Oh, OK. Thank you. OK, is there anyone else who would like to provide public input? Mr. Bento.

Jerry Bento – 7 Muldoon Dr.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, good evening everyone. My name is Jerome Bento and myself and my family have lived at 7 Muldoon Drive for over 37 years. First, let me start by thanking Ms. Roy for her years of service to the Town of Hudson. Also, let me congratulate Selectman Guessferd on his reelection and Selectman Vurgaropulos on his election to the Select Board. My request of the Board tonight and throughout the remainder of your term is to please look past what divides you and work toward what can bring us together as a town. The other side is not always wrong, nor right for that matter. Compromise will bring us together. To be a fully functional Board, it is not necessary for you to like each other, just that you respect each other and each other's opinions. I ask this Board that when it comes time for liaison assignments that you 'mix it up'. Different eyes bring different perspectives that could be valuable to the Town both for now and the future. Step out of your comfort zone and let's have different assignments for the coming year. I also ask this Board to publicly share at your next meeting (April 8th) a layman's summary of the 75-page Auditors' Report that was in this year's Annual Report. I have reviewed the report, and I see words and phrases like, assets not recorded, significant deficiencies in internal control, weaknesses in the formal documentation of internal controls to name a few items of concern for me. It is not my job to understand these items, but it was the responsibility of the Selectboard that was seated after the report was issued to publicly share with the Town. Do not rely on the Social Media Key Board warriors to provide interpretation and assumptions. I also urge the Board to fill the open Assistant Town Administrator position as soon as possible with an experienced administrator who also has experience with Human Resources. I am concerned that employee needs are not being met and that is adding to the high turnover. There will always be turnover as not as many people stay with a company for their complete work life, but every vacancy creates gaps in service levels and potentially higher costs during the hiring and training process. I was disappointed in the last budget cycle to learn the DPW had trucks that were in a serious state of decay. How did we get to that point where we are jeopardizing staff and service levels with deficient equipment? During that Budget cycle we also heard about some potential deficiencies at the Robinson Road Fire Station that will require a study. I did check the Infrastructure Web Site under the Selectboard Tab and there was no mention of any studies done of the DPW or the Fire Department. Although this Board has not supported a complete infrastructure study, I can't help

but feel there are more lacking items that will surprise the voters without a completed infrastructure study. This Town must do more planning for the future. Another item I would like to see is published monthly reports from each department. The Board would determine if they were required for the 1st or 2nd meeting of the month, but all reports would be published at the same time. They would be part of consent items so that a Board member or the public can review and ask questions when appropriate. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime if you would like input from a long-time resident. I will send this statement to all Selectboard Members and the Administrative Assistant for inclusion in tonight's meeting minutes. Thank you for your time tonight.

Chairman Guessferd: Thank you for coming, appreciate it.

Barbara Blue – 11 Barbara Lane

I've lived in Hudson for many, many years and the reason I'm here tonight is to ask you to consider not having our Hudson Police officers assist ICE in detaining individuals in Hudson. I'm concerned about the shortage of Hudson police officers and being able to perform their duties and protect the residents of Hudson. Working with ICE would take our police officers away from performing their normal duties and we have enough issues in Hudson to keep our officers busy without adding further duties working with ICE. Thank you.

Chairman Guessferd: Thank you. On that topic we do have some input, some public input that was, I just figured this is probably the appropriate time to do that. [resident sits at the table] And, we'll get you after this hold on. I see you. So we did have some public input and I will read it into the minutes and we will have that part of the minutes.

Alejandro Urrutia – 9 Campbell Street [sent letter to be read into minutes]

Dear members of the Hudson Board of Selectmen and Chief of Police Tad Dionne. I plan to attend today's Board of Selectmen meeting, but I will probably not be able to get there on time for the public input portion. I would like you to read during public input and include the following statement in the minutes. Respectfully, I want to ask the board of selectmen not to add to the police department's unnecessary obligation to enforce immigration law because that could lead to a financial burden and, most importantly, a reduction of public trust. The Hudson Police Department, besides the Law enforcement and protection work of our community, offers many programs that have become essential to Hudson despite the limited resources the Hudson Police already have. Hudson Law enforcement personnel are facing complex challenges, interacting with individuals who suffer from mental health issues, substance abuse, responding to domestic violence, and, of course, crimes and more, all complex realities to be addressed daily despite constrained resources. Detention, transportation, and legal compliance with immigration enforcement costs could stretch budgets further, potentially diverting funds from community-based policing initiatives and crime prevention programs, on top of the Hudson Police's primary mission of keeping our communities safe. When law enforcement agencies are perceived as extensions of federal immigration authorities, the fear of deportation may prevent individuals from engaging with the police. As a result, criminal activity may go unchecked, putting entire communities at risk. This breakdown in trust can make it more difficult to solve crimes and ensure community safety. Victims of domestic violence, for example, may hesitate to seek help for fear of deportation, which could lead to an increase in unreported cases of abuse, violence, and crimes in general. I do not want to end this letter without expressing my gratitude to the Hudson Police Department for all they do for our town. Sincerely, Alejandro Urrutia.

Chairman Guessferd: All members of the Board have a copy of this and it will appear as part of the minutes. Anybody else like to provide public input? Yes, come on up.

Jean Sereno – 118 Robinson Road

If you knew how vain I was you would know how important this is. Because I'm missing a tooth and I'm black and blue from falling down. But, this is important. I will be brief. I would like to put forth a modest proposal. May we as a duly constituted town of Hudson, declare our sacred sovereignty and refuse to join this program... [Chairman asks for name and address] I've lived in Hudson for over 50 years. We had a farm before that, 75 years ago. I'm very nervous. I would like to put forth a modest proposal. May we as a duly constituted town of Hudson, declare our sacred sovereignty and refuse to join in the program that this administration in Washington wishes to perpetrate. No one person should be forced to forego his or her conscience or religious beliefs in order to take away

another's right to be considered fully (inaudible) In Hudson all these people of good conscience and righteousness will protect and guard the lives and safety of all who is herewith. Be it U.S. citizens or those desires of becoming U.S. citizens. And to not bow down to the desires of those who would separate us that all people of the town of Hudson be treated as fully human beings by their nature and that all are created equal. You get my drift. And you have more power than you think you do. A righteous person has an awful lot of power and if we can change the law, if we need to change a law we, if there are enough of us we can. OK? Do you have any questions? Does anybody have any questions?

Chairman Guessferd: No, thank you for coming though and providing that input.

Jean Sereno: I hope you consider this proclamation as a law in Hudson. Because we are a sovereign town, duly constituted town. We can make our own laws. Some of us should do that.

Chairman Guessferd: OK, thank you. Have a very nice evening. Is there anyone else out there who would like to provide some public input? Mr. Crowley come forward please.

James Crowley – 4 Fairway Drive

I've lived at 4 Fairway Drive for 36 years. My input will be a little different than what you've heard. Before I start, I want everyone to know, without any doubts, absolutely no one has approached me to tell you or say anything about the following. I just feel it is something necessary and I should publically do. Awhile back I approached the Board of Selectmen with concerns about permitting procedures. Today I wish to publically apologize to the Fire Chief and the personnel of Inspectional Services for not reaching out to them first. I also regret any distress my actions may have caused others by not involving them in the process. I want to acknowledge professionalism and thoroughness of the Fire Chief in addressing my concerns. I am genuinely grateful for his prompt response and dedication. While I cannot promise I will never make mistakes in protocol in the future, I will try harder to follow appropriate and established channels of communication in Hudson government. Together and united we can help make Hudson the best place to live in New Hampshire. As a community, we may occasionally disagree on various matters. However, it's important that we strive to do so respectfully. When we make mistakes, admitting them is the first step towards resolution. Let's aim to move forward with a handshake and a smile, united in our shared goal of making Hudson better. Finally, I want to thank the Board of Selectmen for allowing me this opportunity to speak as well as express my deep appreciation for all the dedicated individuals working in Hudson's department. Thank you.

Chairman Guessferd: Thank you for coming forward with that. Is there anyone else in the audience who would like to make any public input statements? Seeing no more, we will move on.

## 5. RECOGNITION, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

### A. Resignation

#### 1) Benson Park Committee – Judy Brouillette

- Vacancy to expire April 2028

Chairman Guessferd: I need a motion to accept the resignation.

Selectman Morin: Second.

Selectman Dumont: I just want to say first that I sat on the Benson Park Committee while she was on there. Fantastic member, did a lot of work. Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to accept the resignation of Judy Brouillette from the Benson Park Committee with the Board's thanks and appreciation to Judy. Motion carried, 5-0.

Selectman Jakoby: I just have a question. So, it's April 2028, not 27?

Chairman Guessferd: That's what it says.

Selectman Jakoby: On my copy it says 27.

Selectman Dumont: I also have the same.

Lorrie Weissgarber: It was changed.

Selectman Jakoby: So, it's 2028.

Chairman Guessferd: Oh, it made it seem kind of weird there was over three years from now. But, I was just reading what was there, so.

Selectman Jakoby: So, it's 2028?

Chairman Guessferd: 2027. It makes more sense.

B. Appointments

- 1) Benson Park Committee – Jake Beauchemin, incumbent seeking member position
  - Two (2) member vacancies to expire April 2026
  - Two (2) member vacancies to expire April 2028
  - One (1) alternate vacancy to expire April 2028

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to appoint Jake Beauchemin as a member of the Benson Park Committee with a term to expire April 2028. Motion carried, 5-0.

- 2) Sustainability Committee – Robert Larson, incumbent seeking member position
  - Two (2) member vacancies to expire April 2028
  - One (1) alternate vacancy to expire April 2027
  - One (1) alternate vacancy to expire April 2028

Selectman Dumont: As being the liaison, is there any of you that can speak to him about how he's been as far as the meetings go?

Chairman Guessferd: I've really had no issues.

Selectman Dumont: I know he's one of the newer ones that was appointed on there, I think he took a shorter term to see how it went.

Chairman Guessferd: He did. What I can say is that the newer members have really made some contributions. So I feel pretty good about, you know, I'll say the way they're staffing that committee. There's some very energetic ...

Selectman Jakoby: I just happened to be at the meeting last night because I got out of School Board early. Everyone was very precipitatory and very energetic and was making some really good plans for the future. I'm pretty sure he was there as well.

Chairman Guessferd: Yes, I agree as well. That's been my history with them as well.

Selectman Jakoby: Because they have like a full board. It was a lot of people.

Selectman Dumont: There is a lot of people. And, I caught the Alvirne presentation, but I didn't get to hear him speak so I wasn't sure...

Selectman Jakoby: It was later.

Chairman Guessferd: Yes I think it would be a benefit to him, to retain his position.

Selectman Dumont: Alright, thank you.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to appoint Robert Larson as a member of the Sustainability Committee with a term to expire April 2028. Motion carried, 5-0.

- 3) Municipal Utility Committee – Dan O'Brien, incumbent seeking member position
  - Two (2) member vacancies to expire April 2028
  - One (1) alternate vacancy to expire April 2028

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont, to appoint Dan O'Brien as a member of the Municipal Utility Committee with a term to expire April 2028. Motion carried, 5-0.

C. Nomination

- 2) Conservation Commission – Kathryn M. Griswold, seeking member position
  - One (1) member vacancy to expire December 2026
  - One (1) alternate vacancy to expire December 2025

Chairman Guessferd: I'm assuming you would like the member vacancy to expire next year in December. Typically what happens just so you, you get a chance to talk to us a little bit, tell us a little bit about why you want to be on the committee. Any related experience, that sort of thing. We will take it under advisement and then at the next meeting we will make a decision. You don't have to be here for that meeting, you can if you want. We'd love to have more people, the merrier. So, I'll leave it to you to give us a little bit of kind of a summary.



Kathryn Griswold: I moved to Hudson in September. I have been active in the Conservation Commission other than work days and I'm going to their meetings already. My background is in engineering and I also have an MBA in marketing and management and I am active on their work days. Very concerned about conserving and preserving the wetlands around here and improvements to our public areas where people can enjoy these outdoor spaces. They're every important to me and that's why I want to be involved.

Chairman Guessferd: Excellent. Does anybody have any questions or comments?

Selectman Morin: I just have a comment. She has attended several of our meetings and she has had good input during the meetings and even after the meeting we've had conversations and she's had conversations with the Board. I think she'll do very well.

Chairman Guessferd: Excellent. Anybody else? It was really nice to see you step forward especially of being a new member of the town. We'd love to have you, we'll see what we decide next time. But, it's always exciting when we have new citizens come in and volunteer for committees. So, thank you very much for doing that.

Selectman Jakoby: And I just wanted to thank you for taking the initiative and attending meetings and talking with the members and then applying. I think that's really important to know what that committee is about before you apply. So thank you.

Chairman Guessferd: OK, so at this point you can either stay and be enthralled by the rest of the meeting or you can choose to go home and do something a little less exciting. Yes, I just want to make a comment here about we kind of talk through the different member vacancies that are available. And the reason that we do that is because like in certain places we have five openings. And, we're trying always to get new people to come in, as yourself, and volunteer for these positions. We'd love to have full committees and it just makes the town better, it gives more diversity to our membership of the committees and does a lot of different opinions. The more people, the more opinions, more input, the better decisions that we make. So that's what we're looking for and we appreciate that. So we're moving on to consent items.

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

## 6. CONSENT ITEMS

### A. Assessing Items

- 1) Solar Exemptions: 31 Musquash Rd. – map 224/lot 010; 37 Rolling Woods Dr. – map 135/lot 035; 81 Dracut Rd. – map 248/lot 003; 1 Lucier park Dr. – map 247/lot 045/ sub 005; 148 Wason Rd. – map 200/lot 030; 23 Tamarack St. – map 203/lot 082; 6 Forest Rd. – map 138/lot 008; 25 Derry St. – map 174/lot 079/sub 002.
- 2) Elderly Exemptions: 150 Belknap Rd. – map 184/lot 020; 68 Glen Dr. – map 204/lot 032.
- 3) Disabled Exemption Application: 25 Derry St. – map 174/lot 079/sub 002.
- 4) Disabled Veteran Tax Credit: 1 Crestwood Dr. – map 248/lot 091.
- 5) Veteran Tax Credits: 20 Robin Dr. – map 148/lot 090; 49 Oblate Dr. – map 216/lot 014/sub 044.
- 6) All Veterans' Tax Credit/Solar Exemption: 130B Greeley St. – map 140/lot 048/sub 002.
- 7) All Veterans Tax Credit: 22 Hawkview Rd., – map 187/lot 009; 206 Pheasant Run – map 168/lot 068/sub 006; 106 Musquash Rd. – map 242/lot 056.
- 8) 2024 Property Tax Abatement Application: Map 247 Lot 137 – 19 Sand Hill Road.
- 9) 2024 Property Tax Abatement Application: Map 173 Lot 33 – 53 Derry Street.

### B. Water/Sewer Items - None

### B. Licenses & Permits & Policies

- 1) Raffle Permit – American Legion Women's Auxiliary

**C. Donations**

- 1) Police – Judy Laferriere-Mank, The Bar

**D. Acceptance of Minutes**

- 1) March 4, 2025

**F. Calendar**

3/25	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room
3/26	7:00	Planning Board	Buxton Meeting Room
3/27	1:00	Trustees of the Trust Fund	Buxton Meeting Room
3/27	7:00	Zoning Board of Adjustment	Buxton Meeting Room
4/2	7:00	Budget Committee	Buxton Meeting Room
4/8	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room

**7. OLD BUSINESS****A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on March 4, 2025**

- 1) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to authorize the Director of Community Media to promote Cameron Macdonald to a full-time Production Coordinator at \$25.21, (step 1), effective March 23, 2025. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 2) Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to accept the Director of Community Media, Mike Johnson's, proposed staff restructure of the current organizational chart. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 3) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to authorize the Director of Community Media to promote Mike Pilon to a full-time Production Coordinator at \$25.21, (step 1), effective March 23, 2025. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 4) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont, to terminate the employment of Probationary Firefighter/AEMT Corey McLaughlin effective 0800 on March 25, 2025 if he has not successfully fulfilled the requirements of his probation, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 5) Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to terminate the employment of Probationary Firefighter/AEMT Peter Sykes-Clark effective 0800 on March 25, 2025 if he has not successfully fulfilled the requirements of his probation, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 6) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont, to terminate the employment of Probationary Firefighter/EMT Christopher Penny effective March 8, 2025 with the understanding that he can reapply at a later time, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 7) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy, to authorize the Public Works Director to hire Christopher Koziol as a full-time Truck Driver/Laborer at \$24.25 per hour (grade 8, step 1) in accordance with Teamsters Local #633, effective March 16, 2025. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 8) Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to seal the March 4, 2025 minutes. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 9) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont, to adjourn at 10:05 p.m. Motion carried, 5-0.

**B. 9 Industrial drive Property, Status Update – Engineering/Decision**

Chairman Guessferd recognizes Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima.

Elvis Dhima: Thank you Mr. Chairman, good evening everyone. Let me see if I can get this up and running real quick [PowerPoint presentation]. As you recall we talked about 9 Industrial Drive and what we were doing out there. Let me get this up and running. It's just the final version of what you've seen. So, on the last meeting we talked about 9

Industrial Drive. As you recall, you as a Board decided to utilize an area of the parking area for a lease. That's already in place, we've got our first payment, it's working out pretty good. And what we're looking for is utilizing the rest of the site, which is this area right here, to see if there's anything we can do to basically provide another area for the community members to enjoy. So, what we came up with was additional parking area here, four pickleball courts. Another area that can be utilized for whatever we decide to do. This is a basketball court, two tennis courts and the very end we have a community garden. And then, we own a parcel adjacent to this one and we can utilize it for additional water splash area, or we can use it for a playground, things of that sort. So, this is basically a Master Plan if the Town wants to pursue this long-term five, ten years down the road. What we're trying to do is get it started and these are some of the renderings that Mr. Sullivan did, the Zoning Administrator. This is kind of like a street view. Basically, it's what it looks like, the renderings show five pickleball courts, but looking at the estimates and what we can raise, we're going to actually pursue four pickleball courts under phase one. And as we move forward I'll show you what we're trying to do. This is the main entrance, this is the area we're leasing right now for the CDL licenses and on the left is going to be parking spaces and the rest of the park we're trying to do. In a nutshell this is basically phase one right here if you follow the mouse, is the four pickleball court, they're going to be within a fenced area, eight feet. And then we're going to try to utilize this parking area as well. The pickleball court is going to be paved, parking area will not, it's going to be assessable to everyone. This a shot of the two pickleball courts, with the five of them. As I said we're going to probably only do four, which is this one, this one, this, and these two right here. We're going to have portable potties there, we're going to have a regular and a handicapped one. This is a shot to the playground, as I said earlier, another playground. These are very nice but very expensive, obviously. But again, we're talking about a Master Plan, this is something this Board or the next can take it to the next level they wish to do. And this town, what seems to work is slow and steady wins the race so we can do a little bit at a time. As is said, our phase one is just four pickleball courts and another feature right here that we can use at the park. Corn hole courts, again, another shot looking at the playground. Another shot of the pickleball court, this a basketball court. Another nice feature, this will be phase two. Then we're looking at the tennis courts further down, they'll be phase three. Another shot of the tennis courts. In the background here you're looking at the community garden that we talked about at our last meeting. Adjacent to it we would have parking area, so it would be easier for everyone to get access to it including handicapped parking spaces as well. Another shot of it, we've got a shed over here. Reeds Ferry was kind enough to donate one for us, an eight by ten so we've got that already locked in, very nice of them. We're going to make if official hopefully after this meeting. Again, another shot, the community garden. Another shot of the community garden. And then this is Mr. Sorenson here with his family hanging out. [laughter] Telling everyone this was his idea, thank God. I'm just kidding. And that's me telling that story with my family, it's not him. And overall a nice place to basically provide the community a place to gather. As you all know, we're having an issue with the existing pickleball court. Public Works has done an outstanding job trying to maintain it but, it's time to either fix it or replace it. So, I think this will be a perfect opportunity. The reason I'm in front of you tonight is to basically kind of bring this back to a reality project that we can do. The project out there is not going to as nice as what it shows on the rendering but, it's going to be pretty close. And basically, we have a pre-commitment of \$101,000 from different businesses in town. We have \$13,000 available for recreational use. The project looks to be about \$104,000 by scaling back from five pickleball courts to four. We have some official quotes to have someone come in and do the painting of those courts, install the nets and things of that sort. Those are the things we can't do in-house but, as far as the grading, the paving, site work, we can work with the side contractors and obviously the Public Works is going to be doing most of the work. I think we're ready to basically move forward with an actually project here. So, with that said I'd like to have your blessing tonight to authorize staff to move forward with coordinating donations from different businesses coming from the Board making their donations in the form a cash donation, labor, materials, hybrid combination and see how we can make this work. It's going to be one of its kind, I don't think we've done one of these, ever. So, it's going to be an interesting project and a little bit of a different approach. Like a partnership between different businesses. So, with that said, I'll take any questions you might have and see which way you would like to go.

Chairman Guessferd: Board members?

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I think this is a great idea working with the community and reaching out to the other businesses, so thank you for that. For phase one, do we an estimated time line? Approximately how long it will take?



Elvis Dhima: It all depends on what the schedule for the Public Works is going to look like, because they're going to do most of the side work. It's going to be a fill-job for them if you want to consider that. What we don't want to do is, and Jay you can jump in here if you'd like to. But, what we don't envision is basically pulling crews off from the paving program we have for the year to do this. We also don't want to be fighting mud out there, either. I can tell you we'll be bringing other contractors as well but, Jay and Public Works Director and his crew will go on out there to prep the site first and then we can do stuff. But, I'll Jay talk about that.

Jay Twardosky: Like he said, it's just going to be a, for now, it's going to be a fill-in once the ground dries up in between town-wide paving and some other projects that we have going on in town along with fixing road sides and we have a couple other commitments we're working on right now. So, in between rain storms and it can get pretty muddy over at that site at the moment until we get some descent material in there.

Elvis Dhima: We would like to have it usable by the fall. Let's just put it that way. We can't tell you exactly when we're going to finish it, but it would be nice to have a ribbon ceremony there with a nice board out there to who it's dedicated to. We should have to decide at some point as we get going. And then a nice plaque for the people that actually donated to make this happen. So, ideally we'd like to see something there that can be utilized probably sometime in September. That's what I'm shooting for, hopefully I'm not way out of whack here but, that would be nice. I mean it makes no sense to finish this in December and use it next year, you know what I mean? It should be something we should be using at least for a little bit. We'll figure it out. It's going to be, as I said, we'll see what the weather looks like but, that's what we're shooting for. Hopefully if we get the green light and get the money, that's going to be the biggest thing. So a lot of people pre-committed, are they going to come through or not? That's the other thing, if you don't have the money, you don't have a project. So, I'm hoping that we can get the financial commitment from everyone within a month and then we can start looking at the schedule probably sometime in late April, early May. That's what I'm hoping for. It gives us about two three months to complete this.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Thank you.

Chairman Guessferd: Any further questions or comments?

Selectman Jakoby: I just wanted to clarify. So, we have to authorize and coordinate the donations, is one part of the motion that I see before us. And the other part is to initiate a construction schedule. Is that construction schedule just for DPW to begin?

Elvis Dhima: Yes, yes.

Selectman Jakoby: Because any of the donations have to be approved and even if they're in kind. Is that correct?

Elvis Dhima: Everything, that is right....

Selectman Jakoby: ... so the construction schedule is only for DPW to move forward and get rid of the mud.

Elvis Dhima: Basically what we like to do is make sure that the Board understands this is going to take a commitment from Public Works. So if Public Works is basically in a position where they're like we cannot do this job because we're working here then you guys all know why. So I think it's in the open, this is going to take resources from us and now you're basically understanding that if we have some delays in other projects is because we're trying to do this one that's all. And it doesn't get lost into his construction schedule.

Jay Twardosky: Roads and safety always take precedence so if we get bad storms and we have to knock off that to fix roads, that's just how it's going to be.

Chairman Guessferd: Right but the schedule we put together, you put together, will be an optimal schedule if things work out well.

Elvis Dhima: If he has a day that he has here and someone asks question why they're out there not doing that, we know why is because you as a Board already authorized him to start working on it and start the construction.

Chairman Guessferd: When do you envision coming back?

Elvis Dhima: I'm hoping within the next meeting I'm going to have commitments either in writing or the business is coming in front of you and start basically putting forward what they're willing to participate in. I'll work it in the next meeting.

Selectman Dumont: So I think it's great but, I've got to be honest, I think there's going to be more costs associated here and I'd like to know...

Elvis Dhima: And I have them.

Selectman Dumont: What those are. And also, for Jay at DPW, I know you're saying for fill-in days but as I understand it you don't get many of those. Is there any, I'll just be blunt, I don't want to see any overtime spent on this. I don't want to see anything increasing. Something like this is nice to have but, we've heard it from the voters time and time again, how we need to be more frugal.

Jay Twardosky: There's no overtime going into these projects. Overtime is only for emergency purposes and we have to unfortunately put some in the town-wide paving to work with contractors or not. But, stuff like this is not overtime work whatsoever.

Selectman Dumont: Because you guys a lot of stuff to obviously get done and I know you know that but I just want to make sure my point is clear. What you do day to day is priority. This, something fun like this, while it may be nice to have, is not a top tier priority in my mind.

Jay Twardosky: Staff levels also dictate it. We're not a full staff and if we can't get to full staff then it's definitely going to see postponements or might have to reach out for some more contractors come in and help out.

Selectman Jakoby: So to your point and that's where I was trying to head. I would like to get a better idea of the number of hours this particular project would take by DPW. Because that's my concern is between the paving and everything that has to get done. You know, what is the cost of this project to actually have it done within our departments? And I think fill-ins are nice but, I don't know, I just think there's a lot out there for you guys that you're working on.

Elvis Dhima: So just to have everyone understand what they're going to be doing versus what some of the contractors are going to be doing. Public Works is going to prepare the site, get some of the stuff out, prep the rough grading but as far as the finished grade, might be done by different contractor as far as the pavement goes, be done by a different contractor. As far as the painting on the courts, will be done by different contractor. As far as the fencing goes, will be done by different contractor. So, they will be involved, there will be coordination but, they're not doing 100% of the work.

Selectman Jakoby: Right. It was just an idea of like is it 1,000 hours, is it ... 100 hours? I guess that's what I would like to just get a ball park.

Elvis Dhima: No, it's not.

Jay Twardosky: We're doing the rough site work. Other than hauling material in or out it'll, for the most part, it's just going to be a couple of guys over there an operator and a truck driver/laborer. It's really not going to be that invasive as far as the rough work goes. There's a lot of material on site to move around and there will be some hauling in but, for the most part, it's just going to be a couple of employees and occasionally we'll have to put some more staff onto it.

Elvis Dhima: Would you say 200 hours? Between 150-200 hours?

Jay Twardosky: I would say that, yes. We've been involved with much bigger projects and we've managed to get everything done. We make things work.

Selectman Jakoby: And I do understand you've done similar things at various schools and you know, you've done various projects.

Elvis Dhima: As far as the cost goes, Selectman Dumont, we did look into it and we talked a bit about internally the two costs that we see there is the, first one, is the port-o-potties. You will be required to rent a regular port-o-potty and a handicapped. If there is a bid between \$140 to \$200. \$180 but we're looking at \$200 so, \$200 per unit times two is \$400, you're looking at about \$4,800 a year. If it's for the year, but you and I both know we're not going to be having them during the winter. So, if it's nine months you're looking at about \$4,000 a year. The other cost you're going to have is that even though you're going to have hopefully, the funds to put the capital in for this, you're looking at something between \$15,000-\$20,000 every ten years to replace the nets, the paint and things to that sort. Maybe minor, hopefully, minor repairs to the internal nets and fences between the pickleball courts. So if you're looking at \$20,000 over ten years, you're looking at another \$2,000 per year. So your costs related to maintaining this is about \$6,000 a year if you choose to move forward.

Selectman Dumont: Does that include a gentleman from Parks and Recs going out there doing, I'd assume you'd have to have someone going out there to do a clean-up. There's going to be trash, there's going to be some vandalism, I mean these things all happen.

Jay Twardosky: Correct, but that's all on regular time with the parks.

Selectman Dumont: So, no increase that you can see even with the new park?

Jay Twardosky: No. We don't plan on working and we will not work any overtime on parks.

Selectman Dumont: Maybe this would also answer that because my follow-up to that is the plan for the old pickleball park, if this goes through, are we eliminating that? I mean what do you envision going on over there? Are we fixing that one to be used? Obviously if that gets eliminated that frees up time for Parks and Recs to be focused on this one. Not advocating for that but I can see how that would be a little bit easier of a pill to swallow as from that logic perspective.

Jay Twardosky: So, I don't have an answer to that as far as what we're going to do with it. I would assume we're going to keep it still as pickleball courts or a tennis court.

Selectman Dumont: It needs a new surface currently, right?

Jay Twardosky: The surface needs help. It's poured concrete, there's some cracks in it. You know it does need some help at this point. Everything else is in pretty good shape over there. It's just some cracking on the surface.

Selectman Morin: I fully agree with Selectman Dumont's request about the overtime. But, having worked on two major projects with Public Works in the past, the Firefighters Memorial and the Nine-Eleven Memorial, they got it all done and still completed their normal jobs. Cost, everything we do is cost. What we've got to take in effect is what this is going to do for our residents and what it's going to provide them that we don't have now. And I see once we can incorporate this whole park, this is something for everybody in this town. And I think this is very important to do because we do not have this. And our kids need it, the seniors definitely need it, that's how this started because they came to us and wanted the other one fixed. I understand the cost, I know the Public Works can get this done, I've seen them do it myself, I've seen them do other projects. So, I have no concerns on it. Yeah, it's going to cost us a little bit more but we already have lawn crews and everything to take care of that. We've put that into their schedule, it'll be done during the daytime. I think we should move forward with this.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I'm looking at the picture, and I haven't actually been out to this area yet. Is this an accurate picture? Is it all bare out there, is there any reclaimable materials that we can use on a different project later on down the line?

Elvis Dhima: There's nothing there we can utilize for this project. There's material there but it's not for being reused for this particular project.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: OK, so there's nothing reclaimable? Like even if we pull it off site?

Jay Twardosky: It's basically fill. Large rocks and fill.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: OK.

Jay Twardosky: If we pull it off this site we'd be storing it up at the landfill.

Selectman Morin: This is a very large asbestos site.

Chairman Guessferd: It was one of the big reasons why it took so long for the folks that were going to build something there before to end up not doing it. All of that activity took a lot of time there was some issues and so, it just has been sitting there. So now, we now have a use for it that will benefit everyone.

Selectman Dumont: And also anything on top of that cap is an improvement to as to what is there. And I do agree with Selectman Morin, things like this are important for the town. I was just trying to think long-term. Everybody wants to know what things are going to cost. And I always think its best just air those things out. My final thing with that and actually, you brought it up, is something for the town. I don't know what anybody's thoughts are and I'm not going one way or the other, but, has there been any conversation over resident's only? Or, is this going to be open to everybody else?

Elvis Dhima: You took federal money to do, to cap the site. That was a brown field so you're required to leave this open to everyone.

Selectman Dumont: That's what I was wondering. And because I will say, my only thing that makes me a little cautious with that is we run into certain issues with Benson's Park because that's very similar. We're not able to restrict that over there and there are problems that are associated with that.

Elvis Dhima: I think the Director of Rec can dictate the time to who can go when, it's not going to be like people waiting in line to get in, you have to go through a person that works for the town. It's not, I'm just going to wait there until I get a turn. No, you're going to have to go through staff to make sure that you have a spot to get there. But, as far as restriction to just that, I told it to everyone. The good news is you cannot blame yourself because it happened before your time. So we can blame the previous Board of Selectmen for doing such a thing. And the good news is it was before my time, too, so even better. When you take federal money there's certain commitments. You're aware that there's restrictions for access to Merrill Park. There is restrictions to Benson Park. Those restriction with this particular site, we found out through Robinson Pond project that we were trying to do. Same thing. We closed it to residents only, the beach area. We found out that wasn't legal. So, anyway it's just one of those things. This particular case to answer your answer, it will have to be open to everyone. But, it's going to be regulated by town staff. It's not free for all, come in whenever, do whatever you want. There's going to be some rules in place.

Selectman Dumont: I appreciate that. Just as we were talking it's come up with other parks and other things (inaudible) would ask the question so, hopefully if anybody's watching they'll hear the answer.

Selectman Jakoby: And I just want to reiterate that those are things that as they come up we can always revisit different opportunities. Because I know when we were talking about the Robinson Pond, that you know, there's different ways to restrict parking if it's overloaded and things like that. I think it's all a work in progress and we'll do our best to the public to make ensure that it's being used as often as it can and as well as it can.

Elvis Dhima: It's all we can do, right?

Selectman Dumont: Just to clarify on that point. That grant allowed us to do a gate and to monitor parking and to charge that. This type of federal money doesn't allow you, doesn't even leave that open for an option, correct?

Elvis Dhima: Yes, the Robinson's Pond is, we killed that, right? The voters did not vote for it so I had to make the tough call and call the grant people telling them we're out, had to pull the plug in the last minute. This one, you can put a gate there, absolutely here, as well. You don't have to leave it open, it's a restricted area. It's just you have to provide access to the people that do need access to it.

Selectman Dumont: Correct. The gate that we were talking about at Robinson you were, you know, a resident paid X amount and we were able to charge 3X as much. That we cannot do at this site.

Elvis Dhima: Not that I'm aware of, no. I have to check because it's a little different. That was a state thing, state park, different funding.

Selectman Dumont: Different funding, they had different things that came with it. That's why I was curious.

Elvis Dhima: That was a park, this is not, I think, this is more like a rec area. But, to your point maybe we can, if this becomes a reality, and we end up going with phase one, you can look into, if you can set up a structure we can do the research.

Selectman Dumont: If that's beneficial that's a big difference.

Elvis Dhima: I think you can charge people for the services. I think, Manchester does it, I think I've heard, and I can bring that detailed information about that on the next meeting or when we finally have a project here. That there's a group of people that can actually pay to get access to the site for certain hours. And then other ones are as available. But if you're paying a certain fee to have access to certain days or certain hours, maybe we can raise money to do the maintenance.

Chairman Guessferd: For example, league fees.

Elvis Dhima: That's right. So I want to come in from nine to noon and I'm willing to pay a fee to have that window locked. I don't see a problem with that and maybe those fees can be utilized offset the long term. So, I think Manchester does it, I think they have a special contract with a group of people that do pickleball courts. But, you're not preventing everyone from not getting access to this site. You know, you just simply, they have like the VIP access, so if you want to call it that. Those are things that we can explore, again, if this becomes a reality the biggest thing will be how much of that \$101,000 are we going to get committed in reality? And then we can go from there. But, if we do get that, and I need coordinate with Jay and other people that are going to be involved including contractors, I want to make sure that we're on the same page and we've got the green light tonight.

Selectman Dumont: Appreciate it guys.

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to authorize staff to coordinate donations with Board of Selectmen and to initiate construction schedule for Phase 1 of this project. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Guessferd: Do we want to add for DPW to move forward, or, you mentioned that earlier?

Elvis Dhima: I think that's included in here.

Selectman Jakoby: That's what they said Phase One construction was.

Chairman Guessferd: I just wanted to make sure.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Nomination and Appointment, Board of Selectmen Chairman and Vice-Chairman – Administration/Decision**

Chairman Guessferd: What I'd like to do to kick this off is kind of like I'll say it's my last action as Chair, I'd like to nominate someone. I'd like to nominate Selectman Dumont for the Chair for this next year.

Chairman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by selectman Morin, to nominate Selectman Dumont as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Motion carried, 5-0.

Selectman Jakoby: I just want to say that I highly support Selectman Dumont as Chair. I really appreciate the questions and the clarity that you've given to a number of our projects. I do also appreciate the Chairmanship rotating and the BOS. So, I just want to reiterate that I'm in full support of that nomination.

Chairman Guessferd: OK, any further discussion on the point? All in favor of Selectman Dumont, do we want to close the nomination just do that/

Roy Sorenson: I would. Let's call the first motion then you close it.

Chairman Guessferd: First motion, first. So we have another motion, I just want to make sure we close this out. To close the nominations and appoint Selectman Dumont as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to close the nominations and appoint Selectman Dumont as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Guessferd: Now the next item is the Vice-Chair.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Chairman Dumont, to nominate Selectman Guessferd as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Motion carried, 4-1, Selectman Jakoby opposing.

Selectman Guessferd: OK, we have a motion and a second, further discussion?

Selectman Jakoby: I would not support that nomination. I really think it's important that we continue the progress of new people being Vice-Chair. I know that I'm very interested in being the Vice-Chair, I feel that I've shown my ability to be flexible and supportive of this Board and I would nominate myself for the Vice-Chair.

Selectman Guessferd: OK, we have a motion and a second for Selectman Guessferd.

Roy Sorenson: Further discussion at this point?

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont, to close the nominations and appoint Selectman Guessferd as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Motion carried, 4-1, Selectman Jakoby opposing.

Selectman Guessferd: Moving on. So at this point what I'm going to do, we'll move on here. We are going to now change the, I think all we have to do really is, I'm going to go sit over where Selectman Dumont is, Selectman Dumont is going to come here. I have the script here so you're going to take the script and work through it.

[Selectman Guessferd and Chairman Dumont switch seat positions]

### **B. Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program Grant Opportunity – Engineering/Decision Chairman Dumont recognizes Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima.**

Elvis Dhima: Thank you Mr. Chairman, new Chairman. I said what's going on over here, two Chairmen in one meeting? Good evening everyone. As it's been stated in the past we're always looking for more opportunities to see if we can get any grants, anything we can do to reduce the burden on the taxpayer while we're still conducting business here for things we need to take care of. We have an opportunity to participate in a program, it's called



Clean Water State Revolving Fund. It's basically a loan that you get, if you get it. It's forgiven 100% on the principle if you finish the project within two years. And it consist of storm water, long-term planning, anything related to source water protection plan and things of that sort. And basically, I think it would be a great opportunity to apply for this, hopefully get it. Maybe apply it towards Robinson Pond which is our big water body and we continue to try to put as much efforts we can towards it. With that said I need your blessing tonight to pursue this grant opportunity and authorize me to move forward with this grant.

Selectman Morin: Would this also help with our drainage issues if we needed to?

Elvis Dhima: Throughout the side, it depends. It all depends to what the DES will approve of the scope of work we're trying to do. First we go in with an intent, if they say yes we go in with a plan to what we'd like to do, and we can add a lot to it. Unfortunately, as you all know \$100,000 doesn't get you a lot these days. But, the critical part would be what the State of New Hampshire, NHDES approve our scope of work related to \$100,000. If they say yes, let's just say we identified a couple projects, you know Public Works and engineering saying we'd like to do A, B and C and this is why. They say yes, we're good to go. We could actually get some projects done under this. If they say no, then we have to figure out what we need to do short-term and long-term and at least utilize this for the planning and then through our warrant articles and other things actually, raise funds for the construction part of those including the boat launch we have to tackle at some point again. Even though it didn't pass this year I'm going to have to do some moving around to figure out what we're going to try again next year because we still have an obligation over there. Maybe abandon the beach area and just focus on the board launch, I don't know. Things to that sort, but we've got a lot of work ahead of us. This will help us at least with the planning and coordination and other things we need to do. The short answer to your question is, yes, if the state allows us to do that, yes.

Chairman Dumont: I'll ask a question. So you touched on it briefly about the Robinson Pond. The boat launch is the primary area of concern over there as far as the MS4 permit?

Elvis Dhima: Both. It would be both, yes, but I think you're getting more. If you close the beach area and you turn into like a 6 inch (inaudible) stone and basically, I mean I don't even know if we can do it. Because like I said you can't prevent access to it but, they don't have to use it as a beach area. I think most of the pollution and the erosion is coming from the boat launch area and the parking area. I would say it's probably more like a 60/40 towards the boat launch vs. the beach area. And I think if you put erosion control measures there to make sure that we cannot, we continue not to lose sand to the pond by doing other things in there, then we can focus on the boat launch.

Chairman Dumont: OK, I know that some of the concern was if the Robinson Pond didn't pass, obviously which we know it didn't, unfortunately, was that this coming year we are going to have to bite the bullet ourselves. Would this be utilizing in the way we might be able to us some time over there to still comply with the MS4 permit and try and seek other avenues?

Elvis Dhima: So, one of the things to your point, the answer is yes. What we're hoping to do is maybe come up with some kind of treatment there that's going to help us with the phosphorous reduction or the total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan. I don't know how much \$100,000 is going to get us but, the way we'll work is we'll have to select a consultant through a qualifications based on selection not a quote, has to be the most qualified. Work out a scope of work and fee with and then that firm is going to tell us to what we can and cannot do and see how far we can get it. But yes, ideally to your point now that we do not have the warrant article passing, unfortunately, we have to see to can we use some of this money to buy some time, yes. If not, we're going to have to either put it on the budget, force it on the budget or try it again through a warrant article. But we're coming to that point that we need to start implementing unless we get relief from the federal government, that's still a possibility. I just don't see it because there's only a few states that actually go through EPS most of the states control their own MS4 permit. It's ridiculous, it's Mass., New Hampshire and a couple other ones. It's outrageous but whatever, that's for another night. But yes, we're going to try to utilize, if we get this grant, as much as we can to buy us some time.

Chairman Dumont: Alright, thank you and I appreciate you coming forward with another great opportunity. So, if anybody doesn't have any other questions I'll be looking for a motion. Selectman Vurqaropoulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to pursue this grant opportunity and authorize the Town Engineer to act as the principal for the grant. Motion carried, 5-0.

- C. Elderly/Disabled/Blind/Solar Exemptions & Veteran's Credits – Assessing/Informational  
Chairman Dumont recognizes Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson.

Thank you Mr. Chair. So this is just an informational, it's an update from our town or Chief Assessor, Jim Michaud about some of the things that we're working on in the coming year related to this, the Elderly/Disabled/Blind/Solar Exemptions & Veteran's Credits. I would ask the Board just to kind of review this and hold this and if you have questions we can certainly address it internally. But, I thought it was appropriate that we kind of put it on here just for an informational. No action required.

Chairman Dumont: I appreciate that. Anybody have any questions? No questions moving forward.

#### D. March 11th Town and School Election Update – Moderator/Discussion

Chairman Dumont recognizes Town Moderator, Paul Inderbitzen.

Paul Inderbitzen: Thank you. The new moderator will be sworn in, I think, Monday. I sent a letter and a statistics to the Board for the March 11<sup>th</sup>. We had an 18.8%, just under 19%, turnout. Which again, is disappointing but, mostly typical of Town and School elections. Unfortunately, it's hard to get people to come out, I don't know why for that. We didn't have too many issues with the ID, requirement for new registrations, we only had 28 new registrations. We had a few people that didn't bring their driver's license, or their birth certificate with them and they went home and got it. So, we didn't hear too many complaints, we had a little frustration in one person because they had to go back twice to get documentation on that. Especially if your birth certificate didn't match your current driver's license, you're ID, because you're married, divorced, whatever. But, there was only like a couple instances of those at each location and it worked out fine and people seemed to be OK. With the length of our budget, or ballot, we did have a lot of spoiled ballots and kept the assistant moderators on the boxes pretty busy getting new pages for people who either over voted or they made the wrong choice. I'm not sure why that is but every year, because I think it's our ballot, the fact that we have four pages. Last year it was five pages so, anything we can do to reduce the size of our warrant is helpful. I think for people who are voting they don't have to sit through that. Also, because the numbers of votes you know for Selectmen you had vote for two, budget committee had vote for three, and people get confused when they're trying to fill them out. I do want to thank those people that really, this doesn't work without everybody. You know the DPW for set up and take down and all the help they provide for us. The election workers, I can't say enough about those people that work the elections for us, they're really, really good and they really try hard to make it easy for everybody. The Town Clerk has really stepped up and shown herself to be a real asset to the town and is taking over a whole lot of stuff which is good. Members of town staff, particularly our town custodian, Wayne Madeiros, big help moving things around and getting some stuff done. I can't do that without all those people helping and town staff, the Clerks' staff, the people in the front office, they all help out any time I ask for help they're there for us and it's really been helpful. The Hudson's Women's Club, they do our write-ins at the end of the night. They also help coordinate the ballot counting and actually because they didn't have, it was the last minute because we didn't get our ballots til later, our own staff the workers stepped up and we were able to do the 5,000 ballots, bundle them in piles of 50 in under three hours which I thought we would be there all day. And then of course they also provide a very nice dinner for the workers in both locations. It wouldn't have been, it doesn't happen without all those people and we want to make sure we appreciate that and those people. Also, the Board of Selectmen. We had four members of the Board present. You guys all helped us a lot in terms of coordinating and helping us out, it's a big help. We weren't super busy so it wasn't that bad in terms of lines, we didn't have parking problems. So, that worked out very well. There's something coming up that I will be hopefully assisting the Town Clerk and the new Moderator with. We're going to be buying new tabulators, getting rid of those old ones with jams and all that stuff. That'll be happening before June because it's in this year's budget. The state, or the Secretary of State's Office is picking up the cost of the ones we own. We own five of them, we always rented two because of split locations. We didn't have enough tabulators so we rented. So we're going to be ordering eight so we have enough for each locations for our voting. We're going to be doing that, the Secretary's Office has is going to pick up from their funds part of the cost of each tabulator that we own. So that's five of them, I think it's like \$3,500 which is really nice. Each one costs about \$8,400, so that will help us. As a matter of fact because of that we were able to order two new pole pads for the November election to do the absentees and that was a huge help for us in November when we had 1600 absentee, no 1600 new, I forget what it was anyway. That's November but that was a big help getting all those in. So, I will, I've committed to help out in that respect and we'll be doing that and once that's all arranged we can see about doing some training in the fall before the next election. In 2026 you're going to have three elections. You're going to have a Town election, you're going to have a state primary in September, and a, unless it changes, and a state general election the mid-term election in November. So, that's another budget. Under this budget you have one election coming up. So

that's pretty good. Like the numbers show, you know, you had 166 absentee ballots and 28 new registrations. We now have almost 18,400 registered voters in town. And we have two new Supervisors of the Checklist and I will reach out to them and offer any help because they're both fairly new and we'll work with that and they'll have to appoint a new third person. So, it's going to be a learning curve for a lot of people so hopefully. But, I think we have the stuff in place and Michelle at the Clerk's Office is really taking control of things and moving things forward and helping us out, I think she'll be an asset to them as well.

Selectman Guessferd: Yes, a couple observations that I had looking at the stats. It's really good to see that total checklist number going up. I mean we're in a nice trend there even though the number, the percent actually, is down. But, we're back up to you know almost the amount we were in 2020. I'm not sure why we had 20,000 in 2021 and then it went way down to 15,000 and now it's working it's way back so hopefully we'll get back to 20,00.

Paul Inderbitzen: That's because of the ten year requirement, the Supervisors of the Checklist after every Census year, which was 2020, Supervisors are required to go through the Checklist on a number of people who I think it is haven't voted, I think it's tow cycles, two federal cycles, not even, that's not town cycles. And then they send them a letter in saying are you still living in Hudson as a registered voter? If they get a response back they're fine, if they don't get a response back then those people are removed and I think they removed about 6,000 voters.

Selectman Guessferd: There's a lot, yes.

Paul Inderbitzen: It went down to 15,000. And then it builds up over time because people leave but they don't actually say, you know, we've left when it comes to the Checklist.

Selectman Guessferd: I mean it's good to see we had more people come out this time. Hopefully we can get (inaudible) it's always disappointing when we're under 20%. Even under 25%.

Paul Inderbitzen: We need a big issue. You gotta put the big bond issues out there, that gets people out. You may not get it but it'll get the voters out.

Selectman Morin: You all set Mr. Moderator?

Paul Inderbitzen: Yep, I think we're all set. You can see the numbers and hopefully the people will take a look at it and realize more people should come out and vote.

Selectman Morin: I'd just like to say again, on your second retirement, thank you very much. Because again, you got up for us and you took care this when we were in a bind and it is very much appreciated.

Paul Inderbitzen: I appreciate that, like I said I have a good staff and people behind us and I hope that they're going to stick with us. I continue to want to work the elections I just don't want to be the guy in charge. But I'll help.

Selectman Jakoby: I also want to just thank you for your time and also before you constant vigilance in even our Deliberative Sessions I know that's takes a lot of your time and effort as well as the elections. So, I just want to thank you again for all your hard work.

Paul Inderbitzen: Well the Deliberative Session is the fun part. Running a meeting is the, as the Chairman knows and you're going to find out, running a meeting is actually the fun part.

Roy Sorenson: So from my perspective from the outside looking in, I must say coming from Salem and I'm used to there. I think you did great job, I think the fact that we were able to work together with Michelle as well throughout the process. From my perspective as I mentioned it went extremely smoothly so thank you for that and congratulations on your retirement, I guess.

Paul Inderbitzen: I'll be around. One thing we're going to have to watch is, you guys don't see it, I see it through the Moderator's, there's a bunch of laws in the legislature this year effecting voting. Some of it, the one that we wanted to get rid of, the one that you could delay the processing of absentee votes, that passed and has gone to the governor. But there's a bunch of other ones that are going to make it more restrictive and give us more of a problem. There's one bill that is anybody, even in towns that have voted to be electronic or machine-read ballots, there's one bill that if somebody comes up and says I want my ballot hand counted, that we have to do that. That could create a big hassle at the end of the night. Big hassle.

Roy Sorenson: Do you know any reps, Mr. Chair?

Chairman Dumont: I'll keep an eye on it. No, I can see the contempt, I definitely do. With that, I want to say thanks to you, thanks to Michelle, DPW, Police Department, everybody involved. Selectman Jakoby, Selectman Morin, you guys are there all day long, really appreciate everything you guys did over there. So, thank you very much.

E. Cancer Screening – Fire/Decision

Chairman Dumont recognizes Deputy Chief, Fran Enos.

Deputy Enos: I'm here representing Chief Tice who couldn't be here this evening. Before you there was a memo sent to former Chairman, Guessferd. And what this was earlier in the year we received a federal grant from FEMA, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant AFG and that allowed us to conduct a number of different things. Zone of those being a more intensive physical and that physical also gave us the opportunity to do some cancer screening, early detection is the best weapon. Through the process we went out through an RFP process, solicited bids. Got our bids back and chose a company to work with LifeScan which is out of Florida and working with them the technology is changing extremely rapidly and they said the best benefit for our members would be to include what's called DNA testing right now. It does not give you the exact information that says you're going to get cancer. What it does is present a marker saying that there's a high risk and then if you had that risk you would then follow up with more testing. So, it doesn't have you start doing all this testing, expensive testing and you're not sure. So they recommended a company they work with, there are a few companies out there that do this. But, right now the leading company that provides a test that could give potentially 51 different cancers, early detection cancers. So, we obviously felt that was the right one to go with. LifeScan was willing to set that up and they would coordinate doing that but, they presented to us to save us some money, if we could directly work with the company, which is GRAIL, that's the people who do this genetic testing. It could save us \$76 per member. The grant allows us to do this because we're still working with the confines of the grant but, the motion we did put originally forward was that we would do it all under the one company called LifeScan. So what we would like to do is we'd like to make a hopefully have someone make a motion that would allow us to separate and use the single source for the GRAIL product because there is no one else out there that has 51. The next closest would be 5 or 6 types of cancer. No one has come close to that number, 51, and then allow us to work directly with them. Again, that saves us \$76 per member doing this testing and then the results again, are still reviewed with you through the doctor and the comprehensive physicals that we're having as well. Does anyone have any questions?

Roy Sorenson: There's three motion attached. If we start right from the top I think we'll capture them and vote individually.

Chairman Dumont: I did just have one question. Obviously, you talked about doing a self-source, did you fill out the paperwork for that? I didn't see it.

Deputy Enos: As did the Chief...

Roy Sorenson: If I may Mr. Chair, I did aske the Fire Chief to do that I have it, I can forward that to the Board.

Chairman Dumont: As long as you have it I just wanted to make sure we toss it in the file to be consistent with everything else that we were doing.

Selectman Guessferd: Rational, that too. I was going to do that before the second motion, but yes.

Selectman Jakoby: Could we have that added to the minutes of this meeting as support for the motion?

Deputy Enos: Sure.

Chairman Dumont: Sound good to everybody? With that I'll be looking for a motion.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to amend the motion made at the Board of Selectmen's meeting of January 14, 2025 – motion by Selectman Morin, seconded by selectman Dumont, carried 4-0 to add the DNA blood test cancer screening option for an additional cost of \$17,184 to the LifeScan Wellness Centers contract for Occupational Physicals and Screenings as recommended by the Fire Chief. Adding that, upon further discussions with LifeScan Wellness Centers, the DNA blood test cancer screening will be completed directly by GRAIL, the provider of the Galleri® test.

Selectman Jakoby: Point of order. Doesn't that amendment have to be made by Selectman Morin and affirmed by Selectman Dumont since it's an amendment to an original motion?

Selectman Morin: No, because this would be coming down the road afterwards and this is a new, a new issue we're dealing with.

Selectman Jakoby: Then it should be a new motion.

Chairman Dumont: I would agree. I think that the wording "to amend" is not necessary, it's just a motion to add the additional costs would be appropriate.

Selectman Jakoby: Yes. So I would just suggest deleting “to amend” and this way Selectman Guessferd can make that new motion.

Selectman Guessferd: I’m OK with that amendment.

Selectman Morin: I’ll second the amendment.

Chairman Dumont: There you go.

Selectman Jakoby: Thank you. I appreciate it.

Chairman Dumont: Nope, I think that’s cleaner. Good eye. Alright, motion made by Selectman Guessferd, seconded by Selectman Morin. Anymore discussion?

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, the motion made at the Board of Selectmen’s meeting of January 14, 2025 – motion by Selectman Morin, seconded by selectman Dumont, carried 4-0 to add the DNA blood test cancer screening option for an additional cost of \$17,184 to the LifeScan Wellness Centers contract for Occupational Physicals and Screenings as recommended by the Fire Chief. Adding that, upon further discussions with LifeScan Wellness Centers, the DNA blood test cancer screening will be completed directly by GRAIL, the provider of the Galleri® test. Motion carries, 5-0.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to waive Chapter 98-7 Bidding Procedure of the Hudson Town Code for the purpose of purchasing and providing the Galleri® test by GRAIL as part of our cancer screening program.

Chairman Dumont: Motion made by Selectman Guessferd, seconded by Selectman Morin. Discussion?

Selectman Jakoby: I would request a friendly amendment just to add, “we are aware that there was a sheet”, what is it called?

Roy Sorenson: I would just add to the motion, “further that the Fire Chief will submit the procurement waiver to the Town Administrator according to policy”.

Selectman Jakoby: Thank you.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to waive Chapter 98-7 Bidding Procedure of the Hudson Town Code for the purpose of purchasing and providing the Galleri® test by GRAIL as part of our cancer screening program further that the Fire Chief will submit the procurement waiver to the Town Administrator according to policy. Motion carried, 5-0.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to purchase the Galleri® test from GRAIL for \$649.00 per member, not to exceed more than \$31,152 in total, as recommended by the fire Chief. Motion carried, 5-0.

#### F. Hudson Speedway 2025 Permit – Administration/Decision

Chairman Dumont recognizes Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: Alright, thank you Mr. Chair. So typically each year, I’m sure the Board has seen this before. This is the 2025 permit for Hudson Speedway. We completed our inspections of the track as such and at this time we are prepared if the Board so chooses, to sign the permit for the Hudson Speedway including the Driving School as well. Both of those items are included in the motion.

Chairman Dumont: Any discussion on this? I’d just like to say I think it’s a very unique opportunity that Hudson has here with this speedway. I think it’s a fantastic business, especially with the driving school. So I just wanted to put that out there. And with that I’ll be looking for a motion.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to approve the Hudson Speedway License to Operate a Motor Vehicle Race Track for the 2025 racing season and for the Hudson Driving School with the conditions required by the Police Chief and the Inspectional Services Division. Motion carried, 5-0.

#### G. Finance Director Search Update – Administration/Discussion

Chairman Dumont recognizes Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson.



Roy Sorenson: Alright, thank you once again Mr. Chair. So, as this Board knows we had started our search for the Finance Director, this actually started back in November, it was put on hold until I arrived here. At such time we began the process and we actually kind of started it again. So, the subcommittee or the hiring committee, I should say, myself, Selectman Morin and Selectman Jakoby had met with some candidates and at this time we decided to shift gears a little bit because of some internal staff that was moving on and going in different directions. We restarted the process and you can kind of see the breakdown in the attachment that I gave to the Board and just our approach. So, we're looking at a two-round approach for this. We have to date completed the first round so I will be delivering candidates to Selectman Jakoby, to Selectman Morin and myself to begin the second round process of the interviews. At which time, I believe, we will have a candidate to come back to the Board for full recognition for Finance Director. We actually kind of hit the ground running and want to say staff did a great job because we took an aggressive approach to this. Advertising it, trying to seek candidates that we believe were qualified. We did get a good amount of candidates and we narrowed that down as I mentioned in the first round, we've narrowed it down even further. We're prepared to go for the second round and I think both Selectman Jakoby and Selectman Morin are familiar with the second round which will kind of match what we did initially, alright? So, we'll follow that same process. Any questions you might have, but, I will be prepared to send any mail out to Selectman Jakoby, Selectman Morin to set up interviews hopefully early next week.

Chairman Dumont: I appreciate the update and the breakdown.

Selectman Jakoby: Yes, I'd just like to thank you for the search process outline. I think all of what you developed here is very helpful and will help going forward in any future searches. So thank you.

Roy Sorenson: So that's a good key into the next one, too. Thank you Selectman Jakoby.

Chairman Dumont: Any other questions or discussion?

#### H. Town Planner Vacancy – Administration/Decision

Chairman Dumont recognizes Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: So, we do have a series of high level vacancies, as I mentioned and this is another one. This is one that predates myself and even more so the Finance Director position that's open. I'd like to start this process and what the lead in is I mentioned to Selectman Jakoby, follow the same process. If that's OK with the Board, alright? So we'll go out seek candidates, get that first round pool, narrow it down and then we'll come back to a subcommittee and that's going to be the second motion here tonight. So, the first motion I'm asking for the Board's approval to continue in the same, with the same process we did for Finance Director that I just gave you with the backup. And then the second motion, I would ask the Board to select two Selectmen to sit on that next or second round committee as well. I will mention that as part of the second round committee, as well, I would also take a look at potentially adding other folks to that. Perhaps someone from the Planning Board as well and we'll establish that as you can see in the narrative.

Chairman Dumont: Any questions? Motion number one?

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to charge the Town Administrator, Roy E. Sorenson, with beginning the search and selection process of first round candidates for the next Town Planner similarly as that which is currently being applied as part of the Finance Director search. Motion carried, 5-0.

Chairman Dumont: On to the next one. As for being on that I think that's a great idea especially for the second round I'd really like for the Board to consider adding the Chairs possibly, is that what you were looking for or were you thinking department heads?

Roy Sorenson: Well I will add some department heads, probably one department head. What I'm asking tonight is to pick the two Selectmen candidates. And as far as the Planning Board and how that plays out, we'll pick a candidate from the Planning Board as well and I could certainly come back to the Board if you want to choose that candidate. I think they have a meeting tomorrow night so there could be some realignment there as well.

Selectman Guessferd: I would like to participate being the liaison to the Planning Committee.

Chairman Dumont: Yes, I would echo that being, that is the majority of my background is planning and zoning. But, what is the will of the Board?

Selectman Morin: I'm good with that.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I'm good.

Selectman Jakoby: I'm OK with Selectman Dumont and Selectman Guessferd being on the committee for selection of the Planning Board Director, the Planning, the Town Planner. Sorry, I'm going to get my words right eventually.

Selectman Morin: Second.

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to appoint Selectman Guessferd and Selectman Dumont to the Town Planner Interview committee along with the Town Administrator for second round interviews including final selection for recommendation. Motion carried, 5-0.

#### I. Revenues and Expenditures – Administration/Discussion

Chairman Dumont recognizes Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: Thank you Mr. Chair. So you have some handouts here, I did bring one in here as well with some charts and graphs because I'm going to use that kind of as a tool to walk through this. And this will kind of be my approach moving forward and maybe something else we put up the screen for the future. But, this is kind of breaking the ice of how I might approach this. You do have the revenues and expenditures through February. Obviously, we're though March at this point, we're a little behind because obviously me a) getting acclimated and we had a little bit of breaks here between our meetings. So, we're going to play catchup on that but I'll kind of explain where we are if that makes sense. So just keep that in mind. So through February roughly if you're looking and everyone's looking at this page here, if you have it we'll work off that. 67% of the year, OK so that's your bench mark of where you think you might be. You can see the breakdown of the different departments and where they land. The darker green is an encumbrance. An encumbrance is important because that money actually affects the bottom line. So you may have some contracts currently in place and that money is showing even though it's not spent yet it is showing against your appropriations. So based off of that you can kind of see the largest one actually is in Land Use and that's because of the Melendy Road Bridge. So there'll be transfers done to that project and those numbers will offset because that's also and 80/20 split with the state as well. Some of the other ones, as I mentioned, have detail underneath to kind of show you what those items might be in totality. As an example legal itself, there's a large encumbrance still in there, the money's there it's not spent yet, as well. DPW actually the director, Jay Twardosky, was here speaking about the impact of winter. You also have a large encumbrance in there for the remainder of town-wide paving and then the fuel line. These are always big offsets within that department. Police, we had the Kirby window project. The Board heard that earlier this year, that money is encumbered. And then they have a series of capital and/or vehicles in there as well as some software in those categories. Fire, perfect example. Deputy Chief Enos was just here, so the physicals and cancer screenings, that's almost a large part of their budget, it's encumbered right now. Almost \$68,000. Solid waste contract, \$971,000 again, encumbered to date. Water and Sewer, typical is how they set that up. So, as far as the distribution and/or operations and all that, those are procured early on so you see the large chunks of encumbrances. Keeping an eye on things moving forward, those typical items, one of them as everyone's aware if you go to the next page. Before we go to the next page does anyone have any questions on the front page and the breakout?

Selectman Guessferd: I like the format.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I have one question. So like the way these charts lay out, the base line is the red line at 67% like you said?

Roy Sorenson: Correct, yes.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Is the bar graph representative of everything or like of what we are currently as we are through the year? How or is the green, the darker green one?

Roy Sorenson: So the green is. The lighter green is showing you where we are. So, if you look at the report you'll see that in the breakdown of the spreadsheets. I put the darker green in because it's important that. For an example, if you look at Land Use and you look at the dark green line for the encumbrance, because that's on a different, that's on a separate axis. It throws them up here. Like for all intents and purposes they're actually below 67%. Let's go to the next page. So Fire, we obviously did high in Fire as well. I don't, Deputy Paquette I don't know how many vacancies you have now, do you have any idea, current vacancies? Four?

Deputy Paquette: Five with a dispatcher.

Roy Sorenson: Alright, so we have five vacancies there so whenever you have vacancies, as the Board is well aware, typically overtime goes up. There's generally an offset so whatever you're spending in overtime you try to capture that in your regular time and you hope there's an offset. Not always the case and it's something we'll keep an eye on. But, you can kind of see their breakout as well. If you look at Administration, Communications, Suppression. As an example, if you look at Communications their overtime lines are 177%. You'd say we're well underwater, what's going on? If you put the numbers back together and you look at what they saved in their fulltime salary, it offsets that and you're actually in the positive. Alright, so keep that in mind that's important to note. So, we actually, I keep a close eye on this with Chief Tice and we'll continue to do so. And if we need to take action at any point on that we'll come back to the Board, alright? On a good note, revenues. So our revenues are looking good, the projections were good and what we've taken to date or received to date is extremely good. It's excellent. You can see the breakdown there. Typically, as the former Town Administrator, Steve Malizia, has updated, the big ticket items. Motor vehicle permits, coming in still which is good, they're on track. They're actually tracking higher than we thought. And building permits as you can see up as well. So revenues in general across the general fund, sewer fund and water fund are all pretty good. Sewer is lagging a little bit and that's probably just going to be because of billing and you'll see that pick up as we get through the next couple of months. That's the report, any questions?

Selectman Guessferd: No questions. But, as I mentioned before, this is, I'm a visual learner, most people are. So, seeing this and then pairing it with the numbers and what we see in the actual revenue report, expenditures report, this is going to give us a lot more visibility. You mentioned, would we like this, and basically yes. This is absolutely a great tool that we can use. So you can show us what's happening on a monthly basis.

Roy Sorenson: I think as we get closer to the end of the year, too, as I mentioned previously, so Hudson does a great job budgeting, runs very lean at the end, we'll dive more into the details because you'll be closing out the year. Then you'll see some of those transfers like the Melendy Road Bridge moving out and you'll start seeing some of the grant money offset as well.

Selectman Guessferd: And this will also help with when we get into our budget process.

Roy Sorenson: Absolutely.

Selectman Jakoby: Yes. I would again, like to request that this be added to the minutes of this meeting because it wasn't in the original packet, nor would it be online for the public. And in the future if we can have these as slides, I know HCTV can put them up as you're describing them. Because sometimes it would be difficult for the public to follow as you, as we look at them and they don't see them.

Roy Sorenson: So, two good points, thank you for that. It's not in the minutes because I still compile ...

Selectman Jakoby: I understand.

Roy Sorenson: And my approach will be just that, we'll put them up on the big screen.

Selectman Jakoby: Thank you. I appreciate that and I agree, I think it's a great approach and visuals are always helpful for everyone.

Chairman Dumont: Anything else? Alright, on to the next one.

#### J. House Bill 456, Lobbying Activities – Administration/Dec

Chairman Dumont recognizes Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: Alright, thank you Mr. Chair. You have the backup included here. One of the concerns that we have in particular is the staff regarding House Bill 456 is that which limits our ability to work with NHMA. We find what we get out of them, NHMA, very productive and we think that it's best served for us to have local control over that vs. the state kind of calling the shots on what NHMA can do and/or within. At the state level that may affect the local level. This is similar to what was presented last year as well. And obviously we do have our Chair, as a State Rep, can speak to this, too. I'm asking the Board to take a position here. To support the lobbying activities to continue and based off of that we have the ability to continue to work with NHMA in the capacity that we believe is necessary. It's not just my office, it's all the offices. You're talking about Police, you're talking about Fire, they extend unlimited resources back to the towns that choose to be part of their membership. I think it's definitely a value in that. Also, even with the elected officials, OK. So training and things of that nature I'm sure you received some packets that have generated out of NHMA. So, what we're asking to do here is get confirmation or support

from the Board tonight. You do see the sample letter attached, we will send this letter off to Concord if we do get confirmation tonight. I hope I covered everything. I know that Mr. Chair you might want to address some stuff, too, on this.

Chairman Dumont: Yes, of course. And obviously just for full disclosure, I am a State Representative. I have not been or I am not a prime sponsor nor a co-sponsor of this bill. I have not taken a stance on this bill, I have not voted on it. However, I will say I'm in favor of it and here's why. Tax payer money right now is what is funding the dues that goes to New Hampshire Municipal Association. New Hampshire Municipal Association is then using those tax payer funds to go lobby the state level government, in some cases federal level. It's my opinion that that's wrong. I don't think that tax payer funds should be going towards lobbying. However, if you read the fact sheet that I gave to you, it doesn't stop your voice, it doesn't stop you working from a Municipal Association and it doesn't stop us from participating with them. I've always been an advocate for the Municipal Association and I will continue to be. But, I don't and won't be able to get behind tax payer funds going towards lobbying. That's my position on it. If this Board feels as though I should sit out on this vote I have no problem doing that, I will recuse myself. I understand how that could look a little odd that I'm taking two wacks at it. But, I just want to let you guys know I think that there's a lot of misinformation out there about this. I'd appreciate it if you'd read the sheet that I gave you, if you have any questions I'm open to them.

Selectman Morin: When is this going to a vote? Do we know?

Chairman Dumont: I believe this will be coming either Wednesday or Thursday.

Selectman Morin: So it's something we gotta do tonight.

Chairman Dumont: Yes I would say you gotta take action on it tonight. There's a lot of bills that the House has to get through before turnover to Senate bills.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I just have a question about, so how will this affect the NHMA when it comes to producing those materials that we, say take for granted nowadays, because they've been coming in steadily?

Chairman Dumont: As far as training goes?

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Yes, all that stuff. So will it become...

Chairman Dumont: Doesn't affect that whatsoever.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: But will it become a budget line for us now more so that it is?

Chairman Dumont: So what happens right now is obviously we pay dues into the New Hampshire Municipal Association to be a part of that. What this bill says is that those dues, that tax payer money, can't fund third-party lobbying. Doesn't stop anything else that New Hampshire Municipal Association does or offers. It doesn't stop them from testifying, it doesn't stop them from speaking up at Concord, it doesn't stop anybody here from having any of those opportunities. It just simply says, and again this is my understanding from reading through it, that you can't use tax payer funds to lobby. Or, to hire a third-party lobby.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: OK, thank you.

Selectman Jakoby: Can I ask Mr. Sorenson a question? So why is this important to, you said to our employees and you said Police and the different departments?

Roy Sorenson: Correct.

Selectman Jakoby: So could you expand a little bit more on why this is a vital, this lobbying piece is vital for them?

Roy Sorenson: So I think there's two perspectives to look at here. I don't think you have any (inaudible) decision tonight and I'm sitting next to the Chair who has one view of it and he's up in Concord...

Roy Sorenson: And that's fair.

Roy Sorenson: And I'm giving you the other side of that which is kind of based off of NHMA. Because we do rely on them and we're listening to their voice and how it may impact them. And that's important. I'm not up in Concord so I don't necessarily understand exactly that perspective, I guess, put on it. It may be that potentially the services aren't impacted as much or as such, I don't have an answer for that other than we know that currently the way it's set up it works for us and what we are getting from that Association and being a member. Some towns aren't even members of NHMA. They fully don't even endorse them or members of it. So I think given the relationship that this town has had and talking to staff with NHMA it's a process that we believe in right now. So, to say that we wouldn't

be preferable to what NHMA is telling us, that's kind of, I think we are listening to them more so. Because we have been, right?

Selectman Jakoby: Absolutely, I would agree with that.

Roy Sorenson: So that's kind of the position we've taken.

Selectman Jakoby: Thank you.

Selectman Morin: Can either of you answer the question who will lobby for us if this goes through?

Roy Sorenson: Well again, I think the Chair, so the Chair put it, we don't control any of that, per se, right? That's going to be NHMA and what they're doing. We pay our dues, we can have input, we have members that go up to Concord as well, can speak to it. If we feel like we're not getting value back from them we can certainly voice our opinions. Whether that's through the lobbying aspect of that or not, I don't know. But either way as I mentioned, today being a member of NHMA and the value that we receive from it, is something that we expect to continue with and we don't want that to either be hampered one way or the other. I don't know the exact impact would be if the bill does pass. Other than what the understanding is what we're getting back from them.

Chairman Dumont: So, one other option that is out there too, is we can appropriate money to lobbying if that's the will of the town. You can put something forward at a town meeting as long as that's appropriated that's allowed underneath these changes. Basically it's just saying the way that I look at it is that most tax payers don't know where all these funds are going and they may not agree with the lobbying's perspective or stance on certain bill items which is where this came about. Which was to say that it's unfair for tax payer dollars to go towards lobbying. Not towards the services that New Hampshire Municipal Association provides, but towards that specific item. Now I can understand why that they would be against it because it is going to make New Hampshire Municipal Associations job a little bit harder. I completely understand that. You're taking away one of their tools, I don't disagree with that whatsoever. But, I think from a, at least from me, a moral perspective I'm not one who's a fan of lobbying. And for that reason I don't think tax payer dollars of people who may or may not know what they're actually lobbying on should be utilized as such.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: No, I agree with a lot of what you said. I do agree with blindly using tax payer funds for something you might not even know exists. Which is probably the case in a lot of this. I guess what I'm going to get to is how is NHMA going to get their money one way or another? So, we can the lobby and (inaudible) what we pay into it. Are they going to raise their dues?

Chairman Dumont: Mr. Sorenson can probably speak to it. I wouldn't see them raising their dues, I would see if they're going to have to reallocate funding in certain areas. And it doesn't say that New Hampshire Municipal Association can't lobby. It just simply says that they can't use the dues that the towns are paying in to fund that lobbying.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: No, I understand that. But, like we know it's going to go, in the grand scheme of things, it's probably goes into their general and then it gets divvied behind closed doors. So, how they shift their movements, you know, that could shift onto us regardless the will of our town is. That's how I'm seeing it. But, I do agree with...

Chairman Dumont: I guess if they were to pick up extra costs I would say they probably have to use very careful on how if they come along that money that would be an issue. But, yes I could see that point.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: OK, thank you.

Chairman Dumont: So with that, the other part that I'm, if nobody has any other questions, I would ask the Board to take a stance on whether or not they feel as though I should recuse myself.

Selectman Morin: You're a member of the Board this isn't a, I mean you didn't sponsor the bills or anything it's just something you're voting on. You have the right to your opinion on that.

Chairman Dumont: I appreciate that.

Selectman Jakoby: I believe recusal is always at your discretion and I would never ask you to recuse.

Chairman Dumont: I appreciate that. Personally I don't think that it's necessary but I also don't want to not bring it up.

Selectman Guessferd: I appreciate you offering that. But I think we're, I think I'm OK on both.



Selectman Vurgaropoulos: I'm on the same boat. You were straight forward right off the bat. You're not, there's nothing here to show any conflict.

Chairman Dumont: I appreciate that. So with that you have a motion in front of you what is the will of the Board?

Selectman Guessferd: Before we do that, just one more thing. Just making sure I understand this. On one hand, our departments support this, support the bill. They get something valuable. And I understand the value of lobbying and I'll say it in its correct form, but, on the other hand it's the tax payers on the other side that would be paying for it. How much do we pay in NHMA for dues every year? I know it's not a ton, I know it's not a lot of money, but, still its tax payer funds. So it's kind of, it's a tough one for me.

Chairman Dumont: I'll be the first to tell you the training that receive from them, the information that we receive from them, it's well worth the dues that we pay in. There's just certain things about where that money goes that I don't like and this is that one. Quite frankly this is kind of the only thing.

Selectman Guessferd: And I would think that NHMA there wouldn't be any I'll say hard feelings. They provide a service for us and then we continue, and I'm not even sure what they could do. You know what I'm saying?

Chairman Dumont: All this is doing is us as a Board taking a stance and sending a letter up there either in support or opposition. So, I would hope that there's no hard feelings from the New Hampshire Municipal Association, I'm sure that they deal with all kinds of different opinions. Like I said they are a valuable resource to us, I'm not taking any of that away.

Selectman Morin: This lobbying is used to protect us as a town and to get legislation passed that helps us and helps our citizens, correct? That's what the lobbying is about. They're kind of paying into stuff that's helping them with their tax dollars, in theory.

Chairman Dumont: If you remember quickly I think it was a few months back when Jim was actually in this seat there was a list of potential bills or changes or things that they were eyeing and they were asking, but you know they hold an annual meeting and try to find out what the local towns, how they take stances on certain items or issues. And then ideally they're supposed take that directive after that annual meeting and then take that to the state from bills typically to deal with local control issues, how they (inaudible) housing. So I saw them a lot when Land Use bills were coming through, zoning bills, things like that. Again, they can still go and testify, and they can still go give their opinion on it. They're just not taking a specific stance.

Selectman Jakoby: And just to reiterate, that this will not only affect NHMA, but, the New Hampshire Police Chiefs Association, the Fire Chiefs Association, the Town Clerks Association and others.

Chairman Dumont: Correct if I'm wrong Mr. Sorenson, but those associations, those are paid my membership dues not through tax payer funds, correct?

Roy Sorenson: Correct.

Chairman Dumont: So those associations are not affected by this bill.

Selectman Jakoby: OK. That's why I wanted to bring it up because here that's how it's reading.

Chairman Dumont: Our dues as a town is coming from the tax payer.

Selectman Guessferd: There is some confusion.

Selectman Jakoby: I want to point out what's in the packet. So if we can clarify this document that would be great.

Chairman Dumont: Just my opinion, I don't think that they're affected by this bill, that's my opinion.

Selectman Jakoby: So the bill, as I understand it from our conversation, is for to limit tax payer money. That would mean any membership that had been paid for my tax money would not be able to be used for lobbying.

Chairman Dumont: Correct.

Selectman Jakoby: Therefore the Police Chiefs Association which is not tax money, but other dues or the New Hampshire Fire Chief's Association or the Town Clerk's Association would not be affected by this bill.

Chairman Dumont: That's my understanding. I don't, as far as I know they don't collect any tax payer money to fund those associations. Those are funded through membership dues which is private.

Roy Sorenson: Just for clarity if I may. The first paragraph Selectman Jakoby to what you're mentioning that was the previous bill, or the one that was the predecessor to this one.

Chairman Dumont: Yes, correct.

Roy Sorenson: So, it's kind of built in form through that but changed a little bit.

Selectman Jakoby: Changed a little bit, OK.

Chairman Dumont: They key one on the fact sheet, and just for the record out there, HB456 only limits tax payer dollars from being used to hire outside lobbying firms or to pay dues to organizations that engage in lobbying. It also allows towns to raise and appropriate money specifically for lobbying purposes via taxation by calling on the legislative body of the municipality to conduct a special town meeting specifically for that purpose. So basically, this is trying to make the tax payer aware of where their money is going.

Selectman Jakoby: So, I'm willing to make a motion. Will the fact sheet that we got tonight also be put in the packet? I just want to affirm that. Selectman Jakoby made a motion to send a letter to the Legislative Administration Committee in support of House Bill 456. Because the revised 456 only speaks to tax payer money. Correct?

Chairman Dumont: Correct. That's my understanding.

Selectman Jakoby: So Bill 456 as amended which would prohibit the use of federal, state, or local funds for lobbying activities moreover establishing certain additional enforcement mechanisms.

Roy Sorenson: If I may, we do have to amend it because this bill is actually, or this letter, rather, would be going to New Hampshire House of Representatives. So, to send a letter to the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

Chairman Dumont: Correct. Because it already is at the Committee.

Selectman Jakoby: And I'm saying in support. Because the way I understand it that would stop tax payer money from going to lobbying. Which would affect the New Hampshire Municipal Association but only insofar as their ability to hire third-party lobbyists. With membership money.

Chairman Dumont: And I would say that, quite frankly, that my understanding is this too, is if they have somebody in-house who lobbies, that their salary can't be paid by our, by those tax payer dues. So, third-party or in-house of New Hampshire Municipal Association.

Roy Sorenson: If I may. So we're kind of doing the opposite, right? And again, I would say we would either send a letter of support or send nothing at all. I think that's your best stance.

Selectman Jakoby: Didn't I say a letter of support?

Selectman Guessferd: You did.

Selectman Jakoby: OK, that's the motion.

Roy Sorenson: I'm sorry, maybe I misspoke then. The letter of opposition which is included. It's either we support that, which is what I'm talking about NHMA, or we do nothing. You just wouldn't send any letter.

Chairman Dumont: I would agree. I think that's appropriate if the Board felt as though it's necessary to tell the State House that hey we don't like this bill, you send a letter if you don't have a problem with it.

Selectman Jakoby: Saying take no action?

Roy Sorenson: Yes. Because we are a member of NHMA and I think, with all due respect to them in being a part of that organization.

Selectman Jakoby: So I made a motion, so we're letting it die without a second? We have a motion on the table.

Chairman Dumont: Is there a second for the motion? No second, motion dies.

Selectman Jakoby: Thank you.

Selectman Morin: We have five people that are basically here twice a month. We're in and out of, I should say because you're up there, you have a lot more feelings than we do of what's going on. But, we rely on the Town Administrator and our department heads to bring forward what they believe they need to support their work. So, go with the letter that we have to send to the House of Representatives.

Chairman Dumont: Motion by Selectman Morin. I'll just read it. Motion to send letter to the House of Representatives in opposition to the House Bill 456, as amended, which would prohibit the use of federal, state, or local funds for lobbying activities moreover establishing certain additional enforcement mechanisms. Is there a second? With no second, the motion dies.

Selectman Morin: Nothing happens.

Chairman Dumont: Nothing happens. Any further discussion?

Roy Sorenson: Why don't you just do a final motion to memorialize that you're taking no action on this at this time.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to take no action at this time on House Bill 456. Motion carried, 5-0.

#### 9. **SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS/OTHER REMARKS**

Selectman Morin: ConCom had a meeting. Basically it was taking up with discussion on the T-Bones project and they've made their recommendations to forward to the Planning Board which I believe is taking that up at their next meeting. That's all I've got for that. I do want to address the Sustainability Committee meeting last night. This Board took it pretty hard. But, as most of us in this room sat here and listened to, or lack of, answers that we got. I was kind of perplexed about why we took such a beating when as that Board, this Board represents 71% of the households in this town and the people in this town deserve to know what's going on. Especially where the first billing period that we ever worked with this Community Power, our rates have gone up higher than Eversource. Makes no sense. We were told we're going to have lower bills and we're going to do the good for the citizens and in our first billing session we're higher. Mr. Putnam, who was here that night and didn't answer the questions said he didn't understand why he got beat up. Well first of all, if you remember this Board appointed Mr. Putnam to represent us and represent their citizens of the town. When he was asked questions, he was very defiant, he refused to answer questions and he threw a Right-to-Know at us. Now Mr. Putnam said at the meeting the other night there has been a Right-to-Know submitted on reference to why they lost the Director they had and what was going on there. And that all ties together with the \$12-\$18 million dollars that we're not sure exactly how much money. He also went to say last night he didn't know what to say. I agree with him. The reason why he didn't know what to say is because he has a conflict. And he didn't know if he's supporting this Board and this town, or he's supporting the Community Power. That is a real issue. And if he can't give us the answers he either needs to step down or this Board at some point needs to take some action. I'm willing to wait until we get the answers at the next meeting which I suspect we should. But I have some very big concerns because again, how can you represent the town, and he said last night also in the meeting, that he has information because he sits on that Board of Directors that he cannot give us. So, how can he make a decision for that Board when he's not providing all the information on both sides and we don't know what he's doing for that power company vs. our residents? That's what that Board is for, is to support our 71% of households in town. You know I heard words such as vendetta, attack, interrogated, well you know what? Again, we didn't get any answers and again, they and us represent 71% of households in this town. So we should have gotten the answers. He stated that he received information that he can't share and again, we just covered that, well he needs to share that or he should not be our representative. His wife the Chairman, made the statement that she receives information and she is his wife and she will not divulge that information. So, now here we go, the Chairman of that committee knows information that she's not sharing with this Board and our 71% of households in town on what's going on with that company and what's going on with the rates. So there's a second conflict of interest. You know we had last night, we took a beating and you know the tension was hot in this room and unprofessional and things to that nature. But, I found it kind of amusing that one of the members wasn't getting the answers that he wanted and he was getting very frustrated. And at one point, unfortunately, our Town Administrator who is an employee here and is just representing us, he's not taking sides, he's just doing his job, had to say to the Chairman of that committee a point of order and who's in charge of this meeting. And then a second member came right out and said you know I'd be embarrassed if the power people were here that night and what took place on this Board. Well what gets me is the Chairman, the first person that got frustrated with the Town Administrator, and the second member who said he was embarrassed, had no problem letting this all take place and the Town Administrator had to take care of himself. So here they are, unprofessional, but we're the bad guys. So, I guess in this town it depends who you are. Who knew? Who knew? Another thing that kind of shocked me was a comment by the Chairman, was that we're only volunteers. Well they brought this huge project forward to us, again, they represent 71% of the households in town. If they're only volunteers and they can't handle it then turn it over to the Board of Selectmen and we will. This is ridiculous. They represent us, they represent the town. I would hope that we get all the information that we are expecting. I was kind of thrown off, too, because they have a Right-to-Know it was brought up, well maybe can we delay it a little bit? So what would happen if this Board of Selectmen was asked for information and we said we gotta

delay it because we've got a Right-to-Know? He should have been here tonight but, I very much appreciate what the Town Administrator did because he approached it in the correct manor and so we got the proper information and I appreciate that, thank you very much. They have stepped out of their level of what they're only an advisory committee. Once this gets discussed at the next meeting, this Board needs to take a serious look and get them back on track. We need to, again, represent our 71% of households in this town, give the people the information. And I've got one more thing that's very important. I got a Right-to-Know thrown at me. But see what they don't understand is I am a customer of Community Power. I, as a resident, have the right to know what my rates are doing. So, I'm not going down this road with them anymore. We need the information and it needs to be addressed by this Board. Thank you.

Selectman Jakoby: Can I just comment on that? I appreciate your comments and I do want to again, commend Mr. Sorenson on how he handled the meeting last evening. I was in the room and I felt he handled it quite appropriately given the heat that was there and I appreciated witnessing that. So I just wanted to commend you on that because I was there and present.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: That was a solid statement, I don't disagree with a lot of what he said. We do have the right to know and we should know what our money's doing. I look forward to the next discussion so know what's going on.

Selectman Guessferd: I guess I'll start first to keep on that. Totally agree. I apologize for not being there last night. I wasn't feeling up to it after my surgery on Friday. I wanted to make sure I was here tonight and I appreciate you being there Selectman Jakoby and Administrator Sorenson for representing us as well. It was, I know it was a lot of tension there and I appreciate you being there. So, I'm pretty much in lock step on it. Somebody mentioned to me at the next night at a different meeting I was at after the last meeting we had that they've never seen me get upset in the time I've been a Selectboard member. And that I got upset that night, but I did because I felt that there was a lot that was improper about what was going on and I believe quite frankly, we were not unprofessional. But, you know I'll say that the way it was presented wasn't just that he was a representative of the Board. But that, I'll use the word evasive and for whatever reasons. I as the Selectboard liaison to the Sustainability Committee felt bad about the whole thing. Not that I felt like I could have prevented this, but, that it was a situation that never should have occurred in terms of the way it was presented. You know if things people made mistakes, I get it. Everyone make a mistake. But you put it out there, integrity, right? You say this is what happened and this is what we're going to do about it. And unfortunately bad news and good news have to be presented equally. You can't skirt around bad news, you have to hit it head on because the bottom line is you know it's going to be received badly. But you have to be able to step up to the plate and say hey, this is what's going on. So, from my perspective, again, thank you for those who were there. I look forward to seeing the answers and hopefully we'll get some answers at the next meeting and yes, if we need to take action I think the Board should do so. Having said that, we have a meeting tomorrow night. I think somebody mentioned T-Bones. T-Bones will be one of the site applications that we're looking at tomorrow night. We have three, it's going to be a long night. So you know we'll see how things go and I expect that we'll probably continue discussions on at least one of them if not two. Maybe all three, there's a lot of things there. Looking forward to that meeting. As far as Rec Department is concerned, there's a couple things happening. We're still doing the Bunny Brunch on April 12<sup>th</sup>. In an entirely different tone here there's some great things happening and we talked earlier about the Recreation Department what this new project is doing. And the Recreation Department is right in the center of this and I couldn't be happier that we're doing more things that are going to benefit more members of the entire community in this town and all the citizens. Our Rec Director is one of those people, I think, who makes this town and the things that she does, you know, what it is. It's a community. I very much appreciate the things, so. Bunny Brunch, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 1:30pm. They're going to have waffles and pictures with the Easter Bunny, you know, good stuff. Adult softball. Registrations are going to be ending at the end of the month. So adult softball is very popular adult activity in this town. I participated for a while myself, it's a lot of fun, a lot of again, community and that the season, going to begin in May. But if you haven't registered yet you gotta register by the end of the month which is literally pretty much this weekend. By this weekend, by this weekend, early next week. I think Tuesday is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Anyway so there is those things. The only other thing I want to say is I want to thank the Board for allowing me to be the Chair this past year. It was a challenging year in a lot of ways, I think we got a lot done though. I do appreciate the opportunity and I think we had a pretty good year overall. So again, thank you and I want to also thank the citizens of Hudson for having enough faith in me to re-elect me for another three year term. I'll try to do the best I can to make you proud. That's all.

Selectman Morin: Not to interrupt, but, do to my way about this, congratulations.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Thank you.

Chairman Dumont: And I apologize Selectman Jakoby, I skipped over you there when you made your brief comments, I'm sure you might have a couple things you'd like to add.

Selectman Jakoby: That's fine I just thought you were going back. Selectman Guessferd you always went back and forth so, I just thought I was next.

Selectman Jakoby: I'd like to begin by congratulating Selectman Guessferd for his re-election and Selectman Vurgaropulos for his election and to three year terms. I would also like to congratulate Chairman Dumont for being Chair and Selectman Guessferd for being Vice-Chair. I do want to share with the public that I did reach out and text each one of you about my interest in being Vice-Chair. And three of the four of you did not respond and in the future I would have just appreciated a thank you or even I plan on nominating Selectman Guessferd for Vice-Chair. Then I would have been much more aware and able to understand where everyone stood. That was my goal. I just want to have more communication to know intent and what people are thinking so that I can make a more informed decision moving forward. I do believe it's important to change Chair and Vice-Chair every year and I do stand firmly there. But I would appreciate just an affirmation of thank you for your insight thank you for reaching out. Or, what your intention is if you're willing to share it with me in the future. So I do appreciate that. I do want to share that the School Board did re-elect Chairman Maureen Dionne as Chair and the Vice-Chair as Mike Campbell. I did remind them that we had a meeting tonight and that someone needed to come.

Selectman Guessferd: Did they select somebody?

Selectman Jakoby: They didn't at the meeting I don't know if they were doing it in non-public or how they were going about in that manner. And, they do have some new Board members, so I hope to see him here, someone here shortly. They are also talking about a rotating possible basis and I think I had mentioned that one point because I know it is difficult to do four meetings a month 'cuz I did it this past year. So moving forward I just wanted to again, thank HCTV for all of their support in helping to put out videos about the Warrant Articles. I asked Mike Johnson if he could give me some statistics. We can show that those videos were viewed at least 8,000 times. And that the most popular videos were those on Police, Fire and Engineering. So, and that we are going to have a better plan for next year for ensuring that information gets put out to the public even more. I do want to let everyone know because when he sent me that information he informed me there is an app for you at home if you want to watch Hudson Community Television. That we actually, you actually can download the Cable Cast Green Weave app. And it is on their Facebook page how to do that and they will be putting that on the web site because many people now stream and there are ways of streaming that so you do not have to rely on Facebook or YouTube. So, I just wanted to raise those things and again, thank you to everyone who came out and voted and thank you to the Selectmen who are here and to Selectman Roy who made my first year just a joy to serve Hudson and I appreciate and look forward to this coming year to serve with all of you.

Selectman Guessferd: Can I just respond to one thing? I just wanted to make sure that it was clear. We did have communication and it was both ways [motions to Selectman Jakoby]. I didn't answer your last text, it was later in the afternoon. But the bottom line is no excuses, but we did have some communication and I did respond to you, maybe not on one particular question. But, I just want to make sure I try to make sure that I respond to people when they text me.

Selectman Jakoby: Yes. I do appreciate that. And like I said, in general you all generally text me back and this might have been a short term piece but, I just wanted to clear on why I stood where I stood and why I asked what I asked.

Selectman Guessferd: I understand.

Selectman Jakoby: And I do appreciate all of you and the support you have given me throughout the year in this process. So I have no hard feelings I just wanted to be as communicative as possible and be clear of what I'm thinking because I don't always see all of you at various times. And sometimes we cross paths and sometimes we don't. So I do appreciate that and just... and please reach out to me and text me if you have a question.

Chairman Dumont: I'm going to follow up on that as well. We've had communication in the past, you texted me today. Quite frankly, this is not the time and place for it. You chose to do it, that's fine, I disagree with that. Not every text is entitled to a response and certainly not with a response like that in my mind. I appreciate what you were trying to do, I didn't know which way things were going to go to tonight, so I didn't want to mislead you. But, if you



took that the wrong way, I apologize. But again, I am a little disappointed with those remarks and if we're putting things out there in the open, I might as well say that. And I don't need any kind of response from anybody on that. I apologize to everybody I wasn't able to make my meetings last week I was out sick. Which is another reason why today was a little bit difficult for me. But, here we are so moving on I will turn it over to Mr. Roy Sorenson.

10. Remarks by Town Administrator: Alright, thanks. So, we've been here quite a while tonight I'll just go over a couple things. So, the Board actually has the list of questions submitted to the Sustainability Committee, I sent that this morning, you have those. The expectation is they'll come back to the next meeting to address those questions. Secondly, on a good note Sabrina Maddie, who is our dispatcher at PD. She is getting what's called the Telecommunicator of the Year Award, OK? And the Board's aware of this as well, they'll be celebrating her next week, I think it's next week. I don't know if she'll make the next meeting, but the second meeting perhaps in April I'm to ask her to come in and I think it's important formally recognizes her for that, for that accomplishment. So cudos for her on that. And with that I'll conclude my statements for this session anyways.

Chairman Dumont: And with no liaison from the School Board, I will be looking for a motion to enter non-public.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to enter into non-public.

12. NONPUBLIC SESSION

*Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to enter into nonpublic 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. (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.*

Nonpublic Session was entered at 9:36 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 11:14 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session:

- 1) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to accept the resignation of Beth McKee, Town Accountant, moreover Interim Finance Supervisor, effective March 28, 2025, with Board's thanks and appreciation. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 2) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, for the Hudson, New Hampshire, Board of Selectmen, accept the resignation of Traffic Technician John Dowgos from the Department of Public Works effective immediately. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 3) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to authorize the Director of Public Works to hire Christopher Alers as a full-time Truck Driver/Laborer at \$24.25 per hour (Grade 8, Step 1) in accordance with the Teamsters Local #633 agreement, effective March 31, 2025. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 4) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by selectman Guessferd, to authorize the Director of Public Works to post for the Traffic Technician position in accordance with the Teamsters Local 633. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 5) Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to hire Marissa McDaniel for the position of Dispatcher in the Fire Department at the contracted salary of \$21.47 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. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 6) Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to authorize the Fire Chief to hire Jeremy Zelanis and Alex Bergeron as Part-Time Provisional Call Firefighters, an unpaid position with no benefits, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 7) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to enter into a contract for legal services, exclusive to those services currently provided, moreover exclusive to and with the law firm of Tarbell & Brodich, PA, for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028, for the terms as specified in the Proposal for Legal Services 2025-2028 letter as prepared by Attorney David LeFevre. Motion carried, 4-1, Selectman Jakoby opposed.
- 8) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to retain the services of former Town Administrator Steve Malizia for up to three (3) months starting April 1, 2025 at the rate of \$100.00 per hour without benefits to assist with the Finance Department. Further, it shall be the purview of Town Administrator, Roy E. Sorenson, to terminate such services within that three month period as applicable once proper staffing is in place for effective daily operation. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 9) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to remove item #8 from the Non-Public agenda and to take no action. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 10) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to adjourn at 11:20 p.m. Motion carried, 5-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 11:20p.m. by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman Guessferd. Carried, 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Lorrie Weissgarber, Executive Assistant.

---

Dillon Dumont, Chairman

---

Bob Guessferd, Vice-Chairman

---

Xen Vurgaropulos, Selectman

---

Heidi Jakoby, Selectman

---

Dave Morin, Selectman