

HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the April 22, 2025 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER – by Chairman Dumont the meeting of April 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Police Chief, Tad Dionne.
3. ATTENDANCE

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

Staff/Others: Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson; Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima; Police Chief, Tad Dionne; Police Captain, Steve McElhinney; Police Captain, Dave Cayot; Fire Chief, Scott Tice; Director of Community Media, Mike Johnson, Mike Campbell; School Board Liaison; Police Tele-Communicator, Sabrina Madi; Executive Assistant, Lorrie Weissgarber.

Selectman Morin: I'd like to make a motion to change the order of business. What we have tonight is all the on-duty officers and all the on-duty firefighters that we're going to recognize so they can get back onto the street just in case they get a run.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to change the order of business and begin with Recognitions, Nominations & Appointments. Motion carried, 5-0.

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

A. Recognition

1) Sabrina Madi – Hudson Police Department

- NH Emergency Dispatchers Association Tele-Communicator of the Year.

Chief Dionne: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I appreciate give the opportunity to recognize Sabrina Madi. This certificate is proudly awarded to Sabrina Madi in recognition of her outstanding achievements and demonstrated expertise in the field of telecommunications for the Hudson Police Department honoring her dedication and professional excellence. We would also like to honor receipt of the 2025 New Hampshire Emergency Dispatchers Association's Telecommunicator of the Year. Signed by Dillon Dumont, Chairman of the Board, and Roy E. Sorenson, Town Administrator. [Police Chief presents certificate to Sabrina Madi.]

2) Firefighters of the Hudson Fire Department

- Acknowledging the firefighters' efforts at a local fire in Hudson.

Chief Tice: On the evening of April 6, 2025 Engine-2, Engine-4, Ladder-2, and the Shift Commander were dispatched to 27 Cross Street, Hudson Garden Apartments, for master box 413. While companies were en route, the Fire Alarm Dispatcher received a phone call notifying him that there was a fire in the building at 6 Cross Street, one of the buildings at the Hudson Garden Apartments. Engine-1 and Nashua Engine-4 were then added to the dispatch. When the Shift Commander, Engine-2 and Ladder-2, arrived on the scene they were confronted with a fast moving fire extending out two windows of a second floor apartment spreading up the outside of the building to the third floor and attic. The incident was quickly escalated to a second alarm bringing mutual aid to the scene for support. There was a report from a bystander that the occupant of the original fire apartment was still inside. Personnel from Engine-2, Ladder-2, and Engine 4 quickly placed a hoseline into operation to stop the spread of fire on the outside of the building then entered the second floor apartment and searched that apartment while knocking the fire down. With fire suppression and searches underway in the original fire apartment an additional report of a person trapped in a third floor apartment was received. The pump operator of Engine - 2 and the Shift Commander positioned a ground ladder and assisted the third floor occupant out of the window. Engine-1 arrived and they assisted the Shift Commander and then started a primary search of the building. During the search, the crew from Engine-1 was confronted by an occupant with a handgun who resisted their instructions to evacuate. The occupant of the original

fire apartment was able to evacuate and was later found outside. The quick and appropriate action of the first arriving crews prevented more significant damage to the building and allowed all of the occupants still in the building to evacuate safely.

Nashua Engine-4 and Ladder-3, Deputy Chief Paquette, Deputy Chief Enos, along with crews from Londonderry, Derry, Windham, Pelham, and AMR Ambulance assisted on the scene. Crews from Manchester, Dracut, Salem, and Litchfield provided station coverage.

[The Board of Selectmen and the Fire Chief honored each Fire Department personnel with a Certificate of Recognition who responded to the fire. Those acknowledged: Captain Sean Mamone; Deputy Chief Jim Paquette; Deputy Chief Fran Enos; Lieutenant Ben Crane, Lieutenant Corey Girard; Firefighters: Mitchel Rufiange, Ken Ballou, Pat Chamberlain, Tom Henley, Sarah Delos Reyes, Adam Lebor, Brendan Carey, Mike Armand and Dispatcher Will Schofield.]

Chairman Dumont: As we get back into things I think it's important that we all acknowledge the service these people offer the Town of Hudson. I think it's a great thing that we have these group of guy, men and women, willing to jump in the first line like that. Again, I'd like to say thank you and we'll go back to Selectman Morin.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to go back to the regular order of business. Motion carried, 5-0.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Cody Wojcik – non-resident

I am a resident of Salem and I am the president of the Hudson-based organization the Southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club. In the last election a warrant article was passed stating that the voters were in favor of us operating at the West Road landfill. On your agenda tonight is another warrant article that was passed ratification of a lease agreement between Kearsarge Energy and the Town of Hudson for turning that area into a solar farm. I just wanted to say I appreciate the heads-up that you, that Mr. Sorenson gave us on this issue tonight and we are here to answer any questions.

James Crowley – 4 Fairway Drive

Recently, the liaison assignments were made in accordance with the Town of Hudson, NH Board of Selectmen By-Laws specifically section G, Appointment of Boards and Commissions, item number one states the Chair shall request from members their choices of committees, boards and commissions they wish to serve on as Selectmen's representative. The Chair shall distribute all choices to the Board and set a meeting date as to when the Chair will make appointments. The key point of section G-1, Board of Selectmen Laws is the Chair shall make appointments. They are listed on tonight's agenda, New Business item 8H. However, per RSA it is different for official representatives to the Planning Board since all Board of Selectmen members vote on what member shall hold these positions. This rule governs the selection of the Selectmen's official representative to the Planning Board chosen by majority vote of the Selectmen members. In Hudson, a backup alternate is also assigned to the Planning Board. Logically the alternate liaison position to the Planning Board would also be chosen by a majority vote of the Selectmen members. Voting for these two Planning Board representative positions appears to be to be tonight. Or, soon anyway. Before the BOS does any vote, I would like to discuss the utilization of BOS members and their liaison assignments. Hudson has five elected BOS members and it is important that each hold a liaison position on a Board of Commission that significantly influences finances and policy. These would roles would have the greatest impact on property taxes and land use policy. Based on this I ranked the importance of the liaison assignments as possible. First would be the Budget Committee, 2025 liaison is Vurgaropulos and alternate Morin. Second would be the School Board, the 2025 liaison is Morin because school is actually a larger part of the Town expenditures. And third is Planning Board, the 2025 official and alternate to be decided yet per RSA rules with BOS members' vote. Number four I rank is the Zoning Board of Adjustment, 2025 liaison is Dumont. And the fifth would be Conservation Committee, 2025 liaison Morin. Efficient organizations whether private or governmental thrive when all team members talents are maximized. Currently, it is evident that prior to voting on the Planning Board representative positions, two Board of Selectmen members, Guessferd and Jakoby, are not assigned to any of these five most important liaison rolls. Meanwhile, one BOS member has been appointed to two important liaison positions plus as an alternate on another important one. When reviewing the 2025 Board of Selectmen assignments for departments, Guessferd is listed as the Land Use Department BOS oversight member. The Planning staff which directly assists the Planning Board falls under this

department. Logically it seems likely that Guessferd would be voted into one of the BOS official representative or alternate to the Planning Board positions. Possibly tonight, we will see. This leaves one glaring issue, Jakoby, a talented and hard-working Board of Selectmen member, who was also currently underutilized, has no assignments to any of the top five financial or land use policy boards or committees. I urge the Board of Selectmen to recognize that the public is closely observing whether the Board will take action to address this imbalance. I unapologetically advocate for the Board of Selectmen to use its voting authority to correct this underutilization by voting for Jakoby and Guessferd to fulfill the Selectmen's official representative and alternate positions to the Planning Board. I hope Board of Selectmen members will agree with my view and work to support all five elected members equally in important rolls representing the public. Thank you for the work that you all do and the opportunity to share my opinions.

John Dubuc – 11 Eagle Drive

Good evening. I wanted to speak tonight about concerns that were brought to light from public comments made by Mr. Ulery who's a member of the Planning Board and a State Representative. These concerns were quite disturbing to me and hope that the Board and the Town of Hudson will look into this with a fact-finding mission and take any action that's necessary. The comments were made on a Facebook post. Mr. Ulery stated the former golf course was polluting the water table due to high fertilizers levels. He responded to a question about knowing about the pollution and voting on the approval he answered on what was learned on hours of public testimony and doing a bit of research. He also wrote about the development approval stating in addition, had it been denied the Town would have been sued. Mr. Chair, you're well aware that I attended probably every meeting during the approval process and do not recall anyone ever discussing pollution of the water table. If there is evidence that this did take place it should be found and shared with the residents of Hudson and state officials. I'm having a difficult time understanding why this was not revealed during the countless hours that this project was deliberated over. The amount of dust that all of the residents around the project, on both sides, not just where I live, have been exposed to is also problematic. If this site had been polluted as Mr. Ulery stated, folks travelling through town are also at risk if this is true. As you know, the dust blows across the highway as you're travelling down Route 3A and there are people from all over that travel that road. I know that neighbors of mine have requested on numerous occasions, soil testing, and have not been able to acquire this from the Town. Any testing now will be on soil that has been brought to the site and not soil that was, that we and the Board members have been exposed to during the early parts of this project. Mr. Ulery's remarks implying there may have been litigation if the project was not approved was troubling also to me. Board members should be making decisions based on laws and regulations. Reading this makes me question decisions that were made. We can't be afraid of being sued and voting to not have litigation happen. Please take this information seriously and do your due diligence to look into these matters and take any action necessary. I would also ask that the residents that requested soil samples are fulfilled to ensure our safety and also the transparency within the town. Thank you very much.

Victor Oates – 77 Sousa Boulevard

Good evening. I'm here tonight because Hudson is at a tipping point. And it's time we talk honestly about how we got here. In 2024, the voters of Hudson approved a comprehensive infrastructure study. Why? Because every resident sees what's happening. Rapid development, heavier traffic, crowded schools, growing demands on Police, Fire, Public Works, water and sewer. The study wasn't just a nice to have. It was a critical tool to plan for the future and avoid bigger problems down the road. But after that clear vote, this Board chose not to fund it. In 2025, residents didn't give up, they pushed to get the funding back on the ballot. And what did they see? Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen led by Morin, Dumont and Guessferd. How can you expect voters to support something when their own leaders are telling them not to. The article failed. Not because it wasn't needed, but because it lacked the support of the very people elected to lead. Fast forward to today and here we are reading a scathing audit calling out Hudson for negligence and failure to plan. Exactly what this study designed to prevent. And let's not forget that same audit told this town to start with your Capital Asset Policy. Well, how do you start that without understanding the state of your roads? Your utilities? Your public safety facilities and your schools? That comprehensive study would have been the foundation for that. Providing the data, assessments and forecasting needed to actually manage Hudson's infrastructure like the valuable assets they are. Ignoring the study meant ignoring the first step in responsible financial management. Instead of owning that, I hear excuses. I hear, they're pushing this on us. Let's be clear about who they are. They are your fellow residents, professionals with decades of experience in corporate leadership. Infrastructures to design, project management and strategic planning. People

who have led multi-million dollar projects, built systems and solved problems far more complex than what's being ignored here. Maybe, just maybe if you had listened to the people offering real solutions, people trying to help this town, not hurt it. We wouldn't be sitting here getting called out in an audit for poor leadership and lack of foresight. This isn't about politics, this isn't about agendas, this is about responsibility. Hudson deserves better than reactionary decisions and finger pointing. We can't keep kicking the can down the road while our services and taxpayers bear the cost of inaction. So tonight, I'm giving this Board a clear challenge. Stop delaying, stop deflecting, put funding for the comprehensive study back on the agenda immediately. Not months from now, not after another crisis, now. Because doing nothing isn't leadership, it's failure. And the residents of Hudson are paying attention. Thank you.

Chairman Dumont: Anybody else in the audience like to come up and speak? Not seeing anybody I will move on and close Public Input at 7:23. As Chairman I am going to move, I'm sorry, we have no nominations, no appointments, that will close out Item 5 out after that. I'm going to move the order of business and take up item 8A which is Public Hearing on 9 Industrial Drive Donations. Feel it would be an opportune time to give those folks an opportunity to speak. The Board would like to acknowledge the following local businesses for their generous donations and support of the development of the Hudson Recreation Area Project located at 9 Industrial Drive. And I will recognize Mr. Sorenson.

- 5. B. Nominations - None
- C. Appointments – None

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by selectman Guessferd, to address agenda item 8A, Public Hearing: 9 Industrial Drive Donations. Motion carried, 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing: 9 Industrial Drive Donations – Engineering/Decision

Roy Sorenson: Thank you Mr. Chair. Item 8A of the April 22, 2025 Board of Selectmen meeting. The Board of Selectmen gratefully accepts the following donations toward the construction of the new Hudson Recreation Area at 9 Industrial Drive. We are pleased to recognize the generosity of the following donors: Continental Paving Company, \$50,000; SL Chasse Steel, \$15,000; Sousa Realty and Development Company, \$12,500; Great NH Restaurants, Inc., \$10,000; MDP Development, \$10,000; Brox Industries, Inc., \$10,000; NorthPoint Construction Management, \$10,000; DW White Construction, \$10,000; M.R. Lacasse Homes, LLC, \$10,000; Tate Bros. Paving Co., \$10,000; Reeds Ferry Small Buildings, a donation of a shed valued at \$8,191; Etchstone Properties, Inc., \$5,000 plus gravel. At this point Mr. Chair, if I may, I'd ask the Town Engineer to come up who's the project manager for this special project and speak a little bit to this and perhaps bring some of the folks up.

Elvis Dhima: Thank you Mr. Chairman, Mr. Sorenson. I can't say thank you enough to everyone that's participating on this and making this project come true. We have some folks from T-Bones and Reed's Ferry would like to come in and present their donations and then we can go from there.

Nicole Bererra: Thank you Mr. Chairman and all. Good evening, my name is Nicole Bererra, I am the Director of Marketing and New Development and part owner of Great New Hampshire Restaurants and this is one of my partners, Denis Brunelle. He is the main man here in Hudson's T-Bones. We're really, really pleased to be able to provide this donation. I was a long time resident of Hudson and when I was looking at the project it was really exciting to see just lots of fun for current and future generations. And, we would just also like to say thank you for the support the town has given our local Hudson T-Bones for our new development plan in process and we really truly look forward to being able to contribute to the community. This wonderful community of Hudson for many, many more years to come. Thank you.

Lori Blanchett: I'm the Chief Operating Officer of Reed's Ferry Sheds. Also, a long time former resident of Hudson, almost 30 years, all my kids went through Alvirne High School. Very happy to contribute an eight by twelve vinyl historic colonial shed to this project. I was also very excited to hear about this project as well, I think it's a great thing for the town and we're very happy to contribute that as well. The area has to be flat and level for the shed and if you need a permit you're going to have to get that prior to the shed being delivered. So, just make sure you get that taken

care of before. So, we just need to coordinate the delivery with us, but I have a packet for you with all the information for that and we're happy to donate the shed. Thank you.

Elvis Dhima: We had a couple of other folks lined up to be here tonight but unfortunately plans changed at the last minute. But, everyone is looking forward to this I think it'll be a good start. We get a couple thing right once in a while, this is one of them. Kudos to you for getting this going. The plan of attack is we'll set up an account so we can start getting the money coming in and we receive them and then we put them in an account. And also the next step will be to get Public Works mobilized to start getting this site cleared. After that, we're going to start staking it out to have an understanding to where the parking area will be and the area for the pickle ball court. Once that gets established then we're going to utilize some of the funds to get the gravel that we need and the stone. Public Works again, will be utilized to do the rough grading for that particular phase. Soon after that we're going to have a purchase order for Gate City Fence, they're going to do the fencing. And also we're going to lock in the contract that we have with the tennis court/pickleball court mender that's going to be doing the painting and net installation as well. We've got the quotes for that as well. And hopefully, in a perfect world, everything is synched in and we'll have something to have an opening ceremony, hopefully by September. We're going to get some people together, you guys going to do the, obviously the dedication. The Rec Director will be coming in in front of you at some between now and the grand opening. To schedule that grand opening she'll be the one leading that particular phase. And also she'll be talking about the process we have in place when people start getting into who's going to go there at what time they're allowed, the scheduling, everything else. I think she's working on putting something together so everyone is aware to how it works and what the process is in place is to try to get in. As you can imagine there's more demand that pickleball courts that we have out there. So, it's going to be a, it's going to see a lot of foot traffic, let's just put it that way. And with that said that's kind of where we're at so hopefully in a couple months we have some good news and we go out there and we start utilizing it this year. We are looking at the other phases as well to see if we can get donations for that. So, we have a couple things in the works, we'll see where it goes. If not, maybe a warrant article next year, we'll see. That's all I have. It is a great start and everyone has been great to work with. I am, as I said, very appreciative of everyone jumping up and out. It's been good to be able to count on people in this town to help out when we need it. It's really important and I truly appreciate it.

Selectman Guessferd: Well it looks like the donations, the total of all the donations were much more than, than what we had expected.

Elvis Dhima: That's correct. So, it seems like we are going to have a project after all. So, the stars are aligning, unless something happens, we should be good to go. And we shouldn't be effected by the tariffs so we've got that going for us. For this particular phase at least.

Selectman Jakoby: I just wanted to say that I know many years ago there was a member of the public who talked about partnerships between businesses and our township and our community and I think that was a seed that was sewn by our public input and I'm really thankful to see how well it has come to fruition. And the number of companies that have been willing to come together on a project that affects all of us and is a joyful thing and is something to be celebrated. So, I celebrate all the public who helped make this happen. All of the business, all of the staff the Selectmen for moving this forward and just congratulations to everyone because it's going to be a very exciting thing. And I hope it is a model for future projects. That's my hope is that this is one.

Elvis Dhima: It would be a nice pilot, right?

Selectman Jakoby: Not one and done.

Elvis Dhima: It would be like the one good things we got done right this year and that's it. As long as we get one thing done right this year.

Selectman Jakoby: So if the public has other ideas let us know.

Chairman Dumont: I'll echo that. I said it before, I think Hudson is great for many reasons. We heard tonight about first responders, we have businesses, we have residents who all stepped up every time that a call is made. I don't think there's a better place to live. Staff obviously does a fantastic job, you know I think the five of us, maybe not so much, everybody else at least gets it right every once in a while. Without the staff without, without the residents and first responders we nothing. I will go ahead though at this time, this is a public hearing. I will open up to public input at 7:33p.m. Is there anybody present in the audience that would like to come and speak on this matter? I don't see anyone jumping for joy. I will close it at 7:33p.m. and I will be looking for a motion.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, in accordance with the RSA 31:95-b and Article 36 of the March 12, 1994 Town Meeting, the Board of Selectmen gratefully accepts the donations read into record for the Hudson Recreation Area Project at 9 Industrial Drive. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much Mr. Dhima. I will say I'm going to mess you one more time and we're going to go back to normal business.

Selectman Morin made motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropoulos, to return to the regular order of agenda and move to item 6. Motion carried, 5-0.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to approve Consent Items A-F. Motion carried, 5-0.

Chairman Dumont: I would just like to add one item. I received an informational piece from Jim Michaud, the Chief Assessor, just stating that item 13 in our Consent Items is actually not an assessing item it's a Tax Collector item. Just a clerical thing, won't really change anything but just wanted to make sure everybody was aware of it.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Gravel Tax Warrant: 129 Greeley St. – map 140/lot 001/sub 000; 89 Greeley St. – map 141/lot 001/sub 000; 85-87 Greeley St. – map 150/lot 013/sub 000
- 2) Solar Exemptions: 133 Dracut Rd. – map 254/lot 005; 7 Haverhill St. – map 174/lot 077/sub 004; 6 Hemlock St. – map 197/lot 148; 30B Speare Rd. – map 194/lot 001/sub 1-2; 27 Sheffield St. – map 170/lot 016; 70 Sullivan Rd. – map 162/lot 074; 3 Lily Ct. – map 204/lot 038; 13 Cheney Dr. – map 153/lot 018; 56 Griffin Rd. – map 118/lot 048; 126 Bush Hill Rd. – map 207/lot 011; 28 Riverside Ave. – map 190/lot 035; 49 Barretts Hill Rd. – map 151/lot 020; 209 Standish Ln. – map 195/lot 001/sub 006; 3 Ridge Ave. – map 175/lot 141.
- 3) Elderly Exemptions: 8 Clark St. – map 190/lot 146; 31 Mobile Dr. – map 178/lot 013/sub 110; 31 Oliver Dr. – map 142/lot 010; 259B Webster St. – map 138/lot 027; 5 Hemlock St. – map 197/lot 145; 3 Village Ln. – map 175/lot 034/sub 021.
- 4) Disabled Veteran and Regular Veteran Tax Credits: 427 Elk Run Rd. – map 168/lot 068/sub 082.
- 5) Disabled Veteran Tax Credit: 19A Clearview Cir. – map 177/lot 005/sub 327.
- 6) Veteran Tax Credits: 5 Wayne St. – map 198/lot 102; 7 Dumont Rd. – map 231/lot 027; 6 Alpha St. – map 191/lot 066; 33 Bonnie Heights Dr. – map 158/lot 001/sub 011.
- 7) Institutional Property Tax Exemptions: Kiwanis Club of Hudson, Inc. – map 190/lot 015; Area Agency Properties, Inc. – map 106/lot 006 and map 190/lot 085; Goodwill of Northern New England – map 222/lot 041-001; Southern New Hampshire Medical Center – map 109/lot 10; Alvirne School Trustees – map 147/lot 27; Hudson Grange #11 – map 168/lot 122; VFW Hudson Post 5741 – map 136/lot 36 – map 182/lot 100; American Legion Post #48 – map 182/lot 30 and lot 22; Community Church of Hudson – map 182/lot 49; New Life Christian Church – map 228/lot 54.
- 8) Residence in Industrial or Commercial Zones: map 198/lot 17-89 Lowell Rd.; map 198/lot 148 – 104 Lowell Rd.; map 234/lot 31 – 281 Lowell Rd.; map 234/lot 42 – 2 Davenport Rd.; map 234/lot 43 – 4 Davenport Rd.; map 251/lot 7 – 81 River Rd.
- 9) 2024 Elderly Exemption Regualification – Denial: tax map 167/lot 012 – 96 Highland St.
- 10) 2025 Veterans Tax Credit Application: tax map 147/lot 25 – 7 Derry La.
- 11) Charitable Exemption Application: 30 Richman Dr. – map 237/lot 57.
- 12) Charitable Exemption Application: 32 Greeley St. – map 168/lot 53.
- 13) 2025 Land Use Change Tax Abatement: map 115/lot 002/sublot 003 – 6 A&B Acadia Drive.

B. Water/Sewer Items - None

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies

- 1) Nighttime Trucking – Brox Industries

D. Donations

- 1) Fire – The Bar, \$400

E. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) April 8, 2025

F. Calendar

4/22	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room
4/23	7:00	Planning Board	Buxton Meeting Room
4/23	7:00	Zoning Board of Adjustment	Buxton Meeting Room
4//25	9:00a	Cemetery Trustees	Sunnyside Cemetery
4/28	7:00	Sustainability Committee	Buxton Meeting Room
5/07	7:00	Budget Committee	Buxton Meeting Room
5/12	7:00	Conservation Commission	Buxton Meeting Room
5/13	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on April 8, 2025

- 1) Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to approve the hiring of Evan DeCarteret at the rate of \$36.66 per hour (step 1), IT Technician II, of the Town of Hudson HPFSA (Hudson Police, Fire town Supervisors Association) union contract as recommended by IT Director, Douglas Bosteels, and action thereof upon successful background check. Motion carried, 4-0.
- 2) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to hire Lexus Rackliff with a starting salary of \$23.09 (step 1) per hour, all in accordance with the Hudson Police Employee Association Contract, as recommended by the Police Chief. Motion carried, 4-0.
- 3) Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to promote Kyle Cloutier to the position of Traffic Technician effective April 9, 2025, grade 14 (step 2) at \$30.47 per Teamsters Local 633. Motion carried, 4-0.
- 4) Selectman Vurgaropulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to retain the services of former Town Accountant, Beth McKee, for up to three (3) months beginning April 9, 2025 at the rate of \$65 per hour without benefits. Motion carried, 4-0.
- 5) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to appoint Laurie C. May to the position of Finance Director, with effective date and terms of salary to be negotiated by Town Administrator Roy E. Sorenson as outlined in this memorandum albeit the terms and conditions as identified in the Conditional Offer of Employment. Motion carried, 4-0.
- 6) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to appoint Julianne Pelletier to the position of Finance Director, with effective date and terms of salary to be negotiated by Town Administrator Roy E. Sorenson as outlined in this memorandum. Further, such action thereof only as necessary if the first candidate, Laurie C. May, does not accept and/or satisfy the terms and conditions of the position as identified in the Conditional Offer of Employment. Motion carried, 4-0.
- 7) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to adjourn at 11:28 p.m. Motion carried, 4-0.

B. CPCNH Rate Adjustment Notice – Administration/Informational

Chairman Guessferd recognizes Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: So this is the item continued from our previous meeting. Let me just get caught up on my stuff here. So, attached to your memo this is Old Business item 7B, the April 8, 2025 Selectman's meeting. As you may recall Henry Herndon was here, he's the acting General Manager for CPCNH. One of the questions that was posed to him was the development of a post card or notification to the public. There were two questions on this. Number one would they create, was it their responsibility to create and/or would they mail these out under their own circumstances? We have since received a template back, which is in your packet, which is one of the items we asked him to put together that explains the change in rate and how that affects CPCNH customers. Whether to opt in or opt out. CPCNH will not provide for the physical mailer to go to the folks that are currently enrolled. They do not endorse that or that type of activity per the agreement in their capacity, currently. They would help us navigate that via a third party who handles the mailing addresses and would set up for the postage and all that. So, labels and things to that nature. But, they would not pay for such a service. They will certainly notify the customers they have emails to. They will directly sent this to them via email so they are made aware.

Chairman Dumont: Discussion, comments, questions?

Selectman Morin: My concern is they've got our residents and they know it and that's half of the problem. Because you can't, you have to opt out of this, you don't have a choice. And, a lot of people as we heard one gentleman say last meeting that he didn't know anything about it. And they know so why do they care about our residents because they're going to have to be in anyway. And if our residents don't know about it, oh well. Since the last meeting I've been doing some research and we talked about the Consumer Advocate from the state wanting a right to know. Well there's been a couple other things that have taken place with this same issue and if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman, I'm going to use my phone here, OK?

Chairman Dumont: I'm fine.

Selectman Morin: Back on February 13, 2024, Consumer Advocate went to the Department of Energy and Public Utilities on February 13th to pause the implementation of Community Power programs in Milford, Jaffrey and New Boston. The reason for that was that the rates were going to be more than they had guaranteed and it was in his view that it was a breach of contract because they had guaranteed that to happen. This year on April 3, 2025, Laconia, Belknap County, they were going to go into Community Power and once that they saw the rates they decided to hold off on implementing these rates because again, what they Community Power had said they were going to do they have not done because their rates are more than public service. There was one other interesting thing here too, that I saw that Eversource is going to the Public Utilities Commission to ask for a rate increase because their 600 and some odd thousand dollars in the rears or for something. And, if this is approved by the Utilities Commission, not only are their rate for their customers going up, but the rates for Community Power customers are going up. So, you're going to get tagged twice so they're certainly not going to be cheaper than Eversource. I think that we need to contact the Consumer Advocate ourselves and get some more information because now we're starting to get both sides of the story. He did a great sales pitch, absolutely. Between all of this information and where we're seeing the rates going, we saw the conflict of our representative, he didn't know what to do. And we had the Chairman of our Sustainability Committee come right out in a public meeting and say, I know things that I can't talk about because I'm married to the representative. We've got some serious issues here that we need to, before we make any further decisions I think we need to get ahold of the advocate and we need to have a discussion on our representatives from that Board on this town because things are not adding up anymore. We've got six towns I just listed that have decided to hold off or opt out. When the advocate for the state says that we should suspend this because they haven't met up to a contract, that's the state now. That's not our level, that's not our citizens, that's the state of New Hampshire looking out for everybody. So, I think we need to look into this more before we do any further and we need to look into the Sustainability Committee.

Chairman Dumont: I would agree. Before I make my comments, anybody else?

Selectman Jakob: I just want to make a couple comments. One, thank you for that information. My understanding when we did CPCNH, just to clarify, because I'm curious what we'll find out as we go forward. My understanding is that the contract we signed was to guarantee the first year would be under Eversource and then it may or may not be. So, I'm just putting that out there, that was my understanding and I think the reason that these towns didn't go into it was because that first year was not going to comply with the contract. So, just asking. So, we may not, they may not be in breach for us. I don't know. I think it's a fair question.

Chairman Dumont: I think it is a fair question. We'll say the way the warrant article read, because I reviewed it a few times, was during the initial rate period we went in, I want to say sometime in the summer months is when we actually went live with it. So, whether it's a year or the rate period, we're not there yet. In my opinion, I would agree I think no matter what, that's the answer we're looking for. Is whether or not, are they in breach? I would say if that's the move of the Board is that we're looking to have that answered, I think it would be a fair question to just to make a motion to have the Town Administrator or instruct the Town Administrator to reach out to the Consumer Advocate on our behalf and look for that information, I think that that would be a great first place. Without getting too far ahead, does anybody else have anything else that they'd like to speak on, on that topic?

Selectman Jakoby: The Consumer Advocate?

Chairman Dumont: Or the rate adjustment or the notification.

Selectman Jakoby: Yes. So, then the other item was for the mailer. The rate has already gone up, so we are past that occurrence. I'm not sure that a mailer is the best use of funds at this point. I'm just saying I think it's a good idea possibly prior to a rate increase, or the rate change later. There's also other methodologies that I was thinking of for communication that might be more cost effective for us as a town. Which might be, I know the school does the robo calls, a notification that you leave a message to notify you of that rate change and possibly a place where they can get the information on the postcard. I know it's a little more cumbersome but you know, \$10,000 and a mailing or however much it'll be, maybe there's an interim way of doing this. I believe that we do need to know who they have the emails for and who they don't. Like who do they have direct communication with? And are they doing text or SMS messaging? That would be my other question. And how many of our residents have all of that in place? Because the thing is if we know we can email them, SMS them, then can we delineate who hasn't received the information and go from there? I know it's a little more cumbersome but sometimes it's more cost effective. Just trying to figure out a cost effective way of keeping our residents informed. So those were some of my thoughts.

Chairman Dumont: And I would echo that. No matter what, you have to have to make sure you're spending the money wisely. Personally I think that the burden is on CPCNH, I don't think that the Town of Hudson or the taxpayer should front any of that. But I think that no matter what we have to do what's best for them. And if they're not going to notify them, at least what's the other option and the Board could take a vote on that. If anybody has any other ideas I'm sure we can take a further look into this.

Selectman Morin: I just want to say to Selectman Jakoby's point, I didn't think they were going to do the mailers anyway. I threw that out there just to see where it would go. I knew he wasn't going with that. But, here's my next thing now that you just said that and what was said. The rates have already gone up, they haven't sent out emails yet so they never notified our residents so they just did it. So there's another issue. They raised the rates, didn't tell anybody and just hoping it would just go under, like I said, everybody is forced into this, they don't have a choice. And if they don't know, they don't know. My wife asked me if we were under that, well yes we are.

Selectman Jakoby: Well I believe there was, I think he did say there were public notices. I'm not defending it, I'm just. I'm not defending it.

Selectman Morin: I understand.

Selectman Jakoby: To make sure the public knows...

Selectman Morin: But let's look at our own experience with public notices. So, that's right out the door, too.

Selectman Jakoby: I just want to point ...

Selectman Guessferd: A very small percentage.

Chairman Dumont: Selectman Morin, if anybody else can speak to it. I'll say that honestly I was fortunate enough, I opted out. I didn't have a good feelings about it, I opted out. Selectman Morin, you're in the program, did you receive a notice that you're aware of?

Selectman Morin: Nope.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: I have not.

Selectman Jakoby: I saw the public notice.

Chairman Dumont: Can you elaborate on where that was?

Selectman Jakoby: They said it was in the newspaper, it was online, on their website.

Chairman Dumont: Where did you see it?

Selectman Jakoby: Um, I've saw, see that's the thing is I saw it both of those places.

Chairman Dumont: OK.

Selectman Jakoby: I went looking.

Selectman Guessferd: But a lot of people aren't.

Selectman Jakoby: I agree.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I was about to say that. To speak to that is you might have seen both locations but, part of it was you were looking for it.

Selectman Jakoby: And part of it that I'm on the Selectboard. I'm looking for stuff.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: For me, if you were a consumer, you know. I knew it was coming but, before I was on the Board, I trusted that we would get the best rate which at the time seemed right. But, never got notice of change or that it had changed. Not in my email, not in my mailbox, so I haven't seen anything personally.

Chairman Dumont: And you didn't get anything in your email.

Selectman Jakoby: No.

Chairman Dumont: You just seen it in the newspaper or the website.

Selectman Jakoby: Yes or on the, yes.

Chairman Dumont: Well, I think what we do at this time, I think no matter what, the Consumer Advocate is probably going to be the best way to go is to follow up and see if we fall into the same categories as those other towns. I do think, I'll leave it up to the Board, a discussion needs to be had on the issues about the Sustainability Committee and their representation to CPCNH. Whether it be tonight or at a further meeting, I'm open to either one of them. What's the will of the Board?

Selectman Morin: Just do it next meeting. We've got enough to go with tonight.

Chairman Dumont: So we'll create an agenda item to have a discussion on the Sustainability representation on CPCNH at the next meeting.

Selectman Jakoby: Did we make the motion to, we didn't make the motion to...

Chairman Dumont: I think we just need a consensus but if the Board would like to make a motion to instruct ...

Selectman Jakoby: You originally said a motion, so ...

Chairman Dumont: I apologize. Would you like to make a motion and instruct the Town Administrator to reach out to the Consumer Advocate?

Selectman Jakoby: Sure.

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to have Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson, contact the Office of Consumer Advocate in regards to notifications from CPCNH and their rate adjustments. Motions carried, 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

B. Solar Farm Project on West Road Landfill – Engineering/Decision

Chairman Dumont recognizes Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima.

Elvis Dhima: Thank you Mr. Chairman, good evening everyone. Before we dive into the item, again I'd like to kind of do an overall picture to kind of what we went through bringing you Selectmen on board to kind of go through the journey/nightmare, whatever you want to call it and then we'll go from there. So the idea is to kind of give everyone an idea, executive summary, and then we're going to dive into the item. So with that said, let's see if this thing is working. **[Preparing slide show]**

Chairman Dumont: I was actually going to point out the terrific job that our Director of Community Television and Mr. Sorenson did with getting this new TV in here at no cost.

Mr. Sorenson: Operator error at this point.

Chairman Dumont: I would say so.

Elvis Dhima: Here we go. Thank you, Mike. This is nice. Someone was messing with me today, I was setting this up, they're like it's the same TV, I'm like I don't think so and they said it is. It took me about a minute, it's just wrong. But anyway, here we go. **[Begins slide show, Slide 1]** August of 2023 Board of Selectmen authorizes the Town Engineer to advertise for a Request for Qualifications, not quotes, related to a solar farm project at the West Road Landfill. The main reasons for this were basically, generate revenue through a lease agreement. Create an opportunity for us to purchase electricity at lower costs that would be produced in Hudson and be used by Hudson assets such as the one, the buildings for the town, the buildings for the school. This would obviously be a significant savings for the Hudson taxpayer on all electrical bills that the Town owns. **[Slide 2]** September 2023, the Town receives 11 proposals which is a great turnout. A Review Committee was established and it consisted of the Public Works Director, Town Administrator, a Selectman and myself, the Town Engineer. Five vendors were interviewed by the committee and Kearsarge was recommended to the board of Selectmen. Selection was based on similar and successful work with other NH municipalities, project approach, vendor's financial stability, which is very important in this kind of line of business. A long-term lease for 25 (years) with the option of extending it to 40 years, and a realistic and sustainable revenue and cost savings. **[Slide 3]** October 2023, the Board of Selectmen took action on two items. Kearsarge Energy is selected for the landfill solar farm project, as recommended by the Review Committee. The Town Administrator and Town Engineer work, start working with Kearsarge on a tentative agreement pending a March 2024 approval by the taxpayers. November 2023, the Board of Selectmen authorizes the Town Administrator to prepare a warrant article for the 25/40 year lease agreement with Kearsarge. **[Slide 4]** March 2024, a warrant article related to the Solar Farm lease between the Town and Kearsarge gets approved by the voters. In April of 2024, the Solar Farm project was put on hold, just about a year ago. At the same time the Town started advertising for Engineering & Environmental Services related to a landfill investigation and noncompliance related to work that was not done by us. June 2024, the Town hires CMA Engineers for the landfill cap investigation resulting in a \$37,000 unplanned budget expense related to that service. In June 2024, the Board of Selectmen also adopted a landfill procedure to secure the capped landfill to make sure that what happened in the past does not happen again. That got approved by the Board of Selectmen through a 5-0 vote. **[Slide 5]** In December 2024, the CMA Engineer submitted the final report to NHDES. Findings confirmed significant modification which took place, the conditions of the membrane and the need for a permit modification to the landfill due to the significant changes that took place out there. The Town at the time, that was me in this case, requested NHDES to put the permit modification requirement on hold so the town can pass the cost of the permit to Kearsarge so we wouldn't have to pay for that. That is still a case itself today. **[Slide 6]** In January 2025, NHDES sends a letter to the party who conducted unauthorized work and unpermitted work. The letter stated that the only current post closure approval uses by NHDES on landfills are sheep grazing and solar arrays. The current permit in place did not, and still does not, permit the use that occurred in the past which was the RC Club. The Town is required to submit a permit modification for approval of design changes that were made at the landfill by the third party. We're still required to do that, we are on the hook for that still. The Town is currently out of compliance due to unauthorized and unpermitted activities up there. **[Slide 7]** In April 2025, that's tonight, current status. We need to file a permit modification but we currently lack the funds for this unplanned expenditure. Kearsarge can include all the necessary efforts for the solar array project in their permit application because that will be subject to their permit. Kearsarge and the Town need to approve the lease agreement so the permit, design and the request to Eversource can be set in motion. Without this commitment from the Town they will not be able to do anything so they need a commitment from us. **[Slide 8]** Just to give you an update if you remember this, this is one of the case studies, this is the city of Manchester landfill. I had the pleasure to talk with the gentleman there that was running the project. I'm pleased to tell you that he's very happy with savings and the revenue their generating. He had nothing but great things to say, he was very conservative on the comments because like me they don't like to talk about a vendor one way or another. But, he felt comfortable basically saying he was very happy with their performance and it's been, actually performing a little better than the projections. So, as you know, there's certain projections there with these particular projects, but they've done better than they expected. **[Slide 9]** Hudson site design kind of looks like this, it's pretty much covered. Every square inch that can generate revenue and savings it will be covered. If you think you are Michael Angelo and your painting, you're going to be painting everything black up there that's flat or close to 10%. That's going to generate, basically, and create one of the biggest solar farms in New Hampshire, slightly bigger than the one in Manchester. So, this will probably be in the top ten if not top five solar areas in New Hampshire if completed. So, what does that mean for us? For the ones that are counting pennies here and you as well. Well you're looking at an annual lease of about 14,000/MW DC with an increase of about 2.25% every year.

That means \$1.9 million over 25 years and \$3.7 million over 40 years. That's fixed. That's fixed income. Basically if you have a solar farm that's a certain size that's going to generate a fixed income for you. What does that mean? It's equivalent to the income you're getting right now from the South Tank, from the water tank with Verizon and the same thing that you're getting from the lease at 9 Industrial Drive. You're getting a check for that every month. That's what you'll be getting out of that piece. The other savings you'll be getting, I mean the other revenue you'll be getting is that you'll be getting paid while the construction is ongoing at \$7,000/MW. In addition to that you're going to have another second income that's coming in through an annual tax. You're going to be taxing this particular use and this particular project there even though it's your property, you'll be taxing that. That's equivalent to about \$200,000 over 25 years and about \$0.3 million over 40 years. Those two are fixed and they're based on the size of the facility. So, the bigger the facility the bigger your lease and your taxes are. Then the piece that's also providing a significant savings to you is the 15% discount that you're going to be getting, it's basically the net metering. There's been a lot of questions about this, we'll we already have some net metering's, some other deals out there with Eversource. This is on top of everything else we're already benefitting from. It runs parallel with those programs, it does not compete with those other programs. So this an additional 15% you're going to be getting on top of what you already have right now committed. So, what does that mean? It means that for the schools and the town it's about \$2.2 million dollars over 25 years and about \$4.3 million over 40 years. The facility is big enough to handle the needs that we have for the town facilities, but also for the schools as well. So there's a benefit there between the town and the schools and while we consider the town separate than the schools this is really like one at the end of the day because the taxpayer is paying their bill also. And with that said that is it pretty much in a nutshell and brings us to the actual Solar Farm Project on West Road that's in front of you tonight. So, the memo was about one page, I tried to keep it as light as possible but, in a nutshell you're not putting any of your money into this at all. It's 100% paid by them and they're basically utilizing the flat area to basically build a multi-million dollar solar farm that's going to generate electricity. And, in return you're getting a lease revenue because you're giving them the land to utilize for this project and getting a tax revenue. And because they're producing electricity in town, you're going to get now a significant reduction that you're going to notice it through years. What does that mean for the first year? You're talking about \$140,000 the first year and that just keeps increasing. That's the equivalent to 3¢ per thousand to Selectman Dumont because like that a lot. If it's one penny or two pennies, imagine the possibilities of what we can do with that. But that's it in a nutshell and we need the permit for that obviously, there's a lot of work here we're looking at about 12 months to get the ball rolling. There's a lot of these projects now in the works. We missed an opportunity to kind of get in line, but we have very good strong connections with Eversource, we can make this a priority project. For Kearsarge this is a priority project because it's going to be one of the biggest ones they have in the queue. The solar panels have already been purchased, they're already sitting in a warehouse so, tariff-wise won't impact us whatsoever, it won't impact them. And this is it. Once they get the green light they will be submitting the cost related to Eversource to basically start the process of the permit in May and hopefully we have a project in the next 12-18 months. I will take any questions you might have.

Chairman Dumont: Questions, comments?

Selectman Guessferd: I have one initial question. It says \$14,000 per MW.

Elvis Dhima: That is correct.

Selectman Guessferd: How many megawatts?

Elvis Dhima: We're talking, I think they do DC but we're talking about 4-5. So we're talking about \$50,000-\$60,000 a year that alone.

Selectman Guessferd: OK.

Elvis Dhima: And then \$2,000 per MW so that's about \$8,000 - \$10,000 depending what we get for size a year. In addition to that you're talking about another \$60,000 per year in savings between the school and the town. Correct. So it's about half fixed income, the other half on the savings depending on the rate of the electrical bill. And the only way we lose if the electricity is for free all of a sudden. I'm not holding my breath on that. That's kind of how it plays out.

Selectman Jakoby: I just want to clarify two points. The Department of Environmental Services, I have the letter here. Just to clarify that the post closure uses that NHDES has approved at other landfills include sheep grazing and placement of solar farm. Use for remote controlled airplane flying could be approved under a Type-2 permit modification if specifics of the use met the criteria and the 807.06. Depending upon the specifics of use it may be

necessary to alter design of landfill cap to meet these criteria. But it also is possible that design changes would not be needed. Permit modification approvals are required before conducting any work changes, the design post-closure use and post-closure care of the closed landfill. I just wanted to clarify that. I just wanted to say it's possible, it wasn't completely. And the reason, let me finish my statement, the reason I'm stating that is not only was the warrant article for the solar farm passed, the warrant article to allow the Radio Control Club to use that was also passed. I had, there were a couple of items that I was hoping was, would come before this Board as we had promised at previous meetings. Both the permit and the policy that we put in place still has a place for the Board of Selectmen to make sure that they discuss the denial of the landfill use. So, RCC was denied and I understand that, but, that form we said would come before the Board and our policy states that we would still make a decision on that. That hasn't come forward but, I know that it has been denied, which is fine. I spoke to the Chairman, I'm good. I just want to put my points out.

Chairman Dumont: And that's appreciated. Mr. Dhima I will address a couple of those....

Selectman Jakoby: Can I just finish?

Chairman Dumont: Yes, go ahead.

Selectman Jakoby: So, I just wanted the public to know that. That that was denied and that there is rationale for that from both DPW and Engineering. So that is available as well. So those were my major two clarifying points that I wanted to put out there. Because, we did at one point say that we would have a further discussion about both warrant articles and the possibility of both of them using that space. And I know that Kearsarge did present at one point a plan where it could be used by both. And, I understand that's not where we are. The Chairman indicated that he wanted to move forward today and I respect that. Hence, I did not make my motion. So, I appreciated the communication. But, I just wanted the public to know those few pieces from my perspective. So, thank you very much.

Chairman Dumont: And I appreciate that and like everybody on the Board, everybody's entitled to their opinion. I would never stop anybody from speaking about that. To speak to a couple of those items to keep in mind, is that the letter was written to an individual who was making a request that would have to be done on the Town's behalf. There was an opportunity, in my opinion there, for that individual to have offered to make some of those permit modifications or supply some of that information which didn't occur. There was also some email chains that I follow back and forth as well as the rest of the Board members here that asked for additional information that was not given as well. And like...

Selectman Jakoby: And that's on the form.

Chairman Dumont: Exactly. And like anything if you want something you have to move forward on it. Nobody's going to come chasing and try to pull that information out of you. What we have here before us tonight is a plan that did pass. Keep in mind that the lease was approved by the warrant article is the exact same process that we would have had to do by the other warrant article that Selectman Jakoby had brought up. So just because that that was advisory it wasn't as in-depth as the other warrant article that had passed and that was put forward. There would have had to have been a mutual agreement come together between the Town and that company. That agreement then would have had to go back to the voters and that would have had been approved by the voter. I would have suspected that this past March election since that would have been the appropriate time. We're over a year past all this information, nothing has done. At some point you've gotta just move forward. That's where we're at.

Selectman Morin: I would just like to talk on the petition warrant article. This Board is very, very adamant that the public is notified of all the facts. Well we voted on this and the petition warrant article was in March. The public didn't have all the information, they had very, very little information and we're going on hearsay. Once we got the reports from the state, said all the stuff that shouldn't have took place, the alterations that took place up there, no permits were issued. If the public had known that we'd probably have a different thing and if they knew we had to spend \$37,000 to figure out all this mess, they would have definitely probably not go with it because that was their wasted tax money because it wasn't in the budget. So, petition warrant article, I get it. But, you know what? The public didn't have all the information they needed and they were going by what they were hearing.

Chairman Dumont: Selectman Jakoby I will give you an opportunity to respond but I'm going to have to say that I'm, after this I'm going to roll it back into the topic at hand.

Selectman Jakoby: I appreciate that. I just want to make a point that the \$37,000 that was spent could be attributed to, and I always, I always go with the expectation of best intentions. There was a road agent, there were other Town Administrators previously. If we go back to 1999 and take all the employees that we had up until that point, everybody had a hand in this permit not being correct. So, I don't want to put all the blame on just that group, it's partly us as the Town so I want to take that as well. Because I am assuming good intentions on the Town's part and good intentions on Clubs part. And I just want to put that out there.

Selectman Morin: And I just want to say, if the public had known.

Selectman Jakoby: Either way.

Selectman Morin: I agree with you. I'm not disagreeing with you. I'm just saying if the public had known.

Chairman Dumont: The final point on that that I'm going to make and this is it, is just the fact that we as the, and I was on Board at this time but, the Selectboard and the Town Administrator, the former, put a contract across the table. That company never returned the contract. I don't know what else the Town could have done at that point. And with that...

Selectman Jakoby: In 2019.

Chairman Dumont: In 2019...

Selectman Jakoby: In 2019 there was a permit.

Chairman Dumont: ... there was a contract drafted with us to facilitate or work with that company and that company did not act on that contract and it got left hanging in the wind.

Selectman Guessferd: I don't want to belabor the point much more here but, I do want to make an additional statement here about the modifications. I understand good intentions, right? Everybody had the right, good intentions. But, in my mind as I go through this process in my head. You know, of going through the last 20 years, or whatever, and the things that were done. Regardless of whether or not, and they were assisted by a road agent, the modifications that were made to the landfill were significant. It's not as if we just stuck something on top of, you know, of the cap and it was something that was relatively light. I mean there were significant modifications made with earth moving equipment and alterations made to terrain. In my mind, nobody could have looked at that and said this is just minor. Those alterations were major alterations that somebody at some point should have said wait a minute. Regardless of what anybody thought anybody else was doing, there were, I would have questioned that. If I was them, I would have questioned that. Instead, should we be doing this? Maybe we should, you know, check further than just the person that we were connecting with there. And again, the road agent...

Selectman Jakoby: Hind sight is...

Selectman Guessferd: No, I know. But, I mean when you look at it...

Selectman Jakoby: I did.

Selectman Guessferd: When you look into modification, we've all seen what's going on up there. I don't want to belabor that too long. I just, when this whole thing first started, when we first started, I was the Selectmen and I'll just state it because you mentioned a Selectman, I was a Selectman on the Selection Committee. At the time that I was on the Selection Committee, I had no knowledge of the Club, of that person, that Club up there. I found out later and I was very supportive of trying to see if there was a way that we could work with them. But, the more information that came out as time went on about the things that had occurred, what had happened, to me we're down this road and we can't really go back. It's unfortunate what's happened because like I said, it's near and dear to my heart, I mean airplanes have been a part of my life, you know, ever since I was a teenager. But, it's a hard, hard thing and I, to see this and to go through it, but, anyway. I just wanted to make that point. This wasn't just kind of, OK we're going to slap an Easy-Up and just kind of go out there periodically. This was a significant project that was undertaken. So that's my take.

Chairman Dumont: Selectman Vurgaropoulos, would you like a bite at the apple?

Elvis Dhima: Don't get into it, save yourself the pain.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: Thank you. I spent the better part of a whole day reviewing all the documents trying to get up to speed on this and is stumbled across most of the data that was put out here and had a couple conversations to get the bits and pieces. I did speak to RC Club at one point they gave me their side of the story and from what I have reviewed at that point, I said it's kind of hard because you don't have a contract. After I had that conversation

with them I had other conversations with other individuals and I found out that there was a proposed contract that never got returned. That would have gave them something. But, unfortunately this is where we're at. So, I'm going to wrap up my statement with I'd love a win, win, but my question is to Mr. Dhima. What's the degradation cycle on these panels?

Elvis Dhima: We don't own them. So, it appears that they're good for 40-50 years and the only thing that goes bad with these panels is the microchip that converts the energy from solar to energy and they seem to be replacing them. The old generation, the old models here to replace the panel, nothing used anymore. They have high-tech now so all they have to do is replace, it's like basically...

Selectman Vurgaropulos: It's like a ballast.

Elvis Dhima: That's right. The remote never goes bad, you just have to replace the battery once in a while. That's kind of how they operate. And the other thing too is, you'll never be stuck with getting rid of these because they're going to put a bond up to get rid of this if we ever get sick of them. So, that's in place as well. Well let's just say we change our mind or the next Board. All of a sudden I have a bad day and like I want them out. Which is fine, it happens. They are going to have, or let's just say they go belly-up. They're going to have a bond in place that says they're going to cover that expense so we're covered on the end.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: OK, that's good. I was just worried about the ...

Selectman Jakoby: Can I pick, that was one of my other questions on the 25 year lease. So it's a 25 year lease.

Elvis Dhima: With the option of extending to 40 years if you need to, correct.

Selectman Jakoby: But, at any point we can, we can opt for a different option? I mean, I mean just to clarify.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Well you'd have to get both the parties.

Elvis Dhima: You would either have to buy them out, you have to get someone else to buy them out if you need to. But, yeah, you're not, you know what I mean? There's certain limitations within the contract. I mean if they're not performing, there's things in there, but, yes. You're looking at the...

Selectman Jakoby: So there's performance requirements?

Elvis Dhima: No, there's no performance requirements as long as there's a bond requirement. So basically, if we're losing money there is a performance requirement, let's just put it that way.

Selectman Jakoby: Yes. I just wanted to clarify because things happen.

Elvis Dhima: Things do happen and I was going to say when you were talking about a chance, I said I could have a chance to get a lottery tomorrow and don't have to put up with this anymore but ...

Selectman Jakoby: I know, I know.

Elvis Dhima: Yes, the reality is that this what they do. This is one of the biggest developers when it comes to solar, and there's a lot of them out there.

Selectman Jakoby: Yes there are.

Elvis Dhima: Manchester is very close to us. It's the same nature, it's the same size. It took a while to get a hold of this gentleman but, I was very pleased to hear what he had to say. He kind of stood in line to what I would say and the biggest thing was the expectations have been very realistic. Because you can hear some great stories about we're going to come in and going to make you billionaires within a couple weeks, you just sit tight and enjoy. These are very reasonable projections and I think we're going to do very well. I think we're going to do very well.

Roy Sorenson: Yes, this favorable term is in there 16.4 on the Town's ability to terminate.

Chairman Dumont: To speak on that real quick, Mr. Dhima, that was kind of going to be my question. So the bottom is in place so after the 25 year lease if they choose not to renew or if we choose not to extend, that bond is utilized or obviously they're paying to have all of that equipment removed.

Elvis Dhima: That is correct, if they refuse to do that.

Chairman Dumont: And the excavation I'm sure that will need to be done for that, they're going to put the landfill back to the way it was when they took ownership or took the lease over.

Elvis Dhima: That is correct. So there's no excavation, everything is being built up above the existing one. But, to your point, everything they bring in is going to be taken out, that is correct. That includes...

Chairman Dumont: I imagine there's going to be some disturbances.

Elvis Dhima: Yes. And, they're going to need an AOT permit, Alteration Grant permit, and they're also going to need a Permit Modification for the landfill related to that. So, there will be two permits.

Chairman Dumont: that was my follow-up. So all of that rolls into that Permit Modification that has to be filed with NHDES. Both on when they start and when they remove.

Elvis Dhima: That is correct and that's 100%, to Selectman Guessferd's credit, by them. And that's in the contract. So there's absolutely zero cost to us whatsoever related to all this.

Chairman Dumont: And my final thing, I'll get to you Selectman Jakoby, so that happens whether it be 25 or 40 years.

Elvis Dhima: That is correct.

Chairman Dumont: Is there any wording in there to extend beyond the 40?

Elvis Dhima: Not at this time. But, let's just say that something changes, I think in the warrant article you as the agent have the authority to go beyond that if you need to. Or, if not, go back to the voters and ask them to extend the existing contract.

Chairman Dumont: So no matter what we'd have to extend it to the voters because that's what the warrant article was written for?

Elvis Dhima: Beyond 40 years yes. You can act as the agent to go from 25 to 40 if that comes in. Let's just say that the rules or the laws change in 40 years and they allow you as the governing body to go beyond that, you don't have to go back. But, yes. I think it's fair to say that probably you'll be the only one involved with that extension of the contract at that point. I think the rest of us hopefully be retired by then, but I'm just saying.

Chairman Dumont: We'll keep you around a little.

Selectman Jakoby: So, the new permit and the corrections that need to be happen to the landfill. Let me just call them corrections. There's corrections that have to be made whether we go solar or anything else. The Town has to make corrections to the cap landfill according to NHDES. In order to create a new permit.

Roy Sorenson: If I may, it's just the use of the property. That's the permit modification.

Selectman Guessferd: It's not the permit, it's not modifications to the land, it's the permit.

Selectman Jakoby: That's what I'm asking because the report said that the membrane was ...

Elvis Dhima: The membrane was not breached. But, we will have to do modifications related to getting access...

Selectman Jakoby: With solar.

Elvis Dhima: The solar but also we have to probably do a little bit of work on the road because there's been erosion because of the

Selectman Jakoby: To get the trucks up there. Right.

Elvis Dhima: But also because of the traveling up there. There's been a little bit of erosion...

Selectman Jakoby: Right. I just want the public to understand.

Elvis Dhima: But there's nothing ...

Selectman Jakoby: There's nothing that needs to be physically done to the site. We could just say we're not going to use it for anything, close the door and submit a permit for using it for nothing.

Chairman Dumont: Yes, we would still have to submit the permit.

Selectman Jakoby: We would have to pay for the permit.

Chairman Dumont: The only thing that I would add to that that was excluded because of the information wasn't available is what, if anything, happened with the sonic tubes that were put in place for the structure that was up there? They did specifically exclude that one item because there wasn't any information about that. What they did inspect, you are correct, the Modification Permit would just be filed as to say is this acceptable? I mean I guess like anything DES could say no. Or, they may say yes.

Elvis Dhima: We don't know until we submit the Permit Modification.

Selectman Jakoby: I just want the public to be aware of that so that there's no additional, right now as we sit, there's nothing that has to be done with that.

Elvis Dhima: In the field.

Selectman Jakoby: In the field accept to do a New Use Pit permit saying nothing.

Selectman Guessferd: And the permit would reflect what it looks like now.

Elvis Dhima: Yes, because we have different...

Selectman Guessferd: Verses.

Elvis Dhima: That's right. What's there versus what they have on record...

Selectman Jakoby: So this would be the new recording date as of today.

Chairman Dumont: I kind of look at it as almost like what they would do with a site plan to capture the image of today. Existing conditions of planners is what it would be called, something along those lines.

Selectman Jakoby: And that extends me to if in 25 years Kearsarge goes away, it would go back to the way it is now.

Elvis Dhima: Correct. And they will have to submit an As-Build to prove that that's the case...

Selectman Jakoby: To let the public know, that's what happens, so. I think it's important for all the, for everything that we spoke about. I think it's just really important for the public to understand that.

Chairman Dumont: And I would agree and the only thing that I would add to that in working with DES a couple times in the past, they may ask for that roadway to be put back to the way the original plan was.

Selectman Jakoby: Exactly. That would be correct.

Chairman Dumont: That is a possibility. I would say it's probably a 50/50.

Selectman Jakoby: Correct.

Chairman Dumont: And then obviously there's an additional cost that would be beared on the lessee at that point. Let's hopefully we have them agreeing that they're going to be the ones that take that action off.

Elvis Dhima: They are.

Chairman Dumont: Because that's the one that makes me nervous is because roadways are built differently. There's a different material underneath that...

Selectman Jakoby: Sub-street.

Elvis Dhima: That's right.

Roy Sorenson: You can correct me if I'm wrong, Elvis. But, that would be on Kearsarge because that's going to be part of their permit application. DES will set those.

Chairman Dumont: They'll give them the list of guidelines that they have to follow. I'm just saying so we're not sure what the total cost would be. At the very least it's some engineering, a plan and the permit cost.

Elvis Dhima: There will be some topography, someone has to go out there. We're going to be sharing our findings obviously but, there'll be some duplication because they probably want to do their own due diligence and there's some additional cost there but, none to us as far as I'm concerned. So, they will make whatever's necessary out there to get us in compliance and then make sure that whatever use we have moving forward is permitted. Absolutely.

Chairman Dumont: And just also another thing to put out in the public, if the Town beared that cost, that would be above and beyond the \$37,800 that we already spent. You'd be hiring another engineer, twenty, maybe a little bit more.

Elvis Dhima: Depends on the day with them. You know them better than I do. But, we are, from a technical standpoint, we're way beyond \$50,000 between the staff and Public Works and everything that's, everyone that's been involved there. So, you have a hard number which is \$36,800, but, I don't want anyone to forget that there's a soft cost there, all the indirect costs really that the taxpayer has to pay for staff, you know, myself, the civil engineer, Public Works staff. Their equipment that was utilized to keep the cost of the \$36,000. Because we were getting cost in the \$50,000 - \$55,000 range for this. So, we picked, basically, the most cost effective consultant by utilizing our staff to do as much work as possible to keep that cost low. So, we're way beyond \$50,000, I just want to

put that out there. Trying to get this thing to where it needs to be. It could be much higher if we continue to do this on our own.

Chairman Dumont: I would agree. And after everybody (inaudible) I'll be the first one to tell you that, you know I'm sympathetic to everything that's gone on over there. The unfortunate part of it is the five of us are put into a position where we have to make a difficult decision. And I truly do believe that it's our duty as elected officials to make the best choices for Hudson. And personally, with the way that Hudson seems to operate they want those to be fiscally responsible. So, for me you try to cover the cost and you try to generate some revenues and you try to make the best situation out of something that isn't working currently. So, with that is there any other questions about this item in front of us currently?

Selectman Jakoby: I will be voting against this motion. I do believe it's time to go out and seek some additional understanding of solar farms, of different opportunities that are there. A lot has changed since this contract was done and I would much rather go out for another RFQ. So, I will just be voting in the negative which won't change anything.

Selectman Morin: I'm sure the company that we voted on and the Committee put together is going to keep up with the technology because they would lose out on what they're doing. And I agree with the Chairman, again, this is for the whole community, the whole community, our schools our town buildings. This is a no-brainer.

Selectman Jakoby: Can I just ...

Chairman Dumont: I really don't want to get into it ...

Selectman Jakoby: I just need to...

Chairman Dumont: I've heard both opinions, I think it probably best if we move on at this point.

Selectman Jakoby: I really would appreciate just a quick statement and I won't ...

Chairman Dumont: Very quick. Small.

Selectman Jakoby: Very small. Our voters voted, it's always about the voters. I think there's a fiscal responsibility and I think there's a community responsibility, both/and. And I'm not saying that this company is not the perfect company, I'm saying that there other methodologies around solar farms. Not just this methodology. I was not criticizing the company.

Chairman Dumont: Point taken. With that, I will be looking for all those in favor.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropoulos, to approve and authorize the Chairman to execute the Solar Energy Facility Site Lease Agreement between the Town and Kearsarge Hudson, LLC, enabling the commencement of the design and permitting phase for this renewable energy project. Motion carried, 4-1. Selectman Jakoby opposing.

C. Bullet Proof Vest Capital Reserve Account Withdrawal – Police/Decision

Chairman Dumont recognizes Police Captain, Steven McElhinney.

Steven McElhinney: Good evening. I'm here before you tonight seeking permission to withdraw money from the Bullet Proof Vest Capital Reserve Account in the amount of \$22,492.20. That's fiscal year 2025 for the purchase of 15 replacement bullet proof vests for our officers. Do you have any questions?

Selectman Jacoby: Well I think just for the public, what's the longevity of a vest? And, if they are, I hate to say it, if they are used and stop a bullet, are they then, I assume they are then not useful.

Steven McElhinney: Correct, yes.

Selectman Jacoby: So, if you could just explain that to the public.

Steven McElhinney: Sure. It's about a five year, or it is a five year replacement program, they're guaranteed for five years. If the vest is compromised then it has to be replaced.

Selectman Jacoby: OK, thank you.

Chairman Dumont: Selectman Guessferd, your hand was up?

Selectman Guessferd: No, I was actually going to make the motion if nobody else has any comments.

Chairman Dumont: Does anybody have any other comments? Questions?

Roy Sorenson: So this will be a CRF request, you're going to approve it tonight, we still have to do the paper work and submit it to the Trustees.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to accept the Police Departments recommendation for permission to purchase Bullet Proof Vests in the amount of \$22,492.20 from the Bullet Proof Capital Reserve Account.

Chairman Dumont: Motion made by Selectman Guessferd.

Selectman Jakoby: Second.

Chairman Dumont: The only other thing I will ask is that we add in there is to be, I'd say be a little more specific about the purchase of fifteen (15) bullet proof vests. I don't know how the Board feels about that.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I guess if you wanted to make an amendment to put the type of vest, the level rating. Are you guys using...

Steven McElhinney: These are Level 2.

Chairman Dumont: I would ask if we can real quick, would that be something that you'd be amendable to, is that fine? I don't want to mess you guys up on the back end of things.

Steven McElhinney: Yes.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: (inaudible) it's not a big deal. I think that's what you're looking for.

Selectman Guessferd: I'll add that to the motion.

Chairman Dumont: Lorrie were you able to keep up with those? Alright, so friendly amendment to the motion maker, friendly to the seconder, any more discussion?

Selectman Guessferd made a motion seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to accept the Police Departments recommendation for permission to purchase fifteen (15) Level 2 Bullet Proof Vests in the amount of \$22,492.20 from the Bullet Proof Capital Reserve Account. Motion carried, 5-0.

D. Nashua Region Electricity Supply Aggregation – Administration/Decision

Chairman Dumont recognizes Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: Thank you Mr. Chair. This is a, this is before you tonight to see if the Selectmen are interested in joining the Nashua Regional Electricity Supply Aggregation. The Town of Hudson has done this since 2012. You see some backup within the memo I attached here. And typically what this memo, or you does, it authorizes us to say that we will enter into an agreement with other towns, schools and associated districts to get a better bulk rate on electricity. So, we're talking about numerous things electricity here, solar farms and things to that nature. It's similar what CPCNH is however, this is for town properties, this is for schools and/or municipal buildings. However, seeing that the school is here tonight, it does not include our school system. I did reach out to the schools, they're in the process of kind of negotiating their contract as well. They haven't been part of this aggregation in the past.

Chairman Dumont: And I'll just ask the question to you and Mr. Campbell as well. Is there any greater benefit of us working together and purchasing or does it not make a difference if we go in with them together?

Roy Sorenson: There could be. So, it's typical of what you heard from CPCNH. They'll go out to bid and they'll try to get the best rate they can. The one thing with this aggregation is if they go out to bid and they can't beat the Eversource rate, then they won't take that contract. It would be fixed depending on how they handle the bid in one or two years. Typically, if you look at the history of this, we've had two year contracts and we had one year '18 to 2021 was a three year.

Chairman Dumont: And that brings up my next question. With us moving forward on the solar array, when that comes into play, does that affect this in our contract with them?

Roy Sorenson: I am going to say no, we would certainly get the benefit of both. The other benefit of this is similar to what we're getting at the land fill, the net metering. We will get that benefit as part of this aggregate as well and it'll all get worked in. We talked to Kearsarge about that and it would not be an issue. We would still get our savings, we actually get additional savings if we were saving on this aggregate as well.

Chairman Dumont: And that's what I was saying, I just wanted to make sure we weren't going to be in default of a different agreement.

Selectman Guessferd: You stole my thunder.

Selectman Jakoby: So the contract expires November of 2023, no?

Roy Sorenson: No. Thank you for bringing that up, that's my mistake. It's 25.

Selectman Jakoby: November of 2025?

Roy Sorenson: Yes.

Selectman Jakoby: And, so this has a guaranteed rate every year that it will always be lower not just the first year?

Roy Sorenson: What they would do is the first year, is fixed. It's going to be fixed for one or two years based off of the market...

Selectman Jakoby: And then it could go up.

Roy Sorenson: Well no, it can't as long as you're signed in. What they'll do is they'll go out if the market is volatile which it is right now, you're probably looking at a max two-year and they would look at a stable rate. It's fixed over those two years...

Selectman Jakoby: Over those two years. And then we have to renew the contract.

Roy Sorenson: ... Eversource's rate could go up or down. We would either enter back into it or we'd just go with Eversource.

Chairman Dumont: Let me clarify further on that point to make sure I heard you correctly. And however, if when that fixed rate comes in, they are higher than Eversource it's no longer (inaudible).

Roy Sorenson: Correct. Hudson is the largest user in this area too, so. We're the buying power behind this, the group.

Chairman Dumont: Well I guess just because, I mean in know it's called an actual read, but Nashua doesn't participate?

Roy Sorenson: They're separate. They're in a different one. This is, which is unique, but they're in a separate one with their schools.

Chairman Dumont: Alright, any other questions, comments, motions?

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Hudson and NRPC in order to participate in the Nashua Region Electricity Supply Aggregation Program. Motion carried, 5-0.

E. Organizational Development – Administration/Informational

Chairman Dumont recognizes Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: All right, thank you. So, one of the things I've kind of been working on since I've been here and meeting with the Department Heads in the various departments is taking a look at who we are, what we are, what we do. I think is, as Board may recall and/or with the exception of Selectman Vurgaropulos is I kind of presented this, too, before I came into this position. And this is one thing I stress deeply because I think it's important and I think it's about transparency about who the departments are, what we do on a day to day basis. And not only that, it sets the stage, I think, for moving forward as we get into the budget season. So, this Board and the Budget Committee and whoever else for that matter is watching, understands where we are at a point in time and where we want to go moving forward. Now there's strategies to that of course and all of it hinges on budgets as well. So, I'll kind of guide you through the beginner's stages of this. **[Preparing slide show]** Actually, I have the wrong one here so I apologize. I brought up the Budget one first. **[Begins slide show, Slide 1]** So here's some of the things I've tasked them with. So number one, the Descriptions. Develop a Mission Statement. Some folks have, some of the departments already had mission statements in place. What I'm asking them to do is to look at those mission statements. When were they written? Do you need to redevelop them? Do you need to make them true to where you are right now? Do we have goals that we set within the department itself and how are those goals managed? Are they written down? Are they tasked each year? Are they brought back for year's concurrent after that? Taking a good look at a SWOT Analysis, which is your strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Now this is just about, there's nothing wrong with this. You could have weaknesses and threats, we all know about that. This is our ability to move forward and how do we get over those hurdles. And then planning. Master and strategic planning

and I'll kind of walk through how I would plan that with them as well. **[Slide 2]** First of all your structures. You'll see some simple structures as that one right there on the right, that's an organizational chart. Not a lot of positions, what does that department do? How does the flow work? Whether it's vertically horizontally, within the departments themselves and then town-wide. You're going to see other departments. As an example, Police will come in here first. You're going to see a much more extensive organizational chart, right? Versus some of the smaller departments and how those positions tie together. The big thing with this is even whether it's internally and/or town-wide is, what are the relationships within, not only the organization itself or the department, rather? But, town-wide and how that plays into the big picture. Because I think it's important when we come in we come in as one organization understanding what everyone's task might be. And this again, hinges on as we build up towards the budget season. **[Slide 3]** Mission statements are important and this is why I think it's typically of what we're doing with our policies and procedures and things of that. Is to take a look at your mission statement every three to four years. Maybe somethings changed within the organization or the department and you make that adjustment. It should be about where you are at that moment in time and in your near picture within the next three to five years. But, you still want to be looking to the future. Now one of the things I will also task them with is just that, a vision statement that's working towards the future, alright? Where can you be in five to ten years with your department and/or the makeup of your department and anything that may affect, not just yourself, but again, the full picture of the town and the other departments. **[Slide 4]** Smart goals, this is interesting. And you can see the acronyms. Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound. I break these out and I'll talk with my department heads about this. Independently, so if you look within your department you can set these things up independently, internally where you have control. Whether its level of service, how much you're functioning, how well you're operating, what you're giving back to the town. That's internally, that's within your self-control. As you move forward, you're looking to branch out and get goals that become town-wide, now you're dependent, again, upon the big picture. Kind of break out that piece of the department. Budgets are tight every year so you have to be able to go in there and understand where you are within that relationship and how you can move forward with your SMART goals and in a timely manner. You're not always going to have them every year. It's good to set them if you carry them through to two to three years, that's fine you can do that. I think sometimes people get discouraged because they say hey I should be able to get this done in three to four years. And you can't because of other reasons that are not dependent upon you, it's upon the other organizations, or other departments as well. And that's OK, because that's the balance, that's the relationship that I talked about in the previous slide. **[Slide 5]** Back to the SWOT Analysis and just the SMART goals, that's where this is important. So, you're trying to understand the environment the context of the moment where you are. The challenges that lie ahead. When I say opposing views that could be anything. That could be other departments, that could be myself, could be the Board of Selectmen, could be Budget Committee, could be whoever. You accept those opposing views and you try and work through them and that's what I come up with the interpret that. What does that mean and how do you push through that? And then ultimately the decisions are made and you learn from those decisions and then you catapult that and you pick that up and you move on to the next stage whatever it might be. It could be the next budget season, the next budget year. **[Slide 6]** Planning, I'm a big proponent of planning in master and strategic. So again, if you look at a master plan that's internal, it's within your departments, it's within your organization and how you can set those standards. It's static meaning you own it and you can produce it, it's long range, it's various shareholders, we've talked about. You're projecting impact and what is the best path forward? As soon as you leave that master box and you go over to the strategic, again, you're outside your realm and you are town-wide now at this point. So now you've got to be more careful with how you move forward. But, if everybody could work together with these two concurrently at the same time, you know you're looking at combining those and then you're coming up with your Capital Improvement Plan. Alright, so you look at those two outputs, those two outlets. When I say Capital Improvement, it could anything from an item that's \$5,000 up to something that's \$50,000, maybe it's \$150,000. Whatever it might be depending on your departmental needs. But that's the thinking behind it and I'm trying to get everyone to think independently but, then also think from a teamwork perspective as well, town-wide. Alright, so obviously all this is done within the public interest and this is what we're hired for, right? All of us to go look over what are the best needs of the town and how do we move forward and do it most efficiently. So, that's important, again. Because you can't be you can't be just a sole source pushing forward to try to do what you think is best, you have to look at the big picture. So that's some of the things I'm trying to instill in the staff. And, I'm not saying this isn't instilled in them, this is just kind of my approach moving forward and working through it. So, with that I'm going to say to the Board is I think over the next consecutive meetings we'll have the departments come in and walk

through their department updates based off this kind of strategy. I'm going to start with PD at the next meeting, they'll go first, and they've kind of put their presentation again and then we'll work the other departments in throughout the summer months and the lead-up into the budget season. Alright? Any questions on that?

Chairman Dumont: I just want to say I think that that's amazing. To get a presentation like that and to be able to bring all the departments on board, I think that makes for a clear expectation. It also gives a better focus from the Board of Selectman. So I just want to say, thank you very much for putting that together.

Roy Sorenson: Absolutely.

Chairman Dumont: Comments from the Board? Questions?

Selectman Guessferd: I would echo that. The sort of organization, planning for the things that we need to do moving forward. There's a lot more to it and we've got to incorporate other things in it. But, yes, it's a good beginning to kind of have some consistency across departments, across the town and be looking to the future. Excellent.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Yes, I actually, I love this idea. This is something that I've dealt with in my career, habitually. So these kinds of charts and organizations and like everything pretty much are putting every day in the same book. So I love it. And one question I had for Mr. Sorenson was with the leadership category, I'm having a brain cramp. You don't need to show it. So we're going to show each department head and obviously it'll cascade down. Are we going to show them cascade up and will this be available on the website? So, like if somebody wants to know who your boss is or your boss so they can like cascade up and down?

Roy Sorenson: Yes. Again, so one of the things, and I think it's been kind of what the Board's been telling me. Again, obviously we're both new, right? The two of us. But think what the Board has asked me to do is kind of take a look at some things maybe need some dusting off and some reorganizing and some polishing and that's what I'm trying to do. What I call it, it's general, it's just general organizational stuff, right? So one of the things I did task them with, pull out your organizational chart, what is it? When was it last done? When did you last look at it? Does it make sense? Is there something better you can do? And there can be ideas in there and one thing I just didn't want to happen was a department head comes in here and says hey, I need fifteen more people. OK, talk about your needs realistically. What are they? And then demonstrate why you might need that and how you may get there. So I think that's important. Just look at the flow. We talk about, I think a lot about what we do is based on how we're handling things. What type of software we're using or if we're even using them. Is there a better way? Those are some of the things I think in the immediacy I'll look. And if there is cost to that, that's fine. We can bring that forward and we just have that discussion. Does it fit at this moment in time or does it not? But you have the discussions and you take that forward.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Oh no, this is great, this is foundational Six Sigma. So it's really good stuff.

Selectman Jakoby: I want to thank you for bringing this forward. It is, you know, the core of many organizations and teams. And I hope that as we move this forward that then the, our Board will look at our strategic planning, our goals as a Board and how we can work together to achieve those. Because I know strategic planning is a key point in our Bylaws and what we hope to be doing. So by having the reports come before us, that will better inform us as a Board as to the direction we need to go.

Roy Sorenson: I think that's a great point, absolutely. So, you'll hear the departments, they'll come in and that give the Board a chance to do exactly what Selectman Jakoby just said, is OK, where is that placement and how does it work?

Chairman Dumont: And I agree with Selectman Jacoby and I think that's something that we've all been asking for, for quite some time. So, by getting these reports we'll be able to review it as a group and see, I know some of us have talked about some restructuring. Some of us have talked about making some minor changes like Mr. Sorenson said. So, this is a great starting point and I look forward to it. Anything else?

F. Policy Sub-Committee – Administration/Decision

Chairman Dumont recognizes Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: All right, thank you Mr. Chair. So, this is just a follow up, Policy Sub-Committee. As the Board's well aware this was kind of one of the things I was tasked with when I started. And actually the committees were set up before I got here so, I kind of misspoke there. It was Selectman Jakoby and Selectman Roy were on that at the time.

At this point in time we have a lot of work to do here so this Policy Sub-Committee is pretty important and I'd like to, obviously, figure who the next two Selectmen might be. Whether Selectman Jakoby stays and there's another one, another Selectman appointed which is fine. But, either way kind of kick this off and get moving so we can kind of run these policies through here throughout the year.

Chairman Dumont: I would agree. Me and Mr. Sorenson spoke about this. Obviously with the departure of Selectman Roy it was something that needed to be handled, in my opinion, right away. Personally I would like to see Selectman Jakoby stay on if she's willing to do that, it is a lot of work. I was happy to see the stuff that her and Selectman Roy got accomplished last time. But, we'd be looking for somebody else to sit on there as well. If there's any interest from the Board members.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I can help with that.

Chairman Dumont: Selectman Vurgaropulos. That would be a fine addition to me. Any discussion by any of the Board?

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to appoint Selectman Jakoby and Selectman Vurgaropulos to the Policy Sub-Committee along with the town Administrator to review all policies on file and make revisions as necessary for Board approval. Motion carried, 5-0.

Selectman Jakoby: Thank you.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much like I said you guys did well last time I'm sure you and Selectman Vurgaropulos will bring us some much needed updates.

G. Revenues and Expenditures – Administration/Informational

Chairman Dumont recognizes Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: Thank you. So I presented at the last meeting or two meetings ago, this is kind of how I'm going to present I think moving forward. I just didn't have time to put this together for the first time. But this is how I will bring you these updates. Typically I just handle it though presentations so I think it's important the public can see it as well. **[Prepares slide show]** You have your backup, you have the printouts we give, I have not changed any of that. That stays the same which is fine, that's a good report to look at. **[Slide 1]** You can see in the top left, you see some red boxes and black boxes. So, what I do at this time of the year is dig into the details, look at the percentages and base it off of where you are in the current year. So, where are we in the current year? This reports through March, we're 75% of the way through. So, if we knew nothing about our budget and just looked at the lines and said are we 75%, hey we're under we're good. If we're at 85%, why? You dig into the details, alright? So let's just kind of just walk through where we are at a moment in time at the end of March. This is general fund, now remember our sewer and water are separate funds, this is general fund only. This does not include the warrant articles, I left the warrant articles out for a reason because those are large numbers and they can really offset that. Typically the warrant articles always balance out. We're at 84%, \$29,567,434 at this point plus expended. So, obviously tracking above the 75% and we'll get into that. The sewer fund is doing very well, 65%. That number hadn't moved that much, if you remember last month's report is was around 62%. We adjusted the rates, this came up in the audit, right? You'll see the big offset of this is why this fund is doing extremely well so that's certainly going to help with the fund balance of the sewer moving forward as well. The water fund is at 92%. Why are we so high there? Is that scary? It's because of encumbrances and I'm going to kind of get into that and how that affects you. **[Slide 2]** If we look at the boxes up there that I just blew up your encumbrances are the small boxes on the right. What is an encumbrance? That's money that's set aside, doesn't mean its spent yet, it just means that it's set aside for future expenditures. Expenditure that are expected to happen before the end of the year. Given that it is set aside, it does reflect on the bottom line so that's how it cranks up your percentages somewhat. Now if we take those out, you could see what the true expended 75% should be up on the right hand side. So, let's set the encumbrances aside for now and you offset and you see we're close. We're right where should be, we're tracking pretty good. That's overall, that's all the funds overall. If you go into the details we're in a bottom line budget obviously, right? There's going to be details within that report where you're 87% here and you might be 61% there. A lot of that is obviously driven by certain areas. But let's get back into where we are overall, we'll dive into the certain departments and you'll see the breakdown. This is what I handed out at the last meeting and we added these in after the fact. The red bar is your benchmark, that's 75%. The dark green boxes are your encumbrances. So our Engineer left, which is

unfortunate, because he is 178% over budget at this point and we really have to find out what's going on with that. That's the Melendy Road Bridge, that's all that is. It's encumbered, it's in there, that will be obviously fixed by years end. But you can kind of see how the other one, like as an example, non-departmental. **[Slide 3]** Actually I'm going to go to the next slide just so you can see it. You can see on the right, there's your large encumbrances. So, Melendy Road Bridge, you see some of the large items in DPW. Fuel, Town Wide Paving, sand, salt, a lot of that's winding down. You see the PD, Fire, Non-Departmental is the solid waste contract. That looks like it's coming in pretty good, it looks like it's pretty balanced so that's good to know. And then water and sewer. Water is so high because you can see that we have our encumbrances in place. Whitewater is the third party contractor and we also have the pump stations, Marsh Road and the supply which is the funds we use to pay Pennichuck to receive water. So that's why water at 92%, you might see water go to 93-94%, it'll come in at 100% probably by years end. **[Slide 4]** This time a year just from my professional experience, because I did run large departments in my previous profession. I always looked at, OK, where are we because when you get to March you have three months left at this point. We're already, I'm already looking at April, by the way, I think the Board understands that. Fire Department, Public Works, and PD, those are your three large departments. You can see the breakout of those three departments you really only have 26% of the general fund remaining. So they make up the bulk portion of our general fund budget, obviously, right? So why is that important? It's important because as this Board knows we've had series of vacancies over the past five or six years. Public safety cannot be altered or anything else so we, in theory, we fill our positions if there's vacancies and incurs overtime. We understand that. You can see that the Fire Department up here I'm showing that in that the full-time is down a little and the overtime is up, that could balance out. In the end probably Fire is going to be higher just because they had to fill some of those vacancies particularly in the suppression and you'll see that. Why does that matter? Because of those three large departments that bulk percentage that's left now, of that there, 50% of that is your salaries. So, that's what's driving your big numbers particularly this time of year as we're winding down and that's something we're obviously paying attention to as we close in on the remaining months. So what are we looking at moving forward? Obviously we want to take a look at our revenue as well. Revenue is exceeding where we think it should be, which is great. Typically I think with Mr. Malizia he's told you always go conservative with your revenue, that makes sense. You look at the historical and then you balance it from there. I would say that that would be how I would approach it as well as we move into the upcoming budget preparation. But you can see motor vehicle permits are training well, 83%. Building permits are way up, general property taxes you've already exceeded. And if you look at the bottom chart you'll see the revenues through March for the past two years. Typically, right in really good shape. So the revenue work that's been done over the past three years, whether it's this Board or the Budget Committee, they're falling in line so they're all trending where they should be. **[Slide 5]** Alright, so looking ahead one thing I will, I'm going to speak to Barbara Bouley who's our Treasurer, because I think this is important. If you look at some of the interest we've earned versus what's been earned in the past, and it's in the report, it's astonishing. She's doing a fantastic job. I think she'll be in to talk a little bit more on that and some of the things she's doing. We did adopt the two policies at the last meeting and we'll talk some more about that. Next three months watching large expenditures. You went to the Capital Reserve Fund tonight for the bullet proof vests, do we need to do that anywhere else? We'll keep an eye on that. Balancing the books with your grant reimbursements, Melendy Road Bridge is a perfect example. We'll look at the warrant article. Are the warrant articles in place? Has that money been encumbered? And is it going to be spent? Does it need to be carried forward? Closing out purchase orders again, large department salary lines, retirements obviously affect everything. And the bottom two which are big, again we could come back, we're looking at accrued time payouts which would be in June and/or retirements. And then if we need to go the Capital Reserve Fund to make up some of that money. If we can make it up in the budget and the budget as a whole is fine, I think that's where we stay. I think we only go to those funds if we need to. I said this in my interview when I came here I thought that was one really good thing that Hudson did was the various Capital Reserve Funds you have and the ability to get those at the end of the year if you need them. With that I'll take questions.

Chairman Dumont: I'll just start with saying that that's probably the best budget presentation I've seen here. Nothing against Mr. Malizia, you know, he was very good just a completely different style. Mr. Malizia can rattle off number and that all sticks very well in his head. For me seeing it on there is a totally different feel and I just want to say I really appreciate that because that looked like a lot of work.

Roy Sorenson: He's been great, too. He's been, obviously as this Board knows, doing a lot of Finance Director stuff, fantastic.

Chairman Dumont: I see up there still punching numbers.

Roy Sorenson: You're right, I go in to ask him a question, he's got the answer.

Chairman Dumont: Just like that off the top of his head and he was fantastic with that. Like I said I just appreciate that for myself to be able to see it.

Selectman Guessferd: Yes. Most of us are visual learners so it's good to see that.

Roy Sorenson: Yes, kind of how I present it just so the Board understands it. I'll continue to do that in the capacity that works best.

Chairman Dumont: Anything from the other members?

Selectman Jakoby: Thank you. It was great.

H. Board of Selectmen Liaison Assignments – Administration/Decision

Chairman Dumont speaks to this.

Chairman Dumont: The only assignment, obviously, that we will be taking up is the Planning Board. So with that what I will do is I will open up motions for nominations. We will hear nominations, we will then close nominations and this Board will take a vote on those nominations that are brought forward. So, with that I will be looking to members to see what these nominations are.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to nominate Selectman Guessferd as liaison to the Planning Board.

Chairman Dumont: So we have one nomination for Selectman Guessferd. Are there any other nominations?

Selectman Vurgaropulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to nominate Selectman Jakoby as liaison to the Planning Board.

Chairman Dumont: So we have two nominations are there any further nominations anybody would like to throw out at this time? With none I will be looking for a motion to close the nomination period.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to close nominations for liaison to the Planning Board. Motion carried, 5-0.

Chairman Dumont: So with that this Board has two nominations in front of them, Selectman Jacoby, Selectman Guessferd. With that I will be looking for a motion to assign a Selectman to the Planning Board as the member for the year of 2024 into 2025. 2025 into 2026, I apologize.

Selectman Morin: Just have a little discussion if we could before that? That's up to you. I just want to say, you know, we heard from public input and we've heard other things. And Selectman Jakoby, this is from you, this is why I'm going to say what I'm going to say. What we've seen over the last year, and Selectman Jakoby said it numerous times, I'm learning. I'm learning. And, where both the Selectmen on that side of the room have not served on any Board or had experience in Town, they're both learning. OK? I think you put, I'm going to say Xen because I'll kill your name. I think putting Xen as the Budget Committee is perfect because that's our main concern. The other have Chairman's, they're elected officials, things to that nature. You need to learn how the budget works and how that process goes and fun in that meeting. They're still in the learning mode, you served on Boards, you served on Boards, I was here for 35 years, we get it. So I just want to say that and I took that your learning thing, I understand where you're coming from. That's all I got to say.

Selectman Jakoby: I would just like to say that was true for the first six months of my tenure here. Planning Board, I'm very familiar with. I've been involved with public input, I've been involved in a variety of ways and have also looked at it. And, the best way to learn is to be a part of it. I don't think that, I don't think I'm learning, I think you're all learning. I think Selectman Guessferd was learning when he was on Planning Board. I think even at 35 years you're learning. I think we're all life-long learners. I just want to put out there I think I would be an excellent person for the Planning Board. Either to sit on it or be an alternate and I would be honored to do that. I realize it's the will of this Board and that's fine. But, I think it's important as we heard from the public as well, we heard both sides. That we should keep people in place and we heard that we should move people around. We've heard both. It's up to this Board and I just thank you for the opportunity to be nominated.

Selectman Morin: I want to make a suggestion to Selectman Jakoby, if you don't mind.

Chairman Dumont: Last thing, OK.

Selectman Morin: I understand you got to learn, Planning Board there's a lot to do, I'm the alternate. I willing to give that up, if she wants alternate I understand that you're appointed that position but if she wants the alternate I'll give that up. Then she can learn.

Chairman Dumont: With that, motions.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to nominate Selectman Guessferd as the liaison to the Planning Board.

Selectman Jakoby: I just want to say I think you've served on the Planning Board very well. I think it is time consuming and a good calling. So I just want you to know there's nothing, no ill.

Selectman Guessferd: I fully understand that. When I first joined the Planning Board, and I had done a lot of research and I've done a lot, I don't care how much you read or how much you go through it, it is a process. And I've gotten a lot of positive feedback from the staff, from Board members, so I feel like I have got a lot under my feet now. I understand it pretty well. I appreciate your comments I really do. There's no, none of this here should be personal anywhere. So, it's really what I'm saying.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I just want to say I support both of them. Obviously we're not talking about that, but I appreciate your fact that you're willing to give up your position because I think that affords a great opportunity two (inaudible) for the learning environment if Heidi's selected as the alternate. Or, the primary, however where we're at in the voting process. That does, I think that goes a long way. I think that fits two bills, right, because we're trying to rotate and maintain the solid structure we've already built. So, I like that.

Chairman Dumont: There is a motion but obviously we're in the discussion I just want to speak. I think the whole thing needs to be looked at in totality. As Chair I think what I'm tasked with is trying to find where people best sit. I'm not a fan of rotation for that exact reason. And is nothing against anybody and will speak specifically to Selectman Jakoby. I think you have a lot of skills when it comes to looking at detail, when it comes to looking at communication, and when it comes to dealing. Quite frankly, and I'll just say it, one of the reasons why I selected you for Sustainability is because where, in my opinion, in a very deep, we have a problem with that and CPCNH and with your knowledge behind Right-to-Know I thought that you'd be the best person to facilitate some of those changes. Now I understand that a conflict has arose but I just want to say that these things weren't just thrown out there for no reason. There was an actual though process that I put behind these and to the Budget, same thing for Selectman Vurgaropulos. I think that that will help him immensely in moving forward and understanding these finances. He's going to get fresh eyes on that and hopefully be able to convince a couple of those members over there as well. And again, nothing that Selectman Jakoby over there did was wrong but, I just think that that's extremely important to understand how that works and everything else in here. So, I just want to say none of these should anybody be looked at as they were slighted. Quite frankly I look at you all in very high regard. You volunteer for a thankless job that most people just want to tell you you're doing bad at. So, I want to say thank you. With that we have a motion on the floor, it has been seconded, discussion is closed.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to nominate Selectman Guessferd as the liaison to the Planning Board. Motion carried, 4-1. Selectman Jakoby opposing.

Chairman Dumont: Now I will have a discussion with this Board and the aspect of being transparent. Since I've been on here the alternate has not been voted on.

Selectman Morin: Correct.

Selectman Jakoby: Correct.

Chairman Dumont: The RSA is for the member. What is the will of the Board? I would like to maybe just get a consensus as to whether or not they would like to see the alternate voted upon or appointed. I think that it is completely within our authority to basically set that standard. To back up even further, prior to I think my first year on here, the member was never even voted on. It was just always appointed by the Chair.

Selectman Jakoby: That's what I thought.

Chairman Dumont: The state RSA gives the authority to the Board of Selectmen as to how they want to do it, whether it be a one year term, whether it be a three year term. It just kind of was more of an enabling RSA than

really anything. But, I'm willing to respect the Board on this one. I know that obviously this is generated quite a bit of conversation. So, I'd like to hear from everybody else.

Selectman Morin: The Planning Board position used to be you were there for three years. Once you were appointed you were there for three years and you stayed there, nobody else took it. And then the alternates were always just appointed. For as many times as the alternate serves, but they need to keep up with it. You get the packets every week so you stay consistent in everything, I don't think we need to vote on it. My personal opinion.

Selectman Guessferd: I'll echo that because I mean I know I can name on one hand the number of time Selectman Morin has had to come in. A few more times when he showed up when I was already there. So, which I appreciate very much because he's very dedicated. So, I would agree that appointing the alternate would be my preference.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I have no preference either way. I believe that we're going to make the best decision. I do hope she is afforded the opportunity to take that spot to get that under her belt to gain some knowledge. But, it doesn't, her schedule is really going to be depicted upon when he's off and/or she chooses to go to the meetings.

Selectman Jakoby: I don't have any feeling one way or the other. You know what we discussed here so you appointing is just fine. I don't think there's a better way.

Chairman Dumont: What I would do with this one, quite frankly, that the conversation I've scheduled has got brought up and I would actually like to see this happen across all the committees. That if any member isn't able to attend they reach to me immediately that they know that they're not going to attend and I will find a substitute for that meeting. And I will be, quite frankly, will share the load I think that now what the School Board is doing over here with alternating out is not a bad idea for them all to participate in our meetings over here. So, I think that as far as alternate positions go I would be more than happy to find a sub for those meetings that can't be attended by the primary member.

Selectman Jakoby: That would be excellent.

Chairman Dumont: So that will be the way that it goes. I just want to speak to one thing on here because we did remove Library off of departments. Because it's not actually a department.

Selectman Jakoby: Yeah, I didn't think so.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: We found out last week.

Chairman Dumont: It just kind of slipped by mind until obviously I seen both of you guys there. And I'm looking at it and I understand the confusion on your end, obviously the departments. They're not like the committee meetings or anything like that. You're kind of the point person for those individual ones. But, really there's no obligation for the department to come to us because they have their own budget and they have their own elected officials.

Selectman Guessferd: You can see the arm wrestling match afterward. Always in nonpublic.

Chairman Guessferd: It doesn't look too good on your end, so.

Selectman Jakoby: Can I ask you a question about the library briefly. So are you a voting member?

Selectman Guessferd: No.

Selectman Jakoby: Because it's the Trustees.

Selectman Guessferd: It's a non-voting position...

Selectman Jakoby: Yeah, that's what I thought.

Selectman Guessferd: ... you're just there.

Chairman Dumont: The only thing that I'll tell you in my experience that when I was over there, there was a couple of questions as to who to talk to and I put them in contact with the Town Administrator. Or when it came to they had a flood over there and we needed some information about drainage that affected the basement, I put them in contact with Elvis. That's kind of it. I look at it more about being a point person. Kind of similar to when it comes to the School Board, if there's information you can offer, great. If not, then that's that.

Selectman Morin: Selectman Jakoby brings up a good point. We need to stress, especially with a new member, there's only two Boards that you vote on. Planning and Zoning.

Chairman Dumont: No, Zoning's not. Planning and Conservation.

Selectman Morin: No, Conservation doesn't vote.

Chairman Dumont: I thought you guys did. Zoning does not vote.

Selectman Morin: Oh, you guys don't?

Selectman Jakoby: Budget and Planning. My understanding the only two. Which begs the whole conflict question. Right? You know, again my conflict was that a person that my husband works for is on the Sustainability Committee. Which was not something I was aware of until Selectman Vurgaropulos brought it up. But, being as a nonvoting member, I'm not sure where the conflict.

Selectman Morin: There won't be. If you don't vote there won't be.

Selectman Jacoby: But, when he pulled out that's prompted me. I just want to be honest.

Chairman Dumont: I appreciate that, I'm glad you brought that up. So, conflict works two ways when you read into it...

Selectman Jacoby: Well that's what I did.

Chairman Dumont: ... One is it has to do with monetary, the other one is whether or not the individual believes that their own judgement would be effected by sitting on that Board. And when you two sent me the email I figured you were just doing that on your own and which is more than acceptable. I mean there was times, I'll use Zoning Board for instance, that there was a case that came in front of us I wasn't an abutter, I wasn't a direct abutter but, I was close enough down the road where I could see the property. Where I removed myself and recused because I wanted to remove any thought that there could be. So it's really kind of up on the individual member. If there's a monetary thing I would say hands down, yes you should recuse. But, as elected officials it's up to you to make that determination.

Selectman Jakoby: Like I said it was just overhearing that that kind of threw me into.

Chairman Dumont: And I would say as far as Sustainability, if your feelings have changed on that I think what we need to do is see how our conversation goes on with them on the next agenda. And then just the week or two to think about it and if your feelings are you can sit on there without any conflict...

Selectman Jakoby: Let me discuss it with the individual that I'm concerned about. Because I haven't done that and I can do that. As I know that Selectman Guessferd, your wife is on the Board of Trustees as well and you know that works out. Like I said it was, I didn't think of it and that's how it came out.

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, for me it's just monetary connections is what you want to look at then some old self-digging. I guess and see how you feel about it. And if you feel awkward about it, there's no problem in just saying hey I'd rather step away from that, you know.

Selectman Jakoby: Yeah, and I'll discuss it with the individual and with my spouse.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: For me I just wanted to remove the, I didn't want to have the glimmer of impropriety...

Selectman Guessferd: I've worked for the government for a long time and it's not just about an actual conflict. It's an actual or perceived.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: That was why I put...

Selectman Jakoby: And the difference here is he is an employee of this person and I am a spouse of the employee. So thank you for the time to discuss that, I appreciate it.

Chairman Dumont: No, I'm glad you brought that up.

Selectman Guessferd: While we're on this item real quick before we finish the liaison discussion. I just wanted to reinforce your Budget Committee assignment. I started out, you know, my first elected position was on the Budget Committee, I spent several years there. That's where I kind of cut my teeth on town policies. So I think it's a great place for you to be, you're going to learn a lot. You're going to experience a lot.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I look forward to it.

Selectman Guessferd: I mean, but the Budget Committee was, we had a decent experience last year understanding back and forth. So, we had an excellent experience. But I'm just saying that there was some level of, there was some better level of interaction and communication there. And so, jumping off onto that with you being in that position I think it will be a good experience.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Thank you, I look forward to it.

Chairman Dumont: With that we will close out letter H and move onto number nine.

9. SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS/OTHER REMARKS

Selectman Morin: Schoolboard met last night but I was not available to get there so I will be at the next one. None of my other committees have met yet.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Went to the Cable Committee, they're doing policy updates. They'll be presenting some policy recommendations up to us in the near future. They're also working on some, franchise, but that's not the right word, the underwriting program. They're going to draft an underwriting program to try to essentially, I can't remember the word they used, but it wasn't sponsor. Donators to help support the HCTV and all that because they are noticing a downward trend of about approximately \$2,000 a year in cable fees. (inaudible) So they're looking to supplement that. Thought that was great. I suggested to them possibly using some sort of community hour program because they were talking about getting some students and stuff to volunteer. So, I thought that might be a good way for them to get community hours while not having to pay them. Then MUC, they didn't have much, they didn't have any of the finance reports they needed so it was really quick and easy. They just went over a couple basic operations report, nothing major to report. And then I'll let Selectman Guessferd talk about the library.

Selectman Guessferd: The Library met and after the wrestling match we, I mean they're doing a lot of great things over there. There's a lot of great programs, they run a ton of programs for various people in town. There's tax programs, it's a good time of year for that, right? For seniors, and they're usually very well attended. It's a great asset that we have. I'll report more as we move along during the year but, I'm always very impressed to see some of the things that they're doing. You know, you go out there, experience some of these programs. Everything from different kinds of music to different reading programs to kids programs, I mean it's really good. And they front the National Night out which is along with the Police Department. It's a great event that will be coming up later this year so keep an eye out for that, I'll keep people apprised of that. Planning Board, tomorrow night we have a meeting, there's a site application that we're working on. Our last meeting we had a riveting discussion on driveways and sidewalks. But, important things, right? Trying to kind of work through how we should look at those moving forward policy wise. As for Rec, I always have my Rec liaison report handy. The summer program is probably one of the biggest things that they do all year for the kids. They had an early bird program, went for four weeks, they took in \$107,000 in revenue with 300 registrants. So the registration is now continuing, regular registration, at the regular rate until the program opens. So, parents you can still register you children and I encourage you to do so. It's a great program they do lots of field trips and things like that. Skating and going over to lakes and things like that so good stuff. And if anybody was paying attention over the last few weeks we had this thing called the adult prom. And if you saw some of the pictures out there, there were some pretty zingy, throw-back costumes I guess we'll call it. It was a big success, a lot of people had a great time and a ton of fun. If you go to the Facebook page you'll get a few laughs looking at the folks that were out there. HCTV was also on site covering the event, thank you very much. And they're going to try to make this an annual event, one that I hope not to attend myself. But, I thought it was a great idea. And then finally the Father/Daughter Dance. This has been a great annual success, they go for two nights coming up very soon on the 9th and 10th of May. May 10th is already sold out, they do have 20 tickets left for the 5/9 option so if you're interested in going, attending and you thought you couldn't get your tickets yet, definitely make sure that you're, you get over there and get tickets soon. There's still some, I believe, on the website. Other than that, I think we're, I don't know if I have really much else at this point. We've got some good work to do ahead of us. I'm pleased with what I'm seeing and from Administrator, Roy Sorenson, here great presentation tonight and organization. I look forward to continuing to see more of this going forward. That's it.

Selectman Jakoby: I went to the Benson Park Committee. I wanted to start out by congratulating them. The Hippo recognized Benson Park in the following areas: best of the best place to let your dog off leash, in the dog park only; best city park; best of the best on leash dog outing; best playground; best of the best outdoor spot to let the kids get their energy out. So Benson Park is being recognized throughout the state and it's a place people want to be and to go. And an effort to keep it a great place to go to it takes many volunteers and this Saturday was one of the clean-up days. So, every third Saturday of the month there are clean-up days, ways that you can volunteer to help keep the park beautiful. There are signs up like, like the ones for elections.

Chairman Dumont: Lawn signs.

Selectman Jakoby: The lawn signs, thank you. There are lawn signs up with a QR code that link you to the volunteer form. And volunteering you can come for an hour or however much time you have that day. I wanted to let you all know there was a lot thanks to DPW for the trees that were down, the fence that needed to get fixing, the dog park that needed to be regraded. Everything happened very quickly and easily. There was need for the logo and Eve the Town Administrators office easily got that to them. So a lot of thanks to all the staff for all the ways that the staff supports the Benson Park. And they thanked us for approving, you know, lead removal and all that. All things are moving forward and a lot of things happening. There is a, on May 22nd at the Nashua Library from 5-7, there's a volunteer fair if people are looking to volunteer. The Friends of Benson will be there looking for volunteers and they have had great success at that fair to get more volunteers. And they do also prepare the park for prom pictures. So, apparently prom pictures and coming. So if you want to volunteer on other days just contact them, they're willing to chat with you. And I just want to thank the board for their continuous efforts to keep the public informed and I hope that we continue to make sure that other commitments as we go forward and have different things on the agenda that we carry them forward. I just always think that's an important part of what we do. So thank you for that.

Selectman Guessferd: I just have a comment on Bensons. On the clean-ups, I know they used to, I don't know if they still do, it may be an incentive for people. Sometimes they offer, they used to offer like pizza...

Selectman Jakoby: Oh my goodness, I forgot to say. They actually have sponsors now. There are a whole bunch of businesses that are sponsoring both like the breakfast and the lunch and so you do get lunch. Thank you for reminding me. And they have sponsors, their sponsors are up on their Facebook page. The Friends of Benson Facebook and the Benson Park Facebook page have all that information so thank you for that reminder.

Selectman Guessferd: No problem at all people seem to respond to food.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Never miss a clean-up.

Chairman Dumont: I'll start off by saying, I want to thank you guys all very much, you're all attending the meetings and being attentive to what's going on. I do want to speak to Selectman Jakoby. I really appreciate I think that, at least for me, Benson Park and the Library was one of the ones that I enjoyed the most because of what you can learn about the other volunteers in town. That's kind of a separate extension of the municipality and think that you'll give them the much needed PR that they really need. I know that's one of your areas that you do really well in. Because Benson Park really is a great thing that we have, I don't think people are aware of all the stuff that goes on there. I think that you'll be a big benefit for that so I just want to kind of add back on to some of our other discussion. For me, NRPC met last week, as well I had my PFAS meeting. Both of those basically we were just going through legislative updates that's going on up at the state house that has to do with budget and a couple of other items. Nothing set in stone yet. The budget was sent over to the senate right now so we'll see what they're going to do with it and then there'll be a committee conference that happens after that and hopefully sometime by June we'll have an answer as to what is actually going to go on. So, that's about it for me.

10. Remarks by Town Administrator: Just real quick to get through the meeting tonight. As I mentioned we'll be coming back with some department updates, which is exciting I think the staff's been great as part of this process. In moving forward I think they understand the intent of it and the context of it which is important. So, looking forward to that. Just again kudos to the Fire officials tonight that we recognized as well as Sabrina Maddi from PD as well. I think those are outstanding that we see that and the importance of the work that public safety does. Just looking forward to moving forward with many items, I think we have a lot of work to do with Selectman Jakoby, Selectman Vurgaropulos with the Policy Committee. Update on the Planner, we're going to be starting first round interviews next Monday and Tuesday. So we'll get through that process and we'll go off to round two as well.

Selectman Jakoby: Thank you for that update we should all celebrate that.

Remarks by School Liaison: Mike Campbell: Thank you all for having me. As the Chairman mentioned that we'll be rotating so you'll see all of the School Board here. None of us could replace Gary who you've been stuck with for many, many years so we're going to try to do our best. At the meeting yesterday we got a list of requests for end of year spending we'll be going over those in the next few meetings. Our fund balance currently sits within anticipated expenditures at \$2,559,402. All of our warrant articles, well a lot our warrant articles were based on end of year fund balance expenditures. So, after all of the warrant articles are expended we'll have \$1,895,602. In the past few years we've sent the majority of it back to the taxpayer and we hope to be doing that again this year. Hills Garrison last week hosted a Celebrate the Arts night that began with a gallery walk that showcased the creativity and hard work of the students from the school year including the Ceramic Tile project that has been done with the schools artists

and residents. The art teacher at Hills worked and received a grant to do that project. They're going to put all the ceramic tiles together in like a mosaic that's going to adorn the hallway later this year. And after the art walk there was a chorus concert that included fourth and fifth grade students and HCTV was there so you can watch that. On Saturday there was the annual rabies clinic at the Palmer Center at Alvirne's Veterinary Science Program always hosts. They had approximately 115 dogs and cats come and get a vaccination. A new student registration for the 25/26 school year is now available. For those who have new students entering the district you can register your child online via the registration page on our website. So, you can go to sau81.org and you'll find links there. Required documentation includes a birth certificate, proof residency, immunization records and current physical exam. This summer we're proud to announce that the Explorations Summer Stem Camp is going to be returning. This is the third year it's been extremely popular program for 1st through 5th grade. The camp fosters enrichment and inspires kids to design, create and problem solve using their critical skills and teamwork. Each day of camp will be filled with fun hands-on learning as well as creative free time. This takes place July 14th through August 8th. Each week is a different grade so it goes 1st through 2nd, 3rd through 4th, which will have two weeks, but a student can attend each week it's just that's the most popular grade so we allow two options. And then the 5th grade will have one. The cost is \$50 for the full week and slots fill up fast. We'll be announcing the registration date which will take place in May, it'll be announced soon. And that's all I have and I thank you guys.

Chairman Dumont: And with that we'll be going into nonpublic session.

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

12. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jacoby 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.

Nonpublic Session was entered at 9:28 p.m. thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public was asked to leave the room.

The Board entered into public session at 9:40 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session:

- 1) Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to authorize the Director of Community Media to hire Christopher Robarge as part-time videographer with a starting salary of \$16.00 per hour for no more than 19 hours per week. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 2) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to accept the resignation of Joshua Kippenhan with the Board's thanks and appreciation. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 3) 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 9:41p.m. by Selectman Guessferd, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos. 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