



## HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### Minutes of the September 30, 2025 Meeting

7:00 PM

Board of Selectmen Meeting Room, Town Hall

**\*Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, (a) & (b) beginning at 6:00 p.m.**

Regular meeting will begin immediately after Non-Public Session

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – by Chairman Dumont the meeting of September 30, 2025 at 7:14 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Selectman Jakoby.

3. **ATTENDANCE**

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

**Staff/Others:** Town Administrator - Roy Sorenson; Police Chief - David Cayot; Animal Control Officer – Jana McMillan; Police Captain - Patrick McStravick; Police Captain – Steven McElhinney; Police Captain – Patrick Broderick; members of the Hudson Police Department; Fire Chief - Scott Tice; Town Engineer - Elvis Dhima; Public Works Director – Jay Twaradosky; Girls Scout – Amy Campbell; Executive Assistant - Lorrie Weissgarber.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT** – None

5. **RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS:**

#### A. Recognitions

- 1) Jana McMillan – Hudson Animal Control Officer
  - Proclamation of Retirement

Chairman Dumont: Next up, we have recognitions, which we have a couple. First is Jana McMillan. I'd like to take a moment to recognize Jana McMillan and personally thank her for her dedication and service to the Town of Hudson. As our annual Animal Control Officer, she will be truly missed, not only here in Hudson but across the state, where her incredible wealth of knowledge and expertise reached far and wide, and I will turn it over to Chief Cahill to speak a little bit more on that.

Chief Cayot: Sounds good. So, first off, I would just like to say thank you to Jana for all the time and dedication she's given to the Hudson Police Department, and I do have a proclamation here that I'd like to read, signed by myself, the Chairman of the Board, and by the Town Administrator. Whereas, Jana McMillan began her distinguished career with the Town of Hudson on November 15, 1998, bringing with her a deep passion for animal welfare and a strong commitment to public service, and for over two decades, Jana has served as the Animal Control Supervisor for the Hudson Police Department, enforcing local and state animal laws with fairness, compassion, and unwavering dedication to community, education, and outreach. And in addition to her primary duties, Jana has served with distinction as Deputy Health Officer and Advisory Member for Alvirne High School's Veterinary Technician Program. Throughout her career, Jana has also held the position of Secretary of the Animal Control Officers Association of New Hampshire and Board Trustee for the Humane Society of Greater Nashua, exemplifying her leadership and devotion to animal welfare, both locally and statewide. And with nearly 5,000 dogs residing in Hudson, Jana has been instrumental in navigating the complex and often misunderstood role of an animal control officer. Her patience, knowledge, and solution-oriented approach has helped countless pet owners address behavioral changes and better understand their responsibilities, creating a more harmonious relationship between animals and the community. And Jana's academic achievements, including an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from San Antonio College in 1993 and a Bachelor's of Science in Criminal Justice from Southwest Texas State College in 1995, laid the foundation for a career marked by professionalism, integrity, and tireless service. And Jana's passion for animals extends beyond her professional life, as shown by her loving care for her own rescue pets, demonstrating her lifelong dedication to the well-being of all creatures, great and small.

And throughout her career, Animal Control Supervisor Jana McMillan has proven herself to be a true asset to the Hudson Police Department and the greater Hudson community, her presence marked by compassion, resilience, and a deep sense of duty. Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that we, the Town of Hudson, and the Hudson Police Department, do hereby honor and recognize Animal Control Supervisor Jana McMillan upon her retirement with heartfelt gratitude for her 27 years of outstanding service and extend our best wishes and retirement filled with continued happiness, good health, and plenty of time with animals she loves. Proclaim this day, September 30th, 2025. I would also like to add to this that Jana wouldn't have been able to do this and help the Hudson Police Department the way she did without the support of her partner, Laura, who she's been with for 29 years. Jana, I'd like to present this to you. Thank you.

Presentation of Proclamation of Retirement.

Chairman Dumont: Can I get a couple more things with that? I'd also like to recognize the Hudson Police Department for their support during an active shooter situation that occurred on September 20th, and at this time, I will have Chief Cayot speak to that.

Chief Cayot: I believe Chief Tice is going to come up as well. So as everyone's aware of the incident that did happen in Nashua, and like we discussed, I'm not going to mention much about it, but I do want to thank the men and women of the Hudson Police Department for their quick response and the help they gave to Nashua, and that was from everybody, from the patrol officers to our dispatchers to everybody involved. I received numerous calls from the Nashua chief, the Nashua deputy chiefs, and several of their captains just saying how important it was to have the response that Hudson gave to help them get through that situation. So, I just want to say thank you to everybody who responded, and it was greatly appreciated by the city of Nashua.

Chief Tice: Yeah, and I would echo that, you know, thanking our people. We sent two ambulances early on, one of which did transport one of the patients to the hospital, and being close by, being able to respond and give that assistance, and it's a good example of the mutual aid system and how we all worked together in those times.

Chairman Dumont: I appreciate that, and I think the Board of Selectmen as well as the citizens of Hudson are extremely proud of what you guys do every day, so I just want to say thank you, and we all see it, and I know a lot happens behind the scenes that people don't see, but it's important to recognize when something like that happens, so thank you very much. Thank you.

Chief Cayot: Thank you.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: Thank you, gentlemen.

Roy Sorenson: Don't go anywhere, Chief. Yeah, if you don't mind, I was invited today to the PD mandatory staff meeting. I must say I was very impressed with what they did today, and I'm going to turn it over. I want you to tell the public and the Board kind of what that involves and how that took place today.

Chief Cayot: Absolutely. So, every year we have a mandatory meeting, and we get as many of the officers and civilian staff together as we can, and it's usually about three hours, and we conduct some sort of training. We also just talk about kind of the state of the department and where we're going for the next year. So, this year was extremely special because we were able to bring in David Lim, and David Lim was at the Twin Towers on September 11th as a Port Authority officer, and he was actually trapped in the stairwell of the building for approximately eight hours with several firefighters and a victim. So, he was able to come in and tell us his story, and it was very heartfelt, the story he told us. It was very touching, and I think everybody was impressed kind of with what he shared with us and kind of the message that he took from it and that he wanted to give to the Hudson Police Department. So that was definitely a very interesting talk that he gave us. The other stuff, like I said, was just us talking about the state of the department and where we're going. But that was kind of – he was the keynote speaker, and it was very impressive. So, I don't know if you had any other questions or if you have any thoughts on that.

Roy Sorenson: I think it was great. I think it's great for team-building. Obviously, our role as the chief now, I thought, from what I saw anyways, it was something certainly worthwhile. The story Mr. Lim told is a speech for itself, but I think in general those are the important things for the organization, the culture, and the town itself, so I appreciate that. And thank you for the invite.

Chief Cayot: You're welcome.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you, Chief.

- 1) Amy Campbell – Girl Scout Gold Award for repairs at Benson's Park
  - o Certificate of Appreciation

Chairman Dumont: All right. Moving on to more recognitions. Next up, I'd like to invite Girl Scout Amy Campbell to the table, recognizing the improvements she made through her recent project in Benson Park, and I will have Selection Jacoby speak to that a little bit.

Selectman Jakoby: Yes. Amy, we just wanted to recognize that you were kind enough to select Benson Park for your Girl Scout Gold Award. Can you tell us a little bit about what you did and why?

Amy Campbell: Yeah, of course. So, I restored a section of a stone wall in Benson Park. I was able to find this project through a series of networking. I asked a member of my church, Phyllis Affler. She's very involved in the community, so I asked her if she had any ideas as to some things that might need to be done in Nashua and Hudson, and then she was able to appoint me to Natalie Newell, who is part of the Friends of Benson Park, who was eventually able to appoint me to Susan Clement, who is a member of the Benson Park board, and she is also a former Girl Scout leader, and she was able to show me this project. And after I saw this wall, I instantly knew this was going to be my project. I've always loved doing outdoors and visiting historical places. I've done that a lot growing up, going on hikes and stuff, and I also did my Silver Award project was to fix and create a trail in my town, so I knew that doing an outdoor project like this was the perfect one for me.

Selectman Jakoby: And this was a historical wall at Benson Park?

Amy Campbell: Yes.

Selectman Jakoby: Yes. So, and I was able to meet Amy at Old Home Days. She joined us at our booth, and she was also at the Benson Park Family Fun Day teaching. Part of this award is to teach others about, and you were teaching about erosion, and there's very specific ways to build a wall, especially a historic wall, and there's some pictures in the packet today. So, we just wanted to recognize you and thank you for your service, and the chairman has a proclamation to read.

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, I appreciate that as well. I also want to say I was at Old Home Days, and my boys got to meet you and do the erosion demonstration with you, and it was absolutely fantastic.

Roy Sorenson: Go ahead and have her walk through her presentation.

Chairman Dumont: Yeah.

Roy Sorenson: So, with that, Amy, if you don't mind, I have your presentation here, which I know I asked you to prepare, and you had to me like the next day. I was amazed. So, why don't you walk us through it?

Amy Campbell: Yeah.

Roy Sorenson: Let me do it on my end. How's that?

Chairman Dumont: There it goes.

Amy Campbell: Yeah. So, this project was my Girl Scout Gold Award project, so I'm going to start off by explaining a little bit of what the Girl Scout Gold Award is. So, it is the highest award that a Girl Scout can earn, and you earn it during your high school years. You must fix an issue that you have found in your community, identify the root cause of the issue, and come up with a plan that addresses that issue. The project must take a minimum of 80 hours, and it must engage a large group of people. So, for me, I had my project advisor, Susan, who I previously mentioned, and then I also worked with stonemasons to get their opinions on how to fix the wall and ways to prevent erosion further, and I also worked with some of my elementary school teachers on the erosion experiments that I did with kids to get their feedback on the best experiments to use to help engage the kids and teach the kids. So, here is the before of the picture of the wall. As you can see, the center of the wall is pretty much completely collapsed and crumbling, and that was the part that I needed to fix. So, the root cause, the

reason why the center of this wall was collapsed, was because of erosion. This wall is right along a road, and the road is down a slope, so whenever it rains, the rain goes right down through the wall, and as the water flows through the wall from the road, the water weakens the mortar that is used to hold the stones together, and in the New England climate, the freeze-thaw cycle with the winter and the summer causes expansion and leads to cracks, which also weakens the mortar and the wall, and then along with that, the soil can erode from underneath it, also from the water, which creates a less stable base. So, the first step of the project plan was to tear down the center of the wall just to start new again, and then I rebuilt the face of the wall. I added gravel behind the wall as backfill to help with the drainage. As water comes down, water always wants to find the easiest path, so adding this gravel means that the water will go through the gravel where we want it to go instead of going through the wall, which will help prevent the erosion of the wall. And then there's two weep holes here, which are circled in yellow, and these are basically holes, as the water goes through the gravel, it is directed to go through these holes and out the front of the wall, and so the goal is that it only goes through these holes instead of through all the other places, which will prevent erosion throughout the wall. And then, even though the main part of the project was to fix the center of the wall, I'm still going to fill in gaps that have occurred throughout the rest of the wall. And then the last step is to add loam to slope the ground towards the drain. So, as you can see, there's this drain here that's towards the wall, but the way that the ground is sloped, the ground is sloped away from the drain, which doesn't help with the erosion problem, so I'm going to take some loam to slope it back towards the drain so that the water will be directed there instead of under the wall. I attended the Benson Park cleanup days so that I could have many people helping me, my family and people attending the cleanup days. It's very helpful to have multiple different opinions. Building this wall is like a puzzle without the box. You have to try to figure out where all the pieces go, so having multiple opinions and seeing how different people put stuff together is really helpful. And then another important part of my project was to teach about erosion, so I created two experiments to teach with children that I taught at the Hudson Old Home Days and at the Benson Park Family Fun Day. The first one was a bottle experiment. I had three plastic bottles. One was filled with just soil, one was soil with some mulch, and then one was grass. So, then I had the kids take a watering can and pour water through the top of each of them, and then the water would come out the spout of the water bottle, and they would see if the water was clean or dirty. And the goal of this was to show that when it's just soil, the water is super dirty, the soil just goes out with the water, but when there's grass and it has roots in there to hold the soil, the water is clean, none of the soil goes with it, and that's teaching about soil erosion and how plants can prevent soil erosion. And then there was also an experiment where it was like a fake beach. I had a paint tray. At the bottom of the paint tray was filled with water, and then the top was covered with sand, and I had three Lego houses, and I took my hand to make a wave with the water to show them that sometimes when waves come, there's erosion of the soil, which can cause the houses to fall, which obviously we don't want, so then I gave them some materials, some rocks, some sticks, some fake plants, so that they could build something to prevent erosion the next time. Just to teach them about erosion to further prevent erosion, because that was the leading cause, and then there's also spreading the word about my project. I've been doing a segment with Hudson TV, so they've interviewed me and talking about my wall, which will come out after the project is done, and then I also have a Facebook page where I've been sharing updates about my project, and also, I've been sharing different articles about environmental stewardship and the importance of going to places like Benson Park to further teach people about going outside and the benefits. Then I have just the cost and the funding and the way that that worked. This is a slightly less updated version of the PowerPoint, but after everything, the total came out to \$138.65 with all the mortar, the grass seed that I'm going to use, the material for the erosion experiments, and the chisels and the brushes, all the masonry tools that I needed, and then I got funding. I had an anonymous donor who was able to give me some money, and then last night I presented to the Lions Club, and they gave me some money to cover the cost of my projects, and then I also just wanted to shout out Benson Park, because they gave me some of the gravel for the backfill and the loam that I'm going to use to help slope the ground, and they're donating that from their pile. So, I just wanted to thank them for that, and yeah, that's my project.

Roy Sorenson: Excellent.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much for that. So, with that, this certificate is proudly presented to Amy Campbell in recognition of her outstanding achievement in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award for surveying and repairing a historic stone wall in Benson Park. The Town of Hudson commends her efforts to preserve our history

while enhancing a community space. It's presented this day, September 30th, 2025, in Hudson, New Hampshire, signed by myself. Selectman Guessferd, Selectman Jakoby, Selectman Morin, and Selectman Vurgaropulos.

Amy Campbell: Thanks.

Presentation of Certificate of Achievement.

**B. Nominations** – None

**C. Appointments** – None

Chairman Dumont: That'll wrap up our recognitions. We don't have any nominations or appointments, so we will roll right into consent items. Does any board member wish to remove any item for separate consideration?

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to remove Consent Item 6D1 for consideration. Motion carried, 5-0.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to approve Consent Items 6A, B, C, E, and F. Motion carried, 5-0.

## **6. CONSENT ITEMS**

### **A. Assessing Items**

- 1) Timber Tax Warrant – Gowing Road

### **B. Water/Sewer Items**

- 1) Sewer Abatement – 921 Fox Hollow Drive
- 2) Sewer Abatement – 15 Shoreline Drive
- 3) Sewer Abatement – 27 Shoreline Drive
- 4) Sewer Abatement – 29 Shoreline Drive
- 5) Sewer Abatement – 12 Scenic Lane

### **C. Licenses & Permits & Policies** – None

### **D. Donations**

- 1) Benson Park Tree Donation - \$1,200

Chairman Dumont: Would you like to speak to item D, Selectman Jakoby?

Selectman Jakoby: Sure. So, what the public may or may not know is that there are opportunities to donate trees to Benson Park, and we have one today that's being donated by Amy Stevens, and the cost of donating a tree is \$1,200, which has been donated in the memory of Brian Stevens. So, they actually had an opportunity to go out to Benson Park, and with the coordination of DPW and the Benson Park Advisory Committee, selected a location, and that tree will be planted shortly, from what I understand. And we do have Susan Clement here, who might be able to speak to that donation, if you would like, because I believe they're going to put in a plaque as well, that there's an option to put in a plaque, and it's good to let the public know. So, if you want to have a seat and introduce yourself, Susan Clement is the Vice Chair of the Benson Park Advisory Committee.

Susan Clement: Thank you. Yes, this would be my first time as Benson's Park Advisory Committee doing this project of the tree, and Amy has wanted to do this for quite a while, and I'm glad that we can get it up and running again, because I know that we hadn't done it in quite a few years, and now we're, you know, opening it up, and now I kind of know the process myself, and so I did meet with her, and she is now going to be meeting with the DPW. We did select a spot that we all agreed upon, that would be best. Her husband really enjoyed coming to Benson's Park over the years, that was very special to him, so this was one of his last wishes. So, I know for Amy, this means a lot to her, and it will go around the playground area for all to be able to use.

Selectman Jakoby: And just so people know, there are guidelines, strict guidelines on what goes there, and it is placed by DPW, and even the marker has to be within certain specifications.

Susan Clement: And then the person that puts the marker in would be the DPW, making sure that it's level with the ground and not a tripping hazard or anything like that.

Selectman Jakoby: So, thank you.

Susan Clement: Thank you very much.

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to accept with gratitude a donation of \$1,200 in accordance with RSA 31:95-B from Amy Stevens for a memorial tree in memory of Brian Stevens to be planted in Benson Park. Motion carried, 5-0.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Thank you.

Chairman Dumont: All right. That takes care of our Consent Items. With that, we'll roll into old business, and I will ask Mr. Sorenson to please read the motions or votes into the record, please.

#### **E. Acceptance of Minutes**

- 1) September 9, 2025

#### **F. Calendar**

10/01	7:00	Budget Committee	Buxton Meeting Room
10/02	7:00	Conservation Commission	Buxton Meeting Room
10/08	7:00	Planning Board	Buxton Meeting Room
<b>10/13</b>		<b>** Town Hall Closed – Columbus Day **</b>	
10/13	7:00	Cable Utility Committee	Hudson Cable Access Center
10/13	7:00	Conservation Commission	Buxton Meeting Room
10/14	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room

Chairman Dumont: We'll go right into Old Business. Mr. Sorensen, could you please read that into the record?

### **7. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on September 9, 2025**

- 1) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to exit nonpublic session at 7:05 p.m. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 2) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to affirm the motion made in the non-public meeting to appoint Brooke Dubowik to the position of Town Planner, with effective date and terms of salary to be negotiated by the Town Administrator to be finalized upon signed Conditional Offer of Employment executed through the signatory of the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 3) Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to approve the hiring of Suzanne Smith for the position of full-time dispatcher with a starting salary of \$25.05 (step 1), all in accordance with the HPEA contract. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 4) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to accept the resignation of master Patrol Officer Cecelia Ortega of the Hudson Police Department, with gratitude and appreciation from the Board. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 5) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to enter into nonpublic at 8:51 p.m. A roll call vote carried, 5-0.
- 6) Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to adjourn at 9:14 p.m. Motion carried, 5-0.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Asphalt Hot Bos Purchase – DPW/Decision**

Jay Twardosky: Thank you, Chairman, members of the Board. So, in this year's budget, right in the budget, we put in money to purchase this asphalt hot box. This unit goes in the back. It slides right in the back of one of the trucks rather than having a trailer unit. We originally budgeted \$45,000 for it. And after doing some research and looking around at different models, different manufacturers, there was two manufacturers that had a unit kind of compatible. One, the dealer was right in Hookset. The other one is down in Millbury, Mass., for the other manufacturer. And we felt this unit would be much more suited to our needs, and it's coming in way under our budgeted price. So, we wanted to sole source it through Sourcewell to get the best government price on it. Is there any questions?

Chairman Dumont: I have one quick one. So, you said obviously this one fit you guys a lot better. What specifically about that made it better for you guys? If you could speak to that a little bit.

Jay Twardosky: So, this is a two-ton unit. It slides in the back of any of our F450 trucks. It's fully self-contained. It doesn't hook into the truck at all. It just sits in the back. It's got its own hydraulic pumps, batteries, the heating system. It's a diesel fuel heating system versus propane. One of the biggest things is the distributor being right in Hookset. Any maintenance parts or whatnot is in. Everything is just right there for us. It's real close. Like I said, the other manufacturer, that unit was, even though I couldn't get a quote from them in time, they just weren't that responsive, they're over two hours away. So that unit was going to be a little bit more money. This unit here is a pretty tried-and-true unit. I've talked to a couple of people that have used this company before, and they're really happy with the equipment.

Chairman Dumont: So, you're saying the other quote would have actually been higher than this one?

Jay Twardosky: Yes.

Selectman Jakoby: Could you tell the public who SourceWell is, because we're a member of SourceWell, and what they do?

Jay Twardosky: Yes. It's a cooperative purchasing for government contracts. It's a consortium, so they go out and they get the best price for you. They basically do the bidding for you. So when you go through them to each manufacturer that's part of SourceWell, you're guaranteed to get the best price there is. So, it takes a lot of the legwork out for the bidding process and a lot of time.

Selectman Jakoby: Yes. Thank you. I just wanted to make sure that the public was aware of that.

Chairman Dumont: Any other questions or comments from the Board? Motions?

[Selectman Vurgaropoulos: made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to approve the sole source purchase of a Falcon RME 2-ton slip-in asphalt hotbox transporter for the amount not to exceed \\$32,309 from Alta Equipment Incorporated, procured via SourceWell Government Procurement Contract Number 050625-FRM. Motion carried, 5-0.](#)

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much, sir.

Jay Twardosky: Thank you.

Roy Sorenson: A quick question to the DPW Director.

Chairman Dumont: Yes.

Roy Sorenson: Did you get that Girl Scout's business card before she left?

Jay Twardosky: I did not, but I think we should have. We've got a few other stone walls that definitely need some help, especially at the cemeteries.

Chairman Dumont: Drainage is lacking.

Selectman Jakoby: That's a really good idea.

Jay Twardosky: Absolutely. Thank you.

Chairman Dumont: All right. And with that, we will roll into the next item of business. Selectman Morin, did you have a motion?

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to change the order of business and talk about Item C, Target Funds Update, before we do Item D.

Chairman Dumont: Do we have any discussion?

Selectman Jakoby: Just the rationale.

Selectman Morin: Rationale was a lot more information to talk about before we vote on the rope rescue team.

Selectman Jakoby: Because it's related. Okay. I just wanted the public to know that. Okay. Thank you.

Chairman Dumont: And in full transparency, Selectman Morin brought that up to me before. I told him that that was probably the correct way to do it because, as a Board, we did ask for information for the Target Funds Update, and it rolled right into that. All right.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to change the order of business and talk about Item C, Target Funds Update, before we do Item D. Motion carried, 5-0.

#### **B. Target Funds Update – Fire/Decision**

Chief Tice: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and good evening, Board members. So, as we've been talking, we have this money from Target that was, my understanding, was to advance our technical rescue skills and capabilities. One of the concerns that I have and the approach I've been trying to take, it's great that we have money that we can spend, but I know of a lot of apartments that have spent a lot of money to get something going with no plan to sustain it in the future. So that's what I've been working on when I said I've been trying to work regionally. And then recently we continued those talks and we've been talking with the Southeastern New Hampshire Hazardous Materials Mutual Aid District. And there are about 17 communities that are involved in that team. And it's everyone around us, north and east. So, it's Pelham, Windham, Salem, Derry, Londonderry, Litchfield. I think it goes up to Hookset and over Plastow and some of the other smaller towns out in that area. They have been talking about taking this route and working regionally to provide technical rescue in much the same framework they provide hazardous materials. These kind of operations are, they're high risk, low frequency events that we should be prepared for, but it's very difficult for communities our size to do it alone, which is why I've been trying to work regionally with this team. So, they have looked at it, and internally as an organization, they've decided that this is the direction that they want to go. So, my goal would be to continue to work with them, and my recommendation would be that we join that team, and you will see a budget request in my budget to join that team. So that is part of our planning of how we spend the money. To get our own teams up and running, and to try to sustain that would be very difficult. So, the money that we have would be spent, I think we could spend that very quickly trying to do this all on our own. So that's why I'm trying to go the way of the more of a regional approach to that. We also discussed at the July 22nd meeting the scope of what the target funds can be used for. And it's the Board's, and if I understand correctly, the Board's understanding that the scope that we can use those funds for is a little bit wider than what we thought they were. And the Board wanted me to look at some other things outside of strictly technical rescue in those four disciplines. So that's what we're working on as far as our planning process with the target funds and where we're at with that. So, and there was a list of things. So, we're still looking at the technical rescue to try to get that up and running, which includes training and equipment. We had talked about tower ladder operations to do training. We have the tower ladder coming in. That's going to be a much different type of operation. So, to do some of that training. One of the projects we've been looking to see how we could get moving forward is a training facility within Hudson. So, we could have a place to do some quality training. Active shooter, PPE is, there's an age limit on some of the PPE. And we're coming up to that age to replace some of that equipment. And we have miscellaneous equipment. A couple that I know of is our hydraulic equipment. Hydraulic rescue equipment in our airbags. So that's kind of the direction we're looking at right now.

Chairman Dumont: Selectman Vurgaropulos.

Chief Tice: And I believe, and if I didn't, sorry. And we've talked about the addition of a new boat. I don't think it'll replace the boat we have, because the boat we have has some use, but we talked about the last several years. When the river's flowing high, the boat we have now doesn't operate well in that boat. And taking instead of that boat, coming through the budget to use target funds for the purchase of that boat.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Chief, the PPE that's aging out, is this just like standard SWAT gear, like pads, knee shins, and all that? Or is this glued vest and plates?

Chief Tice: Vest, yeah, vest and plates, particularly the plates, is what they say, age out.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Yeah, I know, they're like 20-year cycle.

Chief Tice: Yeah, I think it's even less. I think it's ten years.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Okay, depending on what you like, yeah.

Chief Tice: So that was what I was thinking about.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: That's good to accept on the meeting.

Chairman Dumont: I did have one quick question, so I see the list, and I appreciate you putting that together. The PPE, I know we've seen in your budget before. Obviously, that has to get taken care of in a timely fashion, and I appreciate that. Is there anything else that would be within your budget that you think you could utilize these funds to offset? So that way, I'll just be blunt about it, so the taxpayer gets a benefit from those funds being allocated to the town of Hudson.

Chief Tice: I believe there's a potential for that as well. I haven't looked into that yet, because I'm still trying to figure out how we're going to get the rescue stuff stood up. I think working regionally, we're going to be able to do it at a lower cost to the Hudson taxpayers, which is going to leave some of this money available for other projects. We've discussed this briefly, not being a member of the group, it's hard to get into some of that specifics. But we also talked about if we use some of this money to help get the regional team stood up, would that then be considered in our dues, in consideration for dues, which comes from our budget, which would help offset the budget and provide us some benefit to the taxpayers as well.

Selectman Morin: Okay, first of all, the money that was given to the town was for the town of Hudson. Okay, a regional team, yeah, it supports Hudson. But as the chief just said, it's a very, very low chance of this happening. And I got a pretty good idea of the history of Hudson. It doesn't happen really much at all. There's only been one that we've had that they weren't able to handle on their own. Everything else through history we've handled through our own. We had a well rescue. We already had the equipment. We put guys down in the hole. They were trained to do it. We had a tree rescue. And we called in a tree expert who climbed the tree and got the youth down. That is the only incident we have ever had. For regional, I don't know every town, but I can tell you I've gone through every newspaper since the 1850s. And there's not many there either. So, at this point, we have handled everything except that one tree rescue with what we got in the training our firefighters have. We have never responded mutual aid for one of these type of issues. So, the chance of this happening, yeah, you know what, tomorrow we can have five of them. And I'll get to how we could handle that in a minute. Okay, so then, Chief's talking about joining the mutual aid group. I fully understand that because we have mutual aid agreement for Hazmat with Nashua. The police have a mutual aid agreement for their SWAT team. We have mutual aid for dive team, things like that. The problem here is the chief said, we want to do our own team. So, I know where that's going to go. Because it's taken three years sometimes to come to an agreement with all these towns because everybody has to agree. They have to come up with a plan. They have to decide what the needs are, what equipment they're going to need. So, this takes time. Everybody's got to get together and have this talk and decide what the team's going to do. We need a mission. So, we have to figure out a mission first. Second of all, once you join this group, I checked into this, Litchfield is part of the Hazmat group. They pay \$8,700 a year because they're very limited on hazardous materials, things to that nature. Now Londonderry, a town our size, which I would compare to, pays about \$18,000 a year. That's a lot cheaper than \$74,000, and all those towns contribute. So, they don't have to pay \$74,000 up, keep the engine, because all these towns pay together

to take care of this equipment. So why we would have our own team first makes no sense if everybody's going to pitch in to buy this stuff and everybody's going to have the same thing. Everybody's going to train together. Everybody's going to respond together. Everybody's going to have the same rules and regulations, SOGs, everything. Everybody operates the same. So, we should get that agreement before we decide to put any money into this for one. Then I checked the area to find out what area departments have. Everybody has basic equipment. We have a little more equipment than like Litchfield does. We can do well rescue, we've already done one. The town of Londonderry has everything that this team needs. They have the equipment to climb the TV50 tower. They have the equipment to go below grade and hazardous with the little bottles for the firefighters to wear. They have the harnesses. We've already got a fire department that has the equipment. So why would we buy more equipment, we'd just add to their equipment. On top of that, instead of forming a team, if we have Londonderry right up the road, we get a structure fire. We automatically call Nashville, say, come over. So, if we get a rescue from Heights, we automatically call Londonderry, they're on the road. They're going to be here very shortly. And if we don't need them, we can return them. Saves us \$74,000. Now the chief just brought forth a bunch of stuff that this town needs. One of the biggest ones he had in his presentation, I don't know how many weeks ago now, was a training grounds. This money could be huge to move that training grounds forward. He's told us that he's got so many new guys, that they need to be a lot of training. This will support the fire department, will support the town in the future, and it will continue training always. He wanted for this. I don't agree with buying a fire truck with this money, but he was absolutely right. We need a fourth engine, because when we lose an engine, we're down a truck and we have nothing to replace it. And he's talked about more stuff tonight that can come out of the budget to save our taxpayers money. Okay, he had hearse tools in there, he had airbags to talk about. So, there's things we can use this money for our town and our citizens and our firefighters instead of a regional team that we can work on. It's going to take some time, but everybody's going to pay for that regional team. We're not going to have a team and then we're going to work on another team. That makes no sense. And that's why I wanted to talk about this first before we made a vote on the team.

Chief Tice: And I don't think I explained myself right. I'm not looking to spend a lot of money on our team and then go to their team. I'm looking to work with their team. So, what you were just saying is what I'm trying to do, is to work with the regional team.

Selectman Morin: How much are you going to spend on our equipment? That's what I'm saying.

Chief Tice: Right now, nothing until we figure out working with the other team and doing that gap analysis, because within that district there is a lot of equipment already available. And that's one of the things that district is doing, is doing a gap analysis of what they already have for training and equipment before they figure out what they need. The intent is that we would all work together towards that.

Selectman Morin: Okay, but why are we going to spend this money for training when all these communities can spend their money to get this company in it, and all the towns get the same training that are going to be part of this team at the same time?

Chief Tice: We're not. I'm looking to reject all the bids.

Selectman Morin: Did I read that wrong? You gave us four things to take bids on, to look at bids.

Chief Tice: No, we're looking to reject those bids.

Selectman Jakoby: The motion is to reject.

Selectman Morin: I apologize, I read it wrong.

Chief Tice: No, and I agree with you and I understand that was the Board's concern last time as we were. I was trying to get it going, you were concerned about, we were taking two paths as I've been talking about trying to do work regionally because it only makes sense to me to spread the cost out regionally instead of every town trying to do their own, because it is expensive. Once you try to do this, so to spread it out regionally, have everybody participate, makes a lot more sense to me than...

Selectman Morin: So, here's my confusion then. Didn't you just say to get our own team, and then at the beginning of your discussion?

Chief Tice: I said it would be difficult to do our own team. So, I think we're on the same page.

Selectman Morin: I'm getting old, I can't hear.

Chief Tice: I'm not saying that. I'm not saying, no, I think we're actually on the same page.

Selectman Morin: And my other concern is, Selectman Guessferd brought forward to come forward with a cost of a boat. And what bothers me about this is, you've been telling us, you've been putting in a budget for a boat, and you were going to put it in and get this. But now we have seen nothing, we've got the money to do it, what's the hold up?

Chief Tice: My understanding is, maybe I misunderstood the last meeting, is that you wanted the plan before we move forward with anything. We wanted a plan for the team, but we said to get an RFP for the boat. I looked at it tonight before I came in.

Chairman Dumont: So, to clarify a couple of things, we did ask for a cost on the boat.

Chief Tice: Okay.

Chairman Dumont: We wanted a formal update on the Target funds. And then we obviously wanted to see where, then where it was going to segue into the ropes course. But for my own clarity, so the gap analysis that you spoke of, when there, if there's missing equipment, or it's determined that there's more equipment needed, it's a regional team. Does that money go into a pool, and who owns that equipment after it gets bought? Does the town of Hudson own that specific equipment that's identified as being needed?

Chief Tice: The way the team works now, the team owns the equipment. So, each of the towns that are involved in the team pay in based on their population and the budget that they set forward.

Chairman Dumont: Everybody has access to that.

Chief Tice: Everybody has access to that equipment.

Chairman Dumont: When that gap analysis is done, is that burden spread out equally across all of those towns, or is it...

Chief Tice: That's one of the things we're looking at, because towns own, like Selectman Morin said, Londonderry's got a bunch of confined space stuff, Salem's got a collapse rescue trailer. The team has equipment already for some confined space and rope stuff, and they're already have a grant working forward in those two disciplines. So, they haven't decided yet if getting it started, if the towns are going to maintain ownership, or how that works. Or do towns get in kind for providing that equipment? That's still some of the details that need to be worked out.

Chairman Dumont: All right, and I know that we're kind of segwaying back and forth between the two. I think that they do kind of tie, because that was our conversation beforehand. So, I was just, obviously we're going to be rejecting those bids. That'll be the next item, and then hopefully we'll get some more information on that going forward. But back to the Target funds, just from my own perspective, and I'll just keep it simple. I do view those as ways to, I guess in a sense, buy down your budget in any way possible. The reason why I brought up the boat at the last meeting, and then I talked about it here, is because that was something that was identified as a need that we weren't able to fit into your budget the past couple of years. So, for me, it just seemed like a good way to offset the cost or the burden of the taxpayer. And I would just ask that when those funds, as you're going forward, you look at ways to hopefully offset your budget. Whether they be new costs, which I understand the training may be one of those, but without having to increase your overall dollar amount. If there's any way to do that, I think that that's what I envision those funds being utilized for. So, that's all.

Chief Tice: And I agree, and if I misunderstood about the boat, I apologize. We have started looking into that. We can be ready to go with that in very short order.

Selectman Jakoby: Okay, just to clarify a couple of things. So, is the New Hampshire Hazardous Material Mutual Aid District, the southeast one, is that established with clear parameters, or it's begun? Because you keep saying some of it needs to be negotiated, so I'm a little, is this brand new?

Chief Tice: No, the team itself has been in existence for a long time. It's a hazardous materials team. Yep. And they now have expressed the interest. They want to become more of a special operations team.

Selectman Jakoby: So, they're transitioning.

Chief Tice: They're in transition.

Selectman Jakoby: And we are not members?

Chief Tice: We are currently not members of that.

Selectman Jakoby: So, as they make this transition, it's going to be a broader mission or scope, and this would be a place for us to be a part so that we're sharing equipment and training and things of that nature.

Chief Tice: Correct.

Selectman Jakoby: I just want the public to be clear. That's my understanding.

Chief Tice: Right, and they use, so when they have an activation, the team is made up of people from each of the departments.

Selectman Jakoby: Yes.

Chief Tice: So, they get their training through the team. The equipment comes from the team.

Selectman Jakoby: So, when does this organization expect to have the documents, the outline, and how that's all going to work?

Chief Tice: I would say shortly. They are working on this currently. So, I can't give you a time of exactly how long it'll be.

Selectman Jakoby: Okay, because it does interact with the budget process that we're going into. So, that's my concern. I just want to raise that. I think sharing resources is what will have to happen moving forward as things get more expensive. I do agree that as much of the Target funds to offset purchases of things and equipment that are needed here, especially for the safety of our people, I think I agree with that as well. So, those are my comments.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: Thank you. Chief, I was trying to understand how the, I guess, how the mutual aid works when it comes to prioritizing where the equipment lives. So, we, like you said, Londonderry has a large chunk of equipment. Let's say we do buy some equipment, or we have some equipment, and then you have Hookset way out there. Like, the range is, it's a pretty good range, right? I think it's over 50 miles at one point for Hookset. So, it's, how do we determine where the equipment for this team lives and is accessible to all? Because you're not always going to send the person, let's say you have something out in Hookset, you're not always going to send the Hookset guy out there unless he's really needed because it's a haul. So, like, how do we, like, Londonderry is easy because it's right next to us.

Chief Tice: Right. So, they have a storage facility in Windham. So, a lot of their equipment is at that storage facility in Windham, but then they have some small, like, spill trailers and some resources spread throughout the district.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: Okay. So, they do have a centralized area that they've agreed upon, all the districts have agreed upon?

Chief Tice: Yeah. So, the, I believe it's through the town of Windham. They have a deal with the town of Windham to be able to use the space.

electman Vurgaropoulos: Okay.

Chief Tice: At a fueling, it's a fueling station. It's the garage that's there, the building. So, they have, you know, two bays double deep of storage space and office space.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: All right. All right. Thank you.

Chairman Dumont: And just because that raised up a good point. Is there any, I'm assuming, is Windham part of that program as well?

Chief Tice: They are.

Chairman Dumont: Assuming that they utilize that space to possibly offset some of their dues, I'm guessing?

Chief Tice: In that, I don't know if they offset their dues as part of that.

Chairman Dumont: I just don't know if there's any opportunity here for Hudson to do the same. And then maybe the location doesn't exist, but I just figured I'd raise it.

Selectman Morin: The only problem, Chief, we're right on the line. We're the farthest town west. And then Nashua is a different district compared to this because we use Nashua for hazmat right now. We pay, what, \$4,000 or \$5,000 a year for that?

Chief Tice: It's about 50, just under \$5,700 now.

Selectman Morin: So, we're right on that line. So, actually, Hudson wouldn't be a good place because we'd have to go all the way out to build it for the rest of the district.

Chief Tice: Right.

Selectman Morin: It should be in the center.

Chief Tice: And the bulk of their equipment currently is in Windham.

Selectman Morin: There is a trailer. When I was looking this up, there is a trailer in Litchfield that is available to us right away if we needed it. At this point, I think it's going to take a little longer. These things take a while for everybody to agree, especially that many towns, and there's a lot to figure out.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, for the Fire Chief put together a list for use of the money within our town and our fire department to purchase, because he's already given us a bunch of stuff, everything from a training ground to an engine to what he just talked about in Hurstville.

Chairman Dumont: One piece of discussion, possibly just a friendly amendment or even just my own opinion, I think that priority should lie within the existing budget if there's any ways to offset that currently and then look at what those additional budget items that you mentioned coming forward, what that might be. Personally, that's what I envisioned it on. I know that training is never-ending, so there may be more that comes up, but I think that the taxpayer would appreciate that we're at least looking there first and then branching out.

Selectman Jakoby: And to prioritize those items really clearly and to ensure that the department and many of the people involved believe that that is the priority. Because you talked about training ground, and so after the budget items, what are the priorities? Because the budget is the priority, I agree.

Selectman Morin: To your point, he talked about airbags. How old are our airbags?

Chief Tice: They're more than 10 years old, which is when they're...

Selectman Morin: I looked that up, all the manufacturers say 15 years, so that's a priority, even if it, well, he wasn't going budget for it. So that's why I'm saying we shouldn't, I agree with you, but there's other things that are actually going save us money that are not going be in the budget this year and we should have those presented also. And I still want to see the boat because that has been seen as a priority for three years.

Chairman Dumont: And I can't lump those together only because like you said, that's something that we have to purchase no matter what. You're right, your guys' safety is the utmost importance. That's something that would get put in the budget one way or the other, so I would agree with you.

Selectman Jakoby: Yeah, because the replacement of equipment, there is a line item for some replacement of equipment. And then, so that's, I agree with 100%.

Selectman Morin: And I understand the chief's concern about rope rescue. I can tell you, very limited, but we can put Londonderry on an automatic. If he gets a call for a rescue, the dispatch can call Londonderry and call them right away. Manchester has one and there's several other teams that we can rely on until we figure out what's going on. So, it's nothing we can't deal with now.

Chairman Dumont: And I think the chief has listened and got the directive.

We've beaten it into a dead horse. I will let Mr. Sorenson speak and then we will move on.

Roy Sorenson: Yeah, so just a couple things. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Obviously, the budget's open for discussion. So, if he brings it forward, you have that discussion then and you can talk about the funding there. Secondly, if you want, I think Selectman Morin just called it, is to look at Hudson first, which makes sense. And then, you want to do a date certain. Now, obviously, we're in the budget process now. For the fire department, the chief come back with a strategic plan for those monies. I think the Board should task him with that because that gives him a roadmap for a certain date. So, understanding that, I think we're in a pretty good place by the end of the year with the budget. You tell me, chief, if that's fair. You come back early December with the strategic plan. Is that something you think you could put together?

Chief Tice: Yeah, I think that's reasonable.

Chairman Dumont: So that would be, I guess, to just commit the motion. Second, Moore.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to direct the Fire Chief to prepare a comprehensive strategic plan, prioritizing Fire Department needs for the use of Target funds, with a completion date no later than early December. Motion carried, 5-0.

Chairman Dumont: You got your marching orders.

Chief Tice: Got it.

Chairman Dumont: So, with that, we will roll back into the normal order of business.

#### **B. Rope Rescue Training Program – Fire/Decision**

Chairman Dumont: We've already talked about, but is there anything you'd like to add?

Chief Tice: No, just with the direction of the Board and working on the strategic plan, I think it's appropriate to reject these bids.

Selectman Morin: Why?

Chief Tice: Why?

Selectman Morin: Yeah.

Chief Tice: Because we've already discussed, we're not moving forward with this training at this point.

Selectman Morin: Okay.

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to reject the four bids that were received for the rope rescue technician level training program. Motion carried, 5-0.

**D. Use of Donation Funds – Fire/Decision**

Chief Tice: So, our explorer post has been quite active. We've had a lot of new people come in and then they've been wearing out the shirts since the last time we bought them. So yeah, they wear them out. So, we're asking, we typically use donation funds for this. So, we're asking again to use donation funds to purchase 24 t-shirts and 24 polo shirts. So, this would help current explorers. We also keep a cache of shirts. So, as we have new members come in, we can just give them the shirts. So, this would be for a total of \$960. And the donation fund account currently has \$25,021.11.

Chairman Dumont: Any questions or comments? Motion?

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to authorize the Fire Chief to withdraw \$960 from the Fire Department donation account 4557 to be used to purchase t-shirts and polo shirts for the explorers. Motion carried, 5-0.

Chairman Dumont: You have something else you wanted to add?

Chief Tice: Can I just ask a clarifying question back to the vote? You want me to go put the RFP together, go out to RFP and come back ready to purchase the boat?

Chairman Dumont: Yes.

Selectman Morin: We said bring us one.

Chief Tice: Yes. Okay. Just making sure I understand correctly so I do the right thing this time.

Selectman Guessferd: Part of that strategic plan.

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, I would say that they would kind of go hand in hand. I think the strategic plan is the overall picture of where you're allocating those funds and then the RFP could be a part of that.

Roy Sorenson: Yeah, I agree. I think you could put the RFP out now for a boat, okay? And then you take a look at your strategic plan. Obviously, if you put an RFP out, it's probably at the top of your list, right?

Chief Tice: Right.

Roy Sorenson: And then you work your way down from there.

Chief Tice: Okay.

Chairman Dumont: All right, thank you.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: Thank you, Chief.

**E. Use of Donation Funds – Police/Decision**

Chief Cayot: You want me to do the logistics or the donation fund first?

Roy Sorenson: You are going go with donation funds.

Chairman Dumont: Oh, I apologize. Yeah, go right ahead to donation funds. Sorry, jumping ahead.

Roy Sorenson: I mean, this is for the merchandise.

Chief Cayot: Yeah. So, the Hudson Police Department is looking to use some of our donation funds to replenish our stock of Hudson Police Department branded items that we gave out at National Night Out and Old Home Days. So once a year, we usually try to replenish that so we can get ready for the next year and any other community events we have because we are completely out now. And as all of you saw, when you're at National Night Out and Old Home Days, it's a huge draw for children and adults in all honesty to come interact with the police department. So, we'd be looking to replenish all that, looking to spend \$4,999.87 out of one of our donation funds and that fund currently has over \$8,000 in it.

Chairman Dumont: I think it's fantastic. I think it's fantastic and the kids love it. I'm very happy to see my kids walking around with a lot of that gear as well as a lot of the other ones. So, it's a good sight to see.

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to authorize the police department to utilize \$4,999.87 from the donated funds for the purchase of merchandise bearing the branding of the Hudson Police Department. Motion carried, 5-0.

#### **F. Logistic Center Public Safety Funds – Police/Decision**

Chief Cayot: So, I'm coming to you asking to spend a little bit more money from the Logistics Center Safety Funds obviously. Most of these things I have on here are actually to supplement things that we've already bought from that fund. So, as you know, we bought new firearms from that fund. We now have the men and women of the Hudson Police Department trained up on those firearms. However, these new firearms and the new holsters, we need a certain type of pistol light to go on those. And some of our old ones will not fit. So, you can see the Streamlight TLR-1HLs as one of the things on here. We're looking to buy 20 of those. That's to replace 20 of the old lights that don't currently work with the new holsters and the new guns. You'll also see the Blue Alpha Duty Belts. These are a new style of duty belt that the new holster will go on. It makes it so it's actually more secure. It doesn't move around as much. A lot of our leather gear is getting very aged at this point. We've been recycling the leather gear. So, when someone retires or leaves, we hang onto it, give it to the next guy. So, we're looking to get everyone into these same belts. So, we'll have the same holsters, the same guns and the same belts issued to everybody. They're sized to the guys. We've had a few people doing a T&E with these belts, and they say they're unbelievable. They're much more comfortable. They hold the holster much more secure. So, the people who have been T&E-ing them love these belts. So, we're looking to replace those. So those go with the guns. The two other things we're looking to purchase is training for the drones that we already bought with the target money. So, we have the drones. We have several guys trained up on the drones, but we're looking to get a few more people trained up, and one of these is a more advanced training as well. So, it's two people to drones for first responders. That's to help get the license so they can fly the drone. And then it's to get one of our sergeant's drone search and rescue. He's already certified, but it's to get him the search and rescue training for the drones. And I'll answer any questions you have about any of that equipment. All right, any questions?

Selectman Jakoby: Yeah, I just want to say, I think this is an excellent use of those funds. It continues to upgrade our police department and our safety and our police officers' safety. So excellent use of the funds.

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, I would agree. And with that, I will read the corrected motion into the record. The motion would be to release \$12,541.60 of the Hudson Logistics Center Public Safety Money account 09-2000-2050-000-583, as defined by condition 61D of the Hudson Planning Board decision dated January 11th, 2023 to the Hudson Police Department for the listed training and equipment drones for first responders, drone search and rescue, Blue Alpha Duty Belt and Streamlight TLR-1HL.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to release \$12,541.60 of the Hudson Logistics Center Public Safety Money account 09-2000-2050-000-583, as defined by condition 61D of the Hudson Planning Board decision dated January 11th, 2023 to the Hudson Police Department for the listed training and equipment drones for first responders, drone search and rescue, Blue Alpha Duty Belt and Streamlight TLR-1HL. Motion carried, 5-0.

#### **G. Autumn Circle Status Update – Engineering/Decision**

Elvis Dhima: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Finally, my turn, right? No targets. It's 8:20, Mr. Dima. I know, it's going to be, what do we got? Six items, half an hour each. We'll be here til 11 o'clock. Don't you worry. Oh, we know it. Huh? I'm not worried at all. Good news is I don't think I'm asking for money tonight, so it'll be good. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening, everyone. So Autumn Circle is something that was approved in 2016. Work started. There was a few gentlemen involved with this. COVID hit. It's basically a 10 lot subdivision. The

gentleman that's left, he's the only one responsible for the remainder of the project. He's got 142,000 available for the town to utilize in case he walks away. He's not walking away. He's asking for help. He can't get people to come together and basically get this thing through. We reached out. I did not promise anything. I said, let me put some numbers together and I'll go from there. We were able to get all the local contractors to complete this work. The good news is it can be done just way under 100 grand, which is way below what we have available. We typically don't do this. We're not in the business of finishing things up for developers. I had a candid conversation with this individual. I told him that it's probably highly unlikely we're going to feel comfortable with him doing anything else for at least a while until he can prove himself we can do this again. He understands that. And with that said, if the board wishes to authorize the staff to complete this work, we can do that. Not a problem within October. If you have any reservations, let me know either way. But we have the funds. We can do the work. We can get this thing done. And the intent is once it's done and it's in good condition, he gets to plow this again for the remainder of the year. And then next year, he can hand it over to the town. I'll take any questions you might have.

Chairman Dumont: So, my main question, you hit the nail on the head. We're not in the business of finishing someone's project at all. That's what the bond is for, I get, for emergencies in case if things need to be completed if somebody walks away. However, I think you're doing a little bit more than that here. Is there any way to utilize money from that bond for your town, for the town staff and hours that are put into this instead of just the contractors?

Elvis Dhima: We are, because we're very good at what we do, Mr. Chairman. I think I'm planning to probably, and I spoke to him about this, we're probably going to utilize some of the funds for the bond to basically cover my time and any staff, which is about 40 hours at about \$85 an hour. So, he's probably looking at about four grand. That's our cost. As you can see here, these prices have what I refer to as the Hudson family discounts. So, he's getting a huge benefit out of that by basically getting the town numbers. This one would be marked up 10, 20%. I don't feel we need to do that. We could, but they're going to be charged for our time. So, my time, the engineer, civil engineer, that they'll be approximately 40 hours at \$85 an hour, which is still pretty cheap, because you will know that just to get an engineer in there or a project manager is 10, 20, 50 grand, 100 grand all day long, so.

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, I guess I'll have to call you on the next one. Okay. That was going to be my question.

Elvis Dhima: You will not be getting the family discount, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Dumont: Oh, and just to clarify, when you say discount, your hours are not being discounted whatsoever when we're figuring those out.

Elvis Dhima: No, you're just getting the rate that you will not get in the private sector. So, for a licensed professional engineer, the rate will be about \$150 to \$175, up to \$225 or something like that. So, the town rate is \$75 for myself, and, I mean, I'm sorry, \$85 for myself and \$75 for the civil engineer. And you're basically getting quality QA, QC, inspection services, things of that sort, and that's what we charge it for. I cannot charge it for a higher rate, but that's what I call the family discount.

Selectman Jakoby: So, can you explain to me and the public why this happened? And the point is, is this is not something we do.

Elvis Dhima: Yeah, this is the first one in 11 years that I've been here.

Selectman Jakoby: And I think, and I want to know how we got here.

Elvis Dhima: I think, well, I think there were some changes through the ownership of this project. I think this gentleman is not something he was doing a lot. I think this was a little bit more than he could probably process. I think he learned a lot through the process. I don't think there's anything to be blamed. I think there's some other issues going on.

Selectman Jakoby: So just to clarify, so this was a plan put forth. Of the original people who put the plan forward, there's, that has changed hands. And through that process, this particular item got lost? It got complicated?

Elvis Dhima: So, the way it works is if, you know, when a project gets approved, the bond gets put forward, the plans get recorded, people move in, and then there's still an amount left, which is what we did here.

Selectman Jakoby: Yeah.

Elvis Dhima: But unfortunately, things happen in life beyond people's control, and we have this for a purpose. The only difference here between what I've seen in the past in this case is that this individual is just reaching out. He's still there, but he lives in that development. He's a Hudson resident. He's still a businessman.

Selectman Jakoby: They're all Hudson residents.

Elvis Dhima: Some of them are in Litchfield, even though their driver's is in Hudson. This is one of those, like, it's right at the, yeah. Well, we got to take care of Litchfield, too. We got to take care of everyone, I guess. But the bottom line here is he's still a community member. I think he just, he's having a hard time getting people to show up for quotes and getting this thing done, and I think it's legit. We don't have to. I think that's why I'm asking you to, you know, to allow me to do this if you wish to do so, but hopefully it's a first and a last one for a while.

Selectman Jakoby: And the work that's being done is in Hudson?

Elvis Dhima: The work that's being done, it's in Hudson and a little bit in Litchfield, because the road does a little bit of this, but the intent is for us to plow it and take ownership at some point, because most of it is in Hudson.

Selectman Jakoby: That was my question. So eventually, we will have ownership of this road. So, the more it's done correctly, the better it's going to be for us in the long run.

Elvis Dhima: That's right.

Chairman Dumont: And to speak on that, so I'm not against this, I wanted to just make sure that all of our staff was compensated, because I don't think there should be any cost to the taxpayer for this, but this is exactly why these bonds are in place. We've been fortunate not to have somebody walk away since Mr. Dhima's been here or since any of us have been sitting here, but it does happen. I guess it's just nice to know that we got a courtesy call this time around instead of somebody just not answering.

Selectman Morin: Are any of the houses there occupied?

Elvis Dhima: All of them, and been like that for a while.

Selectman Morin: We don't have a stipulation anywhere that says these things have to be completed before we occupy the houses?

Elvis Dhima: It's a very good question. So, from a technical standpoint, as long as there's space there, you can have fire apparatus, you can have emergency services, but to your point, and it's a very good point, because of this, we have changed now how we approve single family subdivisions. We are requiring now that prior to the last CO being issued, certificate of occupancy, the developer is required to hand over the road ownership. That way, we don't get like this. Now, I've got a lot of pushback. You're being unreasonable, Elvis, this is foolish. You're going to hear from my lawyer. Okay, have at it. They're coming around, they see it. And I mean, the biggest thing is we don't want people to pay taxes here, and basically, they don't get someone to plow the road. That's what I struggle with here, and that's why this is in front of you. These people moved in, they're paying their taxes, and they're getting their trash picked up, but they don't see the public works trucks out there saying, you know, why is this still private? No, I pay my full amount. This is part of the services. But it's not a perfect world, but we have a good mechanism. We're not spending our own money to do this, and there's actually leftovers. About 40 grand were done. So, the developer next year doesn't have to raise money. The bond for this will actually be \$20,000 for the 10% maintenance, which tells you how crazy the numbers were in 2016 to what they cost today. I think we'll be okay. I talked to the public works. I think we can easily accommodate this. We have, obviously, the resources and the expertise, and hopefully, we don't see one of this in a while. Is there more to follow up?

Selectman Morin: I think you just answered my question. Are we hiring this out, or are people doing it?

Elvis Dhima: Now, this is, so the Continental is going be doing the road. Tate Bros. is going be doing the sidewalks and resetting the grades. And then K&A, which is the designer on record for this project, is going be doing the boundaries, the wetland buffer tags, and the asphalt. And also, we're going use Belmore, which we use all the time, even for our own sake, to clean the catch basins and the drainage pipes. So, it will be all handled by local contractors that do this for a living. Not us. I'm not getting public works to go out there, clean the catch basins. We're not doing that. We shouldn't have to be using our own equipment.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Okay, thank you. I'm not opposed to making this right for our residents. I'm not opposed to that. But something you said earlier caught my attention. So, this is a developer failure, right? Just bluntly?

Elvis Dhima: Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's a fair statement, yes. Okay, so. To meet their obligations, yes.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Yeah, so, we obviously, they went past the point of they couldn't get occupancy. And then, whatever happened, whether they walked away, they lost funds, whatever the excuse is, you made the statement earlier of, yeah, we'll have to really consider until you can prove yourself to a user again. Do we record that anyway, to make sure that they're on the no use list? Because there should be a penalty. If you're a developer and you fail to follow through with your commitment, you should be on notice.

Elvis Dhima: It's a very good point. So, I had the conversation with this individual because exactly what you asked. Because I knew it was going come up, because I was asking that. If there's no consequences, then, you know, how is the next guy that's going watch this?

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Or what if the same guy comes in and he decides he wants to develop something here? Yeah. Like, even closer to home.

Elvis Dhima: So, if someone brings this up, the way I explain it to this individual is that someone else has to basically be the front person for this, because I basically have a confidence concern at this point. I think staff will basically create, I'm not going create a blacklist, because I don't think we're there yet. But I think we're going have reservation. We see this individual coming forward again with something like this. I don't personally see this individual doing this for a while. I think this is not what he does for a living. And I think there was some lessons learned. And as I said, I think he's going, he's planning to live in town. In that particular development, I think he means, well, it's just, it was something a bit more than he could chew. That's all. And to answer your question, I think that's going be an internal mental check on this individual. So, it's...

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Well, he's going rely on carnal knowledge.

Elvis Dhima: That's exactly, that's exactly it. In the grand scheme of things, hopefully not, because we just got everybody up to staff. There was a great turnover we would never know.

Elvis Dhima: That's correct.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: So the residents could potentially be subject to a...

Elvis Dhima: That is correct. That is correct. So that's why it's important that I stay here for at least 10 years, so we then make sure. So that's just putting it out there.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: All right, thank you.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you.

Roy Sorenson: Just real quick, Mr. Dima. This is cash assurance, which means this individual is going issue a check to the town.

Elvis Dhima: It's already, we already have it in the bank.

Roy Sorenson: Okay, perfect. So, we're not working with the surety?

Elvis Dhima: No, no, no, no. We're not going to the bank. We're not going to court. We already have this in the bank.

Roy Sorenson: Perfect.

Elvis Dhima: The way we set up, just so you know, and I think it's good to bring this up. The way we have our bonds, and it's been an issue for a lot of people that want to do business in town, is the way we have it is as good as cash. I can take it to the bank and cash it. It's a reversible letter of credit. The language is super tight. It's nothing like it. It's one of its kind, really, when you compare it to what other towns do, and it's because of exactly this. You need to have, what, 90% of the cash, I think, you put in the bank, or they will not issue this letter. And what happens in this case is the bank actually, a while back, says, hey, we're done with this individual. Here's 142 grand. You do whatever you want, Elvis. So, we actually got a bank check for this. So, we have a very good, as long as we follow the process, we're in good shape. We'll never get in trouble. It's just following what we have in place.

Roy Sorenson: Yeah, because I think when you deal with a surety sometimes, they'll come back and tell you that you owe them money, which is comical, but that's how they operate.

Chairman Dumont: Real quickly, and this might be for a greater discussion, but just because you raised it, I don't think that we can create a blacklist of what people do with their property. To any extent whatsoever, we don't have the right as a staff or a Board of Selectmen. However, what we can control, and Mr. Dhima, I know he already knows this, is who works on our right-of-way and who works on our utilities.

Elvis Dhima: We have a drain license for that, and we can control that.

Chairman Dumont: So that's a good avenue to do those things. These bonds are here for this exact purpose, so it's a good thing that we're already doing that. One thing that I am a little concerned about, and maybe you can just give me a little bit of information, is currently right now, when somebody completes a subdivision, that owner or that developer maintains that road for X amount of time before the town accepts that.

Elvis Dhima: Oh, no. So, it's 100% private until they hand it over to the town. When they hand it over to the town, there's a two-year warranty with that, and at that time, they actually have to put the money forward for the 10% of the original amount approved to be in place for two years in case there was an issue. When there is an issue, and that two years is up, we go to the planning board and recommend to them to release the bond.

Chairman Dumont: That's for the bond. What you were speaking to is before the town, you want the town to accept before the last CEO of the development is released?

Elvis Dhima: Yeah, so the way we're trying to do it right now is, so let's just say this development came in right now. We have one that we actually did at Barretts Hill 75. That developer is required to complete the road and start the process of handing over the road to us before he gets the certificate of occupancy for the last building on the development. He can get the building permit and can start going, but as he's building the house, he's going, yeah. And if there's a little bit of overlap, a month or two, not a big deal, but what I want to do is get all the developers in the mindset that as you start working on the last house, get going on the road. I don't want to, because the abutters call. Why am I doing this? Why am I dealing with this guy? It's eight o'clock in the morning, I'm trying to get out. Why am I in the private road? Because we keep track of all the private streets before we do the winter condition, and we tell people, FYI, there's three streets out there. This is all you need to call when the plowing starts. Don't call DPW, it's a private road. So, we're trying to do that right now. I think we haven't seen it yet because we just started firing this new pilot, if you want to call it that, about six months ago because of this, and it's working okay.

Chairman Dumont: The only thing that I would add to that is timing, obviously, it makes all the difference when it comes to finishing those projects. In most cases, four to six months out of the year around here, you can't do some of that work. So, keep that in mind. I don't know if that'll work on all projects, personally, but I don't, again, I think that'll be a discussion that we need to have later on. I don't want to go too deep into it. I have a little bit of a concern over that.

Elvis Dhima: I will say this. There's a bond in place, and if I feel like it's going in the right direction, I'm basically not going let someone sit there in a motel for six months because we're going work with anyone that's willing to work with us. What I want to put it out there is that in case someone buys a development or development rights, they understand what they're getting into because that's kinda what happened here. There was a little

bit of change in hands, and people forget what their obligations are. And I will work with anyone. I mean, typically, most of the guys that develop here are local, they're reasonable. This is the first and hopefully the last time for a while, but I totally understand that. And as I said, we're not letting someone sleep in a motel for six months because of this. Well, we're not going, we're reasonable. We're very reasonable.

Chairman Dumont: Okay, I understand. All right, do we have any motions, other comments?

Selectman Jakoby. Just one comment. As much as possible, as you change your policy and procedure, putting some of those things in writing of what those expectations are is always helpful so that we're not relying on conversations and handshakes.

Elvis Dhima: Yes, absolutely, and there'll be a good workshop with the planning board tomorrow night just because of exactly this, trying to strengthen the internal communication and what the expectations are will be a good one to watch tomorrow night.

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to authorize the town engineer to complete all outstanding items related to the acceptance of Autumn Circle utilizing the existing cash assurance funds, account number 2060-032, as recommended by the Town Engineer and the Public Works Director. Motion carried, 5-0.

#### **H. Belknap Road Extension – Engineering/Decision**

Elvis Dhima: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you all know, next Tuesday we have a very important meeting taking place in Hudson. This is GACIT.

Chairman Dumont: GACIT.

Elvis Dhima: Yeah, GACIT, and everyone is very excited. It's going to be a big meeting. A lot of folks from DOT, they're going to be asking if there's a project that needs to be in the 10-year plan. Our plan here is to get the Belknap Road Extension in place. Why? Because we got the design done. We're working on the NEPA permit, which is the mother of all environmental permits. We have a meeting with the state about wetland crossings and the brook crossing. And another thing that we're taking the lead on is the right-of-way. So, we have a contract in place with our contractor because the cost related to the right-of-way is more than \$10,000. We need to hire a third party to make sure that this is a fair. Why do we need to do this? Because if we get on the 10-year plan, and I believe we will, the state is going to require us to hire a third party that's certified by DOT that does exactly this for a living. We are too close to this to determine what the value is. So, the \$47,500 in front of you tonight is basically the value of that, or the amount that we need to hire the third party and our consultant helping us through the process. We still have quite a bit of money left there, about \$150 grand to do the purchase of the right-of-way, but first we need to make sure that we have the market value, and then we'll go from there. So, the planning board was kind enough to support the expenditure, is recommending it to you, and I'm actually here in front of you tonight to ask you to execute this.

Chairman Dumont: And then you just answered, but if I heard you correctly, so after the \$47,500, what's left over is \$150 grand in that zone one corridor?

Elvis Dhima: No, it's a lot more. It's over a million. \$150 grand is basically approved by the planning board to execute the purchase of the right-of-way. So, if I come back to you and I say, we have done the evaluation, it's worth \$100 grand between the two properties impacted, you can actually execute the approval to issue that check without me going back to the planning board. I was just trying to be a bit proactive so I didn't have to go for another trip there, but there's over \$1.3 million between the accounts. Actually, it's about \$1.5 million.

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, no, I see that there, just when I thought that I heard you say something else.

Elvis Dhima: We got plenty of corridor funds. We're good.

Chairman Dumont: Oh, good, I was going to say, because otherwise that got low pretty quickly.

Elvis Dhima: It will get after we get this project in the money. I promise you that.

Chairman Dumont: All right, any other comments, questions, motions?

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to approve amendment number three with Wright-Pierce in the amount of \$47,500 for efforts associated with right-of-way acquisition for Belknap Road extension. Funding will be from corridor funds, zone one traffic improvements. Motion carried, 5-0.

#### **I. Contract Award for Junk Removal – Engineering/Decision**

Elvis Dhima: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A while back, a long time ago, I could not figure out when I tried to do the research. The town of Hudson, the residents decided that junkyard is not something they want to see in this community. Therefore, they voted it off the use. And we have a situation here where we have someone that started something as a hobby, and it turned into a little bit more than that. And we've been dealing with this since 2007, and we have not had a lot of success. And basically, the case was referred to the judge. The judge tried to work with the applicant and they asked for the three years. And basically, what they concluded is the town has the right to go and basically handle this. The issue that Mr. Sorenson and I were having is how do we get this done without carrying a burden, financial burden here? Because the way it works is we have to carry the burden and then pass it to the homeowner through a lien. So, we want to handle this, but without basically impacting us financially and also passing that cost to the homeowner. Mr. Sorenson and I started fighting on this. He said, we should do this for free. I said, I've never heard anything like this. And anyway, long story short, he called me a nerd, I think, at some point. But we have put together an RFP that's probably one of its kind. And the way we did this after some back and forth was there was four proposals built within our proposal. The first one was everything that you can remove at no cost to the town. And then the second one, the second alternative was what will cost the town to remove a vehicle? What will cost the town to remove a truck? And eventually, what will cost the town to remove everything else that might be left there? So, we had three candidates show up at the mandatory pre-bid meeting. As requested by the Chairman, we put together a nice cheat sheet that basically reminds everyone what do you need to submit in to make sure that you qualify. Out of those three, only one of them submitted a bid. And he's local. And he's qualified. He can do the work. He's ready to go. And basically, what that bid results is in alternative A, removing all the vehicles, the tractor, minus anything inside, metal on the property, at no cost to the town. What that means is that we get to do quite a bit of work there and get it in good shape. It's not going to be perfect, but it's going to be something. It's not going to cost us anything. And then we don't get to pass that over. I've talked to the people involved with this property. They understand. For someone, it's not as easy as somebody else, but they understand what's coming. We're going to have PD presence for three days, four hours minimum, to make sure that it's going smooth at first. And then we'll go from there. It's going to take about two months. I believe it's going to get us in good shape. But we're only going to entertain alternative A, which is no cost to us at this time. We'll see where it goes after that. If it gets in good and reasonable shape, we're just going to leave it at that and move on. At the mandatory pre-meeting, everything went well. I think it started a bit strong, but I think they understand that we're just there to do our jobs, carry on to what the requirements are. So, the folks that are going to be involved are very respectful. I think they're going to have a good relationship with them. And we just got to get this thing done and put the word out there that if we have rules in place, we're going to follow through. With that said, I'll take any questions you might have.

Chairman Dumont: What happens to all the properties around there?

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: Property values go up?

Chairman Dumont: They look the same.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: Oh, do they? Yes.

Chairman Dumont: Did you drive through there?

Selectman Guessferd: Yeah, drive over there. Drive over there.

Elvis Dhima: So, this particular one, this particular one, he's got relatives adjacent to it that kind of have the same issue. I can tell you that Londonderry, they already showed up to see how we're doing the process, and they jumped right in the car because they got a little scared, I think, when it got a little hot. There was two of

them. I'm like, okay, good luck to me. It's fine. It's just one of those things that we're going work with them. They're going get to keep a couple things. They just can't keep everything. It's just one of those things where it's just too many projects and not enough time to do it, and it just got out of hand, that's all. They understand it, we understand it, and we have an obligation to the community there to make sure that it doesn't turn into something that's a hazard. Both properties are going be subject to this because both properties under the court order, 55 and 56, and we'll do it in phases. We'll do a little bit at a time, but it appears there's enough metal there that someone is willing to come in and make it work.

Selectman Jakoby: That's a lot of metal.

Selectman Guessferd: They said they're going do it in two months.

Elvis Dhima: Yeah. They'll come in, they're cutting everything up at the site, loading it up, and off it goes. And I said, you're not bringing this to another place in Nashua, are you? I mean, Hudson, are you? He said, no, we're going to Nashua. I called Salem. I called Salem, too. I said, you got any opening over there, too? They said, no. But anyway, so these guys are legit. This is what they do for a living. It's a lot of work there. It does not include the tires, so there's going be a lot of stuff there, but what they're offering is they want to make sure that they leave it in a nice, in a clean condition, and they're going bring some of these stuff at no cost to the town in the back, so then the homeowner can figure out later on. They're already starting some of these already. I also told them that while we were there, they still have the right to get rid of it, these metals, if they wish to do so. It's not like we show up today and it's all ours. We're going work with them, okay? It's just, it's a bit much. A lot of this is spilling over on the right of way. It's becoming a hazard for us, especially during the winter operations, and we need to make sure we keep this under control.

Selectman Jakoby: Yeah, in the final note, I thought that was really great that the tires and trash will be put in separate piles so that then the town knows where it is because tires can get buried and stuff, and to have them at least in one place is very helpful, same as trash, so I think that's excellent.

Elvis Dhima: That costs about \$5 too, so it can add up, and they have hundreds of them out there.

Selectman Jakoby: Correct.

Elvis Dhima: We talked a little bit with the public works director about taking some of the trash off. The contractor actually agreed to load them up and move them over to the site, but there's a cost related to the weight for us, so we didn't feel comfortable eating that, so we're just kinda doing the once. It doesn't cost us anything. The cost related to PD is probably going be something that the police chief, myself, and the Town Administrator have to talk if it ends up being insignificant, we have to talk about it. If it's significant, we're going pass it on as a lien on the property. We try not to put too much burden on that, but we don't want to eat it either. We shouldn't have to. Right.

Chairman Dumont: Last question I have, how many written complaints have been filed about this property?

Elvis Dhima: I do not know. What I do know is that this started in 2007, so it's been going on for 18 years. That's all. If it happened within 10 years, I could have probably given you the story. I've heard about it, and I remember the first meeting I had with Mr. Malizia, the previous Town Administrator, and the zoning code enforcement of the guy said, we're going end up doing this, and they're like, no, no. I'm like, I can see it, and here we are 10 years later and we're doing exactly that. It falls on the town, but there was no RFP for this. A lot of folks are trying to figure out, and talking to our attorney, he was basically saying this could be the pilot program for all the other communities handling things like this, because there's a lot of costs related to this, and if it costs money, the town doesn't want to do it. It's like, I'm not spending 20, 30, 50 grand. So, these things get on a resolve. The question becomes, if you're going allow it, then why save it on the code, and take it off the ordinance? So, can't have it both ways, right? You don't allow it, but you don't enforce it. You won't enforce it, but so. I think we're in a good place. This is the only one we've been dealing with, and hopefully, it's the last one for a while.

Chairman Dumont: So, I'm probably going say the unpopular thing here, but I'm going go for it anyways. Go for it, yes. I don't agree with the court's decision in the first place. I've already made myself vocal to all of you guys. Now, I have no problem saying that in public. I disagree with the burden being put on the town. I understand

that the cost is not there, but I'm going to be honest with you, I don't think that the place is going to look any better, or the neighborhood is going to be cleaned up, and the other part of my decision, which I'll tell you I'm going to vote no on this, is the fact that I don't believe that there's been any written complaints. I think that this would be a little bit different if it was in the center of a neighborhood, and we don't have to get into a discussion, but I just wanted for the public that those are my views on this. Nothing against staff. They did their job 100%. They did exactly what they were supposed to do, and everybody that was involved. I just, I feel a little indifferent about this, so.

Selectman Jakoby: Yeah, I agree with you about disagreeing with how the court handled this, and it having any cost to us. I would encourage that we do put whatever lien is necessary based on, you know, those costs, and the costs, those, you know, having a pile of tires is a hazard as well. So there's a lien that's going to need to happen. So, this doesn't preclude us from putting a lien on. This just gives this company an opportunity to grab some money.

Elvis Dhima: Well, there's no cost to us right now. So therefore, police will be three days, half days, if that, if he ends up something else, then absolutely. But yeah, I mean, the big, our big concern was, this is going to be a \$50,000 RFP that we have to now eat. The way, as I said, we spent a lot of time trying to put together an RFP that would not put the burden on us, and therefore not pass the burden to the owner. I think we achieved that. I think, to be honest with you, I just wanted to do one day, but I don't know how one individual is going to react to this, right? I mean, saying that it's going to work out is completely different than what you see out there. I think talking to the police chief, we basically felt that let's clock this for three days, four hours. If the first day we find that it's going to work out okay, then we skip the other two. But as of now, I've booked them for three days to make sure that the beginning looks okay.

Selectman Jakoby: To your point, I'm not sure how much better it's going to look because the buildings themselves are in disrepair. But having it, you know, going forth and trying to do something, I think, okay, now I remember. So, as far as written complaints, I do find that the history of written complaints in this town is lacking. Many complaints that have come in have been simply phone calls or passing by comments and things. So unfortunately, I don't think we have those statistics either way. And that's why I'm on the fence about how bad it is. And yes, I did want, I got lost. I get lost every now and again. I wanted to buy it, but I got lost. It isn't in the center of town, to your point. So, I just want to affirm those thoughts, although I think this is a great way to move forward. So, I'm going to make the motion.

Chairman Dumont: And real quickly, before you do that, if you don't mind, just to clarify my point, it's not necessarily the disrepair of the buildings. I think what you're going to find, and I've done this a couple of times with junk guys, they're going to take a decent amount of stuff, but there's going to be a significant amount of trash and debris left behind, and it will be everywhere. As much as they try to neatly pile it, I think there'll be some difficulty doing that.

Selectman Jakoby: Oh, I see.

Chairman Dumont: So just for me, I'm not sure if it's a slam dunk, that's all.

Selectman Morin: Before the motion, I just got a question. If there hasn't been any written complaints been going on for 18 years, we basically, the town, initiated this, then?

Elvis Dhima: It could have been, yes.

Selectman Morin: And it's just by town rules and regulations?

Elvis Dhima: Yes. So, it doesn't have to always be a written complaint to start a code. I think if you drive by, it actually, as a matter of fact, if anyone drives by, including you, and you see an issue, you can basically say, can you go have a look at it? And if we drive by, and we determine there's an issue there, it doesn't always, I can tell you personally, I don't drive around town looking for work. I got plenty. I can tell you some of the other folks have been encouraged to basically not look the other way, because that's not what we do. But we're not out there looking for work. It's just the work finds us here. That's the nice thing about this town. It'll find you. There's no hiding. They'll find you. They'll tell you, go check it out. This particular one is just one of those things that someone went out there 18 years ago, saw it, tried to work with the individual. He went away, went to court,

he went away, and he just never got off the books. I think if before I got here, or the zoning administrator that's dealing with this, got in and he says, that's it, case closed. Someone felt comfortable enough to say it's not a problem anymore, that's it. But if we have it in the books as a government, it doesn't go away. It's always there. It's like one of those things that it's always going to be on your record. So there's not much we can do. Once it started, that was that. Could it have been handled better? I don't know. I wasn't the one doing it, maybe. I don't know, but everyone is different, right?

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, I don't discount staff whatsoever to this. That's just my own personal opinion.

Roy Sorenson: Yeah, I would venture to say this one probably came to light because of what was in the right-of-way and I think that was the impetus for this one in particular. Perhaps if he moved this stuff out of the right-of-way 10 years ago, we might not be talking about this.

Elvis Dhima: So, he was running out of room internally and what was happening is it was in the right-of-way for storage and there was some safety issues over there and he's done a better job and then he moved stuff again and back and forth we go, but I haven't had an issue with this individual. I think even the family members that are living with him, I think they understand, we understand, we don't have a problem. It's just one of those things that needs to be addressed to some degree.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I do kind of have a little bit of a problem with this, kind of from our last discussion where this isn't what we do, right? We're supposed to enforce the code, but we're not supposed to, it's almost like we're giving him forgiveness and correct me if I'm wrong, you said you're trying not to push a lien onto the owner.

Elvis Dhima: As of now, we don't have a cost to put a lien on. I know there's a lien against the owner for all their attorney fees, that's already been done. I think there is a lien related to the fines that the court founded. It wasn't a lot of money, I think it was a total of \$20,000 between everything. I just don't want to add to it. And basically, that's it, but we do have a certain amount of lien against the property already, related to the lawyer fees and to the court fines.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: If I remember correctly, we all pretty much determined that this property, that they could just sit on that lien in infamy.

Elvis Dhima: That is correct, and that is a very good point. And that was our concern when we got into the process. We didn't want to put any more money into this. But at the same time, we have to do something about it. So, we felt, and we were working on this, that if we find a way to get rid of some of this without paying anything, that's the best thing to do.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I don't disagree. I would love to have this cleaned for the residents. My lead up to where I'm going is, it's been 18 years. He's gone to court, been told to fix it, and has not. And then we're going to come, basically like accident forgiveness, and say, okay, we did the best we could for you with the little amount we had to use. What is going to prevent him from refilling all that empty space again?

Elvis Dhima: Nothing. So, this gentleman, he's been doing this for 50 years, 30 years at least. I don't think he's got another 30 in him to do this. So, the idea is, he's slower at it. He's not going to have all the, so, yeah, that has come up. It's New Hampshire. It's live, free, or die. You have property rights. And I actually told him, once it gets to a good place, I'm not coming back here to keep an eye on you. Like, we're done. But I'm hoping that, obviously it takes a financial amount to bring some of this stuff in. This is not for free, he's finding this out there. So, I'm hoping that what he did over there for the past 30 years, he's not going to be able to duplicate. Is he going to bring stuff in and there's nothing we can do about it? Sure, but I just don't think it's going to be this one. We're talking about 20 vehicles plus, seven 18-foot trailers, that it's just madness.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: No, most definitely.

Elvis Dhima: So, I don't think he's going to be able to get that back there. It's just no way.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: The one thing I disagree with is, I think anything, to include police or anybody that we have to be there, should all be levered against them.

Elvis Dhima: We can, that is the plan right now.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I just, I don't think we, it's his error. He's been told to correct it. And now here we are saying, oh, it's okay. We'll give him a hug and we're going fix it to a limited extent.

Elvis Dhima: So, I will repeat myself. I think the intent is the only thing left right now is the PD and I don't know what that's going to be. If it's one day for four hours and it's going take more money to spend on lawyer fees to put the lien versus just saying the heck with it, I think that's where I'm looking at it. If the PD is going be like a lot of money. So, if I'm going sit down with Mr. Sorenson and say, all right, it's going cost Dave LaFevre three hours, that's \$400 bucks to collect \$300, we're not doing that. But if it's like thousands of dollars and now it makes perfect sense, then absolutely. So, I just want to put it out there. So, he's not getting away with anything.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: It makes more sense to me why you would say that you're trying not to add more lien because the cost of making the lien.

Elvis Dhima That's right. You still got to go to court and all that.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: And if it's a big amount...

Elvis Dhima: yes, yes, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: He should eat it. Yeah, that's \$1,000. That's not his.

Elvis Dhima: Yeah, that's correct. No, I agree with you 100% and I think that's fair.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I think that's fair. Thank you.

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to award the contract for junkyard removal services to DB Removal, LLC at no cost to the town as recommended by the town engineer, further authorizing thereof to act as the principal for the execution and administration of this contract. Motion carried, 4-1. Dumont opposing.

#### **J. Community Recreational Park Operational Procedure – Engineering/Decision**

Elvis Dhima: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Selectman Jakoby was saying earlier and other Selectmen about the procedure and the rules, as you all know, we successfully completed the pickleball courts. I am pleased to tell you that I went there today trying to install, with Public Works, the sign Hudson Recreational and there were 10 vehicles from Londonderry that were ready to utilize. So, I was just glad to help out. They were very excited. They were thanking you and the rest of us and we just ended like, can you get out of the way? We're trying to park over here. So, DPW staff had to move out of the way, but yeah, it was being used today. So, as we get into this, it appears there's a lot of discussion about what can and cannot be done. Obviously, some restrictions here. I want to make sure that everyone is aware that there's some restrictions there, that we are going have a process in place. If you want to do something, if you want to bring a structure in there, you got to go through the Board of Selectmen and staff. It's not free for all. So basically, the intent is, we don't want to have any misunderstandings as we move forward and utilize this site. So, what you have in front of you tonight is basically someone wants to do something, great. Just ask for it and go through the process. Submit a request. We'll look into it. Make sure that it does not contradict what we're trying to do or restrictions out there and call it a day. And that's basically it in a nutshell. It stays with the town when we're all gone. It's something that's, hopefully as long as they pay attention, they know there is restrictions there. And we don't have folks start moving stuff in there without our approval, that's all. It's up front.

Selectman Morin: Just got a question. Why isn't recreation involved in this because it's a recreational area?

Elvis Dhima: I think they are involved, but because this is an area, it's asbestos. I think I'm more worried about that. So that's why Jay and I are involved. But if you wish to add rec to it, I don't have a problem with it.

Selectman Morin: And I understand, but what are you expecting to happen out there? Like breaking the ground or something?

Elvis Dhima: Breaking the ground, bringing sheds in because they want to store things. Saying, all right, we want to put in an umbrella there for the summer and do X, Y, and Z. And I'm no longer involved. Jay's not basically there.

Selectman Morin: I don't mind who's there. I was just wondering why recreation wasn't the fourth.

Elvis Dhima: I was looking more from a construction standpoint. I can tell you that I talked to the rec director. They have their own rules out there for what they do. This is more related to like, I don't know, construction/anything that could be. But if you wish to do that, you can add that to as well, to that, to say approval with, and then add the Rec Department to the Engineering, Public Works, and Board of Selectmen. I don't have a problem with that. We can add four layers to that, even better. Makes sense.

Selectman Morin: I think they should be on there.

Elvis Dhima: Yeah, no, I can make the necessary adjustments for the rules and procedures if you wish to do that. Absolutely, not a problem.

Selectman Jakoby: To me, this would be a first read of policy. I think there's some wording and some adjustments that need to be made. A couple of things. To me, this is related much similarly to a policy that we had for the landfill. So, I would want that policy and this policy to be reviewed together because it's similar in nature so that the wording is very similar. The form should be the same form. There shouldn't be two different forms. What we're doing here and what you're setting forth, if I understand it, is for both of these sites, they've been reclaimed and that there cannot be any land movement.

Elvis Dhima: Excavation.

Selectman Jakoby: Excavation, things put down, structures moved. And I would like that wording to be much more robust because that's what we're talking about here. We're not talking about the recreational policy of how the courts are going to be used. This is really about that same issue we had with the other. So, I'm not sure that it's a separate policy. I think it's one policy for both locations because you're talking about, or you can make it a separate policy, I don't care, but you're talking about land use. You're talking about disruption of the actual land. So, this is a Hudson, so just to finish my thought, this isn't a rules and procedures. This is a policy on ground penetration or excavation. It's not, it's...

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: Land use public safety.

Selectman Jakoby: Yeah, it's land use public safety. It's not, it's kind of a misnomer how it's.

Elvis Dhima: So, I just, let me go over a couple of things to clarify. So not the entire site is subject to this, okay? Only half of it. So, cells are on one side with a pickleball court. There's no asbestos there. So, there's a stone wall there that separates the cells versus the free asbestos sites. Where we put in the pickleball court, that's asbestos free. Where we park in is asbestos free. Where we continue to maybe do a phase two, that's asbestos free. What we're trying to do is make sure people don't come in and start doing things because they're utilizing either one side or the other. Obviously, you cannot use a parking area where the CDL license guys are doing it because that's obviously 100% utilized by them. My take on it here with this one is, you can bring stuff in there and if you want to do anything, including penetration or doing anything, you got to run it by staff and the Board of Selectmen. That's about it. But the restrictions are not the same as the landfill which is completely surrounded, fenced and all that, right?

Selectman Jakoby: Well that's fine. I'm just trying to, in my own mind, make a comparison.

Elvis Dhima: What I don't want to do is put something out there that's going scare everyone saying, what is going on over there? What do you guys have over there? Like radioactive material? Like the landfill is a little different. It's fenced, shouldn't be over there. Here we have staff, here we have public using it. It's a little different. But I'm open to any changes you want to make and I think you're right. I think this is a first pass if you wish to do so and you can take it from there.

Elvis Dhima: I just think it needs to be more precise into what you're looking for.

Elvis Dhima: Well, I think is says ...

Selectman Jakoby: And the title is...

Chairman Dumont: Well, let's, I guess, so we don't get off into a huge discussion. I would agree, I think, if this wants to be everybody's first pass, I don't think it's going hurt. I would ask, you know, Selectman Jakoby if she could forward off her recommendations. I think that would be the most efficient way. Selectman Guessferd had his hand up and I don't know, Mr. Sorenson, if you have something. So, Selectman Guessferd then Mr. Sorenson. Go ahead.

Selectman Guessferd: Yeah, I mean, along those lines, I do think we need to kind of set this up, you know? And I get the purpose of this and what you're trying to do here. I mean, I was reading through it. I'm like activities. What, are we talking about pickleball itself? I just think we need to define what those things mean. In other words, you know, we have the recreational facility. What part, if there's a certain part of it that's only affected by this, then, you know, I guess, you know, it's kind of, it's vague in terms of that. I think you just, we just set it up like a regular policy, you know, and just say, you know, this is concerns, you know, use of the, you know, whatever it is. Like you said, we can get the specifics. Again, I don't want to get into a long discussion, but it's a little confusing the way it is right now. I like the rules. I like what you have here. I just think we need to format it differently.

Roy Sorenson: Yeah, I would just reiterate. Maybe it's a rules and regulations and you just, you make it general and form. We can work on it. I wouldn't even propose any type of activities, to be honest with you. I would say it's not allowed.

Selectman Jakoby: Right.

Roy Sorenson: We can work on it, I think, in general.

Elvis Dhima: Yeah, I just don't want to be too specific or put stuff out there that's going get people like, what is going on in there? You know what I mean? Sometimes it's just like, you can't do anything. If you need to do anything, you can come back and we'll tell you.

Roy Sorenson: Yeah, but I don't think it's like that bad, I think. No, I don't.

Chairman Dumont: I don't even know why we're doing this. We have multiple areas in the town that we don't allow anybody to do anything on. It's a pickleball court used for recreational use. Let them go there and use it for that. If you want to put a poster up that says rules and rec wants to create that and say, here's what we allow. But I think the board of selectmen, as well as staff, has the authority to just say that you're not allowed to be on town property digging a hole over here.

Elvis Dhima: Well, based on what happened at the landfill, you would think that's the case, but we all know how that went. So, I've still got my healing scars over here from that one, you know?

Chairman Dumont: Take the bandages off, that was a unique situation.

Elvis Dhima: I don't, I don't know, that's just my opinion. Yeah, I totally get it. My take on it is, we forget, we move on, something happens and they're like, what does it say, you can't do that. So, this is just basically to have the people behind us saying, hey, they put something in place here. There's nothing to do with, I'm not telling you no. We just have a process. I don't like to tell people you can't do it because they're going say, where does it say that? Right here.

Chairman Dumont: That's where it says it. It's a piece of town property, you have to get authorization for that. That would be my opinion.

Elvis Dhima: It wasn't that easy last time we dealt with that, but whatever, it is what it is. I'm just, yeah, it's just bad memories.

Selectman Morin: Now that I understand, Rec has no say in what you're trying to address here, so I'll remove that, because now, because they have no say in what you're doing.

Elvis Dhima: Correct, yes. This is more like heavy duty.

Selectman Guessferd: It was, I agree with you.

Selectman Jakoby: I don't think there's any reason we can't move this to, let me review it, let them review it, and let's take another look at it. I would just, my motion would be, so table it, move it?

Selectman Guessferd: I'm not sure we need a motion for that.

Selectman Morin: I would say just leave it as first read.

Selectman Jakoby: Yeah, leave it as first read.

Chairman Dumont: I don't believe any action needs to be taken. You can forward off recommendations. Mr. Dhima has heard our conversation here tonight, and we will go from there.

Elvis Dhima: I just want to make sure, if someone wants to start moving the shed over there, be like, hold on a second, that's all.

Chairman Dumont: I would hope that, well, it depends on how nice the shed is, I guess. You look at the one that Reed's put over there, that was fantastic.

Elvis Dhima: It was, and we get to keep it, yeah. I'm just saying, we forgot.

Roy Sorenson: Did you chain that shed to the ground?

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, get some anchors in over there.

Elvis Dhima: It's too heavy. It was well put together, though. They showed up on time. The installation was smooth. It went very well.

[Consensus to table item, no motion was made.](#)

#### **K. Request for After Hours Utility Work – Engineering/Decision**

Elvis Dhima: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, if you recall, we talked about this, and it was a long discussion. These folks were ready to go. They start looking at the utilities. They found some good stuff, or they thought they did, and they're like, all right, we don't need to do this anymore, and then they went back. They're like, God, we need to go back. Long story short, they get ready. They call Walmart. They're like, you can't do it. They missed a window. They're like, we need to do this later. I said, I got to go back to get you a new window. That's basically what we're dealing with. I did tell them this is the last time I'm presenting this for them. If they do this again, they're on their own, so you'll be seeing them if they screw this one up. I mean, you can only do it so many times, right, before you say that, you know.

Selectman Jakoby: I kept looking.

Elvis Dhima: I know. And they never did it.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: I was wondering, too, what I was doing.

Elvis Dhima: It was very confusing times. It was like mixed emotions. We got excited, then we got sad, and I was like, oh, God, I got to go back. But that was it in a nutshell. The same thing, just a different date, and the ones you'll be approving tonight is October 8th, and October 8th to October 10th from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., which is in line to what you did last time. Check with Public Works. They're good with it. I think we're going to be fine, and hopefully they get this done.

Chairman Dumont: All right, this should be short and sweet. We already had the discussion. Mr. Sorenson?

Roy Sorenson: Just real quick on this, and this is for the Board, too. We did receive an email from Walmart. They're doing a grand reopening, so keep that in mind. That is on October 17th, so if this work stretches for some reason or whatever, October 17th, 8.30 in the morning, Walmart's grand reopening, all right? I'll get that to you as well.

Chairman Dumont: Motions?

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to authorize, motion to authorize Better Build Homes, LLC to perform utility work at 256 Lowell Road during the hours of 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. from October 8th, 2025 to October 10th, 2025, as recommended by the Town Engineer and Public Works Director. Motion carried, 5-0.

Selectman Jakoby: Just a quick question. They originally said that they would alert abutters. Are they doing that this time?

Elvis Dhima: I think they're going go door-to-door again, yes. They're going do some notification, yes. That's still in place, yes.

Selectman Jakoby: Everything that they agreed to is still in place. Okay, I'm good.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much, Mr. Dhima.

Elvis Dhima: Have a great night.

#### **L. Department Reorganization – Administration/Decision**

Roy Sorenson: So, included in your, what this memo is the backup to that, which is the March, well, the 2026 March SB2 Calendar. This is what sets the stage for us to bring the warrant to the voters to vote. So, it kind of lays it out. Typically, we will follow this. I will note that, as I mentioned at the previous meeting, our deliberative will be scheduled on the 31st of January, which should be noted in here as well, right? Yeah, it's the first Saturday, correct. So that will be our date, correct. That's on page three, yes. Questions?

Selectman Jakoby: So, we're going forward from now on. In general, the town is going be first and the school's going be second, and we're not switching back and forth anymore.

Roy Sorenson: Well, so I think there's a little bit of confusion on that.

Selectman Jakoby: I'm just asking the question.

Roy Sorenson: Yeah, it's a good question.

Selectman Jakoby: People ask me all the time.

Roy Sorenson: I think next year, so I'll have the conversation with Dr. Moulis on this that, okay, I think people think it's just in February in general, right? Right. It's not necessarily, that's not how the RSA reads, as I mentioned at the last meeting. So, I think they thought they were on the first meeting, and then we would have went after, but that's not the case, because of the way it fell on the calendar. I'll mention it next year, but it is what it is coming up in 26. And then I will certainly mark my calendar as we get to this point next year.

Selectman Jakoby: It doesn't matter to me. I just know people ask about it. I don't know why it was.

Chairman Dumont: I think from my recollection, it's alternated just based on how the budgets got put together and when people were prepared for that meeting.

Selectman Jakoby: When and who was ready?

Chairman Dumont: I Exactly. So, yeah, again, I would say it probably doesn't matter to myself, but I know a lot of people, they kind of get a weekend in their mind and they plan for that. So, if we could shoot for the same one, consistency makes it easier.

Selectman Jakoby: Yep.

Chairman Dumont: I But I would definitely suggest, I think this is a very good packet of information. It's very comprehensive, yeah. Don't throw this one in the trash.

Selectman Guessferd: Nope. No, this one's going home with me.

Chairman Dumont: I All right. All right, so do we have any motions?

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to approve the NHMA 2026 March SB2 calendar as the official schedule for the 2026 town meeting cycle. Motion carried, 5-0.

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

**Selectman Vurgaropulos:** Thank you. Not much has been happening. Obviously, a lot of meetings have been pushed as of late. So, what I've been doing is I did attend the NHMA budget finance workshop for this year.

Chairman Dumont: Fantastic.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: It was pretty informative. Some of the stuff I kind of already learned. You guys have been really good about sharing information. But it was nice to get some clarification on some items.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you for attending that. That's a good thing to attend.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Yeah, it was decent. There was a little bit of scope creep. So, we were like, yeah, budget. And then it was like.

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, it trails off.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: It trails off and then it comes back. But all the stuff was great.

Selectman Guessferd: Was that at the Puritan?

Selectman Vurgaropulos: They had one in Manchester. I wasn't able to make that one. I had to go up to Littleton, which was a haul on the rainiest day of all last week. But it was worth it. And that's all I have.

**Selectman Morin:** I have nothing tonight.

**Selectman Jakoby:** So, Benson Park Advisory Committee joined with the Friends of Benson Park and had the family fun day at Benson Park. And it was a beautiful day. Many people came and enjoyed the storybook walk and all the vendors down in the middle of the park. If you haven't been out there when it's a nice day, please come out and enjoy the park. They are beginning the. So, on that day also, the railroad station was open. So, if anyone has any questions about any of the buildings or things, please reach out to the Benson Park Advisory Committee. The Sustainability Advisory Committee has several events coming up in the fall, Button Up New Hampshire, which is really helpful for your homes, as well as a Pumpkin Smash. So, keep your eyes out for those events. And they're trying to continue to communicate different things about our trash collection and recycling, especially of lithium batteries that you can no longer discard in your garbage. All of that is also being shown on HCTV. So, if you have any questions, reach out. Thank you.

**Selectman Guessferd:** Don't have a lot. We've got not much of a rec update right now, except basketball registration did expire today, did end today. So, basketball will be starting up soon. It's hard to believe we're kind of in that part of the year right now. Basketball season's going to be starting. Planning Board meeting tomorrow. We actually have a workshop tomorrow night. I think Mr. Dhima mentioned that he's going to be briefing us on some of the, basically the town, some of the planning things that are in place. I think maybe for an educational sort of thing for the Board. And we're going to go over the special site plan. I think there's an update to that. Other than that, I think that's about it for me. Not too much.

**Chairman Dumont:** Thank you very much. I did want to just echo Selectman Jakoby and shout out thanks to everybody for the Family Fun Day. That was fantastic. I'd bring the boys over there. They particularly love the old lady in the shoe. She gives out lollipops, so that made their day. So, thank you to everyone involved in that. I just want to encourage everybody to come out on October 7th at the community center at 7 p.m. to support the Belknap Road extension. It's a GACIT meeting for the 10-year plan. Dave Wheeler of the Executive Council will be the one leading off that meeting there. And the more support that we can show for that project, the better chance we have of getting that worked back into the plan and hopefully pushing this whole thing forward and making that intersection a lot safer. So just wanted to throw that out there and that's all I got.

**10. REMARKS BY TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

**Roy Sorenson:** All right, thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the board. So, I'll do my TA report if you want to look up at the screen. Street lining is complete. So DPW has completed their annual street lining program. You can see the list of roads here that they did the lining on. It's always good to see those as it kinda brings the road back to life even if the road's not in great shape. And typically, you need it for the safety, obviously, of the traveling public. Blodgett Cemetery, September 20th. I was able to attend this. This was the rededication of a grave marker for Corporal John Paul Jr. It was in disrepair. Dan Barthelemy and Christina Madden obviously have been doing a great job keeping track of the cemeteries and really starting to work. And I am working with DPW as well. So, this new marker was put in to honor a much-respected soldier of the American Revolution. He was actually one of the Minutemen. So, that was a good event as well. Staying on Blodgett, they did do some railing repairs. This happened, this is actually on the far corner, but you can see the before and afters. And it's a great fix because the gentleman that did the work here, I mean, it just looks old. It looks like it was never touched. So, they did a fantastic job and it obviously maintains the authenticity of the cemetery.

Chairman Dumont: One thing you said earlier, the gentleman that did those repairs is Hudson Local Business?

Roy Sorenson: Yeah, I believe he is. Yeah, and I don't have his name offhand, but I can get that.

Chairman Dumont: [inaudible]

Roy Sorenson: That sounds right.

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, I believe so. Good to see that.

Roy Sorenson: All right, I'm going go over this real quick because it's right, it's coming right up on us. So just so the Board understands, October 16th will be the first budget review scheduled meeting. The highlighted yellow is some changes I made and this was because of some scheduling issues with the department heads. Fire was here originally. They're going swap out with PD. So, PD will go first. I bumped up engineering due to the reorganization of the Development Services Department. So, we captured those three and moved the library up as well. Library was in the second night and the director will be away. So, I pushed the library up to that night as well. Second night, like I said, there's only just minor change. One came out and that typical lineup is still there. And then on the final night, moderator was moved out. They came out of the second night into, again, due to vacations. HCTV, by the way, you haven't typically seen HCTV in the past. I did work with the director, Mike Johnson, to put together his sheets. I think it's important that you see that. I think it's important that we understand things that are going take shape, I think, with HCTV and cable in general, probably over the next five years. There's going be some immediate impacts. And then as I mentioned, you see the fire department there as well. Any questions on this schedule at all? Still staying the same. All right, starting tomorrow and then on to Thursday. So, I will be doing budget reviews with my department heads. We'll take a look at that. I'll challenge them, I think, in anticipation of what the Board may challenge them on as well. I'm not going tell them not to submit things. However, I'll ask them some tough questions in advance. We did go out to the HealthTrust meeting last week, myself and Kathy Wilson. And HealthTrust will be setting the rate for health insurance on October 7th. Now, what's important is we're going put an estimate in there based off of what they told us. And we're going put that number out here now. We'll talk about it as we get to it. That number's going have to be adjusted as a typical in the past, right? I think the Board's seen that. By the time we get to the budget committee, those adjustments are made. But we'll be in the ballpark, all right? October 14th, which is the meeting before the first budget meeting, I'll come in with an executive summary, basically, for the Board just to capture what I think the important points are and what you're looking at starting on Thursday night. All right, so it's kind of just of a preview. Some of that will be, and I did speak to the chair on this, you'll have your budget book, which is typical. We did reformat it. There's some other things in there. I'll go over those on the night of the 14th. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised with the new format of the budget book. I'm also going take out what I'm going call quick reference items, executive summaries, and things of that that the department has put together. And the reason I'm going do that, and this is from my own experience before I arrived in Hudson and even being here, you're flipping through pages, right? And you want to reference something quick to remember what the police chief might have been talking about. You're going have that in a separate folder, a binder. So, you have your book in front of you, you're flipping, and over here it might be his memo breaking down the critical items,

all right? So, two things going on, a little bit more organized as well. And we'll carry that through, obviously, for the budget committee as well. So those are a couple, what I'm going to call minor changes. Major, however you want to do it, I'm going to say minor. History snippets, so library's been a talk, been a discussion we've been having lately. I like to do some history snippets. I figured I'd throw the Hills Memorial Library in there. And this will be an item that will be coming back because we do obviously have to talk more about this. But I mean, it is, it's a benchmark for this town, this building. It's been here since 1909. It does have a storied history. It is on the registry, does have its problems. And I think where I'm working with the library right now to kind of lock down some solid information, and I'll be prepared to come back to the Board, and we'll make some decisions on that. In a perfect world, those decisions are made, and they're in time for the budget book. I don't know if that's going to happen, we'll see. But I think there is an idea of what we might do with this as we proceed and move forward. And then again, as I typically do September recognition, the big one there, Jim Michaud, our Chief Assessor, 30 years. Sean Mamone from Fire, 24. So, you can see all the folks up there with their September anniversaries. Quite a range, one through 10. And then you do have some tenured people up there as well. So again, thanking them for their service. And whether they just got here or whether they've been here, obviously what they do for the community is important. It's very important, top to bottom. And that's it. I do have a couple other items to add. As I mentioned, and I'll send this to the Board, Walmart did reach out to me about a grand reopening. I'll send that out further in email. I think they did copy the board, I'm not sure. All right, but I'll just memorialize that again. And then since our next meeting is the 14th, October 13th is Columbus Day. Town Hall will be closed on the 13th. And that's all I have.

**11. REMARKS BY SCHOOL LIAISON – Excused**

**12. NONPUBLIC MOTIONS**

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much. And as Mr. Sorenson spoke to a little bit earlier, well, first off, we don't have a School Board liaison, so we're going to jump over that. But with us doing non-public beforehand, the agenda is looking a little bit differently. So, what I'm going to do at this time is we're going to read the non-public motions into the record and we will take a vote on those and they will be part of the public recording.

The following motions were agreed upon by consensus during the earlier nonpublic session of this meeting, then formally seconded and voted on during the public session, as follows:

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to approve the reorganization of the Hudson Police Department, reclassifying one Captain position to the designation of Deputy Chief, a non-union position. Motion carried, 5-0.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, for the Police Chief to internally post for the position of Deputy Chief in January of 2026 with an effective start date of July 1, 2026, with an additional \$14,000 in salary added to the FY27 budget to cover the Deputy Chief position with final compensation and benefits to be established contractually between the Town Administrator and the Deputy Chief. Motion carried, 5-0.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to enter into an agreement with the town of Litchfield for Advanced Life Support Intercept, effective September 30th, 2025, to be included as addendum one to the ambulance agreement effectuated January 1st, 2024. Motion carried, 5-0.

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to authorize the Fire Chief to post for a temporary part-time Administrative Aide II position at a rate of \$22.85 per hour. This temporary position does not include any benefits and is limited to 29.5 hours per week. Further, and as if necessary, procure through a staffing agency. Motion carried, 5-0.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, for the Board of Selectmen, to hereby accept the personnel action as necessary, including for dispositions. These are items remitted during the CBA process, compression, retention, and or equity confidentiality and reorganization. Further, it shall be the duty of the town administrator and chairman of the Board of Selectmen to effectuate any documents related thereof to satisfy this initiative. Motion carried, 5-0.

Chairman Dumont: That takes care of our non-public motions.

Selectman Morin: Did we have to make a motion to seal the minutes?

Selectman Guessferd: We already did, didn't we?

Chairman Dumont: Yep.

Selectman Guessferd: Okay.

Selectman Morin: We can't make that motion.

Chairman Dumont: No, that, it's already been handled.

Selectman Morin: Oh, it's already been handled?

Selectman Vurgaropulos: It's already been handled.

Chairman Dumont: Okay, good to go.

Selectman Guessferd: I thought we had to take a vote in public. That's all.

Selectman Guessferd: That's what we did before.

Selectman Morin: I thought we had to take a vote in public for that.

Chairman Dumont: You can.

Selectman Morin: Because we've always done it in the past.

Chairman Dumont: Okay. We can do that if that's the Board's wish.

Selectman Guessferd: Yeah, no, I think we can do that.

[\*Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to seal the nonpublic minutes of September 30, 2025. Motion carried, 5-0.\*](#)

**13. EXIT NONPUBLIC SESSION – N/A**

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Dumont: Next up, highest order of business.

[\*Selectman Vurgaropulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Motion carried, 5-0.\*](#)

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

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Dillon Dumont, Chairman

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Bob Guessferd, Vice-Chairman

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Xen Vurgaropulos, Selectman

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Heidi Jakoby, Selectman

Dave Morin, Selectman

DRAFT