



HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the February 24, 2026 Board of Selectmen Meeting

7:00 PM

Board of Selectmen Meeting Room, Town Hall

***Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, (a) & (d) beginning at 6:30 p.m.**

Regular meeting will begin immediately after Non-Public Session

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – by Chairman Dumont the meeting of February 24, 2026 at 7:15 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall.

Chairman Dumont: I will call the order of the February 24, 2026 meeting in the Board of Selectmen meeting room at 7.15 p.m. We did have a non-public session prior to this meeting and all motions will be read into the record at the end of the normal public session.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson.

Chairman Dumont: If everybody could please remain standing, we're going hold a moment of silence and I will let Selectman Guessferd speak to that.

Selectman Guessferd: Okay, this past weekend the town had a tragic loss. A young man from just graduated from Alvirne High School, Owen Surprenant, passed away unexpectedly and we wanted to honor his memory with a moment of silence tonight.

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; Director of Development Services – Elvis Dhima; School Board Liaison – Stephen Meyer; Executive Assistant – Lorrie Weissgarber.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much. Thank you all for that, Selectman Guessferd. Next up we have public input. Does anyone in the audience wish to address the Board on any issue which the Board has control of at this time? If you do, please come on up state your name and address for the record.

Judy Brouillette, 183 Highland Street: The reason why I'd like to present to the Board tonight or speak to the Board tonight is about a notice that I received in the mail. It was dated February 9th but I received it on the day that I sent an email to all of you which was the 13th. I will admit when I first received it, I did not read it in its entirety. I like panicked. It basically says it was gonna disconnect my water at my house so I was like, oh no. Did Citizens not send out my checks? I wasn't sure what was going on. So, I quickly went online to the town website and I was like, nope, everything's paid up. So, I don't know what's going on. So, I went back and reread the letter a little bit slower when I like was initially panicked and as you guys can see because I did pass along that letter it's bolded it's underlined very clear that it's like it's going to disconnect it on. Basically, I took it as like it's yelling at you because you have not responded to previous notices. I take pride in making sure my bills are paid and for it to, like basically, get this letter to say that they were going to disconnect my water I was quite frankly I was stunned. So, when I got the letter, I called the next day at my lunch because it was after hours. So, when I called I called the number that was on there, which was Whitewater, I spoke to a lady there, I said it in my email so I don't want to repeat it on public television, I spoke to her and she had stated that there were many, many phone calls that morning that she had been receiving and that I was not the first one that had been receiving this and that it was definitely a problem. Highly recommended I contact the Water Department in Hudson. So, I said oh I will be calling my next call after you will be to them. We scheduled the date that I needed to do and like for that to take place I then called and spoke to an individual in the Town. As I stated in my email, you guys know who I spoke to, and instead of just saying I'm really sorry this happened, we don't understand why you didn't get the mail, it was well it was sent in the mail. And I said, well did you send an email? Did you send it like was there a

robocall? Like how was that done? And she said we sent it in the mail. And that was it and I found out later that it was done by postcards. That it was sent in not by her but by someone else that did receive the postcards which can easily get stuck in junk mail or anything like that. So, to get my first letter, to get my first letter, is this. I found it extremely inappropriate. Now I did look up, I'm not an attorney by any means, but I did look up because I quite frankly I was like this has to be illegal to be able to just shut off someone's water like that. Especially for someone that was paid up and it, you guys do have the ability, when I say you guys, meaning the Water Department does have the ability to do that. But I also did notice when I looked online that there is supposed to be certain processes that happen and yes you can send out general mail, but, it also supposed to be a notice on doors to prior to it happening and definitely did not receive any notices on my door. And I just, and to be honest with you I was still upset because I sent out an email to all of you and I didn't get one response back. Even if to even if it was just to say we'll look into it, we're sorry this happened, is there anything else you need, or, whatever, because I definitely didn't get it from the Water Department. So, I just wanted to bring it to your attention and make sure that the public knows that excuse me that this is something that should not be handled in this matter. Especially if it was done by post-it cards because they could easily get thrown into junk mail. And I'm not like it could have been stuffed by the post office into the junk mail, you know, and then get thrown out by a customer that doesn't even know any better. So, thank you that's all I had to say.

Selectman Guessferd: I apologize on my part for not responding.

Judy Brouillette: Thank you. I appreciate it.

Selectman Jakoby: Thank you very much.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I got one thing.

Chairman Dumont: Go ahead.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I think I know what this is. I got the same letter last year.

Selectman Guessferd: Yeah, we did too.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I kind of went through the same thing it's they're doing the Whitewater's doing the upgrade of their transponders. So, this was not a very polite way to do it but, this was their way of saying hey if you don't, we're gonna do this.

Chairman Dumont: Sure. Well what we can do, and I don't mind doing it, and that was one of the reasons why I didn't respond I didn't have an answer just yet but to follow up with the department head our Development of, we don't, I don't want to get into a big back-and-forth, but, I will we'll speak and we'll make sure we get back to the citizen.

Roy Sorenson: Sorry, Ms. Brouillette. why don't we let me chat with the utility division, there's Water and Whitewater, we'll get the facts straight, we'll check our emails and, and we'll get back to you how's that sound.

Judy Brouillette: Perfect. I was just looking for an apology and I got it. So, thank you.

Chairman Dumont: All right does anybody else in the audience wish to come on up?

Stephanie Urschel: Hi, I'm the president of the Friends of the Hudson Dog Park. And I just wanted to -- I had spoken with Roy last week. I provided him with the MOU signed. And I also -- I was supposed to have a quote for you folks this evening. It didn't have the director and officer insurance on it, so we are still working with the insurance company to obtain that. I was hoping to have it this evening, but it snowed yesterday and they were off, so I don't have that. But I did want to let you know some things that we're working on to further the opening of the dog park. The first one is the establishment of the 5013C. We have established it. We're just waiting for the state to acknowledge the paperwork. We have been also fundraising. We started a GoFundMe, and we've been working towards that goal and making great progress. And we're also in the process of getting all of this done, we're also working with, I know, some vendors who can do some work on our behalf as kind of a way to drum up business for their company. So, we're working on that as well. Obviously, this is all pending on the insurance and whether you folks agree to it or not. But I just wanted to let you know that we are working very hard to get it open and working on things that are not necessarily can be done right away, but we're putting stuff

in place so that we can continue with donations. Because I know that was another question from the meeting last week is how it was going to be funded, whether it was going to be membership or donations. It is going to be donations. So, I've been working with the community to try to rally some of the things together, like, for example, grading the park so it's flat. I have a gentleman that is willing to come in and do that for free for publicity for his business. So, I just wanted to let you folks know that this is top priority for us, and we are working diligently to get you the information that you need so that we can get the dog park open.

Chairman Dumont: Awesome. Thank you very much. It is an item on our Old Business that we're going to handle here tonight. So, if you don't mind just sticking around a little bit, if anybody has any questions, I can call you back up. But I think we should be on the right track.

Stephanie Urschel: Sure. May I just ask one question?

Chairman Dumont: Sure.

Stephanie Urschel: When we get to the lease agreement, does that need to be signed at a Board meeting, or can that be signed at a different time, like if I come to the town hall and sign it?

Chairman Dumont: So, your signature doesn't have to be. The Board has to authorize either for the entire Board to sign or to authorize me as a signatory on it.

Stephanie Urschel: Okay. So, I don't have to sign. All right. I just wanted to find out what needed to be done. Thank you so much for your time.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you. All right. Is there anybody else in the audience that would like to come up and speak? Not seeing anybody, I will close the public input at 7:26 p.m.

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Dumont: We don't have any recognitions, nominations, or appointments tonight.

- A. Recognitions** – None
- B. Nominations** – None
- C. Appointments** – None

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman Dumont: We do have consent items. Does any board member wish to remove anything for separate consideration? Motions?

[Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to approve Consent Items 6A-F. Motion carried, 5-0.](#)

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed/Timber Warrant

B. Water/Sewer Items – None

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies – None

D. Donations – None

E. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) February 10, 2026

F. Calendar

02/24	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room
02/25	7:00	Planning Board	Buxton Meeting Room
02/17	7:00	Zoning Board of Adjustment	Buxton Meeting Room
03/03	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room
03/04	8:30am	Highway Safety Committee	BOS Meeting Room
03/04	7:00	Budget Committee	Buxton Meeting Room
03/09	7:00	Conservation Commission	Buxton Meeting Room

03/09	7:00	Cable Utility Committee	Hudson Community Center
03/10		** Town Election**	
03/11	7:00	Planning Board	Buxton Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Dumont: Next up is Old Business, Friends of Hudson Dog Park update. I'll turn it over to Mr. Sorenson.

A. Friends of Hudson Dog Park Update – Administration/Decision

Roy Sorenson: All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the Board. I do have the MOU, which Stephanie had mentioned during her public input, and I don't think there's any harm in the board signing that tonight through the signatory of the Chair, at which time we do get a certificate of coverage for insurance. I think the Board can take action on actually opening the dog park and or it could be concurrent with the lease agreement coming here next week. So, this is obviously a dynamic situation. At this time, you do see in the memo basically two recommended motions. I think you can take the first one tonight. Second one you can take contingent upon. So, what would contingent upon be? Contingent upon the town receiving a certificate of insurance coverage as approved by Primex. All right. So, if you want to take that second motion tonight, you can do so. I would expect, working with the new nonprofit, that we would have some type of action for the next week's meeting as well.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much. So, I would agree. I think the MOU is ready to sign. It puts us in good standing with the nonprofit looking to move things open, and I think it would be appropriate to take the motion so that way nobody's waiting here to reopen the park as long as we get the insurance.

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, for the Board of Selectmen to hereby enter into a memorandum of understanding with the friends of Hudson Dog Park, Inc., a nonprofit organization duly organized and existing under the laws of the state of New Hampshire for use of a designated space at Benson Park for an off-leash dog park. Motion carried, 5-0.

Chairman Dumont: Do we have a second motion there? Would anybody like to make?

Selectman Jakoby: I'll make the second motion. So just so I understand, the second motion is when the lease is signed?

Chairman Dumont: So, it would be for the Board of Selectman to hereby open the designated space at Benson Park that was previously used as such for an off-leash dog park, thus rescinding the formal closure action taken on January 27, 2026, contingent upon receiving an insurance policy and favorable review from Primex.

Selectman Jakoby: So moved.

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, for the Board of Selectman to hereby open the designated space at Benson Park that was previously used as such for an off-leash dog park, thus rescinding the formal closure action taken on January 27, 2026, contingent upon receiving an insurance policy and favorable review from Primex. Motion carried, 5-0.

Chairman Dumont: All right. Thank you very much. Really appreciate you guys' patience in working with us on that.

Stephanie Urschel: Thank you.

Roy Sorenson: I will, Stephanie, I will get you a copy of this if you want to swing by the office, the MOU.

Stephanie Urschel: All right.

Roy Sorenson: Tomorrow, if you have time. Just reach out to me or I'll reach out to you one way or the other. All right?

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Purchase of Suppressors – Police/Presentation/Decision

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much. All right, next up we're going to roll into New Business, which will be the purchase of suppressors, and I will recognize the Police Chief, David Cayot.

Chief Cayot: Thank you, Chairman, members of the Board. So, I'm here tonight. We had recently used public safety money to purchase, to replace all of our patrol rifles. So, we had replaced 25 of our six-hour patrol rifles, and we also still had two in inventory that were issued to our clandestine lab officers. These are short-barreled 5.56 Sig rifles. If anyone in here has ever shot one of those, they're extremely loud. The at-ear decibels is approximately 165 to 170 decibels. That decibel rating is much higher than the safe limit. Obviously, when we're at the range, we do use hearing protection, but it's still extremely loud when you're using those. If we were to put suppressors on these rifles, it will lower that by about 20 to 40 decibels, bringing it, using that actual suppressor that I have up on the screen right now, it brings it right below that 140-decibel range, which is what's considered the dangerous level. This was brought to me by our firearms instructors. I'll be honest, I had a lot of questions when they brought it to me, so that's why I put together a PowerPoint to bring you through, just because I had a lot of questions, so I'm assuming that everybody else would have some as well. Starting out, this is a picture of the suppressor we would be talking about. It's a Sig Sauer SLXC 5.56 suppressor, and it's actually designed to go on the rifles that we purchase. This suppressor is actually designed for the rifles that we have. This is just a comparison so you can see what it looks like, because I know a lot of people might have an idea in their head of what it would look like when you put a suppressor on a rifle. The one on the left is what we currently have. On the right is what it would look like with the suppressor on it.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: You currently already have the—they're all threaded?

Chief Cayot: So, the ones for the SOU team are threaded. The other ones, there would be a slight modification, but this quote for the suppressors actually comes with that Sig piece that would be needed to put them on there. These are just a few facts about suppressors, just talking about how they lower the decibels, 20 to 35 decibels, showing those decibel ranges for unsuppressed firearms than what they are once you put a suppressor on them. And then this just talks about how you watch movies and people see the suppressors. It doesn't make the weapon any more lethal. It doesn't change anything except for the sound that comes out of it. This is just a decibel chart. Like I said, we use 5.56, so right here where I have the cursor. And going across, the blue is the unsuppressed decibel rating. This red is the danger line. And this other red one right here is where the suppressors bring it to on average. If I can get this video to play. So, one of the things they did to help show me the difference was we went up to the range and they fired a suppressed rifle and then our current rifle without the suppressor. And you can hear, if I can get it back up, you can hear the difference when you listen to this. What I can also tell you is besides hearing that difference, I didn't take a video of this, but I actually stood between the two of them for another round of shooting when they were shooting the rifles. And it's not only the actual sound, but it's the concussion from the rifle as well. So, the unsuppressed one, you can feel that concussion. I mean, anyone who shot a 5.56 knows it rattles you. Whereas the suppressed one, you don't feel that concussion. It's dampened significantly when you're standing there.

Roy Sorenson: I jumped you ahead, Chief. Go ahead.

Chief Cayot: Thank you. So, this is just to show, because I know a lot of people are like, well, how often do you shoot your rifles? Every sworn officer completes a minimum of eight hours of rifle training at the range every year, and our SOU members complete 60 to 80 hours of live rifle fire per year. So, it's a fair amount of shooting, and at those decibels, one or two shots is enough if you don't have hearing protection on to actually ruin your hearing permanently. Luckily, we haven't had it yet, but there are agencies where they have seen workman claims come from this. This is a study that was done. I won't bore you with all the facts of it, but it's called the Branch Study. What they went through is they shot a bunch of different rifles with suppressors on them, saw how much it lowered the decibels, and the other thing they came to was that even though when you wear hearing protection it does dampen it, that there's an amount of error, whether you have it covering your ear appropriately, if you have the earplugs all the way in. With OSHA standards, the best bet is to go to the source and to reduce sound

at the source, so that's what a suppressor does. It's not worrying about the human error of putting on the hearing protection. The suppressor is already on the rifle. If we click through to the end, what they found is that it actually provides more than 50% in noise reduction over wearing hearing protection.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Chief, do we have a hearing conservation program?

Chief Cayot: We do not have any. This would be part of it. It would be something we'd be looking into because, like I said, we haven't had any yet, but we do have retired officers who have talked about hearing loss that they had at the rifle range, and they can actually talk about the incidents, but no one's ever actually filed a claim for that. What I will say is, obviously, when we're at the range, you have to have hearing protection. We don't allow guys and girls to shoot up there without hearing protection, but as far as a hearing conservation program, we don't have a defined...

Selectman Vurgaropulos: You don't have an annual? Will you check that?

Chief Cayot: No.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Okay.

Chief Cayot: It wouldn't be a bad idea, though.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Yeah, I've been to a couple different places, and those are pretty big, especially with OSHA and stuff.

Chief Cayot: Yeah.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: They fall into their good programs.

Chief Cayot: So, there are additional benefits as well besides the noise reduction, increased accuracy, and a lot of that has to do with getting rid of some of that concussion. The gun stays on target a lot more than when you have the concussion from every shot. Communication, clarity, and team coordination in real-world events. God forbid you ever have a real-world event, and anyone who has shot a rifle before without hearing protection on, you fire a couple rounds, you've lost all communication at that point, and it can be very disorientating when you have that concussion. So, it would help in a real-world situation such as that. Decreased muzzle flash is another benefit. If you're shooting at night, the muzzle flash can ruin your night vision, and for our SOU members, the muzzle flash, if they're wearing their night vision goggles, can actually have detrimental effects as well. And then the risk reduction we talked about for the hearing. We wouldn't be the only agency using those. There are other agencies in the area that have started suppression programs. The Seacoast Special Operations Unit, all of their operators have them. Nashua SOU, the Pelham Police Department, Bedford Police Department, Merrimack Police Department, and the Wyndham Police Department have put suppressors on their patrol rifles. And I will do my best to answer any questions that you may have.

Chairman Dumont: If you could, Chief, real quick, just for anybody watching or who's curious when they read through the notes, could you just speak to the bid waiver?

Chief Cayot: Yes. So, we would be requesting a bid waiver, and the reason being there are plenty of companies that make suppressors. However, we stuck with the Sig Sauer rifles and pistols. We got a bid waiver for those because that's what everybody's trained on, and these suppressors are specifically designed for these rifles. So, we would be asking to waive the bid and be able to stick with the suppressors that are meant for these rifles.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you. Any questions for the Chief? Comments, motions?

Selectman Jakoby: I just want to say that to me it's such an important thing to be able to use the rifle with less harm to the individual using it and to those surrounding that person. Both the concussiveness of it, I think sometimes we underestimate the impact that has on the human body as well as the hearing. So, I think the presentation was excellent, and I am in full support of both of these motions. Thank you.

[Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to waive the competitive bidding requirements as outlined in Hudson Town Code 98-1C and allow the Police Department to award the bid to Sig Sauer. Motin carried, 5-0.](#)

Selectman Guessferd made a motion seconded by Selectman Morin, to allow the Police Department to purchase 27 Sig Sauer SLXC Suppressors for \$30,159 from the current budget, (5671-320), and reimburse 5671-320 in the amount of \$30,159 from the Police Duty Weapons Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. Motion carried, 5-0.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much, Chief.

Chief Cayot: Thank you very much. Have a great night.

Selectman Guessferd: Thanks a lot for the presentation.

B. Taybre Drive Water Main Extension – DSD/Decision

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, thank you. All right. Next up we have the Taybre Drive Water Main Extension. I'll recognize the Director of Development Services, Elvis Dhima.

Elvis Dhima: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a nine-lot single-family subdivision approved by the Planning Board. The construction has already started. They were approved with Town Water. We can accommodate their request. Part of basically extending the water main is you, as the water commissioners, get to approve that. It comes with AMUC approval, a recommendation, I should say, and the staff. And with that said, once it's done, we take ownership of that and it gets added to our assets. We're talking about 1,600 linear feet of 8-inch main and the hydrants that come with it. This water main is going to provide domestic and fire suppression for the area. And now it will be a nice addition because now we're going to get the water on Alvirne Drive, which we don't have. So, if something else happens, we can expand from there. So at no cost to the town and no cost to the water user. And we get to take ownership of that when it's said and done. With that said, I'll take any questions you might have.

Chairman Dumont: Just real quick, because obviously my copy is small. You said there's not water on Alvirne Drive? Where is it coming from?

Elvis Dhima: It's coming from Mansfield Drive, cutting through our lot.

Chairman Dumont: Is that the easement in the back there off to the corner?

Elvis Dhima: That is correct, yes. And then it cuts through the Freedom Field 2 in the back and then comes to the other side. So, it's a bit of a cross country if you want to call it that. But there's no water on Alvirne Drive. So, it was either this or it's just gone wells. A lot of people, their own wells there that were concerned. So, they took the extra step, if you want to call it that, and the expense to bring town water in there.

Chairman Dumont: And then does this have a loop on it for you guys to be able to flush it out with it being at the end like that?

Elvis Dhima: Yeah. So, when it goes to the end like that, we have a hydrant at the very end of the line. So that allows me to flush that line if I need to. There won't be a lot of use there except the irrigation because you can only drink so much water. But you've got to have this for domestic and fire suppression. And for residential, it's 8-inch. For commercial and industrial, it's 12-inch. So, they're meeting the minimum requirement.

Chairman Dumont: Yeah. No, that's good. All right. Any questions, comments?

Selectman Jakoby: How long is the road?

Elvis Dhima: The road is, I want to say, about 900 linear feet.

Selectman Jakoby: Got you.

Elvis Dhima: 900 to 1,000, I think. But because this is coming from a different location, it's not just the length of the road.

Selectman Jakoby: No, I always look at cul-de-sacs. I just was curious because it was hard to read.

Elvis Dhima: So, we've seen it both ways. Sometimes we just kind of include the cul-de-sac and sometimes we just – because the length of the road is still the same if you're going around or not. But I think in this case we went straight. But I've seen it both ways. And I think actually the next one kind of goes around the loop.

Selectman Jakoby: And this will have one fire hydrant?

Elvis Dhima: No, three. Three fire hydrants.

Selectman Jakoby: I don't have fire hydrants, people, so I always have to ask the question.

Elvis Dhima: No, it is. And the fire hydrants are driven by if it's a residential, high-density, commercial, industrial, things like that. And it's driven mostly by that. It's 300 feet, 500 feet, 800 feet, things like that. And we like to have them by the intersections. We like to have them at the end. And so, we work with everyone, you know, to make sure that it kind of makes sense. Fire department needs to sign off on them because after all, they're the ones using it. But for a run like this, you'll see one at the intersection, an Alvirne at the intersection, somewhere in the middle, and then one at the end of the cul-de-sac.

Selectman Jakoby: Thank you.

Selectman Guessferd: I just want to reinforce what Mr. Dhima said. When we approved this, there were a lot of people that were concerned about the water in that area and the wells and all of that. This helps in terms of mitigating any effects on that end. So, I think it's absolutely a necessity to have this.

Chairman Dumont: Okay. Any other comments?

Selectman Jakoby: I just, to expand on that, this parcel is closer to the other wells that were – is that your point, that this parcel is closer to the wells that had PFAS and other issues?

Selectman Guessferd: Not really my point.

Selectman Jakoby: Okay. I'm just trying to understand because I didn't follow your point.

Selectman Guessferd: No, because the residents there were concerned about the water table and some of the wells going dry.

Elvis Dhima: Yeah, how would it affect their wells?

Selectman Jakoby: So, are there other wells in the area that have gone dry?

Chairman Dumont: No.

Selectman Guessferd: No, I just think that that was a concern. No, they're just concerned that with the additional building and people there, that it would affect their wells. So, I think this is really a good thing.

Selectman Jakoby: Okay, thank you. I just wanted to clarify.

Selectman Guessferd: Hopefully it helps to address and mitigate some of their concerns because there was a lot of concerns with that.

Elvis Dhima: Yeah, the main concern was if there was additional wells, it was going to put an impact on their wells. As you know, the aquifer is underground, right? And the more straws you put in there, the more water you're getting out, you're depleting that natural resource, right? So, their concern was, how is this going to impact my well? Because it's more wells. That wasn't the case here. This is town water. So, with them, that's the problem they're having is they keep building when they don't have enough to begin with. So, every time they draw another straw in that aquifer, now there's less for everyone because that same amount of water is being shared now.

Selectman Jakoby: By a lot more people.

Elvis Dhima: By a lot more people than it was. So, yes, they came up. You know, I had to be in that meeting. I don't know for what. I was for this one or something else. But, yeah, we took at least that out of the equation for these folks.

Selectman Jakoby: Okay. Thank you for the clarification. I appreciate it.

[Selectman Vurgaropulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to approve and sign the proposed 8-inch waterline extension agreement for Taybre Drive as recommended by Municipal Advisory Utility Committee and Development Services Director. Motion carried, 5-0.](#)

C. Campbello Drive Water Main Extension – DSD/Decision

Chairman Dumont: Thank you. Next up is the Campbello Drive water main extension. Mr. Dhima, take it away.

Elvis Dhima: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, this is in line with your previous request. It's a 10-lot subdivision. It's going to be served by Town Water, Town Sewer. This is adjacent or close to the river, Merrimack River. It's an extension of the Campbello Drive. There's an 8-inch waterline extension. It's going to be extended into this development. Again, this is approximately the length of the road, just a little bit less than that, about 920 feet of 8-inch and then 3 hydrants as well. Again, the intent is to build this to town standards, hand it over to us, so we take over hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of assets added to our books without any cost to us, and it provides domestic and fire suppression.

Chairman Dumont: Sounds good. Senator Vurgaropulos?

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I just have two questions.

Chairman Dumont: Go ahead.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Was it? Forgive me. I reviewed this last week. So, one of these created a redundancy, right, a backup. Was it this one that closed the loop so that it had a dual source, or was it the other one?

Elvis Dhima: So, both of these are dead-end loops. They're not connected to anything yet. I think in a perfect world we want to connect them at some point, but this particular one.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Don said one of these closed the loops, and I can't remember which one it was. So that's why I was asking. Not that it's a big deal, providing water, which we need there.

Chairman Dumont: This one might have the ability to close the loop if it goes to Webster Street.

Elvis Dhima: It could, yeah.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: It might have been what he was talking about. It was kind of gray.

Chairman Dumont: It looks like the easement extends right through that last lot.

Elvis Dhima: That's for the sewer. So, the sewer cuts through here as well, but for the water, I think it's dead-end. I don't think it closes the loop on this particular one.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: The other question I had, the same question I asked Don, but he didn't have quite an answer. It says three fire hydrants, but on the drawing, why would you put two fire hydrants directly across from each other? Is that a drawing error?

Elvis Dhima: So, it could be a drawing error. I think there's one at the end of the cul-de-sac. We want to ask one, and this plan might not be the latest and the greatest, so it will be one at the beginning of the intersection of Merrimack and Campbello. That's going to be one hydrant right there. There's going to be one somewhere in the middle, and then one at the very end of the cul-de-sac. So, we'll make it three. If this plan doesn't show that, it doesn't mean anything.

Chairman Dumont: We're still getting three hydrants.

Elvis Dhima: He's going to build what we need, so that's basically what we're going to go for.

Chairman Dumont: Either way, fire has the last say for those locations.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Of course.

Elvis Dhima: You just don't typically see them like this directly across. No, they would not be across. Yeah, maybe that's a culvert or something. So, you want to have them, as I said, 400 to 500 feet apart for something like this. So, if you look at the length of the project, 920 feet plus extension there, it's about 1,000. So, you would say 0, 500, 1,000, that's your three hydrants. But if that's not reflected on the plan, it's probably not the latest. And to answer your—just to kind of add a little bit to what you just touched upon, before we do the construction, we have a plan that's just dedicated for the water line and the fire hydrants that clearly shows where they're located.

And that gets approved by engineering, DPW, and fire. And once that's done, that's when the construction starts. So even though this might be, like, the final, the latest, and the greatest, and we're missing something.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: But they'll be revised.

Elvis Dhima: Yeah, exactly.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Coming up with the water lines.

Elvis Dhima: And just because you approve it that way and there was a hydrant missing doesn't mean anything. At the end of the day, you've got to build to what the standards call for.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Yeah, of course.

Elvis Dhima: So, yeah, there will be three hydrants there, as I said, at the intersection, somewhere in the half, and then one at the very end of the cul-de-sac.

Selectman Vurgaropulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to approve and sign the proposed 8-inch water line extension agreement for Campbello Drive, as recommended by Municipal Advisory Utility Committee and Development Services Director. Motion carried, 5-0.

Elvis Dhima: Thank you very much, guys. Have a great night.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much. You as well. All right, good work.

D. Friends of Benson Park 2026 Events – Administration/Decision

Chairman Dumont: All right, next up we have the Friends of Benson Park 2026 events. I'll turn it over to Mr. Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: All right, thank you, Mr. Chair. Natalie Newell is the Board president for Friends of Benson Park, as you all know. She did reach out to me as part of them being able to utilize the property and or the deed requirements. We have met with them earlier this year and asked them to certainly bring everything to the Board's attention to see whether or not the Board is amenable to having them have events on the property. Everything is kind of laid out in that deed as far as how that might happen. So, as you can see tonight as part of this request, they do have some events planned on March 28th, April 14th, June 9th, August 1st, September 12th. They may have some additional, at which time they will get that back to me and I will bring it back to the board's attention. If you're willing to take this up tonight and give them approval, I will make sure that the parties that have a vested interest on this can move forward accordingly.

Chairman Dumont: Questions, comments, motions?

Selectman Jakoby: I'd just like to reiterate that upon reviewing the deeds and in an effort to really be clear on expectations and understanding so that the Board of Selectmen are well aware of what's happening park-wide and on the property as a whole, I've also asked them to do this. The one event that's coming up quickly is the Easter Egg Hunt, which used to be not on our property, but it makes sense to bring it to Benson Park. So that's the one that's coming up most recently. But I did recommend if they have dates to bring them all together so that we would know. They would also inform DPW to make sure that that permit is through DPW. When I spoke to Mr. Twardosky, his office said that if the Friends of Benson Park are having an event, generally that's the only permitted event that day because it's 15 to 50 people and they generally allow two groups to be at the park at the same time. But we know that these events will garner probably more than that. We hope more than that. So that's what the understanding has been. And we are looking into formalizing more policies around these efforts.

Chairman Dumont: Anybody else? Motions?

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, for the Board of Selectmen to hereby grant Friends of Benson Park the authority to conduct the events as requested for the 2026 season. Motion carried, 5-0.

E. Hudson VFW Loyalty Day – Administration/Informational

Chairman Dumont: Next up we have the Hudson VFW Loyalty Day. Mr. Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: Thank you again, Mr. Chair. So, this is just really informational. Dan Barthelemy from VFW reached out to me. This is, as you know, we do this every year. And all I'm bringing to the Board's attention is if you think you have an employee that you've seen throughout this past year, just reach out to me after this meeting. Let me know. I'm also going to talk to the department heads as well. And we'll see if we can't come up with someone to have at the next meeting on the agenda. You can see some of the past recipients as well as just a part of the packet. And, I mean, it's tough because we have a really good staff and we probably need a couple centuries to fill up to give this award out. At least that's how I see it right now. So that's pretty much it. So, like I said, just reach out to me on the side if you want before the next meeting, and I'll take it into consideration, and I think we'll have a candidate at the next meeting.

Selectman Jakoby: Thank you.

F. HB 1137: Municipal Budget Committee Membership – Administration/Informational

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much. Next up we have HB 1137, Municipal Budget Committee membership. Mr. Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: So, Mr. Chair, you may be familiar with this. This is kind of up at the State right now, and we also have a warrant article that's kind of related to this, not so much so. But HB 1137, which is up in Concord right now, it's a bill that wishes to remove the voting right of the Board of Selectmen Liaison and School Committee Liaison and reduce them to ex officio members, meaning advisory only. They wouldn't be able to weigh in or vote on that budget. So, if this Board wants to bring any type of action for me to prepare a document on your behalf and send it to Concord, I am certainly willing to do that. And it's at the wish of the board right now as far as how you want me to proceed, if at all.

Selectman Guessferd: Yeah, I'm sure there may be at least one other member who might want to weigh in on this. But from my perspective, I think it's vitally important that we send a letter in voicing opposition to this bill. I was on the Budget Committee for several years, a couple years, several years. And then served as a liaison member. And I think it's important that we have a vote on that and the school board also has a vote on that committee.

Chairman Dumont: Selectman Vurgaropulos, do you have anything to add as the Budget Committee?

Selectman Vurgaropulos: No, I agree with everything you're saying. Though I'm only one person and this year has been very fun learning for me, I think there's value in having voting members as liaisons. Do we always know everything about it? No, but that's why you have a whole team. So, having everybody scrutinize it, I think you remove some of the value of a liaison when, for lack of better words, their words don't matter, right? So, I think it's important to have that.

Selectman Jakoby: I'm actually on the fence on this one. I feel that in our case, our Budget Committee is elected. There are elected members to that board. Having sat on the Budget Committee, I'm not sure that my vote or the school board's vote would have really made that big of a difference in the decisions that were made. That was my experience for my year. So, I am neutral on this bill, just to be honest. That's where I stand.

Selectman Guessferd: We appreciate it.

Chairman Dumont: Just to give feedback from what I did hear up in Concord, basically this just comes from the thought process of, well, you get in two bites at the apple, I guess to make it simple.

Selectman Jakoby: Correct.

Chairman Dumont: I'll be honest with you, I didn't really have strong feelings on this one way or the other. I wasn't a voting member on that. I've sat on boards where you're a non-voting member. You're asked plenty of questions. I think that you can help alleviate the conversation. I think you can still have plenty of value that way.

But I also do see the benefit, obviously, of the board selecting to have a voting representative there. Again, I guess I would kind of lie in the middle as not being the most recent or past voting member on that.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I would say just one follow-up real quick. This year has actually been very trying for split votes. We've had a lot of 4-5, 5-4 votes. So, it's been, I think, that's where I saw the value.

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, for the Board of Selectmen to authorize sending a letter to Concord expressing opposition to House Bill 1137. Motion carried, 3-1-1. Selectman Jakoby opposed, Chairman Dumont abstained.

Chairman Dumont: I'm just going to abstain from this. I'll have my chance when it's up in Concord. Any other discussion? All right, next up we have Selectman Liaison reports.

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

Selectman Vurgaropulos: All right. So, the only thing I had was what we discussed tonight, the two water main extensions. They looked good to me there. I do have a follow-up for Mr. Morin, who asked me if we could bring home the gold, and we did.

Chairman Dumont: Congratulations.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: So, Alvirne Swimmer, we have one championship banner from diving from Ari Anderson. She did amazing. She kept her cool the whole time. And it was tight. It was a tight race. They were talking like four-way tie for first going into the last couple dives. And it was impressive. She kept her composure, and she just grinded through and waited for the others to make mistakes, and that's what happened. So, she worked really hard. And then we brought home two silvers. So, two runner-up events from Steve Pollard. Both did amazing jobs. So very proud of the Alvirne Swim Team.

Chairman Dumont: Awesome. Congratulations.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Thank you. That's all I got.

Selectman Morin: I had a School Board meeting, but I'll let the school board member speak on that. Other than that, I have nothing tonight.

Selectman Jakoby: Yes, I'd like to just remind people that we do have the election coming up on March 10th, and I have, again this year, done three or four videos to help explain some of the warrant articles. Remember, if you have questions about the warrant articles, please reach out to the various departments and ask your questions so that you can make an informed decision either way. Mr. Sorenson and I reviewed the charter for the Sustainability Committee, and there's a couple of additions we'd like to make to it, to make to that charter before bringing it before this Board. So, it's going to go back to Sustainability just based on some things that we didn't realize we'd forgotten in the charters. So, we added two new sections for the charters. The Benson Park Advisory Committee has been moving forward on a number of items and has been working closely, has had the Friends of the Hudson Dog Park was at the last meeting, as well as the Friends of Benson Park were at the last meeting. So, we had some good conversation about how those nonprofits will be working with the advisory board. And I look forward to seeing people at the election on March 10th. But we have another meeting before that, right?

Chairman Dumont: March 3rd.

Selectman Jakoby: Oh, I'll see you March 3rd.

Selectman Guessferd: Yeah, yeah, on that point on March 3rd is, yeah, the reason we're doing March 3rd is obviously our meeting is on the second Tuesday. We couldn't do that because of the election, so we're going to be meeting next week again. So, you'll see us up here on the televisions again in a week from today. The Library Board of Trustees met last week. A couple of things to keep in mind and so people should know. Library hours have been expanded on Saturdays until 2 o'clock. It was 1 o'clock based on input from the survey for the strategic plan. So, it's an open additional hour based on desires from citizens to keep it open just a little bit longer on Saturdays. And they are in the process of going through, like we have been doing, multiple policies, reviews, and approvals. I think last week they had seven or eight that they looked at. So, a lot of the same ones, and they're

trying to be as consistent as they can with the ones that we have as well. So, if there's commonality, I know they've reached out to our Town Administrator on a few things. So that's the library. Tomorrow night there's a Planning Board meeting. We will have one case before us and I think a bond that we're establishing. And finally, the Rec Department. They had a comedy night on Saturday. I was fortunate enough to attend. It was a very successful night. I think we probably raised record money for the scholarships on the 50-50. And it was a very successful evening. Great community event. The next one, as you heard earlier, the Easter egg hunt is on the 28th. The same day they're having their annual Easter Bunny Waffle Breakfast. So, kids get a chance to actually meet the Easter Bunny. They're having waffles. And residents can reserve their spots online, I think through the rec department website or the Facebook page. And then you can also get pictures with the Easter bunny, and they'll have crafts and different things that the kids can do. Another very successful annual event every year. So, I'll just reiterate what Jakoby said. In two weeks, we have the election. I will be there as well. We'll hopefully see all of you there. We really want to try to encourage people to come out. More than ever, it's more important. It's important for your tax bill. It affects you directly more so than some of the other elections that we have. Again, I strongly encourage people to come. And I think that's all I have.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much. Just to piggyback on that a little bit, I would recommend if anybody would like to volunteer with that, obviously reach out to Deb Stoddard. I'm sure there's always room for a couple of volunteers here and there. It's difficult to fill all those positions. So, it's a good experience. It's a great way to learn about how the election works and about the entire process. One thing I will add to Selectman Jakoby's comment about Sustainability, I will tell you, honestly, it's my plan to bring that back in front of us next week. So, I don't know if it's possible to get their comments. I believe they had a meeting on Monday that was canceled because of the storm. But I was hoping to wrap that up as soon as possible. I think we're going on about a year since or eight months since we've asked for those charters.

Selectman Jakoby: They've submitted the charter. It was delayed because we had so much on our agenda.

Chairman Dumont: Right.

Selectman Jakoby: And then it kept being pushed off.

Chairman Dumont: Yep.

Selectman Jakoby: And then there were some changes.

Chairman Dumont: Right. So, I think that we should be able to, as a Board, take a look at those changes and figure out, obviously, this Board is the one that will decide what happens with that charter. So just so everybody is aware, that is my intent to bring it back next week. That's all I had. I will turn it over to Mr. Sorenson.

10. REMARKS BY TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Roy Sorenson: All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, we'll head up to the big board. Annual Report is done. I want to just thank Selectman Morin, not just for these two photos, but a series of photos that we're probably going to be using, A, in future reports, and, B, on our new website. Once we get that, we can create a slideshow. So, a real talent, Selectman Morin, so congrats on that. And thank you for allowing us to use those pictures. We did, as I mentioned, we had our Blue-Ribbon Committee. We did cut back on this significantly. So, it will be a smaller document. But nonetheless, the important information that's in there needs to be in there. And anything else, we'll direct right on to the website if you want to find full reports in detail. So, stay tuned for that. You'll see those at the voting locations. They'll be handing out at that point. Speaking of voting, Town Clerk, so the new machines have been brought in. We have ballot testing this week. The sample ballots, by the way, are up on the website. Both the town sample ballot and the school sample ballot. You can find that on our website. Last day to register to vote is February 28th. And the Town Clerk and our Town Hall will be open late on March 6th, at least until 5 p.m., to collect absentee ballots. HCTV did a great PSA on the new machines, how they work. That's up on their site. So, if you have a chance, check that out as well. Speaking of HCTV, obviously we've talked about them at length. And just highlighting this again, the importance of who they are and what they do for the community and what they'll continue to do and why that's important. We'll see what the future holds with the franchise fee and many adjustments that might have to be made, as well as we'll see what happens with the Warren article that's coming up in two weeks. I do want to highlight this piece here that was put together. And this was Matt Guerrero

and Jimmy Jakes from DPW, quite a tandem. And I've got a quick little video. We'll play this. [plays short video] Quick snippet. I just want to highlight, obviously, the work DPW's done, right? And that was the 20-inch storm. I don't know how many storms ago that was, maybe three or four? They just keep coming. So that full video is up on HGTV. Check it out. It kind of gives you a real, basically, you are in that truck. You're going through the storm, and you can kind of see what they go through. And that's, as I mentioned, they've done an outstanding job this year. I've dealt with it a long time myself. Anyone who's done it is very unforgiving. So great for them for what they've done. I can't say enough about the crews and how they've taken care of the town this winter. This is a big project that is actually coming to a point now where we might see some final closure on getting to design, all right? Now, Mr. Dhima will be back in to present this. This is the connection from Nashua across the river into Hudson. This will be an additional water main connection. As you know, we are buying more water from Pennichuck now versus what we have in the past. Part of that is the issue with the wells and potentially some funding to be given back to us via what would have happened to bring those wells down. So just highlighting that, you can see the crossing and how it will come across the river. Now, we did have discussions with Pennichuck. Pennichuck wanted to go further north to Litchfield. Between Pennichuck, ourselves, and DES, we agreed that this is the best crossing. This is going to obviously help us out quite a bit, so stay tuned. Mr. Dhima will be in to talk more at length on this project, at which we're going to design, and how it will be funding. A big portion of it will come from private donations, basically, as I mentioned, because the wells are down, and from the Department of Environmental Services. All right, now that's just the beginning. Construction is a whole other phase, so we'll get into that. But to date, myself, Mr. Dhima, our town attorney, we've been working through this to get to this point. Just bringing this back up again, I did meet with some folks from Sustainability. We've gotten numerous calls on this, as this is how can you opt out of Community Power, and we continue to give this information out. We met with another group that is along the lines of Community Power, and I did have a couple folks from sustainability there as well. This may be an item that comes back. So, what does that mean? That may be that we revisit that warrant article, and who the provider might be for the town as part of this program. All right, so I just want to bring that to the Board's attention. I will keep you up to speed on that. Chamber of Commerce, the Awards Gala will be coming out April 7th. I just want to put a shout-out there to Leona Shanholtz, who's the Citizen of the Year, if you haven't heard. So, congratulations to her, as well as the Food Pantry in general, as the Outstanding Community Partner of the Year, and the other folks up there as well. So good for them. They do great things for the community, and I'm glad that they're being celebrated and are recognized. Town Meeting, here it is. We'll keep putting this up, I guess, until we actually vote. March 10th, Ward 1, Hudson Memorial School. Ward 2, Alvord High School. So that's right around the corner, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. So, make sure the folks get out and they vote. And then February recognition. So, from Donna Molanson, Town Clerk for 25 years. You have a strong group of police. They all came in together, 12 years. So that kind of shows you how they grew together along the police force. And last but not least, carrying up the back end, the Town Administrator. One year.

11. REMARKS BY SCHOOL BOARD

Stephen Meyer: Thank you. Just a few items tonight. First, a general congratulations to the upcoming Alvirne graduates. And then specifically, recently the top three were celebrated. Abigail Conroy is our valedictorian. Danny Wimmer is our salutatorian. And Ben Pinnell is our class essayist. On March 11th, there's a family resource night from 6:00 to 7.30 p.m. at Hills Garrison in the cafeteria for families to learn about different community resources, as well as tips and tools for reinforcing learning at home. In our last meeting, we approved both the school district and School Board calendars for 26-27. So that's up on the site now and available. And then we also, it was noted in our last meeting, the strategic plan, which has been in progress. We've gotten a lot of community feedback and questions on. That is targeted to be reviewed at our next School Board meeting. That's on March 9th. And then I will echo what has been said multiple times tonight about the election on the 10th. From the School Board perspective, we have two School Board member positions on the ballot, as well as the moderator, the school clerk, the treasurer, and then warrant articles as well.

12. MOTIONS MADE IN NONPUBLIC

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to accept the resignation of Dispatcher Marya Figueroa with an effective date of March 1st, 2026, as recommended by the Police Chief. Motion carried, 5-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Motion carried, 5-0.

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

Dillon Dumont, Chairman

Bob Guessferd, Vice-Chairman

Xen Vurgaropulos, Selectman

Heidi Jakoby, Selectman

Dave Morin, Selectman