



HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the March 24, 2026 Board of Selectmen Meeting

7:00 PM

Board of Selectmen Meeting Room, Town Hall

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – by Chairman Dumont the meeting of March 24, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall.

Chairman Dumont: Chairman Dumont: I just want to start off by saying we did not have our normal non-public session before this meeting. We did have a celebration for Selectman Dave Morin, this being his last meeting, so I just wanted to extend in public my personal thanks and appreciation to Selectman Morin for all of his years of service. Thank you.

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

3. **ATTENDANCE**

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

Chairman Dumont: Bob Guessferd asked me to just read into the record so everybody was aware. Due to a very recently scheduled back surgery yesterday, he could not be here. He will not be able to attend tonight's meeting and sends his regrets, but expects to be able to be back and attend the following meeting on April 14th. So, he is excused for this meeting.

Staff/Others: Town Administrator – Roy Sorenson; Director of Development Services – Elvis Dhima; Fire Chief – Scott Tice; Town Moderator – Deb Stoddard; Finance Director – Laurie May; Town Accountant – James Lockwood; Tax Collector – Christine Strout-Lizotte; Town Clerk – Michelle Brewster; Diane Cannava – Cable Utility Committee; School Board Liaison – Heather Cook; Mike Campo – Plodzik & Sanderson; Executive Assistant – Lorrie Weissgarber.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Chairman Dumont: At this time, we will turn it over to public input. Does anybody in the audience wish to address the Board on any issue which the Board has control of at this time? If you do, come on up. Please state your name and address for the record.

Deborah Putnam, 59 Rangers Drive: Good evening. Due to a variety of factors, I am bringing a time-sensitive matter to you for action this evening. Please see the letter I handed out, I think Xen passed it around and I emailed it prior to the meeting to Mr. Sorenson. Please know that all that is being asked of the BOS tonight is a vote to support. That will automatically go into the minutes of this meeting. The vote to support can then be transmitted to Clean Energy New Hampshire by email by Mr. Sorenson as Town Administrator to Sam at Clean Energy New Hampshire, and I will provide that email address to Mr. Sorenson. The point of this presentation is the importance of passing SB538. Solar is a good investment for New Hampshire towns. Many New Hampshire communities already rely on municipal solar to generate predictable revenue and savings, budget relief, and long-term cost control for taxpayers. Municipalities rely on net metering to make solar financially feasible. Net metering allows towns to get credit for any excess energy sent back to the grid. Excess energy produced on a sunny day offsets energy used on a cloudy day. Group net metering allows towns to share excess energy with other electric meters. For example, a municipality could oversize a solar array at a transfer station and share those energy credits with a fire station across town. Here's the problem. Under the current rules in the state of New Hampshire, net

metering credits are only guaranteed through 2040. Long-term net metering uncertainty is particularly problematic for the many municipal solar projects that rely on outside financing. When a town leases land to a solar developer, collects lease and tax payments, and purchases power at a fixed rate. Right now, uncertainty in state policy is preventing many such projects from moving forward. SB538 guarantees 20 years of net metering credits for municipal solar projects, specifically SB538 guarantees that municipal group net metering projects serving only political subdivisions, e.g. towns, schools, and counties will remain eligible for net metering tariffs for a full 20 years from when they began receiving compensation rather than having eligibility end in 2040. As of today, 38 towns and cities have already registered their support. SB538 is important to our community. Community-scale solar projects can deliver real tax revenue and energy savings for municipalities, but uncertainty around net metering terms is stopping projects from moving forward. It is my hope that you'll vote tonight to support SB538 as a practical pro-municipal fix. Are there any questions? I'm happy to answer questions.

Selectman Jakoby: I just want to raise, I spoke to the chairman, who's also a state representative, and he said we're in an interim?

Chairman Dumont: Crossover.

Selectman Jakoby: So that we can actually take this up.

Chairman Dumont: There'll be two opportunities for, obviously, testimony, Senate and then House. House, as far as I know, hasn't given out any dates on their hearings just yet. But there will be two opportunities for anybody who wants to go and speak in favor of this, as well as if the board chooses to provide a letter or input that way.

Deborah Putnam: Yeah. This was just received, the request was received through Clean Energy New Hampshire, which the town is a member, through the Sustainability Advisory Committee, and thus they ask that this matter be brought to the Boards of Selectmen or energy-specific committees in towns all over New Hampshire. Thank you. And apparently it could come up, as you say, they don't have firm dates yet, but they're concerned that it could come up as soon as this Thursday.

Chairman Dumont: So, I'll take a look at scheduling. Everything that I was following, the Senate hadn't published everything yet, but when it starts, it does happen quickly.

Deborah Putnam: Yeah, exactly. Thank you. Okay.

Chairman Dumont: Anybody else in the audience? On up.

Ed Thompson, 22 Burnsville Road: Good evening, everyone. This evening, I expected that the Board would hold their elections, given it was right after the election, right after the town election for Chair and Vice-Chair, tonight since the town elections were just held. So, I come before you to recommend the election of Selectman Jakoby as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. I've known Heidi for roughly 10 years, and I have been very impressed by her support and dedication to our town or what she likes to call her forever home. Always looking out for the residents, she's intelligent, patient, caring, empathetic, organized, open-minded, driven, and most of all, fair and professional. And those are just a few of her qualities. I have no reservations in her capabilities and think she would do an amazing job as your next chairman. I urge you to elect Ms. Jakoby as your next chairman. She is probably the most logical in my opinion, and I realize that normally you do a rotation of selectmen into the seat, and I do think that she'd be perfect for that position.

Chairman Dumont: Is there anybody else in the audience that would like to come on up and speak?

Mike Campbell, 6 Baltus Road Drive: Good evening, everyone. You're going to be talking about the election results, so I just wanted to share some comments I have. It's almost an impossible request, but I hope the board could look into trying to improve voter turnout. I know most things passed during the election, so the results were mostly positive, but everyone should be upset with only 2,700 citizens coming out to vote. The last time we had under 3,000 voters was in March of 2017, almost 10 years ago. For the November elections in 2020 and 2024, we had a total of 29,453 votes cast, 14,730 in 2020 and 14,723 in 2024. The lines were so long in 2020, it inspired a petition warrant article to have two voting locations. The people are out there and are willing to wait hours to have their voice be heard. In the town elections from 2020 to 2026, we've had 23,987 voters come out, 5,466 less people total between two national elections and seven years of town elections. One argument I hear is that

elections should be on the weekend. Everyone works weekdays. Polling is open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. I'm sure some people work 12-hour days, but the majority should be able to find 30 minutes to come out. If you do have to work and you know how tired you are after work, you could look into getting an absentee ballot, even though Concord and Washington are trying to make very strict guidelines about who qualifies for one. Speaking of Concord and even Washington, maybe we can petition them to change the voting day to a weekend is an argument that I hear. But I'll tell you, if the second Saturday in March was 80 degrees, we'd have even lower turnout, which then brings me to the weather. We hear it's too cold to go outside, it's too warm. So that's what Tuesday's excuse must have been. It must have been too nice to go out and vote. It can't work both ways like that. Does it have to be 43 degrees and mostly cloudy to get 4,000 people to come out and vote? Another reason for low turnout could be most of the races were uncontested. Why go out and vote? There's so much more to the ballot than just seats. Your tax rate is a major thing that's decided in town elections. Twice a year we receive a tax bill. Don't you want to look at it and know exactly why it reads that number? Don't you want to think I did that or I tried to lower that? I was standing outside of Alvirne from 7.30 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. on election day thanking everyone who came out. At any point there were hardly more than a trickle of people. I want to thank the older members of our community for taking the time to come out. They always seem to be the ones in full force. The groups I will call out is my generation and the generation below me. Maybe this is my okay boomer moment, but I don't believe I saw more than 300 people younger than me come out and vote. I don't know what the answer is, but I implore you guys to try to figure out something. Thank you for continuing to send out the sample ballots with the summaries for the warrant articles. I saw a lot of people carrying those in to vote with them. I know we have some DPW signs around town that give us updates like the parking ban. I'm not sure. I didn't notice if they were updated to talk about the election was that day or was upcoming, but that could be one thing. No one wants more committees, but could there maybe be one in collaboration with the school board to try to figure out what we're doing wrong? Because something is going wrong. 2,700 votes is honestly pathetic, and it makes me a little angry, and I hope you're as angry at the turnout as I am, and we'll try to change it. Thank you very much for your time.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much. Anybody else who would like to come up and speak? Once, twice. We'll close the public input at 7.33 p.m.

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

All right, next up we have our recognitions, nominations, and appointments. It is not on the agenda, but we do have a recognition. At this time, I'll ask Michelle Brewster to come on up and step forward. As everybody is aware, the Board of Selectmen, a while-back-rated initiative to look into the position of an HR Generalist, which led us to Michelle. So, with that, I will turn it over to Selectmen Jakoby.

[Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to appoint Michelle Brewster to the position of HR Generalist with effective date and terms of salary to be negotiated by the Town Administrator as advised by the Board of Selectmen and through the signatory of the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Motion carried, 4-0.](#)

Selectman Jakoby: And I just wanted to add that we did establish a committee, and I was part of the interview process with Michelle, and she did extremely well on her interview and in every way, shape, and form. So, I'm honored to make this motion today.

Roy Sorenson: So, I'd like to just obviously congratulate Michelle. I think you'll be a great fit for this position. Just to piggyback on what Selectman Jakoby said, I don't know if interview process does that justice because her interview is two-and-a-half hours long.

Michelle Brewster: Three-and-a-half.

Roy Sorenson: Whatever it was. And then I made her do a practical over the weekend that might have taken her six hours.

Selectman Jakoby: It was a take-home test.

Roy Sorenson: So, I think you checked all the boxes. I know the town itself. I haven't been here that long, but this is a position that's been talked about for quite a while. And I think this is a good stepping stone to get us where we might want to go someday. So, congratulations.

Michelle Brewster: Thank you.

Chairman Dumont: Congratulations.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: I just want to say congratulations, and I'm very excited to see you in this new role. I think you're going to do great, and I can't wait to see you do good things.

Michelle Brewster: Thank you.

Chairman Dumont: All right. And, yeah, with that, I'll just add, obviously, over the past couple years getting to know you, I think that you're going to fit this role perfectly, and I'm very excited to see what you're going to do with it. I know we've all spoken enough. I'll turn it over to you if you could just tell everybody a little bit about yourself.

Michelle Brewster: So, for those who don't know me, as the town clerk, my name is Michelle Brewster. I am not from town. I've lived here for about four to five years. I take a lot of pride in living in Hudson. I stepped into the town clerk position in 2024 having absolutely no clue what I was stepping into. I will say that I loved every minute of it. It is a position that is misunderstood, and it is my hope as the new HR person to promote and find someone that takes as much pride in it as I do and to really let people know what that position is about. If you are somebody that is living in town and has always wanted to get involved with the town and maybe employment is the way to do it, this is a fantastic opportunity to give back to your town while still taking care of your family. A little bit about me, I have a human services degree from Southern New Hampshire University. I'm a mom. I take pride in what I do. I treat my coworkers like family. I feel like I've expressed that during my time here. I've been in a unique role as an elected official working with town employees, so I've gotten to see the ins and outs of what our employees need. And I'm really hoping, working along Mr. Sorenson, that I can create some routine and flow to what our employees deal with on a daily basis, and I look forward to it. And I thank you all for seeing that in me and taking an opportunity, not only with me as the town clerk, but now as your HR Generalist, and I look forward to what I can do in the future with this.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much. Go ahead.

Selectman Allan: I'm excited for you to take this position. I've gotten to work alongside with you at several elections, and I've gotten to see your hard work and your dedication to our community. And to see you step into this new role, I believe that's what the town hall is going to need and what Hudson needs, so congratulations.

Michelle Brewster: Thank you, and congratulations on your win as well. And while we are here, congratulations to you too, Heather.

Chairman Dumont: Congratulations.

Selectman Jakoby: Thank you. Finally official.

Roy Sorenson: Why don't we do a quick picture? We'll do one right up here. Chris, do you mind taking a picture of us?

A. Recognitions – None

B. Nominations – None

C. Appointments

1) Municipal Utility Committee – David Shaw, *member reappointment*

- o One (1) member vacancy to expire April 2029
- o One (1) member vacancy to expire April 2027
- o One (1) member vacancy to expire April 2028
- o One (1) alternate vacancy to expire April 2028

Chairman Dumont: All right. Next up, nominations, we have none. Appointments, we have a couple.

First up for the Municipal Utility Committee is David Shaw, a member seeking reappointment to a one-member vacancy set to expire on April 29th. Obviously, the board knows typical with reappointments, we don't ask them to be here. I don't see him out in the audience. Does anybody have any questions, comments, concerns, things they'd like to say? I'm not seeing anything. Is there a motion to reappoint?

[Selectman Vurgaropulos mad a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to reappoint David Shaw to Municipal Utility Committee with a term to expire April 2029. Motion carried, 4-0.](#)

Chairman Dumont: All right. So just to clarify, so the motion would be to appoint David Shaw as a member of the Municipal Utility Committee with a term to expire April 2029.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Thank you. I was looking for my note, and it was right here, but I was like bouncing back and forth off of this paper.

2) Cable Utility Committee – Diane Cannava, member reappointment

- o One (1) member vacancy to expire April 2029
- o One (1) member vacancy to expire April 2029
- o One (1) member vacancy to expire April 2029
- o One (1) member vacancy to expire April 2029

Chairman Dumont: No worries. Next up, we have Cable Utility Committee, Diane Cannava, member reappointment, one-member vacancy set to expire April 2029. I do see her in the audience. Would you like to come up and say anything, or you don't have to? I just figured I'd give you the option.

Diane Cannava: I just want to thank the voters for voting for the 100% for HCTV. Thank you so much. Now we're above water. It's real important.

Chairman Dumont: Definitely. I would agree. Does anybody have any questions or comments for Diane while she's here?

Selectman Jakoby: I just want to say that I always appreciate your commitment to HCTV and all that you do publicly for them and how you share so many things from the community back into their website in so many different ways. So, thank you, and I'm honored to reappoint.

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, likewise. And obviously everybody knows you'll find Diane at the polls or numerous locations across town helping out doing things. This is just another one of the hats that she wears. So, thank you very much for that. Any other questions, comments, motions?

[Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Allan, to reappoint Diane Cannava as a member of the Cable Utility Committee with a term to expire April 2029. Motion carried, 4-0.](#)

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much. Next up we have consent items. Does any board member wish to remove any item for separate consideration? Does anybody have a motion to approve consent items 6A through 6F?

[Selectman Vurgaropulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Allan, to approve consent items 6A, B, C, D, E, and F. Motion carried, 4-0.](#)

Selectman Jakoby: I just want to point out and thank the Hudson Lions Club for their donation of \$200 towards the Benson Park Advisory Committee for them to look at the lions that are there waiting to see if they can be healed.

Chairman Dumont: That will be exciting, and thanks and appreciation out to the Hudson Lions Club for sure. Thank you for pointing that out.

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Property Tax Abatement Application
- 2) Supplemental Property Tax Bill
- 3) Elderly Exemption Requalification
- 4) Veterans' Tax Credit
- 5) All Veterans' Tax Credit

B. Water/Sewer Items

- 1) Water Abatements

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies

- 1) Water Abatements

D. Donations

- 1) Hudson Lions Club

E. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) March 3, 2026

F. Calendar

03/24	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room
03/25	7:00	Planning Board	Buxton Meeting Room
03/26	7:00	Zoning Board of Adjustment	Buxton Meeting Room
04/01	7:00	Budget Committee	Buxton Meeting Room
04/08	7:00	Planning Board	Buxton Meeting Room
04/13	7:00	Cable Utility Committee	Hudson Community Center
04/13	7:00	Conservation Commission	Buxton Meeting Room
04/14	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS – None

8. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Dumont: Next up is old business, which we have done. New business, I would like to point out obviously was brought up in public input. With everything on the agenda tonight, we will be handling the election of officers at the end of the meeting. We have numerous things that we need to get through here first. I believe it would be in the best interest of everybody who is sitting here waiting to go through those.

**** 2026 Town Election Update – Moderator/Informational**

Chairman Dumont: First up, we have the town election update, and I will recognize Deb Stoddard to come on up and give us the update on the 2026 election.

Deb Stoddard: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen of the Select Board. As this was my first official election as moderator, even though I'd managed Ward 1 in the past, I'd like to say that even though the preparations were intense, the outcome of the day ran as usual. I have submitted originally the election statistics report and the voter participation report for the March 2026 town and school district elections. Unfortunately, the turnout was bad. It was 15.9% voter turnout, which was the lowest since 2021. As usual, voting day went smoothly with very little issue. There were no delays for voters to check in, but due to the new tabulators, there were delays at the voting boxes. At Memorial, this was resolved by repositioning the boxes to accommodate the school ballots first and then the town ballots second, as there were more pages for the town, page 2 and 3. The second box for the town was experiencing some jams, which will be addressed with LHS to rectify for the next election in September. Paul Inderbitzen had managed Ward 2 at Alvirne and didn't report any issues with the equipment, but did report having one instance where a voter needed to leave to obtain their ID but returned to vote. There was no other issues other than that. The supervisor of the checklist reported that a few citizens registering to vote didn't have the necessary documents but had returned later in the day and were able to register and vote. There was some

confusion for voters on the ballot, especially for write-ins, and since the new tabulators were catching stray markings, the result was that we had a total of 171 school ballots. Replacement ballots were offered, but if the citizen was agitated by the process, we offered a hand count for the ballot instead of having them remark another ballot. At Memorial, I was able to use the ABE equipment, which I assisted a blind resident to get them acclimated to the handheld device so he was able to finalize all of his choices personally and once printed, I assisted him in helping him to cast his ballots. It was actually kind of entertaining because he told me he was taking his wife off for ice cream after, and I recommended that his wife drive. He appreciated the ability to vote on his own. The Election Day process required some orchestration. There are many that provided assistance, so I would like to extend my thanks to the DPW workers for setup and takedown of each location, the Police and Fire Department for transporting the final ballots equipment back to Town Hall and for direction of traffic and keeping the peace, Town Clerk Michelle Brewster and Tax Collector Christine Strout-Lizotte for processing our absentee ballots and for being available to assist where needed, to all of our election workers that adapted to the changes that were instituted and for helping whenever the need arose, Paul Inderbitzen for managing Ward 2 as my assistant moderator, Principals Bowen, Custodian Angel Borrero and their staff at Hudson Memorial for hosting Ward 1, Principals Beal, Custodian Ryan Leary and their staff for hosting Ward 2, Wayne Madeiros for transporting materials from Town Hall to both locations, and the GFWC Hudson Women's Club for not only assisting with pre-election, post-election counting at the end of each night, but providing dinner for both locations. The process of running an election, as you can imagine, takes many hands to be successful. I also want to extend my personal thanks to the Board of Selectmen who all stepped in and helped all throughout the day in either location. Without your help, we wouldn't have been able to get everything done. So, I will tell you that we had 2,787 total ballots cast, which was 15.9% of our total checklist, which was 17,429. Most of the reason was partly due to the weather, but also there were multiple contracts but uncontested races. So, my intention for future elections is I plan to post at all the schools and public buildings a request for volunteers to step up and help out with the election process. Also to give away pre-notice of upcoming elections, both for September, November, and then future March. Just get the word out as much as we can. It is depressing to see only 2,700 people show up for an election that affects so many voters and so many members of our community. Other than that, I thank you again for the opportunity to serve this town as moderator.

Chairman Dumont: I just want to extend my thanks and appreciation to yourself and everybody else involved. And again, I would echo, I would highly encourage everybody to get involved, even if it's to volunteer a little bit. It's extremely encouraging to be a part of and see how the election process works. You learn a lot about it, and you get to see firsthand what everybody does over there, and it's no small feat. So, thank you very much for everything that you guys do. Mr. Sorenson, I saw first, and then I'll go around. Sorry.

Roy Sorenson: So, I just want to, again, I want to thank Deb as well, this being her first election. I did get a chance to get out there. I did talk to her at length, and for the most part, I think everything went pretty well, and I think all the assistance she needed was there. Nothing's ever easy. This is the first one. We have new machines. There's a lot that could have gone wrong, and I think at the end of it all, it worked out pretty well.

Selectman Allan: First of all, congratulations on being elected. You were nominated as our town moderator. Getting to work alongside of you, I saw how passionate you are about our town elections, and I had no doubt when I saw that voter count how disappointed you were going to be. So, I think that the suggestions that you brought up of having it posted and making an effort to get more voters out there is great. I think that you handled this first election like you do every election beautifully. It ran smoothly. You were accommodating. You answered questions, and you got the job done in a timely manner, which I'm sure everybody appreciated. So, thank you.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Thank you. I just wanted to say congratulations also, but I enjoyed working the election with you. It was different this year. Obviously, I was on the other side of the fence last year, so being right in the thick of it and using me the way you needed me, it was definitely a learning experience, and yeah, I agree with you. Our voter turnout is dismal.

Deb Stoddard: Yeah.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: To be a volunteer, what's the minimum wage requirement?

Deb Stoddard: In order to, you can be 17 to work the election, but you can't vote until you're 18. But we can absolutely put people in place. I've already spoken to Principal Beals at Alvirne, and he said whatever I put together, he's more than happy to post it all over the school. I would like to see a younger set of volunteers to come in. We need to have a succession plan for the Town of Hudson. I love our volunteers that we have, our workers, but unfortunately, we're all aging out, and I don't want anybody to feel like they have to stay because there's nobody to replace them. So that is my goal.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I think that's great. As you talk with Mr. Beals, I'm sure he'll do a tremendous job helping you. I'd also, I would say reach out to Colonel Cole, but I believe he's retiring from JROTC, so I would contact Chief Sipes, who would be running JROTC, and you might be able to get, if you could coordinate community service hours with them, I'm sure you could get a lot of people from them.

Deb Stoddard: Yeah, I'd already proposed that with the school as well, that there's an opportunity for them to, even if they only do half a day, community service hours, just even before and after the election, there's so much to do.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Agreed. You did a great job. Thank you.

Deb Stoddard: Thank you.

Selectman Jakoby: Yes, I want to echo what everyone has said, and also just to say to the public that, you know, you are sitting at the pole pads with someone. No one does this alone. Everybody's partnered. There's a great support system. There's great food for lunch and for dinner. And I just think the training and the support is all there, so don't be nervous about volunteering to do it. And if you can only do it for a few hours, do it for a few hours. I think that's, sometimes that's a hindrance. If there's a couple of hours in the day you can come, please reach out, and I'm sure that can be accommodated.

Deb Stoddard: And I'd like to also remind the community that this is not only, not only is this an opportunity to serve your town, but it's actually a paid part-time position. You can, you will get paid for your time. So, it's, we value the people that work with us because we want to make sure that we uphold the state requirements and the letter of the law for elections.

Chairman Dumont: Any other questions, comments, concerns, anything else to add? I think that's about it. All right, thank you very much. Appreciate your time.

A. Friends of Hudson Dog Park Lease Agreement – Administration/Decision

Chairman Dumont: All right, next up we have the Friends of Hudson Dog Park lease agreement. Good thing to get finalized here. Hopefully everyone's very happy about that. I'll turn it over to Mr. Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: All right, thank you, Mr. Chair. So, as the Board's well aware, we entered into an MOU with the group, which is a fully legal nonprofit, the Friends of Hudson Dog Park, Inc. I do believe we have some members here tonight. If you guys want to come up and speak, that's fine. Other than that, though, they have cleared the hurdles that we asked them. The dog park, as we all know, is open. And what you have attached here to this packet, which they have seen, we have reviewed, our legal counsel has reviewed, would be a lease agreement. I just want to make note of the lease agreement itself. So, the lease itself talks about three years with the potential for additional three years. That would have to go up on a warrant article. So, what the board's approving tonight is the agreement in principle with the understanding there's only one year guaranteed. The group's aware of that. I explained it to them. This would go up on a warrant article. If it fails, the Board of Selectmen can have the authority to extend it one year, every year, as much as you need to or as much as you feel that they're following the agreement, in perpetuity for that matter. So, we can get to that point in time this time next year and work through that. And they'll communicate with us to put it up on a warrant article and everything else. I did brief them a little bit on how the lease agreement reads, how it works. They will be responsible to provide their insurance coverage every year. That's a non-starter. If they can't provide that, then the dog park is closed immediately. So, I think they understand that. I know their group's worked hard, so kudos to them. And they're in a good place right now. So, if the Board so is inclined, you would be endorsing this agreement tonight. We

would sign it. They would countersign it. And it would be official, and we'll prepare for what we might need to do for the detailed warrant for next year.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I'll make a motion if there's no questions.

Chairman Dumont: Do we have any discussion before a motion goes out?

Selectman Jakoby: I just want to say that I really appreciate all the hard work. And I think this lease really speaks to all the concerns that this Board had and it's very well done. And I've heard nothing but good things. So, I appreciate that.

Chairman Dumont: And one thing to add to that is, obviously, I know that the initial decision was upsetting to a numerous amount of people. But hopefully everybody's a little optimistic with how things move forward, getting the dog park open, and then getting this agreement, which I think will ultimately benefit both parties versus what was in place over there, which was virtually nothing. And if I might add, government actually moved relatively fast this time around. Normally you don't see that. It's normally a couple years as you watch things kind of play out. But over a couple months, we were able to get this all in place. And I commend all sides, staff, and friends of Hudson Dog Park. So, thank you.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: If I may make a motion, I agree. The expeditious nature of how fast this got completed, I was super impressed. I was not happy that we had to temporarily close it, but I was.

Roy Sorenson: I think you made that motion, Selecting Vurgaropulos.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I understand who made the motion.

Roy Sorenson: I saw a flyer.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I didn't like it, but it needed to be done at the moment. But I was very impressed with how fast this came together and was completed. So, thank you to everybody.

Selectman Vurgaropulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, for the Board of Selectmen to hereby enters into a one-year lease agreement with the Friends of Hudson Dog Park, Incorporated, for an off-leash dog park at Benson Park, effective April 1, 2026, and expire in March 31, 2027. Any intent for an extension, therefore, shall be through town meeting or purview exclusive to the Board, as recorded in the lease. Motion carried, 4-0.

Roy Sorenson: Congratulations, and thank you very much. I'll reach out to you folks, and we'll finish the signing this week, okay?

B. Gate City Monument – Administration/Discussion

Chairman Dumont: All right, next up we have the Gate City Monument, and I will turn it over to Mr. Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, this item came forward. I know Selectman Jakoby can speak to it as well. This is for a donation of three granite piers and or monuments to be placed at Benson Park in recognition of the historical structures that are there. You see the e-mail from the Gate City Monument, Inc., Mr. Pellerin. DPW will work with Mr. Pellerin on this. I know that Mr. Twardosky and Mr. Pellerin have been communicating with each other. I don't know if you have anything else you want to add to that, Selectman Jakoby.

Selectman Jakoby: I just want to add that there are three historic buildings within the Benson Park that are on the National Historic List. Chairman Madden worked very hard with the state to get these beautiful plaques made and obtained. And the big question was always, how are they going to go up, and how are they going to stay up, and how is it going to look? Thankfully, we had the opportunity for the gentleman from Gate City who had these three pieces of this beautiful pink granite that he had gotten over 30 years ago, that he didn't know what he was going to use them for or what they were intended for. He really believes in this town, has lived here for a long time, and thought this would be the perfect use for them. So, there is a lot of background to those three pieces.

Chairman Dumont: I never hear a success story about keeping something for 30 years because I put stuff away in my garage hoping eventually I'll find a use for it.

Selectman Jakoby: I think he said 30 years at the meeting.

Chairman Dumont: That's positive.

Selectman Jakoby: And he's actually going to inlay them into the granites and epoxy them so that they will be virtually impenetrable.

Chairman Dumont: I think this is terrific. Any questions, comments, discussion, motion?

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, under the authority of RSA 31:95e, the Board of Selectmen hereby accepts, with gratitude, a donation from Gate City Monument, for labor and materials, for the installation of three granite marker posts at Benson Park, valued at \$4,900. Motion carried, 4-0.

C. Annual Town Audit – Administration/Discussion

Chairman Dumont: Next up we have our annual town audit, and I will again recognize Mr. Sorenson just to lead us into that.

Roy Sorenson: Thanks. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do have tonight, I have Mike Campo here of Plodzick & Sanderson. Obviously, they're in charge of our annual audit. This is the FY 2025 year-end audit. You have your copy there. I think everyone has a copy. This is also posted online. Before we get to that, Mike, if you don't mind, I'm going to ask our finance director, Laurie May, to come up, and Jim Lockwood as well. Can you just come up real quick to the front? I just want to thank Laurie personally, and I think Mike will speak to this a little bit as he gets into the discussion on the audit. We obviously, with a lot of staffing turnover, including myself arriving here, to say that we were in any sense of consistency in our structure in the finance department, we weren't. So, we're chasing our tails quite a bit. We actually had to Plodzick & Sanderson come to town, we had to push them out, they came back, we were able to crunch this thing and get it done in time to get the tax rate set. So, I want to thank Laurie May for that as well. Just an opportunity to introduce Jim Lockwood, he's our new town accountant. So, we're still shifting gears here, right? We still have some staffing things going on. You'll see that comment in the audit, and there's nothing to hide there. It is what it is, the board's well aware of it. We are working on moving things forward and straightening things out and kind of riding the ship. So, I just want to thank them personally, and with that, I will turn it over to Mike Campo.

Mike Campo: Well, to start, thank you for having me. I always enjoy coming and presenting these. I'm actually coming to your board in a few weeks, I believe. So, I'll spend a little time in Hudson this time around. Just a little background on myself. I've been doing this now for 22 years. My entire professional career has been in government finance. With Tax Day approaching, I don't even do my own taxes. I specialize in governmental accounting, and that's all I do. I wanted to quickly also talk about the role of the auditor, because sometimes this is, especially with a few new board members, it's nice to kind of explain what the role is. I was recently in a school district who had a very, very bad audit, and one of the board members in a meeting like this said, hey, can I ask you a question? Yep, by all means. What are you going to do about this? I have no actual authority other than coming in as an independent party that's going to assess the legitimacy of the financial statements. Ultimately, what my goal is to be able to say whether or not, as you flip through this report and read the schedules and all the disclosures, is can you rely on the information presented in those pages. You really only pay me for pages 1, 2, and 3. At the end of the day, there's just a lot of work that goes behind that. We do a lot of different procedures throughout the process to make sure that when we arrive at a conclusion that we have confidence that it can be relied upon. The general rule of thumb in my industry is that somebody in my same position with the same skill set should be able to come in and do the same work I did and come up with the same conclusions. So, with that, I'll also jump into what our process is. When we come in and do an audit, we do what we call a risk-based audit. What that means is we go through your background, your environment, the policies, procedures you have in place, the people you have in place, and we actually try to determine where are the risks. If we were trying to do something wrong, where do we think we can penetrate? So, we go through that and try to then develop an audit approach that would address those risks. If you notice in the governance letter on page 2, it starts with significant risks identified. This usually panics people when they see this. What we're saying here is that in every single audit we do, these are two risks that we can never overcome. By that, what I mean is we can't just say, all right, it's not

an issue. We don't have to worry about it. We're not saying that it is a concern with your government. What we're saying is that as we prepared our audit process, these are two areas that we had to address. The first one being revenue recognition, making sure revenue is booked to the correct period. As you know, some budgets do better than other budgets, and there's sometimes this incentive to maybe move the recognized cash in one period over the other to show a more favorable position, or to say, hey, we've done really well this year. Let's put the cash into next year so it's available. From an audit standpoint, we don't believe in that. We say based on what the auditing standards are, cash is recognized when it's earned. Next one is management's override of controls. The best example of this is journal entries, and we do have this in a lot of places where we'll actually have comments and say your internal controls over journal entries are inadequate. Of course, the first response is you're saying we're stealing. It's not what we're saying. What we're saying is that you as a person preparing that journal entry is putting yourself in entirely too much risk because if something does go wrong and errors do happen where nobody's perfect, somebody goes in and books something, transposes numbers or something, books an entry that's inappropriate, we don't want somebody to be just blamed for that. So, what we're saying is that appropriate controls need to be in place. That's an area that we go in every single audit. We're going to look at your journal entries. We're going to make sure that you have proper controls in place, checks and balances to make sure that one person can't facilitate manipulation to a general ledger. So, from there, I'm going to jump into the opinion letter as we spoke, page 1 of the audit report, and we're going to go right to the second paragraph, and I'm not going to read the whole thing, but I'll get the key points here. In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly in all material respects the respective financial position of, and then I list off your opinion units. What that says is you received a clean audit. As we went through, and we've got a team of various people with varying experience, a lot of experience. We have a team, I think, of 23 governmental auditors. That's all they do. We don't have any auditors who do taxes. They hate taxes, in fact. A lot of them use TurboTax. Very well, too, I guess. But they specialize in this. So, when we write this opinion, this isn't something that we do for all. In fact, unfortunately, recently we've had a lot of disclaimers. I'm sure you've read of some of my other clients that I won't list in the paper of some of their current financial situations, the opinions that they've gotten. Really, the industry right now is tough in New Hampshire. There's not a lot of talent in the finance department, whether it's a school district or a town, and I'm pleased to report in both your school and your town you have qualified people working in those departments. As the town administrator had indicated, this past year was a little more of a challenge. However, your finance department stepped up, as did your Town Administrator. He probably did more finance this year than he'd like to do, but we appreciate it, and we were able to get things done. It was just really a case where I think you had somebody leave abruptly, and they had a very specific way of doing things that was tough to replicate. Not wrong, right, or indifferent, just different. So, with that, we were able to move forward. And if you look at the train of thought here, page four of the governance letter, which is a smaller letter, halfway down general ledger maintenance and staffing transition. So basically, what we said here was we've got recommendations that the general ledger needs to be maintained on a more timely basis. What's unfortunate for the administration that was here at the time of the audit is they weren't necessarily the ones responsible for that condition. So, we tried to communicate that in this message here to basically say, these were challenges. You as a board need to know that the audit didn't go as smooth as possible. However, your staff stepped up. They weren't the same staff that basically put you in that position, but they helped you get out of it. And I do think based on the conversations, even since the audit's been completed with members of your finance team, they're in the right direction. They're asking good questions. They know that my team is always available to answer questions. If I don't have the answer, our network of clients is large enough that we can usually find a pairing client that is similar demographically in terms of what town of Hudson is and what the needs are. We can usually put you into contact with somebody who has been through whatever comes up. So, with that, I'm going to go back to the audit report. Page 10. If you were here last year, you know this is my favorite schedule in the whole report. This is just a really nice way of looking at your general fund budget and how did it perform. So, you'll notice you have an original and final. The reason for the changes in original and final are that the Board approved and accepted gifts, grants, and donations, and then additionally there was use of expendable trust funds where the Board was an agent to expend. So municipal budget law under both those circumstances allows for the budget to be increased by the same amount on both sides. That budget can only be used for said purpose. So, for example, let's say you get a million-dollar FEMA grant and you only use \$200,000 of it in year one. The budget increase is only going to be the \$200,000 on both sides, so it's going to net to zero. Anytime you're dealing with a grant or a use of expendable trust funds, the net impact to the bottom line should

always be zero. It shouldn't cost you anything and you shouldn't benefit from it either. So here if you look, you see that overall, from the budget standpoint, you ended up to a positive \$2.4 million. The majority of that was revenue. In total, your fund balance went up about \$1 million, \$1.5 million. You're going to ask how can I have a \$2.3 million increase, and then the fund balance doesn't go up too much. The reason for that is if you go to page 51, the very bottom left-hand column, between the use of fund balance to reduce taxes and the amounts used from fund balance, the town had put up \$1.3 million worth of existing fund balance to offset the prior year's budget. So essentially, you raised appropriations against money you already had on hand. And then quickly on page 52 is the similar report. What schedule 1 and 2 does is it breaks out the exhibit D into more detail. Same number, it's just broken out with a little more detail. And you'll see there that it was tight at the end of the year in terms of your surplus of appropriations. So, depending on what your opinion is on how much you should raise, if there should be a lot of surplus, a little bit of surplus, I would say that was a pretty good budget in terms of keeping it on par. You didn't raise too much. You raised enough that you had enough for at least a little bit of a rainy day, not a huge rainy day. And then page 53 just really breaks down your fund to break down a fund balance. You'll notice too at the very bottom I've got the non-GAAP budgetary basis to GAAP budgetary basis. That is a financial requirement. So, you'll notice on schedule C1 your general fund looks a little different. That's subject to GASB 54. And what happens is your trust funds are blended in there. And it's not what DRA is using to set your tax rate. So, schedules 1, 2, and 3 and D, are what they're using for your tax rate. Any questions on the audit? I wanted to go over a few comments that we made. But before I do that, any questions about what we provided in here?

Chairman Dumont: A couple questions before we get too far. So last year myself and Selectman Jakoby had the pleasure of meeting with you, and then you came in front of the Board. But there were some helpful things that you explained at that time that I think would be helpful now just for a new select board member, new school board member. Could you just explain the number of municipalities you represent? I know you said you do a lot of them.

Mike Campo: I believe our current count is about 235. I was told by DOE that currently we do about 76% of the school districts in the state of New Hampshire. So, we have a team dedicated to this function. Right now we do more than I think the next two combined.

Chairman Dumont: And I think that's extremely valuable because of what you said in a couple of your statements is, you know, if you don't know something you're able to figure something out or you're able to reach out to somebody who has that answer, then you're also able to cross-reference where Hudson, in my opinion, where Hudson stands among all of those other municipalities, which we need to be comparing ourselves with how everybody else is operating to be able to actually evaluate where things are at. One other thing that you mentioned back then that always rang true, or at least that I found helpful, was there was questions about the audit, how the municipality runs, and the budget. And you put it into some simple terms of basically the difference between a private enterprise and the municipal government and the difference, obviously, of for-profit versus, you know, a fixed or adhered.

Mike Campo: Yeah, when you're looking at a government, you're looking at a service-based organization. There's no profit motive when you're thinking about a government. In fact, governments that stack up huge fund balances usually have very angry tax bases. I had that in a school district recently where they cut the budget, I think, \$8 million. So, it's finding that balance of providing the services at a rate that's appropriate for your tax base. Also, what I've been telling a lot of my boards recently is that you should be listening to your tax base. They can't have the final say, but there are voices that you want to hear. I think in the discussion that's going on tonight, one of the topics was voter turnout. I personally think that those communities that at least hear the tax base, give it consideration, they get better turnout still. Not to say that that's not going on here, but that's been my experience in some other communities. But to answer your question long and short, you're a service-based organization that is here to utilize the taxpayers' taxes to provide services to the town at a level they expect.

Chairman Dumont: And with those two main things, based on the municipalities that you have experience with and you see, and based on the budget that you've seen in a service-based organization, I don't know if you can put a number on it, but how would you say Hudson rates from your experience?

Mike Campo: I'll tell you, I've been very impressed. I've had the pleasure of working with your town administrator now for probably close to a year now. I think we met about a year ago. He's very involved. He'll reach out with questions. Same thing with your finance people that are here now. I've always had a lot of respect for the people who work in Hudson. Kathy Carpentier is one of the best finance people I've worked with. I hear she's retired now. Good for her. I always had a very good working relationship with Lisa as well. But I think you have a good team here, and I would say that the fact that you're even considering adding positions like an HR specialist is an indication of the direction of the town. You guys are doing what the taxpayers need to provide adequate services. That shows in the report. I don't get to write to share clean reports with a lot. Actually, a lot of times if they're bad, they don't want me to come. They don't want to talk about it. They're like, no, we're good, maybe next year. No, I would rate you high. If you're looking for a letter grade, I would say you're a solid B plus to A minus.

Chairman Dumont: That's fantastic. My final question before I let you get further, or if anybody else wants to, last year there was a couple of other different issues that were brought up. Some members of the public thought that there were significant issues that needed to be addressed. I don't see them in here. One of them was our infrastructure.

Mike Campo: Actually, don't cut me off. That's part of my next part.

Chairman Dumont: Maybe I'm getting too far, so I'll end it there. I'll let you keep going then. I apologize. Sorry.

Mike Campo: With that, let's jump to the governance letter. I think as I told all of you last year that the governance letter is a nice way for my team to communicate what we saw. Typically, what we put in here is areas for improvement. Let's jump to the Chairman's point. On page five, status of prior year recommendations. Historically, the town had not inventoried their infrastructure. It's something a couple of years back we had tried to do, and it just kind of fell to the wayside with other priorities taking precedent. But with your current town administrator, finance director, and I'm sure Elvis was involved in this as well. He's involved in everything. You guys were able to clear that. Through hard work, we were able to get all the records, and as you can see here, we're very pleased to share that the town cleared that comment. That's why you have a clean opinion this year. Last year, if you remember, you had a disclaimer that everything but the government held activities, so hats off to the team that made that happen. Really, that's great. Now some less good news. Two areas that I looked at and I felt like warranted your attention were water and sewer. I try to look at trends when I look at audits because one year can be misleading, so I try to look at a three-, four-year period and just say, how is this doing? In both of these areas, this is more of just an oversight comment. What I've seen, I've been doing this a long time, I think both areas probably deserve some attention from management and the Board to just make sure that what's in place right now is meeting the objectives of the town and you as the Board. They both are trending in terms of their expenditures versus revenues in a direction I think that isn't favorable and you just want to be aware of. I'm sure you already are, but I'm hoping that putting it here will maybe give you guys a little more leverage to maybe facilitate change.

Chairman Dumont: We all need goals to work towards.

Mike Campo: In all honesty, those are two areas that a lot of towns have trouble. We have a lot of towns that have actually even have one water district up north that this is constantly an issue of where do you set the tax rate or the billing rate without burying your base, and it's a tough challenge. It's just something you want to be aware of and, like you said, something to work towards.

Chairman Dumont: To that point, I will say Mr. Dhima and Mr. Sorenson have spoken to this Board about this. We've taken some initial steps, but obviously we know that there's more work to do there.

Mike Campo: With that, I would open it up to questions.

Chairman Dumont: I think I got mine all out. I may have jumped the gun a little bit, but I'll turn it over. Does anybody have anything they'd like to say or ask?

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: No. The only thing, I was a little skeptical. I didn't know where we were going to land, showing the stuff that we were going through last year. I'm pleasantly surprised, so thank you.

Selectman Jakoby: I just want to say to all of our employees and to Mr. Sorenson, for helping to make this happen is really a Herculean effort. I think that's where I come in. There were a number of concerns and misunderstandings last year around many things. We've had turnover in our staffing, and I just was really pleasantly impressed with this report and what you all achieved and am humbled by it. So, I just want to share that with all of you.

Roy Sorenson: I will say thanks to Mike because I tend to badger him at times, and he always answered his phone and called me back, and he's extremely busy and helpful for that matter. Again, I'll echo my sentiments with the staff. The staff's done a great job. You'll see a lot of financial things happening this year too, some of the comments that came out of this audit and just some things internally that I know of that I think we need to get to a different place. So, it'll be another busy year, and we'll just keep moving forward with this and get us to a point where we need to get, I think, just out of the way we are in financial controls and what we're doing down there, policy-based and or. We talked about journal entries. Can we clean it up? Hopefully we'll have some new financial software. We may be taking a look at some other software in other areas, particularly timekeeping and things of those natures. So, there will be a lot more coming forward.

Selectman Jakoby: I have one other comment. Go ahead. I just want the public to know, like, this is a really great audit result, and, you know, please, public, look at this report and look at all the hard work and what's been done. And I think, you know, Chairman Dumont said it as well. It's like this is we keep moving forward in a positive direction, and that's what I like to see.

Mike Campo: And I'll add one more part. You'll notice that this year's lacks the single audit at the end. You'll be receiving that draft this week, and we look to finalize it next week.

Selectman Jakoby: Excellent.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much. Yeah, I just think it's worth echoing. I really appreciate you working with staff and always being available. I do want to echo, you know, we had issues last year. Well, you know, however minor or large they may have seemed, staff took them under control and was able to tackle them. Everybody had to pull some extra weight to get that done from new staff to a lot of new staff here involved and different members, even some existing ones. As you say, Elvis always seems to find his hands in a little bit of everything as well, too. So, I just want to say, you know, thanks. It's definitely worth echoing.

Roy Sorenson: Absolutely.

Mike Campo: Thank you. Again, it's a pleasure coming out to see you guys and enjoy the rest of your meeting.

Roy Sorenson: See you next year.

Chairman Dumont: Take care.

Roy Sorenson: Good night.

D. Mosquito Control Program – Fire/Decision

Chairman Dumont: Next up we have the Mosquito Control Program. I will recognize the Fire Chief, Scott Tice.

Chief Tice: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good evening, everyone. We have completed the RFP process for the 2026 Mosquito Control Program. What this program is, it starts in the springtime. The contractor will go out. They test, you know, they work in catch basins and other areas where it's known that mosquitoes would breed. They test for larvae, and they use larvicide to try to control the mosquito population while it's young, and then when we get into the summer months when we start having the adult mosquitoes flying around, they trap the mosquitoes. And then those species that carry the diseases, they will send off to the state lab for testing, and then if we find mosquitoes in the area that have one of the diseases we're concerned of, such as Jamestown, King Virus, Triple E, West Nile Virus, then we can talk about potentially spraying parts of town or what we would spray in town to try to control that population to keep the number of infected mosquitoes down and keep the transmission to the human population at a minimum of hopefully zero. We did receive two bids, Mosquito Pest Management Services, which is who we used them in the past, and then we stopped doing the program for a few

years last year. We brought it back for the second half of 2025. They were the vendor again that won the bid, and they are the low bid this year, and this is a correction from what you have in your packet. There was a math mistake. It's actually \$23,510. The second bid is Northeast Vegetation and Mosquito Control. They're at \$28,500, and this is for the calendar year of 2026. So, part of the money will be coming from FY26, which is a remainder of what was budgeted for this year, and then part of the money will be coming from FY27. We get budgeted as well.

Chairman Dumont: I had one question. The Vector Control Program that's mentioned at the end of the Municipal Pest Management Services, they talk about applying for a grant on behalf of Hudson if the Vector Program has been established. The grant that they're referring to is for the Mosquito Control Program or would include the Mosquito Control Program as well as controlling ticks. Am I understanding that correctly?

Chief Tice: And I'd have to talk to them more about it. It seems like it was more towards the tick population, so we haven't addressed tick at this point. We've addressed the mosquito concern, and I'll have to work with them in the future to figure out what they would do for the tick population.

Chairman Dumont: Any other comments or questions? Go ahead.

Selectman Jakoby: I'll make the motion.

Chairman Dumont: Before I do that, I just want to throw out one quick thing, and I'm probably going to be the lone wolf on this one.

Selectman Jakoby: I was waiting for it.

Chairman Dumont: It came up last year. I'm not in favor of this. I think that there's a better way to actually handle the problem. If you read through the letter, what it really comes down to is stagnant waters. There's issues across Hudson, whether it be public or private. Personally, I would think that the money would be better utilized to attack the issue instead of trying to be reactive and do a spray. That's just my opinion on it. I don't disregard however anybody wants to vote to it, but I just want to throw it out there.

Selectman Jakoby: Thank you. I was waiting for that.

Chairman Dumont: I figured.

[Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropoulos, to award the contract for the 2026 Mosquito Control Program to Municipal Pest Management Services, Inc. The contract is valued at \\$23,510 and excludes any additional treatments that may be required at an additional charge as recommended by the Fire Chief. Motion failed, 2-2.](#)

Chairman Dumont: We have a motion by Selectman Jakoby. Do we have a second?

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: I second.

Chairman Dumont: Motion by Selectman Jakoby, seconded by Selectman Vergaropoulos. Do we have any other discussion? All of those in favor?

Selectman Jakoby: Aye.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: Aye.

Chairman Dumont: All those opposed?

Chairman Dumont: Nay.

Selectman Allan: Nay.

Chairman Dumont: Motion fails. So, 2-2 on that one. If somebody would like to try to make a different motion, otherwise it just fails where it's at. I will reiterate that I believe, and I don't know what the possibility of this would be, but looking into, for at least my support, as to what we can do to target some of those stagnant water areas, the ones they list out in the letter are public. I don't know if there's anything, you know, they talk about roadside ditches and things like that. I would personally see that that's a better use of the money to try to clean up some of that.

Selectman Jakoby: I have a question. Wasn't part of this part of the warrant article, the 2026 funds, were a warrant article that was passed by the public?

Chief Tice: Yes. Oh, wait a minute.

Roy Sorenson: This was a budgeted item, wasn't it?

Chief Tice: Yeah. For 27.

Selectman Jakoby: For 27 it's a budgeted. For 26 it's part of the warrant that passed.

Chairman Dumont: Why are we?

Roy Sorenson: No, it's part of the operational budget.

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, this should be the budget that came in.

Chief Tice: Yes, it was a warrant article last year for FY26.

Selectman Jakoby: Right. The warrant article money goes until June 30th because you used half the money for half of last year and half the money. So, we have half the money that was voted for by the public.

Chief Tice: Correct.

Selectman Jakoby: Half of the money was an election, was a warrant, that was approved by the public. That's why, in particular, I would ask for the fellow board members to reconsider this. Do you want to fund it to at least the 26 budget because that was a warrant article and approved?

Chairman Dumont: I don't think we can break it up like that. I would agree about the warrant article part about it. The only thing I would say is what is left of that? I remember you guys did a spraying last year, and they did some collections, right?

Chief Tice: Yeah, they did collections. So, they started the program in July with the trapping of adult mosquitoes through the end of the year. So, for this year, there's \$15,680 remaining, and the bid would be \$12,440 for the services through June.

Chairman Dumont: And you worked the rest of that, or this same dollar amount, into the operational budget of 27, which was approved, obviously.

Chief Tice: Correct.

Selectman Jakoby: By the voters. So, this whole thing was approved by the voters, and that's why I support it.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: So, if we have a balance of, you said, \$15,680?

Chief Tice: \$15,680 remaining.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: And the remainder is \$12,470?

Chief Tice: For the services April, May, and June, total \$12,440.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Does it make sense to split the difference?

Chairman Dumont: I don't think that the contract would be able to do that. So, what I'll do, just so we don't have to belabor the point here, the fact that the warrant article passed, I was against that one as well. I think that the recommendation was 4-1 on that one. I will vote in favor on this with reservation, and if somebody would like to make a motion, I'm happy to move that forward. But I want my opposition just to be noted for the record that I think there's a better way to handle this.

Selectman Jakoby: I'll make a new motion.

Chairman Dumont: Go right ahead.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Before you make that motion, can I say something?

Selectman Jakoby: I'll incorporate what you said.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: Okay. I appreciate that. Because I'm kind of 50-50 on it too, because I don't really know the – me personally, I don't physically see the benefit of it. So, I think I'd have to get with Chief and associated bodies to understand in full. Does it make sense to create a committee to challenge that? Like we passed this, so we get to create a committee to explore that?

Chairman Dumont: I would look at two ways, and I'll leave it up to the Board. I'm happy to vote with the reservation. We either push this to the next meeting and have them come back with that information. I don't think we need to create a committee, personally. And maybe that will change some things at the following one. Or, again, like I said, if we want to just move this forward here tonight, I'm not going to hold the Board hostage. Nothing against how anybody voted. I just – you know, I had my reservation for the warrant article. I had the reservation for the operational budget for this item. I just figured I'd make a note of it for the record.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: Understood. Just one last follow-up. Sorry ...

Selectman Jakoby: Well, we can discuss after the motion too, because I'm going to try and ...

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: Okay, make the motion, then we'll discuss.

Selectman Jakoby: I'm going to try and address it. I make a motion to award the contract for the 2026 Mosquito Control Program to Municipal Pest Management Services, Inc. The contract is valued at \$23,510 and excludes any additional treatment that may be required at an additional charge, as recommended by the fire chief, with an added reservation that we need to look at the cause of – to look at the – the cause – of, the cause of, to look at the ... What did you say?

Chairman Dumont: What I would suggest, if you don't mind, is just make the motion the way that it's worded. The fire chief understands my reservation. I'm sure everybody else does at this point, and we can work through trying to look at that as we go forward. Go ahead.

Selectman Jakoby: And we will continue to look at this issue moving forward.

Roy Sorenson: So, if I may, it is a budgeted item. The purpose is specific.

Selectman Jakoby: Right.

Roy Sorenson: The budget did pass.

Selectman Jakoby: Yep.

Roy Sorenson: It's certainly the Board's purview to not move forward with it. You know, it's a \$40,000 budgeted item. It came in at \$23,450. So, you do have a savings there. You could defer it or table it. You could let Selectman Guessferd weigh in as well.

Selectman Jakoby: I would just like to move it forward since it was approved by the taxpayers. So, I'll make the motion as written.

Chairman Dumont: So, a motion by Selectman Jakoby, a second by Selectman Vurgaropoulos. My last question, you pulled that up relatively quickly. Do you have the warrant article that this passed on by any chance real quickly?

Roy Sorenson: I had it up. Let's see.

Chairman Dumont: I saw it pop up.

Selectman Jakoby: Well, and we had – just a reminder, we had a large presentation on this program and how it works. So, there is a lot of information out there about it. And there's, I think, a video about the warrant article too.

Roy Sorenson: Probably is.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: I wonder if he's done that. While he's looking it up, I guess instead of a committee, what do you entertain? I know Elvis has a lot on his plate over there, but maybe him working with the chief and associated people, maybe collecting some of those data points that we're looking for.

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropoulos, to award the contract for the 2026 Mosquito Control Program to Municipal Pest Management Services, Inc. The contract is valued at \$23,510 and excludes any additional treatments that may be required at an additional charge as recommended by the Fire Chief. Motion carried, 4-0.

Chairman Dumont: I think you would need to identify a funding source and a lot of other issues along with it. Like I said, I didn't mean to create a long thing here. All right. That's not a big deal. So, with that, we have a motion on the floor. It's been seconded.

Chairman Dumont: Motion carries 4-0, and I'll make my reservation number for the record. I apologize, Chief.

Fire Chief: Not a problem. I understand the sentiment of your comments, and I can take a look at some of that as well.

Chairman Dumont: I would appreciate it. Thank you.

Chief Tice: Good evening.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much. Take care.

E. Town Hall Status Update – DSD/Discussion

Chairman Dumont: With that, we have a town hall status update from the Development Services Director, Mr. Dhima.

Elvis Dhima: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think to the mosquito item, just take the money and roll it on the engineering department out of the MS4 department, and we'll take care of that water for you. It's just a joke. I don't want to get the chief all worked up.

Selectman Jakoby: I do want to say that a lot of the work on the culverts and the different infrastructure that we've done has gotten rid of some of the standing water issues.

Chairman Dumont: It's definitely going to help.

Selectman Jakoby: A lot of it has been done. So, I do agree with you in that it's important.

Elvis Dhima: I'm sorry I had to make this. Very good points brought up there. Do you make it move, or do you just treat what's already out there? You know what I mean? Sometimes maybe it makes more sense to move that water from A to B, so it's not sitting there. But great topic. With that said, the first item for you tonight is a quick follow-up on the town hall improvements. We've been talking about this God knows how many times now, and I think it's getting close to an end. So, there's no action tonight required on this item, just a quick follow-up on all the things you have asked the staff to do. One of those is the first one, which is a quick follow-up at the old library building. If that ADA lift, it's actually working. It is. It's been inspected. It's the last time it's going to be inspected by the guy that does it. He's retiring, so maybe next year we won't get it inspected. Who knows? But the gentleman that was doing it, he's retiring. So as of today, that thing is operational. But what we don't have is there's no bathrooms that are ADA compliant. So, we can get folks from A to B, from the first floor to the second floor, but no bathroom to use. I checked it out. The only one that's available in the main, it's not.

Selectman Jakoby: It would be difficult for a wheelchair. A wheelchair wouldn't work.

Elvis Dhima: Yeah, there's no push buttons. You have to move a table that's part of the setup there to get that individual in. I don't see it personally, but that's kind of where we are with the first piece. Second one was information related to what we're going to incorporate here, a vertical lift and a chair going to the other side to the Buxton room. That is all part of the packet if you want to see it. Details about the shop drawings, that's get done if you lock in a contractor and they actually do shop drawings related to it. But you get an idea to what we would get if we chose to go that way. So that's the second item. The third one was something that Mr. Sorenson looked into it and told the board he was going to look into it. Unfortunately, funds that we have we cannot use. So, there was a one article for \$55,000. We raised that money, but it was for the assessment. So, the language doesn't allow us to actually take this money and use it for something else, even though it's related to the town

hall. I was hoping that was the case, but Mr. Sorenson ruined that for me and everybody else because that's what he does. The fourth one, I just wanted to make sure that everyone understands and we talked about this before. The prices that you have seen here, they are subject to change as we move further away. We don't have any money to do this this calendar year unless something comes up at the last minute. So, in a perfect world, we'll probably be dealing with this after July 1st. So, I would say at this point, we probably revisit this in about three months and see where we're at and then go from there.

Chairman Dumont: And to your point, I would completely agree. We need to have a larger discussion over a lot of the municipality's buildings and infrastructure related to that. We'll see how the year goes and how we finish out our budget and what we have available.

Selectman Jakoby: One of the questions I have, I know that we cannot use this funding for construction. If when we have these larger discussions and we want a report generated on some other aspects around, what are the limitations to those funds?

Roy Sorenson: So, the way I see it, and I have the warrant article here itself, but it's also the spirit of the warrant article was described as such. I think anything that's related to design, you can use the money for. You can cover those funds and carry it through. The voters approved it. But it would be design related.

Selectman Jakoby: Design related for whether it's this building or as long as it's town hall related, that's where I'm going.

Roy Sorenson: You mean for a different building?

Selectman Jakoby: Building that would still be the town halls to use.

Roy Sorenson: No, because it says town hall specifically. It says renovation of Hudson Town Hall.

Selectman Jakoby: Okay, that's what I thought. I just wanted to clarify that moving forward. So, we couldn't use it for drawings for the library, Hills Library, or for Oakwood or anywhere else. We have only this building. Okay. Well, there's a lesson for us all.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: So right now, we have locked up funds that we can't utilize?

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, in a sense. Ultimately, I think they would go back to the general fund if not utilized. And then obviously, essentially that would get returned back to the taxpayer one way or the other.

Roy Sorenson: It would go back into the unassigned really. At the end of the year, it would be escrow.

Selectman Jakoby: I just wanted to clarify that. And also, to thank you for the report. Thank you very much.

Elvis Dhima: It's a good exercise, and we'll revisit it again whenever the board is ready. A lot of homework is done. It's just a matter of what do we want to do when we get ready. All right. With that said, the next one.

F. PFAS Compensation Fund for Public Water Systems – DSD/Discussion

Chairman Dumont: Next one is PFAS Compensation Fund for Public Water Systems. Take it away.

Elvis Dhima: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if you want to speak a little bit about this because you obviously know a little bit about this at the state level, and I'll take it away. It's up to you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Dumont: Why don't you go right ahead with the report? I mean, I can speak to what we've dealt with up at the state, but there hasn't been much.

Elvis Dhima: When I spoke to you, you obviously were aware of this and what was coming. But in a nutshell, the state of New Hampshire has reached an agreement with all the companies that were actually providing PFAS to Saint-Gobain. And, you know, it was 3M, DuPont, not Dumont, and a couple other companies. And in a nutshell, because of the size of our system and the type and the group that we have, we will be entitled to over a million dollars in compensation because of what we were dealing with related to PFAS damages done to us. As you know, how well it's done related to it because of that. So, of course, as you know, I already asked the state if we can get the money right away. And the idea is we have to have a project related to PFAS to get these funds reimbursable.

Now, what makes Hudson a little different is that we've been keeping track of all the funds that we've been using to buy the additional water from Pennichuck, which has been pretty significant. And that's one of the issues we're having with the audit because we're spending a lot more money buying and our rates remain the same. So that's where you're going to see that discrepancy, and we're going to talk about it a bit further. So, the case that I've made to the state is, while this is not a project, it's really an undisputable cost that the town of Hudson is carrying related to these damages. So, we should be entitled to basically get reimbursement, which is over a million dollars as it is right now, so we can get this money right away. That question has been brought up, the chain of command. We're waiting for an answer. When it comes down, we'll find out either way. If we can use it because of the money we've been spending purchasing it, we have a project that we'll be talking about very soon that we'll be utilizing. But ideally, you know, we're bleeding right now, and I'd like to stop the bleeding. So, Mr. Sorenson and I are talking about it. This would be ideal to just basically inject some money back into it that we already spent. With that said, there's no action for you tonight. You just need to be aware there's a million dollars in our name out there, and it's not going anywhere, and we're going to get it one way or another.

Chairman Dumont: Right. And to that point, I appreciate you explaining it. As far as the state involvement goes, we'll continue those conversations and make sure that we follow right up that food chain.

Elvis Dhima: You're the first one in line, so I'm sure we're going to get it.

Chairman Dumont: We'll make sure that they know that we're the first ones in line.

Elvis Dhima: Yes. Thank you very much.

Selectman Jakoby: I have just one question. I'm sure I think I know the answer to this. Is there any timeline on a response?

Elvis Dhima: On a response from the state to us or us to the state?

Selectman Jakoby: No. From them to us about our request.

Elvis Dhima: No.

Selectman Jakoby: Yeah, there's no deadline. There's no deadline. No, I didn't think there was. It's what everyone's asking in the public. Everybody's going to ask that question. Thank you.

Elvis Dhima: We put the answer of the question out there about 30 seconds after we got this. So, Mr. Sorenson and I did the job. Yay, we got it. We did it. And then we're like, oh, we don't have the money yet. So, we sent the letter. We sent the request out. So as soon as I find out, you'll find out, obviously. But it's been about a week. So, I'm going to give them until the end of this week, and then we'll have proper bombing emails when it just goes to everybody until we get an answer. So, it's there. That's the most important thing.

Roy Sorenson: It's in a trust fund.

Elvis Dhima: It is. Exactly.

Roy Sorenson: The beauty of it is that money is specifically earmarked for Hudson. Yes. Or sometimes you get a fight for the trust fund.

Elvis Dhima: Or it gets split differently.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: They're interested in the trust?

Roy Sorenson: They're keeping it if there is.

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, I was going to say, but they'll take advantage of that.

Elvis Dhima: Oh, yeah. So, again, it's a good amount of money. It's a good thing they're already signing it to us and recognizing what we've been dealing with. So, it's a million dollars that's going to go back to the water users that's going to help with our rates and everything else we're dealing with. So, it's a very good thing.

Chairman Dumont: And to that point, I do want to point out and say thanks, obviously, to you and to Roy and the staff, because I completely agree the town of Hudson is being forced into business. And that is one of the most egregious actions that can happen. The water utility or the water user is being forced to buy from somebody else

because our wells were contaminated. So, I'm very happy to see that you're working on that and you're getting more money brought in for us. So, thank you.

Elvis Dhima: So, my Christmas bonus should be still zero, right?

Selectman Vurgaropulos: At least you know.

Chairman Dumont: I know, right?

Elvis Dhima: No, we're doing everything we need to do. So, we're on a good path. With that said, we have another item related to the water.

G. Interim Funding for Engineering Design & Tolling Agreement – DSD/Decision

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, interim funding for engineering, design, and tolling agreement.

Elvis Dhima: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Dumont: What happened?

Elvis Dhima: Oh, we're back on, I guess. So, I'm going to go over this item first, and then the presentation will be related to the next one, or I'll just do both, actually. I'll actually do this while I'm doing this one.

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, they tie together.

Elvis Dhima: Yeah, tying together. But in a nutshell, as you all know, we've been dealing with St. Gobain related to the PFAS. Our wells are both located within a decree area that's already been established. It was contaminated by the St. Gobain and Merrimack. It's been going on for a long time. They have a very good team on their end, almost as good as ours. And part of the negotiation team has been Mr. Sorenson, myself, our town attorney, and the new attorney that we got on board recently. And it's been very good. I'll say it's been a long journey, and we're finally kind of starting to go in the right direction, and this is the first piece of that. So, what you're having in front of you tonight is basically St. Gobain paying the town of Hudson about \$990,200 for the design and the permitting related to our dedicated transmission line from Pennichuck Treatment Facility through Nashua, under the river, to Hudson to meet all our needs now and in the future. And it's the first phase. It does not include the construction piece of it yet. We're in discussions with that as well, but it gets us going. And with that said, we're also putting a stop to, which is a tolling agreement, which is basically we still reserve the right to sue them because there's a clock to this, right, six years. This agreement basically says, all right, so the six years that we have in place can be stopped while we figure this out. So, they have agreed to that as well. The agreement has been reviewed by staff, Mr. Sorenson, myself, and our attorneys as well. It's good to be executed. We did get a last revision at the last minute, which is one sentence. We added something at the last minute, and they basically added the same thing for the last minute that we added, which is saying if you're going to do this to us, we're going to do this to you. Lawyers. But we ran it again. We don't have an issue with that. In a nutshell, this is going to be executed tonight by the Board.

Selectman Jakoby: Thank you.

Elvis Dhima: That's about it. You have a recommendation, and I'll take any questions you might have.

Chairman Dumont: One quick question for the funding. So, it talks about four payments, obviously a deposit, and then a 30%, 60%, 90%. Is it just an equal 25% of that \$990,000 that they're releasing, or what is that initial deposit amount?

Elvis Dhima: We're going to ask. I think it's about \$250,000. That's what it's going to go in, \$250,000, \$250,000, and then the total. But the way we're going to do it is we're going to create four different purchase orders, and we're going to be prepaid. So, we are not paying up front. They're paying us.

Chairman Dumont: That's what I was asking. So that initial deposit will be enough to cover what that design is going to require, or at least that beginning phase until we get another bill.

Elvis Dhima: Yes. So, the idea is we get the next phase as our consultant gets the \$50,000 mark. So, let's just say we get \$250,000, and our building gets cost of \$200,000. I will get the call saying, Elvis, we have \$50,000 left. You should get the second payment. I call St. Gobain. They transfer the money. I cut the second PO, which is now another \$250,000. It brings it to half a million.

Chairman Dumont: Another part of working with that is, obviously, structuring those invoices, obviously, because I would see St. Gobain as wanting to see an invoice that shows 30% of completion, 60%.

Elvis Dhima: Everything. Yes, absolutely. So, they want to see progress. And I just want to – that's a good question. I mean, it's a good point to bring up. They want to see progress, and they're going to make sure – because they argued about this number. As you can see, it's a big number for design, right? And at the last meeting, I told him, you do the design, and you figure this out. If you don't like the 990, and then he came back and was like, no, you do it. Here's the money. And that's how we're going to play. Ideally, you want to have one payment. You're never going to get what you want. But it's something that, at the end of the day, we're still getting what we need. We're just getting it in different phases. It's fine. It's going to be fast and furious anyway. We're going to get this thing done in a year. So, it really doesn't matter.

Chairman Dumont: All right. Any questions on that? What I'd like to do, if there's no objections, since I think that they're tied together, is could you just explain, obviously, the second motion that we have is to waive the bid process. Could you explain as to why?

Elvis Dhima: Yes. So, this is a very complex project, and he's going to go over it over the presentation as well. But this is a very complex project. It's only probably about two companies that can do this around here. One of them was tried during the preliminary design, and I don't want to get into it, but I wasn't impressed. So, the other company that can do this is the company that just happens to be our consultants that we've used since 1998. It's a multidisciplinary approach. You're going to deal with Army Corps. You're going to deal with the state. You're going to deal with the feds. You're going to deal with the river. You're going to deal with Nashua. And I just want to point to two things. We were able to make contact with the owners on the Nashua side, the Beazer East, Inc., which is a multinational company, and they've been great to work with. And they have actually assigned us a letter of intent by their attorneys that's saying we're willing to work with you guys to provide you a 30-foot easement, even though we don't know where it's going right now. We're going to work with you, and we're going to get it to you at this point. And then on the Hudson side, the Sousa Development or Sousa Realty was able to provide a 30-foot easement and about 1,000-foot long, I think, at no cost to the town to get this transmission line through their property, and those helped a lot to lend this project in Hudson. So, when everything was put together and the assessment was done, it made more sense and it was cheaper to lend this in Hudson than in Litchfield. So, there was a little bit of back and forth with Pennichuck on that, but the state kind of realized that this is the way to go. It was the most cost-effective way. But it wouldn't have been possible without these two folks on the Nashua side and the Hudson side providing and locking in these easements for us at no cost to us as of now. So that was a big deal. So, with that said, we also want to have someone doing this that we can trust and hasn't let us down. This is a one-shot thing. You can't do this six times. It's going to be done once, and it's going to be done fast, and it's going to be fast and furious, basically, in a nutshell. And it's going to be spearheaded by Hudson, design, construction, permitting, everything. So, we're taking over this.

Chairman Dumont: So, we're going to see you and Roy out in a boat on the river.

Elvis Dhima: Mr. Sorenson is going to be from his office providing. He's going to have one of those GoPros on me and be like, turn to the left real quick, let me see what's going on.

Roy Sorenson: I think I can see the crossing from my house.

Elvis Dhima: Yeah. We're going to go over that during the presentation, but that is basically it in a nutshell. And, yeah, we want to have the right guy for this one. This is get it done right the first time. So, with that said, basically, that's why you have the recommendation and waiving it just to get these guys going. It's going to be 100% paid by St. Gobain. There's nothing on us. There's nothing on the taxpayer or the water users. And with that said, those are basically the two things, and I'll go over it with it real quick just to give everyone an idea of what we're dealing with. But do we have any questions?

Roy Sorenson: If I can just add, so just back to the actual engineering firm that we're looking to waive the bid process on, St. Gobain's engineers looked at their scope of services and costs and agreed to sign off.

Selectman Jakoby: Right.

Roy Sorenson: So, you have another – it's almost like a peer review, right? And so, this is a top-notch consulting firm, hands down.

Chairman Dumont: If no other questions or comments, take it away.

Elvis Dhima: So, we're going to call this the big and beautiful Hudson Waters Transmission Line to get everyone going. I thought Selectman Vurgaropoulos would be liking that one. So here we go. This is the layout we were looking at. So basically, the blue line is from – on the left-hand side, it's from Pennichuck Treatment Facility through Nashua. And the area that you see kind of basically vacant right now, that's a bad seer site, and there's two ways of getting through there. And the yellow was the Pennichuck route, and the red one, as you can see, it's the Hudson route.

Roy Sorenson: Can I interrupt you real quick? Yeah, please. So, myself and Mr. Dhima had many spirited conversations on why this route is better than this route versus Pennichuck. And I'll leave it at that. I think at the end of all this process we were able to get what we thought is in the best interest of the town of Hudson, which is this red path.

Elvis Dhima: And the black line that you see there adjacent to the yellow line, that is basically the town line between Hudson and Litchfield. So that's why they were trying to go that way. If you landed in Litchfield, it was controlled by Pennichuck. If you landed in Hudson, it would be town property. So, we want this asset to be paid and be in our books, not theirs. Basically, it's a 16-inch transmission line with the option of size 24-inch if the state elects to participate, and I think they will. We'll see where that goes. They'll have to pay for that portion. We're going to be working in partnership with St. Gobain, Pennichuck, and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, which have been great to work with. We'll meet Hudson supply needs and then support regional resiliency if other folks would like to jump in on this one to make a bigger pipe now and in the future. Estimated design, \$1 million. Estimated construction, \$8 to \$10 million. And as I said, we would love to break ground in 2027, so it has to be fast and furious to get all the permits in and lock this thing in. I will say it was good to have our attorney. Our town attorney did a great job during this. It was good to have Mr. Sorenson on this one as well because he knew all the players at the state. So, this was a lot of people involved with this, and I feel like we had the right team to get this thing done because it was very challenging. I had a blast, I think, so did Peter Black. There were times where it was like, what are we doing? But anyway, so that's kind of the layout. And then if you want to move on to the next one, that's kind of a bigger picture if you want to see it. It's the same thing but kind of blown up. So, it's going to be an absolute beast of a project. I mean, it's as big as it gets. And it's going to be interesting how it's going to play out. That's a bigger picture right there.

Roy Sorenson: Just explain a little bit how this still has to be resolved.

Elvis Dhima: Yeah, so we have to get under the railroad tracks. So that's going to be an interesting piece. We have to deal with city and Nashua, obviously for the Nashua piece. The idea is when this is all said and done and paid for by somebody other than us, we transfer the ownership to Pennichuck for anything on the Nashua side, and we take ownership of anything under the river all the way down to us, including basically the booster station that's going to be handling all this. It goes into a 16-inch transmission line we have on Webster, and then the state already has some funds available. So, then the question becomes if we want to go bigger and if they want to pay for it, we're good for it, but we're going to need some improvements in town to accommodate this wheeling as long as they're willing to pay for providing the infrastructure to support the additional water that's going to go through the town. So, we're going to continue to be a major player.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: Is there any possibility that we outgrow this if we don't upsize or if we upsize, does it reach a profit?

Elvis Dhima: If we don't do this in 2028, our only well that's left is going to go offline. We're out of water.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: So, we want to go bigger. Yeah. Okay.

Elvis Dhima: We need 16-inch. If someone wants to come in and says we want to do 24, we're all ears, we're going to help them out, whatever, as long as they pay for it. We're not paying anything. We don't need it.

Selectman Jakoby: This is part of the issue of whether we, this ... line.

Elvis Dhima: Transmission line, yeah.

Selectman Jakoby: Transmission line carries water to other towns.

Elvis Dhima: Correct.

Selectman Jakoby: Because that was the whole tolling conversation we had previously, that possibly Windham or another town.

Roy Sorenson: Yeah, you'd have to expand on the other end. But you may be able to get regional funding, trust fund money for that.

Elvis Dhima: Correct.

Selectman Jakoby: But the key would be when this goes in, to have the state make it that 24-inch so that then other towns could possibly connect to it.

Elvis Dhima: So, there's only two water sources. There's Manchester and Pennichuck. Those are the two big players, right? They treat it a little differently, but nevertheless, those are the two big water suppliers. So, the question becomes who's going to get water from where, anywhere in between, right? And it's a bit of competition, and we're not in the business of selling water, but we're going to be in the business transferring water. Be like Ukraine, right? Just moving gas from one side to the other, turning valves on and off.

Chairman Dumont: And to that point, going back to the further thing, we have incurred costs because obviously we're being forced into the business.

Elvis Dhima: Absolutely.

Chairman Dumont: What we need to do is try to offset those costs as best we can, which is what the staff is doing. And that will be a future project to try to bring those costs down.

Elvis Dhima: So, the idea is let's get the infrastructure we need to buy the water, and then we're going to figure out the damages related to buying the water because our wells, we're going to use them for as long as we can, as long as they're in compliance, and if they're not. So, there's a big cost if we need to treat them. This was much cheaper. But nevertheless, that doesn't mean they're going to get a good deal. They're going to get the deal that's a good deal for us. So, that's why we're getting mobilized for Plan B. So, this is Plan A. We have Plan B, as you know, based on your actions that you have taken, Plan B and Plan C. So hopefully we just utilize Plan A. But if push comes to shove and people don't work out, we go to the other plans we have in place. So that's the overall layout. And then the next one, that's kind of what it will look like from a profile standpoint. You know, it's pretty deep. It's about 30, 40 feet deep over there. You've got Nashua, you've got the river, you've got the top over there, and you've got the 30-foot easement on our end. And that's kind of in a layout. But, yeah, it's from a vertical standpoint quite a bit of a drop from one side to the other. So, it's going to be interesting how this all plays out. Next one. These are the two methods of installation, right? So, on the left, what you see is you've got anchors on the pipe itself, and it's a plastic pipe. And they put these concrete anchors to keep them basically underground or under the water. And they'll put in rip-rap over it to make sure it doesn't go anywhere, it doesn't get hit by anything. And then the option on the right is your typical horizontal. What that is they drill a hole under the river, and then they basically pull that line from one side to the other. They tried this three, four miles up the river. They failed. Right in the middle, I don't know what they hit, a dinosaur. This was a Spanish project. They probably did, you know, one of those nasty ones. Long story short, they couldn't get through. Halfway done, they had to change the design and basically drop it at the bottom of the river. The Army Corps doesn't like that. They don't want anything under the river, but we don't like to gamble either. So, if someone wants to come up with \$5 million to give it a shot, have at it. But it's not going to be on our dime to take a gamble. So, we're going to go for the short thing. And then if it all fails, we have the other option. I like to call this the Mr. Sorenson option. That's him at the bucket giving me directions on the ladder. Now it's done.

Roy Sorenson: Hanging on the bridge.

Elvis Dhima: Yeah, hanging on the bridge. I think there's a public works director behind the pipe over there hiding. Yeah, hopefully it doesn't come up to the third option. But that's basically it in a nutshell, the real deal. So, this is exciting.

Selectman Jakoby: Can I ask one other question?

Elvis Dhima: Go ahead.

Selectman Jakoby: So, BAE is under the river for sewer, right? Is that dropped or?

Elvis Dhima: I think that's horizontal drilling.

Selectman Jakoby: Yeah, I thought so too.

Elvis Dhima: They have a six-inch.

Selectman Jakoby: So, there's been some success in some places.

Chairman Dumont: Horizontal drilling is normally pretty successful.

Selectman Jakoby: Okay, and there was just that one issue. Well, I just want to ask.

Chairman Dumont: You get a pretty hard ledge. We don't know what's in.

Selectman Jakoby: Even if you're unlucky, right?

Elvis Dhima: What happened, I think, in this case, and I've seen this before is, I don't know if you remember, Dunkin' Donuts went up under 102, you know, west in 102, the Dunkin' Donuts, the fancy one we have over there. They went under, and it was ledge, we all knew. But it was the kind of ledge that kept breaking. So, the hole became bigger and bigger. So it wasn't like a solid granite, and you drill, and you have that perfect basically like core and hole. It was just caving in. So, every time they were pulling the pipes, they kept getting debris in the way. So, then they kept making the hole bigger. And now you have, now it becomes more expensive because you got a different bit, and they were losing bits. So, that job started as \$100,000 at Dunkin', and I think it ended up being about over \$200,000. They stopped the job for three weeks. The same thing happened at this upstream. We can't keep doing that, so then they end up switching gears. It's a long run that's a problem. I think for a short run to get it from one side of the road to the other, it's a little easier at this one. We're talking millions of dollars to gamble. So those who are going to be dealing with this, it's going to be part of the permit. We're going to be involved all the way because it's going to be a town project as far as I'm concerned. So, I think we kind of get a little bit of a priority when it becomes a municipality project, and hopefully everyone plays nice. All right. Any other questions you want to have?

Selectman Jakoby: Motion?

Chairman Dumont: Go right ahead in the motions.

[Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Allan, to approve the Interim Funding and Engineering Design and Tolling Agreement with St. Gobain Performance Plastics Corporation, as recommended by the staff and town council. Motion carried, 4-0.](#)

H. Tolling Agreement for Engineering Services – DSD/Decision

Chairman Dumont: Next up.

Selectman Jakoby: I make another motion, and I want to thank you for the explanation for this waiver because it's important to me, and I know Selectman Guessferd is usually here asking the same questions.

[Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurqaropulos, to waive the bid process and approve the Agreement for Engineering Services between the Town of Hudson and Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc., as recommended by the Development Services Director, in an amount not to exceed \\$990,200, to be funded in full through the Tolling Agreement with St. Gobain Performance Plastics Corporation. Motion carried, 4-0.](#)

Chairman Dumont: That takes care of those two. Thank you very much.

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

I. Hudson Speedway 2026 Permit, Part 2 – Administration/Decision

Chairman Dumont: Thank you. Next up we have the Hudson Speedway 2026 Permit Part 2. Mr. Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So as is typical this time of year, you will see Hudson Speedway Permit come forward. The reason this is Part 2, as you may recall, is the winter began, they pulled a quasi-permit, which is winter-related. This is exclusive to their, obviously, seasonal operations. They were able to submit everything. We were slightly concerned because of the actual inspections of the speedway with all the snow we had, but it did melt out. They were able to complete that. Everything is in the packet. They have met their standards. We checked their schedule. The only thing I'll put out there, and it doesn't really go against our ordinance, and Heather, I think the last day of school is actually Friday, which is Juneteenth also, correct? I think it is.

Heather Cook: I have to double-check on that. I think you're correct, but I'll double-check.

Roy Sorenson: So, remember, they can race on holidays. It's also a school day, but it's daytime. It's not nighttime. So, I just want to bring that to the Board's attention. It doesn't defy anything that's in our ordinance.

Chairman Dumont: I'm happy to see this come forward. Hudson Speedway for a long time needed a lot of work, and the new owner over there is taking it seriously, so I appreciate that. Any other comments, questions, motions? Motion. Go ahead.

[Selectman Allan made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropoulos, to approve the Hudson Speedway License to Operate a Motor Vehicle Racetrack for the 2026 racing season, May through November 1, 2026, with the conditions required by the Police Chief and the Inspectional Services Division. Motion carried, 4-0.](#)

J. Town Administrator Report – Administration/Presentation

Chairman Dumont: Next up on the agenda, I have a Town Administrator report.

Roy Sorenson: All right. Yes? If I could just go to the big board, and I'll kind of walk through it. I had the privilege, certainly, of being with the Police Department when they received their eighth accreditation for CALEA. So just so everybody understands, not just the people in this room and anyone who's watching on TV, maybe 4% of the, I think it's 18,000-plus, public safety or law enforcement agencies in this country, actually includes some in Mexico, believe it or not, as well, are CALEA certified. Now, they don't all have to be. They choose to be. It's not easy to do. As you can see in some of the bullet points, they've got to meet 461 standards. So, that's policy-based, that's based on procedure, and it's based on how you're budgeted and everything else. So, kudos to them. They were first certified in 2003. They're what's considered a meritorious award. So, if we go to the next step, that 4% of those that are certified may be 0.5% of meritorious, which means 15 or more continuous years of accreditation. Roger Lamarche, who's a lieutenant, handled the accreditation this year. He did a fantastic job under Chief Cayot. This is one of the chief's things, as he became chief this past early, midway through last year. To continue this, it's not easy to continue. It takes a lot of work. I will tell you a lot of municipalities can't do this because they can't get commitment from people. Some municipalities actually bring in civilian accreditation managers and pay them. So, kudos to them. I just want to wish them well. This is good to know that you have. It's not just myself and or the Board, or the public for that matter, looking at your law enforcement agency. You have a national group looking at them. And believe me, trust me, they know because they go through. You heard the auditors here tonight on our financials. This is the same thing, but on the law enforcement side. So again, congratulations to Chief Cayot and his group, and I was just honored to be part of that process. And I appreciate them inviting me to take part in that. All right, we talked about this. I figured I'd graph it. So, here's your numbers. Here's your voter turnout, all right? And if you go back into the moderator's stats, you'll see why some of these might be better than others. But keep in mind, here's your numbers down below. On average, over those past 13 years, this is the people that were eligible to vote. Real quick, this is March election only. Well, this is March election only right here. This is every other previous year, and you can see the amount and what the percentage was, all

right? The reason I scaled it this high is because this is what would be, and we have Selectman Allan, supervisor of the checklist. You're not even, it's the numbers are just, I think Mr. Campbell spoke tonight about it. That's the data. So, it is what it is. The vote's done. Obviously, the national elections get more voters out, but it's probably the local elections that affect you the most. So just plotting the data and putting it in perspective.

Chairman Dumont: So, we'll say just to that point, just for information base, there's numerous bills that have gone through the House and the Senate to try to change or fix that issue. It's statewide. It's not just Hudson that has an issue with local elections in March. There's been conversations over putting state primary elections and the local election together to try to increase some turnout. It hasn't gone anywhere yet. There's been numerous bills. One of them last year was killed on the House floor. I would expect to see something again come up this year, but just wanted to throw it out there.

Roy Sorenson: The Board's well aware I brought this up in my TA report, just spoke to it, I would say, informally. This would probably just be the formal notice to that. The board's well aware of our intentions here to withdraw from CPCNH. They have received notice that we intend to do that. Why are we doing that? I'm just going to again plot it out. So that's the Eversource rates over a span since 2023 to current. Here's CPCNH. Here's where we actually joined. So, you can kind of see over the period where we joined and the rate cycles. Typically, where you see the graph move, that's where they bought their blocks. We can take this out a little bit further, and we can put a trend line on them. And this is no guarantee. I'm not here to forecast or speak highly of Eversource for anything other than their rates could go sky high. I think you've heard some of the things that CPCNH is going through. I think it's in our best interest to withdraw at this time and reexamine this process. I will have a competitor of CPCNH's in here at the next meeting to speak to potentially bringing them on board. Our warrant article allows us to do that. That's how the warrant article was written. It was not specific to CPCNH So, we have the authority to do that. It's interesting in how some of these companies approach it. As I mentioned, CPCNH kind of they're more of the Eversource ilk in that they buy those bulk packages, and whatever they got is what it is, and they have to pay it, whereas some of the other companies work with a separate broker. They could buy extended blocks, and they're not worried about their overhead as much because if that other company loses, it doesn't matter. They have to pay for it. So, you'll see a lot of this information coming forward. We have not heard back from CPCNH yet. We'll honor our contract based off that timeline, which is 36 months, and we'll continue on from there. Circumferential highway, not easy for me to say. So, this came up in January. The state was in here. They talked about this being dissolved. What does that mean? It means that the highway layout will no longer exist, and any properties that they've procured, secured, or however you want to say it, and that they own will be put up for sale. They will be holding a public meeting. Hudson, myself, and the board, obviously, has authorized them to hold that meeting at the community center. That is Thursday night. So, if the Board wants to go to that meeting, it will be a lot of what we heard at the previous meeting in January. There may be some new information. The public is invited to this, so I'm sure there will be interested parties there, and there could be a contingent from Litchfield there as well. It could be some elected officials as well as some other folks that may be near or along that right of way. So that meeting will take place. It starts at 7 p.m. The chair asked me this. They will be setting up at 6 p.m. The actual meeting won't start until 7 p.m. HCTV will be covering it, and we will be able to broadcast it as well up online. Just a little bit of news here. With the dedication of a portion of Route 111 to Senator Robert E. Clegg, Jr., the Board is well aware that the signs are up. We covered the signs because we're going to expose the signs through a dedication. I did talk to members that are representing the family, and they asked me if our dedication on the 24th can be held at the Nashua-Hudson line down here and push it up to 12 noon. I think previously it was going to be later in the day. I will send this email out to the Board so you're aware. We'll have folks covering it. The reason being this would work better not just for the family but some other local officials at the state level as well. I know Senator Carlson wanted to be there. So, we're trying to work around schedules, and what we'll do is we'll expose the signs at that point in time and do the official dedication. Again, we'll have HCTV there. I'm sure some people will speak, and it'll be something, obviously, that's worthwhile for a very important cause for that dedication. I will send an email to the board so you have it. Closing out, just March recognitions. I typically do. These are our March employees taking a look at it. Jeremy Faulkner, who's in his 23rd year, even though this past winter might have put seven years on his tally. But kudos to him, and you see some other folks in there. So again, I think we did hire an HR Generalist, and I think this Board understands how I like data. I like to graph things. I like to see biographs and everything else. I would be interested if we take all this information to look at our groups and see where they fall and what ranges, years 0 to 5, 6 to 10, and things of

that nature. So that might be something you see coming up as well. That's pretty much it. I would just say congratulations to Ms. Allan and Ms. Cook as well for being here tonight. I will say don't get spoiled. It's still relatively early. Some of these meetings have gone close to midnight. Maybe the folks that put you on here from the school board didn't tell you that, but stay tuned. I will say it's good that, actually, Ms. Allan can see Ms. Cook because we've got some new lights in here. Previously, it was a little dark and dank in here, so I want to thank the staff for putting that together. I talked to Wayne Medeiros about it, and as is typical, Mr. Dhima heard the conversation and he had to jump in. Anyways, the room is much different now, nice LEDs. We got it done at a much reasonable price. They are dimmable, so if it's too much, we can tone it down a little bit. And that's all I have for tonight. Thank you very much.

Chairman Dumont: All right, so like I said at the beginning of the meeting, the last order of business will be the election of officers. Typically, there's a full board present. However, the bylaws state in there that the election takes place after the March election, so it's really what the will of the Board is. You can either make a motion or go into nominations. Selectman Jakoby.

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to defer the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to our next regularly scheduled meeting on April 14th, out of courtesy to Selectman Guessferd, who is unable to be present. If a quorum is present at that meeting, the election will take place at that time. Motion carried, 4-0.

Chairman Dumont: We have a motion by Selectman Jakoby, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos. One thing I just want to add for discussion, the bylaws are created by the Board of Selectmen and clearly stated in those bylaws the Board of Selectmen can make amendments at any point in time by formal motion. So, I think that this would be appropriate, and I do agree. I think it would be a good courtesy to Selectman Guessferd, as he had emailed me requesting such. So, with that, we have a motion. We have a second. Do we have any discussion? Go ahead, Selectman Allan.

Selectman Allan: I would just like to say that this is probably a motion that we would make whoever was out, just out of respect for people on the Board and having everybody present for the vote.

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, I would agree. Zoning did it earlier. I've seen planning do it as well. I think it's appropriate. One quick thing I do want to add. So, this creates a little bit of a lull, obviously, and it's only if the Board's comfortable with it. If anybody has objection to it, it's not a big deal. We will need to obviously hold the election at the next following meeting. If the Board, typical process would be we hold an election, and then at that time whoever the chair is would say, put together your liaison requests or recommendations. I would still ask that the Board does that, myself included. I will work on that and have that ready to be submitted no later than Thursday prior to the next meeting. Whoever that chair is, they will have those recommendations ready to go and be able to act on those hopefully sooner rather than later. The other thing with that is obviously the planning board liaison is typically voted on that meeting. I think that we'll be able to do that with a quorum at the following meeting. Last year, and it's in the bylaws that this Board can do this, if they want to accept the policies that the Board did at the previous meeting or the previous election, they can, or they can make the amendments like we spoke to. Last year we voted to approve a planning board ex-officio member, and then in the same night the Board of Selectmen elected to have the chair appoint the alternate. So, I would just put that out there. We can either take that up at the next meeting or we can take it up here. I just wanted to make sure everybody was aware of that process when we do get to that next meeting so we can move steadfast on that and get everything done. The other thing that I would point out that if it's okay with this Board, we have a couple of meetings. If there's no objection, I would like to work with Selectman Allan and possibly a couple of you to try to fill some of those meetings, mainly being I think school board will meet before. I have to look at their schedule before we get back. I'm not sure about conservation. I haven't seen theirs. Planning board, it was recommended by Dave LeFevre last year that we don't do a rotating on that one, so I would remove that. But basically, the ones that Dave is now vacant from.

Selectman Jakoby: Excuse me. Conservation commission is listed on here as meeting on 4-13.

Chairman Dumont: So just before.

Selectman Jakoby: Just the day before.

Chairman Dumont: So that would be one that we could possibly fill. So, if that's okay with everybody, I think that we can work offline to do that to just try to get a representative at those ones. But I will reiterate, last year when we talked about rotating or trying to fill in for planning, the legal opinion was not to do that.

Selectman Jakoby: And that's because planning has a designated backup.

Chairman Dumont: Correct.

Selectman Jakoby: But for the others.

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, the others were a little bit different. Preparation of meeting was one of the reasons why Dave had recommended that at that point.

Selectman Jakoby: And the voting.

Chairman Dumont: And the voting, yeah. The voting member position, correct. So is that okay with everybody?

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Yes. Good. Do you want those? I just want to clarify for myself, the liaison request, do you want that before we have it?

Chairman Dumont: So, if we could have it, and maybe I should correct myself, I think I said Thursday noon prior to the meeting, if we could do it by next week, that would give adequate time to put things together.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Okay. So, send it to you? Yeah.

Selectman Jakoby: All right.

Chairman Dumont: And then it can be forwarded off to whoever the chair will be.

Selectman Jakoby: Okay. Because we're not meeting until the 14th.

Chairman Dumont: Correct. Yeah.

Selectman Jakoby: But you want it by the 4th?

Chairman Dumont: I don't have a calendar in front of me. That would be the 4th, yes. All right.

9. SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS/OTHER REMARKS

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I wish I had something to say. I don't have anything at this time.

Selectman Jakoby: Thank you so much. I really appreciate it. I wanted to start by congratulating all those who were elected, especially Selectman Allan and Ms. Cook. Congratulations. I hope your service goes well for both of you, that it's a positive experience. I wanted to follow up on the Benson Park Advisory Committee. They have met. They virtually have a full board now. We are bursting at the seams, which is kind of nice. And they are looking at their charter. I gave them the updated corrections to the charter we made for the sustainability so that they are adding that budget sequence to that and looking at that. So, they're in the process of comparing their draft to theirs, and they hope at their next meeting to approve a draft to come forward to this Board. They've had different family emergencies happen on that board, so that's been part of the delay, but now they have a full board. They're also working on looking at the rules and regulations within the park as well as moving forward on different events as well as their cleanup days. So, they're working with all of the departments appropriately and moving things forward with the help of both the friends of Benson Park, and they look forward to working with the friends of the Hudson Dog Park because those would be two particular nonprofits that directly interact with this advisory committee. So, they're going to try and outline that in their charter as well. As far as Sustainability Advisory Committee, they did review what this Board had sent them and I think have already moved that forward back to Mr. Sorenson. They did have a conversation around the idea of possibly no longer being a committee and becoming a nonprofit, and what I heard around the table was that the individuals who are on the board currently are really devoted to helping the town and that their volunteerism was about advising the town and being connected to the town and less so about overall creating a nonprofit. But I did say to the public that a nonprofit that is interested in these issues might be a really good thing to start in Hudson. So that's where they fell and they did move the charter back. So, I guess we can have that discussion when the charter

comes forward if that's something that this board wants to continue because it's still our purview whether the Sustainability Advisory Committee is something that we as a board feel needs to continue because they're called by us. And I did explain that to them as well. So those are my committee reports and again I just want to thank all those that I worked with as a liaison for my positive experiences and we'll see if that changes in the future or not.

Selectman Allan: I currently do not have any committees so I have nothing to report but I look forward to working with all of you and I thank the town of Hudson for electing me into this position.

Selectman Guessferd: Excused.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much. I just want to extend congratulations to Selectman Allan again. Congratulations to Ms. Cook. I do want to echo again my thanks and sincere appreciation for everybody who worked at the election. As Selectman you get an interesting perspective over every kind of little different aspect of it and you truly get to see how hard everybody works. You have a lot of long-time volunteers to Ms. Stoddard's point earlier that I think could deserve a little bit of peace of mind knowing that maybe somebody will come in and fill that position at one point. So hopefully we can get more people involved and I just want to hopefully preach to them a little bit to come down and see how it works and try to get involved and volunteer. And that's all from me.

10. REMARKS BY TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Roy Sorenson: So, I think I jumped the line this time in this meeting. I went before. Typically, I go at the end.

Selectman Jakoby: Well, you put yourself on the agenda. That was smart.

Roy Sorenson: Yeah. Is that against the bylaws? Did I get checked into that?

Chairman Dumont: No, no, it's not. I saw it on there. I figured why not? We'll give him a shot. We'll see if he's got something different.

Roy Sorenson: I did miss one thing and I didn't get a chance to see the sustainability meeting last night. However, I have been communicating with our DPW, Director Jay Twardosky, on compost.

Selectman Jakoby: Yes.

Roy Sorenson: When are we?

Selectman Jakoby: April 4th.

Roy Sorenson: April 4th. Thank you.

Selectman Jakoby: I can give you that information. So, the compost.

Roy Sorenson: What is it? The wait is over? What is the slogan we're using?

Selectman Jakoby: The wait is over. You can come pick up a five-gallon bucket of compost.

Roy Sorenson: So, this is the compost, which is yard waste, that we've recycled, screened. It's fantastic material. It works great in any type of landscape or garden or whatever you might be doing at your house. It's a first come, first serve. It's an honor system, right? We don't expect someone to show up with their backhoe and start loading a dump truck. That's not what we're doing. You can take up to five five-gallon buckets per visit. You want to make 15 trips that day? That's up to you. But ...

Selectman Jakoby: But I do want to let everyone know that the soil has been tested.

Roy Sorenson: Yes ...

Selectman Jakoby: And they will give you exactly. They tested it in different areas and they have a sign with it, a profile, telling you if you're an avid gardener, you know what is in this compost so that you know where to put it. That's what Jay told me. This way you know where to put it.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: Nitrogen levels and stuff like that.

Selectman Jakoby: Yeah, yeah. All of it. All of it. Yeah.

Roy Sorenson: So, yeah, that's exciting. It's really good stuff. We talked about it last fall. It's really. It's a good product to add ...

Selectman Jakoby: Can I add one other thing to Jay's presentation that I thought was fascinating that this board might want to be aware of because it'll come up later? It was really interesting because Jay did a really extensive conversation with the Sustainability Committee. And it turns out that recycling is now becoming more expensive than regular garbage. And I think that's something that I'm sure Mr. Sorenson and the director of DPW will be bringing to us to discuss. And it was really fascinating to get some of the background on that.

Roy Sorenson: Yeah, so that contract's coming up July of next year. Correct. And that will be a large topic of conversation on how we address that, I think, in that contract.

Selectman Jakoby: Yeah, and he brought up a lot of good points in the meeting last night, if anyone wants to take a look. I know we had a problem with HCTV, so I don't know how much of it got recorded.

Roy Sorenson: I haven't got a chance yet. I'll take a look at it. That's all I had to add. I mean, that's pretty much it.

Chairman Dumont: All right. With that, I'll turn it over to our new school board liaison, Ms. Cook, if you have anything to add.

11. REMARKS BY SCHOOL BOARD

Heather Cook: Sure, thank you. Thank you for that. Not too much to report. Yes, last night was my first meeting, so it was kept a little light. And I'll start with Mr. Inderbitzen did present the election results. As you all know, there is a recount for Warrant Article 3. So first I'm going to go over his count. So, there was roughly 60 ballots that were blank, so therefore they weren't included in the final count. And Warrant Article 3 did pass. And his report of how the election went, he did say, as others echoed this evening, that voter turnout was very light. But he reported that Election Day ran smoothly over at Alvirne. He was at Ward 2. The machines were effective in how they operated, and the new tabulators were working great. And he did mention that the one voter who had to go home to retrieve their ID and come back. But other than that, it ran okay. But he did say that there was 171 spoiled ballots, and that was in confusion by the voters with their marking. But, yes, again, very low turnout. And then I don't know if public input is typically included, but I can just quickly go over that. There were two individuals who both expressed concerns with actually the voter turnout. Actually, the first resident was concerned with the procedure. Well, he expressed his thoughts about the procedure of the recount, how the first part was public, and then the second part, with the misplaced ballots, was not public. So, he had thoughts about that. And then the second individual expressed his disappointment in voter turnout and recommended that perhaps the school board gets together with the Board of Selectmen to maybe think of a solution to increase voter turnout for next election, which we discussed earlier. And then moving on from that, we had a presentation from school counselor Scott Jaquiff(sp?), and he had a comprehension school counselor presentation that went over the differences between guidance counselor and school counselors. They're actually kind of quite different. And then the benefits to school counselors, and then went over the professional standards that the district strives to meet in his meeting, and then the ratio, 250 students per one counselor. We want to meter it for that. And then went over goal setting and then some of the roles the counselors do, which is everything from helping students develop social skills to post-secondary planning, goal setting, et cetera. And then moving on, Jenny Graves in the business department presented the budget software timeline. That's rolling out, as you may or are aware. That's going to roll out through the year. It's mainly going to affect staff in accessing certain things, such as benefits, timesheets. There was a donation from the VFW, Post 5791, and that generous gift is directed towards the AFJ ROTC to benefit their planned trip to Gettysburg and Philadelphia, which is excellent. And then we went over a couple of policies. It was the second reading, which was the attendance tardiness, and then the alternative learning plan at Alverne. Let's see if I'm missing anything else. Yeah, I think that was just about it. That covered a couple of budget transfers, which I can go over if you need me to. But other than that, it was actually a lot of time spent

going over sort of the roles of the school board members and the regulations. So not too much to report this week. All right.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much. Thank you. So that wraps up our remarks.

12. **MOTIONS MADE IN NONPUBLIC**

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to accept the resignation notices of part-time Provisional Call Firefighters Alex Bergeron and Caleb Lambert, effective March 25, 2026, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Motion carried, 4-0.

Selectman Vurgaropulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Allan, to terminate the employment of part-time provisional call firefighters Haley LaPlante and Jeremy Zelanis, effective March 25, 2026, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Motion carried, 4-0.

Selectman Allan made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to hire Brittany Dionne for the position of Administrative Aid II in the Fire Department at the contracted salary of \$24.48 per hour, Step 3. This assignment will be a non-exempt position in accordance with the Teamsters Local 633, Town of Hudson Support Staff, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Motion carried, 4-0.

Selectman Jakoby made a motion, seconded by Selectman Allan, to hire James Caron for the position of Building Inspector in the Fire Department at the contracted salary of \$29.00 per hour, Step 1. This assignment will be a non-exempt position in accordance with the Teamsters Local 633, Town of Hudson Support Staff, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Motion carried, 4-0.

Selectman Vurgaropulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, for the Board of Selectmen to hereby accept the resignation of Michelle Brewster as Town Clerk, effective immediately. Motion carried, 4-0.

Selectman Allan made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, for the Board of Selectmen to hereby appoint Donna Melanson as the Interim Town Clerk, effective immediately, at an hourly rate increase of 5%, and until such time, a new Town Clerk is appointed or elected. Motion carried, 4-0.

Selectman Vurgaropulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, for the Board of Selectmen to hereby authorize the Town Administrator to post for the position of Town Clerk, including further ancillary administrative action as necessary for the overall efficiency of the Town Clerk and Tax Collector's Office. Motion carried, 4-0.

Roy Sorenson: Motion 7 was read into the record under recognition, and that was to appoint Michelle Brewster as the HR Generalist. No action needed.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much. That finishes our business. Now everybody's favor motion.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Selectman Vurgaropulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Allan to adjourn at 9:38 p.m. Motion carried, 4-0.

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

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