



HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the July 14, 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 July 14, 2026 at 7:02 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall.

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

3. **ATTENDANCE**

Board of Selectmen: Dillon Dumont, Bob Guessferd, Kimberly Allan and Xen Vurgaropulos. Heidi Jakoby, excused.

Staff/Others: Town Administrator: Roy Sorenson; Director of Development Services: Elvis Dhima; Fire Chief: Scott Tice; Chief Assessor, Jim Michaud; Benson Park Advisory Committee Chairman, Susan Clement; Executive Assistant: Lorrie Weissgarber.

- A. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Chairman Dumont: At this time, I will open up our public input at 7:02 p.m. Does anyone in the audience wish to address the Board on any issue which the Board has control of at this time? If you do, please come on up, state your name and address for the record. I'm not seeing anybody jumping up. I will close the public input at 7:02 p.m.

- B. **RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

A. **Recognitions** – None

B. **Nominations**

- 1) **Benson Park Advisory Committee – Stephen Przystac, member request**

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

Chairman Dumont: First up, we have recognitions, nominations, and appointments. We have no recognitions, but we do have a nomination. Stephen Przystac for the Benson Park Advisory Committee, seeking a one-member vacancy to expire in April of 2027. Stephen, would you come on up and tell us a little bit about yourself?

Stephen Przystac: Hey, my name is Stephen Przystac. I've been a resident of Hudson for five years. I live at the Shepherds Hill Condo Development, which is right across the street from Benson Park. I'm retired. I spent 40 years as an Environmental Health and Safety Manager. I started volunteering at Benson's five years ago. I acquired a garden. Susan was my point of contact. Since then, I've picked up two more gardens, so I'm managing three gardens now at the park. I've also worked with the Friends of Benson Park with some of the events that they've put on and worked in the store from time to time. I would like to join the team because I feel like I contribute more to the development and beautification of the park. One of my jobs in Environmental Health and Safety was industrial hygiene. Part of that was lead abatement, and we have a lead abatement project scheduled. I know quite a bit about that, so I think I'd be able to help quite a bit on that project.

Chairman Dumont: Fantastic. Do we have any questions or comments from the Board members?

Selectman Guessferd: Have you attended meetings before, the meetings themselves or the actual committee meetings?

Stephen Przystac: Yeah, I've been to one or two of them. It was last year.

Chairman Dumont: And on that point, you're aware of the meeting times and you'd be available for the foreseeable future?

Stephen Przystac: Absolutely.

Chairman Dumont: Any other questions or comments? I just want to say I really appreciate you stepping up and volunteering. It's a lot to ask of anybody, so thank you very much for doing that. I'm looking forward to working with you. What we typically do at these meetings is we take it under advisement. We'll have a formal vote at the following meeting. Like I mentioned to you, you're more than welcome to attend. If not, the Executive Assistant will send out that notification to you on what that verdict is at the following meeting.

Stephen Przystac: Great.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you. Thank you very much. Thanks for stepping up.

C. Appointments – None

C. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman Dumont: All right, we have no appointments. Next up is consent items. Does any member wish to remove any item for separate consideration?

Selectman Vurgaropulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Allan, to approve consent items 6A through F. Motion carried, 4-0.

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Elderly Exemption Requalification

B. Water/Sewer Items

- 1) Water utility Abatement

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies

- 1) Outdoor Gathering Permit
- 2) Raffle Permit

D. Donations

- 1) Fire – Car Donation

E. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) June 23, 2026

F. Calendar

07/14	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room
07/15	6:00	Library Trustees	Hudson Cable Access Center
07/16	7:00	Benson Park Advisory Committee	Hudson Cable Access Center
07/21	7:00	Municipal Utility Committee	BOS Meeting Room
07/22	7:00	Planning Board	Buxton Meeting Room
07/22	7:00	Budget Committee	BOS Meeting Room
07/23	7:00	Zoning Board of Adjustment	Buxton Meeting Room
07/28	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Policy Sub-Committee, Purchasing – Public Hearing

Chairman Dumont: Next up is old business Policy Subcommittee Purchasing Contracts. We need to hold a public hearing on this. So, at this time, I will recognize Mr. Sorenson, and then I will open it up after he gives us a quick brief.

Roy Sorenson: All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, this is regarding Chapter 98 of our municipal code. As the Board is well aware, we discussed this, I think, at the last two, maybe three meetings. We did quite a bit of amendments as part of RSA 41:14-b. As prescribed, we need to have two public hearings once we have the current ordinance in form, which we do. We also published this in the Nashua Telegraph last week. So that publishing has been taking place already. No action tonight other than holding a public hearing, and we will adopt this at the next meeting. At the next meeting, there will be, obviously, a chance for the public or anyone else to speak on the matter again.

Chairman Dumont: Any questions or comments from the Board before we open it up? All right.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: No, sorry. Oh, I forgot to. Sorry.

Chairman Dumont: All right. So, at this time, I'm going to open up the public hearing on the policy subcommittee's purchasing contracts. At 7:07 p.m., is there anyone in the audience that wishes to step forward and speak on this? Again, not seeing anyone, I will close at 7:07 p.m.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I was just going to ask, Roy, you're going to send that invite out once you get everybody's consensus for the policy meeting?

Roy Sorenson: Correct. So, we'll be covering separate – we have a separate item tonight for formal policies, and, yeah, we'll send out this subcommittee for next week.

Selectman Guessferd: Yep. All right. Yeah, the edits that I was – we talked about last time, right.

Roy Sorenson: Yeah, I think the Board, staff did a great job on it, so once it's final, I know that the department heads are excited about it. It's going to help us run, I think, more efficiently.

Selectman Geussferd: Yeah, absolutely.

Chairman Dumont: All right. Any questions or comments?

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Assessing Department Update – *Assessing/Presentation*

Chairman Dumont: Seeing no action needed at this time, we're going to roll into new business, assessing department update. Mr. Michaud?

Jim Michaud: Good evening, Board members. Glad to be here today. Before I start, happy Bastille Day to all the Francophones that are out there, July 14th, even though France lost in the World Cup.

Roy Sorenson: Unfortunately, they did.

Jim Michaud: So, this is a skinny version, right, of a department update. We did one last year, and you'll notice some of these slides are really quite similar. Without further ado, I just click away here, Roy?

Roy Sorenson: On the left, yep.

Jim Michaud: There it is. So, organization chart, it's a small department. Myself, Jim Michaud, Chief Assessor. Mike Rotast, Deputy Assessor. He's been here since just prior to COVID started. And then Amy McMullen, Administrative Aide. She has been here 23 years. She was here part-time and then became full-time in the last 10 years or so. So, moving forward, the mission statement is somewhat the same as last year. Mission and assessing department perform our duties in a courteous and professional manner, ensuring fairness and equity. We will comply and do comply with all applicable state of New Hampshire statutes, administrative rules, town of Hudson policies, regarding specifically tax assessments, abatements, exemptions, and credits. We want to, and hopefully do, impartially treat every property owner with fairness and equity, provide the public with the highest level of service and professionalism, and maintain a staff with the highest level of technical expertise. SWOT analysis, we're familiar with that acronym, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. And we want to go through these one by one, starting with strengths. Assessing personnel, you know, we talked all about this last year as a department, and we talked about it again this year as I'm doing the PowerPoint. And, you know, where are we strong? And really, it's the number of years of education experience the three members of the department

have, but also our external resources, right? Our public utility consultant has been here since 1992. And we also have a great relationship with the town attorney, Dave Lefevre, as well as other staff throughout town hall. So expert knowledge and certification, we stay up to date on assessing laws and rules knowledge, strong administrative cross-department relationships, right? So, we work closely with the tax collector's office. We also work closely together with the development services division and the inspectional services division of the Hudson Fire Department. And also finance, right? So, you know, we don't have a lot with recreation or police per se, right? But that's our nexus, those four areas. Strategic alignment, we have, as I mentioned before, our public utility consultant, George E. Sansoucy, PE LLC. It's more than just him, right? He has a staff. And then I talked about the cross-department collaboration restraints. Weaknesses might be on every department's PowerPoint analysis for department updates. Budget constraints, right? So funding is not unlimited. And one example I have here is a town-wide boots-on-the-ground re-measure and re-list of real estate. We finished our last one around 2020. And, you know, that's a lot of money to go out there and do that house by house. And, you know, we've been constrained in our budget from doing that. We also have weaknesses, at least in the past, was GIS improvements. We didn't have staff for that. Now we're going to have staff starting on January 1, 2027. That's going to really benefit all the town operations. And I anticipate it's going to help the assessing department as well. Weaknesses in some degree, legislative support. I don't think everybody's really clued into going up to Concord and reaching out to legislators and reaching out and saying how legislation is going to affect their particular department. I'm active on that. But, you know, there's a lot up there that impacts municipalities. And it's really good to have department heads and personnel paying attention to what's going on in Concord. Weaknesses, legacy system integration. Well, that's going to be changing, right? So that's our MuniSmart, which is not just our tax collection software, but for assessing. That's the most important one for us besides the budget module. And it's outdated. Upgrades are not being done. But software support is provided. So, we're moving on to that. We're going to move on from that, which is great. Opportunities. So emerging technologies, right? Using aerial imagery combined with change detection software acquisition and implementation. That would be excellent to have. And then we'd be able to send out focused data collection, like how did that house grow? Or where did that pool come from? Things like that. And change detection software would allow us to focus our data collection activities out there. They're talking about using AI, right, artificial intelligence and machine learning tools to conduct reassessments. Right now, it's basically in the draft mode or beta mode. But I was at a recent conference and there are communities and counties and jurisdictions that are going to end up using AI to supplement how they normally do re-evaluations. Let's see. GIS staff position, that's a great opportunity right there. And then public education, right? So, what is it about assessing? And it's not something a lot of people think about, right? So, police, fire, public works, trash pickup. They're much more familiar with that.

So, we do have a video that is up on our town website. And we're going to play that now. And there it is.

[Short video is played ...]

So, there's a lot of misunderstanding about the role of assessors and how they affect the property tax that homeowners pay. When someone hears the term assessor, they seem to think of a scary creature reaching for their wallet. Not so. Assessors don't set tax rates. Assessors don't chase tax dollars. An assessor is interested in fairly determining property values. And they take great pride in it. Property tax is determined by a simple formula. Assessors only affect one of these variables. The value. And they do so with incredible accuracy. Assessors aren't tax collectors or even tax setters. They're just fellow taxpayers. And their primary goal is to make everything fair and equitable. Imagine that you're in a restaurant with two friends. One orders a hot dog. One orders a plate of caviar. And you order a steak. The waiter comes to the table with a total bill of \$100. But he doesn't know how much each of you should pay. If everyone paid the same amount, the guy who ordered the caviar might be happy. But what about the guy who ordered the hot dog? Enter assessors. The food is your property. Just like these meals, some people's property is worth more than others. And it's the assessor's job to determine how much each property is worth. That's it. So, in the same way the value of these menu items would need to be determined, an assessor places value on properties to ensure fairness and equity. After the assessor determines the value of each property, local governing bodies will set their budgets for the coming year. They set the tax rate in order to reduce the dollars needed for their budgets. The value of a property does not affect the amount of property taxed. The sum total of all those budgets is a set number that has to be divided up among all the property owners. So even if everyone's value was cut in half by the assessors, the tax rate would be raised in

order to generate the same amount of tax revenue. The assessors don't determine the taxes you pay. They just determine the values of properties to keep everything as fair and equitable as possible. When you notice a change in a property's assessed value, that change is the result of a never-ending quest for fairness and accuracy. Assessors are graded on their performance, so there is a detailed system to get accurate valuations. First, the assessor looks at similar properties that are sold. Their sale prices, and the terms and conditions of each sale. That's the reason your home won't just be compared to the place next door. Studying things like square footage, age, and location helps assessors determine how comparable another property is to yours. Even seemingly small details, like an extra bathroom or finished basement, can result in significant differences in value in two otherwise identical homes. Assessors maintain a thorough database of real estate information to make this process as precise as possible. Changes in value are typically the result of local real estate market sales, or major changes to a property. Remodel a kitchen, or finish your basement, and your property's value could increase. When you see your home's assessed value, you can rest assured that the number has not been drawn out of a hat, nor generated with anything but equity and accuracy in mind. Long story short, assessors are here to help, not trying to hinder. Their focus is accurate values, not tax collection. The only things an assessor chases are fairness and equity, and they take great pride in it.

[... End of video]

Jim Michaud: So, that is a fairly generic explanation about the assessment process. IAAO, International Association of Assessing Officers, put this out there for use by municipal jurisdictions over ten years ago. So, it's on our website. I don't know how many people view it, but maybe more people will see it now. The last part of SWOT is threats.

Roy Sorenson: Let me do it, Tim. There you go.

Jim Michaud: Thank you. So, changes in tax laws, right? So, that can impact how we're going to be able to do our job in the assessing office. Succession planning. There's a lack of qualified assessing personnel, not just in New Hampshire, but certainly in New Hampshire. It's affecting the state, the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration. It's also affecting municipalities. So, you know, here I think we have somebody that's going to succeed me that's already here, and that's great. And we just, you know, when somebody goes to replace our administrative staff, we want to be able to bring somebody in that's going to be able to work within our assessment processes. External pressures, right? Do a re-val, people are upset, social media goes ballistic. And that can increase pressure, right? That can be a threat to the department in the sense of, you know, some negativity. Cyber security threats, chalk this up for every department. And economic downturns, right? So, I've been through the cycle a couple of times as an assessor, not just here. And, you know, when you have an economic downturn, people appeal more. Your fiscal outlays, your abatement overlay fund increases, you end up doing more abatements. People focus on every dollar a little bit more keenly when you have an economic downturn. Some generic information here, assessing budget snapshot, 1.26% of the overall town budget is assessing, about half a million. It's mostly all labor, right? In-house professional labor, 76%, external labor, 21%, and 3% all other. So, we don't have a lot of capital equipment, but we have human capital. This is also up on our website, property statistics, some tax rate analysis. This goes back about 12 years. You look on the right column, first row, so our net assessed value for 2025, 5.1 billion, is double what it was down on the bottom right-hand corner from 2013 of 2.5 billion, right? So, this is not unique to Hudson. Certainly, anywhere in southern New Hampshire would see this kind of relationship build up over the last 12 years. Also on our website, valuation statistics. This lists a net assessed value for the last 12 years, 13 years, and what the change in assessed value was one year over the next, right? So, we picked up almost \$94 million in value from 2024 tax year to 2025. That's our tax rate, and then there's our assessment ratio, which is a comparison of assessments to market value, what values are being paid out in the market. Obviously, in reevaluation years, I asterisk those. Those are changes in the value of property because we're restoring our assessments to market value. But in the tween years, that's growth in value, right? New construction, new buildings, new site plans, new subdivisions. In terms of what percentage of our tax base is residential, it's 77%. Utility is 3%, and commercial industrial is 20%. You could run this for the entire state, for every single community using public data, right? So, this is all public information. You know, Portsmouth is going to have a much higher percentage of commercial industrial. Maybe something like Hill would be like 99.9% residential, right? So, the state has a wide variety of communities and a wide variety of tax base components. We have one tax rate that applies to all property except for public utility. So, the same tax

rate for you and me and for, you know, the new T-Bones, right? So same tax rate, different values, same tax rate. So other states might have different tax rates to different classes of property. This state does not except for public utility. So, this is about Target, right? The Target site valuation history. You know, this is the largest construction project in New Hampshire history, right? And this will be the largest building built in New Hampshire history to date. And we go back in time to when the last year there was a golf course or two golf courses. We have an assessed value. We have the tax rate from that year, from 2022. How much taxes came in from that site? Go forward one year, and now that Target site plan has been recorded. They paid a lot of money for it. And, of course, we have a really significant change in assessed value on that site. And now we say, well, how much in taxes are coming from that property? \$1.6 million in that year. And what was the change over the prior year when it was a golf course? About \$1.5 million. And then we go forward. In 2024, site work begins. Now the assessed value goes up from \$100.5 to \$110.6 million. Much of the site work occurred after our assessment date of April 1st of 2024. That's why you wouldn't have seen that much for that year. In 2025, we definitely see quite a bit more because of that site work. And then in 26 is when the building is actually there, right? So, the shell was actually there for April 1st of this year. That shell of the building was not there for April 1st of 2025. So, we have a really significant change in assessed value. And I've inferred something about the tax rate just to get to a point of comparison on property taxes billed and as if property tax change year over year. Reval year, we don't know what the number is going to be. '28, we don't. '29, Target has projected that they will be completed and operating that building for 2029. That's the taxpayer's projection, right? That's not mine. I got that from them. And then I look back in time. What was the planning board told about this property in a fiscal impact analysis statement from the developers, experts that they hired, RKG associates? And we're already exceeding what they had estimated then. The building is smaller than what it was originally projected to be. And so it's important to understand that this is not additional taxes. We do not get additional taxes with new construction. We get additional tax base that allows us to spread the budget out over a bigger base, and it mitigates tax rate increases, if not outright lowers the tax rate, right? But because our assessed value of the whole town of \$5.1 billion, it takes an enormous amount of value to make it so the tax rate doesn't move at all. So, while this is a significant part of our tax base, this is our number one property taxpayer in the town. They achieved that status in 2025. They exceed the public utility in terms of the amount of taxes that come in from public utility. So, this is a big horse, right, in our tax base. And we certainly anticipate there will be additional value changes as they go ahead and improve the interior of the building and finish the site. We do have our appraiser, the same one for public utility properties, under contract to do the reassessment for next year as well, and that will be a revalue year. So that's it for Target.

Chairman Dumont: Jim, real quick.

Jim Michaud: And I'm going to wait for any questions that come up.

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, so real quick. So just based on an average, not even, I guess, that site in particular, but to go back to your point, so obviously we're only collecting a certain amount of funds, whatever that budget may be for that year is what we're collecting. Would it be fair to say that this example would have shifted the burden from a residential perspective or leaning more towards commercial? I understand that no matter what, we still have a significantly larger portion of residential, but would it at least be fair to say that that burden is shifted in that direction?

Jim Michaud: Yes, yes. It definitely is true to say that. It is important to understand the scale of our value to begin with. It would take five times that to really, really move the needle by, we're talking \$0.10 or \$0.15 on the rate, and we're not there. But it definitely – you know, that site doesn't – I love school children. I have two kids, so I love kids. That site doesn't produce any kids. So, in terms of a loss leader, we're not losing expenses on that property compared to a property that's going to send two or three kids to school. And, of course, that only happens for a certain amount of time anyways, but in terms of what it's costing us in terms of physical dollars for that property, it's different than a neighborhood that was like 500 homes.

Chairman Dumont: Sure, yeah. Each use obviously has a different cost impact on the town. That's right.

Jim Michaud: That's right. And there's pluses and minuses that go beyond just, you know, fiscal numbers, so I'm not going to not state that. So, goals and objectives, we have continued monitoring and involvement in the new Eversource public utility transmission valuation tax case. We just got done with our distribution value, so the

electric company's property that you see in the street, that's distribution. The transmission lines, the big lines that cross David Drive and Lund Drive, et cetera, that's transmission, right? So, we're in a court case on that with a number of other communities, and we've got experts hired for that, but we won't obviously be involved in that. We have the reevaluation for next year. Our two contractors are hired for that. In terms of later into this fall and to the next town meeting, we anticipate possible warrant articles to increase the dollar value of the exemptions in regards to elderly, disabled, and blind exemptions. Why is that? Well, we anticipate that the reevaluation is going to change assessed values fairly significantly, and we have traditionally tried to track the exemption amounts for those stated categories to kind of keep pace with the increase in value. A lot of communities do that. We're not alone in that. And then also a continuing warrant article capital reserve for future property reevaluation fund so we can continue to put money away for the next reevaluation after 2027. And that's the presentation.

Chairman Dumont: And can you just speak to, at that last point, I know we've talked about it as a Board, but I think it's just important to highlight and explain the requirement of those reevaluations. I know some people may think, well, let's just not do it and keep things the same.

Jim Michaud: That's a great point. Thank you for the question. So, Constitution requires and state law, statutory law, requires a reassessment at minimum once every five years. And that's enforced by the Department of Revenue. They will bring and have brought communities in front of the New Hampshire Board of Tax and Land Appeals for a show-cause hearing to order a reassessment upon a community. And when they do that, they don't just order the reassessment. They also load the money directly into the tax rate for that year. The Budget Committee doesn't do it. You don't do it. We don't have any control over it. They hire the contractor, and we just say, okay. It's rare. It did happen in Sandown when we first went through this requirement process. So, it was always in constitutional law. It just wasn't enforced by the state. And then after the Sorrell decisions and the Claremont decisions in the early 90s, late 90s I should say, into the early 2000s, that's when the whip was cracked and communities started getting on that schedule of once every five years. If not oftener, right? So, some communities, very few, do it more often than once every five. So, this year Manchester is going through it. Salem is going through it. Concord, I heard the noses hit in Concord as well. So, our turn will be next year. Merrimack is this year as well. So, it's a requirement.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you.

Selectman Guessferd: Yeah. So just in terms of the timing of all that. So once the assessment is completed, when will our taxpayers begin to see that impact?

Jim Michaud: So, they'll be mailed a notice of preliminary valuation in the summer of next year, probably in that August time frame, and nobody will know the rate because it's impossible to know the rate at that point. In terms of impact, they won't know the impact until we have the rate, and we're not going to get the rate until, like, November. So, the focus when we send out a notice of preliminary value is focus on value. I can't tell you anything about taxes. I can't even do anything about taxes. I don't change a tax rate because somebody comes in. I don't say that property should pay \$7,000, that should pay \$8,000. That property is around \$500,000 in value. This one is around \$400,000. We talk value. So, it's always difficult to send out the notice and not be able to give a tax rate. Right? But I can't give something that's inaccurate and then, you know, just it's inaccurate.

Chairman Dumont: And to speak to that a little more, the reason why, obviously, who sets the tax rate, if you could explain that.

Jim Michaud: Yep. Thank you for the question. So, the Department of Revenue Administration formally sets the tax rates for every community in the state. They assemble hundreds of bits of information, Department of Education, the county, the school district, Town of Hudson, and they have to run all these calculations in order to make sure that the county is collecting what it should collect properly, in order to make sure that we're collecting enough money for the school to meet their budget, that we're collecting enough money to meet the town budget. So, it's pretty involved. It's become much more digitized in the last 10-plus years, which is great. We just have to physically go up there. And so now we do it electronically. And, you know, that is a reason, right, because we don't set the rate, the Department of Revenue does, but we participate in that whole process. And

that's heavily dependent on finance, town administrator, tax collector, myself, and obviously the school side and the county side.

Chairman Dumont: One reason why I did bring that up is obviously we have no control over that time frame, right? We've gotten the rate earlier, we've gotten it later. There's been variations. I know that can be frustrating for a taxpayer when they're expected to pay the estimate and then hoping sometime by December they have a more hard figure, and that hasn't always been the case.

Jim Michaud: That's correct. There's items that happen up in Concord. Department of Education participation in this process is very important. And if something's going on in that department and they can't get the numbers in the DRA, everybody's waiting for that. If you have some communities within the county that are late getting their numbers in, the county can't have their tax rates set either. So, it's many different things that have to go right, and when one of them doesn't, you've just got to wait and say, if there's anything I've got to do, let me know. And they're like, no, it's on somebody else's side. Hold your nose.

Chairman Dumont: Any other questions or comments? No. Awesome update, thank you very much, Jim.

Selectman Guessferd: Thank you, Jim.

Roy Sorenson: Great job.

B. Benson Park Advisory Committee Safety Concern – Administration/Decision

Chairman Dumont: Thank you. All right, next up, Benson Park Advisory Committee safety concern. I will recognize Mr. Sorenson. We also have the chair with us here as well. All right, thank you, Mr. Chair.

Roy Sorenson: Susan Clement, who's the chair of Benson Park Advisory Committee. Susan, if you could just come up. You see attached to my cover letter is from Susan herself talking about some issues in there. We did put together some pictures that were sent today. Do you have this, Susan?

Susan Clement: I sent it in e-mail. And I know that there was another letter that was also sent to the both of us. I'm not sure if those are the pictures.

Roy Sorenson: So, these are the photos you had sent today.

Susan Clement: Those are the ones that I sent.

Roy Sorenson: If you want to kind of walk through those photos for the Board. But ideally, I think what the discussion is going to be centered around is the actual entrance and then the inlets and outlets of the other activities once you get into the park. Does that sound pretty accurate? So, I'll turn it over to you now.

Susan Clement: So, in the letter that I had written to you concerning this would be the second time that we've kind of brought up that safety is a concern coming in and out of the park. And for this particular reason that I have been in contact with the niece of the gentleman who was recently in an accident and their family strongly believes that additional safety measures are needed at the park entrance and exit to help prevent future accidents. So, what we're thinking is the Benson's Park Advisory Committee, we all agreed that caution signs, pedestrian crossing. And if you look at the pictures, I'm going to come in here and view it as I'm driving into the park. And if you look at, I think it's like the second one in on the flip side, you can see where when you first come into the park, you see a sign that says, you know, go to the right, you know, for the senior center. But you can't see the dog park at all. Like it's like if you have never been to this park, you would not know that there's a dog park over there. And people cross back and forth to the larger parking lot. There are a few spaces in front of the dog park, but they cross back and forth there. That was a big concern because there was an accident there as well that we were informed of. And below that, you can see there are a bunch of parked cars. So, when they're backing up, they can't see going up the hill. They can't see up. So, in backing, and somebody's coming down right there, that's a problem. Speed is a problem. You have a lot of people entering and exiting this one entrance and exit. People coming to the right, as you can see the sign there, going into the senior center. When they leave the senior center, they have to, you know, make sure they're looking to make a turn. But if somebody comes into the park, you know, enters in, that is another area where there could possibly be a collision. Such as, I don't know all

the information on the gentleman that was struck, but I do know that it had something to do with somebody exiting the park and him coming up. Our feelings are that there are cheap ways. You know, we had asked for before, like a speed bump. And my thought is, if you look at the picture, the speed bump could be, there's a picture of a sign there. I think the sign there says no overnight parking. Right about where that sign is, is just beyond the entrance to the senior center. That, I think, would be a great area to have, and it doesn't have to be a permanent speed bump. You can get those little, they have them everywhere. It's just like a little tar thing. So, in the winter, if they needed to remove them, that, you know, they could remove them as well. But something that, you know, could be there that would slow people down. And then a sign that says, you know, pedestrians, crossing caution. There could also, another thing that we had thought about would be, you know, just like a crosswalk with signs that come from, you know, you can see where the entrance when they leave the dog park and if they're going to be crossing over. Anything to make people more aware. But I, it's getting more busy on that road, on Kimball Hill Road, and we've talked about that before. And I don't know, did you receive the letter from Tina and Larry Keenan?

Roy Sorenson: I don't believe so.

Susan Clement: So, I don't know if it's okay if I can read this, or do you want me to just discuss it, her letter?

Chairman Dumont: Was it sent to you as the chair?

Susan Clement: It was sent to me and to Mr. Sorenson.

Chairman Dumont: Go ahead and read it.

Susan Clement: My husband and I live in Hudson across the street from Benson's Park. We are seniors in a large development with many young families, residents of all ages, from our community at Shepherds Hill, as well as residents from Hudson, neighboring communities, and outside state visitors visit the park daily, year-round. Today we witnessed a young mother with a stroller and a toddler trying to cross Kimball Hill Road in order to get from Shepherds Hill to Benson's Park. It is a daily struggle for us to cross there safely to walk a dog. We would like to request the crosswalk or beacon be placed by the entrance of the park. And she had sent pictures, so I assumed you had the pictures as well, but she had sent pictures. And if you're familiar, there's like this little ramp where it comes down, and they cross right there to the upper entrance to the park. And again, I don't see why we couldn't put something there to— I mean, people fly up and down that road to just have it be aware that people are crossing because I see kids on their bikes cross the road there coming from Shepherds Hill. And so, she had mentioned that—let's see. Oh, we would like to request a crosswalk beacon be placed at the center of the park. We spoke to Elvis—can you help me with his last name?

Roy Sorenson: Dhima.

Susan Clement: Dhima, thank you. We had spoke to Elvis Dhima, the town engineer in Hudson Hall in District 5, who told us that Kimball Hill Road is a state road and not a town road. He suggested that we contact DOT for assistance to inform us on how to proceed and get a crosswalk for this dangerous stretch of road. My husband is a cancer patient, recovering, blah, blah, blah. I hope you give the situation your very best. So, I guess she had tried to do this about five years ago, but I see it every day. I do live off of Bush Hill. I crossed Bush Hill to go over to the park, and that's busy now. So, I really strongly feel, you know, based on all three incidences and all three things and just hearing from people entering and exiting the park that we need to do something and we haven't done anything. There's no signs, you know, indicating to slow down. There's no signs that say anything like that. There's nothing there to help people crossing the road from Shepherd's Hill. And I know he comes across that way as well, you know, to help out in the park. Mostly he ends up driving over because he's a little nervous crossing over. But, you know, based on, you know, you can see these pictures. It shows you how it looks when you're going up out of the park. A lot of people probably don't know that the senior center is up there. You need to be cautious coming and leaving in the park. So, again, I'll just say that I hope that this will be considered and that something will be done, you know, this year. I don't think that we should wait, you know, any further because, you know, it's getting to be the busy. It's busy every day at that park.

Chairman Dumont: All right. I see Mr. Dhima looks like he might have some information. Want to come on up?

Elvis Dhima: Hi. So, this matter was brought up to the Highway Safety Committee about five years ago. The Highway Safety Committee consists of the chairman of the planning board, myself, the town engineer, public works director, police and fire. And the reason we were not able to entertain it at the time was because it's a state road. You cannot do anything on a state road without their approval. So, they were sent back to the state to work with them. One of the issues that was also discussed during this matter is that we don't have the tendency to put crosswalks where there's no sidewalk on either side of it. There's no sidewalks there right now on either side of Kimball Hill. So, this crosswalk, I'm not sure what it's going to serve us. It's the Sheppards Hill development, I guess, because there's no sidewalk along Kimball Hill. So that's the only side. So, that's also an issue. It's also an issue during the winter. How do you maintain this, again, when you don't have a sidewalk? So that's a concern as well. Now, this is very unfortunate. There was an accident there, and there's no dispute that speed is an issue there. And I think maybe if that gets brought up at PD, they can probably do some either patrolling or we can put some speed radars. We have devices for that, and we can do that as well. But I feel like the best thing to probably do with this particular matter is bring this back to the Highway Safety Committee to consider and see if there's anything that can be done. As far as the crossing itself, you're looking at \$20,000 to \$30,000. If this data proves it, we don't have any funds for that at this time that I'm aware of. So that's also something that needs to be discussed as well. It's not as easy as just going to Home Depot and getting a couple of poles.

Susan Clement: What about for the entrance and exit of the park? And can we do something for that?

Chairman Dumont: Again, I think that needs to be looked at. I would suggest, and I think you hit the nail on the head as far as I think that we need to have a larger discussion for that. I definitely would agree with Susan that there's something that needs to be done, obviously with the accident that's happened there. And I think we all know Kimball Hill Road. I mean, it's marked at 40. I'm sure people go 50, 60 miles an hour by that place. So, I would agree I think something needs to be done, but I think it would be more appropriate whether that be at the Highway Safety Committee, but we can designate the town administrator to work with appropriate staff to make sure that that happens and try to take this to the next level. One thing that might be worthwhile, because I was thinking funding as well, if there's a possibility of a public-private partnership with the Kimball Hill Association that's over there because that will be the primary group that that will be servicing. If something was to be done, that might help speed up the process. But again, I think that those are the conversations that would be more appropriate outside of this forum to make sure that that happens, get the right people in the room, and see what we can do.

Susan Clement: I mean, as for signs, is that a possibility? Just going down, slow down, or is that something like for something that?

Chairman Dumont: Inside the park, right?

Susan Clement: Inside the park, like coming down the hill. Could we do a speed bump? Could we put a sign?

Chairman Dumont: I think there might be some other options there too. I mean, the one thing that you brought up in my mind is the blind spot for that dog park. There's a significant amount of brush right there. I think brush clearing would be huge. In my opinion, seeing it versus having somebody try to redesign it is better. I'm not against the sign either, but I think you need to make sure that people just know it's there. The best way to do that is try to remove some of that brush. I'm not against the sign issue either. Typically, signage and stuff like that would be another thing that the Highway Safety Committee definitely would be able to look at.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: Yeah, thank you. Well, on that point, if you look at the big picture, obviously you're looking at the dog parks on the left, parkings on the right. One idea that just came to my head was what if we— this would be relatively inexpensive— what if we reconfigured the entrance and instead of coming down all the way this way, you have these nice giant boulders. You'd make a boulder there. You'd make the new entrance road down that way. That way you'd have to come up down and around to go to the dog park, but you'd be making it safer for pedestrian traffic. You wouldn't have to worry about—

Chairman Dumont: Senior Center. Yeah. He's talking about after the Senior Center.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Yeah, after the Senior Center. Lower, below the Senior Center. The only thing that I will— Yeah, so you go below the Senior Center in between the dog parks and you boulder it. That way you could come in, you could go right to the Senior Center, or you go left and you go to Benson.

Chairman Dumont: So, a couple of points. So, I do agree that that would slow people down. The only thing that I would—and I'm sure the town engineer can speak to a little bit better. Obviously, there's a grading issue over there. That side drops off significantly, so to get that road to that appropriate grade, you're going to be dragging it out pretty far and you're going to lose a significant amount of parking to do that. But parking is already an issue at Benson Park. So, it's kind of a balance, right? We want to make sure that we're not solving one issue and creating another. I'm open to looking at any alternate route like that. But again, I think that those longer discussions and—

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Yeah, I just thought about this, so it's maybe stuck in someone's head when we have those discussions later.

Susan Clement: But short-term, you think that cutting back the brush would be something that would be possible?

Chairman Dumont: That's a quick, easy thing that could be looked at for sure. At least that way it's not a blind spot. People will know that it's there and hopefully be able to at least see it. And that's something that obviously we have the equipment to take care of. I don't want to throw the DPW director under the bus. He's not here to speak, so I want to make sure that Mr. Sorenson has the ability to talk to him before we 100% commit to it. But that was the first thing.

Elvis Dhima: You're probably watching.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Do you think it's permissible to possibly pull that one tree that's kind of leading that brush pile? Yeah, I don't— If you pulled that one and did the brush, I think that would be a significant improvement.

Selectman Guessferd: You can actually see the rear end of the car down there.

Chairman Dumont: I'd like to see if you can see that fence coming down the hill. It would make me feel a little bit better.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: At least, at a minimum, that one tree, but maybe the one right behind it too, should give you a clear sight line to that fence.

Selectman Guessferd: I agree with those details. Yeah, again, that's part of the larger conversation.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Yeah.

Chairman Dumont: Typically, I wouldn't do this, but the gentleman that is looking to join Benson Park Committee, I'll entertain you have something you want to add briefly. If you don't, just come on up and state your name.

Stephen Przystac: Just two things stated. In terms of police increasing surveillance, I'm there quite a bit, and so are the police. They're kind of looking out at that road. Unless you're going to have somebody there 24 hours, I don't think that's going to have a tremendous impact over what they're doing right now. The second point, just because of my background, I think you mentioned \$20,000 to put in the crosswalk or something like that.

Elvis Dhima: \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Stephen Przystac: \$20,000 to \$30,000. What's a life worth? Somebody get struck down?

Chairman Dumont: No, I don't think anybody looks at that lightly. It's just the budget issues.

Stephen Przystac: \$20,000 to \$30,000 should not be the deciding factor, in my opinion.

Chairman Dumont: Sure. Point taken. Is there any other questions or comments?

Selectman Guessferd: No, good points though. Thank you for bringing it up.

Chairman Dumont: I think that, like I said, I think it's appropriate, we need to have a larger discussion on this. I'm sure there's plenty. Everybody has a different idea of what we think is best. I think we have a decent little interim solution to take a look at that brush while that's going on and hopefully make it a little bit better.

Susan Clement: The next thing would be to see what the DOT says and keep going down that road?

Chairman Dumont: For that person, I would definitely instruct them to contact the Highway Safety Committee as well as DOT.

Susan Clement: Again.

Selectman Guessferd: Hudson. Yeah, the Hudson Safety Committee.

Susan Clement: Hudson Safety.

Chairman Dumont: Hudson Highway Safety Committee. But to Mr. Dhima's point, there is only so much we can do on Kimball Hill Road just because of ownership.

Susan Clement: Maybe we'll put some sidewalks up, I've always wanted that.

Selectman Guessferd: Oh, that's an even larger discussion.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Allan, for the Town Administrator to hereby direct appropriate staff to look into the concerns brought forth by the Benson Park Advisory Committee regarding access to Benson Park including bringing back appropriate recommendations for future meetings. Motion carried, 4-0.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much.

Susan Clement: Thank you very much.

Selectman Guessferd: Okay. Thank you, Susan.

C. NHDES Dredge and Fill Permit – DSD/Decision

Chairman Dumont: All right. Next up is New Hampshire DES Dredge and Fill Permit. Mr. Dhima typically comes with us with some money. This time he's looking to spend some.

Elvis Dhima: Well, hopefully not. So, as you know, we've been working with the state on the necessary permits. You'll also know we're trying to follow the procedure that we need to get the 80 percent for the construction phase of this project. We're on a 10-year plan. So, we've been working, I think, so far pretty well with the DES, but they're having a hard time getting over this fact that the area floods now and it will flood in the future, even after we're done. And they were looking for additional information. So, we had a good meeting. There was some follow-up. I requested the consultant to give us a scope of work in theory related to the additional information that hopefully is going to help them make the decision that additional information is going to require \$80,000. So being as frugal as this Board is, I went back to the state and I said, you know, our intent is to do the right thing and get you the information you need to make the decision, but at the same time, here's the cost. So, they were taken back a little bit by this additional cost related to the task they were asking. So, we decided for your favorite here to draft and see if we can put the information together for them to see if they can make a decision. That has been done. It took about eight pages and a significant amount of backup. I'm waiting for them to give me feedback related to this is good enough, Elvis, you're all set. I have to stamp that when it's done. It's going to have to be my stamp on it, which is fine. And if that's the case, we don't have to spend this money. If that's not good enough, I'll have to get our consultant in to see what they need to do with hydraulic modeling. Things we need to look upstream, downstream. It's not going to change a thing. It's still going to basically come with the same outcome, but it's just probably more information that they feel comfortable enough to provide the permit for us because we're going to need a couple waivers. So, I'm hoping as of yesterday that maybe this eight-page memo with the backup, I call it the \$80,000 memo, is going to do the trick. And if it is the case, tonight's motion would not have to be executed when it comes to finances, but if it does, then we'll probably spend up to that to get it done. So, with that said, I will let the Board know which way we go, but I went to the planning board last week, and I'm here in front of you tonight to ask you to approve the additional funds required, if required. And I

will not execute this change order until I hear back from the state that's saying, yes, your memo is good enough, no, you still need to do some more. And that's where we're at. So, with that said, I'll take any questions you might have.

Chairman Dumont: First off, I want to remind you, it's not frugal, it's fiscally responsible.

Elvis Dhima: That's right.

Chairman Dumont: That's the way this Board operates. Second of all, and I think, unfortunately, it seems to be a necessity, but in that same line of thinking, I would agree, I think it's a waste of money. I think that the information that you provided should be more than adequate enough. But I get how it works if you want to proceed forward and if we want to try and take care of a safety concern.

Elvis Dhima: And this is 100% corridor funds, so this is not a taxpayer burden. But again, I'd rather spend the money from the corridors related to improvements like construction related versus additional permits. So, we still want to get them in a good place so they can feel comfortable making a decision, but at some point, you have to make a decision, right? So that's kind of where we're at.

Chairman Dumont: I agree. I just know that we have other improvements in that corridor that couldn't get done, so I look at that and I think the money could be better spent. Yes.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Just a quick question about budgets. These two line items, are they shareable? Or if not, do we have enough, like, that increase? The total when it comes out, is it going to come out of Zone 1 and Zone 2? Is it proportional or is it all going to come out of one zone because you can share?

Elvis Dhima: It comes out of both zones. And the beautiful thing about this project is it's located on Lowell Road. So, Lowell Road has access to Zone 1 and Zone 2. So, I would use whatever I need between zones.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: So essentially, it's one, just due to location.

Elvis Dhima: That's exactly it. So, to simplify this, you have about \$1.2 million there available that you can utilize. So, let's just say we use \$183, you can still utilize the \$900. But I would probably keep it, you know, split it 50-50 so I still have funds in Zone 1 and Zone 2 if I need to, or probably use more in Zone 1 and leave some in Zone 2 so that way I can balance things out.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: That's what I was trying to do. I know I had a hard time splitting it.

Elvis Dhima: No, no, no.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: You got where I was going.

Elvis Dhima: But you have a very good point, and we're probably going to, you know, now that you say that, I'll probably do about \$10,000 from Zone 2 and basically the rest of the funds from Zone 1. But this particular project, it just happens to be right in the smack of the middle of both zones. Perfect spot.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: It is.

Elvis Dhima: Lowell Road, just so you know, Lowell Road, most of the Lowell Road is basically the boundary between Zone 1 and Zone 2. So, anything along Lowell Road can get access to both zones. And this wasn't the case until the Planning Board converted all the different corridors they had into Corridor 1 and 2. So, it's much easier now versus before. It was three zones. It was more complicated. So that simplified that a lot. But, yes, to your point, and that's a good point.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I just don't want to run 1 through 0.

Elvis Dhima: Yes, that's exactly it. So, we'll probably tax Zone 1 a bit more than Zone 2 so we balance those things out. But, yes. And as I said, I'm not going to execute the PO and the change order until I hear from the DS saying, no, this is not good enough, we need to do something else. If they say this is good enough, make it finalized. All of a sudden, we're all set. So, we'll see how good my writing skills are.

Roy Sorenson: Maybe we can reach out to our state reps to talk to them.

Elvis Dhima: I know, right? I think they know how we operate. I'm trying not to put too much pressure because I already made some calls. So, all I'm thinking is if it does happen, it's probably going to be like the engineering constitution. It will be a nice big – I'll get it on one of those nice big frames there, and I'll put my eight-page memo, and it will be like this is – The constitution? The constitution right here. I mean, it's a bit – it's more than I expected as far as, like, the efforts here, but it's what they want. So, we'll see if we can get there.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: I wouldn't rely on the state rep. It's election year. He's not pulling the strings.

Chairman Dumont: I've just been waiting for Mr. Dhima. He told me to hold off.

Roy Sorenson: To date, Mr. Dhima and myself have been talking to the DS. I think this is just an exercise in what we'll call futility.

Chairman Dumont: Maybe it's a little bit of a shining of the light, right, so you understand what people go through when people ask for additional documentation.

Elvis Dhima: On the other side? No, I do too. I'm on the other side, and it's just, you know, I'm on the –

Chairman Dumont: Now you're getting on the other side.

Elvis Dhima: And it's been, to your point, Mr. Chairman, it's been one of those weird situations when I have to explain a regulator that I'm a regulator myself, and I know exactly what they're going through. But at some point, you're going to have to make a decision based on the information you have. And I also told them, they say, no, I'll see you in court. And I don't have a problem with that either. You know, I've had it. But I think we're in a good place. I just wanted to be comfortable making the decision. And it's the right decision to move forward with this. And I don't want to burn any bridges because we are lining up to do the crossing with them, which is a big project, and they understand that. So, we want to keep that going because it's beneficial to both the DS and the town to work this through. So that's where we're at.

Chairman Dumont: All right. Any other questions or comments, motions?

Roy Sorenson: If I may real quick, Mr. Chair, I would actually add, if you can, Selectman Vurgaropoulos, to authorize him to effectuate the agreement as necessary. All right. If we need to do this. Does that make sense?

Selectman Vurgaropoulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to approve Amendment No. 5 and authorize Director of Development Services, Mr. Dhima, to effectuate the agreement up to \$80,500, bringing the total contract amount to \$414,900 for the efforts associated with additional efforts related to permit fees. Funding to come from corridor funds, 2070-000-701, Zone 1 traffic improvements, and 2070-000-702, Zone 2 traffic improvements, as recommended by Planning Board and Development Services Director. Motion carried, 4-0.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much.

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

D. Grant Opportunity – Fire/Decision

Chairman Dumont: Next up we have a grant opportunity. Chief Tice.

Roy Sorenson: Yeah, let me just, I'll open with this. Myself and Chief Tice talked about this last week. He'll get into the narrative, but just so the board understands, I did give him the authority to move forward on this. He'll explain further.

Chief Tice: So, it's our normal practice to come before the Board before we apply for a grant. The Homeland Security grant opened end of June after your last meeting, and the application period closed last Friday before this meeting. So, I did not have a chance to come before the applications were due, so I'm coming now to inform you that we did apply for the grant. The good thing about this grant is there's no match. So, it's 100% funded if we are awarded the grant.

Selectman Guessferd: Love those grants.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Those are the best kind.

Chief Tice: Yeah, yeah, it's a very good grant. And what we did, and for every grant opportunity when we go for them, we look at our needs and we try to match it to what the grant, what's a high priority in the grant. So, this project is one that hasn't really come up on the radar yet, but it's one of those ones that's out there that we knew at some point we were going to have to deal with if we were going to keep this kind of capability. So, this is for, we applied for a side-by-side off-road vehicle. The current vehicle that we have was donated by the, if I remember correctly, was a Polaris dealership before it was a Subaru dealership, and they donated the side-by-side in 2002. So, it's 24 years old. It's kind of a late-duty homeowner type side-by-side. It's been good for what we use it for, but we've gotten a good life out of it. What we've applied for is to replace that, and it would be with a specific public safety type off-road vehicle. So, it would be fit up with a forestry unit, so it would have some water and capability to fight brush fires off the road, also have the ability to load a patient into a Stokes basket. So, if we had somebody off in a wilderness area, instead of having to do a manual carryout, if we had access with this type of a vehicle, we'd be able to bring them out by a vehicle, which would be much faster to get them out. So, this total value would be \$80,611.54. Being a Homeland Security grant, we do qualify for it, but it always helps to work with PD, and the PD did agree to partner with us and signed a letter in support. So, I appreciate them for doing that as well. But that's the project, and if we are awarded the grant, we will come back before we accept it and make sure the board is on board to accept the grant.

Chairman Dumont: I appreciate you finding that and working on that. When Mr. Sorenson brought that forward, I thought that was a great idea. It's a no-brainer. It's 100%.

Chief Tice: And that's what I thought, too. Obviously, we'd like to come to you guys before we make these moves.

Chairman Dumont: Anything to save the taxpayers some money, I think everybody here would agree.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chief, this is great. I hope we get it.

Chief Tice: Hopefully.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: You already answered my question I was going to ask about the basket, which is perfect. My next question is what are we doing with the old asset, or is it going to become an auxiliary asset?

Chief Tice: We haven't made a decision on that yet because this just kind of came, and it was like rush and get it done. I don't foresee us keeping it as an auxiliary. I foresee, at least at this point, auctioning it off or something.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Perfect. Thank you.

Chairman Dumont: That was actually my question. Is there any requirements with this grant? I know sometimes, depending on vehicle grants, they have a specific requirement. What happens to the old one, that you have to sell it, that you do something specific with it.

Chief Tice: There's no ties to this one because it's not a replacement. This is a standalone, this type of vehicle. Any other questions or comments, motions?

Roy Sorenson: No motion needed.

Chairman Dumont: No motion, all right. Just an update. All right, perfect.

E. IAFF Negotiating Team – Administration/Decision

Chairman Dumont: Next up, we have the IAFF negotiating team. I will turn it over to Mr. Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: You can stick around, Chief, if you want. I don't think we'll need you, but you're here. You might as well stay, right?

Chief Tice: Okay, I'll stay right here.

Roy Sorenson: All right. Next item is in relation to negotiating team for what's going to be the Professional Firefighters of Hudson IAFF Local 3154. Their contract is up at the end of this fiscal year, which means we're going to enter into negotiations. We have an August date set. If you look at our town charter, it tells us how we

developed the membership of our negotiating team. That being said, there is one selectman as a liaison. The current liaison to the fire department is the chair. 75-2 of our ordinance says the selectman liaison shall be chosen by the chairman and ratified by the selectman. Understanding that, if you're asking me, should the chairman be the liaison for negotiations, my answer would be yes. But with that, I'll give it to the board for discussion.

Chairman Dumont: How does the Board feel?

Selectman Guessferd: I don't have a problem with the liaison to the fire department being that person to negotiate and happens to be the chair. The kind of confusion in my mind is that she'll be chosen by the chair and ratified by the selectman, and the motion is to approve. So, I'm guessing that the motion is probably correct as it is because I know you probably as the chair don't want to be selecting yourself.

Chairman Dumont: No, in past practice, and I apologize to cut you off, but past practice I remembered was that the Board of Selectmen had always designated. It was typically in the past always the liaison to that department for those specific negotiations. I actually sat on fire the first time around with Selectman Morin for that, and then I sat on the DPW for that one as well. And then I can remember a couple of the other selectmen. I think it was Selectman Roy at the time had sat on one of the couple of the executive departments that she was liaison to. So, I would agree. I think the wording is a little weird. Either way, I think the choice is by the Board.

Selectman Guessferd: And I participated with the police last time because I was a liaison at the time as well.

Chairman Dumont: So, I'd be happy to do it if there's no objection, but ultimately it is the decision of the Board.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I think it's perfectly appropriate for the direct liaison to be in the negotiation.

Selectman Guessferd: Yeah, and I just think for the purposes of, if nothing else, optics, if nothing else, then we do approve.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Allan, to approve Selectman Dumont as the designated Selectman liaison for contract negotiations with the Professional Firefighters of Hudson, IAFF local number 3154. Motion carried, 4-0.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you very much. Thank you, Chief.

Chief Tice: Have a good night.

F. Police Subcommittee – Administration/First Reads

Chairman Dumont: All right, next up is the Policy Subcommittee. Mr. Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: All right, thank you, Mr. Chair. So, Selectman Vurgaropulos referenced this a little bit in the beginning of the meeting. Policy Subcommittee, we were kind of hot and heavy earlier in the year, a little bit of a break because some other things were going on. I think we need to reconvene our meetings. Understanding that, I did reach out to the HR generalist and asked for four policies. You don't have them here because I'm just bringing these to the Board tonight. What I want to do is give us a chance to look at them, redline them, and get them off to the Policy Subcommittee, which, as of right now, we have ten meetings scheduled next week, at which time we come back. And I think I'll do the same thing I've done in the past. I'll put the documents right up there. You'll see the red lines, and then we can have a discussion.

Selectman Guessferd: Absolutely.

Roy Sorenson: So, these are the four that the HR generalist, Michelle Brewster, has chosen to bring forward. And with that, if the Board so chooses, I don't actually need a motion other than just consensus at this point.

Chairman Dumont: I think this was typical for how we handled it the last time, so I appreciate the heads-up. But, yeah, you guys tear into those four.

Roy Sorenson: Back to work.

G. Zoning Administrator Interview Committee – Administration/Decision

Chairman Dumont: All right. So next up is the Zoning Administrator Interview Committee. Mr. Sorenson, again.

Roy Sorenson: All right, thank you. So, again, working with the HR generalist and looking at potential replacement and or a new candidate for the zoning administrative position. We're going to kind of follow the same process as I think we did for the planner, for the finance director, and things of that nature. So, if the Board recalls that, we actually put two members on the final interview committee. I think the initial interview committee will be myself, the HR generalist, and probably Mr. Dhima, as he oversees that department. And we'll bring the finalists to the next round, which will be more intense. We'll do some hypotheticals, as we've done in the past, hypotheticals, ask some in-depth questions. In this instance, I did comprise the motion of two selectmen. However, I should say in the past, we've done a selectman and then the Board member, whatever the Board might have been. So, in this instance, it would be the zoning board. I'll put that out there for this Board to consider, how you want to comprise it. But basically, I'm looking for two people to appoint tonight, whether it's two selectmen and or a selectman and a zoning board member.

Chairman Dumont: Okay. So, I want to just tag along on that. I also had the same thought I had it written down, that I think it would be appropriate for either the chair or the vice-chair of the zoning board to be a part of, and I guess I would leave it up to this Board, whether it be the initial or the final interview committee.

Roy Sorenson: Final.

Chairman Dumont: I think that it would be important. That's what we did with the town planner. It was the same thing. The chair participated with that one. So, with that, I would turn initially to Selectman Vurgaropoulos. Obviously, you are the liaison to zoning. Is this something that you have interest in, or is there any other board members have interest in this?

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: I'm willing to take on the responsibility. I'm willing to do it if we need it. I'll take on the responsibility. I'm willing to contribute to the team.

Selectman Guessferd: I would do it as well, but, I mean, I will defer to the zoning liaison. We're going to need two. We're going to need two and the chair or vice chair of the committee. Okay. That's fine. Being with the land use, you know, division, absolutely.

Chairman Dumont: I have no objections. Selectman Allan?

Selectman Allan: Nope.

Chairman Dumont: Good to go. All right. No, I think that that's fair.

Selectman Allan made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to appoint Selectman Vurgaropoulos and Selectman Guessferd, as well as chair and or vice chair of the ZBA, to the Zoning Administrator Interview Committee. Motion carried, 4-0.

Chairman Dumont: And I guess just for a point of discussion, the reason why I chose that wording, I have not spoken to the chair or the vice chair, for that matter, for availability. So, I guess I'll leave that up to Mr. Sorenson to contact them to see who would be available to sit in on that. But that at least gives them the option.

H. Revenues and Expenditures – Administration/Decision

Chairman Dumont: Revenues and Expenditures, Mr. Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: All right. So, this is our update to the June FY26 revenues and expenditures, otherwise known as the end of the year. So, there we are at 100%. We've completed the fiscal year. The time that this report I believe I put together, what did I say the date was on that? July 8th. So, these numbers come from the July 8th report. General fund, 98%. We have the sewer fund at 73%. And we have the water fund at 97%. As part of that, we still have encumbrances within the general fund of a little over \$710,000. Sewer fund, a little under \$300,000. And the water fund, same thing, a little bit under \$300,000. So, all three look good, obviously, as we get to the end of

the line, the end of the finish line. Dig into the details a little bit and kind of break out the departments. You see the guardrail, 100%, and how they lay out. So, again, looks good. If you knew nothing about it and you see the gaps under the green line and any bar that's above the blue line, I'd say we're in pretty good shape based off of that in totality. Overall, as I mentioned, we're at 98%. The encumbrances, \$710,000. If you take the encumbrances out and we just look at expenditures only, at the time we ran this report, 89%. So, that looks pretty good right now. Now, I must say, more debt came in after the fact because we still had payroll and some AP. So those numbers may change a little bit when I go in the Budget Committee in two weeks because I'll have more data. All right, sewer fund, take a look at that. You can kind of see how billing, collection, operations, capital projects laid out. Revenue collected today, 56%. We do have some work here, and when I mention that, because if you look overall at 73%, the revenue is 56%. You take it out. So, 56% versus 57% expenditures only. Why are we in the 50s? Why aren't we closer to the 100s? I think that's going to be how we develop that budget. We talked about that with the rates and everything else. So, there will be some work to do in that. Water fund, you can kind of see how those laid out. Operations, again, this is because we're obviously buying more water and supply. And operations-wise, we had a series of – actually, we had a lot of water main breaks this past winter as well. But the revenue looks great, under 11%. So, that's offsetting that, which is good. Overall, 97%. Encumbrances, as I mentioned, a little bit under \$300,000. So, you take those out, 96%. So, the balance is there. It looks good. We do have work, as I mentioned, to do, and we'll be coming back with sewer and water rates for consideration on both of those and how we might move forward in the immediacy, maybe the next three to five years. And as the Board is well aware, doing some different things within the water utility itself. General fund revenue snapshot, which should be at 100%. That's where we want to be. We're at 107. Motor vehicles was a little iffy in the middle of the year, but we recovered quite well. You can see our rebound. We cleared our mark and more versus last year. Meals and room came in. That's complete. We finished well there. And then these are just some other ones we keep an eye on, the highway block grant, cable fees, and investment interest in ambulances. So, they all came in pretty good. Cable fees, as you know, and this is just a portion to the general fund. By the way, when we developed the budget this year, because of the warrant article, that revenue no longer exists. It goes right over to HCTV. That comes right out of the revenue list. Dig into the details a little bit, motor vehicle revenue. So, you can see in '24, the number we were at, a little bit over 6.4. It continues to grow each year, \$6.8, and '25, our target this year. And that number was raised, by the way. It was \$6.15. I think it's going to be \$6.3 for '27. Correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. Chair, but I think that's the number. But our target, we certainly cleared that. So, \$7 million versus \$6.15. That's pretty good. That's obviously going to help with our revenue. Our treasurer, as I mentioned, has done a great job. She'll be here at the next meeting, by the way, to do her update, Barbara Bouley. You can kind of see the numbers, how they compare to '24 and '25. Our target for this year was \$375, and we finished at \$605. So, another excellent gain there. So, those two that we keep an eye on finished very well. All right, large departments, the budget for public works, a little bit, say let's just call it \$6.3 million, all inclusive. He did an excellent job getting to the finish line. He was over budget right out of the gate after winter, well, all through winter, but he finished up quite well. So, Mr. Twardosky, or Director Twardosky, did a good job keeping that in line. That number is going to come down a little bit because, as I mentioned, there's still some expenses to come in. Same thing for Chief Cayot. Because of staffing, he was pretty much underwater all year, but he recovered as well. So, he's in the negative 108, but you also had two major retirements in that department over the past year, Chief Dionne and Animal Control Officer Jana as well. So, those two actually combined almost meet that number. So, he balanced out. He did a great job getting to the finish line too. Fire did an excellent job. I think the budget was better this year as far as the numbers were arranged versus last year. They're actually going to be returning some. So, the fire chief did a good job there as well. I spoke to all three of these, well, the two chiefs and the director, because, you know, the 75, a three-quarter point mark, because of what was happening with staffing and winter and things of that nature, I asked them to keep a close eye on their budget. They did a great job taking this thing to the finish line and adjusting their operations. So, I just can't thank them enough for obviously being team players with that. All right, summary. This is preliminary, unaudited. So, what I give you is just numbers, as I mentioned, and Selectman Vurgaropoulos will be at the Budget Committee meeting together. These numbers are going to change. So, this presentation is going to be different from the one you're going to see in a week and a half. We're still closing out expenditures. Salaries appear to balance out. Encumbrances have all been secured. The Board saw those. I think there's a little bit over 700 somewhere in there outside of the major project ones. I'm going to say roughly 1% under budget. I don't have that total number. And that's a conservative number, by the way. I think we're going to do better than that, but I don't want you

holding me to it. Let the auditors figure it out. That's their job. I would say I don't have any major concerns when they go to balance the books where we may finish. Questions?

Selectman Guessferd: That sounds like it was a good year. Excellent job.

I. FY2028 Budget Directive – Administration/Decision

Chairman Dumont: So next up is our Budget Directive for 2028. We're going to have Mr. Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: All right. So, we talked about '26. We're entering '27, and we're looking forward to '28. So, that's the beauty of working off of a fiscal year, I would say. So that's what we're here to talk about tonight. We're going to talk about FY28, and I think the Board kind of asked me. I think this will be my second budget. '27 will be the first one. Kind of just put some things out there, try to see how the Board will react. A little bit more aggressive this year in that I'm going to tell you what I think. And, again, it's your decision, but I'm going to kind of put you, get you into my world a little bit and why we should do it this way. But I work at the pleasure of this Board, and you guys make those decisions. All right. We talked about this a couple, about a month ago when I came in with the preface in the beginning, right, some of the things we were looking at and what the outlook is. It's difficult to predict. You know, you're looking out a full year, right? But if you try to do that, those are the numbers you're looking at. These are the big items that would make up the budget. You can see high risk, moderate pressure, stable, and uncertainty. I think what we have to keep a close eye on, and this is where we say we're going to go 0%, 1%, 2.5%, 3%. It's going to be operating. All of these other items we cannot control. I think we have to make the proper adjustments within the budget itself. Those are true numbers. We make those numbers as true as we can. And then we focus on giving a directive to the department heads based off of your operating supplies, right? Now, that alone, if you look at the '28 outlook, it's going to be 2% to 5%. All right. That's based off of whatever predictors we have and we ran. So, there's a huge range there as well. All right. The way we look at it is we look at out-of-budget requests. There's a little bit of data on out-of-budget requests. All right. So, that is what was approved from '23 to '27. So those are your hotline numbers. All right. You saw what the Board did. Now let's break into what would the increase be. Last year you went 2.5%. So, we talked about operating supplies. You did buy into my theory on let's take the utilities out, let's take the contracts out, let's take that stuff out that we know is going to go up. We don't want that to hamper what our directive is. And then you guys went with the 2.5%. So, we put that together. That's how the budget was put together. Given the current economic situation, what's happening, I'm not saying we should go there this year. I think we stay level funded, and it's 0%. Why do I say that? Because of these two numbers. You have 4.2 and 3.6. This is CPI and inflation. Now, with what's happening in the world, obviously that's a big driver. Those numbers could come down, but we don't know that. So, as I mentioned, I think we stay level funded. We stay at zero. So, whatever you have on that side, we leave it stable, but we obviously increase the items, as I mentioned, that we have to. If you're looking at out-of-budget requests, what should that number be? I would simply say the Board entertains or I direct the department heads to get me to a number around \$400,000 just for consideration. So, we have a pile of projects and or wants up to \$400,000. They come to this Board, and I would recommend this Board brings it back to \$250,000. So, your out-of-budget requests are at \$250,000. So, you're level funded, and your out-of-budget requests, which are wants. Those are wants, right? That's something that the departments want. And this is department-wide across the town, \$250,000. It's not a big number, but last year it was only \$237,000. Here's why. These will be warrant articles, I believe they will be, and they're going to be large numbers, your municipal financial software. That could be the first of three years. You're going to have the professional firefighters, CBA. Don't forget you also have the additional four firefighters that were approved coming on full-time. Those will be in the budget. They need a new fire truck. Now the interesting thing about the fire truck, and I'll get into the details with this at a future meeting when we do the kickoff, they need to order two years in advance. So, we want to get the authority to spend, but the impact won't be probably until '29 or '30, because that's when the vehicle will be delivered. Talking to Mr. Dhima, there will be a big number here for county road bridge improvements, and that will be participate. Mr. Twardosky, we have \$1.1 million in the budget for paving. Do we want to ask the voters separately in a warrant article? Do you want to do another \$150,000? Do you want to do another \$250,000 for paving? I don't know. I don't know what that number is, but this may come forward. The extreme weather CRF that we funded last year, minimally by the way. We didn't put a lot of money into that. I think you need to start building that. He's not going to have money, too much left over to pad that based off of the warrant article. I know that the police chief

still wants to look at the police prosecutor. And then, of course, I think the two CRFs that I would definitely focus on are drainage and property rebuild as well. Now, there's going to be some other warrant articles in here, and some of these maybe could go into the budget, but I just see these as big-ticket items. That's why I have them out here as warrant articles. You folks will make the decision on where they might live, whether they live in the operating budget or they live as warrant articles. Now, if they go back in the budget, then that 250 number I talked about is going to go up. All right? The CRFs, obviously, are standalone warrant articles, and then this is going to be a warrant article as well, as well as the fire truck. All right, let's talk about the schedule because there's some changes here as well. One of the things the Budget Committee mentioned last year was they didn't like how we got, I think, I want to say the month of November trickled into December, and there was just a lot of jumbling of meetings between the town and the school. There was conversations about, you know, we used to do this sooner in the year. Why can't we do that now? So, I'm willing to entertain that this year, setting the schedule, pushing it up a month. What does that mean? It means that the budget books will be to the selectmen by September 4th. We talked about pushing these up. That means the whole month of September we're going to be in meetings, and we're going to be talking about the budget. We have a regular meeting on the 8th, the first night of BOS budget review, and this could be subject to change, but this is wherever the department is plugged in right now. A lot of these I can cover, and I think we can move through. If we're going level funded, there's not going to be a lot of discussion here unless you guys want to make cuts, okay, because these aren't huge budgets. There are some in here that are big, and we'll talk about that. The second night would be, much of it would be public works and development services. Now Mr. Dhima is obviously going to cover this, so a lot of fun as well in conservation commission. So, he'll cover all those. We'll have the library in there as well. That could change. I still haven't confirmed with the director on that. I think Director Pilla will still be here. She won't, would have been retired. I think she'll still be here for the budget process. And then the third night, obviously two big hitters, police and fire, HCTV, which is just a courtesy to the Board, and then the warrant articles. I would say during these meetings, I will do a general intro at the first meeting, but I think the Board needs to dig into the details that night. So, we need to look at the budgets and make decisions that night, which means cuts, ads, or whatever you want to do. Because last year, we kind of looked at them, and then we came back and we lost some time. So, the meetings could be long, I guess is my point. We do have a regular business meeting scheduled for the 22nd, and we could continue budget into that meeting if we have to, perhaps warrant articles as well. And then if we need to go to the 24th, we could reserve that. Ultimately, the budget books get to the budget committee by October 7th, which is much sooner than we had last year. I did talk to Chairman Lawrence. I think they'd be more than happy if that's the case. Now, some of the things that will likely affect the budget, as I talked about, is health insurance. We're not going to have hard numbers for health insurance by this time. So, we either leave it or we estimate it, and then we come back and we readjust it. The other wild card with health insurance is if we leave the Health Trust and we go a different route with a private, that could change as well. So, there's a lot happening there, but I think ultimately, by the time we get the books to the budget committee, the adjustments would be just that. It would be health insurance or whatever it might be. The Board would have made its decisions on the major items, including warrant articles. And I think at that point, we go and we move forward. We'll discuss revenues as well. As you know, the law has changed, so the budget committee will be responsible for the default budget. Now, that's something I need to talk to them about. The way that's worked here, obviously, we craft the default budget. You guys approve it. Now, would they be more hands-on? I don't know yet. We'll see what happens, but I think there'll be a quasi-partnership there too.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: There's a subcommittee. Well, the subcommittee was to determine the feasibility around it and start looking into what we could do. So how it's going to expand into the full committee remains to be seen at the moment.

Roy Sorenson: And I'll pose some of those questions to them at the next meeting, and we'll see what they come up with for answers. But you can see the month of September is pretty dense. Just an informational slide here, and I get this information from our chief assessor, he talked a little bit about it tonight. What does Hudson stand versus some of the other communities? This is based off of single-family home only, which value around, I'd say, \$475,000 is kind of the median of what it might be. We do pretty good, if you look at the taxes collected. And then, you know, you plug in our tax rate, which was, I think, the FY27 budget now. We balanced it versus what the current tax rate. That's town only, of course. That's not the full tax rate of \$17.11, but that's just the town side. It stands well at \$5.57. So, some good information there as we continue to move forward. That's it. So those

are my points. Those are my thoughts. You can either say good job, Mr. Sorenson, but we're going to do it our way. I won't take any offense to that.

Selectman Guessferd: We could say both. We could say good job and we'll do it our way.

Roy Sorenson: You could do that, too, because it is a good job.

Chairman Dumont: Yeah, so let's jump in. That was the first thing I was going to say. I think that was excellent. The PowerPoint obviously helps a lot. So, I think you captured a lot of what I think a lot of our discussions have been over the past couple of meetings, but I'll turn it over to Board members. Where do we want to be at?

Selectman Vurgaropoulos: Actually, I think yesterday I was talking with Mr. Sorenson and I'm of the opinion we had a really good year. As painful as it was, we made some good decisions last year to keep it tight, and we still allowed a little bit of growth. I think this year we do exactly what Mr. Sorenson is saying. We do flat and then worry about out of budget and then see what comes to the table and then evaluate everything. Let's try to keep it tight at least for this next cycle, and then the next cycle after that we can look at it again just if we want to give them a percentage or stay flat again.

Selectman Guessferd: Yeah, I'm kind of thinking along the same lines. We gave two and a half last year. This year it's kind of like, okay, we've got to tighten a little bit. The biggest concern I always have with these things is not to artificially constrain the department heads for needs. So, we talk about that the out-of-budget requests are wants. I've seen in the past that sometimes they'll hold something back in the budget because of what we directed them to do, and then when they come back to us with the wants or the out-of-budget, then there's things in there that they should have put in the budget. So that's really, I think, from my perspective, Mr. Sorenson, you're going to have to work with the department heads on that to make sure that they get in the budget the things they have to have, the things that affect public safety, the things that are going to be necessary, and they don't try to hold anything back in order to appease us and then we put it back in anyway. So that's my concern, and sometimes you have to bite the bullet a little bit for those needs. And so, I just want to make sure that we're giving the message, a consistent and clear message that if you have an absolute need, something that you need, absolutely have to have in your budget, and maybe it pushes things a little bit, bring it to us. Don't throw it outside the budget and then ask us to try to pull it back in, and that will also help protect that \$250,000 or \$400,000 that you're going to come to us with. So, we're not going to just take part of that and just have it be, oh, we've got to put it right back in anyway. So given the directives or given the suggestions that you have for us, and I'd say with those concerns, I guess I'll say I'm good with that.

Chairman Dumont: I appreciate that, and I think you hit the nail on the head, and I know Mr. Sorenson touched on it briefly too. Obviously, the Board of Selectmen has the full authority to change that as we go along. I know that we've worked on it in the past where we've had a couple department heads that even with a directive of two and a half, or I think the previous year was one and a half or two or something, but we said, no, that should be in the budget, and we rolled that in a couple times. So, I definitely think everybody is going to have to keep their eye on those things and make sure that we're balancing it. I'm happy to see this. I think that what this does clearly is it tells the people who are nervous about taxes that we're taking it seriously. However, with the out-of-budget request and the list of other expenses, I think people understand that we're spending money on what we truly do need. We've heard from Mr. Sorenson and some department heads on those needs. We heard from the last year and we've heard through this year, so I think we can balance that pretty well. I know I try to bundle it all together because even though we may have a 0% increase or a level-funded budget, well, we just listed off the fire contract. We know we're not going to want to go without a contract, the municipal software. We're going to be spending a significant amount of money or asking, I should say, the taxpayers if we can absorb this.

Selectman Guessferd: Right, there's some big ones there.

Chairman Dumont: Ultimately, those then flow into our next year's budget. I think this will be a great start and I'm looking forward to it. Selectman Allan?

Selectman Allan: I have nothing to add. I agree with what's been said here tonight.

Chairman Dumont: With that, does anybody want to make a motion?

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I just got one more thing.

Chairman Dumont: Sorry, go ahead, Selectman.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I would just say along the lines of what Selectman Guessferd was saying, when we please inform the department heads when they bring us their list, I think it's fine if they give us a want and needs list, you know, rather than us trying to decide it, like figure out what's our want and need. Have them deliver it like that, a want and a need, and have good backups so we can really dissect it and really understand it. Because if it's just a one-pager and there's nothing to back it up, it's probably going to get pushed lower to the bottom of the pile, you know. But if you've got the supporting documents, your due diligence, you know, we're going to be able to make a better educated decision.

Roy Sorenson: Yeah, we'll kind of build it like we did last year, separate index, so all the details in there.

Selectman Guessferd: Summarize there. Give us the Reader's Digest version up front in terms of what's important in there and, you know, the big hitters, and then we can dive in as much as we need to.

Chairman Dumont: All right.

Selectman Allan: Go ahead.

Selectman Guessferd: Were you going to make the motion?

Selectman Allan: I was, but.

Selectman Guessferd: Go ahead.

Selectman Allan made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to direct Department Heads to submit level-funded budgets, exclusive of labor and benefits, and as presented here, for their proposed Fiscal Year 2028 budgets. Any other major items or new initiatives, moreover warrant articles, shall be submitted separately for the Board's consideration. Further, to adopt the budget scheduled as presented. Motion carried, 4-0.

Chairman Dumont: We're looking forward to the presentation to the Budget Committee and see how they like that new schedule, so.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I think they'll be very pleased with it.

Selectman Guessferd: I would hope so. They don't ever seem to be pleased about a lot.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Though that may be true, I do believe, like, they made a request for us to try to swing the time around.

Selectman Guessferd: We want to cooperate.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: And we're working with them. So, like, hopefully the schools do the same and then we can all work together and get there.

9. SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS/OTHER REMARKS

Selectman Allan: I have nothing on the school board front. They canceled the last meeting, and then the Benson's Park Committee meets this Thursday.

Selectman Jakoby: Excused.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Sorry. Apparently, they have a – I don't have much. I had one – I wasn't here for the last Selectman meeting, and I had one zoning meeting before that, but nothing major came out of it. And, yeah, right now I don't have much.

Chairman Dumont: There will be a lot more coming on your plate soon enough.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Yeah, yeah, I know. I've got a big plate.

Selectman Guessferd: Let's see. We have, for planning, there was a meeting last week. We have a workshop this week. On Thursday we'll be working on looking at the regulations and zoning and a few things that really we can't probably accomplish well in a meeting. So, we'll be having that workshop on Thursday evening of this week. As far as the library is concerned, I think it was mentioned a little bit earlier, the only thing – there is a meeting next week, next Wednesday night. As people probably know, the director is going to be retiring, so they are putting out the notice, starting the process, so that there's a little tiny – maybe not much overlap, but at least there won't be a gap. That's the goal, is to have the new director there when Linda Peele retires. So, they're working through that process. I've been impressed with how they've been working. There's some really good board members, very passionate people on that committee. And so, they're doing well. As for Rec, I don't really have a lot of Rec updates. The summer program is well underway. The kids are doing great, having fun. Counselors are doing a great job. And so, it's all moving forward well there. And as we all know, for the Rec department, that's one of the revenue generators that helps a lot. So, other than that, I think that's about all I have.

Chairman Dumont: All right. So just a couple things. Yeah, I did fill in at the planning board meeting. Wasn't a whole lot going on there. It was a pretty light schedule, basically some administrative decisions, discussion over the corridor funds, as Mr. Dhima spoke to earlier today. Conservation Commission met on Monday. Yesterday, I should say, they had some discussion on a possible land donation off of Ledge Road that they're going to be looking at. They also went over some discussion for their bylaws that they're working on, some updates to go through that, as well as they're interested in getting a tent set up, which I believe I just got confirmation that they might be able to do that for Old Home's Day. And I was going to extend that out. Now that we know that's a thing that's one committee. I don't know if Benson Park Selectman Allan would be interested or if another selectman has any department or committee that would be interested in sharing some time over there. I'm sure that the Conservation Commission would be amenable to that so they don't have to have somebody there every single day. They could maybe operate with some other groups. So, they wanted me to make sure that I extended that offer. And that was just about it. One thing I did want to bring up to this board and just kind of put it on your radar, and I'd like to make sure we have the discussion with Selectman Jakoby, is Conservation Commission over the past five or ten years has done some significant land purchases. It took about three decades to build up a little over \$1 million in a fund to purchase land for conservation. That's been depleted down to about \$700,000, I think with some really good purchases. They're looking for the L-CHIP, which this Board obviously recommended, and a purchase of a piece of land off of Wason Road. With that, if we get the grant, fantastic. That's a 50% match. If not, that's about a \$400,000 expenditure. Still working on the final numbers. If that went through, that would deplete down to \$300,000. They have other land that they want, and obviously these recommendations come in from this Board. There was some conversation over what that number may look like. Some conservation members could see it going to zero, and just using that up. I prefer to think that you might want to leave a balance in there. Ultimately, obviously though, as being only one member, I wanted to put it to the board, and I will fill in Selectman Jakoby to see maybe what your guys' thoughts are so I can give them some kind of direction to say, this is how the board feels this fund should be used. Again, we don't need a decision tonight, but I just wanted to put that on your radar to see where everybody might be at on it. There was some significant discussion, so I figured I'd bring it forward here. But other than that, that's all I have.

Selectman Guessferd: Can I say one more thing before Mr. Sorenson? In case anybody was wondering if the town did anything with regard to the 250th, there actually was a ceremony last Saturday over at the Hills House. That was co-sponsored by the Historical Society and the American Legion. It really wasn't well-known or advertised, but there was a ceremony over there, so we did acknowledge and celebrate that. We didn't have much attendance, but we did do something for it in case anybody was out there and was wondering if the town was going to do anything. So, for things like this in the future, we'll try to make sure that we get them advertised a little bit better. I think it was kind of a last-minute decision, so I'm going to be a cop on that, but I just wanted to let you know.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: Thank you. You were talking and then you were going to be zoning. We're also working on amending the bylaws and updating them. When you said that, I was like, oh, yeah, that works. I want to bring that up.

Chairman Dumont: I'm glad to hear that. They reviewed that when I was the liaison for it, and I think that those bylaws, just like we do, should at least be looked at or entertained on a yearly basis to make sure it's working out. There is one other thing. Happy early birthday to Selectman Guestford. Hopefully you enjoy your birthday. So, I figured I'd throw that out there in the public airway so maybe everybody will blast you. So, with that, I'll turn it over to Mr. Sorenson.

10. REMARKS BY TOWN ADMINISTRATOR – Presentation

Roy Sorenson: All right. Quick update, town administrator report. Jim Paquette became a Certified Public Manager. I think at this point we have two, Jim Michaud, our chief assessor who was here earlier, and Deputy Chief Paquette. This isn't easy to get. You work through the state to do this. A lot of these courses they take, leadership-type, management-type courses, based in principle on public administration and things of that nature. So, kudos to him. It's not easy to do, and he was awarded his CPM, so he is now a certified public manager. Hudson PD finished up their youth academy this past month. They had quite a bit of turnout. As you can see, the kids that went through the program, the chief said it was very productive. Kids learned a lot, and who knows, maybe you'll have some future patrol officers, detectives, and maybe even a chief of police in there at some point. Speaking of libraries, this is interesting. We had our library meeting, select, I guess it was that last month or whatever it was. It wasn't long. I got out of there a little early, and I said, you know what, I'm going to go by the Hudson Community Recreational Park to see if anybody is using those pickleball courts, and I was blown away. The courts were packed. It was probably six to eight people on the other side of the fence there on the left waiting to get on the court. Parking lot was full. There was nowhere to park, and it was amazing. They're getting used, and the people love them. That was an excellent project. Yes, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Dumont: One question. I'm sure everybody has seen this stuff out on Facebook, we don't have a zip-lining course going in at the park.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: I was just thinking about that.

Chairman Dumont: Make sure I wasn't missing something.

Selectman Vurgaropulos: The location changes daily.

Chairman Dumont: I know.

Roy Sorenson: The Board has not made any decisions on Phase 2. Actually, we haven't even had any discussions on Phase 2. Right now, it's pickleball courts, and that's it.

Chairman Dumont: Thank you.

Roy Sorenson: Benson Park, they're going to be, and Susan Clemente asked me to bring this to the board's attention. On July 25th, so it's right around the corner, they're going to do the unveiling of their granite posts that were donated, and the Board took action on this earlier in the year. The Board is invited. So 10 a.m. on July 25th, you'll see the unveiling of the monuments. This is a combination of the granite that was donated and the plaques that Jack Madden secured, and they'll be in and around the different assets within the park themselves. So, I'll extend this. Actually, I'll have Lorrie put this invitation back out to the folks as well. And if you can, make it there that day, fantastic. Other than that, you'll see them at some point, I'm sure. Hudson Grange Awards, so we had the, they do this every year, Beth Ide from Hudson Memorial School got an award, Tim Malley, community citizen planning board chair, and then we had Jared Neff, Master Patrol officer of PD, and Michael Lewis, Firefighter/AEMT. So, congratulations to them for getting the Hudson Grange Awards for the year. Finance group, talking about our working group, this is out. So go online if you want to see it. It's 120 pages or whatever it is, I don't know what it is. So, if you want to spend some time reading it, have at it. It's been advertised. We've already had different firms reach out to us. You can see it's a tight schedule, but we're tracking right with the budget year. So, the heavy lifting for this group hasn't even started yet. If the document was a

heavy lift, we have a much taller task in the evaluations that are going to be coming in and how we put that together and have it ready to go. So, this Board can actually sign off on what we believe would be the proper vendor and what we might put up on a warrant article. That said, the only thing I want to add is I don't have it in there, but CPCNH, their rates came out. Their basic rate is \$14.949 per kilowatt, and Eversource default rate is up to \$0.14. So, it's still low. There's a difference there. We are still in the aggregate with CPCNH. We should be able to pull out of that, as you know, hopefully by year's end. Still working with our attorney on that. I know other towns are as well. I don't have any more updates other than that, and as I get those, I'll bring it to the board's attention. One last thing. My office did receive this certificate, and this is from the veteran's group where we celebrated the Phaneuf's, and this is up in Manchester at their park, Gulf Wars and War and Terror Memorial. So, they're thanking—this is the Manchester Veterans Council. I should have said in the beginning. The Board has selected me for contributing. I know the Phaneuf family was very excited with the whole process. So, this is great, and we'll keep this either upstairs in the board's area or down here, one or the other, to commemorate that special day.

Selectman Guessferd: I have to say I was up there a couple weeks ago, and we made a point to go over to Veterans Park and look at it. There's actually two different—

Roy Sorenson: Because there was two, and we actually asked them that. It's right in the center, it's right in the middle.

Selectman Guessferd: Right in the middle, right in the monument.

Roy Sorenson: It's fantastic.

Selectman Guessferd: Yeah, so I thought that was great. I was glad I got a chance to see it. That's fantastic.

Roy Sorenson: Yeah, they did a great job.

Chairman Dumont: Perfect. All right, thank you, Mr. Sorenson. Thank you.

11. REMARKS BY SCHOOL BOARD – Excused.

12. NONPUBLIC - N/A

13. MOTIONS MADE IN NONPUBLIC

Chairman Dumont: So next up we have our nonpublic sessions. First up, we'll have you read number one into the record.

Roy Sorenson: All right, buckle up. We have a lot to cover here. All right, motion number one, session one.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to amend the motion made at the Board of Selectmen meeting on June 3, 2026 - the motion was made by Selectman Jakoby, seconded by Selectman Allan, to hire Colin O'Brien for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic in the fire department at the contracted salary of \$38.60 per hour, step six, rate effective as of July 1, 2026. This assignment will be a non-exempt position in accordance with the International Association of Firefighters Local 3154. Adding that, on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, we were informed by Mr. O'Brien that he has decided to decline the job offer for employment with the Town of Hudson. Motion carried, 4-0.

Selectman Allan made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropulos, to promote Master Firefighter/AEMT Adam Labore to the position of Lieutenant/AEMT, at an hourly rate of \$40.81 per hour (step three), a non-exempt position in accordance with the International Association of Firefighters Local 3154, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Motion carried, 4-0.

Selectman Vurgaropulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to promote Master Firefighter/AEMT Jeffrey Ojiba to the position of Lieutenant/AEMT, at an hourly rate of \$40.81 per hour (step 3), a non-exempt position in accordance with the International Association of Firefighters Local 3154, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Motion carried, 4-0.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Allan, to promote Firefighter/Paramedic Christopher Pervere to the position of Lieutenant/Paramedic at an hourly rate of \$38.83 per hour (step 1), a non-exempt position in accordance with the International Association of Firefighters Local 3154, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Motion carried, 4-0.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Allan, to amend the motion made at the Board of Selectman's meeting of June 23rd, 2026. The motion was made by Selectman Allan, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to hire John Campbell for the position of Custodian with the Town of Hudson at a starting rate of \$24.67 per hour, corresponding to step three of the Teamsters Local 633 Hudson Support Staff Collective Bargain Enterprise. This position is classified as non-exempt. Adding that on Wednesday, July 8th, 2026, the HR Generalist was informed by Mr. Campbell that he has decided to withdraw his acceptance of the custodian position with the Town of Hudson. Motion carried, 4-0.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by selectman Vurgaropoulos, to direct the Town Administrator to explore the feasibility of leasing space at the Oakwood facility as a temporary solution for location of the Hudson Community Food Pantry. Motion carried, 4-0.

Selectman Allan made a motion, seconded by Selectman Vurgaropoulos, to authorize the Town Administrator and Chairman to engage in discussions with the Hudson Police, Fire, and Town Supervisors Association on the newly created position of Deputy Police Chief. Moreover, recognition, including any resolution thereof, to be brought back to the Board for consideration. Motion carried, 4-0.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Allan, to unseal the Board of Selectman non-public session meeting minutes for item 3A of the May 12, 2026 meeting. Motion carried, 4-0.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd, to unseal the Board of Selectman non-public session meeting minutes for item 3B of the May 12, 2026 Board of Selectman meeting. Motion carried, 4-0.

Selectman Vurgaropoulos made a motion, seconded by Selectman Allan, to unseal the Board of Selectman non-public session meeting minutes for item 3C of the May 12, 2026 Board of Selectman meeting. Motion carried, 4-0.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Allan, to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Motion carried, 4-0.

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

Dillon Dumont, Chairman

Bob Guessferd, Vice-Chairman

Xen Vurgaropoulos, Selectman

Heidi Jakoby, Selectman

Kimberly Allan, Selectman