

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 1, 2025
Community Center, Lions Avenue
Hudson, New Hampshire 03051

1. **CALL TO ORDER** The Honorable Paul Inderbitzen called the Town Meeting to order at 9:00 am
2. **POSTING OF THE COLORS** by Hudson Police Honor Guard
3. **THE NATIONAL ANTHEM** The intended firefighter was on duty and could not attend
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** by Selectman Roy

5. **REMARKS BY THE MODERATOR**

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the Deliberative Session of the Hudson Town Meeting. You will act as a legislative body to determine the final form of all the Warrant Articles that will be voted on at the March 11th Election. All the Articles, by law, must be placed on the ballot. The rules we will follow are the Moderator's Rules they are in the handout, right after the warrant articles, I don't have the page. But, please if you're new to our Town Meeting, please review those rules how we operate this meeting. If you have any questions about the rules, feel free to ask for clarification at any time by rising a "Point of Order" and ask your question. This body may also vote to establish its own rules and you may also vote to overrule any of my rules if you feel the need to. If you are new to the Deliberative session, please review these rules and let me know if you have any questions. As a Legislature, we are discussing the Warrant Articles before us. Those discussions will be respectful of everyone's we do not cheer and applaud when we agree with a speaker and we do not boo or groan when we disagree. Please be respectful of the speakers. Their opinions and yours should be all be respected by everyone. To keep personalities out of the debate, please use terms such as "the previous speaker", "the Selectmen", or "the Budget Committee Member" rather than names. All questions and comments are to come through me the Moderator. There is no requirement that anyone yield to question if someone has a question of a member, a Board member, there's not requirement that they have to answer. If you are a registered voter of Hudson, when you checked in you would have been given a red voter card. Don't lose it you won't get another one. We will use those for any votes that we take. There's a box in the back on the table where the handouts are, where when you leave you can put your voter card in there and we recycle them. Only registered voters of Hudson are allowed to participate in the discussion of a warrant. There are some non-voters, staff members of the Town and some others who will be allowed to speak and to answer questions to assist us in the review of the warrant. Please turn your phones and pagers off. Does anyone use pagers anymore? Or put them on silent so as not to interrupt the discussions. The exceptions of course are our police and firefighters. We will be taking a few breaks after some of the articles. Refreshments are for sale by the HFWC Hudson Women's Club. They have refreshments for sale and if we go to lunch they'll probably have something for lunch as well. Also, this meeting is televised live on Hudson Cable and will be available afterwards for viewing or streaming on HCTV. We appreciate the HCTV's staff for all they do in keeping the citizens of Hudson informed. We will be dealing with articles 2-21. Article one is the election of officers which will happen in March. 2-21 are Town Warrants. 22-33 are zoning amendments. They are not available for change by this

meeting. We do not discuss them, they have a separate process through the Planning Board with public hearings and ample opportunity for people to ask questions and find out about them. However, one of our planning people are here and chairman of the Planning Board is here. They'll answer any questions you might have about the zoning as you go through them and look at them. They'll be in the back and you can ask questions. But this body cannot change or do anything with zoning ordinances, amendments so, we do not address them. At the end of this meeting, both the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen will have a separate meeting that has been noticed where they may reconsider or consider their recommendations on all the Warrant Articles. The Warrant begins on page 24. So before we do that I will introduce the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Guessferd to introduce the members of his body.

6. INTRODUCTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

by Chairman Robert Guessferd
Vice Chair Dillon Dumont, excused
Selectman Dave Morin
Selectman Roy
Selectman Heidi Jakoby

Mr. Guessferd: I also want to introduce Town Administrator, Steve Malizia and our Finance Supervisor, Beth McKee. Also, I would like to acknowledge and thank those other staff members here from the Town who took their time out to set up yesterday and come out today. And also as the Moderator stated, HCTV does a great job with all these events and we appreciate them. One final thing, I would like to take this opportunity with folks present here, to introduce and acknowledge our incoming Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson. Roy stand up please. Take your time, there we go, let's give him a warm welcome. So during the break, or if we do have a break, whenever we do, go on up and introduce yourself. He's been coming around trying to get to know people and I'm sure it would be great if people introduced themselves to him. We look forward to that and he'll be starting on February 10th. Thank you.

7. INTRODUCTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

by Chairman James Lawrence III
Kim Rice, Vice-Chairman
Kevin Walsh, Clerk
Randy Brownrigg
Richard Weissgarber
Robert Wherry
Shawn Jasper
Donna Boucher
Heidi Jakoby, Board of Selectmen Liaison
Dave Morin, Board of Selectman Liaison Alternate

8. STAFF/OTHERS

Michelle Brewster, Town Clerk
Christine Strout-Lizotte, Tax Collector
Steve Malizia, Town Administrator
Scott Tice, Fire Chief
Beth McKee, Interim Finance Supervisor

Jeremy Faulkner, Public Works Supervisor
Lorrie Weissgarber, Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

STAFF/OTHERS - Non-voters

Elvis Dhima, Town Engineer
Linda Pilla, Library Director
Tad Dionne, Police Chief
David Cayot, Police Captain
Steven McElhinney, Police Captain
Town Attorney - Attorney David Lefevre of Tarbell and Brodich
Roy Sorenson, Town Administrator Appointee

9. RETURN OF THE WARRANT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO THE TOWN CLERK

Moderator: Thank you. At this time I will ask if the Town Clerk, Mrs. Brewster has received the official Town signed Warrant. Town Clerk, Michelle Brewster indicates she has. Thank you. Mr. Morin, what purpose do you rise?

Morin: Today's day takes a lot, a lot of work to put this together. And we have two retired guys, well supposedly they're retired. Paul and Steve who both retired last but due we couldn't get the positions filled, have come back and have done an outstanding job and have pretty much saved the Town of Hudson so we can have this and the people can be here and voice their opinions. This is going to be both of their last public meeting. Paul has one more vote to do but, I'd just like to thank them and give them a round of applause for all of the work they did.

10. READING OF THE WARRANT ARTICLES AND ACTION OF THE MEETING

Moderator: We'll now have the reading of the Warrant. Article 2 The General Fund Operating Budget. Shall the Town of Hudson raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth in the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$38,791,101? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$37,177,866, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Hudson or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Tax Impact of \$0.34

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Estimated Tax Rate is \$5.31.

I will recognize the Chairman of the Budget Committee, Mr. Lawrence to present Article #2.

SELECTMEN'S WARRANT ARTICLES

Warrant Article 02 – General Fund Operating Budget

Lawrence: Thank you Mr. Moderator. Warrant Article 2, FY26 Town General Fund Operating Budget. The Board of Selectmen originally directed all department heads to submit budgets with no more than a 1.5% increase exclusive of labor and benefits cost. Other major items or new initiatives were to be discussed separately for the Board's consideration either as a request outside of the department's

budget. And all new initiatives were to be addressed either by department heads or in the form of a warrant article. The Board reviewed each major item and adjusted the department's budget for those that were deemed essential for this proposed year to the department's operation. The Board voted to send to the Budget Committee the General Fund Operating Budget of \$39, 130,051. The Sewer Fund Operating Budget of \$2,457,392 and the Water Fund Operating Budget of \$3,974,199. The Board also approved the General Fund Default Budget in the amount of \$37,177,866. Similarly for the Sewer Fund, a Default Budget in the amount of \$2,514,864 and a Water Fund Default Budget in the amount of \$3,840,188. After reviewing the General Fund Operating Budget, the Budget Committee made appropriate recommendations for corrections of errors in the budget presented resulting in a General Fund Operating Budget of \$38,791,101. This is in place of the original General Fund Operating Budget submitted of \$39,130,051. The projected tax rate for the General Fund for this budget is \$5.31. Now I want to point out something to clarify because we've had a lot of questions about this number. This is not an increase to the budget. This is the actual amount that's required to fund this portion of the budget which is \$5.31 per thousand of assessed value. Which will result, if passed, in a \$0.34 increase over the FY25 budget. This warrant article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen by a vote of 5-0 and there's also recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 9-0. I want to thank the Board of Selectmen all the department heads for the Town, Town employees, especially our outgoing Town Administrator, Steve Malizia for all their assistance in assembling and answering the questions throughout the analysis portion of this budget. I especially want to thank the members of the Town of Hudson Budget Committee for their tireless efforts that resulted in the fair, reasonable and adequate budget that we are presenting here today. Thank you.

Moderator: For those of you who just came in, we have plenty of seats down front. I don't think the Budget Committee or the Board of Selectmen bite, so you can come down and sit in front. I will now open Warrant Article 2 of the General Operating Fund operating budget to questions, comments or amendments. Anybody wish to speak on Warrant Article 2?

Roger Coutu – 7 Pond View Drive: I rise to make a motion to amend the General Fund Operating budget from \$38,791,101 to \$38,827,854, an addition of \$36,753 to fund a part time custodian in the Police Department. If I get a second on the motion I will discuss it further and define what the motion is all about.

Moderator: Thank you. We have a motion to amend by Mr. Coutu, is there a second? Seconded by Mr. Malizia.

**MOTION: TO INCREASE THE GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET FROM \$38,791,101 TO \$38,827,854
MADE BY: ROGER COUTU; SECONDED BY: STEVE MALIZIA**

Moderator: Mr. Coutu, we're now going deal with just the amendment of adding \$36,753 to the Operating Budget. Mr. Coutu to speak to your amendment.

Mr. Coutu: Thank you, sir. For everyone's information here about the addition, this is a part-time position not to exceed 29 hours a week. The pay equals \$34,141 for labor and a cost of \$2,612 for FICA. For FICA, the total will be \$36,753. There are no other benefit costs, as this is a part-time position. The police station was originally 14,000 square feet. The addition added 5,720 square feet to that. There were many other renovations done to the original building, but we only added 5,720 square feet. This equals 41% more square feet than we had. I know the chief of police is here. If anyone needs to have some clarification, further clarification, about the department, about the building, he's the boss. But I want to say this, Mr. Moderator, I understand full well what a Board of Selectmen and a Budget Committee go through to come back to the voters, especially here at Deliberative Session, where changes can be made, and having fine-tuned the budget requests of all the department heads, I know

firsthand that there are some department heads, when they were told that they had to live within a 2% maximum increase, 1.5% maximum increase, that they were juggling their want lists, and there are items that they felt were necessary that they had to forego this year, and they hope that maybe there will be some grants out there that they can apply for to get the added equipment. I know this was difficult for the chief, putting his budget together, and I don't, I have no reason to fault him for not having put in for this position, but I gave it a lot of thought, and I'm not one that likes to increase budgets, I like to cut budgets, but I felt that this was an absolute necessity. As you all know, those of you who have been in the police department, arrested or not, that when you walk into that building, that building is immaculate. And the present full-time custodian has the added responsibility of having larger shower rooms, larger locker rooms, more offices to clean, and he's the go-to guy if the air conditioning goes down, he saves the town a lot of money. I think it's time that it's not a reward, we recognize that this is a need for the police department. With that, Mr. Moderator, I open it up for questions.

Moderator: Thank you, Mr. Coutu. We are now dealing with an amendment to add \$36,750, is that the correct figure, Mr. Coutu?

Coutu: \$36,753.

Moderator: Sorry. To the Operating Budget. Does anyone wish to speak to the amendment? Seeing none, we'll take a vote. We will be taking a vote on the amendment. Anybody who's voting I want to see in these chairs, I don't want to have to go in the back and figure out who's voting what except for the people that are working in the back. The Supervisors, the Women's Club. So if you're going to vote, if you are in favor of adding \$36,753 to the Operating Budget, please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed to raising, adding \$36,753 to the Operating Budget, please raise your cards.

THE "AYES" HAVE IT. THE AMENDMENT PASSES.

Moderator: Now back on the Operating Budget Warrant Article 2. With the figure now being, if someone would give me that. [Town Administrator provided the amount] The Operating Budget is now \$38,827,854. Anyone wish to speak on the Operating Budget at this time? [Shawn Murray asks for the figure one more time]. \$38,827,854. Seeing none.

I will close the discussion on Warrant Article 2 and we'll move on.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 03 – Sewer Operating Budget [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 03 - Sewer Operating Budget

Shall the Town of Hudson raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$2,457,392? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,514,864, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Hudson or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00

Moderator: (continuing) I will recognize Selectman Jakoby to speak on Warrant Article 3.

Jakoby: Thank you Mr. Moderator. This warrant article is, the Sewer Fund, is a special revenue fund and all costs are paid by the sewer users and not the property tax payers. There is no tax rate impact for this warrant article so it is recommended by both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

Moderator: Thank you. I will now open Warrant Article 3, the Sewer Operating Budget to any questions, comments, amendments. Anybody wish to speak to Warrant Article 3? Seeing none.

We will close the discussion of Warrant Article 3 and it moves to the ballot.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 04 – Water Operating Budget [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 04 - Water Operating Budget

Shall the Town of Hudson raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$3,974,199? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$3,840,188, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Hudson or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Moderator: (continuing) I will recognize Selectman Jakoby to present Article 4.

Jakoby: Thank you Mr. Moderator. This is again a special, the Water Fund is a special revenue fund and all costs are paid by the water users and not general tax payer. There is no tax rate impact for this warrant article.

Moderator: Thank you. We will now open Warrant Article 04 the Water Operating Budget to questions, comments, amendments. Anybody wish to speak to Warrant Article 4? Seeing none.

We'll close the discussion on Warrant Article 4, it moves to the ballot.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 05 – Hudson Police Employees Association Contract [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 05 – Hudson Police Employees Association Contract

Ratification of a contract negotiated between the Town of Hudson Board of Selectmen and the Hudson Police Employees Association for Wage and Benefit Increases. Shall the Town of Hudson vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Hudson Board of Selectmen and the Hudson Police Employees Association which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits: 7/1/25 to 6/30/26 \$468,780, 7/1/26 to 6/30/27 \$281,795, 7/1/27 to 6/30/28 \$275,679, 7/1/28 to 6/30/29 \$309,213 and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$468,780 for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year, said sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those paid in the prior fiscal year?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.09

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Moderator: (continuing) I will recognize Selectman Guessferd to present Warrant Article 5.

Guessferd: Thank you Mr. Moderator. Warrant Article 5 proposes a four year contract for the members of the Hudson Police Employees Association. This was an extremely important negotiation for us and for the Police Department which is a world-class Police Department. We're very happy to get to a place where everybody was satisfied with the outcome. This union covers 59 employees. Employees in this Association include patrol officers, dispatchers, and sergeants. This contract provides for a 3.5% cost of living adjustment in each of the four years. The pay scales have also been adjusted in years one and four by one step each in order to remain competitive with the surrounding labor market. Eligible employees would receive a step on their anniversary date. The contract also provides for a second shift differential of one dollar per hour and a third shift differential of two dollars per hour as well as an increase to the annual uniform allowance and stipend pay for a limited number of certifications. This contract would run from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029. This warrant article would add .09¢ to the tax rate in the first year and .27¢ per thousand over the life of the contract. The Board of Selectmen has recommended this contract 5-0 and the Budget Committee has recommended this contract 9-0. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you very much. We will now open Warrant Article 5 the Police Employees Association Contract to questions and comments. Anyone wish to speak to Article 5? Yes sir, what purpose do you rise?

Shawn Murray, 55 Kienna Road: As someone who's in public safety but on the fire side, the better side, I truly can appreciate the need for these collective bargaining agreements. Some of the other background you don't see is there is a significant deficit in recruitment and retention of both Police and Fire. Not only locally but regionally. The competitive wages even in this just general area are not allowing departments to keep up with that recruitment and retention. This really is an investment. What it does is it doesn't bring them to the top, which is fair, but certainly puts the Police Department in a position that they can be competitive amongst other agencies throughout the area. So I support this Warrant Article.

Moderator: Thank you. Anyone else wish to speak to Warrant Article 5, the Police Employees Association Contract? Seeing none.

We will close the discussion of Warrant Article 5 and it moves to the ballot.

Coutu: Mr. Moderator, I make a motion to restrict reconsideration of Warrant Article 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. [correction from the floor] 2, 3, 4, and 5, I apologize.

Moderator: Hold on a minute. Mr. Coutu moves to restrict reconsideration. Is there a second? Mr. Segal. I'll explain to everybody in case you're new to this. The restriction of reconsideration locks down those 2, 3, 4, and 5 so that they cannot be brought up later in the meeting. Any warrant article can be reconsidered unless it's restricted. This way people come and go they can't bring it up again. This locks it down for this meeting and they'll be going to the ballot the way they were formed. Everyone understand that? The motion is to restrict reconsideration. If you're in favor of restricting reconsideration of 2, 3, 4 and 5, ... [floor asked if there was "no discussion?"]

**MOTION: TO RESTRICT RECONSIDERATION OF WARRANT ARTICLES 2, 3, 4 AND 5.
MADE BY: ROGER COUTU; SECONDED BY: MR. SEGAL**

Moderator: Did somebody, oh, I'm sorry. Yes.

Resident: This is not, I gotta watch out for this microphone. My only concern is, did past experience, when the average voter who is not attending these meetings and has not watched, the budget meetings etc., when they see tax rate impact is \$5.31, there are some members of the community...

Moderator: We're talking about restricting reconsideration.

Resident: Right, but...

Moderator: We have closed Article 5. We're not talking about Article 5 anymore, it's been closed. We're not discussing.

Resident: I thought...

Moderator: Are you speaking against reconsideration?

Resident: I just wanted to make one point regarding so verbiage on Article 2. That's all.

Moderator: No. Unless you want to reconsider Article 2, we're not...

Resident: Not as a whole. It's just a small adjustment of text.

[member of the floor points out the speaking resident didn't give her name and address]

Resident: I know, I'm sorry.

Moderator: Oh, Ms. Putnam?

Resident: Debbie Putnam, 59 Rangers Drive.

Moderator: Thank you, OK.

Debbie Putnam: Should I just go sit down?

Moderator: The question before us is the restriction of reconsideration of Articles 2, 3, 4 and 5. It won't be brought up again. All in favor of restricting reconsideration of 2, 3, 4 and 5 please raise your cards. Thank you. All those opposed.

THE "AYES" HAVE IT. ARTICLES 2, 3, AND 5 ARE RESTRICTED.

You can do that any time after a warrant article has been discussed and closed. Restriction can be accomplished, doesn't have to be at each one, you can just do it for a bunch of them. Or one if you wish.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 06 – Hudson Support Staff Union Contract [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 06 – Hudson Support Staff Union Contract

Ratification of a contract negotiated between the Town of Hudson Board of Selectmen and the Hudson Support Staff, Teamsters Local 633, for Wage & Benefits increases. Shall the Town of Hudson vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Hudson Board of Selectmen and the Hudson Support Staff, Teamsters Local 633, which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits: 7/1/25 to 6/30/26 \$115,869, 7/1/26 to 6/30/27 \$78,292, 7/1/27 to 6/30/28 \$80,108, 7/1/28 to 6/30/29 \$83,055 and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$115,860 for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year, said sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those paid in the prior Fiscal Year?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02

Moderator: (continuing) I will recognize Selectman Roy to present Warrant Article 6.

Roy: Thank you Mr. Moderator. Warrant Article 6 proposes a four year contract for the members of the Hudson Support Staff Union Teamsters Local 633. This union covers 23 employees. Employees in the union include assistant town clerks, administrative aides, accounting clerks, building inspector, human

resources specialist< HCTV production coordinators and recreation department employees. This contract provides for a 3.5% cost of living adjustment each of the four years as well as step increases for those that are eligible. The contract also provides for a salary scale adjustment in year one of the contract. Eligible employees would receive a step on their anniversary date. The contract also includes contract language updates to reflect the new affiliation with the Teamsters. This contract would run from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2029. This warrant article will add .02¢ to the tax rate in the first year and .07¢ over the life of the contract. The Board of Selectmen has recommended this contract 5-0 and Budget Committee has recommended this contract 9-0. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. We will now open Warrant Article 6, the Hudson Support Staff Union Contract to questions, comments, amendments. Anyone wish to comment on Warrant Article 6? Seeing none.

I will close the discussion on Warrant Article 6 and it goes to the ballot.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 07 – Hire Four Firefighter/AEMT's [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 07 – Hire Four Firefighter/AEMT's

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$527,686 which represents the cost of salary, benefits, uniforms and personal protective equipment to hire four additional Firefighter/AEMT's? This appropriation is in addition to Article 2, the Operating Budget.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02

Moderator: (continuing) I will recognize Selectman Morin to present Warrant Article 7.

Morin: Good morning. Warrant Article 7 seeks voters' approval to hire four firefighter/AEMT's at a total first year cost of \$527,686. Most of this cost \$244,621 is for salaries, \$254,913 is for benefits and \$28,152 is for uniforms and personal protective equipment. In 2020 the voters approved shift staffing of 11 per shift. We are looking to increase the shift staffing to 12 per shift with this warrant article. This is the first step in a three step plan. The ultimate goal of the Fire Department is to increase the staffing to 14 per shift. 14 member per shift would allow the Fire Department to dedicate two person company to an ambulance which would be the first EMS unit dispatch to EMS incidents town-wide. This would also allow engine companies to stay in service as engine companies for the first medical call. These engine companies would cross staff additional ambulances for simultaneous medical calls providing the town with better fire coverage and more resources to meet the growing demands. The tax impact of this warrant article is .10¢ per thousand, was recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0 and recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0. I would like to yield to Fire Chief Tice if we could to explain more. Thank you.

Moderator: Further presentation by Chief Tice.

Tice: Good morning. We're asking to increase staffing because we have a high rate of multiple incidents. That is having more than one incident at the same time. This depletes our resources and reduces our staffing and our resources to respond to the subsequent calls which reduces our safety and it reduces our effectiveness. It either increases our response time to those calls or decreases our effectiveness and our safety being able to handle those calls. I'll give you two stats that represent this, but anybody that pays attention to operation understands that we run a lot of multiple calls. The first stat is calls that happen within 25 minutes of another call. We use 25 minutes to pull the data because that's the average call time or the amount of time all units clear the scene of the first call. And that happened

1,113 times in 2024. The more accurate time is a 55 minute window because the 25 minutes does not capture the amount of time our ambulances are transporting to the hospital and doing their turn (inaudible) the hospital before they're ready for another call. And that happened 2, 012 in 2024. This is anywhere from three to six times a day on average that most of our resources are tied up on other calls. And I can tell you that we have had several building fires in the last several years where we have had reduced resources or increased response times and solely because of the good work of our people and some luck, those incidents did not turn out to be much worse than what they were. So, I appreciate you guys considering this and I hope everyone will consider supporting this. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. We will now open Warrant Article 7, the Hire Four Firefighter/AEMT's to questions, comments, amendments. Yes Sir.

Pete Sessions – 68 Schaeffers Circle: Thank you Mr. Moderator. I'm here to support this measure 100%. You guys all saw what happened in Los Angeles. They had heavy underbrush that hadn't been cut for a while. They had high winds, they had lots of problems. We have them but not quite as intense. But one difference that we have is that Los Angeles cut their fire department budget just before the fires hit and we have been steadily increasing the budget and making sure that we'll be safe. I just want to say that it could be your house they're saving so let's vote for this in. Thank you very much Mr. Moderator.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion? Yes sir.

Shawn Murray – 55 Kienna Road: Good morning. The Hudson Fire Department has been understaffed for many years. Something else the chief didn't mention is the Fire Department currently does not meet national standards for safety and service to the public. The back to back calls is a real thing if you think about it. With the number of people on duty, two ambulance calls at once and then an engine or a fire call wipes out the amount of manpower to cover the rest of the town. For a town with over 25,000 people and the number of calls that they're going to this really needs to be supported and to at least allow them to keep up with some of the demands. Thanks.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion, Warrant Article 7. Yes, sir.

Brian Clarenback – 99 Highland Street: I'm the president of the Professional Firefighters of Hudson and I'm here this morning in support of this article. This is very much needed in order to increase the safety of both the citizens of Hudson and our firefighters. Currently the engine company that's located at the Central Fire Station on Library Street is staffed by a crew of two firefighters. This level of staffing creates a very dangerous situation as it forces our members who when they arrive on scene at a fire they have to choose between either abandoning the pump that's obviously at the truck and having no one there to troubleshoot any kind of interruptions in their water supply going to our hose lines. Or, alternatively to leave someone at the pump and send one person into a fire alone. Both of these choices are extremely dangerous for our firefighters and make us much less effective at a fire scene. Studies have shown that a two person crew is 17% effective at advancing a hose line into a fire and 24% less effective at searching a fire for trapped occupants than a three person crew. Just to paint a picture of how much area that this engine company covers, if you live anywhere around the center of Hudson this area right here from the Veteran's Bridge off Central Street to Greeley Street, down Lowell Road to T-Bones restaurant, up 102 to Alvirne or out 3A in Litchfield town line, this is going to be the first fire engine that's going to arrive at your house if God forbid it catches on fire. If you live anywhere else in town it's going to be the second fire engine showing up at your house. The passage of this warrant article will allow the fire department to hire four additional firefighters in order to have three firefighters staffing this engine company at all times. This would let us have someone operating the pump (inaudible) while also having two firefighters available to make entry into a fire, for extinguishment or rescue. The National Fire Protection Association requires the staffing of four firefighters per apparatus to meet their standards as Chief

Murray eluded to. Obviously this warrant article will not accomplish this and that level of staffing is a very, very large financial commitment for any but the largest communities in this state. However, a three person crews are what we currently run with our other two engine companies at our substations. And bringing the Central Station Engine Company to the same level will allow the fire department to standardize our fire ground operations and more importantly increase the level of protection that we are providing to you and your family during an emergency. I would like to thank both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee for their unanimous support of this warrant article and I urge everyone to vote in favor of it at the polls in March. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion, Warrant Article 7, to Hire Four Firefighter/AEMT's. Anyone wish to speak? Yes, sir.

Normand Martin – 3 Edgar Court: I stand here before you today to urge each and every one of you in this room to support this article. On the night of January 13th of this year I had two ambulance units and a fire truck at my home. Took a lot of resources to take care of the incident that happened there. Having more staff will help alleviate some of these issues that they are having. Especially when you have sick people that are out there that depend on the men and women of the Hudson Fire Department to run into somebody's home whether it's burning or they're saving somebody's life, they don't even know these people are committed. Both the Fire Department and the Police Department. So, I recommend that everybody go to March ballot and vote for this, it's very important. I mean it's a minimal ask and something we should be able to do for them. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion on Warrant Article 7, the hiring of four firefighter/AEMS's? Seeing none.

We will close the discussion on Warrant Article 7 and it goes to the ballot.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 08 – Public Works Dump Truck Replacement [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 08 – Public Works Dump Truck Replacement

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred forty five thousand three hundred ninety nine dollars (\$145,399) representing the first year lease payment of two 10 Wheel Dump Trucks? This appropriation is in addition to Article 2, the Operating Budget.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.03

Moderator: (continuing) I will recognize Selectman Morin to present Warrant Article 8.

Morin: Warrant Article 8 seeks voters' approval to lease/purchase two 10-wheel dump trucks. These dump trucks will replace two 2006 10-wheel dump trucks that have rusted dump bodies and frames. They will be more economical to replace the trucks than to repair or rebuild them. These are frontline vehicles that are used to plow the town in the winter and haul materials in the spring, summer and fall. The tax impact of this warrant article is .03¢ per thousand. It's recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0, the Budget Committee 9-0 and I would like to yield to Public Works Supervisor, Jeremy Faulkner, to speak on this.

Moderator: Thank you. We'll recognize Jeremy Faulkner. The Director of Public Works is on sick leave.

Faulkner: Good morning. Sorry for how I sound I'm the back end of a cold right now. Selectman Morin actually said it well. Our six wheeler dump trucks are '06's are pretty much at their 20-year end of life

stage. We have substantial amount of rot on the frames and the dump bodies. We're close, a couple years away from these trucks being nonoperational. I think it's important that we move on and bring in and purchase new trucks here to keep the town safe especially for conditions that we've had last night and today. So, it's important for us to purchase these two new dump trucks.

Moderator: Thank you. I'll now open Warrant Article 8 the Public Works Dump Truck Replacement, it's a lease, to questions, comments, amendments. Anybody wish to address Warrant Article 8? Mr. Murray.

Shawn Murray – 55 Kienna Road: Starting to feel a little lonely up here folks. Mr. Moderator I rise to make an amendment to Article 8. I'll provide you with this motion and I intend to do the same with a number of warrant articles just so everyone knows. On Article 8, the motion is to amend Article 8 by striking out "this appropriation is an addition to Article 2, the Operating Budget." And replacing it with "the sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1st with no amount to be raised by addition taxation, this is a special warrant article." And then change the tax rate impact to \$0.00. If I get a second I'll explain.

Moderator: Motion made and seconded, Mr. Brownrigg.

**MOTION: TO REMOVE THE LAST SENTENCE FROM ORIGINAL ARTICLE 8
MADE BY: SHAWN MURRAY; SECONDED BY: RANDY BROWNRIGG**

Murray: So Mr. Moderator very easy, well so it seems, with an \$800,000 plus increase in the Operating Budget, and I very much understand the need to you know that we have to increase taxes to operate. And it may seem minor but, there are four or five different warrant articles that are seeking small amounts of money by taxation. I believe that we should whenever we have the opportunity, use unexpended, well I call it unexpended but, funds left over at the end of the fiscal year.

Moderator: Thank you. So we're dealing with an amendment now to remove the words, the last sentence. The appropriation and addition to Article 2, the Operating Budget and to replace it with, I have it here. Do you have a copy for them? And to replace that sentence with, "the sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1st with no amount to be raised by addition taxation, this is a special warrant article." The visual guys will be putting that in that has a red mark to see where that is. I'll open the amendment. We're only going to talk about the amendment of changing the words. Anyone wish to discuss the amendment?

Debbie Putnam – 59 Rangers Drive: I'm concerned here. Is the Finance Department feel that there will be sufficient funds available? If the intent to change multiple warrant article to read that it to be used on that the funds are to come from the, the extra funds available at the end of the fiscal year. Is that a valid way to proceed or are putting ourselves in jeopardy? Having that the trucks that are desperately needed. We've just seen pictures of the undersides of these trucks.

Moderator: Question of the Administrator, Mr. Malizia, will respond.

Malizia: At the end of fiscal 24 which was June 30th, we had \$9,083,000 in our fund balance. We plan on using 1.1 million this upcoming tax year, for tax rate purposes leaving \$8,000,000. We're about 7.5% of our appropriations and we should be between five and ten. Individually, yes there's enough money to do this.

Putnam: OK, then I would ask that any future proposals that address that, what would be the cumulative total of pushing these into that fund and whether we would maintain.

Malizia: Right now you'd be reducing it \$140, whatever the warrant article is, yes.

Putnam: That's actually for this one but the intent apparently is to move many.

Malizia: Yes. We'll see as he goes.

Putnam: OK, that would just be my concern. That we don't dig ourselves a hole.

Malizia: I believe all the rest of the articles, I don't have it off the top of my head, might be \$400,000 so you can kind of use that as a bench mark. If you take, I think the one's he's probably intending are Capital Reserve Funds. So you're looking around \$400,000.

Putnam: I know. The amount the Capital Reserve, again Debbie Putnam, sorry, 59 Rangers Drive. The amount in Capital Reserve Funds I know is of great concern regarding the financial stability of the Town.

Malizia: Look at them as savings accounts for things we know are coming. So, we try to put money away to make sure we lower the burden in the future.

Moderator: Further discussion on the amendment.

Shawn Jasper – 83 Old Derry Road: Thank you Mr. Moderator. I rise in opposition to the amendment. As Mr. Malizia just stated we're already using \$1.1 Million dollars to offset the tax rate and we're sitting right at about 7.5% which is where we should be really. We can bring it lower and be in danger. The problem is there is a tendency to want to do that all the time. A number of years ago we had a Board of Selectmen that was doing a lot of spending and they kept doing it from fund balance. Well the problem is that eventually those chickens come home to roost and you run out of a reasonable amount of fund balance that you can take from. But the spending, like this is an ongoing one, this is a first payment on a lease. Next year it's going to come back in the budget. And so that's going to be an automatic increase in the budget. So, you might be tempted to do it again. But at some point, you have to then really make up for all of that if you're doing it on continuing things. And we're not going to, these aren't going to be the last two dump trucks we replace. Normally what happens is we get to the end of a payment, now we have more dump trucks to replace. So we've embedded that in our ongoing spending. I'm very much in favor of taking out small amounts for one-time items. But, not for something like this, I would encourage you to vote against this motion. Thank you Mr. Moderator.

Moderator: Thank you. Anyone knows chickens, is Mr. Jasper. Yes, sir. To address the amendment to Warrant Article 8.

Craig Powers – 31 Cedar Street: I too, it's always tough to follow Shawn. But, I agree with Shawn. This is a bad practice and I speak through the context of transparency. Perhaps not so much on the Town's side but definitely on the School Board side. In terms of a shell game of never really understanding how much cost growth that you're really seeing in any given budget until it's too late. To the question of all these pennies and nickels and fractions of pennies, I just did a quick \$5.775, \$5.775 if we say yes to all the amendments. And in transparency, OK at least we know what we're doing and what we're dealing with in total. We have eliminated the opportunity to discuss some of the big ticket items already, so we kind of box ourselves into the corner without the headline that says if you sign up to everything we are presenting to you, legislative body, it's going to be \$5.775 per thousand. I think just transparency I think is more important than the cleverness or the faux frugality of trying to use fund balance. I understand fund balance, there's a need for it. We call it call it management reserve in the private sector and you do that based on risk. A town, I think, carries a ton more risk than say a school district because those costs are very predictable. A town, well, check the web. So, I don't begrudge the size of that, but I do, just in the interest of transparency Mr. Moderator, think that everything should come with a price and people can look at it especially in a rolled up fashion to see what the total tax bill is going to be. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment. Yes, Mr. Murray.

Murray: Oh, on the amendment?

Moderator: This is on the amendment. To remove the words, the last sentence, “this appropriation is in addition to Article 2, the Operating Budget.” And adding the words, “the sum is to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1st with no amount to be raised by addition taxation, this is a special warrant article.” Any further discussion on the amendment. Yes, sir.

Coutu: I was teetering back and forth relative to the amendment. I believe that the speakers in support of the new consideration have spoken eloquently and the more I listened and more speakers who came up this time, they convinced me that based on my experience with the Board of Selectmen, this is not a good practice. I believe we need to have full transparency. We have five months left in this fiscal year. We can’t anticipate what’s going to happen in these next five months. There could be a crisis situation, god forbid a building should burn down or something of that nature that might require us, I know we have insurance, but there may be incidents like one that I could remember was in the Fire Department we had the air conditioning system went awry. We had to replace the whole system. We were drawing in anticipation we budgeted, it wasn’t in the budget but we budgeted to replace the air conditioner, if I’m correct, was it an air conditioner? Steve, back... [Mr. Malizia confirms it was the HVAC system] and it was like \$40,000. We were anticipating we would have \$40,000 in surplus. So, and that was a small amount. Here, it the continuum we’re talking about a large sum of money. And God forbid anything should happen, we’re going to have to make expenditures to correct the situation that we need to correct and it’s going to drain on the ballot. So I’m going to support the amendment that was proposed. Were you the one who proposed it?

Moderator: No. The amendment is to take it from surplus. That’s the amendment we’re working on. Taking out, “this appropriation is in addition to Article 2, the Operating Budget.”

Coutu: OK, so I’m in opposition of the amendment.

Moderator: You’re in opposition. OK.

Coutu: I’m an old man. You pointed that out Mr. Moderator.

Moderator: Yes, sir. To speak on the amendment. Let’s stick with amendment.

Rich Weissgarber – 21 Flying Rock Road: I just had a quick question I heard, I think. On the town side was that there’s a plan to potentially use some of this fund balance to offset the tax rate.

Moderator: Question of the Board.

Weissgarber: And what was that amount?

Malizia: \$1.1 million.

Weissgarber: And that’s in fiscal year 26 coming up?

Malizia: Correct.

Weissgarber: OK, thank you.

Moderator: Further discussion on the amendment to Warrant Article 8? There’s someone behind who would speak a first time. Yes, sir.

Jordan Ulery – 36 Baker Street: The Board has a rollover of excess funds, unexpended funds. And that funds our unexpended fund balance which rolls into the general fund. Mr. Jasper and I have worked on county budgets and have dealt with this particular issue to maintain a sufficient number in a dollar value, in reserve to protect. But at the same time utilizing some of the funds appropriately. As Mr. Jasper has indicated, or Commissioner Jasper, whatever you want to be called Shawn. It’s important for us because this entire budgeting process that we’re doing, we’re talking about taking money from our

neighbor's pockets. We need to be careful about that. Transparency, it's vitally important. This is transparent, it's on the budget, it says where we're taking the money from. Anyone can read it and see exactly what is happening. The second year of this lease or third year, or fourth year, we're still saving money because normally in leases of heavy equipment the maintenance contract goes along with it, they maintain their own vehicle for a future sale after the lease ends. So, we're saving money on several fronts through this particular type of activity. This can benefit the town by reducing the excess money that's going into the savings. But, also not incurring a .05¢ or a .02¢ or a .03¢ addition onto our tax bill. We're now at what? Working on \$6 for the tax for the coming year. Therefore I would urge the body to seriously consider this amendment. Thank you Mr. Moderator.

Moderator: You're in favor of the amendment, Mr. Ulery?

Ulery: Yes.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion? Mr. Murray for a second time.

Murray: So I won't bemoan this. But, let me give you a hypothetical question. And the former speakers, correct. We're talking pennies, in some cases we're talking less than a penny. And if you as a tax payer are OK with continually adding little pennies, you know, to the budget when there's an opportunity to use funds that are left over, then that's fine. But my example would be, let's say, you have chickens and you have eggs. Would you rather pay \$5.25 for a dozen eggs or would you rather pay \$5, and I'll be nice, \$5.20, right, for your eggs? That's basically all we're saying here. You're taxes are really never going to go down. But what we can do is slow it down. And the \$8 million in the current fund now, in my 20 years in this town they have never had to use it for an emergency. There is an insurance for those, there is a process that they can go to DRA, they can go to the Budget committee if an emergency like that comes up. So, the fund is still pretty much healthy. Thank you.

Moderator: Further discussion on the amendment. Mr. Powers for a second time.

Powers: Whether we put .03¢ against this or we put zero, the taxpayers are still going to pay the cost. It's just whether or not you have transparency, Mr. Moderator, in doing so. What I would recommend because it appears as though we're dealing with almost like a false choice is make part of our business process that at the end of the fiscal year when we look hard, again, not only on the town, but especially on the school side, is we look at that and we rationalize that management reserve. And I think the better approach for that next dollar, if we have money left over, isn't to have a laundry list of items to be funded through slush fund but to say instead of \$1.x million, it's \$1.2x million that we give back to tax payers. And that's how we drive down the cost of our taxes. That's how we keep from embedding and continually increasing is a disciplined risk rationalized management reserve value. And again, what do we have? Years of experience here that can rationalize that we have laws that govern how big that can be. But again, it's transparent. We say we want to hold a little bit more money for next year for reasons x, y, z. Then we can have that open discussion. I again, I recommend that we do not support this amendment.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. Mr. Jasper for a second time.

Jasper: Thank you Mr. Moderator. I think the previous speaker covered it pretty well. But this really is just a shell game because we're still spending the .03¢. The question is are we going to have the money in reserves, are we going to manage the fund appropriately? \$1.1 million that we're taking out I think is out of the fund balance it equates, its \$50,000 is a penny so we're already, you do the math, my heads spinning at the moment. Sorry. But, we're not saving any money we're just moving it around. And it will impact the next year's tax rate because you'll have to take that \$145,000 and that will immediately, before the Selectmen, before the departments do anything, the budget will go up \$145,000 and same is

true of any other article that we do this. Except if it's one time. And I would remind everyone that one of the reasons the Town is supposed to retain such a large fund balance is because we have to pay the school district their appropriation regardless of whether the money comes in and very often there is a problem with taxpayers paying. The former speaker talked about when we were on the county budget, prior to my being on the county delegation, we used to borrow money in anticipation of taxes all of the time. And many towns do because they don't maintain a sufficient fund balance and they have to go out and borrow money because before the next tax bill comes in, they have spent all of the money because they were not maintaining a fund balance. Those are two very important reasons because when you borrow money, you increase your appropriation. So, for these type of ongoing expenses it's a very bad idea. Let the Selectmen manage by determining how much they want to take out to maintain that correct amount. Thank you Mr. Moderator.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment to Warrant Article 8. Yes, sir.

James Wilkins – 112 Belknap: I'd like to know the recent history of this fund balance, whether it's up down or typical.

Moderator: Mr. Malizia will answer the question.

Malizia: So by law the Board of Selectmen have to adopt a fund balance policy which they've done for the last dozen years or so. And in that policy I believe it says between 5%-10%. We strive for 7.5%, so as a percentage we've been very consistent with that 7%-7.5%. So, absolute dollar it changes, depending. But, from a percentage perspective we've been very strong financially at about 7.5%.

Wilkins: So it's not exceptionally high this year, it's normal.

Malizia: It's where it should be, it's normal.

Wilkins: OK, thank you very much.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. Yes, sir. On the amendment.

Todd Boyer – 2 Merrill Street: As a business owner, it is my opinion that a savings account should be used for one time purchases. It shouldn't be used for lease payments. If you have something that is going to be reoccurring, you need to be able to appropriate those funds. You need to be able to budget for them. Therefore it is my opinion that this amendment should be shot down in the sense that, although no one likes their taxes to go up, it is a necessary item that we need and the savings account should be kept for one time purchases only.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion on the amendment? You ready for a vote on the amendment? One more person.

Tracy Stevens – 42 Adam Drive: I'm just confused from what that gentleman just said. This article if it was the original way, would come out of the warrant article. And then next year, would the lease payment also have to have a warrant article? Or, would that lease payment go into the general fund? Correct? OK. So then this has nothing to do with next year's payment. Next year's payment is going be out of the general fund no matter what. Correct? So this is only for this one-time \$145,000. OK, so it is a one-time thing.

Moderator: Thank you. Are you ready for a vote on the amendment? [Resident: I think you have to move the question] I think the body is ready, we don't have to do that. The amendment is to remove the words, "this appropriation is in addition to Article 2, the Operating Budget" and replace it with, "the sum is to come from the June 30th fund balance available for transfer on July 1 with no amount to be raised by additional taxation. This is a special warrant article." It would change the tax rate impact to zero.

Everybody understand what we're voting on? If you are in favor of that amendment, please raise your voter cards. Those opposed to the amendment please raise your cards.

THE "NAYS" HAVE IT, THE AMENDMENT FAILS.

We are now back on Warrant Article 8 the Public Works Dup Truck Replacement. Any further discussion on Warrant Article 8? Seeing none. Mr. Guessferd.

Guessferd: I just want to make a quick comment just to get us back to where we were in terms of the need for this. The Selectboard was offered the opportunity to actually physically see the condition of these trucks. This is desperately needed so I just want to make sure that that's, that's forefront in our eyes for safety, public safety, safety of the employees. And this is an absolute necessity for the town. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Anyone else on Article 8 as it was originally presented?

If not, I will close the discussion on Warrant Article 8 and it goes to the ballot.

Moderator: Let's do one more and we'll take a break.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 09 – Robinson Pond Improvements [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 09 – Robinson Pond Improvements

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000,000 for construction of Robinson Pond improvements? This project will be funded \$500,000 (50%) from a State grant and \$500,000 (50%) from general taxation. This project will include improvements at the boat launch and beach area. This warrant article is contingent on receiving the State grant and if the State grant is not received, the Town will only do improvements to the boat launch, not to exceed \$500,000. This is a Special Warrant Article, per RSA 32:7 VI, reflecting an appropriation that will not lapse until the monies are expended, or June 30, 2031, whichever is the earliest. This appropriation is in addition to Article 2, the Operating Budget.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-3-1

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.10

Moderator: (continuing) I will recognize Selectman Morin to present Warrant Article 9.

Morin: Warrant Article 9 seeks voter approval to make improvements to the Robinson Road boat launch and the beach area at the pond. The boat launch is in need of rebuilding to make it easier for watercraft to get in and out of the pond. The improvements to the beach will help improve water quality at the pond by preventing runoff from entering into the pond. The Town is required to comply with the EPS MS4 permit requirements and these improvements will assist the Town in satisfying the EPS MS4 requirements. The tax impact of this article is .10¢ per thousand. Was recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0. The Budget Committee five in favor, three against and one abstained. I would like to yield to the Town Administrator, Elvis Dhima to speak more on this. [laughter from audience] Sorry, Town Engineer, not Administrator, we don't want an Administrator. [laughter again]

Moderator: Mr. Dhima will finish the presentation.

Dhima: I want to start by apologizing to Mr. Sorenson. Thank you Selectman Morin. So in a nutshell as you all know, we have some obligations regarding our water shed requirements. Robinson Pond has received a lot of love lately and we're kind of focusing on Robinson Pond. As you know the beach area is

in need of rehabilitations, we haven't put any money into it. And also the beach area, the boat launch as well. The main issue we're having over there is that we need to focus on maintaining the health of the pond and reducing phosphorous levels that go into it. As you all know, Conservation Commission has been putting a lot of money into getting rid of the vegetation. So, either physically pulling the weeds but also doing chemical treatments as well. These two projects are in cooperation with the grant we're going for. So we're trying to reduce the burden on the Hudson taxpayer by pursuing a million dollar grant that requires a 50% match. So, the project as you've seen involved with the Robinson Pond improvement have a dual function. The first one is recreational use. The second one is a legal obligation that we have as a town to maintain our MS4 permit, which is a federal permit. In a nutshell the feds own the river. Our brooks discharge into the river, they can tell us what we can and cannot discharge. Therefore we have to make improvements to our water share to make sure what we discharge into the river, in this case Merrimack River, meets all those requirements. If we don't, then we have an administrative hold that's going to impact us, our grants, for anything from Police, Fire, Public Works, Engineering. So there is some consequences for that if we don't stay in compliance. With that said I hope you support this and I'll take any questions you might have.

Moderator: Thank you. At this time I will open Warrant Article 9 Robinson Pond Improvements to questions, comments or amendments. Yes, ma'am.

Nancy Sudsbury – 18 Windham Road: I'm new to this so I might not say it right but. I was just reading this and he just mentioned that there's two parts. There's the boat launch and then there's the beach. But if we don't get the grant then we're going to go for the boat launch.

Moderator: That's correct.

Sudsbury: Yeah. So my question is why boat launch, not the beach? I don't. You mentioned it had something to do with water shed in the state and you want to be legal and all that. Is there anything to do with Robinson Pond that is impacting our state?

Moderator: Mr. Dhima will respond.

Dhima: Thank you Mr. Moderator. The boat launch will probably be the one that's going to have the biggest impact and improvements there and mostly because there's a lot of erosion happening from the road to the pond. The beach area we can close it, if we can do the project, indefinitely and do what we can. It appears that the most impact right now as far as erosion and sediment it's the boat launch so we're going to focus on that. That will be the priority out of the two, that's why.

Sudsbury: Can you elaborate a little bit more on what those improvements might be? Is it like strictly cosmetic, like is it going to make it easier for people or is it really related to you know, meeting state compliance?

Dhima: That's a great question. So, what we're trying to do is elevate the area where you're coming in to drop your boat by about three feet. Install a knee-wall by the edge of the pond and actually really build a boat launch where you can back up your vehicle into. In addition to that there's going to be drainage, we call them best management practices, B & P's, to catch the runoff and treat it as well. These are going to be done through rain gardens as well. There's going to be guardrails there, so it's going to be basically an area where you can actually park safely. It's going to be marked area, it's going to be paved and it's going to have a real boat launch, you can call it by industry standards vs. right now it really isn't. It's going to prevent any more sediment going into the pond and reducing that depth so people going further and further out into the pond to drop their boat. It's going to help us with training obviously but, also it's going to be a great recreational area that we can do while we can say on our MS4 permit that we have

done a physical project out there that's creating an improvement in our water shed. Does that answer your question?

Sudbury: Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion on Warrant Article 9? Anyone wish to discuss Warrant Article 9 the Robinson Pond Improvements? If not, we'll close the discussion on Warrant Article 9 and it goes to the ballot.

Moderator: Ladies and gentlemen I think if we can take a 10 minute break. Thank you very much. Motion by Mr. Morin who restricts reconsideration on items 6, 7, 8 and 9. Mrs. Roy seconds the motion. The motion before us is to, before we take a break, please be in order, is to restrict reconsideration of articles 6, 7, 8 and 9, which means they will not be brought up again in this meeting. To speak to the motion, Mr. Jasper.

Jasper: Thank you Mr. Moderator. I rise in support of the motion and I know you did this unintentionally when you explained it earlier, but I couldn't call up the statute quite quick enough. There is Roman II to this. So, you notice it says restrict. So it does restrict to talk about it again at this meeting. But what can happen with any item that is restricted for reconsideration, we could still vote to reconsider it. And if that motion were to pass, another meeting would have to be held, not sooner than seven days after this meeting to actually talk about it. So it not the end of it necessarily, it's never happened in this town, but, I think just in the interest of transparency, everybody should know that it could happen and we could have another Session, not sooner than seven days. And I know you didn't...

Moderator: Unfortunately, Mr. Jasper, that section does not apply to SB2 towns. Under the SB2 towns, that doesn't apply, that's for a regular town meeting. That would be a regular town meeting. We only have seven days in which to hold our Deliberative Session. The first to the eighth, so you can't do another seven day. Are you ready to vote on the restriction? We gotta go to the SB2 town articles.

Jasper: I stand corrected.

Moderator: If you're in favor of restricting Articles 6, 7, 8 and 9, please raise your cards. And those opposed raise their cards.

Articles 6, 7, 8 and 9 are restricted.

And we will take a 10 minute break.

Moderator: Thank you. We are back to order, we're half way done. We're doing pretty well.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 10 – Robinson Pond Improvements [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 10 – Lowell Road and Birch Street Intersection Improvements

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,553,000 for construction of intersection improvements? This project will be funded \$2,042,400 (80%) from NHDOT Federal grant and \$510,600 from the Lowell Road Corridor Fund, Zone 1 and Zone 2. This is a Special Warrant Article, per RSA 32:7 VI, reflecting an appropriation that will not lapse until the monies are expended, or June 30, 2031, whichever is the earliest. This appropriation is in addition to Article 2, the Operating Budget.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00

Moderator: (continuing) I will recognize Selectman Jakoby to present Warrant Article 10.

Jakoby: Thank you Mr. Moderator. As many of you may know that this has been a project in question in town for many, many years. It came up my first time at the Highway Safety Committee meeting where the Police Chief identified that there were many accidents happening on Lowell Road and County Road. And so there was discussion ensued and thankfully our Town Engineer, Mr. Dhima recalled that the Planning Board had actually done a study of this process where there were recommendations for improving this area of Lowell Road. In that effort that report came back in and off the shelf and then Mr. Dhima, the Town Engineer and Selectman Dumont, worked diligently not only with the Planning Board but also with the NRPC in order to look into funding opportunities for this project. Selectman Dumont was unable to be here today but I did want to make sure that I emphasize all of the various conversations and efforts that he put in to advocating for this project with NRPC. He has not only advocated with NRPC, but has also talked to State Representatives and our state Senator to advocate for this funding and for this project. So, just a reminder that this article, Warrant Article 10 seeks voter approval in order for us to continue the conversation to advocate for this funding. There is no tax rate impact for this warrant article as the town share is coming from corridor funds which are collected from the developers and that was the Planning Board that approved that. Passage of this warrant article will allow the town to fix a long standing traffic safety issue and improve the monitoring, the motoring of the public safety. So, I really encourage people to support this and Mr. Dhima will come up, our Town Engineer, to give you some more details around the project.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Dhima to continue the presentation.

Dhima: Thank you Selectman Jakoby. We have been proactive about this project, we're currently finalizing the design which is currently being funded by corridor funds with the approval of the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen. I'm pleased to tell you that we are in the final stages of that and we're looking now into getting the design completed and federal permit which is called NEPA Permit and start looking to getting the right-of-way that we need for this project. The idea is to go in front of the state and make our case that this needs to be in the 10-year plan because this is a shovel-ready project. So we have the design ready and the permits are going to be ready within six to eight months. And this should be shovel-ready and we should be ready to break ground in a couple years. We use the same model for Melendy Road Bridge that's currently going to be replaced this year, we started that project two years ago and it worked out the same way. The nice thing about this one is it does not have any impact whatsoever on the taxpayer but it's going to have all the benefits that we can all enjoy and make that corridor safer. I'll take any questions you might have.

Moderator: Thank you. I will now open Article 10 the Lowell Road and Birch Street Intersection Improvements to questions, comments, amendments. Anyone wish to discuss? Yes, Sir.

Coutu: Mr. Dhima, while I have your attention. Are you stating in your presentation that there is no contract ready to be signed that will appropriate the monies necessary for this project?

Dhima: That is correct. There is no construction contract in place right now. That is correct.

Coutu: Is there one in the works?

Dhima: There is a contract in the works for the design that's being funded by the corridor funds, 100%. Correct.

Coutu: What scares me is my experience with the State. They're going to do a project and they're not going to do a project. And this could go that route, it depends on how much support you get in Concord. And I would hope that our House members representing the Town of Hudson will be there fighting on behalf of the Town. As you know, Mr. Dhima, one of the Selectmen just stated a little while ago this is something that's been in the works for a long time. We had many discussions about this particular

project. It's not going to improve traffic flow as much as it's going to be a safer corridor in both directions. I've been told that we were going to change County Road, we were going to make it one-way and I've been told that's not going to happen?

Dhima: Correct. There was discussion's about that...

Coutu: Excuse me, if I may. Correct that it's not in the plans to make it one-way?

Dhima: That is correct. There's no change right now to the flow of one-way or two-way. It's going to stay exactly as is as of today, yes.

Coutu: I want to reinforce what I've said from day one. If we do not make County Road a one-way instead of a two-way, the problem will continue to exist even if we have a direct access to Birch. This problem is going to continue to exist at Lowell Road and make Lowell Road, in that area of Lowell Road, unsafe.

Dhima: The idea is to provide an alternative to Lowell and Birch so people don't have to take a left on County Road to get to Lowell Road.

Coutu: Any person who's driven on Lowell Road, and I would think that's almost all of us, go by County Road and we see the same thing all the time. Four or stacking cars trying to get onto Lowell Road and they see a shot and they push the gas pedal and they get across. It's a dangerous way to get onto Lowell Road from County Road. It should be made one-way. I'm going to support this hoping that the State will provide the funding for us to do this. It's been, this has been on the wish list, as one Selectman presented, for a long time. It's time to put it to bed and at least we've gone through this process, we move onto the next steps. And I know how diligently you've worked with this, so thank you sir.

Moderator: Thank you. Ms. Jakoby.

Jakoby: Thank you. I just wanted to add some of the input that Selectman Dumont did give me specifically. Selectman Dumont has advocated for this project and he explained to me in his letter to me that through the corridor funds we would be shovel ready for spring of 2025 because of the Board of Selectmen's being proactive in this process. And, that has spoken to Mr. Wheeler at the State House and Senator Carson, so Representative Wheeler and Senator Carson about this and was told there's a very good chance of moving this forward if the town approves this warrant article. So, Selectman Dumont is working diligently at the state and hopes that this will be moved forward. So a lot of the pieces have been set in place. So, thank you Mr. Coutu for giving me the opportunity to let you know what Selectman Dumont has been working on at the State House. Additionally, we did have an opportunity to make County Road one way on a temporary basis and the conclusion was not to do that at this time. But at any point in time that can be raised and considered with this project or separately from this project. So I just want to affirm that if there are more people in town who really thinks that needs to become a one-way, please let us know, we'd be happy to listen to that effort. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article 10. Anyone else wish to speak? Yes, sir.

Wilkins: I'd like to know what the expected increase in traffic on Belknap would be if it becomes a viable alternative to using Central Street to go from the east to the south. And also if there's been consideration that the culvert system in that area is, has shown to be inadequate.

Moderator: A question and I think the Engineer will respond.

Dhima: Good question. We did not expect an increase in traffic, we're just simply trying to make it safer to get from Belknap to County to Lowell Road. That is the intent. As far as a drainage matter, as you all know, including yourself, there was a lot of work significant work done under T-bones Restaurant

recently because that was a culvert that needed repair. That work has been done. Our work related to the brook, Second Brook, will be done in compliance with the state and federal requirements. I don't expect an issue over there. But, as far as drainage further down from our project, that's been taken care of by the owner of the T-Bones Plaza. I hope that answers your question.

Wilkins: Thank you very much.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion on Warrant Article 10? Seeing none.

I will close the discussion on Warrant Article 10 and it goes to the ballot.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 11 – Town Hall Renovations [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 11 – Town Hall Renovations

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,800 for the design costs for the renovation of Hudson Town Hall? This project will include renovations to the existing Hudson Town Hall along with an addition of approximately 2,000 square feet. This appropriation is in addition to Article 2, the Operating Budget.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.01

Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-1

Moderator: (continuing) I will recognize Selectman Roy to present Warrant Article 11.

Roy: Thank you again, Mr. Moderator. Warrant Article 11 seeks voter approval for the design costs of renovating Town Hall. The current Town Hall was built in the 1960's with an addition in the late 70's and various minor renovations throughout the year. Now we did a space usage study on it and they, what they pointed out is the building has various ADA deficiencies and lacks handicapped access to the lower level of the building. In addition, several departments have inadequate working space for their employees. The Board of Selectmen considered several options including the relocation of Town Hall to another sight, demolishing the current Town Hall and rebuilding on the current site or renovating and adding modest square footage to the existing building. The Board decided the most economical option was to renovate the existing building with a modest addition. This article would fund the design of the renovation and addition. That design would be used to prepare a future warrant article for the construction of the renovation and addition. The tax impact is .01¢ per 1,000, the Board of Selectmen recommend this article 4-0 and the Budget Committee recommended it 8-1. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. I'll now open Article 11 the Town Hall Renovations to questions, comments, amendments. Anyone wish to discuss? Yes, ma'am.

Kimberly Allan – 3 Daniel Webster Drive: So it's \$54,800 just for the design of it?

Roy: Yes.

Allan: OK, thank you.

Moderator: Yes, sir.

Victor Oates – 77 Sousa Boulevard: I stand against this. Last year the town voters voted to pass an infrastructure study to be done by the town that this would have been covered in, under. When I watched the discussion during the BOS meeting our incoming Town Administrator talked about what they did in Salem with some creativity when they were looking into things of this nature. I don't see the

point in spending money to renovate a building until we determine whether or not that's the right use of money. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion, Warrant Article 11. Yes, sir.

Coutu: I didn't want to get up, but here I am. I rise in support of this warrant article. Anybody who's been into Town Hall that the work space with the addition of staff over the last 15 years has shrunk quite a bit. It's time that we give due consideration by first having the design and then look at the cost of the renovation. We did a project not too long ago, well, again, I'm old, 15 years is not too long ago. Where we renovated the Central Fire Station. And when they completed that renovation, that building, that added 15-20 years more life to the Fire Station. And, the firefighters who were stationed there, at the Central Station, were amazed at what a reconstruction project can look like. It looked like a brand new interior. And I think that we have enough space with what is proposed to be added on, there'll be sufficient space to give Town Hall and additional 15-20 years of life and I highly recommend that the voters support this warrant article. Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion, Warrant Article 11. Mr. Oates for a second time.

Oates: Motion to amend Article 11 to zero out the budget.

**MOTION: TO AMEND ARTICLE 11 TO ZERO OUT THE BUDGET
MADE BY: VICOR OATES; SECONDED BY: JAMES CROWLEY**

Moderator: Mr. Oates motions to amend Warrant Article 1 to, I mean amendment number one to Article 11 to zero out the \$54,800. Is that correct?

Oates: That is correct.

Moderator: Is there a second? Seeing no second, the amendment doesn't get discussed. Whoops, ah. Mr. Crowley. OK. Let me get my notes here. The amendment is to zero out Warrant Article 11. Anyone to speak to the amendment?

Mr. Crowley – 4 Fairway Drive: I know there's been a lot of work put into this over the years and even recently. I just wish we could take a longer-term approach to this. I mean, why can't we look at other areas in town and we could put a Town Hall, we could have adequate parking, you could probably even have, if it's a large area, maybe dual use of the parking area for recreation around this area. Or and expansion of it. But, this I think, I just look at as a short-term solution. I think in a long-term we gotta come forward and do something better than this. That's the reason I would rather have it zeroed out now and then force ourselves to relook at it in a long-term aspect.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes, sir. Further discussion.

Jasper: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. I rise in opposition to the amendment. Today we're spending well over \$39,000,000. Yes Town Hall has been an issue for years. There's actually been that addition that goes between the Fire Station and Town Hall, was done in the 80's and that shouldn't have been done the way it was. There were other ideas on how to do it which would have put in an elevator in, look at putting a second floor over the ladder bay and doing it better. But, that's not what happened. \$54,000 is a penny. We need to look at options. So, we talk about zeroing this out, we're not going to look at anything. You know the article last year, if I'm recalling correctly, had no money in it. So, yeah, people voted to do that but there was no money to do it. I think we need to spend this \$54,000 to look at what they can come up with for a design to see what we can get, what the cost will be and make a decision based on some facts rather than just this emotion going back and forth. I think that's the problem, I think this is money well spent even if it leads nowhere. On 39 or \$40,000,000, this is a wise investment. Thank you Mr. Moderator.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article, the amendment to Warrant Article 11 to zero it out. Anyone wish to speak the first time? Mr. Oates.

Oates: Yeah, I just wanted to double down. Last year the voters voted and asked the Board of Selectmen to fund and put forward an infrastructure study. They voted on this overwhelmingly. It was probably one of the strongest supported warrants that passed last year. A year has gone by, nothing has come forward to look and address the needs that are going on in this town. And part of it is the Town Hall. We had a meeting to address the Town Hall already, a public meeting. That was voted against. They tried to put forward a Town Hall last year. We've been down this road before. The problem is, as I see it is, there's a lot of things going on in this town that need to be shifted and changed around. But, the problem is we're not funding the study and we're not doing the infrastructure study that the voters have asked for. There's even another warrant article this year to fund that study because the BOS did nothing. Are we just going to continue to go around in circles and throw \$54,000 here, \$55,000, what if the \$54,000 isn't enough? And then, they come back and they're looking for more money next year. What then? We just lost \$50,000. It may not sound like a lot of money to Mr. Jasper, but \$50,000 is a lot of money and can be better utilized if we actually put it at what's needed and that's funding an infrastructure study and pretending that the Town Hall just needs renovations. It needs a lot more.

Moderator: Further discussion, Warrant Article, the amendment, I'm sorry. The amendment to Warrant Article 11 to take the money to zero. Yes, sir.

Weissgarber: So I've been here since 2017, about eight years. They've been discussing the Town Hall since I've been here. It's in need of renovation at the very least. We've seen a couple big renovations, Police Station being one, came out outstanding, it's a great facility. So, we could talk about this for another eight years, right? And we could potentially wait another 10 years to get a larger warrant article through for a new town hall. But, I think this is money well spent now to give them a facility that's more usable. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment. Are you ready, oh. Yes, ma'am.

Putnam: I was not present at the meeting where it was discussed that, it was put forth that we, the Town lease land to put a new Town Hall. But, I understand that was resoundingly voted down. I would have thought that if there was a chunk of land available to the town, to put a new town hall on, it would have come up in those deliberations that day when the proposal was that we would lease land for eternity to put a town hall. The voters made it very clear they would not support that at all and had I been there I would have joined them. But, if another piece of land was available to put up a new town hall so that our existing town hall could operate while the new one was being built, why wasn't that brought up then? If it's that easy to solve it should have been brought up then. And apparently it was not easy to solve.

Moderator: Thank you, any further discussion on the amendment to take it to zero?

Wilkins: It seems to me that there's a limited amount of expansion that we can do in the present site. There just isn't that much room. If we were to decide to put in a second town hall, can the town government be split into two places that operate efficiently, two physically separate places such that the existing town hall would still have a value to us?

Moderator: If that's what the Board's decided, yes. I mean there's no requirement that you have all your town services in one building. Many towns have them spread out in different buildings.

Wilkins: So that would be an acceptable option?

Moderator: Possibility in terms of looking at stuff.

Wilkins: So in other words, money spent on this town hall to expand it somewhat is not wasted if we built another one?

Moderator: Are you speaking against the amendment?

Wilkins: No, I'm kind of proposing that the question there, but....

Moderator: Well you're right. They could, if the Town decided, if they needed to have more space they could find another building or propose to the voters to pay for another section rather than move the entire Town Hall. A lot of towns have their town hall services in different places. Just depends on what you have available in your town.

Wilkins: So, expanding the current facility would not be wasted in that case?

Moderator: Well, that would be the opinion of this body.

Wilkins: OK, thank you.

Moderator: OK, are we ready for a vote on the amendment? The amendment is to take the \$54,800 to zero. If you are in favor of the amendment, please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed to the amendment please raise your voter cards. The amendment fails. We are now talking on Article 11 as presented, the Town Hall Renovation at \$54,800. Any further discussion on the Article 11. Yes, sir.

Len Segal – 6 Beechwood Road: From the last speaker's question, could the study also look at the possibility of moving out all the engineering services, for instance, to the DPW facility? Or, at least there's land there if an addition needed to be done there as well as town hall. So, that which it has to exist in town hall has some space to spread out. Can that be part of the study?

Moderator: Well, this article only deals with the design cost of the renovation of Town Hall. It doesn't have anything to do with moving parts of it. That's something the Selectmen could be proposing at one point. But, that's not a part of this article

Segal: OK, thank you.

Moderator: Further discussion on Warrant Article 11.

Seeing none, I will close the discussion of Warrant Article 11 and it moves to the ballot.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 12 – Fund Mosquito Control Program [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 12 – Fund Mosquito Control Program

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to fund services for a mosquito control program for the Town? This is in addition to Article 2, the Operating Budget.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-1

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.01

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Moderator: (continuing) I will recognize Selectman Morin to present Warrant Article 12.

Morin: Warrant Article 12 seeks voters' approval to fund Town Mosquito Borne Disease Program which would provide services for the surveillance and control of these bearing mosquitoes. In New Hampshire mosquitoes transmit infections including Triple E, West Nile, Jamestown Virus. New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services found an elevated risk in 2024 of Triple E infections given the positive mosquito samples identified. Funding of this program would be provided services such as larval

surveillance, larval mosquito treatment including and permitting and reporting the recommendations for other control methods. The tax impact for this article is .01¢ per 1000. Board of Selectmen recommended it 4-1. The Budget Committee recommended it 9-0. The town in the past has done this program but it's been several years since we have done it. So, I'd like to yield to the Fire Chief just to remind everybody what this whole process will involve.

Moderator: Chief Tice will finish the presentation.

Tice: Good morning, again. We had this program in Hudson until several years ago. We had stopped doing it for some reason, I don't quite know why. Then my first budget presentation did try to keep the budget down, I recommended we do away with the funding for this program and use that money elsewhere in the budget. At the time we had several dry summers and the long range weather forecasts that I was able to find said that we would continue to have dry summers. Which would indicate the possibility of less mosquitos. Of course, the year after that we had one of the wettest years on record. And then last year, there were several cases in New Hampshire of Triple E, West Nile and the other mosquito borne illnesses including one fatal case of Triple E. The last couple of summers Massachusetts and Connecticut have had real high rates of these diseases and I had people contact me with concern. So, I thought this budget year I would bring it forward, let the people decide whether they thought this was a worthwhile project or not. What it would entail is in the spring usually we would miss it in the spring because the program wouldn't go in effect until July, we'd have to keep up with it. A contract company would come in, they would look for the larvae, like the baby mosquitos that contract. There's certain types of mosquitos that spread different types of diseases so they would be targeting those while they were young to reduce those numbers. And then they would trap mosquitos later in the summer and test those that the type that carry diseases. And then if they found disease in the actual mosquitos we could work with them to have a spring program in town to reduce the number of mosquitos that could carry those diseases. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Now open, Article 12 to questions, comments, amendments. Yes, ma'am.

Sudsbury: I think you created a monster with me, I've never been one of these of voting age.

Moderator: That's quite alright.

Sudsbury: I have a couple questions in regards to that. The first one is we used to spray at our house and if it rained it kind of washed away and got rid of, you know, the stuff that we put down was an all-natural thing. I'm interested in knowing more about what kind they're considering and does this program, like if it's one of those wet summers he's talking about, maybe you need to go more often because it keeps raining and washing it away. And the type that they're using, is there any impact on our wildlife? On our birds and stuff?

Moderator: Thank you, Chief Tice will respond to those questions. Did you get them Chief?

Tice: So I don't know exactly what the type of material they use but, it's very highly effective. They use this under our EPA guidelines, there is not harm to people, there's no harm to vegetation. The type of material they use is specific to those types of mosquitos and those types of mosquito larvae and they're very effective throughout the year, the weather doesn't effect it.

Moderator: The one question would they, if we get rain do they respray.

Tice: No, the weather doesn't impact their usefulness.

Moderator: Thank you. Anyone else to discuss Warrant Article 12 Fund Mosquito Control Program?

Seeing none, we will close the discussion on Article 12 and it moves to the ballot.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 13 – Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Funding [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 13 – Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Funding

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 which will be added to the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in March 2008? This appropriation is in addition to Article 2, the Operating Budget.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-1

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.005

Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-1

Moderator: (continuing) I will recognize Selectman Roy to present Warrant Article 13.

Roy: Thank you, again. Warrant Article 13 seeks to appropriate \$25,000 to put funding into the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. This capital reserve fund was established in 2008 for the purpose of conducting future property revaluations. The capital reserve fund currently has a balance of \$200,388. New Hampshire municipalities are required to reassess property a minimum of once every five years. Hudson's last town-wide property reassessment was in 2022 and it cost approximately \$175,000. The town is scheduled to conduct its next reassessment no later than 2027 property tax year. The tax rate impact for this warrant article is less than .01¢ per 1000. The Board of Selectmen recommended it 4-1, the Budget Committee also recommended it 8-1. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Does anyone wish to discuss the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund, Article 13. Yes, sir.

Ted Trost – 63 Rangers Drive: If I understood the numbers correctly the fund currently has about \$250,000 in it?

Roy: \$200,388.

Trost: And the cost to do the ...

Roy: The last revaluation was \$175,000.

Trost: So, it sounds to me like we have enough money in the fund already to do the next one. Can I ask why we want to put more money in if we already have enough?

Moderator: Question? Do we have an idea of what the cost would be for one at this point?

Mr. Malizia: So we haven't gone out to bid for the next revaluation because it's not until 2027. But, we can all look around at every service we use and they've all gone up pretty significant. This just makes sure that we have enough and should we not spend it, it stays in the fund and it accumulates for the next one because we are required to do this every five years. So, I can't tell you today what it will cost, I don't know. I can probably tell you it's going to be more than \$175,000. And so putting a little bit aside now helps us down the road because again, not knowing what the costs are going to be but knowing what we're paying for every other service, I can imagine it's going to be more. And don't forget as the town grows there's more property to evaluate or reevaluate. Particularly when you have the large project like the Target site. That's going to take a lot of money.

Moderator: Is there still a question Mr. Trost?

Trost: Thank you for that response. I support this.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Jasper.

Jasper: I have a question, Steve don't run far away. So we've been doing what I think is called statistical revaluations with some percentage of boots on the ground. Is there going to come a time when we're going to have to do a full reevaluation of the town with every property looked at? Last time I think that was probably closer to a million dollars when we had to do that. Which was quite a while ago so I didn't know if there was time when we're going to have to do it or if this is the way we're doing it going to be acceptable in the long term.

Moderator: Mr. Malizia will respond.

Malizia: So it's my understanding that the way we're doing a statistical update is good for most of the property. There may be some special property that you'll need to do something, almost a separate appraisal for lack of a better word. We, I think, back in 2001 did a major reval. We hadn't done one for years. Because we're keeping up with it the data doesn't get too far askew so I believe statistically we are meeting all the parameters that the state would expect us to meet doing it the way we're doing it. It's cheaper to do it this way.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion Warrant Article 13. Yes, ma'am.

Putnam: I can verify that when they do the statistical evaluation there's a percentage of the homes that they do actually visit. They visited mine. They measured every single thing on the dimension on my house, my foundation, the shed, everything. So, they do do a percentage of the homes they actually visit.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion Article 13? Seeing none.

We'll close the discussion on Article 13 and it moves to the ballot.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 14 – VacCon Truck Replacement Capital Reserve Funding [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 14 – VacCon Truck Replacement Capital Reserve Funding

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 which will be added to the VacCon Truck Replacement Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in March 2006? \$15,000 of this sum will come from the General Fund and \$15,000 will come from the Sewer Utility Fund. This appropriation is in addition to Article 2, the Operating Budget.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.003

Moderator: (continuing) I will recognize Selectman Jakoby to present Warrant Article 14.

Jakoby: Thank you Mr. Moderator. The Capital Reserve Fund, this particular Capital Reserve Fund was established in 2006 for the purpose of replacing the VacCon Truck. The VacCon Truck is used to clean out the town's sewer system, it is also used to clean out the town's storm water drainage system. This Capital Reserve Fund has a balance of \$136,580. Expenditures from this fund require the approval of voters at a town meeting. The tax rate impact for this warrant article is less than .01¢ per 1000. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. I'll now open Article 14 VacCon Truck Replacement Capital Reserve Funding for questions, comments, amendments. Anyone wish to discuss the Capital Reserve Fund for the VacCon Truck? Seeing none.

I'll close the discussion on Article 14 and it moves to the ballot.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 15 – Drainage Capital Reserve Funding [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 15 – Drainage Capital Reserve Funding

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 which will be added to the Drainage Capital Reserve Fund previously established in March 2024? This appropriation is in addition to Article 2, the Operating Budget.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02

Moderator: (continuing) I will recognize Selectman Morin to present Warrant Article 15.

Morin: Warrant Article 15 seeks to appropriate \$100,000 to be put in funding into the Drainage Capital Reserve Fund. The fund was established in 2024 for the purpose of designing, repairing and replacing storm drains and drainage infrastructure projects. The Capital Reserve Fund currently has a balance of \$100,000. There is approximately 100 of storm drainage in town and much of it predates the 1970's. The heavy precipitation that we have received over the past few years has highlighted the need to continually invest in this critical infrastructure. The tax impact for this article is .02¢ per 1000. The Board of Selectmen recommended this 5-0. The Budget Committee recommended it 9-0. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. I will open the Article 15, the Drainage Capital Reserve Funding to questions or comments. Anyone wish to address Article 15? Seeing none.

We'll close the discussion of Article 15 and it moves to the ballot.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 16 – Fire Apparatus/Equipment Capital Reserve Funding [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 16 – Fire Apparatus/Equipment Capital Reserve Funding

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$225,000 of which \$50,000 will be added to the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund previously established March 14, 2000, \$150,000 will be added to the Fire Apparatus Refurbishment/Repair Capital Reserve Fund previously established March 11, 2008, and \$25,000 will be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established March 18, 2011? This appropriation is in addition to Article 2, the Operating Budget.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.04

Moderator: (continuing) I will recognize Selectman Morin to present Warrant Article 16.

Morin: Warrant Article 16 seeks to appropriate \$225,000 and put \$50,000 into the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund. \$150,000 into the Fire Apparatus Rehab Repair Capital Reserve Fund and \$25,000 into the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund was established in March of 2000 for the purpose purchasing and replacing fire apparatus including engines, pumper, tankers, ladder trucks and forestry units. The Capital Reserve Fund currently has a balance of \$140,622. The Fire Apparatus Refurbish/Repair Capital Reserve Fund was established in March 2008 for the purpose repairing and refurbishing fire apparatus. This Capital Reserve Fund currently has a balance of \$455,952. The Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund was established in March of 2011 for the purpose of purchasing in specialized fire and EMS equipment including not limited to, firefighter protective clothing, self-contained breathing apparatus, defibrillators and other specialized equipment. This Capital Reserve

Fund currently has a balance of \$33,981. The tax impact of this article is .04¢ per 1000. The Board of Selectmen recommended it 5-0. The Budget Committee recommended it 9-0.

Moderator: Thank you. I will now open Article 16 Fire Apparatus/Equipment Capital Reserve Funding, it's actually three funds, to questions, comments, amendments. I want to thank the Board of Selectmen for putting the three of them together. I asked them to group similar Capital Reserve Funds because if we want to add them, DRA says we have to appropriate as a Warrant Article each meeting. We used to put them into the budget after they were first approved but they weren't. This would have been three separate warrant articles. So, we're trying to reduce the ballot as much as we can because it costs a lot of money, we had a five page ballot last year. Hopefully we can get it down to four this year. Anyone wish to discuss Article 16, the Fire Capital Reserves?

If not, I'll close the discussion on Article 16 and it moves to the ballot.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 17 – Benson Park Renovation Capital Reserve Funding [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 17 – Benson Park Renovation Capital Reserve Funding

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 which will be added to the Benson Park Renovation Capital Reserve Fund previously established in March 1998? This appropriation is in addition to Article 2, the Operating Budget.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.002

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Moderator: (continuing) I will recognize Selectman Roy to present Warrant Article 17.

Roy: Warrant Article 17 seeks to appropriate \$10,000 to put funding into Benson Park Renovation Capital Reserve Fund. This Capital Reserve Fund was established in 1998 for the purpose of purchasing and renovating the Benson Park property. The Capital Reserve Fund currently has \$95,066 in it. The tax impact for this Warrant Article is less than .01¢ per 1,000. The Board of Selectmen recommended it 5-0. The Budget Committee recommended it 9-0. Thank you.

Moderator: Now open Article 17 to questions, comments, amendments. Anybody wish to address Article 17? Capital Reserve Fund for the Benson Park Renovations. Yes, Ma'am.

Allen: I just have a question. I live right down the street from Benson Park and anytime I try to bring my dogs or family there it's a sea of Massachusetts residents. Has there ever been any discussion about having a volunteered position or a paid position to charge those who are coming from out of state to use our facilities? Because we as taxpayers are paying for that.

Moderator: Question of the Board. Mr. Jasper will answer.

Jasper: That's a very good question and yes, that was discussed because that has been a problem right from the beginning. And, that was something that I had proposed when I was on the Benson Park Committee and unfortunately the Benson Park Committee and the Board of Selectmen at the time turned that down and that's when I resigned from the Benson Park Committee because I really think that it is terribly inappropriate and expensive for us not to be charging. The state does allow that, we would have to charge town residents, but we could do that with a season pass. So there are ways of doing it but it's going to be, it's not something that's been supported and I think that needs to be revisited.

Allen: Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion on Article 17 the Benson Park Renovation Capital Reserve Fund? Seeing none.

We will close the discussion on Article 17 and it moves to the ballot.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 18 – Energy Efficiency Capital Reserve Funding [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 18 – Energy Efficiency Capital Reserve Funding

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 which will be added to the Energy Efficiency Capital Reserve Fund previously established in March 2020? This appropriation is in addition to Article 2, the Operating Budget.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.005

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Moderator: (continuing) I will recognize Selectman Guessferd to present Warrant Article 18.

Guessferd: Thank you Mr. Moderator. Warrant Article 18 seeks to appropriate \$25,000 to put funding into the Energy Efficiency Capital Reserve Fund. This Capital Reserve Fund was established in 2020 for the purpose of assessing, designing, and or implementing energy efficiency projects in town buildings or properties. This Capital Reserve Fund currently has a balance of \$59,201. The tax impact for this Warrant Article is basically a half a cent per 1000. The Board of Selectmen has recommended this article 5-0. The Budget Committee has recommended this article 9-0. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. We will now open Article 18 to questions, comments, amendments. Yes, ma'am.

Debbie Putnam: 59 Rangers Drive but, also the Chair of the Sustainability Committee who's putting forth this request, too. I know it doesn't appear that this fund needs to be reinfused, but in fact does. Because this fund was able to be used by the Hudson Police Department to do absolutely necessary fix HVAC problems in the controllers and computer system to run the major portion of the building and to marry it the new portion of the building. Those expenses when finally put through will significantly deplete the fund down to in the vicinity of maybe \$16,000, maybe as low as \$14,000. Unfortunately, not all energy efficiency projects are eligible for rebate through various programs through the state and the federal government. In this case, the work at the Hudson PD was not eligible for any rebates. They have additional work that needs to be done regarding the HVAC control system and they again, will not be eligible for energy efficiency rebates. And yet, when installed will be saving on the energy bills in that building for 20 plus years to come, i.e. saving the taxpayers money. This energy capital reserve fund has actually, was the seed money to convert the DPW lighting from regular lighting to LED. That alone, according to Mr. Forrence, the DPW Director at the time, was saving the DPW on the order of \$20,000 - \$25,000 a year. Then we move forward with the conversion of the street lights that are the responsibility of the town, not the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, and the conversion of those street lights from the regular old, incandescent yellow things to the LED, and the very first year they calculated it was saving the town \$84,000 a year. Of course that amount savings has only gone up over the years. So, this energy capital reserve fund, yes, yes it's coming up as a warrant article of \$25,000. But, the payback to the town far exceeds the \$25,000. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Anyone wish to discuss Warrant Article 18 the Energy Efficiency Capital Reserve Fund? Seeing none. We will close the discussion of Warrant Article 18 and it moves to the ballot.

[Selectman Roy speaks to restrict Warrant Articles 10-18]

Ms. Roy moves, you want to move restriction of reconsideration? [Roy: Yes.] Of numbers, what did we end up with... 10-18? Selectman Roy moves to restrict reconsideration of Warrant Article 10-18. Is there a second?

Kimberly Allan: Second.

MOTION: TO RESTRICT WARRANT ARTICLES 10-18

MADE BY: KARA ROY; SECONDED BY: KIMBERLY ALLAN

Moderator: Second, Ms. Allan. Anyone want to talk about that? This would be putting these to bed for this meeting. Articles 10-18. If you are in favor of restricting reconsideration please raise your voter cards. Thank you. All those opposed.

The ayes have it, Articles 10-18 are restricted.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 19 – Establish Public Works Vehicle Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 19 – Establish Public Works Vehicle Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to establish a DPW Vehicle Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of repairing or replacing equipment and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 to be placed in this fund? Further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. This appropriation is in addition to Article 2, the Operating Budget.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.03

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Moderator: (continuing) I will recognize Selectman Morin to present Warrant Article 19.

Morin: As we had talked about earlier and you see in the budget, the Public Works is in desperate need of new dump trucks and this warrant article is new and this would go to putting funds away so in the future we can purchase those trucks. Warrant Article 19 seeks to establish a Public Works Vehicle Repair/Replace Capital Reserve Fund. The purpose of this fund is for repairing or replacing Public Works equipment. This article would appropriate \$150,000 to start the fund. If the article is passed the Board of Selectmen are named the agents to expend from this fund. The tax impact for this article is .03¢ per 1000. Recommended 5-0 by the Board of Selectmen. Recommended 9-0 by the Budget Committee.

Moderator: Thank you. We will now open Article 19 Establish Public Works Vehicle Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund to questions, comments, amendments. Yes, sir.

Ted Trost: So I want somebody to tell whether my impression is correct. It seems like more and more the town is going toward leasing vehicles and not buying them. And my question is, I'm just asking for validation one way or the other on that, when is the last time Public Works purchased a vehicle and what vehicle was it?

Moderator: A question of the Board. Mr. Morin.

Trost: In other words, things that aren't already subject to other Capital Reserve Funds, like VacCon and that.

Morin: First of all, we lease/purchase. We don't lease, so that's different. We do buy them at the end. And what was the other question, I'm sorry I didn't hear it.

Trost: What was the last vehicle that we purchased? But I guess I was not aware of the lease/purchase situation. So, that does change things.

Morin: I believe, if I'm correct, it was the fire apparatus.

Trost: OK. I guess within Public Works, though.

Morin: Oh, I have no idea.

Moderator: [Board member answers] The answer was the rubber tire excavator.

Trost: OK, thank you.

Moderator: Further discussion on Warrant Article 19. Mr. Wilkins.

Wilkins: I'd like to know how this changes our current method of funding repairs. If you're asking to take it out of a particular fund, what are we doing now?

Morin: If you're talking about repairs, for repairs the Public Works takes care of their own trucks. But we need to replace these trucks. They've already replaced the frames and several of them, like Selectman Guessferd has said, we've all taken a tour of Public Works and HCTV actually did a program to show the residents how much rust is on these trucks. There are two, I believe, if we don't replace this year, that we have to put out of service and we're going to be down two trucks for next year's plowing and all the summer, spring/summer and fall work. And as you know, they do an outstanding job with the roads that we have and if we're down two trucks that's going to very much limit their response to a snow storm.

Wilkins: I guess my question is how's this change the funding mechanism from what's current?

Morin: The trucks we're trying to replace are 2006 so I could tell you that we haven't had any funding for new plow trucks since then. We have bought a couple trucks after 2006 but we really haven't had any expenditures and because of the cost of the trucks that have gone up since we purchased them last time, that's why we wanted to start this fund so we could build up the money to have them replaced when they go instead of the one big payment that we're going to have to do. We'll have this put away. The funding put away. Repairs are done out of their normal budget. The repairs they do on the trucks right now at the highway, Public Works garage, is in the budget.

Wilkins: Alright, thank you.

Moderator: OK, further discussion Warrant Article 19? Mr. Trost for a second time.

Trost: Thank you Mr. Moderator. So if this passes are we going to see that repair budget zeroed out in future budgets?

Morin: Can you just say the question again, I didn't hear?

Trost: No problem. So if this is currently funded through the regular budget process, the repairs, part of it, if this passes are we going to see a zero budget line in the repairs in future budgets?

Morin: I can't answer that question because unfortunately the rep from Public Works was sick and had to go home and I don't know the ins and outs of what they do exactly with all the money. So, I couldn't give you a fair answer on that.

Trost: OK. Thank you.

Moderator: Mr. Jasper. To answer?

Jasper: And I think specifically to the question, we've been using Capital Reserve accounts like this for decades. The first one was when we first got in the business of having ambulances and Frank (inaudible)

came up with the idea. So I think specifically to the repairs, I would expect we would see the same repair line item that we normally do. Because if it's like anything else we've been doing it this would be for extraordinary repairs. When something that was catastrophic failure and the line item ran out then the Selectmen could draw on this. But, something like this would not be intended to replace the normal line item for that.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion Warrant Article 19 Establishing the Public Works Vehicle Repair/Replacement Capital Reserve? Any further discussion?

Seeing none, we'll close the discussion on Article 19 and move to the ballot.

Selectman Jakoby: Mr. Moderator, can we, I want to move to restrict for reconsideration number 19.

Moderator: OK. Selectman Jakoby moves to restrict reconsideration of Article 19. Is there a second? Selectman Roy seconds. Any discussion on restricting or reconsideration? If not, those in favor of restricting reconsideration of Article 19 please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed.

MOTION: TO RESTRICT RECONSIDERATION FOR ARTICLE 19

MADE BY: HEIDI JAKOBY; SECONDED BY: KARA ROY

Article 19 is restricted.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 20 – Funding for the Comprehensive Infrastructure Study for the Town of Hudson (by Petition) [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 20 – Funding for the Comprehensive Infrastructure Study for the Town of Hudson (by Petition)

Shall the town of Hudson vote to support a comprehensive infrastructure study, approved in the 2024 election, to be conducted independently by a qualified third-party contractor not affiliated with the Town of Hudson or the Nashua Regional Planning Commission? This study will assess the impact of ongoing and future development on the Town's infrastructure, services, and facilities. The study will include the following components: 1. Comprehensive Traffic Study: Evaluate current traffic conditions and forecast future traffic patterns, including all developments currently under construction or approved for construction. 2. Emergency Services Review: Assess the staffing, equipment, and training needs for the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments based on anticipated demands from new developments. 3. Impact on Schools: Examine the effects of high density housing and other developments on the town's school system, including enrollment projections and capacity needs. 4. Sewer and Water Infrastructure: Determine current and future sewer and water infrastructure needs based on projected growth. 5. Review of Impact Fees: Reassess the town's current impact fees for developers in light of the findings from this study to ensure they cover the costs of supporting new developments. Results will guide updates to the Town Master Plan, zoning ordinances, land use regulations, and budget planning for town services. The study is estimated to cost \$250,000 - \$500,000. [later removed: This article provides the funding needed to proceed with the project and approved by voters in 2024.]

Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0 [later changed to: 3-1]

Moderator: (continuing) Is there anyone here who would be willing to present Article 20? The submitter of this article informed that he was out of town and would not be here to address this. I have to say right now this is not a monied article. The article was written saying that an estimate was going to be

provided. You can't do an estimate for a warrant article. The warrant article has to read, "to raise and appropriate x amount of dollars to do this." You can't do that. DRA will not allow this, even if it is passed, to go through because it couldn't be a monied article. You have to say, "raise and appropriate." And I did enquire about amending it, but if the people were warned on a warrant article, you can't add money that wasn't there. You can zero out, you can increase but, if there's not money warned to the public, you can't amend it to do that. So, this is an advisory article to the Board of Selectmen just like last year's was. But, unfortunately the way they wrote it, it did not provide funding. So, I'll open it up to discussion since no one was here to present it. Yes, sir. Mr. Oates.

Victor Oates: I just want a clarification. Are you saying that because I understood what you just said. So my thought was to amend it to add the, "shall raise and appropriate." But you're stating that we cannot add....

Moderator: The DRA would disallow it because the public wasn't warned that we were raising and appropriating any money. Even though it said it was estimated to cost \$250,000-\$500,000. We can't do that.

Oates: OK, should we pass this just like we passed the one last year? It would be on the Board of Selectmen to actually follow through and actually doing it this time.

Moderator: It would be an advisory, an advisory article.

Oates: OK, thank you.

Moderator: So does anyone wish to discuss Warrant Article 20? Yes, sir.

John Stevens – 42 Adam Drive: I see the Board of Selectmen are not recommending this study. Regardless of funding, I would just like to understand some of the other technical reasons why this study would not be recommended by the Board.

Moderator: Anyone on the Board wish to answer? Mr. Guessferd.

Guessferd: As far as I'm concerned, I know each of us may have our rational. One of the concerns that we had was that it is the way it is written it is not specific to appropriate, raise and appropriate money. the other piece of this is that we have talked about it and it's certainly something that I think we need to do moving forward, taking a look at everything within the town. There are some studies that have been done, relatively recently. On some areas here that would be incorporated into that and we may be able by doing that, we may be able to save some money and not have to, and not redo those things. My view is that this is something that we need, absolutely need to look at. The taxpayers have, the citizens have voted, you know, for us to do this. And for my part, I will support us moving forward with this in some way shape or form. Because I do believe that there is some necessity to do that. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion Warrant Article 20. Yes, sir.

James Crowley: One thing I'd like to say, I learned a lot about problems with using fund balances, dollars per Mr. Coutu and others. However, I think in this article item two is very important to me, emergency services review. I say I'm listening to the Chair, give the public a list of problems then set up an overall plan to upgrade our emergency services. We currently seem to be in a reactive piece-meal upgrade. Adding people, looking at different items, why not an overview of the whole emergency services to start with and something things need improvement right away, other things maybe not. But at least we have a roadmap, a plan. Right now the public we keep bringing forth advisory articles and a little more public relations, work is needed. I don't know how to do this, that's my concern. And I'm happy to hear we have various reserve funds for equipment but I wish I was smart enough to answer a question earlier, I

still don't know the answer, and that's the Town Hall. Was an alternative feasibility study ever done for other sites? I hope that's a very good question or observation. Thank you for your time.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion Warrant Article 20. Mr. Coutu.

Mr. Coutu: I can readily understand why the Board of Selectmen did not recommend this. People fail to understand this town and most governments don't operate up in the clouds. We see what's happening every day, we hire intelligent people, I would like to think we do. We hire intelligent people to run various departments. We have an Administrator that oversees those people and should be meeting with them and guiding them along the way. Budgets are done on an as need basis, they're done annually. But, what goes into the budgets is the standards for employees, that's the biggest cost. Apparatus that needs to be replaced and other such items and the, what is on the trivial side but just as important because they're needed, computers, phone systems and whatever else we need. We have so many, the government is infested with studies at very high costs. To sit here and say that \$250,000 - \$500,000 study is going to correct any deficiency we have in this town is incorrect. We know our infrastructure has problem areas. We have cameras now that go into the sewer system, they can anticipate it and they can go in and fix it and prevent a major casualty in that system. You hear the Fire Chief and Police Chief when they come up here to make their presentations, they know what their needs are, they know what their capacity is for work loads and staffing. That might change because they can't foresee what future problems might come down the road. But, we work from day to day on the problems of those days and we resolve them as we go along. People don't like that. They like studies. Studies cost a lot of money. We don't benefit from studies. We've had Master Plan after Master Plan after Master Plan. Never followed. And yet everybody wants to know why don't have a Master Plan. We have a Master Plan, nobody looks at it. Nobody follows it. Needs change from year to year to year. The costs go up from year to year to year. And we have a form of government that requires that the people decide on every single item in the budget. We don't have a city manager or mayor form of government where all the funds would be dictated from that office, it might not be a bad idea to make a change in our government. A lot of people in town don't like to see it, maybe we should have a study. So my point is, my point is we have, our government runs very well. I don't see, you know, the engineering department comes in and tells us we've done a study and we find that this intersection, if changed, might solve some issues. OK, it's a critical area, a study well worth it but, it was done in-house. And except for if the state is appropriating a portion of the money to do the project, I obviously, DOT will send their engineering staff in and we don't have to go out and have an independent consultant come in and do a study. Let's get serious, very serious. I'm glad we have an opportunity to speak at Deliberative Session. I wish more people, we say this every year we come in, and help us with how our government runs. Our government is running fine, we don't need a study. Thank you.

Moderator: Further discussion on Warrant Article 20. Mr. Jasper.

Mr. Jasper: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. Mr. Moderator I move to amend by striking the last line in this warrant article.

Moderator: Is there a second to that, Mr. Segal. The motion to amend is to strike, "this article provides the funding needed to proceed with the project as approved by the voters in 2024," is to remove that sentence. To speak to your amendment, Mr. Jasper.

**MOTION: TO AMEND BY STRIKING THE LAST LINE IN WARRANT ARTICLE 20
MADE BY: SHAWN JASPER; SECONDED BY: MR. SEGAL**

Jasper: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. I think the purpose should be clear this article does not provide the funding and it should not give anyone the hope that it actually does. Most people won't understand that

it requires the wording to raise and appropriate. So, it would be appropriate to take that line out. Thank you.

Moderator: On the amendment to remove the last sentence, anyone wish to speak to that amendment? The amendment is to remove the last sentence. Yes, ma'am.

Kate Messner – 10 3rd Street: I just don't know if it's enough because it says above. Funding to come from the June 30th fund instead, balance available. So I don't know if removing that line is enough.

Moderator: Well let's deal with this line and then if they want to make an amendment afterwards, we could do that. I think the fact that the second, the last sentence implies that the funding is there. If you take that out as no implication, even though it says it would come from fund balance. Anyone else to discuss the amendment to remove the last sentence, let's deal with that first. If not, if you're in favor of removing the last sentence from the, in favor of the amendment to remove the last sentence, thank you, raise your voter cards please. And those opposed, thank you.

THE "AYES" HAVE IT, MOTION PASSES.

The amendment passes, Article 20 is now amended. We are now on Article 20 as amended. Any further discussion? Mr. Oates.

Oates: Where do I start? You want to complain about studies? Complain about the taxes. Taxes in this town continue to raise. Why do they continue to go up? Because we keep on skipping the infrastructure study. The whole point of it is to save money up front but if you don't do it, it leads to higher costs. The reason why we need the firefighters, the police budget is continuing to go up, asking for dump trucks to be replaced, all the taxpayer money continuing to be impacted, it's because we didn't do an infrastructure study. We're guessing, we're waiting for things to happen and we're reacting after the fact. A well planned study prevents costly mistakes, insures projects are done in the right order and maximizes efficiency for the town's future. We don't have a vision, we don't even have a Master Plan that's been completed in the last decade, almost 15 years now. We continue to guess, we continue to react. This town is very reactive. We wait until the problems occur and then we try and address them instead of actually putting some forethought, studying what's going on and then addressing them in a thoughtful manner. We're continuing to go down this road. If we don't do this study, you're going to run into new schools being needed, new town hall, more fire departments, road issues, it just continues to go on and on. But are we going to address them ahead of time? No. We're going to wait until the actual problem occurs because we didn't do the study. And that's the whole point of an infrastructure study. Saving money by actually understanding what the problems are. Not doing what we're doing here today with these various warrants, and that's guessing.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant 20 as amended. Mr. Jasper.

Jasper: Point of the previous speaker well taken. So, in the second sentence after the word "facilities", end the sentence and remove all the remaining wording about where the funding would be coming from and transferred from.

Moderator: Which words you want to take out?

Jasper: The specific words it would be removed, would be, "with funding to come from the June 30th fund balance available for transfer on July 1st and no additional taxation required", remove those words.

MOTION: TO REMOVE THE WORDS, "WITH FUNDING TO COME FROM THE JUNE 30TH FUND BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR TRANSFER ON JULY 1ST AND NO ADDITIONAL TAXATION REQUIRED" FROM ARTICLE 20 MADE BY: SHAWN JASPER; SECONDED BY: KATE MESSNER

Moderator: Mr. Jasper moves a second amendment. Ms. Messner seconds. Is to remove after the word “facilities”. Make that a period. “With funding to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer July 1 and no additional taxation required.” Those are the words that we’re taking out in the second amendment. Anyone want to discuss the amendment? If not, we ready to vote? If you’re in favor of the amendment please raise your voter cards to take those words out. Thank you. Opposed, please raise your cards. The amendment passes.

THE “AYES” HAVE IT, MOTION PASSES.

Moderator: We now have Article 20. Were you able to get all that HCTV, should I read the whole article, or, anyone want to address Article 20 as amended twice?

Trost: Unfortunately I have another amendment in the first line. Replace the word “fund” with “support”. Just to tidy it up and make it clear.

MOTION: TO REPLACE THE WORD “FUND” WITH “SUPPORT” IN ARTICLE 20
MADE BY: TED TROST; SECONDED BY: MR. WHERRY

Moderator: Who seconded that? Mr. Wherry. So this third amendment is to change the, in the first line, “shall the town of Hudson vote to support,” change the word “fund” to “support”. Anyone wish to discuss that amendment? If not, if you’re in favor of that amendment please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed raise your cards. Thank you.

THE “AYES” HAVE IT, MOTION PASSES.

Moderator: So article, amendment number three passes. Trying to keep all my notes here, it’s getting confusing. Article 20 is now amended. And just to be sure we got it all, let me read it and let me know if I made a mistake. “Shall the Town of Hudson vote to support a comprehensive infrastructure study, approved in the 2024 election, to be conducted independently by a qualified third-party contractor not affiliated with the Town of Hudson or the Nashua Regional Planning Commission? This study will assess the impact of ongoing and future development on the Town’s infrastructure, service, and facilities. The study will include the following components: One, I won’t read them all but, Comprehensive Traffic Study, two, Emergency services Review, three, Impact on Schools, four, Sewer and Water Infrastructure, and five, Review of Impact Fees. And then results will guide updates to the Town Master Plan, zoning ordinances, land use regulations, and budget planning for town services. The study is estimated to cost \$250,000 - \$500,000. And then that last sentence is gone. That’s how it now reads. Any further discussion on Warrant Article 20? Yes, sir.

Jordan Ulery: Now that we’ve amended it and corrected it and modified it, does it do anything?

Moderator: Well, it’s the feeling of the town, or the direction of the town to the Board of Selectmen.

Ulery: Thank you, sir.

Moderator: Further discussion. Seeing none.

We will close the discussion on Warrant Article 20 as amended.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 21 – Remove Vote Tallies from Ballot (by Petition) [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 21 – Remove Vote Tallies from Ballot (by Petition)

Should the Town of Hudson stop showing the total numbers of votes from town board (like the Selectmen or Budget committee) next to questions on the ballot? Instead, this change will: 1. List how each board member voted, by name, for every question or article. 2. Make sure boards share clear and

honest information about ballot questions at least three weeks before the election. 3. Get this information out to everyone in ways that are easy to find, like: Posting on the town's website. Sharing in local newspapers. Sending emails to people who sign up for town news. Posting on the town's official social media pages. Printing copies for Town Hall, the library, and other public places.

Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00

Moderator: (continuing) I will recognize Mr. Vurgaropolis, a petitioner, to present Article 21.

Vurgaropolis: Mr. Moderator, thank you. As he said it's, I apologize for the confusion. [Moderator asks for quiet in the back] I apologize for the confusion of the way I wrote this. It didn't come out my head the right way. My intent is never to remove the tallies, better yet, create transparency between the way the Board and Committees vote by understanding who voted and how they voted. I would like to put an amendment up against this to clarify the verbiage in this. I would like make it state, "should the Town of Hudson vote to amend the Town ballot to show the, how the Board or Committees vote by way of placing initials of voting members next to every question." Talking to Mr. Moderator he had it explained to me how long this would make the ballot by using names and all that. And I thought about it and yes, names would be very long for the ballot. I don't think initials as you can read the ballot in front of you would show that who is voting which way but, it shouldn't extend the ballot terribly because there's plenty of room to the right where they're indicated. This is just to create transparency and create value and trust between the residents of Hudson and the Town with the communication. Thank you.

Moderator: You wanted to make that as an amendment?

Vurgaropolis: Yes.

Moderator: OK. Let me read this again. This is Mr. Vurgaropolis who is going to make a motion to, you want to replace the whole Article 21?

Vurgaropolis: I think that clarifies it.

Moderator: With this?

Vurgaropolis: It's a long winded version I had.

Moderator: OK. Let me read it out if you can it Mike. I'll give you that if you want. "Should the Town of Hudson vote to amend Town ballots to show how the Boards and Committees vote by way of placing the initials of the voting members next to every question?" So, we're replacing Article 21 with these words. Mr. Vurgaropolis did you want to speak anymore on your amendment? Do I have a second? Seeing none. [audience identifies a second motion] Mr. Crowley, thank you. Let me read it again. Mike you have all that? [Mike affirms] Do we have it up yet or not? Not quite? OK, let me just read it again and then we'll go into discussing the amendment. Should the Town of Hudson replace Article 21 with the following: "Should the Town of Hudson vote to amend Town ballots to show how the Boards and Committees vote by way of placing the initials of the voting members next to every question?" Anyone wish to address the amendment? Mr. Jasper.

MOTION: TO REPLACE ARTICLE 21 WITH, "SHOULD THE TOWN OF HUDSON VOTE TO AMEND TOWN BALLTOS TO SHOW HOW THE BOARD AND COMMITTEES VOTE BY WAY OF PLACING THE INITIALS OF THE VOTING MEMBERS NEXT TO EVERY QUESTION?"

MADE BY: XEN VURGAROPOLIS; SECONDED BY: JAMES CROWLEY

Mr. Jasper: Thank you Mr. Moderator. To start off I've already shown that my memory of some of the voting laws are in error. I don't want to make the error again, but, my recollection, so this is the question for the Town attorney. My recollection is that we can only put on the ballot specifically what is

allowed by the legislature and I think it allows just for the vote tally. I was looking for the specific law, I couldn't find it. But, maybe... So, this amendment, as the Town you probably couldn't hear, the Town attorney has said that is correct, that this is not a legal amendment because we can only put on the ballot what the legislature said and that would be the vote of each of the bodies. So, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Trost.

Mr. Trost: I also rise in opposition to this amendment. My concern would be we would probably run into a situation at some point where there are Board members, Committee members, with same initials and it would be unclear how they voted if they didn't vote the same.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion on the amendment? Ms. Rice.

Kim Rice: I would just like to remind everyone that every meeting is on HCTV. You are free to come to every meeting and you can witness in person how every Board member votes.

Moderator: Any further discussion on the amendment? To change the words. Mr. Crowley. Speak to your second.

Mr. Crowley: Well first off, I have to thank the Town attorney for the education. So, looks like this can't go forward anyway. But, I think the whole view is as, I'll admit, I'm on the Planning Board. Sometimes I wonder if anybody's even watching on TV and a lot of times we don't even see the public coming. And I think the Board of Selectmen has same concerns, Budget Committee, other committees. But, this would have been one way for all the busy people, taxpayers of this Town, to actually see transparency, something in one spot easy to see. And, I just wish there was some way on the Town website that, maybe if it's not on the ballot, but, a summary of how that was voted, or something like that. Instead of reading page after page of notes or minutes to discern the same thing. Maybe a summary type of thing after all the voting has, recommendation voting is done. Thanks.

Moderator: Thank you. Let me give you a little bit of history here on how we've come up with some of these. 40:13 V1 Recommendations on warrant articles are mandatory. Whether the Board of Selectmen or the Budget Committee recommend or not recommend. The option of putting on the votes, 5-0 or 4-1 or whatever it is, was an option given to the Board of Selectmen. In 2008 the Town voted that the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee votes to appear. That's how we got to where we got to today. In 2020, in Article 21, the tax rate impact was added by the Town. Now on the one with the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee votes are to appear, there's a section in that law that says even if the Town doesn't vote to do that, the Board of Selectmen can add it anyway. Which seems kind of sensible. But that's how we got to where we are today. This would state that not only do we have the 5-0 or whatever it is, they want to have the initials of who voted, how they voted. And I'm not sure that's something that the law would allow but, we would find out about it afterwards. It's a little bit more than what the law says. Usually the law says you can do something, you can do it. But, if it doesn't say you can do it, you can't. Seems a little odd. So, are you ready for that amendment? The amendment is to replace the original Warrant Article 21 with those words, you got them all there Mike? Thank you. This in favor of, oh, Mr. Wilkins did you want to...

Mr. Wilkins: If we know that this does not agree with the law, can it be added to the amendment? To the Warrant Article?

Moderator: What do you mean?

Wilkins: If as he said...

Moderator: We don't have that specifically. Unless someone challenges it.

Wilkins: Oh, OK.

Moderator: We can do whatever we want in these meetings, just whether or not it will ever take effect is beside the point.

Wilkins: I'm wondering if we can put in...

Moderator: The body can do what it wishes.

Wilkins: If we put in the wording that the lawyer said it's not allowed.

Moderator: Well we don't know if not legal.

Wilkins: We don't know that, OK. Thank you.

Moderator: Mr. Weissgarber. On the amendment.

Mr. Weissgarber: So, just a question about, this doesn't, putting this on the, a warrant article doesn't change somebody from coming up and asking questions on why did you vote in the affirmative, why did you vote in the negative? And then we have the prerogative to either answer or not. So putting the initials on there changes nothing, right? Even if you know who voted a certain way doesn't mean they have to come up and explain why they voted a certain way. And the term in there, "clear and honest", I think information and feedback. So, is something broken today, is there a lack of integrity today, I guess is my question. Are we questioning the honesty of our Boards and Committee members? What does that mean? I guess that's my question.

Moderator: Thank you. You ready for a vote on the amendment. To change the original wording to the wording that showed up there. [motions to the big screen with amendment] "Should the Town of Hudson vote to amend Town ballots to show how the Board and Committees voted by way of placing the initials of the voting members next to every question?" If you're in favor of the amendment please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed please raise your voter cards.

THE "NAYS" HAVE IT, MOTION FAILS

Moderator: We are now on Article 21 as originally proposed. Mr. Jasper.

Jasper: Thank you Mr. Moderator. I move to amend this article by removing all after the first line. So, it would only say, "Should the Town of Hudson stop showing the total number of votes from town Boards like the Selectmen or Budget Committee next to the questions on the ballot?"

[Mr. Coutu seconds the amendment]

MOTION: TO REMOVE ALL VERBIAGE AFTER THE FIRST LINE IN ARTICLE 21

MADE BY: SHAWN JASPER; SECONDED BY: ROGER COUTU

Moderator: Who did that? Mr. Coutu, seconds. The amendment is to remove everything after "instead" or including instead. So that the article would now read, "Should the town of Hudson stop showing the total number of votes from Town Board like the Selectmen or Budget Committee next to the questions on the ballot?" Mr. Jasper to address your amendment.

Jasper: Yes. So, the article is written even if it were to pass, it wouldn't do any of the things necessarily that are listed in there. Certainly printing copies costs money, there'd be a lot of time involved by Town staff and so there's no appropriation for this and it certainly didn't change it to listing to how each member would vote. So, if we want to do this, which I certainly don't, I like having the recommendations with the vote on there. But, to make this as clear as possible and realistic as to what it would do if it passes, I think the amendment is necessary.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment.

Wilkins: Can I suggest changing the word to “continue” putting the count on?

Moderator: No. Because the intent of this article is to take it off.

Wilkins: Oh, OK.

Moderator: Any further discussion on the amendment? Ms. Jakoby.

Ms. Jakoby: I rise in support of this amendment. I really would like to know how the public feels whether they would like those votes on the ballot or not on the ballot. So I support this amendment.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment, to removing everything after the first sentence.

Ms. Putnam: I’m in support of this amendment as the suggested ways of informing the public as to how each member of the Board of Selectmen or Budget Committee, whatever, voted could incur a result in the encouragement of significant cost to the Town.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment. Seeing none. Are you in, if you are in favor of the amendment to remove everything after the first sentence, please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed. The ayes have it, the amendment passes. Article 21 now reads, “Should the Town of Hudson stop showing the total numbers of votes from the Town Board like the Selectmen or Budget Committee next to the questions on the ballot.” Anyone wish to discuss that article? Yes, sir.

Mike Tranfaglia – 24 Woodcrest Drive: Just to question, would this be an advisory? Or would this...

Moderator: It is kind of because the law states that even if the Town votes not to put the numbers, the results on, the Selectmen can do it anyway. I don’t know why that bill was ever written, but, legislature does it’s thing up there. But, yes. It almost makes it advisory. But it gives the sense of the Town of whether or not they want to see that. So, do get some of these that even though they are advisory they give the sense of the Town in the vote. Any further discussions on... yes, Mr. Tranfaglia.

Tranfaglia: I’m sorry. I looked at the Town lawyer, did you say yes it would be advisory? There is a, that’s a little foggy because you said it would kind of be. It looked like you nodded yes. So, I’m not, could we get a clarification?

[Town attorney agrees with the Moderator]

Tranfaglia: OK, that’s the ruling.

Moderator: That’s the way the law is written. Further discussion on Warrant Article 21 as amended? Seeing none.

I will close the discussion on Warrant Article 21.

Moderator: Ladies and gentlemen, we have completed the legislative portion of the Town Warrant. Warrant Articles 22-33 are zoning amendments, you can take a look at them. I don’t know if they have handouts. I think in the back the Chairman of our Planning Board. And also I believe the Town and the School will be sending out to every household a description of all the warrant articles and the zoning amendments. And I want to remind people, next Saturday, here in this building at 9:00 a.m. the School Budget will be addressed and their warrant articles. On March 11th, you will vote on these warrant articles and the schools. Ward 1 will be at the Hudson Memorial School, Ward 2 will be Alvirne. The streets in those wards are in the back of the book here. I also want to mention that the Hudson Women’s Club will hold a Candidate’s Night on, and I didn’t write down the date, [audience member

confirms the 20th] the 20th of February here. You can see all the candidates who have signed up for offices for the Town. Selectmen Guessferd.

Guessferd: The Moderator did specifically be correct with regards of the locations. But if you look at the back page of your warrant, it says "Ward 1, Hudson Community Center", please ignore that. OK, it's at Hudson Memorial School. So, please make sure we get you to the right place. We'll probably have signs out here anyway just to direct people over there. But, it's at Memorial, not as printed here.

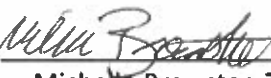
Moderator: Thank you, I didn't catch that. We are now ready to finish our business. Ladies and gentlemen I'll accept a motion to adjourn. Moved by Kim Rice, seconded by Kim Allan. I don't use cards for this, I'll just take a voice vote. All in favor of adjourning, please say aye. Those opposed. The ayes have it, we are adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN at 12:34 PM

MADE BY: KIM RICE; SECONDED BY: KIM ALLAN

THE "AYES" HAVE IT, MOTION PASSES

Transcribed by Lorrie Weissgarber, Executive Assistant

Attest: 
Michelle Brewster, Town Clerk