

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023
Community Center, Lyons 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 via audio recording

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Selectman Morin

[A moment of silence for Hudson Firefighter Todd Berube]

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 the Warrant Articles that will be voted on at the March 14th. Election. All the Articles, by law, **MUST** be placed on the Ballot. The Moderator's rules are in the handout that you were given. If you have any questions about the rules, please feel free to ask for a clarification by raising a "Point of Order". This body may also vote to establish its own rules that you wish if you deem them necessary. You may also vote to overrule any decision of the Moderator if you so choose. If you are new to the Deliberative Session, please review these rules.

As a Legislature, we will be discussing the Warrant Articles before us. Those discussions will be respectful of everyone's opinions. We do not cheer or applaud when we agree or boo and grown when we disagree with the speaker. Please, be respectful of all comments and opinions of others as you would want yours to be respected. To keep personalities out of this debate, please use terms such as "the previous speaker", "the Selectmen member", or "the Budget Committee member". All questions and comments are to be directed through the Moderator. There is no requirement that anyone must yield to answer a question. If you are a registered voter of Hudson, you were issued a RED VOTER CARD when you checked in. We will use that card for any votes we need to take during this meeting. Do not lose it. You will not get another one. After the meeting there's a box at the back of the room where you can recycle it and we can reuse them.

Only registered voters of Hudson are allowed to participate in the discussion of the warrant. There are some non-voters however, staff members of the Town, our Town Attorney, who will be allowed to speak to answer questions to assist us in the meeting. Please turn your phones and pages off or to silent mode so as not to interrupt the discussions. We will take a few breaks as needed. Refreshments are for sale by the Hudson's Women's Club. Also, **this meeting is being televised live by the Hudson Cable people and will be available for viewing or streaming after today on HCTV.** We do appreciate the HCTV Committee and staff for all they do to keep the Hudson citizens informed.

At the end of this meeting, the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen will be holding separate meetings in order to reconsider their recommendations on the Warrant before it goes to the March ballot.

6. INTRODUCTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

by Chairman Kara Roy

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 2

Vice Chair Bob Guessferd

Selectman Dave Morin
Selectman Marilyn McGrath

7. INTRODUCTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

by Chairman Ted Trost
Norman Martin, Vice Chairman
Alejandro Urrutia
Rich Weissgarber
Patrick Quinlan [Clerk]
Kathy Leary
Gretchen Whiting [School Liaison]
Shawn Murray
Bob Clegg
Bill Cole

8. STAFF/OTHERS

Donna Melanson, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Steve Malizia, Town Administrator
Scott Tice, Fire Chief
John Beike, I.T. Director
Jim McIntoch, Director of Community Media
Michael Davis, Police Captain
Jason Downey, Master Patrol Officer

STAFF/OTHERS - Non-voters

Jay Twardosky, Acting Public Works Director
Lisa Labrie, Finance Director
Linda Pilla, Library Director
Tad Dionne, Police Chief
David Cayot, Police Captain
Brian Groth, Town Planner
Town Attorney - Attorney David LaFevre of Tarbell and Brodich
Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

9. RETURN OF THE WARRANT TO THE DISTRICT CLERK

Moderator: We will now have the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen return the official Warrant to the Town Clerk. [Chairman Roy handing over the Town Warrant to Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant, accepting the Warrant on behalf of the Town Clerk.] Thank you.

10. DELIBERATIVE SESSION OF TOWN MEETING

Moderator: To the inhabitants of the Town of Hudson in the County of Hillsborough in the state of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs are hereby notified that the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows: First Session of the Annual Meeting today at 9am in the Hudson Community Center. Second Session for Ballot Voting shall be March 14, 2023 from 7am to 8pm. Ward One will vote at the Community Center here and Ward Two will vote at Alvirne High School in the cafeteria on Derry Road. The first article always is the election of officers which will take place March 14.

Selectmen's Warrant Articles

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Meeting - February 4, 2023 - page 3

Moderator: (referring to **Warrant Article 02 - Revise Table of Permitted Uses** and **Warrant Article 03 - Petition to Amend Town Code 334**) Warrant Articles 02 and 03 are Zoning Amendments. We don't discuss them here. They have a separate process for the Planning Board to approve or disapprove. If you have questions on these Zoning Amendments you will have to direct that to the Planning staff before March. We don't discuss them because we can't change them or do anything with them

Moderator reading Warrant Article 04 - Operating Budget [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 04 - 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 amount set forth on the budget posted with the Warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for for the purpose set forth therein, totaling \$33,527,659? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$32,879,067 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 4-1
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-1

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.42
Estimated Tax Rate: \$4.97

Moderator: (continuing) **I will recognize Chairperson Trost to speak on Warrant Article #04.**

Chairman Trost: The Board of Selectmen directed the department heads to submit level funded operating budgets exclusive of labor and benefits costs. Other major items are new initiatives that would be addressed separately for the Board's consideration either as a request outside of the department's budget or in the form of a warrant article. The Board then reviewed each major item and adjusted the department's budget for those deemed essential for the current year for the department's operation. The Board then voted to send the Budget Committee a general fund operating budget of \$33,666,219, the sewer fund operating budget of \$2,175,003 and the water fund operating budget of \$4,526,001. The Board also approved the general fund default budget in the amount \$32,879,067, the sewer fund default budget in the amount \$2,145,341 and a water fund default budget in the amount of \$4,517,958. After reviewing the general fund operating budget the Budget Committee is recommending a general fund operating budget of \$33,527,659. The projected tax rate of the general fund is to be \$4.97 per thousand which is a \$0.42 increase from fiscal year '23.

Moderator: Thank you. **We will now open Warrant Article 04 the operating budget to questions, comments, amendments.** Yes, Ma'am.

Peggy Huard, 13 David Drive: I rise today to make a motion to amend Warrant Article 04. I'd like to **make a change in the amount from 33,527,659 to \$31,527,659.**

Moderator: Mrs. Huard is proposing an amendment. Is there a second to that motion to amend. Yes, Sir. Your name Sir. John Flanders. To reduce the budget to \$31,527,659. On the amendment. We are going to stick with just the amendment at this time. Mrs. Huard, on your amendment.

**MOTION: TO REDUCE THE BUDGET TO \$31,527,659
MADE BY: PEGGY HUARD; SECONDED BY: JOHN FLANDERS**

Huard: I came here today to ask my fellow taxpayers to join me in holding the Town of Hudson accountable for a prudent and ethical budget and spending costs . The taxpayers are the final checks and balances in any government. Far too many taxpayers without notice make many sacrifices ...Each year the taxes will continue to increase. The taxpayers are constantly told that the increase is the School District's fault and only the School District's fault...After looking into an unethical entry in our tax bill it is clear to me that the Town has its own issues and concerns contributing to a much higher tax burden. It's illegal and unnecessary. The taxpayers make sacrifices for everything that is a necessity. The Town increases taxation...Some departments spending that are imprudent often wasteful and abusive. Municipalities are created to provide some safety and welfare of the general population. The whole community not private interest not special interest nor any other conflict of interest. Taxpayers legal liabilities are only to pay for appropriations such as general and public purpose. The New Hampshire constitution supports this. Municipalities are created to service the citizens not the other way around. Municipalities are nonprofit entities -

Voter: Point of Order, Mr. Moderator

Moderator: Point of Order. Mr. Jasper. We are talking on the amendment.

Shawn Jasper: She is giving a speech on government not the amendment to reduce the budget.

Moderator: Thank you. Please stick to the amendment. Mrs. Huard

Huard: With due respect Mr. Moderator this is why I am motioning to reduce the budget. I request permission to continue. Thank you.

Huard: (continuing) Municipalities are non-profit entities however judging from the size and numbers of fund balances of revolving funds the Town of Hudson is clearly overtaxing . In addition to overtaxing the Town enjoys the benefit of earning other special revenues from taxpayer's resources. These respective are departments appear to increasing their appropriations not only so they can provide for the general purpose of the municipality but so they can have ample resources on hand to earn such a revenue. Looking at what is called the unassigned general fund balance one can clearly see the excessive taxation. The unassigned general fund balance is nothing more than an accumulation of overtaxation...of unexpended appropriations which we're asked to pay along with unplanned or poorly planned revenue. Any revenue that the Town earns does not have a legal restriction. It's suppose to be used to offset taxation. So in any year there is fund balance taxation was overstated by that amount. The unassigned general fund balance belongs to the taxpayer. Any remaining fund balance at the end of a fiscal year should be returned to the taxpayer. This is suppose to be used in a future year to offset taxation. Instead the majority is paying for emergencies and other Town uses. This unassigned general fund is at approximate \$8,000,000 as of 2022...the Town applied from this \$8,000,000 to offset taxation in 2024 a mere \$600,000...In addition to having a significant fund balance left...actual spending is not always as prudent and ethical as it could be -

Moderator: Mrs. Huard please speak to the reduction and why you're doing it.

Huard : Prudent and ethical...are just not Hudson policies. There are standard policies that are designed to protect the taxpayer from abuse of taxation. Policies should not be abused...There are many specific areas I can spend time on however...departments give a bottom line number. We all know the Town has the final say in it being reduced. So I request that the Town take a good look at the budget and request a for 2024 and move any and all requests for

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 5

appropriations that do not affect the general public purpose of the Town of Hudson. I also request and encourage you to account a commitment to all policies that safeguard all appropriations received from taxation in a more ethical and prudent manner. In closing I ask my fellow taxpayers to stand with me.

Hold the Town accountable for an ethical and prudent budget as possible not only for 2024 but each and every year forward to support my amendment.

Moderator: Thank you. We are on the amendment to reduce the operating budget to \$31,527,659. Anyone else to speak on the amendment. Let's stick to that number. Yes, Ma'am.

Debra Putnam, 59 Rangers Drive: I'm speaking in opposition to this motion. I'm inviting Police Chief Dionne to speak to the effects of two years of default budgets on the operations of the Hudson Police Department. I also would like to ask that the appropriate person on this Board today speak to the limitations of the use of that fund balance. Apparently I've been given that this is just not something people can poke from like a piggy bank. There are strict rules in place for the use of this fund balance.

Moderator: We have two questions. One to our Police Chief. And one to if one on the Board wants to respond. Selectperson Roy will respond first.

Roy: I will respond to the figure Ms. Huard pointed out as the balance of our unassigned fund. That is an accumulation over quite a few years. That is not just one year. As to the rules I will refer to Mr. Malizia about what that can be spent on.

Moderator: Our Town Administrator Mr. Malizia.

Malizia: So prudent policy dictates or recommends that towns maintain a fund balance of 5-10% of gross appropriations which this number is approximately 9%. Fund balance comes from under expending. So if you didn't spend all the money you appropriated last year. It also comes from revenue, motor vehicles, So when an activity is high in those areas we receive more money than we budgeted, goes into the fund balance. The Selectmen have the discretion over that fund balance to use towards the tax rate. The last five or six years \$600,00 to do that. Any other appropriations and expenditure of that money has to come from this body. We've used some of that fund balance to build the fire station on Lowell Road as an example. This body can vote to do so...My understanding selectmen can spend it either through taxes or proposed warrant articles for the voters to propose how to spend these appropriations. That's my understanding about how that works.

Moderator: There was a question on the if this passes our default budget would be higher than the operating budget. And there was a question to the Police Chief as to operating under a default budget. Chief.

Chief Dionne: Thank you for allowing me to answer that question. So essentially it's been very challenging over the last two years. We were operating back to back default budgets which means we were using money from 2021 to try to fund the Police Department...I can tell you the spike in inflation, supply chain change a massive challenge. When you think about the operations for gas for instant for facility management, maintenance is based on 2021 numbers. When we have 6% 10% inflation it makes it very difficult. The easiest way I can to manage that is when I have retirees which I've had a lot in past years I don't replace them right away. That's what I've been doing to run without hiring...I'm letting good candidates go to simply cover our expenses...puts a lot of pressure on our Patrol Division. The impact are wide and large...The greatest impact is not filling vacancies that makes it very difficult for us.

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 6

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on the operating budget to reduce the amount. To speak on the amendment. Yes. Ma'am.

Diana Lamothe, St. Laurent Drive: I rise in opposition to the amendment. As it was mentioned by previous speakers the Town has been in a default budget for two years and with the proposed amendment the operating budget will be below the default budget. That does not work well for the Town. And as it has been mentioned also there is an unassigned balance similar to what homeowners are recommended. You maintain two month's of expenses in savings as a contingency fund. That's approximately 16%. The Town as the Town Administrator mentioned is currently at 9% and the suggested percentage is at 5-10%. And again there is an amount from the unassigned fund balance to use to offset the tax rate for the next year. It has been \$600,000 for many years. If someone truly wants to see the unassigned fund balance decrease more than increase they can always suggest more of the unassigned fund balance than cutting the budget. The impact the budget cut will have is a long lasting impact.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment.

Jasper: Motion to move the question

Moderator: We have a motion to move the question -

Huard: (stepping up to the mic) Point of Order. Can he do that from his seat, Sir. He needs to get up.

Moderator: Point of Order is always called from the floor. You don't have to come up to the mic. The first motion we will take is whether to cut off debate on the amendment. Which we will then vote on the amendment.

**MOTION: TO CUT OFF DEBATE OF THE AMENDMENT
MADE BY: SHAWN JASPER; SECONDED BY: [voter from the floor]**

Moderator (continuing): If you are in favor of cutting off debate you would vote "yes". If you are not in favor and you want to hear more discussion you would vote no. Those in favor of cutting off debate please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed.

THE "AYES" HAVE IT. BY A MAJORITY, BY A SUPER MAJORITY.

Thank you. **We will now vote on the amendment to reduce the operating budget to \$31,527,659.** If you are in favor of the amendment please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed to the amendment.

THE "NAYS" HAVE IT. THE AMENDMENT FAILS.

We are now on Warrant Article 04 as it originally is 33, 527,659. Any further discussion on the amendment. Yes, Sir.

Shawn Jasper, 83 Old Derry Road: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. I rise to amend the budget by **increasing line 5030-119 by 30,000, line 5030-108 by 2,295 and line 5030-112 by 3,900. Total increase of 39, excuse me by 35,195.**

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 7

Moderator: You are going to have to give us those numbers again, Mr. Jasper. Because I don't have them.

Jasper: I have them written down. I don't need to refer to them again. I can give them to you.

Moderator: Yes. You'll have to identify what they are for the voters. So there's an amendment of which I'm going to ask for a second to increase the budget by \$35,195. Is there a second. Mr. Bernard. Motion made and seconded. We are now on Amendment #2 for the increase of three line items. Would you explain them, Mr. Jasper.

**MOTION: TO INCREASE BUDGET BY \$35,195
MADE BY: SHAWN JASPER; SECONDED BY LEO BERNARD**

Jasper: The first is for the salaries for elected officials. The second is for FICA and the third is for retirement. So if I may speak to the motion and explain. I think it is obvious by article 17 and what's been going on in the office of Town Clerk/Tax Collector. That we have a problem. My proposal is for Town Meeting through the budgetary process to exercise its authority given by statute to set the salary of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector at \$90,000. Currently the Town Clerk/Tax Collector salary is just under \$60,000. This is not a reasonable amount in this day and age. We've traditionally done this by warrant article which is not required by law for us to do. It is the authority of this body to set that into law. Doing this and stating that would be the intent we accomplish that. Article 17 might change things but if it doesn't we are stuck in the same situation. I think we need to address what happens. I will certainly be speaking to Article 17 later but I think we need to be realistic about what we ask even if it is just a Town Clerk and a Tax Collector combined those two officers are collecting over a hundred-million dollars a year in taxes and fees. And we are asking them to do an incredible job at a salary that is not competitive with anything that I know of that would require their type of skillset. Within the Department of Agriculture I have directors who are making within the \$70,000 range... Whether we split this job or not there is not enough money here for these positions. This would move us in the right direction. In theory a lot of money talking about a \$33,000,000 budget. I hope we can do a little preplanning here by putting this money in and taking care of potentially an issue.

Moderator: Thank you. On Amendment #2 to increase the budget by \$35,195 which is in the Town Clerk account. Yes, Sir.

Norman Martin, 33 Edgar Court: Thank you Mr. Moderator. I can't support this because we as a legislative body five years ago adopted a sliding salary scale for the Town Clerk. I think you all remember it. It's based on how many years of service you've been in that office. It's still in effect. So the bottom scale is whatever their pay is now to a higher scale... I know this Town voted for it. So to increase now that base salary is throwing out the salary scale. So I would rather see us stick with the salary scale today versus increasing the bottomline budget... We are in a time where people are losing their jobs... In reality the economy is not good and people are not getting raises... I don't support the amendment. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. For further discussion on the amendment to increase the 5030 budget lines.

Huard: In the private industry if you do something to harm your customers or make them not satisfied with you, you don't get rewarded. So our Tax Collector should not get rewarded either.

Moderator: Please be in order. Further discussion on the amendment to Warrant Article #04 on the 5030 account. Yes, Ma'am.

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 8

Laurie Jasper, 83 Old Derry Road: I have a question. Do we have a Town Clerk currently.

Moderator: Yes, we have a Town Clerk filling in the position until March.

L. Jasper: Is this position still being actively pursued for a full time person.

Moderator: It is. We have a Town Clerk/Tax Collector currently until March. And there is a candidate for the March election.

L. Jasper: Okay but we have had some people come in and go out because it's a huge position and there's a lot to it so I think we need to consider that too. And \$30,000 if that helps us have. How about better hours too. They were closing for lunch all the time from what I can remember. We used to open at 7pm on Thursdays for people who work late. So there's a lot to consider here and I think this would help Hudson.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment to increase the budget \$35,195. Yes, Ma'am.

Putnam: I did not anticipate this motion. But looking at it and Article 17 what was in the back of my mind was that the Town needs to hire a person who has a verified skillset to be a Tax Collector. As one before mentioned our budget is significant. This should not be an elected position and it should not be a position where well we can get so and so because -

Moderator: (banging gavel) Please stick to the amendment on the amount. We will get to that when we get to Article 17.

Putnam: Alright. Then I will say that I am in favor of the amendment to help attract quality Tax Collector to do a proper and honorable job.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes, Sir.

Rich Weissgarber, 21 Flying Rock Road: The speaker that made the motion I just would like to understand how are you exactly coming up with the numbers. I want to support the motion and maybe there's some kind of wiggle room to make it more palatable because I think 30,000 kind of jumping out at folks is huge.

Moderator: Will Mr. Jasper respond, yield.

S.Jasper: I agree it's a huge amount in terms of a pay raise because it is about 50% roughly. The problem is for too long we have let this position slide. So it is way out of sync with the responsibilities. I'm looking at this with my experience of what other similar positions pay. I think you could justify this perhaps at \$110,000 for this position. But based on my knowledge of people with what skillsets I'm very comfortable that \$90,000 would attract someone with the state benefits...I think we just have to be realistic. We can certainly argue if it should be 85 or 95. I think just saying because it's so much you can't get there. It doesn't solve the problem.

Moderator: Further discussion.

Weissgarber: So are you're saying \$90,000 before benefits or the whole of the salary then benefits so it probably would be exceed the \$110,000.

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 9

S.Jasper: Yes. That's why I added in the additional retirement, social security and medicaid to do that position. You know I'll tell you right now as Commissioner of Agriculture you can look in the RSA's.

I'm making \$120,000 for that position which is on the low end...and I have a department that is somewhat of \$6,00,000 a year and we are dealing with bringing in \$100,000,000 plus a year.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion. Mr. Weissgarber.

Weissgarber: Does the current Clerk, Tax Collector get overtime. No. No overtime. Alright thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment to increase the Town Clerk/Tax Collector account \$35,195. Yes, Sir.

John Flanders, 4 Pinewood Road: I'm on Social Security I make roughly about \$40,000...This increases are kind of crazy. Everyone has a few dollars to spend but no one has the amount of money that this gentleman is suggesting...I suggest we stay to the sliding scale. Jumping things out of proportion and we don't have the money...We haven't adjusted from 2019 the manual that states everything we're talking about...I have a \$300,000 home. My payments went up by \$400 a month just in escrow so I can pay my taxes. Which on top of it was mishandled by the company that bid for...I agree to keep it on a sliding scale.

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

Robinson Smith, 48 Burns Hill Road: I find it odd that we are comparing this position to a state run position. I don't understand why there wasn't some kind of an analysis especially by Mr. Jasper here in the surrounding communities to find out how much additional taxes should be paid. Jumping the gun to say state gets paid x, y and z has nothing to do with our economy here locally. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment to Warrant Article 04 increasing the budget. Yes, Sir.

Victor Oates, 77 Sousa Boulevard: I am not in favor or against this at this point just providing the information. Just on some rough research. The medium salary for a Town Clerk in greater Nashua area is \$47,000 thus 75% level is 52,008. 90,000 I'm not saying I'm opposed I'm just saying a Town Clerk in this area that the data I'm receiving does not support a \$90,000 salary.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. This lady over here.

Theresa Stewart, 22 Tamarack Street: As much as I respect Mr. Jasper's opinion I think a raise like this should be a separate warrant article and let the voters decide.

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

Leo Bernard, 3 Bungalow Avenue: I'd like to move the question.

Moderator: Is there a second. Selectman Roy seconds to cut off debate on the amendment.

**MOTION: TO CUT OFF DEBATE ON THE AMENDMENT
MADE BY: LEO BERNARD; SECONDED BY: KARA ROY**

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 10

Moderator: (continuing) If you are in favor of cutting off debate on the amendment please raise your cards. Thank you. Those opposed raise your cards.

THE "AYES" HAVE IT.

We are going to vote on the amendment. **The amendment is to increase the operating budget by \$35,195 in three sections 5030-119 at \$30,000, 5030-108 at \$2,295, 5030-112 at \$3,900.** If you are in favor of the amendment please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed raise your cards.

THE "NAYS" HAVE IT. AMENDMENT 2 FAILS.

We are now back on the operating budget Article 04 as it originally is \$33,527,659. Is there anymore discussion on Article 04. Yes, Ma'am.

Huard: I just want to make a general comment. We shouldn't be looking at other towns. We should be looking for salaries at the vast variety of demographics in this town when making this decision. You heard from one citizen. There's a number of citizens just like that man that doesn't have a salary such as government workers have. Thank you.

Moderator: Further discussion on Article 04. If there is no further discussion then we will take it to the ballot. Yes, Sir.

Kevin Walsh, 5 Stoney Lane: Just a question for the Budget Committee. Now that you have recommended 33,527,659 does that include the any new or additional positions for the Town.

Moderator: Budget Committee do you wish to yield. Does anybody know. Mr. Martin will yield.

Vice Chair Martin: It's an unfunded position. It's not a new position. It's for the Assistant Town Planner. It has been on the books until they release funds for an Assistant Town Planner.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion on Warrant Article #04. If not. Yes, Sir.

Robert Cooper, 16 Meadow Drive: Just a general question. It was stated that the overflow budget was overstated in some category to spend money... in current year why not spent.

Moderator: This is the budget for next year not this year. Starting next July 1st.

Cooper: Understood. But if we are not spending what we currently have then what.

Moderator: Member of the Budget Committee Mr. Trost will yield.

Trost: We are not allowed to spend the money that's leftover from one year into the next year. The money that is leftover has to go to the unexpended fund balance.

Cooper: If I understand what you're saying it sounds like we operated with a surplus so to speak. So if we kept the budget the same we should be able to handle...never mind.

Moderator: Thank you. Are we all done with Article 04. Yes, Sir.

Jordan Ulery: Regarding the unexpended fund balance...The DRA makes a recommendation for those amounts of the unexpended fund balance The selectmen have the ability to expend below that number or

above that number. Not they must but they should maintain...The County takes from our fund for medicare, medicaid, reimbursements for providing services, The unexpended fund balance is a guideline limits are guidelines and they can apply them to offset.

Moderator: Thank you. Anymore discussion on Warrant Article #04. Yes, Sir.

Peter Lanzillo, 12 Blackstone Street: I just want to make a comment about what I feel is the shadow on everything covering everything we are going to vote on today. And that's a fact that a lot of my neighbors and my taxes went up by \$600 in the latest tax bill for the year. I didn't see when we had budget planned this time last year that the process and taxes were set...Then we had the re-evaluation and for whatever reason. I've been a resident since 1977 and I've seen my house valuation go up...and the tax rate is set...This time I said this is wrong, this is high. How are the same taxpayers in the same ballpark...I'm not blaming you people but that's a fact. And people don't have the money so there is going to be a shadow over all the expenses on the election in March when people go to the polls and look at the figures. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion Warrant Article #04. Seeing none. **I will close the discussion on Warrant Article #04 and it moves to the ballot as it is.**

Moderator reading Warrant Article 05 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 05- Sewer 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 amount 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 \$2,175,003? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$2,145,341 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 10-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00

Moderator: (continuing): **I'll recognize Selectman Guessferd to present Warrant Article #05**

Selectman Guessferd: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. At the risk of being redundant, the sewer operating budget raises and appropriates \$2,175,003 to the Town for the operation of the sewer utility. The sewer utility is funded by user fees and changes. There are no changes to the sewer rate for fiscal year 2024. The default budget for the sewer utility is \$2,145,341 should this article fail to pass. The sewer fund is a special revenue funded by the sewer users and not the taxpayers. There is no tax rate impact for this warrant article. The Board of Selectmen has recommended this article 5-0. The Budget Committee has recommended this article 10-0.

Moderator: Thank you. **We will now open Warrant Article #05 the sewer fund operating budget to questions, comments, amendments.** Does anyone wish to speak on Warrant Article #05. Seeing none. **We will close the discussion on Warrant Article #05 and it moves to the ballot.**

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 12

Moderator reading Warrant Article 06 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 06 - Water 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 amount set forth posted with the Warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$4,526,001? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget will be \$4,517,958 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 10-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00

Moderator: (continuing) **I will recognize Selectman McGrath to present Warrant Article #06.**

Selectman McGrath: Good morning everyone. Warrant Article 06 raises and appropriates \$4,526,001 for the operation of the Town's water utility. The water utility is funded by water user fees and charges. There are no changes to water utility rate for Fiscal Year 2024. The default budget for the water utility is \$4,517,958 should this article fail to pass. The water fund is a special revenue fund and all costs are paid by the water users and not the general taxpayer. There is no tax rate impact for this warrant article. The Board of Selectmen has recommended this article 5-0. The Budget Committee has recommended this article 10-0.

Moderator: Thank you. **We will now open Warrant Article 06 the water fund operating budget to questions, comments, amendments.** Anyone wish to speak on Warrant Article #06. Yes, Sir.

Walsh: Year after year the water rate does not change. Does that water rate also include portions for capital improvements, for potentials repairs, water wells etc. Thank you.

Moderator: Question for the Board. Who wishes to yield. Mr. Malizia will yield.

Malizia: So through the years we've funded three water utility capital reserve funds for the purposes of improvements, capital repairs, infrastructure and capital. Funds are \$3,500,477. So I think we have adequate reserve...If we were to put more money in, by law we would have to put it in separate warrant article.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion on Warrant Article 06 the water fund operating budget. Yes, Sir.

Smith: I have a quick question regarding the fund itself. Is that addressing any potential contamination testing from PFAS [Per- And Polyfluoroalkyl Substances] in our wells or is that something we are going to be getting assistance through the state to offset the cost. Thank you.

Moderator: Mr. Malizia will yield to the question.

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 13

Malizia: So if I understand your question you are asking about PFAS and the effect. So one of the wells in Litchfield has been determined to have limits that exceed the state's limit of 12 parts per trillion. It's 14 or 15 parts per trillion. We have taken that well offline and we get water

from Pennichuck. We just finished negotiating a special contract to get a discounted rate, We are currently working with DES [Department of Environmental Services]and we're also working with Saint-Gobain for a resolution to that issue because we believe they are the majority reason why we have PFAS at that well. So without saying too much we are in the process of determining cost, what we are going to do to remediate it. We are working with DES and Saint-Gobain. Does that answer your question.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion Warrant Article #06. Anyone else wish to speak. If not. **We will close the discussion on Warrant Article #06 and it goes to the ballot.**

Moderator reading Warrant Article 07 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 07 - Hudson Police, Fire & Town Supervisors Association

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 Town Police, Fire and Town Supervisors Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
7/1/23 - 6/30/24	\$190,118
7/1/24 - 6/30/25	\$152,620
7/1/25 - 6/30/26	\$144,645
7/1/26 - 6/30/27	\$201,792
7/1/27 - 6/30/28	\$154,563

And to raise and appropriate the sum of \$190,118 for the 2023-2024 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 10-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.04

Moderator: (continuing) **I will now recognize Selectman Guessferd to present Warrant Article #07.**

Guessferd: Warrant Article 07 labor contract with the Hudson Police, Fire and Town Supervisors Association. Warrant Article 07 proposes a five-year contract for the members of the Hudson Police, Fire and Town Supervisors Association. The association covers 31 employees. Employees in this association include police captains and lieutenants, fire deputy chiefs and captains, Public Works Department supervisors, I.T. [Informational Technology] specialists, Town Engineer, Town Accountant, Animal Control Supervisor, Deputy Assessor and other supervisory and professional personnel. The contract provides for 3.0% cost of living adjustment in each year. Eligible employees will receive a step on their anniversary date. The contract also includes a step scale adjustment in the fourth year. The minimum step on the salary scale has been deleted and one additional step has been added to the end of the pay scale. This contract would run from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2028. This warrant article would add four-cents to the tax rate in the first year and would add 13 cents to the tax rate overall over years two, three, four and five collectively. The Board of Selectmen has recommended this contract 5-0. The Budget Committee has recommended this contract 10-0

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 14

Moderator: Thank you. **So now we will open Article 07 Police, Fire and Town Supervisors Contract to questions, comments.** Ladies and Gentlemen. Yes, Sir.

Randy Brownrigg, 2 Little Hills Lane: Just a simple question. Why is it a five-year contract not a year-to-year or every two years. Thank you.

Moderator: Question to the Board. Mr. Malizia will yield.

Malizia: Well that's what we agreed to. But it also provides stability and focus on where we are going forward year to year. But it would cost more money to do that. But if we were to do that it we would have to hire an attorney who has expertise in town code. So you are spending year to year. If you do it this way it gives it stability and for retention purposes and for tracking purposes. These folks will know where they are going to be in that association. So I think it makes sense. Five is probably the longest you want to go. Specifically for stability.

Moderator: Further discussion. Yes, Ma'am.

Huard: I'd like to ask a simple question. Could someone clarify what other terms are in this contract. And where can the taxpayers view a physical copy of this contract. Thank you.

Moderator: Mr. Malizia will yield.

Malizia: So there was some modest language change when it came to Worker's Comp [Compensation] that benefited the Town. I believe both contracts are on the bulletin board when you walked in if anyone wants to look at it physically. I believe they're on the web page. ...As far as other terms it was mostly a financial contract with the group.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion of Warrant Article #07 the contract on police, fire, town supervisors. Anyone else wishes to speak. Seeing none. **We will close the discussion on Warrant Article #07 and it will go to the ballot.** [Let's do one more and take a break.]

Moderator reading Warrant Article 08 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 08 - Hudson Public Works Union Contract

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 Public Works Department Union AFSCME Local 1801 which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits

Fiscal Year	Amount
7/1/23 - 6/30/24	\$81,628

And to raise and appropriate the sum of \$81,628 for the fiscal year 7/2023 - 6/2024, 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 10-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02

Moderator: (continuing): **I will recognize Selectman Morin to present Warrant Article #08.**

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 15

Selectman Morin: Warrant Article 08 proposes a one-year contract for the members of the Hudson Public Works Union. This union covers 25 employees. Employees in the union include foremen, equipment operators, mechanics, head grounds keeper, truck drivers, laborers and operations assistants. The contract provides a three-percent cost of living COLA. Eligible employees will receive their separators on their

anniversary date. The contract would run from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. The warrant article adds two-cents to the tax rate. The Board of Selectmen recommended 5-0. The Budget Committee recommended 10-0. As it may seem Mr. Brownrigg just had a question on the life of the contract. We had some very productive meetings with this group but due to circumstances that neither side could control we ran out of time to finish the contract. So we came up with this one-year contract so we could move forward.

Moderator: Thank you. **We will now open Article #08 to comments, questions, amendments.** Anyone wish to speak on Warrant Article 08 the Public Works Union contract. Seeing none. **Let's close the discussion on Warrant Article 08 and it moves to the ballot.**

Moderator: (continuing) Mr. Gasdia moves to restrict reconsideration of Warrant Articles 04 through 08. Mr. Malizia seconds..

**MOTION: TO RESTRICT RECONSIDERATION OF WARRANT ARTICLES 04 THROUGH 08
MADE BY: GARY GASDIA; SECONDED BY: STEVE MALIZIA**

If you are new to this it means that you can not reconsider these articles again at this meeting. They will be done and go to the ballot the way they are. Articles 04 through 08 will be restricted. If you are in favor of not hearing about these articles again at this meeting you would vote in favor. If you might want to reconsider an article later on you would vote opposed. If you are in favor of restricting reconsideration on Articles 04 through 08 please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed.

THE "AYES" HAVE IT. ARTICLES 04 THROUGH 08 ARE RESTRICTED

Moderator: Thank you. **We are going to take a 10 minute recess.**

Moderator: (banging gavel) **Let's call this meeting back to order,** Yes, Ma'am, what purpose do you rise.

Diana Lamothe: I'd like to make a motion to take the Petition Warrant Articles #21 through #23 out of order.

Moderator: We have a motion. Is there a second to the motion. Mr. Oates seconds the motion to take Articles 21 through 23 out of order. The Petition Warrant Articles. If there's no objection we can take a vote on that. To move the Petitions. Yes, Mrs. Lamothe on her motion.

**MOTION: TO TAKE WARRANT ARTICLES 21, 22 AND 23 OUT OF ORDER
MADE BY: DIANA LAMOTHE; SECONDED BY: VICTOR OATES**

Lamothe: I'd like to explain my motion. Not that those warrant articles are more important than the others. That those people might want to leave after they speak on these warrant articles because they may not be as interested in remaining articles.

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 16

Moderator: Thank you. Anyone to speak on the motion to take Articles 21, 22 and 23 out of order. And we will take those up next. If you are in favor of taking Articles 21, 22 and 23 out of order please raise your voter cards. Thank you. If you are opposed raise your voter cards.

THE "AYES" HAVE IT. We will take up Articles 21, 22 and 23 next.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 21 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 2I - Amend Town Code 317-34 (By Petition)

Amend Town Code 317-34, Schedule VII, Truck, Commercial Vehicle and Heavy Vehicle Limitations to add Collector roads, as defined by Town Code 334:11(b), to being restricted from use by Truck Traffic, Commercial and Heavy Vehicles. These roads shall have an exception if such vehicles are using these roads for local pickup and delivery.

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

Tax rate impact: \$0.00

Moderator: (continuing): **I'll recognize Mr. Thompson to present Warrant Article #21. One of the petitioners.**

Mr. Thompson, 22 Burns Hill Road: (accompanying SLIDE) As you all know traffic has been an issue in this town and something that needs to be addressed either by the Board of Selectmen or the Planning Board. Despite many requests there isn't any action by its residents. Continues to develop especially larger developments, Traffic will only continue to become worse not just passenger vehicles but many heavy traffic vehicles. Developers have clearly said they can't control where they go. As traffic increases vehicles will use alternate routes to get to their destination or pass through Hudson and damaging to the roads. To help address and mitigate some of these issues I am proposing this warrant article which expands on the restrictions already in place on various roads in Hudson. This warrant article places heavy truck traffic from collective roads. To be clear this warrant article will not prevent companies like Brox or Chasse Steal from doing business in Hudson. It will not prevent you from getting deliveries or pickups from Amazon or Fed Ex or UPS. There must be exceptions [slide: *Hudson Town Code Chapter 334-11-B Collector Roads*] It strengthens the health and safety of our neighborhoods. Please support this warrant article and let's help keep trucks and other heavy traffic on the main roads where they belong. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. **We will now open Warrant Article 21 to questions, comments, amendments.**
Yes, Sir.

S. Jasper: I lived on Old Derry Road that's listed on slide, and that ordinance has been since I got my driver's license. Unfortunately well-intentioned and ineffectual the traffic still goes there. Number one the police don't have the time or ability stopping every truck on the road where they're coming from. That's my opinion. The other thing is if you look at all these roads, you look at someone coming from [route] 111 or from Londonderry on route 102. You take them off Robinson Road. Now you put them into the center through town. You really need all these trucks coming through the center of town, by Library Park, and disperse from there to go down 102, the reality is that some of these roads maybe appropriate but the whole it's simply going to make things so much worse in the rest of the town, in the middle of the town. While my sympathy is with the maker of the motion have lived it for all these years I realize its not the way to go. I support the vote. Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

Moderator: Thank you. Sir.

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 17

Jordan Elery, Baker Street: Understanding the concern being traffic and having driven No truck driver is going to go from point A to point B travel up Wason Road because it doesn't go from point A to point B. It only goes from here to there. If you are driving a commercial vehicle and going to our industrial parks they are on state roads or adjacent to them. Movement of that vehicle is going to be the easiest for that vehicle....In that I support the vote of the Select Board. If traffic develops they can enforce by police department or a reposting of the roads or an application ... So I will support the Selectmen.

Moderator: Thank you, Mr. Elery. Yes, Sir.

Dean Sakati, 11 Fairway Drive: Thank you Mr. Moderator. We as a town are currently in a situation where we have a lot of development with trucks. This has resulted in significant traffic problems and it could be a lot worse. This petition is absolutely genius. It simply to stop large traffic trucks north to south, east to west, does allow point to point through Hudson This should be a no-brainer... We don't need road blocks we need solutions. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes, Sir. Selectman Morin.

Dave Morin, Library Street: I have information from the police records that talk about anything the town has faced because of truck traffic. The last three years over 2400 motor vehicle complaints, 147 complaints came from the roads Chapter 317-34. Out of those complaints 6 were related to town roads. 5 of the 6 complaints revealed that the vehicle was on the road as a legal exception. 1 was on Winslow Farm Road for hours and was not located. It was the only complaint that was in violation of the ordinance regarding commercial traffic. The same three years the police department solved 169 pullovers that were either commercial plates or truck tractor plates. It appears that none of these was a summons or warning for being on the roads in violation of any ordinance. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. I should point out that this is legally an advisory warrant article. The State of New Hampshire has by law given the authority to set ordinances and traffic control. So this meeting does not have the authority over what happens but it certainly can on their vote how they feel about it. It is an advisory warrant article. I wanted everyone to understand that. Yes, Sir.

Smith: I brought some of these issues in front of the board of Selectmen One of the issues I have is that we have 18-wheelers driving on these roads that the trailer is so long it encroaches over the yellow line. The road is not adequate. It doesn't have enough space. And this petition I believe is one way of solving that. Our selectmen have not done a very good job of coming up with a plan about any of the traffic in the town. What I'd really like to do is amend this with fines... If you have a petition warrant article that doesn't have an financial incentives it's unlikely the police are enforcing it. Thank you.

Moderator: thank you. Yes, Sir.

Rob Everett, Derry Road: Even though this is advisory one of the questions is town ordinance on a state road. Like No. 7 [on slide] isn't even a town road. And there may be some others roads there that are not state roads.

Moderator: Question to the Selectmen. Can they make an ordinance on a state road. Our Town Attorney, Mr. LaFevre, can answer that.

Attorney LaFevre: The selectmen can regulate town roads. The selectmen can not regulate
Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 18

state roads. So the ordinance can not regulate state roads.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes, Sir.

Tim Wyatt, 37 Burns Hill Road: Question. If this warrant article passes to find out how a road should be designated and follow that for future roads and when we build a new road.

Moderator: When a road is built I believe it is designated. Then it would have to be added to the list of roads. There are arterial collectors and everything else is no designation. Is that correct. Yes, they would have to be added. A collector would have to be moved to an ordinance. It would not be automatic. Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article #21.

Yes, Ma'am.

Heidi Jacoby, 394 Gowing Road: I know that this is an advisory warrant article. And part of that I just want to point out it's been put forward to kind of be a preventative action because of two large warehouses the additional tractor trailer trucks coming in and through town. So just in the future is all a concern going forward to insure that the number of tractor trailer trucks coming into town are clear on where they can and can not go. And I ask the Board to look towards the future of traffic not into the past of what it's been. There's some really amazing development happening. More tractor trailer trucks will be coming in through Hudson. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Selectman McGrath.

Selectman McGrath: I wasn't at the meeting when the Selectmen voted on the warrant articles. I would have voted with the majority on this article. And I request that the Police Chief Dionne speak to it and how that if this passes how it would affect the police department and its staff.

Moderator: Question for Chief Dionne.

Chief Dionne: Thank you Selectman McGrath. With regards to the actual ordinance it would be very difficult for us to effectively enforce the way you put it. The reason being the direct assignment to have the officer follow the vehicle is ineffective. Obviously very time consuming.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Oates.

Oates: I stand in support of this change and the reason is if we want to bring development into this town in every chance we get we push to ask for a full traffic study done on the entire community. It gets pushed back by our Board of Selectmen. Never receives its full traffic study. E are bringing more and more traffic to the of this town more traffic. We just don't have the data to make the good decisions. This advisory warrant article takes a step in the right direction.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion Warrant Article 21. Yes, Ma'am.

Debra Lynn Carp, 18 Cobblestone Drive: I walk on Belnap Road because it is the only way I can get out of my development. I like to walk for exercise. There are many times when I am walking on Belnap Road which has no shoulder that cars are flying past me. I don't want to make more of a burden on the police department but to keep our roads safe where people can like me and others who want to walk. I think you need to control the large traffic that goes through these roads. And there is a specific curve on Belnap that is extremely dangerous for walkers in particular that I think is important and some of the other roads as well. There's a need for some restriction and if the police department can't do that then I think there needs to be some kind of modification where it can be accomplished. Not just the police department's.

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 19

Moderator: Yes, Sir. Mr. Thompson.

Thompson: Just to clarify if you're looking for more patrol than now. I'm looking to bring this forward to the residence to say hey, Board of Selectmen we have a problem here. Do something to address it. Some

signage. At least you have something on the books . Basically the roads are considered limited right now. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes, Sir.

Elliot Carp, 18 Cobblestone Drive: My wife and I moved up here going on five years ago. And we live right off of Belnap and that the signage on the road is quite clear and here is a picture of a truck with an arrow that says no right turn. To me I read that if I were a driver that I could make a right hand turn. I had to call up the police department. I think part of the issue is signage.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article 21 to amend the Town Code 317-34. Yes, Sir.

Flanders: I'm in favor of this on some roads. I live off of Robinson Pond Road. Big curve and house on an angle you can see anything coming up this way. So I do agree to some of these roads. But I used to be a CDL driver...Greeley Street we had to down...put in a stipulation no trucks after 9. Maybe we can do this to some other roads.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes, Ma'am.

Putnam: I know the majority of Hudson residents are concerned about the new development coming in. Increased tractor trailers on our roads. Why not inform those employers of a list of roads that are restricted...options to getting to a highway.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. Warrant Article 21. Mr. Smith for a second time.

Smith: I think the other aspect is that these heavy vehicles traveling on these roads actually cause more wear and tear. So if we can limit the amount of usage. There are costs associated. So I see that as a big cost analysis.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. Yes, Ma'am.

Suellen Seabury, 50 Robinson Road: One of the roads listed here a.k.a. the Indy Speedway. No one likes traffic. I do walk my dog. I fear less about the large vehicles coming, Tate Brothers or Continental. While I do appreciate the need for this and the Board of Selectmen's vote on this we do need to address the traffic problems in this town. I think itemizing a listing of plethora of roads is going to make it any easier even if we give a map to truck drivers, employers, all of the police officers... I think we need to have a robust discussion at some point as to the Circumferential Highway and its progeny and the need for that to keep traffic off all our residential But if what we are talking about with this petition article is to put all of the heavy truck traffic on 111, 102 and Lowell Road we are virtually going to bind the traffic in this town.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. Warrant Article #21. Yes, Sir.

James Crowley, 4 Fairway Drive: I think a robust discussion please everybody keep in mind the Master Plan that's coming up. I notice this is advisory but I worry about the citizens here if they live on those roads...What legal resource do they have. Definitely like seeing this on the ballot

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 20

to let the whole town vote on what their feelings are..There is more discussion that has to take place. Please come to the Master Plan sessions. Thank you.

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

Elery: Thank you, Mr. Moderator. I hope the is taking note of the comments tonight. It is in their preview to post about truck traffic...perhaps larger signs would be nice. But controlling human behavior very difficult to do unless you're in a prison. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion. Seeing none. Mr. Oates.

Oates: I just wanted to add a quick comment to that. Over the last five plus years this town has put in traffic mitigation measures for the lights. Currently controls the flow in some areas...down Lowell Road at night it's blinking yellow...to control the town.

Moderator: Thank you. Any other discussion on Article 21. Seeing none. **I will close the discussion on Article 21 and it goes to the ballot.**

Moderator reading Warrant Article 22 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 22 - Hire One Police Officer (By Petition)

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$126,147 which represents the cost of wages and benefits to hire one additional police officer? This police officer will replace a Patrol Officer that will be assigned to the Police Services Division as the Wellness Officer, serving the Police Department and the community of Hudson. The appropriation is in addition to the Operating Budget.

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-1

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.03

Moderator: (continuing) **I'll recognize the petitioner Mr. Cole to present Warrant Article 22.**

Bill Cole, Fairway Drive: Good Morning everybody. I'd like to ask for your assistance. If you could raise your hand if you ever suddenly and for no apparent reason experienced a feeling of sadness or hopelessness -

Moderator: Please stick to the article of hiring one police officer, Mr. Cole.

Cole: Thank you Mr. Moderator. Raise your hand if you have ever been angry or irritated over even the smallest of matters -

Moderator: Mr. Cole, please stick to the article itself.

Cole: Thank you Sir. And finally raise your hand if you have ever had a bad day -

Moderator: Mr. Cole, please address the article itself.

Cole: Warrant Article 22 seeks voter approval for the appropriation of the sum of \$126,147. This amount represents the cost of wages and benefits for an additional police officer position within the Hudson Police Department. This new officer position allows for a current patrol officer to be formally and permanently designated to serve and perform duties as the mental health and wellness officer within the department of Police Services Division. Although assigned under the police department's manning charts the wellness officer will provide appropriate mental health support and assistance to all Town of Hudson employees. As such the wellness officer will be a critical role and be a significant contributor to the safety and overall well-being to the entire Hudson community. The sole purpose of the wellness officer is

to provide critical and timely assistance, supporting employees' mental health and safety, overall wellness, professional fulfillment and personnel retention. The wellness officer will serve as the town's liaison to the applicable local, state and federal agencies supporting mental health awareness, early intervention and appropriate treatment procedures. As previously stated the wellness officer will be responsive to and responsible for addressing mental wellness needs for all Town employees. Employees who day in and day out have as their mission the well-being of the entire Hudson community. The wellness officer will be responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining a viable organizational structure. A structure that can provide and support timely and effective mental wellness assistance. To accomplish this the wellness officer will develop and implement both focussed mental wellness initiatives and programs, in response to dedicated and coordinated police objectives both on the individual and group levels. Additionally the wellness officer will continue to be responsible for the implement of the police department's Comfort Dog Program. A highly successful program...at present the wellness officer and the responsibility by this position will continue to be addressed by Officer Jason Downey. Officer's Downey's efforts to this regard are in addition to his daily duty of police officers and school resource officer...It is imperative that the position of wellness officer be formalized, recognized and supported by the voters. Such recognition and support by the community will insure that Hudson's ability to address mental health issues is no longer purely reactive but rather responsive. It is important that we all understand and appreciate the real world difference when we are being responsive to the situation rather than simply reactive. When we react to a situation it means by definition that we are unprepared. We are shooting from the hip. We are making it up as we go along. We're guessing rather than knowing. All of which often than not leads to a less satisfactory result even tragic. On the other hand when we respond to a situation it means by definition that we have identified the possible reason for the event. We have given it serious thought and we have made the appropriate resources and personnel available and we have prepared and trained for all possibilities. The results we have a plan...The position of wellness officer is not a nice to have on someone's wish list. And given the reality of daily life in today's society the position of wellness officer is certainly not something we can put on the back burner...Warrant Article 22 provides our community with the opportunity to formalize and support such a position with the capability here in Hudson. The addition of this wellness officer is an overarching imperative...that is knowledge. I thank you.

Moderator: We will now open Warrant Article 22 to hire one police officer to questions, comments, amendments. Yes, Ma'am, Mrs. Jasper.

L. Jasper: I rise with a question and then a comment. I initially reacted to this warrant article that it was unsatisfactorily written. I need a clarification. It says *represents the cost of wages and benefits to hire one additional police officer* additional is the key word here. And then it says *the police officer will be replaced by a Patrol Officer*. That's confusing additional, taking the place of those words don't work with to understand. Also I'm in favor of mental health awareness for all of our first responders and I think each and every day events what a top notch police department and fire department we have. We have add that word community policing here for years going back to Chief Gendron and it makes a huge difference. I feel blessed to have the top notch people we have in charge. I don't think we need to be dictating to the Police Chief what his officers' rules are and limiting his scope of what people can do. I believe the police are very proactive. I think there is something to be said for a Wellness division of some sort. I'm not sure telling the Police Chief he has to do this is where we want to go. So I have that question and those are my comments.

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 22

Moderator: Question for clarification of the warrant. Does anyone wish to yield to that question. Selectman Morin will yield.

Selectman Morin: Let me make it clear we are not telling the Chief what to do. He actually brought it to us. This is a very important position. Let me make that clear. My personal opinion is that I used these services myself because I was a fireman in town. So I know the importance.

And what we just went through with one of our firefighters shows me the importance of this. When you see this on there that the Selectmen voted against it, it's not that we don't believe in this. It's because right now, you heard it today, people are strapped. We took the budget and tried to make it as low as we possibly can. The Fire Chief came in and asked for four fire fighters which are going to be paid for by a grant which will save the Town a lot of money. We voted against that. Officer Downey the other night at the Public Hearing gave a complete synopsis of what this would do and what it does to the people. I'll tell you just as we heard we are ill prepared but we are not. I'll cover what we do just like with the firefighter. On that night when the incident took place right away the wheels started on the policy... Already people were in place for the fire fighters and officers that were working that scene. Two days later I believe for no cost to the Town the State had to come in to assist at no cost to the Town at an initial meeting with me and our people. A couple days after another team from the Nashua Fire Department at no cost to the Town came in and gave a full to the Town. Officer Downey was through the whole thing. Yes do we need in the future. Absolutely and I will fully support it. And he was there and he's been doing it for ten years now as long as he's been here. Looking at the budget what it costs for the psychiatrist for the Town hires is a little over \$4,000 and we get all the services we need to start people to get what they need. I am going to say it again. We did not force the Chief. He came to us. This time because of the impact of the cost of the employee on the budget we But let me make it clear that our employees are getting all the mental health that they need and we do have a plan in place.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on Warrant Article 22.

Putnam: Mr. Cole and Mr. Morin have made excellent points. I'm simply now asking the Moderator to invite Officer Downey to speak to this matter directly...so for the people to keep in mind in March...and maybe the next March. But let the voters make that decision.

Moderator: If no objection Officer Downey if you wish to speak. There was a request for that. Would you like to come up.

Officer Jason Downey: Obviously you don't see my partner today. Just to let you know about Haven [HPD comfort dog]. We were actually at a retreat. It's called Camp Resilient for first responders and military veterans. And I was there for the last four days. We do a lot of team building and identifying what our struggles might be or why we might have to ask the Chief before we get frustrated with our job. Burnout is a huge thing. So ultimately at the very end of the day at our wrap session there was a majority of them that said I wish I had one more day.

Four days of talking about raw emotions and what you are going through...it is emotionally draining and we got the physical aspect of it...these people are crying for more. This is just one aspect of our role. Sometimes I get a little emotional with it. I've been with the Hudson Police Department for years. I will tell you that at some point I did struggle with professional fatigue, burnout, it's not just the job it is your marriage, raising children, the politics of it all...It is stress of accumulated incidents...some people might say you signed up for it. Yes I signed up to help people. To protect the citizens of Hudson and to protect my family. I did not sign up to see horrific things...I'm reconstruction scene so I've seen a lot of fatal accidents. Soon or later it gets to you especially when it involves a high school student and you have a high school student. That is something you are not prepared at the Academy for...they don't teach the

MMinutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 23

mental health aspect of how to deal with it. So ultimately what's in my role would be to try to teach resilience in everything. Because if you have an officer of eight or nine years say I can't deal with this

there is so much death and chaos. And all their buddies are making \$100,000 with a security background...now you have 12 or 13 one-year guys that have no idea what they're doing. Im a field training officer and they don't know how to react. If I didn't get help as I did and have passion with this I would have easily left two years ago. You lose 22 years of experience...you take away from the department. And you don't want to come back. That was traumatic to leave...We are human too. I'm a dad, a husband and a police officer. I still can feel sad and upset...that sometimes you carry into the job...I'd be a liaison to citizens to give them help...if we go to a mental health call ... if need to take them into involuntary admission... teach officers how to de-escalate the situation we might avoid a physical altercation. At the same time trying to teach resilience, how to cope with it right away. Like adding rocks to my backpack. Need to empty that backpack once in a while or it will get too heavy and I'll fall over and I can't get back up...we are trying to address in the moment, in the now. But what happens is suck it up buttercup...if police show empathy it's weakness. It's not right, not what it is. We're human not robots. Sometimes people think we're robots. We're not robots. I feel emotions sometimes and it's tough to go to work and see heartache...It's a credit to the Chief that you guys have no idea all the mental health I do is trustworthy and confidential. Actually covered under my hat that I wear is the statue to not discuss...if I don't feel trust with my officers this program is out the window. If I tell someone to go see someone I've vet them. I work with these agencies. I make sure it's a good fit...You are more likely to lose an officer to suicide than at the high end of a felony done by somebody else. Think about it. Before COVID hit we were losing more officers to suicide than in the line of duty....I'm helping the quality of service...I want to be sure these officers don't experience what I did and the harder road I took. I want to make this transition for them...Selectman Morin is correct. We have some things in place but there's a zillion more things I could do but I don't have the time. I'm the comfort dog handler and sometimes I'll be more reactive than proactive. I live in town. I have four kids, one in college, three go to the public school system. I understand the burden. I understand the tax. I'm up here to tell you what the program is because someone wanted> I'd be happy to answer anymore questions. This is something I'm very passionate about. There's a lot more we can do for our officers and turn this into a whole quality of services for first responders, town employees...To give someone that comfort level to give someone what they need.To hear someone say I've been there, done that, this is what we're going to do.

Moderator: Thank you.

Flanders: (approaching mic, without being recognized by Moderator) There are many outreach programs that don't work...everyone has there own problems at home...a way to channel their family members...on officers that channel on others...we all have problems and I understand. If you want an officer to come in and help your officers on the force I'm all for it. But to replace an officer that's the only thing I don't understand. We should just hire somebody to help you guys...to make it work better.

Moderator: Let's get back to the hiring of a police officer. Yes, Ma'am.

Seabury: I have one question to a former speaker. Officer Downey, you're not looking to be replace. You're not going anywhere. Is it that there's someone who would work in conjunction with you as a Wellness Officer...So we're looking for someone to take over that role and responsibilities.

Moderator: I'll let Selectmen Morin answer that question.

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 24

Morin: What this warrant article is suppose to do if this passes. Officer Downey is going to come off the Patrol Division and go into the Services Division as the Wellness Officer. The way his is suppose to be written is he is going to move and we need to replace that Patrol Officer.

Seabury: So maybe as a proposed amendment, for the second sentence, this police officer will be assigned to the Police Service Division and assume responsibilities and duties as the Wellness Officer. So we would be striking replace a Patrol Officer . That may alleviate some confusion and make it clear to the voters what you're looking to do is to hire a Wellness Officer.

Morin: No we're not. And that's where the confusion is. We have Officer Downey who serves as the Wellness Officer per se at this point he doesn't do it as a full time position. Move him from Patrol to Services Division within the police department, So he is going to be in Services which mean Patrol is going to be short so we need to hire a Police Officer to fill that Patrol position.

Seabury: Okay, I'll have to about that amendment.

Moderator: Thank you.

Mary Joy Gasdia, 4 McCann Road: I just want to thank Officer Downey for coming up and explaining the program. Thank you to you and all the other officers...I know when things come to mental health...what a police officer does is different than what a regular citizen does. If they are asking because they need this help and it's going to help their department and our officers and get better return in the process ...if it helps them as people. They put their life in the line for us. Right now if anyone comes in with a gun, those men are going to block and stand in front of me. So for three-cents on the tax impact at the end of the day in Hudson...be smart when you look at these warrants. Think about the people involved and what it really And this three-cents impact is going to affect you and you aren't going to be able to live this year and you can't pay your bills you need to think about where you're living, how you're budgeting...but don't cut back on something that is so important. The poor selectmen can't vote to recommend it because they're trying hard not to burden the tax rate...This is a really important role mental health is huge, important. I commend the petitioner...Smart petition that's up here. I encourage everyone to vote in support of it...If you are going to vote against it just think about that person who would walk in front of a door and stand in front of that bullet and think about your three-cents, because that's what it's all about....

Moderator: Sir

S. Jasper: Thank you Mr. Moderator: My problem isn't so much with what's being done here but how it is being done. So I'll keep my comments really to no where else in government have I seen where a position is created for an individual. Because our object in what should be is our duty to the taxpayers is that we get the best person possible to get the job done...We are going to hire somebody else, create a new position, already have someone for that position... Focussing on the Police Department seems to leave everybody else out, the Fire Department has seen a lot of tragedy through the years but others do too. This prioritizes and it's not clear. I'm really concerned. It would be so much better if we were establishing a position with the correct amount... that should be a problem for everybody....not an insult, this needs to be competitive. We're not creating a new police position we a're creating a Wellness Officer. Everyone needs to think about that. I wish I had an amendment. I don't. But it's a concern how would that be addressed with this language it can't. And in my opinion a huge ethical issue. Thank you Mr. Moderator.

Moderator: Mr. Weissgarber.

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 25

Weissgarber: The previous speaker I kind of agree in regards to the personnel related things. I think it should be based on solely related The Chief can do it internally, externally, that's up to him. I guess I make a motion to amend - Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$126,147 which represents the cost of wages and benefits to establish one additional position within the Services

Division serving the Police Department and the community of Hudson? This appropriation is in addition to the Operating Budget. So this keeps it solely position related and takes the personnel aspect out. Again, if he [Chief Dionne] wants to hire Officer Downey that's up to him. That has nothing to do with the requirements.

Moderator: Was that an amendment Mr. Weissgarber. I'm going to have to have that again. We are going to have to write it.(Weissgarber approaching Moderator with amendment draft) We are going to rewrite that because I can't follow it. There was a second, Mr. Urrutia. Alright. **Why don't we take a break while he gives it to HCTV and get it up on the screen.**

Moderator: (banging gavel - **back in session**)

MOTION: TO AMEND WARRANT ARTICLE 22 [below in red]
MADE BY: RICH WEISSGARBER; SECONDED BY: ALEJANDRO URRUTIA

Moderator: (continuing) Motion made to amend Article 22 to read as follows: [SLIDE]
Shall the Town of Hudson vote to establish the Wellness Officer as a full-time position, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$126,147 which represents the cost of wages and benefits to hire one additional patrol officer. This appropriation is in addition to the Operating Budget.
Mr. Weissgarber would you speak to your amendment.

Weissgarber: I wanted to have us focus on the position related aspects of the Wellness Officer. So went through several eliminations of what it could say and I think say matter of fact is the Wellness officer you want to make the patrol officer is within the article as well and the 126,147 is established for the Wellness Officer.

Moderator: On the amendment. Yes, Ma'am. Mrs. Huard.

Huard: My question is. I have several. What happens to the SRO at HMS. Would this Wellness Officer be carrying a gun, dressed as a police officer or dressed in plain clothes. And I just have a comment. In this country you have a choice, the right to choose what medical professional you use. Unfortunately what I was expecting wasn't a warrant article trying to give. I truly respect giving mental health needs...I find this to be limiting choice, freedom of choice.

Moderator: Further discussion. Yes, Sir.

Sakati: Thank you Mr. Cole for bringing this up and the Board for trying to make our support those who truly all of us and to our first responders. Mr. Morin and Officer Downey thank you for sharing your sincere feelings and perspective. Let's remove roadblocks, another no-brainer, let the people vote for this support.

Moderator: Thank you. On the amendment to replace the words with what you see [on SLIDE]

Smith: I just have a question regarding this warrant article in general and that is are we pursuing any federal, state grants to replace the funds. Kind of to offset these costs.

Moderator: yield

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 26

Chief Dionne: Would you repeat the question.

Smith: Are you pursuing any federal, state grants in association with a Wellness Officer.

Dionne: Great question. Last year we actually applied for a Wellness Officer grant. I have not heard after we applied at all. But we did apply. A federal grant through the COPS hiring program.

Smith: Are we expecting any federal funds.

Dionne: A lot of what we do is to get reimbursement or training for the officers. A lot of it is through partnerships with faith holders at little cost or no cost at all.

Smith: Would that has an effect on the overall cost of the position.

Dionne: No. It would not. We would still be paying the salary of the officer.

Smith: So what your saying is through.

Dionne: I don't know

Moderator: On the amendment to replace with these words. Yes, Sir. Mr. Oates. Question for the Police Chief.

Oates: He [Chief Dionne] is saying Officer Downey is already on payroll. Is that correct.

Dionne: That's correct.

Oates: I'm confused he is already on payroll and he would be wouldn't you give the amount to offset salary Not replace the entire sum because he is already on salary as a police officer.

Moderator: Selectman Roy will yield.

Selectman Roy: The Wellness Officer already exists on the staff. Then they would be adding another officer to replace Officer Downey in the Patrol Division.

Moderator: (stating Oates' off-mic question) The question is how many open positions do we currently have,

Roy: Chief Dionne correct me. I think it's three. Five. Five openings available.

Moderator: On the amendment. The amendment is to replace what's in your book with the words that are now on the screen. Almost the same thing with minor changes. If you are in favor of the amendment please raise your cards. Thank you. Those opposed to the amendment raise your cards.

THE "AYES: HAVE IT. THE AMENDMENT PASSES

[as amended]

WARRANT ARTICLE 22 - Hire One Police Officer (By Petition)

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to establish the Wellness Officer as a full-time position, and raise and appropriate the sum of \$126,147 which represents the cost of wages and benefits to hire one additional patrol officer? This appropriation is in addition to the Operating Budget.

Moderator: (continuing) We now have Article 22 as amended. Any discussion on Warrant Article 22 as amended. Mrs. Huard.

Huard: I'd like to make another amendment. I'd like to replace the 126,147 with zero [\$0.00]

Moderator: I have an amendment to change the amount from 126,147 to zero [\$0.00] made by Mrs. Huard. Is there a second. There is no second. The amendment does not go forward.

Moderator: (continuing) On Article 22 as amended. Any discussion on Article 22 as amended. If not, **I'll close the discussion on Article 22 as amended and it goes to the ballot.** Mr. Murray makes a motion to restrict reconsideration of Warrant Articles 21 and 22. Seconded by Mr. Weissgarber. This will prevent those two articles from being brought up at this meeting.

**MOTION: TO RESTRICT RECONSIDERATION OF WARRANT ARTICLES 21 AND 22
MADE BY: SHAWN MURRAY; SECONDED BY: RICH WEISSGARBER**

Moderator: (continuing) If you are in favor of restricting reconsideration of Articles 21 and 22 please raise your cards. Thank you. Those opposed.

THE "AYES" HAVE IT. ARTICLES 21 AND 22 ARE RESTRICTED.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 23 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 23 - Abolish Hudson Budget Committee (By Petition)

To see if the Town will vote to rescind Budget Committee Section 32:14 of New Hampshire RSA Chapter 32 Municipal Budget Law previously adopted by the Town on March 11, 1941, to abolish the Hudson Budget Committee. Rescinding this subdivision as per RSA 32:14, V, will not prevent the Town from establishing an advisory budget or finance committee(s) as stated in Section 32:24.

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-1

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00

Moderator: (continuing) **I will recognize Mrs. Lamothe to present Warrant Article 23.**

Lamothe: Thank you Mr. Moderator. To more accurately convey the intent of the petition I make a motion to amend the Warrant Article. And here is a slide that HCTV has. So I would like the warrant article to read [SLIDE]

Article 23 Rescind Adoption of Budget Committee Sections 32:14-32:24 and Replace the Hudson Budget Committee with an Advisory Budget Committee (By Petition)

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the Budget Committee Sections 32:14-32:24 of New Hampshire RSA Chapter 32 Municipal Budget Law previously adopted by the Town to **replace** the Hudson Budget Committee **with an advisory budget committee**. Rescinding this subdivision as per RSA 32:14, V, will not prevent the Town from establishing an advisory budget or finance committee(s) as stated in Section 32:24. **An advisory budget committee will be established by the governing bodies and members will be appointed by the Town Moderator within 60 days of the acceptance of this warrant.**

Moderator: Is there a second. Your name Sir. Mr. Andrews. We have a motion for an amendment to Article 23. Made and seconded. We will now discuss replacing the original article with this wording including the title.

MOTION: TO AMEND WARRANT ARTICLE 23 [above in red]
MADE BY: DIANA LAMOTHE; SECONDED BY MR. ANDREWS

Moderator: (continuing) **I'll recognize Mrs. Lamothe to talk to the amendment.**

LaMothe: Again the reason for this amendment is to be more accurate in its intent. Replacing the word abolish with rescind. On the petition there was no title line. So I think the more accurately conveys the intent. I also thought it would be more appropriate to include all relevant sections of NH RSA Chapter 32. And removing the date of adoption because it was sort of irrelevant. And I also thought it to be important that the primary purpose of this was to clarify that we would like to have an advisory budget committee that will benefit the Town. And I will go into that further after this amendment

Moderator: Anyone wish to speak on the amendment to replace the original and title with this wording and title. Does anyone wish to discuss the amendment. Yes, Sir.

Lanzillo: Do I understand that this correct instead of the usual elected post this would be an appointed position

Moderator: That's correct

Lanzillo: Okay. I speak out in opposition to that. It's ridiculous. It turns it into a political pumpkin with whoever is in charge to load the field.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion on the amendment to put the wording in. Yes, Sir.

Michael Tranfaglia, 24 Woodcrest Drive: The amendment making this an appointed position makes this like the fox is guarding the hen house.

Moderator: Yes, Mrs. Huard on the amendment.

Huard: We are all for checks and balances. I come from a strict profession and I take pride in my ethics, my integrity... The budget Committee is very important for checks and balances. For one who gets up every year and goes through the two budgets -

Voter: Point of Order

Moderator: I want to get back to the amendment and then we can discuss the article. Because if this passes or fails then we can discuss the issue itself.

Huard: I don't think this really changes the removal of the Budget Committee. And I will not support it.

Moderator: On the amendment. Let's stick to the wording. Discuss the issue.

Gary Gasdia, 4 McCann Road: I'm in support of the amendment. The reason I'm in support of the amendment is that it was added as it was originally written would take away the oversight. There would have been a gap regardless of if this passes or fails it would have. What this amendment does is that it insures there will be a body of oversight and there will not be a gap. So I'm in full support of the amendment.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Trost.

Ted Trost, 3 Rangers Drive: Thank you. I rise in support of this amendment. I believe it really clarifies to the voter exactly what is being intended here. Those who will oppose this as amended should vote for this because I think it really makes it clearer.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion on the amendment to change the words. Seeing none. Let's vote on the amendment. If you are in favor of the amendment to replace the wording and the title please raise your voter cards. Thank you. If you are opposed to the amendment raise your voters cards. Thank you.

THE "AYES" HAVE IT. THE ARTICLE 23 IS AMENDED.

[as amended]

WARRANT ARTICLE 23 - Rescind Adoption of Budget Committee Sections 32:14-32:24 and Replace the Hudson Budget Committee with an Advisory Budget Committee
(By Petition)

To see if the Town will vote to rescind Budget Committee Sections 32:14-32:24 of the New Hampshire RSA Chapter 32 Municipal Budget Law with an advisory committee. Rescinding this subdivision as per RSA 32:14, V, will not prevent the Town from establishing an advisory budget or finance committee(s) as stated in Section 32:24. An advisory budget committee will be established by the governing bodies and members will be appointed by the Town Moderator within 60 days of the acceptance of this warrant.

Moderator: (continuing) We are now on Article 23 as amended. **Mrs. Lamothe will now present Article 23 as amended.**

Lamothe: Here's another slide [*Amendments*]. I'm going to go to item 4 to highlight why I believe an advisory budget committee will benefit the Town of Hudson. Again that is the intention when I filed this petition. I do not want checks and balances to be achieved. The first and in my opinion the most important benefit of an advisory budget committee is that the committee will be more diverse. The Municipal Budget Committee is comprised of members that the people vote in. Not many people want to run for this committee, as one of the selectman stated at the January 10th. Meeting it's recognized names are checked on the ballot. Nothing to do with their competence or lack thereof. I know I don't have to define diversity but I do emphasize that diversity is essential for a committee that has the duties to make the best decisions for the Town over a variety of perspectives will enable the committee to understand its impact of the decisions that are made. My vision is that if this warrant passes an independent party such as the Moderator will appoint members in a manner that will achieve diversity. My second point the Advisory Budget Committee will have more contact with the Town and School District. Town and School District admin staff here in Hudson are at a very high caliber. They and the governing bodies do keep the taxpayers in mind. They do provide information that is requested and they are very transparent. Any statements or insinuations to the contrary is unprofessional and The next two points. An advisory committee may advise as well when the budgets is being developed. And in doing so

it will have time to search for other sources of revenue and possible ways to save on expenses before the budgets are finalized. Going back to diversity it will be amazing what can be accomplished for the benefit of the Town overall. The last point on this slide is not the least it benefits a diverse advisory budget committee (ABC) in that it will inform and engage the public using modern forms of communication. Emails and Facebook alone does not serve the community well. There are a lot of Towns in New Hampshire that have an advisory budget committee. They do have checks and balances,...Moultonborough...their mission is to provide the community and governing bodies with independent views and objective analysis of a normal budget...objective means making judgements based on unviable facts not making assumptions or interpretations based on personal opinions without any viable facts. ABC's prepare elements with constructive recommendations on their planned budget and spending practices. Specifically the ABC's work should add assurance and confidence that all proposed budgets are viewed...Milford, New Hampshire they voted to create a Town budget committee to add a public element to the review of the Town's operating budget...nine appointed by the Town Moderator...not by Selectmen...unbiased Sunapee Board of Selectmen looking for...specialized skills and expertise...as a second set of eyes for the selectmen. The ABC's do work very well for many towns. In conclusion there are checks and balances that benefit that Hudson would realize with an advisory budget committee. That is my vision for this community. That is why I petitioned for a warrant article. I hope the Town Warrant Article 23 by petition passes on March 14. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. **We will now open Article 23 as amended to questions, comments, amendments.** Mr. Jasper.

S.Jasper: Thank you Mr. Moderator. I rise in opposition to the article. Some of the points just made I encourage everyone to look at the Moultonborough tax rate and compare that to Hudson. As to the two other communities that are listed I do not believe they are eligible under the Municipal Budget Committee because they are part of a regional school districts and I think you would have to have all of the school districts to adopt it. So we are comparing apples and oranges so I think we need to look at that carefully. They don't have stand alone districts...creates a whole different dynamic in there. Those who fails to learn tend to repeat it. Hudson has been down this path before. We actually had a budget committee before there was a Municipal Budget Act back then 1933. We did eliminate it during the first few years of the Town Council. We had an advisory committee for the school district but there was such discontent because there is no statutory authority...The Budget Committee can do all of those things stated and they can do a lot more...they can request under authority certain legal information...We went for maybe five years with an advisory budget committee. The Town Counsel was doing their own thing and the taxes were going up and up...So the Chapter was specifically amended and put the Budget Committee back in...It didn't work. It really can't work. If every time we don't like a decision the Board of Selectmen make, the School Board. The Budget Committee and we decide to change the form of government we aren't going to get any results. Frankly it's all about the people we elect and how they act...It will not give you a good result I can guarantee you that based on history. Also concerned about not having enough people to run. ..who would with no involvement...Let's continue with what's been working for this town. I would hope he voters go to the polls in March and vote no on this -

Moderator: Thank you. Yes, Sir. Next in line. Mr. Bernard.

Bernard: As a former budget committee member I would prefer to have the voters vote who is on the budget committee instead of an appointee. Not a great idea and I think the Budget Committee does the best they can with the resources they have. I'm against it.

Moderator: Thank you,. Mr. Trost was next.

Trost: For years people have expressed a concern that the Budget Committee is just a rubber stamp that they didn't go over the numbers too hard. That they didn't act hard enough. And this time we had a Budget Committee that So what has changed this year. This year the Budget Committee made full steps to attempt to more accurate for the citizens. Suddenly to an advisory budget committee this is not going to be effective at all. Powerless, absolutely The Board will be able to ignore whatever the advisory committee says. No offense to the Moderator but this warrant article assumes the Moderator knows more than the voters...My final comment is you think your taxes are high now wait till there is no Budget Committee.

Moderator: Just to make a point on the Moderator part. (audience laughing) In the old days any elected Board had an opening it was the Moderator who was responsible for filling it. Whether it was the Board of Selectmen, the Budget Committee or the School Board. That all changed a number of years ago. That was the old days when the Moderator had a lot more authority than I've got now. Yes, Sir. And then Mr. Clegg.

Tranfaglia: I'd like to reiterate the last two speakers. I don't understand why anyone would vote for this and give up their rights to Vote this in and we don't have a right to vote for those who represent us. The Budget Committee. I can give you a list of things I don't agree withSecond outside of giving up your rights to vote for the zBudget Committee I don't expect I don't see any more power given to you and I don't see you wanting this power given to you. I do have a couple questions. What becomes of input voter input by our citizens. Will we be able to see notes of the advisory board. Further I would like to know why the Selectmen voted 3-1.

Why did they change their mind to be against it and the one selectman for. If they could explain.

Moderator: That will be the easiest question. Mrs. Lamothe will answer the first part.

Selectman Morin: I'll speak on my reason. At the Board of Selectmen meeting I came right out and said this is a checks and balances. What I also said and believe and I said it in that a message needed to be sent to the Budget Committee because of the actions that were taken place during the year and how it all went. I fully agree with all the that it takes the right away from the voters. To have their say and have people elect them. And if they don't like what the Budget Committee did this year they can remove them and put new people on. Again, originally I voted for it and then I fully agree that they can waive the voters' rights to represent and I am going to vote against this now. Than you.

Moderator: And Mrs. Lamothe was going to yield on the question of the process and procedure.

Lamothe: So I did notice Moultonborough did actually have a budget committee study group that put together the parameters of how an advisory budget committee would work. How many members it would consist of. How the members would be appointed. So there is a process that needs to be determined. There is no process set in stone. It could be something the public could provide input on and it could be a great communication to develop to bring the Town forward. Mr. Moderator, could I comment on another speaker -

Moderator: You answered the question. Selectman Guessferd. Then Mr. Clegg.

Selectman Guessferd: I want to answer the question as to why we changed our vote. On my own personal thought process. If anybody was watching the meeting where we initially voted that petition warrant article showed up in the Selectmen's meeting that night with really no ability to do but to address it at that point. We had 50 plus citizens who felt strong enough about this to present this as a warrant article. And that's all the feedback we had. Personally as a member of the Committee for five years I feel it serves a purpose. But my hope was that we were going to have at least one other chance to vote on this. And we said that night we welcome for people to please let us know what you're thinking. We did get a lot of feedback after that in opposition to the petition warrant article. Given all of that that's why I changed my vote because citizens came forward. And we're very adamant about keeping the Budget Committee. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Clegg. On the amended article 23.

Bob Clegg: Thank you very much for allowing me to speak. I'm on the budget Committee as you know. I'm probably one of the reasons some want to get rid of it. I want to mention I'm not as old as Shawn [Jasper]. I wasn't on the first Budget Committee. (audience laughing) Now they talk about diversity. What's more diverse than to have all the people in this room, many of us don't agree, some of us do decide who is going to sit there and help you learn what the numbers are. You're the ones who really decide what the Board looks like. Impact on decisions. When I make a decision I think of all the constituents who voted me in not the politician who appointed me. I worry about how many thousands of people vote in this town. They only have to worry about the one person who gave them the title. When you talk about the high caliber and professionalism what's more professional when someone on the Budget Committee says I need some information. And to explain what the process is, you ask me tonight and we'll give it to the Board. The following meeting our Board will decide whether or not we want to give you anything. The following meeting we will decide exactly what we are going to give you and on the fourth meeting we will give it to you. The School Board my answer just file a right-to-know request. And the response was you can't do that you're a member of the Budget Committee. That's what they want to get rid of is someone like me who says we're entitled for some information. Not we'll decide what we're going to give you, we'll decide when we're going to give you. You want to talk about secrecy. When I got on the Board the first year I was yelled at constantly because according to the School Board and the Select Board liaisons they were told by their attorneys not to put everybody on your email. Blind copy Carbon copy everybody cuz if somebody wanted to research information under the right-to-know they wouldn't be entitled to it because you couldn't there wasn't a quam. I rebuked. Did I get yelled at so, but I've been married for almost 50 years, yelling at me doesn't work. These are the things they want to go back to. You have the right to know what they're doing. Right to know what we're talking about If you take away the elected Board you're not going to have any of that. And if the Moderator is not going to be Paul Inderbitzen I don't know what. Anyone that can take care of a body like this and not get is doing a great job of being efficient. My final comment is Moultonborough...is the richest school district in the state because they have very few full-time residents and a whole lot of really rich people with million dollar homes who pay taxes to be on the water....something like \$29,000 per child because they get so much money. And an advisory board is great how are we going to spend all this money. It's not a problem for them. It's not a problem we have here. Make good I still work. 6-7 days a week and most of the people I know. Time to pay your taxes people you have on a budget committee is to have people who care not only about themselves and their families but about the people who put them there. I'm not voting for anything that I think is too excessive because I know a lot of people who can barely make it. While I'm up here I voted and I signed that wellness petition

because I think it's time to spend money for all the right reasons. You just can't so no to everything. We think there are some things we just have to have. And one of the things we have to have is political people in this town running who work for us. Vote them in or appoint some and we decide whether they stay. Thank you.

Moderator: Mrs. Huard.

Huard: I think this warrant article inferred that the Budget Committee is not effective, that they don't make analysis. That couldn't be further from the truth. The maker also pointed out that they believe that the budget is also imprudent and that the Budget Committee is wrong. That couldn't be further from the truth. So once again the maker of the warrant article standing up making untrue statements and telling the body that anyone else who contradicts her is wrong. Thank you.

Moderator: Mrs. Gasdia.

M.J. Gasdia: I don't like the way the amendment is written so I'm not in support of the amendment because I personally don't believe that Paul Inderbitzen the Moderator should be appointing the people on the committee. Tomorrow if all of a sudden I was the one who ran for Moderator I've got a lot of people thinking I don't want her picking ... I do feel the need for people to vote. I do want to talk about it thought since this has been brought up and I watched that Board of Selectmen meeting . I listened to them talk. Bob Guessferd had mentioned right away this was a knee reaction to the School Board budget. And I disagree with that... I talk a lot to people and the reason I heard the reason to vote for this and against your committee has nothing to do with changing the checks and balances. Not believing that you do a good job. I think you put a ton of time in. I also believe these other Boards put a ton of time in. But what is very hard to watch. I voted for a lot of you. I am your constituent. Mr. Clegg, I voted for you. Sorry, I'm looking at you. Bob Cole, I voted for you. I'm friends with your daughter....Shawn Murray, you represent me -

Moderator: Mrs. Gasdia. Direct your comments through me.

M.J. Gasdia: Mr. Cole, Mrs. Leary, Mr. Quinlan, everybody on this Board...represents me as well. I am the fact checker. I may not always agree with every decision but I do agree with your decisions sometimes....What I don't agree with as I come in front of you this deliberative session as an involved very informed citizen. My vote matters. My voice matters ...I am not going to be afraid to speak. The reality is we need checks and balances...we really do need you. What we don't need is when I'm watching a meeting and I would love to hear the reason why you suggested the cut without you making a side comment about a person on the Board. Because that's what kills me. I'm watching it and now I can't take what you just said at face value as an accurate thing because it sounds like personal. You just -

Voter: Point of Order.

Moderator: She is speaking to the motion, to the article.

M.J.Gasdia: (continuing) This is speaking to it because the reality is when you're watching you're listening to the Budget Committee and trying to listen to they're recommending, they're not recommending. Well I can't take your recommendations when if you are insulting someone when you are doing it. So as a voter for me what I'm asking as a Board is. In the past years I've seen the Budget Committee change and the reason for the knee jerk reaction is because there's been some kind of shift the past couple of years. You can feel this negativity. I don't

want to feel negative towards you. I want to understand your decisions. I just want you to be respectful of others and the time these people out in, and the time the citizens. I don't care if three people signed that petition. Take the ownership and you know what something could change. Not to change your voting but maybe we could take a step back and think maybe we were a little harsh when we spoke about that person. You want to belittle and speak about people ... When you are representing the Town of Hudson because you say the words...I represent the taxpayers. When you represent the taxpayers your job is to educate and make decisions. Your job isn't to cut down people and pull down and distrust in specific members in our community. You should be helping instead of these devices. You should be helping to unite. Help me to understand why those cuts had to happen. I'm going to listen to you more when I don't hear the sly stuff okay. And it's not everyone every meeting. I appreciate what you do. I'm not voting to abolish you. But I am begging you to actually listen and say you know if we could just tone it down. And you want to have a conversation with someone else. You want to argue with that person. Go do it. Feel Free. Just don't go do it during the taxpayer's time at a meeting. So we are trying to understand because we want to be involved. And if you want to get me to be along side of you and vote down the budget, whatever you're saying, you have to explain it in a way without making these remarks. Because it negates. If you're trying to say this person is being shady they're doing their job just like you are...Give them the due ownership they give you. These two Boards always say positive things about the Budget Committee. And I very rarely hear you guys say you know what kudos to them for the hours they put in with those budgets. Agree with them or not they are doing their elected job. Just please have that bit of respect and I think it's going to have people on the other side of the vote say you know what we do want you there. Just please listen to all of us...You've got my vote. Keep it. Don't trash people. You're not above us. You're not better than us. Don't talk down to us or anybody else. You're at that Board act like the with respect. That's all I have to say. That's what I ask and why I'm not going to support this. I will support a Board that acts with respect to Hudson and all the taxpayers. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Urrutia.

Alejandro Urrutia, 9 Campbello Street: First I want to say is that people who have been approaching me and they are actually in support of these. And that is because of the frustration of the way we are going. But I really believe that we can accomplish many of these things and fix this warrant article by changing the behavior. There needs to be more collaboration and less confrontation. I really believe that could be a thing by having the Budget Committee elected by the people. But there is something we need to change. We can't continue doing like that. We can't continue doing like fights on TV in front of everyone. That needs to be changed. And that is something we must committee to that. And also there is probably mostly acting the Budget Committee as an advisory board. Maybe to participate in more meetings or have focus groups or something. And for the other side I have what was brought to me that the Board be elected. And then I have a question this going forward. There is something that has me making second thoughts about this. What happens to the people already elected. These people already have been elected to the body of the committee. If the body of the committee disappears what is going to happen with it. The people is here because the people vote for them. There is already candidates running for the body. What is going to happen with it the people elected. So there is already some questions about this . I understand there is a frustration because you see the Budget Committee and that is a confrontation that is not good. This is from the bottom to the top and I understand this is in this forum and that is not the way to behave. We need to have more collaboration between the Boards because this is what actually what voters want. It is important to listen to people testify in front of the body about Budget and everything else. It is important to listen to each other. If we don't listen to each we will not be able to accomplish

nothing with each other. And that is something that most change. A change that is Everybody that is at those tables here are here because we want to do the best for our town. We need to listen more before we open our mouths whether we are in favor or against something. Then I have a question to Mrs. Lamothe about history but what is going to happen to people that is already elected and what is going to happen to the people who is running for the candidacies.

Moderator: Mrs. Lamothe will respond. (inquiring to HCTV: Mr. Johnson could we get the correct wording of the amended article. That is not the wording that I have. I just want to be sure everyone is looking at the same article that we have as amended. There we go.) Okay the question to Mrs. Lamothe if she will yield.

Lamothe: That is a good question. And the way I see it is that the Municipal Budget Committee will no longer be. We hope that current members and members who are running would apply for a position on an advisory budget committee. I believe that's how it works. I would have to defer to an attorney to be 100% accurate. I do hope they would apply to be members.

Moderator: Thank you. Yes, Sir. Mr. Tataglia for a second time.

Tranfaglia: I have a question about the selectperson who was in favor of this. I was wondering if you could rise and tell us why you were in favor. Thank you.

Select Chair Kara Roy: I was very clear at the Board of Selectmen meeting that it was not a typical rationale for doing things. But this particular Board is so dysfunctional on operating appropriately. They make decisions based on personal feelings. Court cases I don't think they are working for the Town anymore. That's why I had to support this article.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Oates.

Oates: Along the same lines I've gone down to Budget Committee meetings. I've asked questions. Why they are cutting X amount out of the budget. I've repeatedly been told that they can't tell me what line items or why. That's not their job which I don't understand. If you are going to be working with the Town with the School Board to pass a budget you should be able to be working together. To discuss line items to know why X amount is coming out. They've never been able to provide that. They've always last minute pick a random number. Last year it was two-million this year it's three-million. I'm not opposed to cuts. If there are cuts I like ti know what those cuts are not just random numbers. Towns like Bedford, New Hampshire have an Advisory Committee. They're not Moultonborough. They seem to be surviving. They seem to be doing quite well. I think an to provide valuable advice, information to the voters, making the budget process much smoother by trining. Focussing on the budgeting position and not politics. I feel like a lot of Budget Committee members are using their position to ficus as a political platform for one reason or another. I don't know why...need to focus on the finances of the town so its constituents can make an educated decision when we go to vote. I think if we work together with a nonpolitical Advisory Committee we can be positive and create a brighter future for Hudson. Right now I haven't seen that. We are now on three years of default budgets. I would like to get this moving in the right direction. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Trost. On the amended Article 23.

Trost: I'd like to add an amendment. **Strike everything after "To see if the town will vote to" and add set the salary for Budget Committee members to \$100 a year and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1000 which represents the amount for wages and benefits for Budget Committee**

members. Ex-officio members are not eligible for wages and benefits. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

Moderator: Mr. Trost do you have that in writing for us to have.

Trost: I sure do.

Moderator: If you could give that to the clerk over there. We'll need to put that in. Mr. Trost moves an amendment. We'll put that up on the screen. Seconded by Mrs. Huard.

MOTION: TO ADD AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 23 [as written above in red]
MADE BY: TED TROST; SECONDED BY: PEGGY HUARD

Moderator: (responding to voters in the audience) Yes, Ma'am. Well they are amending a warrant article. That's what this meeting can do as long as we don't change the subject matter. The subject matter has to stay the same. I want to see the wording. I wasn't sure what the wording was before I could move it. That was not warn to the public. I don't know if I'll accept for putting in money because that has to do before the Budget Committee. I just want to see what the wording was before we....I don't think we can add money to an article that hasn't go before the Budget Committee. You can change money. You can change amounts. You can't put money in that wasn't there beforehand.

Moderator: (addressing Mr. Trost) If that's your motion we can't put money into a budget that it was not included. We can ask our Town Counselor to do that. To comment on it but ...Let's see what he's writing. If that's the sole to replace everything that was already written...If you are not rescinding the Budget Committee then you are not... I would rule that Out of Order because we can't add money to an article that didn't have money in it. You're withdrawing your... We can't add money in. We haven't finished this yet.

Moderator: (continuing) Okay, the motion to amend was to add money in. We can't do that because it was not warned to this body to propose something that spends money. So it proposes to spend money that wasn't warranted. Can't do that. It hasn't been through the budget process. So I am ruling that amendment Out of Order.

MOTION RULED OUT OF ORDER

Moderator: (continuing) And **we are back on Article 23 as amended**. I heard to cut off debate. Is there a second to cut off debate. Mr. Lawrence.

MOTION: TO CUT OFF DEBATE ON ARTICLE 23
MADE BY: SHAWN JASPER; SECONDED BY: MR. LAWRENCE

Moderator: (continuing) It's not debatable. If you have heard enough and you want to go on that's fine. You will vote in favor of moving the question. If you want to allow more discussion. There were a couple of people in line waiting. Then you would vote no. If you are in favor of cutting off debate on Warrant Article 23 please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed.

THE "AYES" HAVE IT. HAND COUNT REQUESTED.

Moderator: (responding to voter) I can do a count. A hand count. Mrs. Jacoby could you do

that side. Assistant Moderator Cannava will you do this side and the the back. Mr. Jasper the front. If you are in favor of cutting off debate on Article 23 please raise your cards up and leave them up.

Voter: (interrupting) Point of Order.

Moderator: The amendment is done. We are on Article 23 as amended. We are cutting off debate on that so it goes directly to the ballot. In favor of cutting off debate, raise your cards up. Leave them up. If you are opposed to cutting off debate raise your cards up. **There are 37 yes votes and 34 no votes. The question has been moved. Article 23 will now go to the ballot.** Motion has been made to restrict reconsideration by Mrs. Lamothe. Is there a second. Second by Mr. Oates.

**MOTION: TO RESTRICT RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 23
MADE BY: DIANA LAMOTHE; SECONDED BY: VICTOR OATES**

Moderator: (continuing) If you are in favor of restricting reconsideration of Article 23 please raise your voter cards. Those opposed to restriction.

THE "AYES" HAVE IT. ARTICLE 23 IS RESTRICTED.

We are now back in the order starting with Article 09. Mr. Jasper for what purpose do you rise.

Jasper: To make a motion. I'd like to move that we dispense with the readings of Articles 09 through 14 and the explanations. That only questions and answers be taken.

Moderator: Mr. Jason moves to dispense with the readings of the Articles 09 through 14. These are all Capital Reserve Funds requests. Seconded by Mr. Martin. We will just open them up to questions and answers. They're pretty self-explanatory. We won't be reading them. But we can discuss and amend any of the Capital Reserve Funds.

**MOTION: TO DISPENSE WITH THE READINGS AND PRESENTATIONS OF ARTICLES 09
THROUGH 14
MADE BY: SHAWN JASPER; SECONDED BY: NORMAN MARTIN**

Moderator: (continuing) If you are in favor of dispensing with the readings and the presentations of Articles 09 through 14 raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed raise your cards.

**THE "AYES" HAVE IT. WE WILL DISPENSE WITH THE READINGS AND
PRESENTATIONS
AND GO RIGHT TO DISCUSSIONS.**

Moderator paraphrasing Warrant Article 09 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 09 - Police Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Funding

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 from the unassigned General Fund balance of June 30, 2023 which will be added to the Police Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established March 9, 2021?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$.00

Moderator: (continuing) **We will open Warrant Article 09 to discussion.** Mrs. Huard.

Huard: I assume this means we can discuss all of them all at once or discussing one at a time.

Moderator: We are going to do them one at a time because the numbers are all different.

Huard: I will focus in on the first one. This is an area which I spoke about in the first part in my motion against the operating budget. This shows an example of where money is taken from that unassigned General Fund balance that I spoke about. That is an accumulation of over taxation. While I respect the maker and don't doubt there is a need for safety equipment I guess I'd like to understand why the Town would fund in this manner. What type of equipment does it fund. And why we're funding from Capital Reserve balance for future purchases when taxpayers are having hard enough time coming up with their current bill to pay the current costs of operations...What is this fund actually for. What are the alternatives to fund the safety equipment.

Moderator: If someone would yield to that question. Thank you Chief for coming up.

Police Chief Dionne: The Police Safety Capital Reserve Fund is for equipment such as body-worn cameras, tasers, shields, some equipment like that. We have a contract with Taser which is \$ 35,000 a year. We have a contract with Body Worn Cameras and that is \$69,000 a year.

Moderator: Thank you. These Capital Reserve Funds are all required by the State to put all of these on individually to put them into the budget. This is after they originally filed. The DRA says this is the way we have to do it. Does anyone else have a question. The Police Safety Reserve Fund. If not **I'll close the discussion on Capital Reserve Fund for Article #09 and it goes to the ballot.**

Moderator paraphrasing Warrant Article 10 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 10 - Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Funding

Shall the Town of Hudson 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?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$.01

Moderator: (continuing) **Does anyone wish to speak on Warrant Article 10.** Yes, Sir. Mr. Flanders.

Flanders: If we are going to do any of reassessment on our houses because of errors does this money help at all to do that.

Moderator: The State requires we have a new evaluation every five years. Required. We don't have a choice. We do it this way so we don't have to pay for it all up front.

Flanders: The companies that were hired...go out and do all these assessments and they actually did them wrong. They just look at buildings and -

Moderator: We are not talking about the evaluation that happened. We either pay for it all in one year, about \$250,000. So if we don't put a little bit aside every year we going to have to put it all in one year. That's the whole purpose. Any other discussion on the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. Yes, Sir.

James Wilkins, Belnap Drive: Do we gain interest of these Funds.

Moderator: The Trustees of the Trust Fund manage these. They do a pretty good job of making money for the Town what moneys they do hold. They manage it. Thank you. Anybody else on Article 10.

Oates: Is the Chief Assessor available or can someone speak to the revaluation being next year than waiting the whole five years.

Moderator: Selectman Roy will yield.

Roy: So we are required to do it every five years. But we can opt to do it at another interim. Do it every two years, three years. Yes, but we don't have to.

Moderator: Thank you. Anyone else on Warrant Article 10 Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. Seeing none. **I'll close discussion on Article 10 and it goes to the ballot.**

Moderator paraphrasing Warrant Article 11 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 11 - VacCon Truck Replacement Capital Reserve Funding

Shall the Town of Hudson 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 Sewer Fund and \$15,000 of this sum will come from General Fund.

Recommended by he Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00

Moderator: (continuing): **Anyone wish to discuss Article 11 VacCon truck funding.** Seeing none. **We will close discussion on Article 11 and it goes to the ballot.**

Moderator paraphrasing Warrant Article 12 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 12 - Fire Apparatus Refurb/Repair Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 which will be added to the Fire Apparatus Refurbishment/Repair Capital Reserve Fund previously established March 2008?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$.01

Moderator: (continuing) **Anyone have a questions on Article 12 the Fire Apparatus Refurb/Repair Capital Reserve Fund.** Yes, Sir.

Edward Jonson, 31 Brody Lane: Small question. Why didn't we get this one from the unassigned General Fund balance.

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 40

Moderator: Does somebody want to yield to that. Selectman Morin.

Morin: We could look into it taking it from the Fund but it is been a long going warrant article for years this way. Again it saves the taxpayers in the long run. Taxpayers pay bit we do it over a long time versus just taking one payment. We've never looked at it to take it out of the big fund. Just always been a warrant article.

Moderator: Mr. Jasper.

Jasper: As I'm reading these only Article 09 takes it from the unassigned General Fund balance. The others are all. This is different than Article 09 correct.

Moderator: Anyone else on Article 12 Fire Apparatus Refurb/Repair Capital Reserve Fund. Seeing none. **We will close the discussion on Article 12 and it goes to the ballot.**

Moderator paraphrasing Warrant Article 13 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 13 - General Replace/Repair Capital Reserve Funding

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 which will be added to the Generator Replacement and Repair Capital Reserve Fund previously established on March 8, 2022? \$10,000 of this sum will come from the General Fund, \$10,000 will come from the Sewer Fund and \$10,000 will come from the Water Fund.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00

Moderator: (continuing) Anyone wish to address Article 13. General Replace/Repair Capital Reserve Fund. Seeing none. **We will close the discussion on Article 13 and it goes to the ballot.**

Moderator paraphrasing Warrant Article 14 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 14 - Benson Park Renovation Capital Reserve Fund

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 March 1998?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-1

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00

Moderator: (continuing): **We will open Article 14 up for discussion.** Yes, Mr. Jasper.

Jasper: a time ago in the spring I beat up on the Selectmen to use the moneys from the reserve fund to fix the Hazleton Barn roof. So I wanted to take this opportunity to thank them for doing that and saving the Town of Hudson thousands as that roof had deteriorated. Thank you. Looks great. Did it at a really good price. Kudos to the Board.

Moderator: Thank you. Anyone else like to address Article 14 the Benson Park Renovation Capital Reserve Fund. Seeing none. **We will close discussion on Article 14 and it goes to the ballot.** Motion to restrict 09 through 14 by Ms. Messner. Selectman Roy will second.

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 41

**MOTION: TO RESTRICT RECONSIDERATION OF ARTICLES 09 THROUGH 14
MADE BY: KATHERINE MESSNER; SECONDED BY; KARA ROY**

Moderator: (continuing) If you wish to restrict reconsideration on 09 through 14 please raise your cards. Thank you. Those opposed.

THE "AYES" HAVE IT. ARTICLES 09 THROUGH 14 ARE RESTRICTED.

Moderator reading Warrant Article 15 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 15 - Readopt Optional Veterans' Tax Credit

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to re-adopt the OPTIONAL VETERANS' TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$600 (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00

Moderator: (continuing) **I'll recognize Selectman Roy to present Article 15.**

Roy: Warrant Article 15 seeks to re-adopt the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit in the current amount of \$600 for those veterans who meet the qualifications. This Article is a result of the State Legislature expanding the eligibility for the Optional Tax Credit to allow active duty personnel and qualified National Guard Reservists to receive the tax credit. The New Hampshire Department of Revenue has issued technical guidance that states the Town is required to adopt their Optional Veterans' Tax Credit. Failure to do so will result in the credit automatically being reduced from the current amount of \$600 to the Standard Veterans' Tax Credit amount of \$50. For the 20-22 tax year the Town had 1,036 veterans receiving either the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit or the All Veterans' Tax Credit. We do not expect a significant amount of additional veterans tax credits associated with the expansion of eligibility based on information attained from the State Deputy Admin General and the Veterans Service Director. The Board of Selectmen recommended this article 4-0.

Moderator: Thank you. **We will now open Warrant Article 15 to questions, comments, amendments.** Yes, Sir. Mr. Crowley.

Crowley: My question is this is done each year or

Roy: I will yield to Mr. Malizia. I don't believe so. I think it's one time.

Moderator: I think it's because the State may have changed and you got to go back and make your own change.

Malizia: The State Tax Legislature there's a copy of it on the bulletin board at the back. It's technical advises all communities to add something other than the standard deduction that Hudson has. We have a \$50 credit. So we adopt that this year. You don't need to keep doing it every year. You don't do it this year the qualifying veteran wont get a \$50 credit. And I'm not going to be the guy to tell them that.

Moderator: Further discussion on Article 15 to re-adopt the Veterans' Tax Credit. Any discussion. Yes, Sir.

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 42

Flanders: I just want to say the credit does help especially for people with low income. Hank you very much.

Moderator: Thank you. Anyone else to discuss Article 15. Seeing none. **We will close the discussion On Article 15 and it goes to the ballot.**

Moderator reading Warrant Article 16 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 16 - Readopt All Veterans' Tax Credit

Shall the Town of Hudson readopt the ALL VETERANS' TAX CREDIT in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property which shall be equal to the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town of Hudson under RSA 72:28 (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00

Moderator: (continuing) **Selectman Roy will present Article 16.**

Roy: Warrant Article 16 is to re-adopting ALL VETERANS' TAX CREDIT in the current amount of \$600 for veterans who meet the qualifications. The article is a result of the State Legislature expanding the eligibility for the All Veterans' Tax Credit to allow active duty and personnel and qualified National Guard reservists to receive the tax credit. The New Hampshire Department of Revenue has issued technical guidance that states that towns are required to re-adopt their All Veterans' Tax Credit. Failure to do so will result in the credit being reduced from the current amount of \$600 to the Standard Veterans' Tax Credit of \$50. For the 20-22 tax year the Town has 1,036 veterans receiving the Optional Tax Credit or the All Veterans' Tax Credit. We do not expect a significant amount of additional veterans' credit associated with eligibility based on the information that came from the State Deputy Admin General and the Veterans Service Director. The Board of Selectmen have recommended this article 4-0.

Moderator: Thank you. **We will open up Article 16 to re-adopt the All Veterans' Tax Credit.** Anyone wish to speak on Article 16. Seeing none. **We will close the discussion on Article 16 and it goes to the ballot.**

Moderator reading Warrant Article 17 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 17 - Discontinue Combined Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Shall the Town of Hudson vote pursuant to RSA 41:45-a II, to discontinue the combined office of Town Clerk/Tax Collector? If adopted, the person holding the combined elected office of Town Clerk/Tax Collector shall continue to hold the combined office until after the date of the next annual town election, following which, that person shall continue to hold the office of Town Clerk until the expiration of that term of office, and the Selectmen shall appoint another individual as Tax Collector in accordance with RSA 41:33.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00

Moderator: (continuing) **I'll recognize Selectman Morin to present Article 17.**

Morin: Good afternoon. Warrant Article 17 seeks to discontinue the combined Town Clerk/Tax Collector position which currently is an elected position and will be replaced with a Town Clerk and an appointed Town Tax Collector. The Board of Selectman have forwarded this article to

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 43

the warrant because the responsibilities of the combined position have become too much for one individual. The majority of towns of our size in our area have already separated the position due to the complexity of the position and the different skillsets needed to perform the job timely and efficiently. If

this passes the Town Clerk position will remain an elected position and will be responsible for arranging and administrating all the municipal, state and national elections. The Clerk will also remain responsible for dog and marriage licenses, vital records and is the custodian of all Town records. The Tax Collector who will be the employee position and will be hire by the Board of Selectmen. The Tax Collector will be responsible for the billing and collecting of property taxes, vehicle and boat registrations and for the collection and reporting of all proper accounting of all municipal funds warranted through the Tax Collector's office. If the article passes, it will not become effective until March 2024 at Town Meeting at which time the Town Clerk/Tax Collector will assume the role of Town Clerk. The Selectmen will then conduct a hiring process for the Tax Collector position. The Board recommended this 4-0.
Thank you.

Jasper: May I ask a question first.

Moderator: Yes, Mr. Jasper has a question.

Jasper: So my understanding is that statutory Town Clerks are responsible for motor vehicle registrations. And I'm wondering where the statutory authority is of that.

Moderator: Selectman Morin will yield.

Morin: Let me read it again to make sure I read it correctly. Say it again for me Mr. Jasper.

Jasper: In that you read you said that the Tax Collector is responsible for motor vehicle and boat registrations. That's a responsibility of the Town Clerk.

Morin: Okay. I'll read it so it's clear. Say it again to make sure ... will be an employee position to be hire by the Board of Selectmen. The Tax Collector will be responsible for both for billing and collection of property taxes, vehicle and boat registrations and for the collection and reporting of all proper accounting of all municipal funds warranted through the Tax Collector's office.

Moderator: Do you have the RSA reference.

Jasper: I had a conversation with the Secretary of State yesterday and he was specific in the fact Town Clerks are responsible for motor vehicle registrations. So I'm wondering where the authority is to take that from the Town Clerk and give it to the Tax Collector.

Attorney Lafevre: I wouldn't confuse the description you were just given with the subject of the warrant article. The Town Clerk will continue to do all of the statutory duties of the Town Clerk. As the Tax Collector will continue to do the Town Tax Collector duties and services and any change in the statutory If there's a mistake in that you can disregard.

Jasper: I just wanted to be clear on that. If I may speak to the article Mr.Moderator.

Moderator: Mr. Jasper to speak to Article 17.

Jasper: This gets back to why I made the amendment I made earlier with no expectation it was going to pass because I couldn't speak to this article. I understand what the Board of Selectmen are trying to do. If you could do this could you get someone due to the responsibilities. Absolutely you could. Just like half of State government that 48.9% is under Department of Health and Human Services has one Commissioner. The problem here is that. I want to offer an amendment first. I apologize for starting to speak...Mr. Moderator if you can recognize me for an amendment.

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 44

Moderator: Mr. Jasper moves an amendment. Would you speak to your amendment.

Jasper: (reading his amendment) Shall the Town of Hudson vote pursuant to RSA 41:45 -a II, to continue the combined office of Town Clerk/Tax Collector. If this article is defeated the person holding the combined office of Town Clerk/Tax Collector shall continue to hold the combined office until after the date of the next annual meeting. An election of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector is to be held to choose one individual for Town Clerk and another individual for Tax Collector.

Moderator: Is there a second. Mrs. Huard. So you're taking a warrant article to discontinue the Town Clerk/Tax Collector and making it to continue the Town Clerk/Tax Collector combined. I'm not sure that's an amendment that I can take.

MOTION: TO AMEND ARTICLE 17 [words above in red]
MADE BY: SHAWN JASPER; SECONDED BY: PEGGY HUARD

Jasper: It gives the voters the same place ...I will read from statute why I believe it is necessary. Because I think the Town hasn't kept with the statute if I may. This is from RSA 41:45-a,II it says "At any annual town meeting held at least 2 years after the office of town clerk-tax collector has been created, under an article in the warrant, the voters may vote by ballot to determine if they are in favor of continuing the combined office. If a majority of those voting on the question do not vote in favor of continuing such combined office, at the next annual meeting, in which an election for the town clerk-tax collector is to be held the voters shall choose one individual as town clerk and another individual as Tax collector." My amendment conforms exactly with statute. The Town's attempts to do two things which are not in the same statute although in another one. This is the procedure for splitting them back up again in statute. You can agree that I'm turning it on its head. The fact is that is not what the statute calls for. My amendment is exactly conforming with the statute.

Moderator: It also is indicating that the Tax Collector will be an elected position not an appointed.

Jasper: Because that is exactly what the statute says. There are two offices so in statute you can vote to combine the two. Then they have to vote to separate them. Then they need to vote to turn the Tax Collector into an appointed position. You could have accomplished it according to statute by saying in Article 17 this is the method and that in Article 18 post if Article 17 is adopted shall we discontinue the position of elected Town Clerk and have it appointed, The statutes are all here, This is not the way it is ...I would argue very strenuously that the law is clear. You separate the two then eliminate the Town position of elected Tax Collector.

Moderator: (referring to slide) This is the wording we're working on. The amendment. Questions. We are still on the subject matter of discontinuance. Speak to the amendment Mr. Jasper.

Jasper: I don't think there's a plan here and I presented that \$35,000 amendment this morning without being able to speak to this issue. So let's think about this. You have a Town employee you want to be an elected official. The Selectmen have no authority over the Town Clerk. She is responsible for motor vehicle fees, voter registration, where are you going to house that person. You certainly can't think they coexist. How are you going to divide that staff. We have sufficient staff to do both jobs right now because it commingles. Now you are going to have to separate staff...salaries for both...The Secretary of State wanted me to pass onto you that for

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 45

a community of our size it is absolutely necessary to have a full-time Town Clerk....So you elected a Town Clerk and you say you're going to be in the Tax Collector's office. That person has the authority to say on no this isn't going to possibly work. So they can take the and go home in their garage and be only

work as many or as few hours as they want...Now everybody has to go to places to do two things. You don't have a plan here that I've seen that you are going to provide them space and pay one person \$67,000 and another person \$. Now we are going to hire more staff to make this work. This is not as simply as one is going to be elected and one is not. They'll both cohabitate. Unrealistic. Not a good plan. Not cost effective for this town. We need to pay our Town Clerk/Tax Collector more....I was looking at the law and realized this is going to lead to a disaster in the town...Pay people what they are worth for the job. You can get people qualified for a decent salary which we are not paying. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. On the amendment. Selectman Roy.

Roy: So first I'll comment that this warrant article was reviewed both by counsel and by the DRA without comment about any noncompliance with any RSA's. We have maybe \$100,000,000's worth of revenue that comes through that building and we have one person responsible for it. One elected person right. If we want to make our collections operation more efficient and we can split those two. The people that now sit in that office can now collect the revenue and put to the appropriate place. Now why would we want to have an appointed Tax Collector. If somewhere around \$90,000 of taxes coming in we would want a person that has some background and education and training to process, collect and account for those funds and make sure they are properly used. I don't support this amendment. I think the article should go forward the way it is.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment. Changing the words. Mr. Oates.

Oates: I just want to reiterate my point. For our ability in the Deliberative Session we can not change the subject matter. Continue is not a synonym for discontinue. Adding that in does change the subject matter. The title is Discontinue Combined Town Clerk/Tax Collector. We can't put in continue the combined. It's just not legal.

Moderator: Because of the way it's worded if the article is defeated. I'm going to allow it despite the wording but I'm going to allow it. As to what we are discussing Mrs. Huard.

Huard: Deja vu

Moderator: Anyone else. On the amendment. To change the wording to what you see written on the screen. Are you ready to vote. If you are in favor of the amendment for Article 17 raise your cards. Those opposed please raise your cards. I get 15 aye and 31 nay.

THE AMENDMENT FAILED.

Moderator: (continuing) We are now on Article 17 as it's written. Any further discussion on Warrant Article 17. Yes, Sir.

Robert Wherry, 37 James Way: Could we get clarification from counsel if we are going to be in violation of the RSA.

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 46

Moderator: We can request it. Legal Counsel says the original article was fine. Thank you. Any further discussion Article 17 to discontinue the combined Town Clerk/Tax Collector. If not. **We will close discussion on Article 17 and it goes to the ballot.**

Moderator reading of Article 18 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 18 - Establish a Public Safety Services Revolving Fund

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to establish a Public Safety Services (PSS) revolving fund pursuant to NH RSA 31:95-h (c) for the purpose of providing public safety services? Fifty percent (50%) of revenues received from Police Detail Cruiser Fees shall be deposited into the fund, and the money shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year; and shall not be considered part of the Town's general surplus. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the Board of Selectmen, and no further approval of Town Meeting shall be required to expend from the fund. These funds may be expended only for purposes of Police Fleet Purchasing/outfitting, Police Fleet Maintenance, or Public Safety Services needed in conjunction with special events, highway construction, other construction, or any other public safety purpose deemed appropriate by the Board of Selectmen. The Public Safety Service revolving fund shall go into effect July 1, 2023.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00

Moderator: (continuing) **I will recognize Selectman McGrath to present Article 18.**

Selectman McGrath: Warrant Article 18 seeks to establish a public safety services revolving fund for the purpose of police purchasing and outfitting, police fleet maintenance, or public services needed for events and road construction. The intent of this warrant article is to offset the cost of police cruiser expenses by using one-half of the money received from private detail cruiser fees. 50% of the detail cruiser fee will be deposited into this account. The police detail cruiser fee is currently set at \$15 per hour. The Town collected \$48,720 for police cruiser detail fees last year. The Town Treasurer will have custody of these funds and will only pay them out on your Board of Selectmen. The tax impact for this warrant article is zero (\$0.00). The Board of Selectmen have recommended this article 5-0. And the Budget Committee has recommended this article 10-0.

Moderator: Thank you. I'll open up Article 18 for discussion, questions, amendments. Yes, Mr. Martin.

Martin: Thank you. **To amend this warrant article to change the second line from 50% to 100%.** It is a definite need. You got revenues coming in and we should use it for what it is proposed for. Why do we need for it to go back to the general fund. We use it for the item we need. Save the taxpayers a little money.

Moderator: Mr. Martin made an amendment. Is there a second. Mr. Trost. To change the 50% to 100%. WE will deal with just that part of it. Mr. Martin has already spoke. On the amendment from 50% to 100% for any discussion. Yes, Sir.

MOTION: TO CHANGE 50% TO 100%

MADE BY: NORMAN MARTIN; SECONDED BY: TED TROST

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 47

Flanders: I rather keep it at the 50%. You said we had 48 last year. What happened to that money. Is it all gone...So I work as a contractor for Barlo Sign and our police detail was \$250 a day. You say \$15 an hour that's just for the cruiser. Out of this revenue can we. He is proposing an amendment for 100%. Can we use this money to add a mental health person for the police station. It's just specifically for maintenance on the vehicle and so forth.

Moderator: Just a vehicle issue. Not personnel.

Flanders: This could help out the police department in a crisis situation. Maybe have a mental health counselor coming in twice a week -

Moderator: Mr. Flanders. Mr. Malizia will respond.

Malizia: Obviously for vehicles that is the big intent of it. But also for safety vests and other equipment that you would use on a detail. Signage maybe barricades. Not the personnel.

Flanders: Can we add more. I know I've seen a lot of tree work going on...and I notice a lot of the companies using cones without a police detail. Which is actually I believe against the law actually.

Malizia: In New Hampshire they are not required to have a police detail but the Chief can demand a detail for that situation.

Flanders: If we demand a police detail we get more revenue. It would help add more. Right.

Malizia: So in essence when we do the police detail the police officer gets the bulk of the detail money. There's a small administrative fee and you have to collect it. That's about a 3% add on and then the cruiser that we are talking about. That's where we are taking most of the money proposed. So in essence most of the money goes to the officer who is working the detail. I hope that makes sense,

Flanders: It does. They are getting paid like triple time to be out there -

Malizia: I don't think it's triple time. It's more on the lines of the highest pay ...time and a half because if you think about it it's like an overtime assignment.

Moderator: Thank you. Mrs. Huard.

Huard: Something to clarify. We'll the actual revolving fund be available to offset the police officer. If they was additional money there. That would offset... So-

Moderator: On the amendment now.

Huard: Whatever. I'm going to sit down.

Moderator: Mr. Jasper. Then Mr. Weissgarber.

Jasper: Thank you Mr. Moderator. I rise in opposition to this amendment. We still have to pay oil changes, and more particular for gasoline and so if we put 100% in the fund then the gasoline is going to have to come directly out of the Chief. Although you could look at that and budget for that with the revenue but it's an offsetting revenue. We really haven't had the opportunity to see how this goes and what it's used for. But I think this creates a particular

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 48

additional burden because it reduces the revenue of the fund to pay for the regular maintenance.

Moderator: On the amendment to change the 50% to 100%. Mr. Weissgarber.

Weissgarber: Well I agree with the previous speaker my question is are there any other consequences to going to 100%. Like you were saying is there going to be offsets that we are going to.

Moderator: Thank you. Any further discussion on the amendment to change the 50 to 100% on Article 18. Seeing none. Are you ready to vote. If you are in favor of amending Article 18 to change the 50% to 100% please raise your voter cards. And those opposed please raise your cards.

THE "NAYES" HAVE IT. THE AMENDMENT FAILS.

Moderator: (continuing) We are now on Article 18 as it is. Any further discussion on Article 18. Mrs. Huard.

Huard: My understand of private detail is a to use taxpayers resources... So this is to catch up to the Budget Committee Member that said if this is their revenue why not give it to them. It's really not their revenue. They are using taxpayers' police resources to pay. So we are paying a tax on the police force so that they can have the available special revenue. I don't agree with the special revolving fund no more than we agree on the special Ems fund for issues that evolve sometimes. We were being taxed on a residual that is not being funded. In addition I'd like to. While tax rate is a legal wording there is theoretically a tax impact while it is small but it can grow. Technically you're removing a component that affects taxation. By taking stuff from revenue that typically offsetting taxation and moving into revolving funds you are increasing the tax burden. Thank you.

Moderator: Further discussion. Warrant Article 18. Is there anyone else. Yes, Sir.

Wilkins: How do you currently fund things is this amendment were to change to take money from the Police Safety Services revolving fund et cetera.

Moderator: Will the Police Chief yield to that question.

Chief Dionne: Thank you for the question. So we have a budget line for the police cruiser. We have a budget line for supplies. We also have budget lines for repairs. Separate line for police cruiser repairs. This year we ran into a situation that kind of moved this warrant article for us. At the beginning of the year we ordered a certain amount of cruisers from Ford Motors. That was in the beginning of the year. We expected that order went through that these cruisers are coming. In September we were told you can't have those cruisers. They are not available and
So those were 2022 {model year} cruisers. They told us we could but 2023 cruisers maybe if they are available in 2023 at the end of the year. So that made us think. I should say at a significant cost difference. Now we are possibly going to be able to buy the cruisers we need but it was going to cost us a lot more money. So we had to think of an idea how do we deal with this going forward because this is the world we're being in right now. This statute is very specific as to what the money can be spent for. So it would fit this type of situation where either A. We can't get new cruisers and so we are repairing them a lot more. Which we are not budgeted for a certain amount of Monet for repairs. But if we keep existing cruisers we could

Minute of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 49

use it if we had to overspend the repair balance. In the same token if we needed a new cruiser and we did have a chance to get them and were not budgeted for that amount this gives us a small buffer where we could use that to get those cruisers when needed. And the Selectman McGrath had mentioned it was about this would account for about 44, 000 of last year. That would have been the principle.

Moderator: Further discussion on Article 18. Establishing a Public Safety Services Revolving Fund. Seeing none. **We will close the discussion on Article 18 and Article 18 goes to the ballot.**

Moderator reading Warrant Article 19 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 19 - Appoint Conservation Commission - Agents to Expend

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to appoint the Hudson Conservation Commission as agents to expend as authorized by RSA 31:19-a, I, from the Forest Maintenance Fund. Previously established in 2018? No funds to be raised by taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00

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

Morin: Article 19 designates the Conservation Commission as the agents to expend on the recently established Forest Maintenance Fund. The Conservation Commission is tasked with maintaining and improving three Town forests. They are Coburn Town Forest 21 Musquash Road 1.9 acres, Rangers Town Forest 78 Rangers Drive 6.4 acres and the Hudson Town Forest at 142 Kimball Hill Road which is 52.6 acres. This article will allow the Conservation Commission to manage and expend the funds from the Forest Maintenance account for maintaining and improving the Town forests. The tax impact on this warrant article is zero [\$0.00]. The Board of Selectmen recommended this 5-0. And I can tell you as the liaison for the Conservation Commission they have their hands full. They acquired this year, I don't remember the amount of acres, the property off of Kimball Hill Road which they haven't even started on yet. The Coburn Forest is also in need of getting in there and do some maintenance and trails. So this would greatly speed up this work that they can get done so the residents can enjoy it. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you. **I'll open Article 19 for questions, comments, amendments on appointing the Conservation Commission as agents to expend. Is there anyone who wishes to discuss Article 19.** Seeing none. **We will close the discussion on Article 19 and it goes to the ballot.**

Moderator reading Warrant Article 20 [SLIDE]

WARRANT ARTICLE 20 - Adopt Hudson Community Power Plan

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to adopt the Hudson Community Power plan. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to implement the plan and to take all action in furtherance thereof, pursuant to RSA 53-E. The Hudson Community Power plan is an opt-out program that offers more flexible electricity procurement. The plan will initially provide lower electricity rates for residents, or it will not launch. Initial participation in the plan can be declined, after which enrollment becomes voluntary.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 50

Moderator: (continuing) **I'll recognize Selectman Roy to present Article 20.**

Roy: Warrant Article 20 is the adoption of the Hudson Community Power Plan. It is an opt-out program that will allow the Town to electric supply and services on behalf of Hudson residents and businesses. The Community Power program will allow in this economy a sale tat would result in more affordable electricity and stated options for renewable and innovated technology and initial participation in the plan can be declined after which enrollment becomes voluntary. The tax rate impact for this article is zero [\$0.00]. The Board of Selectmen has recommended this article 5-0.

Moderator: **We will now open Article 20 for discussion and comments, amendments.** Does anyone wish to discuss Article 20. Mr. Flanders.

Flanders: Thank you. I'm not sure how to exactly understand this article. What is a power plan. A single line from Eversource. Are you talking solar. Water.

Roy: it is to put this out to the community and negotiate better rates for the supply of the electricity. So our supplier may not be Eversource. It may be somebody else. But the Hudson Community Power Plan is for that and I would like to defer to Mr. Putnam to be sure I get that right.

Flanders: So essentially multiple carriers -

Moderator: Please speak into the mic.

Flanders: Sorry. Every carrier we have out there that charges their rate has the same line. So how will this impact us. How would this make changes.

Roy: The difference would be in your supply the supply line on your bill. So Eversource has continued to supply the line the maintenance and all that goes with that. Just the supply line will change.

Flanders: So having a plan is going to save you more money because of the supply.

Roy: It could.

Moderator: Mr. Putnam do you want to come up here. Mr. Putnam is the Committee for the power plan. He has been working on this for quite awhile.

Craig Putnam: Can we have SLIDE 7 brought up. Thank you. So this is the typical bill you would see from Eversource. Let me clarify that what is being talked about here is only the supply side of the bill [in blue: \$62.31]. Eversource going out and purchasing power twice a year that is a pass through charge, So Eversource doesn't make any money on that side of the bill. This side of the bill is the delivery side [in green: \$83.33]. That's charges for delivery, transmission and some related things. That will not be touched by what we are talking about. It is only the supply side. So most of you are on what's called default supply. Eversource is purchasing power. Some of you a small number have chosen to purchase another as an electric supplier. That's still possible and I'd like to talk about...what Hudson Community Power is about is that it will affect those of you on default supply. So if I could have the next SLIDE please. So this is the part of the bill you may not normally look at. The very top it is the supplier is Eversource. What would change is if you chose Hudson Community Power would be Hudson Community Power instead of Eversource. All those rates below wouldn't change

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 51

because Eversource is still in charge of power delivery. Wires, poles, substations all that they are responsible for and would continue to be responsible for that. The competitive electric supplier knows that. Nothing would change...You would be under contract with them as Hudson Community Power would replace your default electric supplier...If you chose to participate with Hudson Community Power. Does that answer your question Sir.

Moderator: Thank you. Further discussion. Yes, Mr. Tranfaglia.

Tranfaglia: I was part of a group that went to a . They let us know the details of this including the fact that if this were to pass citizens will get a notice saying here is the new situation. At the time of our speaking you could not opt-out versus opt-in. Have you received any further information why this is an opt-out as stated in the Article instead of an opt-in.

C.Putnam: So I believe I can speak to it. Can I have SLIDE 13. There is a reason why the plan is constructed as opt-out. Basically what it comes down to in order to have financial for this type you need to have a certain amount of voters. Because the whole idea is the aggregated goes across a large group of people. When goes to market can negotiate a better price. And if you don't have enough people signed up you want have enough customers. You won't have enough load and you just can't get a good price. So you would have difficulty attracting good partners to help you... Clifton Below who is the Vice Chair of Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire and also the author of a particular statute that governs all of this. He has a long pedigree in this...This is from Clifton that there are no known cases of the municipal electric aggregation that are initiated on an opt-out. They just don't get the numbers with opt-out.

Tranfaglia: What is the load supply percent ...you said it had to be something like 49 %. Do you know that number.

C. Putnam: I don't know that number. Trust me. I've tried to find what that number is. I haven't been able to.

Tranfaglia: The last question real quick is have you identified a possible vendor yet for the supplier.

C. Putnam: So let's be clear. The Warrant Article 20 what it does it obligates Hudson has joined Community Power Coalition over a year ago. We are working with them they are helping us and 27 other towns and cities....30 others in the cue of the process...If the warrant article is successful after in March. All that does is give the Board of Selectmen permission to continue the process...to look at possible procurement partners. It obligates the Town to nothing. Just looking at who do we do business with. Community Power Coalition is non-profit..there are others that are non-profit and others that are for profit...We have made no decision . Community Power Coalition is just one to partner with. The Electric Aggregation Committee would and already has invited all three of those businesses to come back and talk to us around would be their offer. Their advantages. What kind of services. And the role of the Committee would be to advise the Board of Selectmen as to whom we would recommend to go into business with. No decisions have been made at this point and will not be made until a couple of months from now.

Moderator: Mrs. Leary first. Then Mrs. Huard. Mrs. Leary has a question.

Leary: I have a few questions. I know there was a meeting. I couldn't attend. My apologies for asking them now and not at your earlier meeting. So it would be your committee doing the

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 52

negotiating. Who is going to decide who would be the potential partner. And would you be doing the negotiating with those partners.

C. Putnam: I would not expect that the committee would be doing the negotiation. WE would make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

Leary: And as part of those negotiations I am one of those users who has a third party supplier. Obviously we don't have to pay but we do have an opt-out piece. However depending on some of those third party suppliers and over a period of time Eversource decides to change their rates. Would that be part of the negotiations how long the term would be. Once you set that term. how you set the rates, how long that rate would last...If we were to vote for this are we voting to investigate. Is that how it is.

C. Putnam: This simply allows the process to continue. More research will be done. Exactly which partners deciding you want to go with. It could turn out the Board of Selectmen decide this doesn't make sense and it never comes to pass. What it does it allows the project to, In terms of the contract language and so on Hudson Community Power would replace Eversource as the default supplier. And you don't have a contract with Eversource but you are free to come and go from Eversource as you choose.... No set length of time. Question around the rate Eversource sets its rates by law twice a year like a 10 day period late December and then in June...Hudson Community Power does not have to operate under those same rules. Our purchasing partner would be going actively out ...to create a portfolio to actively manage in order to keep prices as low as possible.

Moderator: Thank you.

Leary: I had one last question. Would your committee conceivably be ongoing... to stay in existence...to monitor ...as those contracts expire.

C. Putnam: That's the expectation that the committee would continue to exist in an advisory

Moderator: Thank you. Mrs. Huard.

Huard: So the opt-out starts the process for the Board of Selectmen to companies My understanding is that those letters will go out and if you don't respond this Town has formed an agreement has formed an arrangement to contact for me to engage in services. If somebody I wasn't paying attention I would absolutely have no idea. If I thought this mail out was junk mail. Opt-out. Silence is a form of acceptance. I learned that in contract law that is not. Silence should not be a form of acceptance. I would feel maybe better about it if it were opt-in. No one should from any sort of agreement with an individual, the government, that has the power to form any agreement for an individual citizen.

Moderator: Mr. Wilkins

Wilkins: If I understand it this would be the same sources that we have available individually on the PUC website. Is that correct. Except you can use the economy to scale to possibly get a better rate.

C. Putnam: So the Public Utilities Commission PUC website shows various electric suppliers and their prices. There is a smaller list on there called aggregators. And Hudson Community Power would become an aggregator....and we could choose who to partner with for procurement of services...

Wilkins: On the PUC list is the option to buy shares in solar aggregators. Have you looked into Hew Hampshire

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 53

Putnam: Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire is very interested in being able to provide additional services beyond... the intent for any community power aggregation is to be able to offer additional options perhaps a town owned solar array or battery storage or use Things we don't have...as future things we could adopt as Hudson Community Power

Wilkins: Looking at the map New Hampshire and Vermont are the only states that have that capability . Is there a regulatory barrier to having the community solar farms. That maybe should be addressed.

C. Putnam: I'm not an expert in that area but there are certainly Hew Hampshire solar regulations around this. You can have a community solar up to one megawatt...those are private. Town or municipality can have a program up to 5 megawatts. There are the state megawatt regulations-

Moderator: (banging gavel) Let's get back to the question. You are talking about future possibilities. Selectman Guessferd has a comment.

Guessferd: I'm got to make a comment in terms of the Selectmen. I'm not going to speak for everyone of us but you can see we voted to recommend this. There are a couple of points I want to make. To the point of the opt-out opt-in. I was extremely uncomfortable about that as well. We has several discussion on this entire concept of aggregation. What it came down to in the end is if we don't use the op-out option we simply aren't going to get enough people on day one to participate in this. I am uncomfortable with this piece of it but on the chances we are going to save people money in this economy are high. We talked a lot today times are hard, A lot of people are suffering. This will help. We will get rates that are less than Eversource is charging. So there is that piece. In the end with those things I want the citizens to come out and vote and see what they think. If we get a majority of folks who say let's do this....That is essentially why I voted the way I did. I understand the reservation about the opt-out but I am anxious to be the results of this vote by our citizens.

Moderator; Mr. Gasdia.

G. Gasdia: First I want to thank Mr. Putnam and the Committee who has done a lot of work on this. I view this as a tremendous step for the people that don't pay attention because we have an opt-in. I keep watching all these people talk about my electric bill went up. It keeps going up. If you watch the market. I didn't say you should but we saw this coming. It's no surprise. Three years ago you could have locked in. The reality is I save every month compare to what I would pay with more than the total of every warrant article we have talked about today. I save every single month. People aren't opting in. They are not doing their due diligence. I get it it takes time. What this does this takes the burden off all of those people that are really struggling in this time. There's a better way to do it. Here's a town that's going to do it. And we are going to opt you in. If you decide you want something better you can. To go back to Eversource you can. And I think if I read it right if it doesn't save money we don't do it. For those folks who are truly involved and want a choice the choice opt-in has been there for a long time. You can do it. You can save money. The last stat I saw is 85% of the people do not opt-in that means 85% of the people are paying too much for their electric bill. And if this can help those people that don't whether it's desire or lack of skills whatever to me this is a no-brainer. I can still go and search but if I don't have the time nor the will to do it I'm still paying a very high rate. I think this is very good and I understand if it were opt-in it wouldn't work if we had that. Thank you Mr. Putnam and everyone for what you do.

Moderator; Thank you. Yes, Ma'am. Mrs. Putnam.

Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 54

Debra Putnam: I would ask that Craig show the legality of the 53-8. Because of when it was signed in for approval by the Governor.

Moderator; Did you have a slide on that.

C. Putnam: SLIDE 2. The Community Power Law has been around and has been amended recently in 2019. And when it was created initially it was set up with opt-in only...There was a House Bill I think 315 in 2019 that changed RSA 53 to allow opt-out...The key thing here is there is State law that allows for ...and no one has raise that this is not okay. Until such time that somebody challenges the state law it [opt-out] is legal.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Lanzillo go ahead. Then Mrs. Leary.

Lanzillo: Thank you Mr. Moderator. It was mentioned by a previous speaker that people don't pay attention. So in a way this would be like forming a budget committee to ask hard questions, offend people if it's necessary but get the answers you need. So that the people in town get good electric rates. This was

explained to me after the last election. As we exited the building here Selectman Gagnon had pamphlets explaining this. And the way he explained it to me in very simple and exact that the towns and municipalities already do this get the rates that you get. So you will be able to opt-in or opt-out if you want those same benefits. Is that too simple because this sounds to be complicated. Sounds like it nothing different than what we are doing with the Town of Hudson.

C. Putnam: The Town load has been a part of an aggregate contract that was arranged by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission...and have been benefiting on the electric bill. That savings from the electric bill has paid for our membership in the NRPC....Similarly the School District SAU81 has been aggregating with school districts under a separate contract than the Town one. So this aggregation has been around for some time for municipalities and school districts. It's not been available for retail customers. That's what changed 2019.

Lanzillo: So we will bottomline would it be the same as the schools and the municipal buildings in town. Or would it be a separate thing for the residents.

C. Putnam: The Town and the SAU are under their own separate contracts. If Hudson Community Power is stood up and we got a good enough rate then they could continue or switch their load over to Hudson Community Power as well. Not just for residents, for businesses.

Moderator: Thank you. Mr. Jasper moves the question. I heard a second. Mr. Cole.

**MOTION: TO CUT OFF DEBATE ON ARTICLE 20.
MADE BY: SHAWN JASPER; SECONDED BY: BILL COLE**

Moderator: (continuing) To cut off debate on Article 20. If you are in favor of cutting off debate on Article 20 please raise your cards. Thank you. Those opposed raise your cards.

THE "AYES" HAVE IT. ARTICLE 20 IS MOVED. And goes to the ballot.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moderator: (announcing) A couple of items. That was our last article. Next Saturday here is the School Deliberative Session at 9:00. Hopefully it won't be as cold. And I want everyone to
Minutes of the Town Deliberative Session - February 4, 2023 - page 55

remember on March 14 you will vote here for Ward 1 and Ward 2 at Alvirne High School. I want to thank the GFWC Hudson Women's Club for providing refreshments this year. It's the first time in two years. I want to remind everybody as you leave please be quiet. The Budget Committee is going to have a separate meeting to consider their recommendations. Board of selectmen is going to have a separate meeting to consider their recommendations. So please be quiet so they can conduct their meetings. You can come down front and sit. I don't think it will be long. Other than that I'll accept a motion to adjourn. Mr. Jasper does move. And Mr. Martin seconds..

**MOTION: TO ADJOURN
MADE BY: SHAWN JASPER; SECONDED BY: NORMAN MARTIN**

This is the only one I take a voice vote on. All those in favor of adjournment. Opposed

THE "AYES" HAVE IT.

Thank you. We are adjourning at 2:30 pm.

Transcribed by Diane F. Cannava

Attest: _____
Donna Melanson, Town Clerk

