

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the October 29, 2009 Budget Review Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Coutu the meeting of October 29, 2009 at 7:02 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, led by Representative Bob Haefner.
3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Roger Coutu, Ken Massey, Shawn Jasper, Rick Maddox, Ben Nadeau

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Mark Pearson, Assistant Town Administrator; Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director; Police Chief Jason Lavoie; Dorothy Carey, Exec. Secretary; Lisa Nute, IT Director; Vincent Guarino, IT; Bob Haefner, Chairman of Cemetery Committee and Conservation Commission; Harry Schibanoff, Chairman of Benson's Committee

4. BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Police

Chairman Coutu recognized Chief Lavoie and welcomed him.

Chief Lavoie indicated that this was his first budget that he's had to prepare for the Board. He'd like to thank Dorothy Carey, Lieutenant Bob Tousignant and Captain Bill Avery for their help in preparation for this budget presentation. Mr. Chairman as we move forward over the course of the review of this budget, we were challenged with coming in at zero percent in our operations, which we were without sacrificing critical areas such as training and allowing us to remain as up to date as we can so that the citizens can expect the best services from the police department. In preparation for this budget in watching previous airings of other budget reviews and other Board of Selectmen meetings, we are in tune with the towns' needs and the Boards goals and objectives. As we move into cost centers 5630 and 5660, he would request that he be allowed to open up the brief summary as we enter those 2 centers. Chairman Coutu will do that.

(5610)

Chairman Coutu indicated that if they want to begin gentlemen, we'll begin with section 5610. The only question he would have Chief is minimal. Again, your 2011 request as opposed to 2010 is a little less than \$4,000. He would assume that that's as a result of people within admin. and salaries full time. This also includes the retirement. You have increase in retirement and insurance costs are reflected in here correct? Ms. Carpentier said correct. Certainly when you look at the insurance and the flex benefits and the retirement, Selectman Jasper said those amounts are up considerably more than the bottom line in this account.

(5615) - Facilities

Chairman Coutu indicated that the increase in facilities is up 4.7 percent. He would assume that that is a result of anticipated increases - again, what confuses him - it's minimal again, but if his memory serves him well, Selectman Jasper expressed some concern about the fact that we were supposed to start realizing some savings in telephone. Again, yours is also up. Chief Lavoie stated that a lot of that savings is going to be recognized at the town because of the digital swap over. As a public safety group myself and fire, we have to also continue to maintain those copper lines as a backup system should the digital system go down. So we have that. It's still going to be one of our costs. We also have for a little while we had worked out a nice little deal with the Hollis Police Department and they were paying for a phone line for us over at the court house. Due to their tight budgets, they called him and said sorry not any longer. You'll have to run your own line there now. So that was an additional cost to us.

Selectman Massey said that the FY2010 budget request that was approved by the Board was actually \$52,000. The \$49,000 is the default number. What was in that budget last year that we approved was \$52,000. Chairman Coutu said other than that, everything else seems to be in order. If there's no further comment on that section, we can move to page 11, 5620.

(5620) - Communications Center

Chairman Coutu indicated that there was a \$40,000 increase in communications and asked Chief Lavoie to explain that. Chief Lavoie said that the bulk of that is dealing with salaries and benefits. Chairman Coutu indicated okay, he saw it. Selectman Jasper said there is quite an increase in the salaries full time here \$17 - 18,000. That seems a little bit more than well if we had 3 percent. That's well more than 3 percent. Chief Lavoie said there may be some more step increases in there. We have some, there's (inaudible) that he didn't believe were maxed out. Comparing it to the budget requested and approved, Ms. Carpentier said it was \$361,000 last year. Selectman Jasper stated that they didn't make any adjustments to that line. Thank you.

(5630)

Chairman Coutu indicated that the Chief wanted to address the Board on 5630 and he may do so at this time. Currently our department is authorized to have - there's actually 2 items Chief Lavoie would like to mention to the Board in this cost center. One of them is currently we're authorized to have 47 sworn personnel. You'll see in trying to help - again we're very sympathetic to the economic realities that are occurring in town. He thought it might be prudent on his part to reduce that line item just to save the town some money for this fiscal year by not funding one of the police officer's positions, the current vacant one that we have which was created due to Chief Gendron's retirement and as everyone else moves up the chain if you will. He does want to be clear; he is not saying for a minute that we do not need this position. We need it. We need to have enough coverage on the street especially on the late nights. However, all he's trying to do in this area is see if he can help alleviate some of the pressures that he thinks the Board has felt with the current economic realities that are taking place.

Chairman Coutu said that he thought in essence gentlemen so that you can use it to jog your memory, customarily as he understood the budget process if a position is in the budget even if it's not filled, it would be listed as a vacant position. He neglected to do that. So if you want to refresh your memory and put down - if you were going to add the numbers to come to his full approved positions, it would be a vacant position for a patrol officer for the time being. It is currently in the budget. Chief Lavoie indicated that the total would have been \$76,673. Chairman Coutu asked if that would include everything - salary and benefits, insurances. Is that assuming insurance at maximum? Chief Lavoie said yes. He's hoping that at some point the Board would feel that we can go ahead and backfill this position at some point. Chairman Coutu said let's get through the budget process and we'll see where we end up.

The last item Chief Lavoie would like to bring up is he's going to call it a rookie mistake. A few years ago if you remember we started a capital reserve fund for bullet proof vests and firearms. My assumption was that seeing that the voters approved that that he had an account where all he needed to do is complete a purchase order, submit it to the Board for their approval, and he could order these new vests. He believed about 48 hours ago he was educated and was told no. That has to go before the Board. You're supposed to include that in your budget. His apologies. He did not know. He thought once it was approved by the voters he was good to go and he had this account to be able to spend when he needed to. So he did leave one item out. It would be a total of \$21,600. He does have roughly \$24,000 set aside in that capital reserve fund that is already there. He would ask the Board if there is some way that they could somehow add that \$21,600. It zeros out on the tax dollar for this year. It doesn't change anything because the money is there, and add that to his 563319 account for uniforms. Again, we have 36 vests that have reached their shelf life if you will.

Mr. Malizia told the Board that he was under 5630. What he would do is he would add a line item or put a line item for that purpose, and he'd put a corresponding revenue coming from the capital reserve fund. The capital reserve fund - the Board of Selectmen are the agents to expend, but we should appropriate and show the revenue so that he could then make that purchase next fiscal year.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to amend 5630, line item 319, from \$27,000 to \$48,600, an increase of \$21,600 and to further amend revenue fund 4922, capital reserve funds, by adding \$21,600 said revenue to come from the police bullet proof vest replacement capital reserve fund.

In talking with the Chief, Selectman Massey learned that we currently have 36 vests that are at end of life. They have a useful life of about 5 years. The list price for these vests is \$710. If we buy all 36 of them, we get a bulk discount at \$600, which would be the \$21,600. Because it's all going to come out of the capital reserve fund, it won't have any impact on the tax rate. It will have obviously an impact on the total budget. Chairman Coutu asked if Selectman Nadeau wished to comment on his second for discussion. Selectman Nadeau said so what we're going to do is we're going to put the money in, and then we're just going to use the offsetting revenue to...Selectman Massey indicated that they currently have \$24,000 in the capital reserve fund. It gets confusing if you say take some of the money out of the capital reserve fund and then take the other money that's in the 450 account to offset it. It's just easier to just take all the money out of the capital reserve fund and continue funding with the line item 450. Chairman Coutu said this cleans it up. Selectman Nadeau asked how many bullet proof vests will we be buying. Chief Lavoie indicated 36. Selectman Nadeau asked how many they needed in total. Chief Lavoie said 36. We do have other ones. Because when people were brought on to the department, they are still within their shelf life.

Selectman Maddox asked if the 450 fund the fund for that. Mr. Malizia said 450 is how we fund the reserve. Selectman Massey said 450 puts money into the capital reserve fund. Mr. Malizia believed there were 2 things being funded there. One is weapons replacement. The other is bullet proof vests. We had 2 capital reserve funds established approximately the same time. One is for the duty weapons and one was for the vests. Selectman Maddox said they thought it was a good time rather than funding it all at once. Absolutely. He was surprised they were not taking it out of 450. Selectman Massey indicated that there were 2 reasons. First of all the motion gets a little confusing when you do that because you have to move money out of 450 and put it into 319, then appropriate, then on top of it he felt that if you don't fund the money - the \$12,000 this year, then next year - Selectman Maddox asked 12 or 21. Selectman Massey said in the 450 account there's \$19,500. \$12,000 of it goes into the bullet proof vests capital reserve fund. \$7,500 goes into the weapons account. So there's only \$12,000 available for the bullet proof vests. If you take it out this year and not take it out of the capital reserve fund but take \$12,000 out of this 450, then next year when we're looking at the budget we're going to only show \$7,500 as having been approved. He just felt it would make it a lot easier for us to always understand that we're talking about every year \$19,500. Selectman Maddox disagreed. The net result is the same [Selectman Massey]. We're going to wind up taking all the money out of a non tax rate account. Selectman Maddox said if it was set up for that purpose, he didn't understand why they weren't taking it out of there. It's a wash so we'll move on.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

The question Selectman Jasper has because he became a little bit confused. It's not showing up in the detail but that \$76,673 is in your bottom line. Selectman Massey said no. Selectman Jasper said it is not so we don't need to take any action. Mr. Malizia said that what they should have done, they should have put a line that said vacant with zeros across it just so when you counted the number...Selectman Jasper said they should be consistent and put a line with vacant with \$1. Ms. Carpentier said that's correct. She has reprinted it for the next round. Selectman Jasper asked if he should increase it by \$1 to be consistent. To be consistent, Selectman Massey said that it turns out that because the way the budget thing is working if we allocate even a \$1 to 101, then that would take care of everybody. You could add money into that account. If you want to be consistent, he would make the motion to add \$1 into 5630 line item 101.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to add \$1.00 into 5630 line item 101.

Selectman Massey said what they'll do is right under the last name that's listed there right now, the lieutenant, we'll put another position that says vacant patrol officer, \$1, zeros all the way across.

Vote: Motion carried 4-1. Selectman Nadeau in opposition.

(5640) - Investigations

Selectman Massey would like to explain something. This year in order to have more clarity on where all officers are being used, currently sworn officers and 3 cost centers. They're in 5630, 5640, and 5671. Part of the reason why you saw the big increase in the salary line in 5630 is they've moved all of those sworn officers from this account, or most of them - actually all of them,

they've moved them out of here plus 5670 and they're all now all sworn officers are in 5630. So as an example, you'll notice that 564101 there's zero dollars there now and all of the bennies. They've all been moved into 5630. That's why you see that the total has gone from 394,790 down to 10,550. Chairman Coutu asked if Chief Lavoie wanted to add something. Chief Lavoie indicated that this decision was made with having discussions with the IT Director as well as with Dorothy for accounting purposes and what not; it's just a whole lot cleaner and easier for everyone to be able to deal with and see than if it's all just in one group together. Sometimes information doesn't all get (inaudible). People change. Wouldn't have to change them out as needed. Chairman Coutu said so all we're going to be funding in this category is minimum - supplies \$10,550. Mr. Malizia said that the Chief is a sworn officer - just so you know, he still is in the administration. That is the one sworn officer that is still in the admin. Just for clarity. Selectman Massey said that the other 46 are in 4630 now.

(5650) - Animal Control

Chairman Coutu asked Chief Lavoie if he had the revenue number handy. Chief Lavoie stated he did not. Selectman Massey said in FY2010 the budget was \$17,000 and its \$17,000 this year. The actual revenues we collected in 2009 was \$16,672. Mr. Malizia added that there's a line for animal control fines and court related costs on the previous page budgeted for \$9,000. From a budget perspective, there's \$26,000 budgeted for animal control fines, licenses. So there are 2 line items that come in as a revenue. Selectman Massey said that for the 4325, the court fines, that's down \$7,000 from the budget of last year.

Having done some monitoring, Chairman Coutu understood that we do get several calls with regards to animal control. In your estimation do you feel we're getting our monies worth out of the amount that we're spending on animal control? Chief Lavoie said absolutely. Having to enforce these laws is important. It's a public health issue as well. Sometimes he thinks they may overlook that and they kind of forget that at times. She's doing her best to get those dog licenses. If we're not enforcing those laws in animals and animals are allowed to run around and roam free, it could become a public health issue with different diseases and such. In our case as you know, Janna has been able to - some medical issues that some elderly people were not able to get up and reach 9-1-1 but because of just her day to day job and activities, she's been able to help some elderly people out there in some very, very dire straights.

(5660) - Information System Services

Chief Lavoie would like to talk to the Board about the Information Manager's position. A few years back the town decided to implement an IT Department. It was decided that Lisa Nute would be taken from the police department to lead this new division. Chief Gendron acknowledged that the town should have a specialize department and he supported this endeavor. What has been forgotten over the few years is that Lisa didn't do just IT for them. She was in charge of records and in charge of communications. We also had a part-time employee, John Beike, who worked 20 hours a week for us. We lost at least a minimum of 40 hours of week when Lisa was taken from them. In the past there has been some confusion regarding this position. He's heard members of the Board refer to this position as an IT position. It's not an IT position. If any time he's confused the Board in his presentations to them, he apologized. Information technology or IT consists of the computers, the wiring, all the hardware, the software that goes into running or building a computer. There's a lot more that IT does that he would defer to Lisa Nute as to what the IT function is.

The Information Manager position or the IM position focuses on all of the information that comes into the station. From the time that a citizen reports a crime to us, or is reporting some type of an incident to us, to when the dispatcher receives that information, sends an officers out on a call, the information gets logged into the dispatch screens, the officer responds to the call, handles the call, generates the report. Once those reports are done they get sent off to the Records Division, it then gets disseminated out to the Legal Bureau Division. These reports also have to be gathered, collected, and dealt with for discovery purposes, media releases, and public Right-to-Know laws. This is just some of the things that the Information Manager is responsible for - to ensure the accuracy in the reports, to ensure that people's names are entered properly into a data base, to ensure that spots in NCIC practices are being upheld. Recently we were audited by the State and by the Feds. We had a few problems. You run the risk. Having spots and access to NCIC is not a right. You don't have a right to have that. It's a privilege. If you don't maintain a certain level of compliance with them, you can lose your access to having NCIC in spots. Some Massachusetts

departments have lost the ability to run plates because they were deficient in their working abilities with it. The Information Manager oversees a lot of those things to make sure that we're up to date and that all the right practices are being followed by the employees. The Information Manager's position would oversee 17 people. That's a very large span of control. They also are responsible for completing comstat. We haven't done comstat probably pushing 2 years now. It's very labor intensive. We don't have the time to do the things that some of the things that (inaudible) wants us doing comstat. We need someone to oversee this area a lot better. Chief Lavoie's opinion is that they need to have an Information Manager. He would like to suggest to the Board - he thinks he has an idea that will help you achieve some of your goals as well as some of the police department's goals.

In going back a little bit when Chief Lavoie was talking about the spots in the NCIC, that's the stuff that he uses when they run your license plate, where he runs your name and date of birth to find out what your history is. The danger of us losing that means that the officer who's out on the street won't be able to run a plate to know who it is that he's stopping. Won't be able to get information about the person that they find behind a local business or something like that. His proposal, and this does not solve the problems that he sees them having, but at least it gets a little step closer. We're kind of pushing problems around a little bit. Chief Lavoie suggests to the Board that we take one of the records clerks position and zero that out. We decrease that by \$54,057 and allow Chief Lavoie to be able to hire or promote someone to the Information Manager's position to give him a better span of control and give him some well needed supervisory leadership in those areas.

Motion by Selectman Massey to amend 5660, line items 101 through 122 by a total decrease of \$54,056.

Selectman Jasper asked to make it \$54,056. He wanted to leave \$1 in the line. Selectman Massey said no because they didn't need to. He then said yes, he would do that. Selectman Massey said actually the way you're going to see it listed going forward, that won't be necessary. It's not going to show zero on the records job. It's going to show only \$9,000 on the Information Manager's line when we go forward. We can't guarantee that the person who gets the job is coming out of the Records Division. It's going to have to be posted. Selectman Jasper understood that. If it isn't, that person would be laid off but we're not eliminating the position. He thinks Selectman Massey's intent is eventually to be able to fill this position. Selectman Massey said he thinks they can accommodate it. It would be to amend the line item to \$54,056, which is a decrease from the salary line and benefits of \$183,118 to \$129,060.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to amend the line item to \$54,056 which is a decrease from the salary line and benefits of \$183,118 to \$129,060.

Selectman Massey thinks what they're talking about is that it's basically going to wind up being a working supervisor. The Chief has recognized that he is going to have to have this individual do some records management. We have 15 dispatchers that currently they need somebody he believed to provide the training on oversight for them. As the Chief also mentioned, there are a lot of these reports that get generated that need somebody to sit and manage them. That's what this person's job is going to be. It's not a pure supervisor on the first go around. It's to shift a little bit of the job so that some portion of that person's job is spent supervising and the rest of it is spent on the records manager. Are we going to take as Chief said solve the whole problem? No. We will on the records side it may take you a little longer to get something from the counter is that person is off working with the dispatchers and that's when you come to the counter to get the information. It gets us moving down the line towards fixing something that when Selectman Massey was given the task to go talk to Chief Gendron about consolidating IT, he was very, very clear to him that he was doing it because he felt it was for the good of the town but that he did not in any manner, shape or form believe that he could give up that Information Manager. He told him at the time we would deal with it when the time came. If you recall in July, the Chief came to us and said that because he was dealing with the default and how he would do it that he would come back at a later date to talk about the position. So the need for it has never gone away. It's just that in the between times there have been other priorities that need to be addressed. Now the Chief is saying he would like to address it now by taking a partial step by creating a working supervisor so that he can get the supervision into there that he currently doesn't have.

Selectman Maddox has 2 things. First Chief thank you. This is the kind of thing we're looking for from our department heads is looking outside the box rather than just saying oh my. You came in

with a solution that looks like it is a step to go in the right direction. He has a question. You said that you used to have John Beike for 20 hours. Now he's assigned to your department - well he's in IT but doesn't he reside at the police station. Lisa Nute said for the most part. Selectman Massey said he saw Mr. Beike 2 days ago and he was in the fire department working on stuff there. They don't have room to put him he didn't think full time down here. It's easier to be other there.

To your point Selectman Massey with regard to Information Systems Manager, Chairman Coutu was not surprised to learn in researching this that when he spoke to other people in other policing agencies that a municipality of our size and with the manpower we have that we didn't have an Information Systems Manager. It's critical that there is a person who is accountable to the Chief of Police with regards to all of the information that comes into the department, how it's gathered, and how it's disseminated to the courts, to the agencies that require the information. What's most critical is the fact that the point that you made Chief is the fact that there have been some criticisms about the information as its being disseminating, especially as it might affect our ability to continue with NCIC checks. The most critical aspect of that is especially if a police officer is pulling over a vehicle and we're not able to ascertain the information on the driver or the vehicle that we could potentially be letting people ride up and down our streets who have no licenses or registration and we'd have no way of ascertaining that. That is not to say, and neither does he interpret any of your remarks with regard to NCIC that we're in a position where we're about to lose this. You just don't want to get us into that situation where we might lose it because there is no real accountability. There's not someone that you can go to that has control over the entire information systems. He will support the motion because Chairman Coutu thinks it's a critical need of their department. We've let it go far too long, and it's time that we begin to rein it in. As Selectman Maddox alluded to, this is a way that you were able to come in here thinking outside of the box. Though it's a temporary solution, it's a step in the right direction to get this under control, and he will be supporting the motion.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Just so it's a little clearer, Selectman Massey asked Selectman Jasper to go to page 27. The way this is going to be carried forward, we can't zero out one of those positions because it has an implication that that person either doesn't have a job or they're the ones that are getting the job. So we have to keep both of those 2 positions listed for what they are. The adjustments are made on the Information Manager position but the net result is a total of \$54,000 reduction. You can see it with that document. He's sorry he didn't think of that before, but then he was just looking at this and realized why the Finance Director suggested that we do it this way. Selectman Jasper said that it was fine. Selectman Massey said that the net result is the same, but it doesn't give any implication to somebody as to whether they have or haven't a job. Again, Chairman Coutu said that this position would be posted internally and we don't know where it's going to come from depending on how the selection process goes. Selectman Jasper said that ultimately transfers will be made and there'll be a dollar left some place. Based on who probably is eligible, Selectman Massey said that there's enough in their salary accounts to make up the delta to get it to the starting salary for an Information Manager.

(5671) - Support Services

Selectman Massey indicated that this is the same. All of the salaries have been moved to 5630. So all that's going to remain in this account from now on is operating expenses.

Crossing Guards

Chief Lavoie said they'd notice a little drop in that category. Chairman Coutu said yes there is. Your 2009 request was 57. Your actuals as of June 2010 were 56, and your request is 55. Three, which is a \$1,500 decrease. 2.6 percent in that budget request. Selectman Jasper asked if he was eliminating a guard some place. Is that what happened here? Chief Lavoie said no. The default budget in dealing with that are just we're carrying over practice. We're not going to be paying the crossing guards when there's a teacher's workshop. We've eliminated 3 and 4 days.

(5673) - Prosecutor

Selectman Massey thinks that one officer has been taken out of here and moved to the 5630. Is that correct Chief? Chief Lavoie said yes. Chairman Coutu said that's why you'll show a decrease

in that area, 28.6 percent. You went from 300,000 to 216,000. That's a result of that transfer. Selectman Jasper said he was just a little confused on the state retirement. That you would take sworn officer out, the police prosecutor would be in Group 1, why there would be still an increase in that account. If you don't have sworn officers there any more, you have nobody in Group II, which is where the hit was taken in retirement. Everybody there is Group 1. That should have gone down. Mr. Malizia believed that the prosecutor is in the management unit. They got a raise. Therefore, the pension would go up on that raise. Selectman Jasper said that if you took a sworn officer out, which is where most of the retirement it would be, we went from essentially there's budgeted a 13. If you go back to the '09, 12, you're still at 12. He just didn't see how that happened with nobody in Group 2 there because Group 1 retirement didn't take a hit. So even with a raise, that shouldn't have...Chairman Coutu told Selectman Jasper to look at line 113. That's where the police officer is taken out. That's zero. That's the police retirement. That's been removed. The increase in 112 (Selectmen talking over each other). Selectman Jasper didn't see the zero below it. He didn't realize there were 2 retirement lines. Chairman Coutu stated that one comes from the police because they are separate.

Selectman Maddox - 215 - publications. It's been 1, 100, 1,600, 2,500 this year. Is it something that's cyclical that they jump up. Chief Lavoie said that's Nexis. It's a law library basically. A different format of obtaining that. It's online and they have access to it right in the court house. Selectman Maddox asked why it's going up \$900. Chief Lavoie indicated it was a different provider/service. The one we had before that was inadequate. Ms. Nute said contractual. It's just a maintenance you pay.

(5677) - Miscellaneous

Chairman Coutu asked for an explanation of this budget, which was mostly computers. Ms. Nute indicated that if you look at the justification sheet for 5677, page 37, if you look at the FY2010 at the bottom, your total is 452. This is all operations. There is no salary in here. In FY2011 it jumps to 61. That is only because of a transfer. Again we had this all consolidated and then with default it all got thrown back into different accounts. If you look at 411, there is a transfer. That's what the "T" means; \$16,000 was transferred from 563411. We actually had 4 Tough Book laptops out there. We brought it back into this account but unfortunately because of default, this is now 3 replacements and we're no longer on a 5 year cycle for replacement. We've had to make it a 6 year to take the extra money and anticipate a (inaudible) where maintenance contract that we will now be responsible for should this Board agree to free money with the energy grant and virtualize their servers. So basically the bottom line is in fact the exact same. It's just a transfer. Chairman Coutu stated that the only thing that would affect the increase is the transfer. Ms. Nute said correct. Chairman Coutu asked if there were any further questions or comments on this section.

Selectman Jasper said not actually on - nothing to do with the budget, but the format as we move forward. He meant to bring it up a couple of times and then he's gotten distracted. On these pages, this is very unusual. You have FY2011 followed by FY2010. Is there any way when this goes to the Budget Committee we can put it back in the normal sequence of 10/11 instead of 11/10? We all read that way and when you're looking you glance down and you say well it went from \$61,000 down to \$45,000. Selectman Massey asked the same question. The problem is if you put 10 before 11, then you have the subtotals - you don't see them side by side with the FY2011. If you look on SUBTTL, those numbers for instance 14690 all the way down...Selectman Jasper is totally lost. You said some things there that meant nothing to me. Selectman Massey said if you reverse those two and put 10 first and then 11 second like you're suggesting, then the subtotal lines are not next to the expenditure line. Chairman Coutu said that the subtotal line, Selectman Jasper, is the SUBTTL. Selectman Jasper asked if we could do 10, then the sub, and then the 11 so that we can read this in the normal. Isn't there any way to do this so we can - he supposed not. It's going to be hard he thinks for the Budget Committee to get used to this because we're not used to reading it that way. Ms. Carpentier said they will take it under advisement for future enhancement, but she can't imagine that it's going to happen this week. It is opposite between this page and the next page. Its 11/10, 10/11. She realized that. She does want to say that we had full cooperation from the department heads getting them all to use the same template. It doesn't exactly look the same, but you're not moving your books back and forth. We tried to definitely standardize the template. We're going to have an electronic model that we can give to the Budget Committee also. We definitely will keep that in mind.

When Chairman Coutu goes to page 38, he asked Ms. Carpentier if she had been keeping a running total on his budget and asked for an adjusted number on that. Ms. Carpentier said that his total spending for FY2011 is \$6,507,349. Chairman Coutu said that would be a decrease of approximately \$32,000. Selectman Jasper asked how did we take 54...Selectman Massey said we took 54 out and added 21. Mr. Malizia said it's a spending thing that isn't offsetting revenue but it's still increasing...Selectman Maddox said so 76 was all ready out of there. Mr. Malizia said yes. It's not in there. Selectman Massey stated that if you look at the detail, you'll see there's only 45 officers listed in that detail page. The 46th officer was inadvertently left off. Ms. Carpentier stated that it would be zero across. Selectman Massey said it would have showed zero. Selectman Maddox asked for the percentage. Ms. Carpentier said 5 percent. For clarification, Chairman Coutu asked what the salary contractual, salary obligations we have, plus the increase in insurance, plus the increase in retirement how much does that affect the 5 percent. How much of it is the 5 percent. Ms. Carpentier indicated that she hadn't run that based on the changes that were just made but prior to tonight it was zero percent increase on operating budget. So all you've really done is add that \$21,000 and the increase is all in salary and benefits. Mr. Malizia said it was all contractual. We've added no people and we've done nothing different. We've added no staff and we've changed nothing there. Selectman Massey said that the significant piece was the retirement of the additional 5 percent. So now we're picking up 35 percent. The insurance went up 16 percent, which is a match between the employees and the town.

Chairman Coutu just wanted to make it clear. When we look at the contractual obligations plus our liabilities due to the increases in insurance and retirement when we look at a police default budget, this in essence the default budget that bottom number which is actually their default now because we're contractually obligated to all of those increased costs. Ms. Carpentier said that was correct. Selectman Massey said that actually the default budget would include the 54,000 plus the 76,000. Selectman Jasper indicated that the default would be higher. Ms. Carpentier thinks that their point is to say that any contractual obligations are loaded into the default budget. Chairman Coutu asked if there were any comments or closing remarks on this budget, questions.

Selectman Massey thanked the Chief and all of his people, especially Dorothy. They've done a really difficult job. It's always hard to follow a person that was so identified with the police department to follow in their footsteps. He thinks that what you're seeing tonight is an example of what our new Chief is capable of doing. It reflects also on the way his people are responding. We should really feel good about where we are today with the police agency. He knows that they're working still hard. The new individual working on the callia piece. Sergeant McGregor has really started to get involved. He thinks that we really are blessed with the police department we have in this town. We all recognize the way it is relative to where the rest of the state is. So Chief thanks for maintaining the forward motion.

Selectman Massey has 2 things he was originally going to do them under "Other Business" but because he wants to make sure everybody hears them tonight, he's going to do them now. The first one is that this Saturday, Halloween on the 31st, the police department is once again going to be supporting the Special Olympics program at Alvirne High School. As part of that support, they're going to be running their annual road race that starts on Robinson Road and Old Derry Road and comes down past Selectman Jasper's house probably about 8:05 a.m. The thundering hoofs. They will terminate at the track at Alvirne High School. So from a period of about 8 o'clock a.m. until 9 o'clock you can expect some traffic delays if you're coming down Old Derry Road. Certainly you'll experience a few traffic delays around the intersection of Greeley Street and 102. It's another example of the community service that he thinks the police department does. For those people who are listening know that everybody that's on the race team is on their own time. There is no officers on duty that are running in this race.

Finally, the police department is going to continue their annual Toys for Tots program. As the Chief said, during these hard times they are asking residents of the town to help the police department. If you can afford to bring in an unwrapped gift for a child, it would be very much appreciated. We are encouraging those who can do this to bring in things for those kids between the ages of 12 and 16 who often get forgotten at this time of year. The police are hoping to put smiles on as many kids' faces as is possible this Christmas. So Toys for Tots is a Marine program that has been supported by the police department for quite some years now. He's confident that it will be the success that it has been every year. For everybody out there, get your toys ready and bring them to the police department.

Chairman Coutu has 2 things relative to that before we dismiss the Chief. He hoped the Chief would order those orders to stop at Selectman Jasper's house and get him to join them. Second, he hoped that the police department avails itself of our cable television facility to advertise the Toys for Tots program. If they need any drop offs have them let him know, they can use his area for a drop off if they want for toys. We'll store them and safe guard them until they pick them up. He's sure there may be other businesses in town that might be willing to do so as well. Selectman Massey said we should also be doing the Special Olympics road race on the scroll too. Chairman Coutu thanked Selectman Massey for bringing those to their attention.

Selectman Maddox had a question on 5673319, page 34. There's no more sworn officers in the prosecutor right? Chairman Coutu said those were moved. Selectman Maddox asked why there would be a uniform for the 1 officer. Steve Malizia said that should be moved to 5630. Chief Lavoie said they probably needed to put that into the overall 5613. Selectman Maddox said he was trying to save \$600. Ms. Carpentier said she had to give credit though, the Town Administrator already caught it and she made a note of it.

Chairman Coutu on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and the citizens of the Town of Hudson, he thanked Chief Lavoie for his dedication. It's been a trying year. He understands that. He's done an outstanding job with your budget presentation. You said you made a couple of rookie mistakes. We were able to correct them and get through the process. We wish you well Sir and hope you continue on the road of public safety that we've been accustomed to here in the Town of Hudson as a result of you and the people of great caliber that we have working for us and the police department and obviously the fire department when it comes to public safety. Thank you Chief and Dorothy.

Chairman Coutu declared a five minute recess at 8:00 p.m. and returned at 8:05 p.m.

IT Department (5330), page 3

Chairman Coutu asked Lisa Nute to give a general overview of her overall budget request for FY2011. Ms. Nute introduced her Information Technology team. We have a staff of 3. To here left is Vin Guarino who works primarily physically out of town hall. John Beike who services the other end of town in the police department, near Highway, and Robinson Road fire. Our mission which is at the top of the page is to provide the Town of Hudson and its employees and the public with accurate, timely, and secure information via technology and customer focus communication services. Our goals this year are two - to upgrade all town work stations, laptops, and servers with the latest Microsoft Office operating system in FY2011. Later after we go over the budget there is a Warrant Article to address from her department Warrant Article I, which is a capital reserve fund withdrawal for that purpose. Our second goal is to virtualize the police servers, which as you know from her previous presentation last year is consolidating servers down to very few to save energy costs, hardware, maintenance costs, replacement costs, etc. That will be possible with the approval of this Board at a later time to accept an energy grant which we had written a piece for that virtualization.

So what our department does for the viewing public who may not know is to plan, procure, implement, and manage all the information technology for the town. We support over 300 users, which includes volunteers, employees and elected officials that use our resources. We have a fleet of laptops and emergency vehicles in the field. They support 2 emergency dispatch systems obviously 24/7. With just the 3 of us, we take care of 3 phone systems, the servers, workstations, and software that goes with that in 11 town owned buildings, and 7 remote sites which includes an office at Nashua District Court, 3 school resource offices, and the police neighborhood offices. It's a large workload for a staff of 3, and we have a continuous backlog of support calls. This is our third budget as a consolidated IT Department. We were directed to correct inefficiencies that previous employees we feel helped to create. They were 20 years behind in technology and inefficiencies were many. We are still plugging away at correcting that. She will say that a default budget came at a very bad time for them.

She knows that we were all shooting for a consistency in our workbooks here with all the department heads, but she did take the liberty of adding an extra column in hers. She would like to have them turn to the first page of the justification on page 5. Chairman Coutu referred them to the last column. Ms. Nute said you'll notice the subtotal in FY2011 and FY2010 as we noted before and the percent change. Then she clearly separated it with a double line so it wouldn't be

confusing. She thinks it's important that you know how this department and therefore all departments because there isn't a single department who is not affected by information technology what the default did to them. They were the hardest hit department. As you know, it doesn't necessarily mean just rolling back to last year's numbers. That would have been fine. We would have lost just a small portion of our operating system. We also lost our one time or what other people thought was one-time costs. She argued that she thinks that she lost a whole lot more than just one time. In reality what their one-time costs were server replacements that was rolled up into a project called virtualization. So when that project got thrown out, so did server replacements which are not one time. We had a Tough Book thrown out because it had been separated for that particular year. We always tried to do either 3 to 4 to keep our rotation consistent. We lost a Tough Book. We had contractual things that were approved in FY2009 but were never able to become part of a default. Ultimately and realistically we lost more like 50 percent of our operating budget. If you were to ask any department to operate with 50 percent less, they would also find that very difficult to do. She did in fact though come in as you had said at zero increase. She needs to make sure that you understand the impact that that has on them and what they will be forfeiting.

Selectman Massey would like to get some clarification. One of the things we out to do two years ago was to replace the 9 servers with 3 servers. That was why we split the cost into 2 years. So if he understands correctly because the default budget didn't include that cost, we didn't do the second half of that project. He didn't see it in the budget again this year. Ms. Nute said that is correct. For one, she would not have been able to afford it and still come in at zero. She had asked Mr. Coutu and with the help of Mr. Pearson, we wrote an energy grant that she felt was justified to call virtualization certainly an energy savings. You save 50 percent minimum of energy in a computer room by consolidating equipment. It looks like the Energy Department will be giving us that money. Obviously we need to come before this Board and get your approval to go ahead and down-the-line money, but it does look like we are at the very last piece of having that come to us. Selectman Massey said they would then realize our goal of getting down to the 3 virtual servers versus the 9 that are there. Ms. Nute said correct. What you will see in here if you look at line item 269 on page 6, software maintenance. Notice where it has an "N" to the far left, VMware maintenance. She will have a contractual cost should they agree to accept the energy grant. It will be under contract with the company to maintain that equipment and that system. So that would be the new cost.

Chairman Coutu knows that that is going to help some, but what he's concerned about is as a result of having gone to default, had she prepared any numbers - and he has not asked her this so he doesn't know if she has or has not prepared any numbers that would reflect what your actual needs would be in order to achieve the goals that you had set to achieve that were not attainable last year as a result of the default budget. Had we said to you we need for you to come in with a realistic number, how much more money would you need and do you have a breakdown and reasoning? Ms. Nute has included that in their packet. If you look at the page right after the mission page, page 2, there are actually a couple more. One through four is what she believes is crucial. There are also some additional things that Ms. Nute would like to talk about that also will not be done. If you did ask her for that exact thing, she would have added.

We have a huge problem at Robinson Road. They are sometimes down more than they are up with their connection. It was part of our goals to - if you remember she came in with half of a run to Robinson Road with fiber optic. It was going to be town owned fiber optic, which would give us a return on investment for one. We could first of all get them on a much faster speed, take care of their problem of going down all the time, and it would be able to put them on our phone system which would then stop them from having to maintain a separate phone system. It would also eliminate all those phone lines. We had agreed at that time to forego that half of a project and look at maybe doing the whole project this year. It was a \$53,000 one-time cost. The return on investment would pay for itself in 5.8 years because we would also be able to drop a leased line. She would suggest at a minimum if we could not put that money back in to do if \$53,000 is a burden, she would like to know if they could at least put in maybe \$18,000 to the IT capital reserve which is already established, and then she could do that in 3 years. So it's at least meeting you a third of the way and seeing if we could maybe do something in the interim. This is her solution to kind of work with the Board and maybe do something that way.

The second item that will not be happening - if we're going to continue this we're asked to come in at zero, zero, zero, she has now had to reduce our replacement cycle and we are now at a 6 year replacement cycle. As some of you have noted if you think the Board of Selectmen's PC is slow

upstairs, you should see some of other users like Linda in your office and there is at least 1 to 4 PCs in every department that - she's dealing with an entire inventory here. There was home PCs and just inadequate systems that really should not be used in a business environment. It's really hurt us. When we first came on and it's not a coincidence that the line outside the Town Clerk's office no longer goes down to Steve's office. Yes maybe there's slightly less people this year, but certainly last year there wasn't. There are the same number of customers registering motor vehicles. We found huge inefficiencies here. So we did correct that and got rid of the home PCs, corrected network issues, gave them a line to the State so that they could do some additional things. That obviously allows us to get people in and out service quicker. So that's just one office that we were able to take care of. There are still plenty of PCs like that in this inventory. So instead of working to get that done quicker, we've now gone out a sixth year. She would need \$1,800 added to 533411 and \$1,800 added to 5677411 because she's also had to reduce them now as well to 6 years.

At a minimal what you're saying is you need \$23,160 and if that creates the deficiency, Chairman Coutu indicated that Ms. Nute is asking 18 as opposed to - you're saying if we couldn't afford the 53 and we were to throw in 18 on that line when we're talking about Robinson Road, what you're suggesting is that it's going to delay the process for 3 years. It will take you 3 years to do it. If we're going to do it piece meal, how effective will the system be by doing it piece meal as opposed to making the commitment and getting it done and getting it behind us. Steve Malizia said they wouldn't be doing it piece meal, we'd just be putting the money away in advance and when we had the money, you would do it them. So what she's saying is she wouldn't be able to do it for 3 years. Ms. Nute said they'd be filling the piggy bank until they could do that. Chairman Coutu stated that as they delay the process, are we not endangering the possibility of increased costs as a result of inflation over the next 3 years? Ms. Nute said yes you do risk fiber optic run and labor going up for that project. You also continue to have the fire personnel inconvenienced and down. Time is worth money too, though it's hard to measure. It seems to be the worst problem when we have weather fluctuations, and she suspects it's possible that some of the issue is because where the equipment is stored. There is no air system and air control in that room. We're not really sure. This would at least save firefighter time as well. It's just an inadequate speed out there. They're waiting and the system just dies because its network intensive of what they're trying to do with applications and it's just not working well for us. So you prolong the agony for the worker.

Chairman Coutu stated that the actual number in order for you to get to the point where you had anticipated being and through no fault of ours obviously, it was a default budget that threw this out of whack. You would need \$58,160, and that would bring us back up to speed. It would be the 53 plus the 1,800, plus the 1,000. There's 3360, 1,800, and 53. Selectman Jasper said it was 1,800 twice. Mr. Malizia said it would be a total of \$60,960. Chairman Coutu said it's certainly an item for discussion. From his perspective anyway, we either made the commitment to IT and we've gone this far. How long do we want to stretch this out or do we want to get up to par and get this thing operating much more smoothly than it has been. It's not because your department's lack of attention. It's because of your department's lack of funding in order to enable the process to move forward. That's an item for consideration obviously.

Selectman Massey would like to clarify something. He knows you're going to talk about it specifically under the warrant article Ms. Nute but if you upgrade to Windows 7 for everything given the span of equipment life are everyone of the machines we currently have going to be able to run Windows 7 from capacity perspective? Ms. Nute said there might be a few machines that would need some boosted memory or minor things like that. Anything that we have purchased since she has come on board we have ensured that it would be Vista ready knowing that though we're not going to do Vista that the next operating system more than likely is going to require just as memory, etc. So anything that she and Vin have put in place or John Beike has been adequate and will support that.

The other thing Selectman Massey is missing because again it's going to impact how we deal with these particular things is he thinks the upgrade to Windows 7 is going to be as critical just because the cost of maintaining different operating systems becomes a maintenance nightmare. It's the old story you buy all the same trucks and it's easy to maintain but if you have a truck from Mack, a truck from International, etc., etc., your maintenance costs are higher. In the warrant article, you're asking for 24,780 but when he looks at the capital reserve fund, it's only as of June 30th. So it would be directly to either you or the Finance Director, was there another line item in the fiscal 2010 budget to put another \$5,000 in there? No. Ms Nute's understanding was there was going to be

\$25,000 available by the end of June. Selectman Massey stated that unless there's another \$5,000, it's not there. So we'll have to look at that when we get to it. Ms. Carpentier said in fiscal 2011 there is a budget at \$5,000 more. Selectman Massey said that's fiscal 2011. That's the budget we're talking about. So we wouldn't want to put the money into the capital reserve fund. Ms. Carpentier thought that's what we just discussed before. Selectman Massey said okay. We put it in and take it out. He follows. It's a cleaner way to do it.

Selectman Jasper is looking at page 2 and the item. While he would like to see the Robinson Road project done as quickly as possible, he's not willing to go to 53. His thought more is to put the \$18,000 in and see where we're at the end of the at fiscal year and if we have money in the capital reserve now, we have the ability perhaps to boost it up a little bit more this year as well and perhaps do it with some money from this year that money left over and get it done in 2. With that being said given that the line items aren't all here, he'd like to move that looking at page 2 and the 4 requests that we'd fund request 1 at \$18,000 to be put into the capital reserve and fully fund items 2, 3 and 4 at the requested amount.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Massey, to fund request one at \$18,000 to be put into the capital reserve and fully fund items 2, 3, and 4 at the requested amount.

Selectman Jasper thinks that we need to forward with IT. When we look at things breaking down and falling behind, we just cost ourselves more money and we're playing catch up forever. He thinks on these items we need to bit the bullet. Selectman Massey has 2 things. He agreed with Selectman Jasper that at the end of this year when we're doing the budget and especially when we're doing the budget for next year, the \$18,000 we may be able to actually based on the conditions at that point fund the rest of the monies. He thinks 3 years probably is - this is again one of those questions where you can be penny wise and pound foolish. We've already seen some of the savings in this world. He would hate to see us continue to keep taking a step forward and 2 steps back in the IT world. Ms. Nute is correct. The \$55,000 we had in there this year to take care of these problems because it's "a one-time cost". It was actually not a one-time cost for us. It was the second half of a two year project. He thinks hopefully we can get the energy grant to take care of the problem with the servers. He thinks these other things can go forward too. He supports Selectman Jasper's motion.

Selectman Maddox is going to take a different tack. Spending \$18,000 and ultimately \$53,000 for 2 firefighters that are there 4 days at 10 hours a day and a training captain makes no sense - \$53,000 in a time when we're trying to count pennies. This makes absolutely no sense. For the few reports that they may write, yes it's a little slower and that's shame - \$53,000. He just cannot even believe we're contemplating. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Jasper said the reason for that is we're leasing lines and this \$53,000 will pay for itself in 5.8 years. That's the reason why we're doing it because of the leased lines. That's why last year we had committed to trying to do it in 2 because of the payback. He thinks that is a very good payback.

Ms. Nute had Vin pass out a chart that she had put together. Any project that we have come in with that money that we kept rolling over has been saving us. The only thing the IT department has done has given us return on investment. We saved at least \$8,000 just by consolidating. We were able to consolidate licensing and things like that. We say that savings the first year. The second year you allowed her to, yes, spend \$30,000. You do need to spend some money to save money. We put in the fiber optic, which is town owned down to the police department. A huge difference in speed. We had our Highway people, our police people not being able to do budgets and payroll even just trying to reach our servers here. So not only did that take care of inefficiencies, but this time next year it will now be paid for. That's an immediate \$16,000 you saved by doing that the first year we got rid of 2 leased lines. Again, now you're working on the second \$16,000 being saved right now as well as the phone system.

Lisa Nute knows that they have brought that up several times starting with the fire department, so she would like to address that for just a moment. She got rid of a whole slew of copper lines by replacing our phone system by upgrading that. She estimated \$20 - 25,000 that you have save this year in FY2011 that we did not have to budget for because of that. There isn't savings being shown in fire and police again because they do have a lot of additional copper lines. They still have alarm lines. We still have sewer lines. We can't touch that. The majority of the savings is right here in

this town hall. Unfortunately not in her account, but wherever the general phone account is that's where your savings is. Even fax lines. We got rid of those; put them on the digital system. It's working well. That's savings you will now have from this day forward. So that's why the huge increase in FY2011 with projects saved. So this is the department that's saving money, and it really hurt us to have that not being able to be rolled over to continue to do the same.

Vote: Motion carried 3-2. Selectmen Nadeau and Maddox in opposition.

Chairman Coutu stated that overall requests reflect a 45.6 percent decrease. Is it fair to state that that's as a result of realigning within the various departments those items which are IT related as opposed to you carrying the full load in your budget as you had to as a result of the default last year. Ms. Nute didn't understand the question. Chairman Coutu stated the last column is confusing him. Ms. Nute indicated that is only salary and...Chairman Coutu that last column he thought he had it and now it served to confuse him. Ms. Nute said if you were to look at the next page which is the wage and benefit detail, she has one IT specialist who under the health insurance columns, we were all zero because we were all opting for flex. He has now opted to take insurance so that cost her more in that department as well as their contractual salary annual wages if you look at the first line. Chairman Coutu asked if any of these were in the contracts. Mr. Malizia said yes - two of them. Chairman Coutu indicated that that increases as well as a result. Any questions? It's primarily wage driven. Your other costs look like they're relative consistent. The insurance benefit went up and that's no fault of the department. There are no real significant changes. The software maintenance, that's by contract the 287. Ms. Nute indicated that was correct. Chairman Coutu said that was a new line item for her correct? Ms. Nute said it's a transfer from 202. It was up above, but significantly less. In FY2010 it was \$22,170. We transferred that down for consistency. Every other department it's showing in 269. Then it did increase because in FY09 we agreed on 2 additional MuniSmart software. That contractual piece didn't get carried over in default. Then she's added the VMware anticipating that energy grant coming through for us. Chairman Coutu said these are all the upgrades. Ms. Nute indicated that these are the contractual maintenance agreements on our software. Chairman Coutu can see it now when you take it out of 202 and transfer it down.

[Chairman Coutu] Computer equipment. Your request is while it's down significantly because you were able to upgrade or make changeovers this year. Ms. Nute said this is where she had to drop down to a six-year cycle in order to offset those additions she needed in that software maintenance contracts we were just talking about to be able to keep the zero. This is where you've now agreed to add that \$1,800 so she can bring that back up to a 5-year cycle. Chairman Coutu will put everything back on that 5 year cycle. Just so there's a general understanding in the computer sciences world with regard to hardware, it is usually recommended that we should be turning hardware over at a minimal every 5 years. Ms. Nute said the private sector is actually 3 to 4. So being a municipality we've always tried to stick with 5 and that's been adequate. You get more than that.

Chairman Coutu thanked Ms. Nute for being very mindful of the selectmen's request that you bring it in at zero but he's also very happy that she was able to provide them with sufficient information to draw attention to the fact that we do indeed the Board of Selectmen certainly before Chairman Coutu came on board made a commitment to do a conversion to an IT system which would facilitate the operations within a municipal government. With that commitment, he felt it was imperative that they stay on top of it. When you look at her expenses above zero and those items that she requested, he felt were very reasonable and apparently the Board did as well. We certainly appreciate it. We appreciate the attention and the detail that you provided them in her budget again this year. Chairman wanted to tell Ms. Nute and to her staff as well that she's done an outstanding job. She's working in some pretty constricted environment down there, and they appreciate the fact that - she might like the isolations at times, but they know how confining it is. She's been able to accomplish quite a bit out of there and she certainly has their appreciation for that.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to move Warrant Article I to the Warrant to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$24,780.00 from the Information Services Capital Reserve Fund, to purchase the necessary licenses to upgrade town-wide PC's and servers to latest operating systems. There is no impact to the tax rate as zero dollars (\$0) will come from general taxation.

As Selectman Massey had mentioned before, this is one of those cases where we finally are off of Windows NT is that correct? Do we still have a couple that are on Windows NT? Ms. Nute said they have a fire system that they are not allowed to upgrade until fire personnel receive training. It's that old a piece of software. So we've not been able to upgrade that until they get out their training. She believed they have February scheduled to do so. Right after that point, then we can go ahead and get that system out of there and replace that. All the technical reports Selectman Massey is hearing about Windows 7 is it's a significant improvement over Vista. For anybody that's labored through Windows 2000 and even Windows XP there's been problems. He thinks they have some people that have said a running Windows NT which is - what this does is it allows us to get everybody onto a same maintenance schedule and the same maintenance problems. It should have a significant impact on the IT's ability to respond to problems. Now they don't have to keep remembering which operating system which has its own unique problems. So he thinks this is why they created this capital reserve fund. This is a very good use of the money. That's why he's supporting doing it.

Ms. Nute would like to expand on that for just a little bit as well. You are absolutely right. In addition to that, we are running Windows 2000 which Microsoft discontinued support of in July of 2010. Our servers are running 3 different operating systems. So 2 of those will no longer be supported, and we really do need to address that. You can no longer get upgrades and things like that to take care of problems and it just starts to escalate.

Selectman Nadeau said that by doing this warrant article and withdrawing this money, this is just going to upgrade our licenses to the new operating system? Ms. Nute said that is correct. It's town-wide so that we don't have departments on different things either. She currently does have a different version running at police than we do primarily here, and she has a couple 2000s here as well as 2003. So this is going to bring everybody up to 2007 where they need to be. Chairman Coutu asked if there were any problems with integration as a result of that. Vin Guarino said he's been doing some testing in there. There's still some applications that aren't ready yet but they will be by the time we make the move. We're keeping that in mind and testing everything out. Chairman Coutu asked if that would facilitate that. Ms. Nute said the beauty of virtualization is we can do that easier.

Selectman Maddox said he was in favor of this years ago as saying we need to get to at least one central operating system. He would just put the caveat that if 7 isn't all that it says it's going to be that we don't spend money just to spend money. So if the \$24,000 is approved, it makes sense to only spend 14. It's only a week old and depending upon which article you read, it is the best thing since sliced bread or it's just a wallpapered over Windows 2000. As long as we're not just committing to spend it, we're just looking to make that possibility happen.

Generally speaking, Selectman Massey said release 1.1 is the one to go after. Is that basically given the time frame what we would probably be looking at is release 1.1? Mr. Guarino said he would say so. The other part of this is we are running XP for all of the work stations. The support is going to go away for that. It's hung around longer than normal because of Vista. We have to look forward. It won't be tomorrow, but we'll be ready for it. If it's ready for us, we'll know. Just to piggy back onto that plus what Selectman Maddox said, Selectman Massey said there are actually 2 issues that we have to deal with on this one. He thinks this is one of those capital reserve warrant articles where we really have to do a good job to sell it to the voters. The first problem is that what Guarino talked about, when you wind up with multiple operating systems, you run the risk that an application won't run on every one of them. Typically companies only certify their applications on the latest and greatest. So they stop dropping support for the previous operating systems. So that's the first problem.

[Selectman Massey] The second problem that he talked about earlier is if you're managing all of these different operating systems when you get a call from the Help Desk to go do something, the first question you have to zero into your mind is the problem because of the operating system, or because of the application, or both. When you're only dealing with one operating system, you can very quickly isolate the problem if that's what it is. If it's multiple operating systems, there's where - he thinks this is one of those where we really do have to make a good case to the voters that this is going to be money well spent for the town. He agreed with Selectman Maddox. Just to go into Windows 7 all by itself - that's why from his perspective he'd prefer to wait until at least 1.1, which is typically where Microsoft has the best of its releases. The first one they get all the people to debug it. The second one is - and he thinks the time frame would probably be about right - July/August is

when the first update would come. Chairman Coutu said that's the one luxury of preparing a budget this far ahead. We're going to see an operational period of 6 months to 7 months on 7. He's sure that if there's a myriad of problems, you'll rethink and withdraw until such time as they've either corrected them or they come out with 8 which will correct 7.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

(5800) - Recreation Department

Chairman Coutu recognized David Yates the Recreation Director and Jeremy Griffus, Chairman of the Recreation Committee. Mr. Yates if you'll give us please a presentation and a general overview of your budget request for FY2011.

Thank you. Also from the Rec. Committee, Mr. Yates said they also have Eric Norton here tonight with them also. The Recreation Department continues to support, plan, and coordinate many activities for the constructive use of leisure time for the Hudson residents of all ages. Despite the economy, our numbers of participants have remained steady with increases in some programs. In fact, revenue is the highest ever in his tenure this past year. The revenue was \$199,347.00. An increase of \$22,000 from last year. Per the Board of Selectmen parameters, the overall budget has remained level funded. Adjustments were made to personnel line items. Adjustments were made to several accounts through the cost associating with increase in the number of participants in programs. Mr. Yates asked if anyone had any questions.

Selectman Maddox said that the total tax dollars has gone from what \$135,000 to \$271,000 and you're proposing \$173,000 we're back to the taxes. Selectman Jasper said that number is not right. That's why Selectman Maddox is asking. Again, he's just trying to get a handle on why the big jump in tax dollars. Mr. Yates doesn't know that. These are numbers that he's been given. Again, last year was level funded. We didn't have any increases last year. Selectman Massey doesn't have that section in his book. He got duplicate 5900 accounts. He's going to look on with Selectman Nadeau. Chairman Coutu asked Selectman Maddox to repeat his question.

Selectman Maddox said in Recreation, page 1, FY2011 justification. He's just asking the question of the Recreation Director. It says overall budget comparison FY2009, 2010, and 2011. The bottom line, total tax dollars in 2009 was \$135,000 spent. It's showing 171 in 2010, and you're projecting for 2011 173,000. So he's just wondering why such an increase. Again, Mr. Yates said in the 2009 budget, that's an actual number of revenue. In 2010/2011, those are estimates. It could be \$20,000 less. These are strictly estimates. This is an actual number now that we know our numbers. The year is over. The increase he doesn't and maybe perhaps the Finance Director can help him on the increase because they were level funded last year from the actual total appropriations. Ms. Carpentier said 10 to 11 it is level funded with the exception of like \$2,000. Going back to 9, she's not prepared to answer that question. She definitely could look into it. She'd have to go back into what's in the '09. Chairman Coutu said that 10 is a default budget. What was his request in 10 do you remember? Mr. Yates didn't. Chairman Coutu said he'd rather see that. Ms. Carpentier said she didn't have a roll up of his department per the default. She has each one and she could get it within minutes, but she doesn't have it with her. Chairman Coutu asked Mr. Yates if remembered what he actually asked for in 2010? Mr. Yates said he didn't have last year's here.

In regards to page 1, Selectman Jasper said they have a case here where the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing. If you go to the revenue sheets and what we have in revenues is projected at 196,200. We're showing two different revenue numbers in the book. We should be showing the same revenue. He could be off. He did that quickly, but it's clearly well over \$180,000. He thinks his number is correct. That \$180,000 he didn't know where it came from because that's not what was showing for projected revenues. Chairman Coutu asked who prepared the budget. Mr. Yates said he thought that's what the parameters were last year was 180,000. Usually at this point in the budget - this committee discusses what you feel the projected revenue is. He doesn't predict what the revenues are. He can give them the actual numbers after the year ends. That's why he can give them the 2009. Chairman Coutu asked where the 180 came from. Who drew that number up? Mr. Malizia said he just put it in from last year. In reality, Kathy put a more accurate number in into the revenue budget. It's just a disconnect (inaudible) the number he put on this front sheet and what's actually in there, which is more of a reflection of what reality was. Selectman Jasper said when this goes forward to the Budget Committee, this should be corrected so that the

numbers... Chairman Coutu said that's the issue Selectman Maddox is raising. It shows a dramatic inconsistency and revenue is what revenue is. Chairman Coutu is not faulting Dave; he's just saying we're going to send this on to the Budget Committee. They're going to be raising these questions.

Selectman Maddox asked what is the actual revenue. He knows that 10 is not finished, but again why would we pick 180? Again, you saw a dramatic increase in total taxpayer dollars which if you add \$20,000 to that, it brings it down to the 151. It's still a \$15,000 increase, but not at 35. If Selectman Massey looks at the FY2010 revenues, he only gets up to about \$180,000. If you add up all the revenues for FY2010, he only got to about 180,000. Again, he did the rough thing the same as Selectman Jasper did. Mr. Malizia said okay, but he's talking about 11. Selectman Massey is saying if you look where they went from 199 to 180...Mr. Malizia said when we do this budget, we don't know what that one in 9 is going to be. We're - still remember we're 3 months into the year. Selectman Massey assumed it's 180 for Fiscal 10 is the default number. Mr. Malizia said there is no default for revenue. That was the revenue estimate. Revenue doesn't get voted on by the voters. It's a number that this Board through this hearing and Budget Committee if necessary adjusts. There's no default for revenue. It's a number that we estimate we put in. At the time that's put in, we have no idea what the '09 actuals are going to be because '09 is no way near being done. So we're using a conservative estimate. In reality, '09 which just ended in June came in at 199. He can't go back and change his revenue for 10. It's done. It's put to bed. What we can do is make sure it's updated for 11. This sheet doesn't reflect that, so the revenue detail does. So this sheet needs to be changed going forward.

Chairman Coutu asked Mr. Yates if he said he reported to them that the numbers in the programs for the fall have increased over last year. Mr. Yates said yes. Chairman Coutu said there's an anticipation of increased revenues there or are they offset by costs? Mr. Yates said there probably will be an increase because the numbers are up. As Chairman Coutu understands the process because of the way we do budgeting, those costs that are associated with the summer program, do they come in before July 1st or after July 1st? Next year - let's think about the calendar year - July 1 which would be the beginning of our fiscal year, are the monies already in 2009 or 2010? Mr. Malizia said the majority would have registered in June because the program basically starts the late June. You'd get some revenue after that because there is later registration. There's probably people that don't go full time to pick up a 10 day pass or whatever. There's field trip revenue, etc., etc. You get the bulk of it in June. Not all of it, but the bulk of it because they register in advance just like every other program but there are stragglers.

Over the years, Selectman Jasper said we've been steadily increasing the point at which supervised play would be break even. Based on the revenue projections in our book in here, we're only about \$16,000 away. He wondered what it would take in an increase to put that program - Mr. Malizia asked how many people sign up for that. Mr. Yates indicated 510. Mr. Malizia said it was \$30 more per participant. Selectman Jasper stated even if we don't go all the way, he was wondering if we should raise that \$10 for this next year which if there's 500...Mr. Malizia said it would add another \$5,000. Chairman Coutu asked if Mr. Yates anticipated that in light of the new program that we started that he had suggested that he consider which was the extra time, this was a trial run and it was late starting. But would you anticipate based on your experience that that would be a break even at best, or we might come out just slightly ahead, or might it be a losing proposition? Mr. Yates thinks they'll come out slightly ahead. We're not adding many staff hours. It's only that ½ hour on each end. A lot of people need it. He doesn't think last year they started so late and the work didn't get out as well. They did have some participants, but he thinks they'll make a little money. We're not going to offset.

Chairman Coutu would suggest then that Selectman Jasper's suggestion in light of what the program offers to increase it by \$10 is not certainly insurmountable and it's certainly a reasonable request. The cost of operations increased and we need to offset some of those costs. We don't want to be running into a deficit situation where the deficit is going to continue to increase year after year. He'd like to see us level off at some point, and we need to start somewhere. He thinks that is a reasonable request to increase \$10 per participant. Mr. Yates said they are getting close. They have not raised any fees in a couple of years now. So maybe this is something we bring up to the Rec. Committee and look at the fee structure and perhaps even other programs maybe raised a little. Selectman Jasper said that the Rec. Committee would make a recommendation to the Board. In the revenues, we can pretty much say we'd like you to raise another \$5,000 and then come back and make it happen.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Massey, to increase the revenue for supervised play by \$5,000.

Chairman Coutu stated that the \$5,000 is the number. All you have to do is break it out and figure it out how we achieve that. He'd rather be slightly above than slightly below that number. So we can try to achieve some parity there with the discrepancy that exists.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Coutu asked if the Board wanted to go into his budget in detail, if you'll go to page 3, 5810, is the salary line. He's got pretty much everything in there. All of his equipment costs, supply costs.

Selectman Maddox is not sure if this is reflected in there Mr. Yates, but he heard at one of the Rec. meetings that you had budgeted a 3 percent increase for staff. Mr. Yates said he did. Chairman Coutu asked Mr. Yates to explain that and how much that total amount. In the past, Mr. Yates said that the operating budget has been level funded. He was under the impression that since these 2 people we're talking about are not union, we could offer them a 3 percent raise. Since then, Selectman Coutu has told Mr. Yates that wasn't the parameters and he was mistaken. With a 3 percent raise for both the maintenance and our administrator, it would be a total of \$862 for the year. That was his mistake. If you'd like him to remove it, both of these people are valuable to his department and he'd like to see it kept in there. It's \$862 for the year. In all fairness Selectman Maddox, Chairman Coutu said when he confronted Mr. Yates with it and told him the intent of the Board with regard to raises, it was already included. He said to leave it there and we'll bring it up for discussion at budget time and we'll let the Board of Selectmen make a decision. Selectman Maddox thinks it should be the same as everybody else. Whatever we decide is the percentage that we're going to use across the board should apply to this line item as well. That's what Chairman Coutu anticipated we would tell him. Selectman Jasper thought that at this time we ought to take it out, and he would move that the \$862 plus the roll ups be removed from the salary line.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to remove the three (3) percent increase in the salary line plus taxes in the amount of \$862, carried 5-0.

Chairman Coutu said the reason why that was done Mr. Yates is in order to bring everybody in parity with the rest of the town, and then we're going to see where we come out in the budget. It doesn't mean we won't revisit it and it doesn't mean that we will. He knew we would be bringing that into parity. In that same meeting we talked about, and Selectman Maddox wanted to get clarification, you talked about redistribution of some of your staff on hourly wages. How is that going to affect the bottom line dollars and is that an increase? Mr. Yates said not it's not. It was on the summer staff. We had a \$.50 differential between first year councilors to anybody 3 years and beyond. We had discussed that at the Rec. Committee meeting and we thought that especially with some of the incidents we've had recently and with the experience of some of our upper level staff, we have teachers that have had great training. They've been on staff 11 years and they were making \$9.75. We felt that if we make it the newer councilors the 3 years and under of 1 rate; councilors 3 years to 6 years are another rate, and then once you hit that 6th year then they are our valuable councilors that - we've had many incidents - especially this summer we had a couple that if we didn't have those experienced people there, it could have been very ugly. Some of those situations with the children that were kind of out of control. So we have less in that higher range. It would balance out because we're going to keep the lower range there longer and then the people that have been there 6 years or longer, he didn't have the exact figures, but he has figured out that it's not going to change. Selectman Maddox said there is no increase in this line item. Mr. Yates said no. The only increase he made in the budget...Selectman Maddox didn't disagree. He just wanted it explained because he heard pieces of it.

Chairman Coutu said it was confusing. If you're listening to it for the first time, what it is it's like a flow chart. As people migrate and the new ones come in at the low rate and as they progress up, it's a continuous flow. So the bottom line still nets out at a zero increase on that line item. Chairman Coutu asked if there was any other discussion relative to his budget. Selectman Massey wanted to go to Merryfield Park for a minute on page 9. Is that a rental fee for the toilet? Mr. Yates said yes. Selectman Massey said that they do have a capital reserve fund for Merryfield Park. The good news is we have one. The not so pleasant news is there's only \$1,400 in it and it requires a warrant article to get it out of there. Unless we had a specific item to put into the park, it doesn't

make sense to take money out of the capital reserve fund to do something with Merryfield. So that's why he wanted to look at it whether any capital projects was going to happen there. Again, \$1,407 right now. It's been that way for about 20 some odd thousand years. Chairman Coutu indicated it's accruing \$.86 a year in interest.

Selectman Maddox asked Ms. Carpentier to add up on the general fund page the line items that say recreation. Ms. Carpentier said that the fiscal '09 actuals for Rec. revenue is \$196,239. Is that what you're asking for? Selectman Maddox indicated yes. Ms. Carpentier said the budget is \$175,700 - that's fiscal '10 budget; and '11 with the motion you just made is \$201,200. Selectman Maddox said that 4759 is not Rec? Mr. Malizia said its revenue others. Ms. Carpentier said that one is not. They have their own right above it. The negative numbers in the recreation, that's just when people sign up for programming. Selectman Maddox's math didn't add up, but that explains it.

Selectman Jasper was going to ask that question. That didn't make any sense to him. They sign up for a program and walk away. How does that become a negative revenue? Ms. Carpentier said not walk away, they refund the money. If you signed your child up for basketball and before they even start it. Selectman Jasper asked why isn't that a charge against the revenue account that it was originally going in to. Ms. Carpentier said they just don't track it back to that. The volume is \$960. We just have not done that. Selectman Jasper said planning on a negative revenue and he just didn't know why it wouldn't be out of the same account. Ms. Carpentier said for the ease of it.

Selectman Massey had one last question. Has the Rec. Committee based on the conversations on the supervised play had any thoughts about relooking at the rates for all of the various activities? He recollected that it was either 2 or 3 years ago that they last revisited it. Mr. Yates said they just talked about that earlier. They will look at the rates and increase them by \$5,000. Selectman Massey said that's just for the supervised play. He's talking about all the others. Mr. Yates said they will look at the entire structure. Generally speaking, Chairman Coutu said we're in pretty level ground with the others. It was the summer program that's costing it. The others it looks like we're at a break even or slightly ahead of the game on the other programs - the soccer, basketball. Mr. Malizia said community events, the teen dances.

Selectman Maddox asked to go to 234, 235 on page 6. We still have the moratorium on out of state or travel. Mr. Malizia said we are not on a moratorium for any in state travel. We are on a commission basis on out of state travel. Selectman Maddox was wondering what the value is. He's trying to look at some dollars. He's just asking the question like everything else of what we're going to get out of \$1,100 to go some where to stay over to do what? Mr. Yates said he's gained a lot of information from a lot of the conferences he's been to. We instituted the background check several years ago. That was something that was brought up at one of the conferences. We got the new floor at the community center another year. The floor that was originally put in was warping. He met with one of the representatives at a conference and within 3 months we had a new floor at no cost to the town. So there is value. He gains a lot of value at these conferences. If you look at some of the program materials and the materials we hand out to the coaches, and the coaches training. Our coaches are trained better now than they ever were because of some of the value that he has gained at these conferences. It may sound minimal, but if you watch the news and you see the hockey dads beating up, that's all education. If you educate these people, and that hasn't happened in Hudson knock on wood, but that's some of the value he's gained from these conferences is you are educating your parents and your coaches that they go to these games and act normally and we don't have these issues. It may seem minimal but if the town has a lawsuit because a parent whacked another parent, and we don't have any of those issues at any of our youth events. That's some of the - he could go over it with you Selectman Maddox. He has manuals he could show him. That's some of the quick things that he can think about off the top of his head. Selectman Maddox is just looking to save some money. He's trying to say is that necessary this year. That's all he's asking. Mr. Malizia said he didn't go this year for the one out of state. He ran it by Mr. Malizia and we agreed not to do it this year. Again Mr. Chairman, Selectman Maddox was just trying to see if there was any nickel he could squeeze.

Chairman Coutu asked if there was further discussion on this budget. He thanked Mr. Yates on his budget presentation, and he would be remised if he didn't tell Mr. Yates that on behalf of the Board of Selectmen that he took a much more positive approach in looking into how recreation programs that we offer our community are utilized. Chairman Coutu knows he had said it at a previous meeting as had Selectman Massey with regard to being afforded an opportunity to spend some

time down at the Recreation Department this summer for the final 2 or 3 weeks of operation. We were all invited to go down and have lunch with the kids and speak to - you gave us an opportunity to be able to speak with all of the supervisors. He and Selectman Massey were able to take advantage of that, and we enjoyed it tremendously. The safety, the quality of supervision that is being provided by the Recreation Department is well appreciated. He has heard from a lot of the parents who have children who partake in the summer program and partake in a lot of the fall activities. They have all been positive. You had a couple of incidents, and he doesn't want people to take away from this process that we just went through where you said there could have been some real harrowing experiences down there. There were no harrowing experiences down there as a result of professional people who were able to avert situations that could have become a little scary at times. Chairman Coutu applauded Mr. Yates with the selection process and the supervision. He wanted to applaud him for his budget presentation this evening and the professional manner in which you run the Recreation Department. It is appreciated by this town. It's a service that is quite visible to the community and he knows that it is well appreciated. Chairman Coutu extended his congratulations to his peers on the Recreation Committee for doing an outstanding job this past year. He knows going forward with Jeremy because he knows his history in volunteering for our community in various projects both on the school side and the town side that we're going to go forward with that same firm commitment to provide the best quality recreational programs for our town, and he thanked them all.

Selectman Maddox asked for clarification from Ms. Carpentier on page 27. If it was 15,420 in FY2010 and FY2011 is 168, how can it be minus? The numbers are reversed. Ms. Carpentier said in conformity, all the department heads had done 11/10 and Mr. Yates had done 10/11. So in haste, she moved his columns and in error did not change his percentages. So you are correct Sir.

Chairman Coutu moved the meeting into recess at 9:18 and returned at 9:28 p.m.

Chairman Coutu wanted to clean up one item and he apologized. A motion was made by Selectman Massey and seconded by Selectman Jasper on the capital reserve fund, Warrant Article on 24780 for IT and we did not take a vote. Selectman Massey said the motion was to forward to the warrant.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Cemetery Trustees

Chairman Coutu recognized Bob Haefner, Chairman of the Cemetery Trustees. Chairman Coutu directed the selectmen to go to the front section, Town Offices - 5000, page 4, his total budget request is \$1,260. He welcomed Mr. Haefner and asked for a general overview of his very small request of \$1,260. He didn't think it would take much deliberation, but he wanted to give him an opportunity.

Thank you Mr. Chairman [Bob Haefner]. Over the years we've done a lot of work on stones. There's a lot of broken headstones in the 5 cemeteries that we're responsible for with only 4 of them have stones. We've been cleaning those up, and cleaning up, and this year we only had to repair 2 stones. We were actually going to do that in June of this past year but because of all the rain we had in the spring, the monument guy got behind and we ended up doing it in July. Therefore you see no spending for last year. In this current, we've come pretty close to spending that. At this point, we have no stones that need to be repaired. Invariably with frost heaves over the winter, you're going to have a stone or two tip over and they'll have to be repaired. So we've put in \$1,200 for it this year. He also put in \$10 for postage and \$50 for travel because our intent is that we will do the State Cemetery Trustee training. None of them have done that in about 4 years. So they will go and do that again. It's a total of \$1,260. It's down 41 percent, \$900 or so from last year.

Chairman Coutu asked if anyone wished to discuss this budget any further. He thanked Mr. Haefner for his time and his patience, and commitment to the Town of Hudson as a member of the Cemetery Commission as well as his commitment of the Conservation Commission. It's well appreciated. Chairman Coutu can speak first hand and say that he represents us very well in the State House as well. Selectman Massey learned tonight that a request that had been made for the Poor Farm Cemetery to recognize on the other side of the stone that has now been inscribed to say

"Cemetery of the Unknowns". He thanked the gentleman that made that request is very happy that we were able to do it.

Conservation Committee - (5585/86)

Bob Haefner wanted to first say on the Hudson Conservation Commission that Tim Quinn put this budget together for us. He was going to come and present it tonight. He call Mr. Haefner this afternoon on his way to the hospital to tell him that he didn't think he was going to make it tonight. So Mr. Haefner is doing this in his stead. Point of reference, Selectman Massey said that their default budget is higher. Their actual request last year was \$17,000. So they're basically level funded. It's up \$200 from what we actually submitted last year. In all seriousness if you want to take \$200 out, Mr. Haefner will take that out of the next to the bottom line - professional services.

Selectman Maddox asked in professional services for the 119, is that still part of that prime wetlands. There's no backup that he sees. Mr. Haefner indicated yes there was a bunch. A lot of that is lake host program for Robinson Pond and Ottarnic - water testing for those 2 lakes or ponds. Unplanned events. Selectman Maddox said \$3,970. Mr. Haefner said that unplanned event at their last meeting they changed that. It is now in the lake host, which the cost of went up this year. So the unplanned events already happened and its lake host and they're in there. Selectman Maddox was saying that before this goes to budget again, that would be one that would be tough to...so we could put that in there. Mr. Haefner can have Tim send that to them. Chairman Coutu thanked Mr. Haefner and wanted to thank Mr. Quinn as well for helping prepare this.

Selectman Massey would like to say that as their liaison over the last 2 years, that commission has spent a considerable amount of time working on the prime wetlands study and doing due diligence on both Robinson Pond and Ottarnic Pond. Every one of the people in that committee is a contributing member and they all work hard. Thank you Bob to you and your commission.

Benson's Park Committee

Chairman Coutu referred the Board to the hand out that was given this evening. It's on letterhead, stapled, and it is the subject matter which is in bold print approximately a third of the way down the page. It says "Benson Park Funds". There has been no budget in the past obviously for Benson's because this is a new committee. We have a new Chair of the Benson's Committee and he's here, Mr. Schibanoff. However, he just assumed that position approximately 3 or 4 weeks ago, maybe even less than that. Selectman Jasper is the liaison for the Benson's Committee. He's been there since day one and has the history and knowledge of that committee and its needs. He has asked Chairman Coutu to allow him to make a presentation of the budget. Mr. Schibanoff is here if you have any questions about Benson's in general. Chairman Coutu deferred to Selectman Jasper.

Selectman Jasper gave a quick overview on the first sheet to sort of tell you where we are in terms of funds. While it does say funds available - \$125,000, you really have to take off the \$43,000 from that, and of that \$43,000 a couple thousand has already been reallocated to the office building. In terms of the Haselton Barn, it is unlikely that much of that money will be spent this year because as we learned from Aaron Sturgiss, there's a lot of work to be done do to that right. So we don't want to throw good money after bad. Frankly, the Benson Park Committee is not spending any time looking at that barn right now. What is being done is you will have a proposal at some point from Mr. Shadan to tighten that roof up. There are some leaks right now. There are some shifting shingles. That will be short money. That will probably be again only a few thousand dollars. So most of this money which will not be spent in FY2010 will revert to surplus. He would estimate that will probably be in the neighborhood of \$30,000 - 35,000 will be shifting there.

With that in mind if we go to the budget on the next page...Selectman Maddox wanted Selectman Jasper to clarify a statement \$35,000 would revert back to the general fund. Why would that be? Selectman Jasper said that money - we had to commit it by June 30. Mr. Malizia said we encumbered it because if we don't spend the encumbrance, we can't do anything else with it. It runs out. Selectman Maddox said ok. Selectman Jasper said that will leave us with about \$82,000 - 84,000 in the accounts available to spend on the park going forward.

Selectman Massey said we've encumbered it. If we do any project this year between now and June that is going to cause the work to go over June 30th, why wouldn't we be able to encumber that. Mr. Malizia said that this was the last year. Selectman Massey asked if you could only encumber 1

year. Mr. Malizia said this was it. Selectman Jasper said they encumbered it for specific projects. We can spend it on the things that we anticipated we would do. But to take it out and do something else with it...frankly, there's just with the charge that this Board has given to the committee, there's not going to be any effort and there's not going to be any time to even figure out to do anything more than just tighten up the roof. So anything on the Haselton Barn will be something that probably later next year we will begin to look at and come in with some long-range planning and figuring out how we want to do that project right.

A follow up though. Selectman Massey stated that if it does get back into the general fund on June 30th, whatever gets in there, we can take it back out as revenue against the Benson project. That's where Selectman Jasper is going with part of this. So if we go onto the Benson Park budget. As we have been talking through - he started talking about this probably well over a year ago about how do we do the regular maintenance in there. Primarily the mowing of the grass will need to take place May, June, July and August. Interns seem to work well. Now technically this probably isn't the best way to budget it but it's the only way that really makes any sense to me because what would happen with these 2 interns, one of them would actually be at Benson Park. The other one would actually be with the Highway crew and one of the maintenance people from the maintenance crew would move over to Benson Park for that period of time to supervise the intern. So that's in keeping with what we've been doing the total budget for that, which would be a reoccurring expense would be \$13,345 but we've got to get started. The Road Agent, the Highway Department, already has all of the equipment that they have committed. So in order to maintain the park, we're going to have to have one time purchases of equipment and here you see his estimate. These estimates are from the Road Agent - \$3,000 for the various hand tools. He feels it's important that in order to be able to do what's going to need to be done on there and there's going to be a lot of landscaping to do and things to move, we really will need to have a small tractor in there. This is a relative small Kubota with a front-end loader on it, which depending on what we want to do in future years, there are many attachments that can be purchased for it. This is the basic tractor at this time. A trailer so that it can be moved. It can be used on other sites, but it could be brought back to the Highway Department for its regular maintenance. So there's \$3,300 for a trailer, and then we'd need a commercial mower with a vacuum system for most of that. That adds up to one time items of \$38,700. That's where he's proposing that at least for round numbers if we were to assume that \$35,000 of the original money was going to lapse back into surplus, that we then show a revenue side for \$35,000 to cover this leaving us with about \$3,700 budget.

Certainly if you want to take that out of the \$84,000 and have the equipment paid for entirely there - Selectman Jasper thought that because the equipment will have uses other places having a cost of \$3,700 for this equipment to the general fund would probably be a reasonable thing to do. Chairman Coutu said \$17,000. Selectman Jasper is talking of the equipment. The \$13,000 he would not propose and support that we take the annual operating expense out of that \$84,000...Chairman Coutu stated they're looking at the net number. Selectman Jasper is looking at the one-time purchases. He thinks they do have to establish a budget, and that \$13,000 is going to be a reoccurring number on an annual basis and shouldn't come out of the \$84,000. Obviously we're going to have a lot of things to do in that park and a lot of expenses. We're trying to make that \$84,000 last just as long as we can to actually create things on the park. So far the committee has been very frugal. Other than the roofs, we have not come in and asked for a lot of the money to be spent. We will be coming in as the proposals and the work on the security gate and there will be other things. That's his proposal.

Chairman Coutu wanted to be reminded Selectman Jasper that he wanted to bring up the Benson's Committee itself - expenses for the Benson's Committee for printing and things like that. Selectman Maddox was looking at some of the things that he would think would be there. You're using electricity. We're lighting it. Alarm system. Why wouldn't that be shown on this budget? Selectman Jasper said that's a very good question. To a large degree, Selectman Maddox because you kept him in such a tether over things at Benson's for the last couple of months, and he only has so many hours in the day, and the committee's only had so many meetings, and we've been, again, in a tether over getting things done and opened, that level of detail frankly just escaped the committee and escaped him. You are correct. Selectman Maddox said for the Budget Committee, he thought we ought to get it in there. It's something that you cannot...Chairman Coutu said those are the kinds of things that he saw were obviously missing was that we had the monitoring on the system, the electrical. There's nothing in here to give the Benson's Committee any kind of an operating budget for printing. They had to run around at the last minute the soft opening to look at the printing. We had to appropriate some money. If we're going to do this, let's do it right the first time so we can do some estimating while we're here. Mr. Malizia said the \$500 for the alarm, he

thought, is probably a good estimate for the annual basis. Probably \$600 for electricity though, that could be - he's not exactly sure of that number. Selectman Maddox mentioned there was a lot of accounts that seem like they showed up when he asked for the breakdown. He had 6 or 7 electrical - so whether the lights on the street facing in are different circuits or however the different billing, but you had a number of - when you gave him the breakdown. Mr. Malizia wasn't sure those were all different electrical accounts or just the different expenditure on it. He's trying to recall what he gave Selectman Maddox. You definitely have to account for electricity. Ms. Carpentier said they don't see a lot different on items.

Chairman Coutu asked what we're paying the alarm out of right now. Mr. Malizia said we were paying it out of 6032. Ms. Carpentier said it was number one on your memo - the 20501653. Mr. Malizia said so reality for the recurring expenses should pay for it here, you should pay for electricity. He didn't know what printing would be. You could estimate \$300, 400, or 500. He didn't know what they were looking to print in the near future. Selectman Jasper said they are probably anticipating that the paint and those kinds of things will come out of the fund or donated. Either way, he thought they were correct. The electricity and the alarm monitoring should be in there. Chairman Coutu said and also a printing account. Selectman Jasper stated and printing. That will certainly be more kiosks, and the committee had printed up 500 or so. Those went quickly. He thought things will slow down, but certainly we do want to have...Chairman Coutu would like to give them a start up anyway. He would estimate throwing in \$500 for printing. It's not unreasonable. You're talking about a full year here starting in July.

Selectman Nadeau said the tractor, the hand tools, and the commercial mower - he would like to see that come out of the money that we have in the account that we already have here instead of taking this out of the tax dollars. We could take it out of the Benson's account that we have this \$85,000 roughly in. The only reason he says that is if we're going to primarily use this at Benson's and it's a startup cost for Benson's, we have the money in this account that we should be doing it. The 2 interns - this is not a true cost to us if we're going to be using 1 Highway Department guy for 4 months out of the year. This number of \$13,000 could be more like \$25,000 if we're going to be using - you're shaking your head no, but...Chairman Coutu interrupted. Ben he understands what he's saying and he wished he would proceed with your line of questioning and don't pay attention to what he's doing. Selectman Nadeau said we're going to put a \$12 an hour person from the interns to work with the Highway Department, and we're going to take a Highway Department guy who's making \$23 or \$28 an hour and put him over at Benson's. If it takes 10 hours a week to take care of Benson's, he can't see that we're going to have this much stuff to be doing over there. If we are, this is not what he was expecting to see with this project with the price tag of it.

Chairman Coutu stated that what you're saying Selectman Nadeau is that you would rather see whatever laborers actually using - you would like to see an actual cost related to that labor associated in this budget line. Selectman Nadeau said right. If we hire one intern and he works for the Highway Department 40 hours a week and the Highway Department goes over there for 10 hours a week to do their maintenance and there's 2 guys he can see that. When you see the mowing crew out, there's 2 guys on the mowing crew when they do the Town Common and stuff. He just doesn't think this is going to be a true number of \$13,000 if we're going to have a highway guy working with the interns. Selectman Jasper understood what he said. The first thing he said was this perhaps isn't the best way to budget it. It shows the true cost to the town for accomplishing what we are. The Highway Department person is going to be mowing some place. So whether he's mowing at Benson's or mowing at the Town Common, it's not costing the town any more money. So if you have somebody doing the same job doing this, there's no net affect. If you want to screw with the budget and take 40 hours a week of - now we've got to split up one person and try to budget his salary in 2 places, we can do that. Are we going to start doing that and saying this person is spending 10 hours at Merryfield Park, 5 hours at Town Common? This is a town park.

[Selectman Jasper] Frankly, the place for this is in the Highway budget anyhow. This is where this really belongs. This \$13,435 should be budgeted in the Highway Department because the Highway Department maintains all the parks in town. It's a little silly to say budgetarily Benson Park is different than every other piece of grass we own in the world. We don't do that labor wise. We certainly do it for equipment and for other things, but labor wise we don't. So he didn't think we ought to go down that road. Frankly, this \$13,435 should go into the Highway Department, and he would support that motion. He had to bring a proposal forward. So Selectman Jasper would move right now that...Chairman Coutu said going along your lines. He knew where Selectman Nadeau was coming from, and he articulated it quite well, and you understood right away and so did he. He

wanted to hear how he was going to justify it. What he tried to point out was that this was not the kind of budget he expected. He thought they were going to get a budget that would be an addendum to the Highway Department budget because quite frankly, all of this that you've presented here belongs in the Highway Department. It's equipment that's going to be used by the Highway Department. The salaries are going to be used by people who are going to work in various parks throughout the community, and the rest of the money that he saw was going to be necessary - the alarm, the electric, the printing was going to go under the guides of the Benson's Committee itself and that would be their control. Although we would take alarm and electricity somewhere else and they would use the printing money. That's something they would have direct control. Alarm and electricity would be put into operation somewhere or however we've been taking it out. All of this belongs, and he wanted to hear his articulation as to why this was presented this way. He knows we've discussed this briefly and he thought it was going to be an augmentation or a supplement to the existing Highway budget, which is where it all belongs.

[Chairman Coutu] What Selectman Nadeau was trying to do was trying to say that he wanted to actually reflect the costs associated with Benson's. But what we all have to come to understand is now Benson's is owned by the Town of Hudson, and someone has to maintain it. Fortunately or unfortunately, it does come under the Highway Department. Selectman Massey believed that this part is going to be such a big integral part of our town that we must identify the costs of running this park. If we don't, we're going to lose sight of it over time. If we have to do anything, he would not support putting this budget in the Highway Department. He believed it has to be in this department. Secondly, he would make a motion right now that the \$38,700 in equipment come from the town surplus which will be covered by the \$41,000 that's currently going to revert to the unexpended balance which would mean that of the total cost, only the labor at the moment would be in the tax rate. The equipment would be a fixed asset that we would pay for out of the \$41,000 that's currently going to lapse according to Selectman Jasper. Actually it's not \$41,000. Selectman Jasper didn't know what it's going to be. He would second the motion if we simply increased the use of fund balance by \$38,700. Selectman Massey would second that. That would be his motion.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Jasper, that the \$38,700 in equipment come from the town surplus which will be covered by the \$41,000 that's currently going to revert to the unexpended balance which would mean that of the total cost, only the labor at the moment, would be in the tax rate.

Motion by Selectman Massey, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to increase the use of fund balance by \$38,700.

Just to finish up, Selectman Massey still believed that we need to - because this other stuff, all of the operating expenses are going to be there too. He just thought that they need to identify these costs to this park.

Selectman Maddox thought that the Highway Department budgets \$10,000 for all the parks in town. Is this equipment specially needed for Benson's? He would suppose that the Highway cuts grass, shrubs, and brush, whatever. Why do we need to buy equipment for Benson's if the Highway Department is going to do the work, they going to come in with the same mowing crew that mows all the other parks? He's just wondering why they need to spend \$35,000 on equipment dedicated to Benson's. Selectman Jasper said it's not necessarily all dedicated to Benson's. He spoke with the Road Agent and said what do you need to add this to your maintenance of the areas. There's a lot more acreage in Benson Park, and there's going to be a lot more area that is going to be mowed on a regular basis than we maintain in total and everything else they mow. His mowers right now during the growing season, June, July or August are out straight. He doesn't have the availability of another mower to go in there and do that. This is his recommendation. He didn't tell him that he thought we needed another mower. That we need a tractor. He went to the Road Agent and said looking at the park, what do you feel you need to maintain that park. This is what he came back with. So he's not about to second guess a guy who's working for the town and doing this stuff since the early 1980s.

Chairman Coutu has the same concern that Selectman Maddox has. He doesn't understand that if the Highway Department - what Mr. Burns is saying in essence is that he's straight out in terms of equipment. We don't have a spare mower that we can send over to...Selectman Jasper said 2 of the big mowers to the best of his knowledge. Those go 40 hours a week during the growing season mowing all the ball fields and parks. Chairman Coutu can understand that if we're going to commit

to bringing in 2 interns and one of them is going to be assigned to the Benson Park, and if our 2 mowers are straight out, then obviously we're going to have to have some sort of a tool to put in this person's hand to make viability of his existence in Benson's. If we don't have the mowers, he can understand buying a mower. Weed whackers, blowers, and trimmers - we must have spare equipment. Understand right now, Selectman Jasper said we have crews. You're talking 3,000 here. The most expensive thing we have is manpower. Can he tell him that all the weed whackers in everything are used 40 hours a week versus 35? No. But what are the people then going to be doing while those people aren't using them. If gee I'm done with a weed whacker and I'm over at the park at the other end of town or the cemetery there, we're going to send somebody from Benson - oh I got my weed whacker's now free for 15 minutes. Drive 20 minutes to get the weed whacker, those things cost \$125. Again, he thinks we have to have some faith in our Road Agent that he looked at this and said when you look at labor and you look at what he has for availability, he's not going to buy what he doesn't need. He's just putting examples in here of what he will need for small equipment. Does that mean he's necessarily going to buy shovels? He thought they have to let him manage this. We're talking \$3,000 for small equipment. Either we want to maintain this place or we don't. Selectman Jasper will tell them right now, we're burning out our volunteers right now. The volunteers just pretty much gave up 3 weekends in a row. It was volunteers. It wasn't the Board of Selectmen in there. It wasn't town employees. You've got to have somebody mow that. If you say hey we've got this park but now you guys have to mow it every week, everybody is going to say goodbye.

Chairman Coutu said they're not advocating that Selectman Jasper. That's taking it to an extreme. Selectman Jasper said it's taking it to an extreme but here we are for 9 years we tried to get this park, and now we're - well, does the Road Agent know what he's talking about. Chairman Coutu said they didn't question the Road Agent. Selectman Jasper said he did question the Road Agent. This is his recommendation, and the questions are do we need this. Therefore if you ask the question in another way its does the Road Agent know what he's talking about by asking for this equipment. That's exactly what is being asked here. Does the Road Agent know what he's talking about? There's no other way to look at it. He's sorry.

Selectman Maddox asked how the question was put to him. He can't picture you need 80 hours worth or work in that park to mow X amount. Most of it is paved trails. What are they going to be doing for 80 hours? Again, how was the question asked? As Selectman Jasper told him, the question was asked what do you need. He suggested for the first summer 2 interns. That park could use 200 hours of interns labor the first year. After the first year, we will have - there is so much stuff all over that place. Have you looked at the invasive vines crawling up every place? We're talking \$13,000 for the first year. You know what, if you find that you don't need 40 hours, you can lay off an intern. For the first year, there's no question that 40 hours is a drop in the bucket. After the first year, you may absolutely be right, and we'll have a good handle on that after the first year. We only may need 1 intern after the first year. That place has so much landscaping to do. There's so much debris. You can't get it all done with volunteers. You're just taxing people. We haven't even begun to scratch the surface, and we're asking for 2 interns for the first year.

If Selectman Maddox may follow up, you're saying to us why do we question, he's asking why you need a front end loader when the town has a number of them dedicated to a park that...Selectman Jasper said then ask to bring the Road Agent back. He asked him what do you need to operate that park. This is what he came back to me for the equipment. The motion is on equipment and not on interns anyhow. Selectman Maddox is going there next. Selectman Jasper told him let's take one thing at a time. Selectman Maddox would defer this Mr. Chairman until we can talk to the Road Agent. He doesn't want to vote no because he doesn't want to vote no if you don't need to. He would right now based on what he knows. Chairman Coutu thought that was a reasonable request. You're presenting a budget that the Road Agent assisted in putting together, and he thinks it's fair to ask him to come in. Selectman Jasper doesn't have a problem with that.

Chairman Coutu wanted him to understand that from his perspective, we're not talking Merryfield Park here. We're not talking 2 acres. We're talking 168 acres, and he's well aware of that. He understands the complexity of maintaining the park. However, Chairman Coutu said before and he'll repeat that he is not in favor of spending money for equipment that's going to be used exclusively for one park. If it can be used at other areas, he would expect that it could be housed there. If they needed some where else, they need a front end loader somewhere else and this Board agrees to buy a front end loader, then we can say that belongs to Benson's we can't use it. Selectman Jasper said no. It belongs to the Town of Hudson. He will tell him, he was surprised to

see the front end loader there. Chairman Coutu was shocked to see it there. But when Selectman Jasper started thinking about it from what is there to do in there and he started looking at all the things that are going to have to be moved around in there, it's probably endless uses for that, but he was surprised to see this. So he didn't go in there and suggest to him anything other than he thought for the first year 2 interns would probably be...we've had 2 interns in the Engineering Department for years and nobody thinks that's unreasonable. We have 165 acres and then it's what do we need 80 hours for.

Chairman Coutu said no one is saying that. He didn't mean to interrupt. No one is saying that this is unreasonable. He thought that Mr. Burns knows as you do that he is admired and respected by this Board. He thinks outside the box. His budget requests have always been sensible, and we've been able to live with them. It would behoove us to seize upon an opportunity when we do a final analysis on Tuesday night to have him back in here and have him give us a thorough explanation of his requests. He would be the proper person to try to convince us that this is what's needed for that park. He's the expert in the area. That's not to take away from your expertise in working acres and acres of your own land. You know what's involved in doing that. It would make more sense.

Selectman Massey thought we need to keep a couple things in perspective. We're not talking about 80 hours of work. We're talking about 40 hours of work done by 2 people. If you're telling me that this intern can work by themselves. Selectman Jasper told Selectman Massey it says right there - 2 interns at 40 hours per week. Selectman Massey understood. You're proposing that one intern work on other projects, and one intern with a highway person work on this project. Selectman Jasper said right. That's 80 hours at Benson Park. Selectman Massey said its 80 hours of people's time, but it's only 40 hours of the lapse time. There's only going to be 40 hours a week that you have somebody there on site working. You're not necessarily going to have one guy mowing the bottom 40 and the other guy mowing the top 40. They're going to be working together all the time. So that's the first piece.

Selectman Massey said the second piece is that he thought when he understood this originally that this equipment would be housed at Benson's, but when it could be used on other parts of the highway world, that it would be. It wouldn't be exclusively Benson's equipment. That's why if we take the money out of the general fund and not out of the Benson's account, it would be cleaner. Then its town money and not Benson's money. Given where we're going, Selectman Massey withdrew his motion if the seconder would for them to discuss this on Tuesday night. Selectman Jasper withdrew his second. Selectman Massey thought we all know Kevin Burns' track record. In his mind if he said this is what he thinks he needs to do the job, he thinks he would give him the benefit of the doubt. He understands that you really want to understand where all this is coming from. The other thing he didn't think he should keep track of is the part of the park that was open to the public this week was approximately 50 acres. That's another 115 acres that needs to be maintained, particularly the trails that are going to have to be carved out next year up in the pucker brush. That's not going to be a volunteer job he didn't think. In the long term he agreed with Selectman Jasper. We can't ultimately expect volunteers to take on a repetitive job that requires them to make the commitment to mow every week as an example. Not only would you burn them out, but after a while they'd be saying he wait a minute where's my pay, and he thought rightly so.

Chairman Coutu said they were going to defer this to Tuesday night when we do the wrap up. Mr. Burns will be here as well as all department heads next Tuesday night. We're going to do the wrap up Tuesday. Selectman Jasper wanted to know if he wanted to do the other part of the budget. He apologized. At times he thought he remembered electricity and he remembered things at other times. He's been putting so dang much time in to this project. He just didn't have the time to do everything. Even though he may think of it, he just didn't have the time to pick up the phone...Chairman Coutu told Selectman Jasper to be patient. It's all going to fall into place.

Selectman Maddox ask the Chairman to summarize. What is the plan for these people? He can't picture 80 hours of mowing. They're going to be clearing trails. Again, he's just trying to figure out where we're going. Chairman Coutu wanted to defer this to Tuesday night. Selectman Jasper can speak to that part of it. We have a park and we have that 50 acres, 55 acres which the vision is to make it so you can walk through the wooded area so you can sit down. Right now it's a tangled undergrowth. When they're out mowing and they're not raking, there's just so much to do to clean up. We're going to work on that, and we're getting there. As volunteers coming in for weekend blocks, we will probably lose the fight to some degree to some of that stuff. So we need to supplement it and have the people that have the tractor that can go in and - some of the stuff should

probably be pulled out with a bucket, put a chain around it, wrap it, and pull it out rather than leaving a root there that then regrows again. That's particularly true of the bittersweet. That stuff is all over the place. Some of that other stuff you have to make a real effort to get rid of it. We can't just go in there with pesticides. If we're going to in with pesticides, we have to go through a process for approval of the State. A lot of times it's just better to rip it out. For the first year, believe him there is so much acreage. Even 40 hours a week maintaining the grass that there is and doing that and then trying to make progress on the other area even with the volunteers who will be coming in, we're not going to get anywhere near done in the first year.

Selectman Maddox said this is not maintenance per say. This is also other projects that will be put off on to a paid staff to do. Selectman Jasper said it will be in part yes developing the park. Selectman Massey is exactly right. You're going to get people who are going to be willing to volunteer if we have the train station and the museum - people who love to do that - the Old Woman in the Shoe. If you say we want you to volunteer for the next 10 years to come in and do nothing but pull out poison ivy, bittersweet, and brush, people are going to tell you to go pound sand. Everybody has a life. There's a certain amount of excitement in getting it open. Frankly he thinks that once we declare the park officially open, the volunteerism is naturally going to fall off because it's going to be that famous George Bush mission accomplished even though the mission wasn't accomplished. There's the feeling that it is. Selectman Maddox indicated that it would have been nice. He understood the time constraints. This is not just basic maintenance. You're looking at doing things on a routine basis. He'll bring this up Mr. Chairman. He has a problem with the plan of taking a highway person and putting him in here and then taking one of the interns and putting them with highway. He would think that would be a problem with the contract. You can't take and put an intern in with the regular. He's concerned that we need to check into that. If there's 2 interns working at Benson's - 2 college kids cutting grass doing whatever, but taking a highway person and putting them in there and then taking that intern and putting him in the highway group, he's a highway guy. Why wouldn't he get paid in the same benefits as the rest of the guys on the crew. He's just asking that question for Tuesday.

Chairman Coutu stated that we have interns in the Engineering Department, but they're not engineers. Selectman Jasper said that's nothing new. That's like a call man working with a union firefighter at a fire ground. You have a different class of people who do the same job. They're hired differently. They're part time. You couldn't take 2 interns in there who didn't have the experience and say okay you guys go in there for 40 hours a week and...there has to be supervision. It's no different than when the Highway Department used to have wingmen. We would hire people to come in and sit in the trucks and watch where the plow was. We took a lot less mailboxes, but Kevin figured out replacing mailboxes is a lot cheaper than paying 15 people to sit in dump trucks. It's nothing new for this town. We do it now in the fire department. If that were the rational Selectman Maddox, Chairman Coutu said the national youth corp. program would never have gotten off the ground. Primarily the youth corp. is used to supplement parks projects and things of that nature. Selectman Maddox agreed with supplementing. But you're putting one of these interns in with the highway crew...Selectman Jasper said you're putting 2 in because this is the town. We own the park. Chairman Coutu said we have to own up to the fact that we now own that park and have a responsibility to maintain that park. Selectman Maddox said it's not a separate entity. He just has a different perspective. We'll see how it all floats.

Selectman Massey stated they've spent a lot of time asking their representative on the Board (inaudible) Mr. Schibanoff with what limited time he has on where the committee is on all of this. Mr. Schibanoff said that the committee hasn't really gotten into this at this point. He's been the Chairperson for 2 weeks. Selectman Massey acknowledged that. He thanked him for doing that. In that 2 weeks, Mr. Schibanoff has gone through 2 days of cleanup, a training session for volunteers, and 2 days of a soft opening, and 1 day, today, of showing the Governor around. So it's been busy. One thing he did discover, and he thought of this as he was talking, is that there will be a lot of grass in that park eventually. If you walk go through, you get off those trails, and you start walking through, you realize it's just a lot of brush. There are some large trees, but once you take out that brush, there's going to be a lot of land that you can use to sit on if you want to. That's going to have to be mowed. He thought there's going to have to be some sort of staffing requirement in there. In particular, Selectman Massey said there's one area up near the Haselton Barn which is a big meadow he believed at one time. That's where it was envisioned it being a ball field or Frisbee throwing. That would take more than just a push mower. He thought you'd need a big mower for that type of operation.

Mr. Schibanoff stated that the more you look at this project, the larger it gets. He hoped it's not the money pit that you're worried about Selectman Maddox. Selectman Maddox said he's just asking the questions we need to ask now rather than later.

Chairman Coutu indicated that Kevin Burns will be here Tuesday night. We will be able to ask the appropriate questions and he's sure he'll give us the answers that we're looking for to make a decision whether to proceed. However, he would like to proceed with a Benson's Committee budget at this time and get that behind us, not the equipment, what the committee is going to need. Have you ascertained what you might need for your committee for the year? Are you going to need some printing money, do some more brochures? Honestly, Mr. Schibanoff said honestly no we have not. We're working on this. We're trying to reorganize the committee as far as the subcommittee structure within the committee. He had a meeting today with the Vice Chairman, and they're talking about trying to address some of the situations that are going on, and they need better organization within the park committee. This is just part of it. There's a whole lot of other things that he didn't realize until he sat down and started thinking about it. Chairman Coutu asked if they were going to work on getting some structure and from there move on. How do we look in terms of providing any immediate needs or needs that they might have? Mr. Malizia said they've been taking them out of those Benson accounts. It's not a long-term solution. They should have some sort of cost center to have printing, ads if need be, electricity, alarm. It certainly makes sense to have something.

Chairman Coutu asked where they wanted to go with this. You understand that they have to have some funds for the committee. Selectman Jasper didn't think it probably wouldn't be unreasonable to have a line for \$500 for the alarm, and \$500 for electricity. Mr. Malizia wanted to know if the Board wanted him to bang out a budget for Tuesday. Chairman Coutu said yes. Selectman Massey heard something different, so he wanted to make sure that they were on the same page. If we're talking about this budget that Selectman Jasper brought to us tonight, including everything, that's one thing. But if we're talking about a Benson's Committee budget and a Benson park budget, that's a different thing. If that's the way we're going then for the committee, he would think maybe \$1,000 just as a rough number right now for all the things they want to do for next year, and then in the park budget, we put the electricity, etc., etc. He thought maybe that's what you were thinking about Mr. Chairman but if that's not what it was and that's not what the committee is thinking they're going to need in the way of funds to run their committee, we need to know that too. Mr. Schibanoff said the committee has been relying basically on contributions of people whether in kind or people donating time or materials. So we haven't had a lot of expenses. Since he's been on, it's been less than \$200. That's dealing with the soft opening. Chairman Coutu didn't think it was unreasonable to have whatever you want to ascertain a \$1,000 allocation. You're right Selectman Massey; we'll put the rest on the Benson. Mr. Malizia said they would double check the electricity and then you'll have some other modest amounts proposed for printing or whatever.

Chairman Coutu said Ken is right. That's what we're getting at. We just want to have one line item appropriation for them or just say printing and 500. That's what Mr. Malizia was planning on putting together what they need. Chairman Coutu said that we're going to keep electricity and all that other - alarm monitoring and this other budget that is being proposed for Benson Park. Selectman Jasper said this should be going forward. There should be a Benson Park budget and a Benson Park Committee budget. That's what he's suggesting. Selectman Nadeau said just like the Green Team's budget, just like the Recycling Committee's budget. Mr. Malizia indicated that they were all fairly modest. There's not much money in them. That's what Selectman Massey is expecting. It would be a modest in the committee budget, and then the other operating expenses would be in this park budget.

Selectman Maddox asked if the Committee felt that they would be going to be putting port-a-toilets or one of them into the park as this is used more. Is that something we need to budget for? Is that something that would be another expense? Are you planning on putting on of those in? Mr. Schibanoff said they hadn't decided that yet. For the soft opening, they did not have one. Selectman Maddox said they had clear signs and that's fine. He's just saying is that something that you need to look at as something that needs to go into this budget. Selectman Jasper said that's another one of those things that yes as he was driving along, he did think of that. They have talked about that because when we talked about the money for the Gorilla House as a wash house, they said they alternative would be to have a port-a-potty and a hand washing station. That's fine during the good weather and that's probably all we need to do once you get to December. Mr. Malizia said they pull them out of the parks after it gets cold because no one wants to sit in them. Selectman

Jasper thought you need to have both. There should be a hand washing station in there as well. Those are things that should be included in that as well. Chairman Coutu asked that if there are any other thoughts, would you relay them to the Town Administrator should that he can put something together. Harry the same with you. If you come up something after going home and thinking about what was discussed here and something comes to mind in terms of what might be a need for either the committee or the park in general, just call the Town Administrator. He'll put the thing together Monday. If you call him before 11 a.m. on Monday, he can get it all put together and we'll have it formally Tuesday. Then we can review, and we can sit down with the Road Agent and we'll go over it. We're all set with that.

Selectman Maddox is just asking the questions Mr. Chairman. Where is the Committee as far as where do you think we're going to be with the buildings? Again, we're still talking about July 1st of 2010. Are you talking about having water brought it and sewer? Is that something that would happen in 2011? Again so there's no surprises and there's no money in the budget, better to put a few dollars in for it than...

Selectman Jasper said they have talked in general terms about that. Frankly, we haven't talked specifically. His personal feeling is that's what the \$84,000 is available for. Other than the renovations, the buildings, and bringing in water and sewer, yes we've got playgrounds to do. His feeling is we run with that \$84,000 as long as we can. Get the donations that we can. The Highway Department is willing to do a lot of bringing in sewer lines. They do that all the time. There are certain things that they can do. There are probably other contracts that we can get to help out. So no we didn't budget those in - he didn't think - and he's speaking for himself because we haven't had the level of detail because we've been concentrating on cleaning up, trying to get the park open, and there's only so many hours in the day. In general, his feeling was we've got \$84,000, and that will last them through next year. By then, hopefully they'll have a better handle on what we need if we need any other expenses. Those types of things it was never his intent to ask for a budget this year. The only thing he ever thought they might ask for, and he knew it wasn't going to go any place, was the restrooms.

In all fairness Selectman Maddox, Chairman Coutu said the Benson's Committee has just undergone a restructuring. They're trying to establish a structure and delineate the tasks and they're going to work all this winter in preparing a plan of attack on how they're going to approach Benson's, and what areas that are going take priority, and we're going to be studying the safety issues - hopefully with an insurance agent, and we're going to address those needs. This park just isn't going to be developed over night. It's going to be a very slow process. We'll have to be patient with the process and hopefully somebody will come along and make some generous donations, and we'll be able to get this thing done at a much quicker pace. He's all set with that.

Selectman Massey wanted to follow up on one thing. He wanted to make sure we don't lose it in the cracks. Yes we only have about \$84,000 left. He though he heard him say that we're probably not going to spend any serious money in FY2011 on the Haselton Barn. If we do, then that \$84,000 is going to get eaten up real quickly. Selectman Jasper said he can't imagine that we would because our concentration is going to be on the park. As long as the roof isn't leaking, he didn't think any of them are going to be thinking much about the Haselton Barn.

Selectman Massey indicated that the other piece of it then is he didn't see listed on here, unless he's missing somewhere, that we have a commitment of \$68,000 that we have to put into the barn. Selectman Jasper said that is on the first page. Selectman Massey stated that they do have that fund committed then. It's coming out of the available 194. Thank you.

Chairman Coutu asked if there was any further discussion. Selectman Massey wanted to just once again say that the Benson Committee itself, boy talk about getting thrown into the maelstrom. He thought this weekend is an absolute beautiful example of what you folks accomplished Harry. He can't tell you all the people that he - he wandered around the park on his own. An awful lot of people were having a good time. He thought that what you folks did to pull that off - he knows the logistics that it takes to do something like that. They did a good job.

Mr. Schibanoff said they learned a lot. They found out that they had made some mistakes and some things need to be improved, but we also newly found out maybe the parking lot isn't large enough. We don't know yet. We were able to test a lot of the variables that we didn't know about. A big factor that was very helpful was the filling in of the foundation of that barn that was burned

down. At that point, we thought we would need at 3 or 4 volunteers to guard that spot. It turned out we didn't need any. One of the weaknesses they found was maybe they didn't put enough people in the parking lot. But that was he thought because of the amount of people they had. Very interesting, they had probably the worst day you could have and probably the best day you could have. Selectman Massey was amazed that 78 people actually braved the elements on Saturday to show up. Mr. Schibanoff said that most of the people came in the afternoon because they kept thinking well nobody is here. We'll just shut it down, and then suddenly people would show up. It just kept going on. On Sunday, we had so many people, we extended it to about 2:30 - 3:00, but we still were sort of getting people out of the park as late as 4:30 - 5:00.

Chairman Coutu asked Mr. Schibanoff when the next soft opening was going to be. Mr. Schibanoff was not sure yet because the Outreach Committee hasn't met yet. It may be the weekend before Thanksgiving, but that's not a definite. It's very tentative at this point in time. Chairman Coutu though there was a set date the second weekend in November. What Selectman Jasper had suggested, and that's why he said tentatively, is that on the 7th we would do another cleanup/burn, and then he had just thrown out well maybe the next weekend. He was thinking it's probably getting too close to Thanksgiving and getting cold. That's up to the committee. That was just his idea.

Mr. Schibanoff just wanted to have another opening just because maybe there's a lot of people that weren't able to get to the first one because traffic was a real problem on Sunday. It may just be one day and maybe it will be weather related too. We said rain or shine for this one. He wished they hadn't. We made it through Saturday. Again, they're learning from this experience. This is sort of a good test market that they're going through. The other thing is we got a lot of volunteers to sign up in the barn on Sunday. He would say well over 50 people signed up to be volunteers. The second thing that was surprising was the interest in the dog park. There were a lot of people in the park with dogs. They were thrilled to hear that there's going to possibly be a dog park there. AS you told the Governor today, there are very few dog parks in the State. He thought there were only 2. There's one in Derry, which is supposedly the largest one, and there's also on in Portsmouth. He's been told there's a very small one in Concord. So this will be a distinction that Hudson would have is to have a dog park. He's not a dog person, so it doesn't really excite him. He heard also that Nashua is trying to have something like a dog park, but they've never been able to find the land to do it.

Chairman Coutu said that he appreciated Mr. Schibanoff taking the leadership role with the Benson's Committee. He thought they're all favorably impressed with the direction its taking. We can see a reinvigorated, regenerated enthusiasm in the Benson's Committee to want to see this deed accomplished, which is eventually opening it to the general public on a daily basis year round. With your leadership and your guidance, Chairman Coutu said he was sure Mr. Schibanoff was going to steer the committee in the right direction with you and Sandra. Selectman Jasper will keep us abreast of what's going on. We're looking forward to seeing a beautiful park as an end result. Maybe not in his lifetime, but it will progress in that direction he hoped. Thank you Harry.

Mr. Schibanoff had a funny thought, which he said he's noted for doing. Selectman Maddox was talking about thinking outside the box. He was thinking well this Committee hasn't even found the box yet. So they're having a hard time trying to think outside of it.

4. SELECTMEN REMARKS

Chairman Coutu asked if there were any comments.

Selectman Jasper didn't have comments; he has some questions on revenues just for review. He's concerned about Planning Board fees because we budgeted is \$16,000 and actual in 2009 of \$16,000. He thought things have slowed down. So he's concerned that the \$16,000 may be high based on where we are. The other thing he would like them to look at is net ambulance revenues. We just increased the rates. We were at 5.5 and we're only budgeting 500. It would seem to him that there would probably be potentially another \$50,000 there in revenues at least but if we could have the fire department take a look at that. Selectman Jasper is curious about fire alarm fines and fees. There was no revenue in 2009, and we budgeted \$3,500 the last 2 years. So that number doesn't seem to make much sense to him and he'd like to find out why. That's pretty much all he had in revenues at this time.

Ms. Carpentier recapped Selectman Jasper's comments: you'd us to look at Planning Board fees, you feel that they're too high; ambulance you feel is too low by about \$50,000; and fire alarm fees has a zero and you'd like to know what...Selectman Jasper said yes. He's not saying - it's just intuitively Planning Board fees may be too high. He's throwing out \$50,000, but that's off the top of his head. He doesn't have any reason to believe that ambulance fees would go down by \$25,000 with a fee increase, which he knew they did afterwards but he's wondering why it was even down before.

Selectman Jasper does have one other question - relatively minor, but motor vehicle title fees. Unlike the \$1,000 negative, \$1,000 in recreation that was negative, this is a negative \$154 which was the actual for the year before. He thought it may be an anomaly and that with \$100 budgeted, he didn't think they should be budgeting a negative there. Maybe we need to look at fees going back. They're relatively minor but it just doesn't make a lot of sense to him. Chairman Coutu said it's more like an expense than a revenue.

Selectman Massey was thinking along the same lines. He did some what ifs and he knows that everything is estimated, but he was thinking what ifs we don't generate the revenues that we're talking about. The areas where he focused on was the motor vehicles permits for \$4 million. If we were off even 5 percent, that's \$200,000. The building permits is another area where we're not seeing a lot of activity on the Planning Board right now. Mr. Malizia said building permits could be pools, decks, garages, sheds, additions. We did 118 last year. People stay in their own house and they fix things up. So we've only budgeted 120. Selectman Massey understood, but the 118 was at the tail end of the good times. We really didn't get into the bad times until...Mr. Malizia didn't think last year was a good time. Selectman Jasper said but you started in 2008. Things didn't really tail off until...he would agree though. Just look at the trend perhaps.

Selectman Massey said the only other possibility where we might see a number but he didn't know that we can really do much about it now is on the shared revenue. We're going to get the same amount of money this year that we got last year, which is less by about \$100 than what we got the previous year. That's because the State when they did their budgeting they froze the reimbursements to the town at their fiscal 2010 level, and all the remaining monies is going to go toward making up their deficits. Just so everybody out there understands, we also are absorbing the business profit tax and the block grants. We're absorbing a \$250,000 hit there as well. So between the room and meals tax and the business profit tax, we're down significantly in terms of the revenues that we've traditionally been able to use. So the burden has shifted from the State to the property tax. As we all know, the most regressive tax you can have is a property tax. Thank you.

Just so you know, Selectman Jasper happened to have a bill in to restore \$25 million of revenue sharing to the cities and towns, which he didn't expect will go any place but the bill is there.

Selectman Maddox is also concerned about the \$4 million we're carrying in for the motor vehicle. He knows he's been tracking it. Just where is that falling at this point? Mr. Malizia said he gave it to them last month. He's given it to them every month. He thought right now we're pretty much on target to come pretty close to that \$4 million. That's what the data just indicated the last month he gave it to them. Selectman Maddox thought they were almost a month off. Chairman Coutu said when they got the report, we were in that current month. We didn't have the final number for the month but you have it now. Right KC? Ms. Carpentier said she did. She didn't have it with her right now. Chairman Coutu said they have 3 months now on tracking, right? We're at over a million dollars as he understood. Ms. Carpentier said almost 4 months. Selectman Massey said it was either you or Selectman Jasper pointed out earlier before the meeting started the cash for clunkers for all those people. That's going to shift the auto registration up. So perhaps that was a good sign. Ms. Carpentier said she drove with the Tax Collector this week up to Concord, and she believed she said through 4 months we're \$45,000 less than we were last year at this time in 4 months. Selectman Jasper said that's a concern then because we were \$150,000 short of \$4 million. So if you take the \$45,000, that's almost another \$200,000. Ms. Carpentier is just saying the 4 months of last year compared to the 4 months that we...Selectman Jasper stated right. So if last year was 385 and you're \$45,000 short in the first 4 months - its \$135,000, that puts us \$135,000 less than the 385. So you're really looking at potentially 37. We really need to look at this \$4 million number very carefully because if we didn't make it last year and if we're trailing behind last year, then we're sure not going to make it this year. Chairman Coutu said they could reflect on that over the weekend and bring that up Tuesday. We'll look at those revenue numbers. Selectman Jasper said yes. They'll have to have the Town Clerk look at them very carefully.

Just for clarification, Ms. Carpentier said the revenues are generated by herself and Steve views them also. They are not usually created by the department heads. She will ask for their buy in on these accounts that you've identified. We pretty much do it on the trending of what we've been doing in the year that's closed. Selectman Jasper said that's not a trend that gets us to \$4 million.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:45 a.m. by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HGTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder

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Shawn N. Jasper, Selectman

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