

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the July 11, 2017 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Luszey the meeting of July 11, 2017 at 7:02 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Selectman Morin.
3. ATTENDANCE
Board of Selectmen: Ted Luszey, Marilyn McGrath, Roger Coutu, Angela Routsis, David Morin
Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Donna Graham, Executive Assistant; Rob Buxton, Fire Chief
4. PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Luszey asked if anyone in the audience wish to address the Board on any issue which the Board has control of at this time.

Shawn Jasper - I still live at 83 Old Derry Road. I'm here tonight for me in a very sad situation. You Mr. Chairman have my letter of resignation from the Benson Park Committee. I do apologize for not having come in months ago but I have been a little bit busy and my schedule just never seemed to work out. There are probably are very few people who love Benson Park more than I do. I put my heart and soul into that project from the time that it was just an idea going around with other members of the Board of Selectmen, and people like Lenny Smith deciding what buildings to save, what to tear down, working for several years on the deed, and finally being able as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to go up to the Governor's office on January 23, 2009 - my 50th birthday - and actually getting the deed finally, and then working to develop the park to what it is, fighting with Selectman Coutu constantly over that. Very fond memories Roger. I think we developed something that is just truly phenomenal there. The last place I ever took my Dad before he died was into that park and was able to wheel him around. He said that was the best gift I could have ever given to him to take him around that park. He said it showed that Hudson is still a community built on volunteers.

Mr. Jasper explained Benson Park has become I think successful beyond most of our imagination. Part of the deed was the ability to charge fees and the ability to charge fees for people from out of State at a higher rate than those in State. I had always believed that if the park became successful, it would not be fair to put all of the burden on the taxpayers of Hudson. We would need to develop a fee schedule. My vision was something like for people in New Hampshire because we couldn't differentiate between Hudson and Nashua or anyplace else to have a pass say for an individual at \$10. For a family, \$25. Get a little income in there and then have perhaps for people who didn't do that \$3 in State, \$5 out of State, \$10, or whatever but to have some income to support that to keep the burden off of solely being on the taxpayers. I think that the question that was put on the ballot last March was designed to fail because it had nothing there to say would you support a fee schedule that had as I said \$10 yearly pass or anything. It was just use support fees. As soon as I saw the question, I knew that was going to fail because that was the way it was written. It was written for failure in my opinion. I talked to the Benson Park Committee and asked if I could put a letter in signing it as Vice-Chairman of the Committee and I lost that vote. They did not support me doing that. I put my letter in and ultimately it failed.

Because I no longer share the vision apparently of the Board of Selectmen or the Benson Park Committee of having what Shawn Jasper saw as the vision of the town right now is you all just come in and the Hudson taxpayers will bear all the costs. I don't support that. I will never support another warrant article that puts the cost solely on the taxpayers of Hudson. I think that we have to start charging to maintain that. Because that's not the vision of the Town of Hudson, I can't be part of the Benson Park Committee and being a thorn in the side of that Committee or as an appointee of the Board being a thorn in the side of the Board of Selectmen as an appointee. Therefore because I would be a thorn in both those cases, I have tendered my resignation with a great deal of reluctance and sadness and hopefully someday this Board and this town will see that it is only fair to have people who use that park pay something. You know what the Road Agent is going through. You know the hundreds of people that are coming in sometimes are a hundred or nearly at a time for events for people who don't live in Hudson and they're getting a benefit to that and the Hudson taxpayers are paying for that. I simply cannot support that any longer. It is with a great deal of sadness that I tender my resignation. Thank you very much.

Selectman McGrath commented you and I don't agree probably too often but there are some things that we do agree on and this is one of them. I've stated numerous times especially when we're being faced with additional costs at Benson's. I understand the value of Benson's. It's a beautiful park. I don't go there because I have a nice backyard that I enjoy. I understand why people love it. The voters and the people that have to pay the bill in town are going to reach their limit. I think that that's coming sooner rather than later. I agree with charging a nominal fee - a yearly fee whether it's \$10, \$20 for a family, or more for outside of New Hampshire residents. You and I do agree on that. I'm sorry for your resignation. I know you put a lot of effort and time into that committee and a lot of heartfelt emotion and I can understand your sadness at giving that up.

Chairman Luszey thanked Mr. Jasper for your leadership on Benson's from day one. It's been a privilege working with you in the past and hopefully someday we do get to work in the future.

5. NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

- A. Acceptance of resignation from Joseph Undercofler as an alternate from the Benson Park Committee

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Morin, to accept the resignation from Joseph Undercofler as an alternate from the Benson Park Committee with the Board's thanks and appreciation, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to accept the resignation from Shawn Jasper as an alternate from the Benson Park Committee with the Board's thanks and appreciation, carried 5-0.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman Luszey asked does any Board member wish to remove any item for separate consideration. Seeing none.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Morin, to approve consent items A, B, C, D, E and F as noted or appropriate, carried 5-0.

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Elderly Exemption - Map 133, Lot 045 - 28 Beechwood Road, w/recommendation to deny
- 2) Disabled Exemption - Map 184, Lot 014, Sub 001, 7 Gordon Street, w/recommendation to grant
- 3) Tax Deferral Application - Map 184, Lot 014, Sub 001, 7 Gordon Street, w/recommendation to grant

B. Water/Sewer Items - None

C. Licenses & Permits

- 1) Outdoor Gathering Permit - Hudson Old Home Days
- 2) Second-Hand Dealer/Pawnbroker License - Recore Trading Company LLC

D. Donations - None

E. Acceptance of Minutes - None

F. Calendar

07/18 7:00 Municipal Utility Cte - BOS Meeting Room
07/19 7:00 Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
07/20 7:00 Benson Park Cte - HCTV Meeting Room
07/24 7:00 Sustainability Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
07/25 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
07/26 7:00 Benson Park Landscape Cte - BOS Meeting Room
07/27 7:30 Zoning Brd of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on June 27, 2017

- 1) *Motion by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to recognize and award \$500 to Animal Control Supervisor Jana McMillan, \$250 to Lieutenant Jason Lucontoni, and \$250 to Executive Coordinator Sherrie Kimball with merit awards in accordance with the Hudson Police, Fire, and Town Supervisors Association Contract, carried 5-0.*
- 2) *Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to promote Master Patrol Officer Roger Lamarche to the position of Sergeant at \$34.83 per hour according to the Hudson Police Employee Association Contract (Step 5). This elevation in rank would be effective on Sunday, July 9, 2017, carried 5-0.*
- 3) *Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to grant the Town Administrator a two (2) percent COLA salary increase effective July 1, 2017, carried 5-0.*
- 4) *Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to grant all department heads (non-union employees) a two (2) percent COLA salary increase effective July 1, 2017, carried 5-0.*

- 5) *Motion by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to add a \$5,200 salary adjustment to the Executive Assistant effective July 1, 2017, carried 3-2. Selectman Morin and Selectman Coutu in opposition.*
- 6) *Motion to adjourn at 10:52 p.m. by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Routsis, carried 5-0.*

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Purchase of a 2017 Seagrave SO 78J11 Fire Apparatus Pumper

Chairman Luszey recognized Fire Chief Rob Buxton. Good evening.

Good evening Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. Chief Buxton stated during the FY18 budget process we had reviewed the need for a new fire pumper for the Fire Department. We originally came in with a warrant article for \$508,000 that was ultimately changed to a lease purchase payment in the operational budget for a \$60,000 lease purchase per year under 5734-404 fire suppression trucks. Over the past winter, the truck committee was formed and they've been working on a general design of this vehicle. The spring as they were reviewing vehicle, they found a stock piece of apparatus that was ready, built, and met our needs. That piece of apparatus has come up on a purchasing conglomerate. The Huston Galveston Area purchasing list which is a program that we as a Fire Department have not used before but a similar process was used for a staff vehicle. The Highway Department has used a purchasing conglomerate like this on a greater and a rubber tired excavator. We are asking this evening to basically consider using that list to provide us the opportunity to accept their bid and move forward with the process of purchasing that vehicle.

Chief Buxton noted this vehicle would replace Engine 2 which is a 1997 emergency one piece of apparatus out of Central Station. That was bought as a 15 year piece of apparatus. I wish we could tell you that we're getting a lot of trade in value for that piece of apparatus but that is actually most likely headed to a farm to deal with watering and they're offering us \$1,500 for that. The pros to purchasing this piece of equipment off the bid list will actually provide us the opportunity to get this in approximately the next six weeks instead of a nine month process for construction of the truck. After lettering, radio installation, and training, we actually would expect to the middle to the end of August to have this piece of equipment in service.

Selectman Morin asked are we only getting rid of one of the freight liners. Chief Buxton said we have a process. At \$1,500 one of the things we had put into consideration was the KME is up for a refurb at 10 years. We thought it would be in our best interest at \$1,500 to hold onto one of the freightliners until the KME was refurb and then sell that one outright and then the money would go to the general fund. Selectman Morin said that was my next question - \$1,500. I understand the first one. I know the problems. Thank you. Chief Buxton said that's our intention.

Selectman McGrath had a couple of questions. Can you explain again the apparatus that you're looking to purchase? I think I might have missed something at the beginning of what you were saying. Can you just explain that to me again? Chief Buxton said what we're proposing the purchase of a 2017 Seagrave fire pumper. So that is the truck that carries water, hose, and firefighting equipment. That would replace one of the freightliner pieces of apparatus that was purchased by Chief Carpentino back in the mid '90s. We moved that out and trade that in. That piece of equipment specifically is having some mechanical issues and we don't see a purpose to adding money to that vehicle at this point in time.

Selectman McGrath asked that apparatus that you're planning to buy, that's brand new correct. So it's buying it from a program that negotiates prices as I understand it negotiates prices throughout the country and finds the lowest price and then offers that up. Chief Buxton said basically if you went to their website there are hundreds of pieces of equipment on there from road equipment, to fire suppression equipment, to facility type things, and basically Huston Galveston conglomerate goes out and they bid stuff. They say okay how many pieces of fire apparatus may get purchased within the area this year. So they bid out 200 pieces of fire apparatus and the low bidder ends up within the certain specification. So they end up on the list as a contract that can be utilized. We have the ability it's a public program. There's no association fee or anything like that. The vendor actually pays to be part of that program was part of that bid process. We adopt the contract and we purchased the truck. Selectman McGrath indicated that's the reason for no going out to bid. Chief Buxton agreed because we didn't write a specification and go out to bid ourselves. We're accepting the bid. Selectman McGrath said not only that but because of this buying program they've already negotiated the lowest cost for that. Thank you.

Selectman Coutu asked when was the last time we bought a pumper. Chief Buxton said 2008. Selectman Coutu asked what is going to become of the other one. Chief Buxton said that piece of equipment will actually come to Central Station and respond out of Central Station. Selectman Coutu asked where is this piece going to go. Chief Buxton stated at Robinson Road station. Selectman Coutu asked is that the only other pumper that we will have in service. Chief Buxton said no. We'll have three pumpers in service at any given time. That is our expected response model. Three front line pumpers and the tanker that was built with the opportunity to be utilized as a pumper tanker. Selectman

Coutu asked about the mileage on the tanker. Chief Buxton didn't recall. Selectman Coutu asked if it had the most miles of the four. Chief Buxton indicated the one we're getting rid of yes. It has the most miles that we're getting rid of.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to waive Chapter 98-7 Bidding Procedure of the Hudson Town Code for the purpose of purchasing a 2017 Seagrave SO 78J11 Fire Apparatus Pumper in the amount of \$508,000.00.

Selectman McGrath commented because of the buying process and because they've already negotiated the lowest cost of that buying program, I'm willing to forego the bidding process.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Morin, to authorize the Town of Hudson Fire Department to award the purchase to Huston Galveston Area Council HGACBuy with funding to be taken from the Fire Department Fire-Suppression Trucks Account #5730-404, carried 5-0.

9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Routsis – I just wanted to thank everyone that came out this weekend to support Army Specialist Joshua Keller. Thank you to Selectman Morin for taking pictures and his wife for tolerating me and helping throughout the day and to every other employee that came out and helped out. It was a great turnout and I appreciate everyone helping that day. That's all I have.

Selectman Coutu - Other than to say thank you to the Fire Chief and his staff for having invited us to the ribbon cutting this evening of the renovated Lenny Smith Fire Station as well as celebrating its 125th anniversary. They did an outstanding job. It was great being there and seeing some of the firefighters, and volunteers, and the kids. It was short, sweet but it was well done. I appreciate the invite and the participation of present and former members of the Board of Selectmen. It was great to see a couple of them there.

Selectman McGrath - I have nothing.

Selectman Morin - Selectman Coutu summed up the ceremony over there. I appreciate the Chief inviting us also.

Just a few things. The Benson's Committee is working towards the power. They should be coming forward to the Board very shortly. They had to draw up a new plan due to funds but I think the plan will work and they will be coming forward shortly with that. They also began the work on the Master Plan to get that moving along.

The Conservation Commission Committee has done a lot of work. They were out clearing trails on Saturday. They fixed the sign at Musquash and they took a walk through Merrill Park for some future projects that may be coming forward to do something with that piece of land there.

I just got one question just so I understand. I looked at it today. The interviews tonight we're doing nonpublic. The school did two interviews including the school administrator but those were in public. Is there a difference because of the boards? Selectman Coutu said no. We should be doing these in public. I don't understand it. I was going to question it. Selectman Morin didn't understand it. I looked to see if there was something that regulated us to do them in nonpublic and I couldn't find it and that's why I'm asking. Thank you.

Selectman Luszey - I really have nothing to add to comments previously made. It was a great evening. I hope everyone that had an interest to seeing the renovations in the Central Fire Station has taken the opportunity to stop in. If they haven't, they should take an opportunity to stop in and see it. It's a facility that I think that will last well into the future and it is a historical marker for the Town of Hudson. It is part of its beginning.

Chairman Luszey asked Steve what is the ruling on...Steve Malizia said from sitting in this seat here, the interviews that we've always done have been in nonpublic. I'm not saying its right. I'm not saying it's wrong. That's the practice we've done. I can tell you that I'm not aware that we've forewarned anybody that their interview would be in public. They may have forewarned someone. They may have said this is the Chief Administrative officer over there. They very may well have done that. I can tell you we haven't done that. To my knowledge, I'm not aware that we've interviewed at this Board any candidate in public not that I can recall. I'm trying to think of the last people we interviewed. We've typically done them in nonpublic. I'm not saying its right. I'm not saying it's wrong. I'm just saying this is what we've done. I'm not sure why they did that. Quite frankly it maybe because that's the Superintendent's position. I'm sure they had many other interviews that weren't in public. Selectman Morin thought the last two they did in public. Mr. Malizia said they may have had previous ones. I don't know what they did.

Chairman Luszey said we're not doing any hiring. We're just doing the interviewing. The hiring is done in public. Steve Malizia said any decision you make or anything would be a public decision.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to enter Nonpublic Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee, carried 3-2 by roll call. Selectman Coutu and Selectman Morin in opposition.

Chairman Luszey entered Nonpublic Session at 7:22 p.m., thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public is asked to leave the room.

Chairman Luszey entered open session at 10:41 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to hire Daniel Cross, Jr., to the position of Truck Driver/Laborer in the Highway Department at a rate of \$18.02 per hour (Grade VIII, Step Minimum) effective July 16, 2017, carried 3-2-0. Selectman Routsis and Selectman Coutu abstained.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:42 p.m. by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Coutu, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

Thaddeus Luszey, Chairman

Marilyn E. McGrath, Vice-Chairman

Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

Angela Routsis, Selectman

David S. Morin, Selectman