

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the February 27, 2018 meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Luszey the meeting of February 27, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Donna Graham.
3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Ted Luszey, Marilyn McGrath, Roger Coutu, Angela Routsis, David Morin

Staff/Others: Donna Graham, Executive Assistant; IT Director Lisa Nute; Jim McIntosh

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Luszey asked does anyone in the audience wish to address the Board on any issue which the Board has control of at this time. Seeing none.

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

- A. Resignation of Firefighter/Paramedic Alexander Green

Chairman Luszey understood that he is going back to his home town area and will miss Hudson.

*Motion by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to accept the letter of resignation from Firefighter/Paramedic Alexander Green effective March 10, 2018 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.

Donna Graham indicated that Assessing came in today and they removed 6. A. 1.

*Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Routsis, 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 165/Lot 131 - 1 Sumer Avenue~~ removed - more info needed
- 2) Disabled Veteran Tax Credit - Map 175/Lot 018 - 75 Highland Street
- 3) Solar Exemption - Map 128/Lot 001 - 19 Farmington Drive
- 4) Veteran Tax Credits - Map 197/Lot 019 - 20 Oban Drive; Map 185/Lot 035 - 21 Flying Rock Road
- 5) Certification of Yield Taxes Assessed/Timber Warrant - Map 247/Lots 075-001 & 002
- 6) All Veteran's Tax Credit - Map 228/Lot 015 - 12 Rita Avenue; Map 118/Lot 016/Sub 002 - 14B Lenny Lane; Map 204/Lot 006/Sub 957 - 957 Fox Hollow Drive; Map 126/Lot 027/Sub 002 - 3B David Drive

- B. Water/Sewer Items

- 1) Water Abatements - W-UTL-18-01 - Hudson School District; W-UTL-18-02 - Hudson Enterprises, LLC, w/recommendation to approve

- C. Licenses & Permits & Policies

- 1) Request to Solicit Funds - Veteran's of Foreign Wars Post 5791

- D. Donations

- 1) \$165.20 from AAT Photo LLC (dba Clix New England) to be placed in the Recreation Department Donation Account

E. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the February 10, 2018 meeting
- 2) Minutes of the February 13, 2018 meeting

F. Calendar

02/28 7:00 Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room  
03/01 6:30 Recreation Cte - BOS Meeting Room  
03/01 7:00 Benson Park Cte - Cable Access Center  
03/06 12:00-6:00 HPD Blood Drive - Community Center  
03/06 7:00 Board of Selectmen Workshop - BOS Meeting Room  
03/12 7:00 Conservation Cmsn - Buxton CD Meeting Room  
03/12 7:00 Cable Utility Cte - Cable Access Center  
03/12 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room  
03/13 7:00 am -8:00 pm VOTING - Community Center  
03/14 7:00 Planning Bd - Buxton CD Meeting Room  
03/15 7:00 Benson Park Cte - Cable Access Center  
03/20 7:00 Municipal Utility Cte - BOS Meeting Room  
03/21 6:00 Library Trustees - Hills Library  
03/22 7:00 Zoning Bd of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room  
03/26 7:00 Sustainability Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on February 13, 2018:

- 1) *Motion to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, carried 5-0.*

B. 2017 Abatement Application - Map 154/Lot 17 - 8 Hartson Circle

*Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to approve the 2017 abatement application for Map 154, Lot 17 - 8 Hartson Circle.*

Selectman McGrath had a discussion with Jim Michaud concerning this and he elaborated on the reasons why he was recommending the abatement and I'm satisfied with those reasons.

*Vote: Motion carried 5-0.*

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Bid Recommendation - Enclosures for Dell SC4020 Storage

Chairman Luszey recognized IT Director Lisa Nute.

Good evening. Thank you Mr. Chairman. Good evening ladies and gentlemen of the Board. Lisa Nute said as I discussed in previous budget presentations, we are upgrading our core technology. This is where all of our data comes in and is stored and works with our servers. We have worked for many months before this bid went out to determine what is in the best interests of the Town of Hudson as far as tax dollars goes and equipment that we can roll with. This particular enclosure is something where we can add as we need it, as we grow so it will carry us into the future here. I had posted this in the Union Leader. Posted this on the municipal websites, the Town of Hudson website, and reached out to local vendors several of whom we

had visited ahead of time to see what offerings they had and also anywhere else this was published - of course bulletin boards and things like that.

Ms. Nute indicated we had four bids that came in and I recommended to the Finance Director that we accept the lowest bidder Mosaic Technology out of Salem, New Hampshire. I was happy to see one of our more local vendors that won the bid or looking to have win the bid. We are familiar with them and have worked with them in the past. Their service has been excellent. Part of the reason we are going with a system like this is that we can work with current technology and we're not having to throw everything out and start all over which would have been a far higher number. I was happy to see that Mosaic was able to come in at a very good price for us. If you would, I'm asking that the Board accept this bid.

Selectman Coutu asked how much was originally appropriated for this item. Lisa Nute said this particular piece of the core I ballparked just actually slightly less than what came in. Obviously this was budgeted not quite 18 months ago so it has already gone up a little bit. They're very close to what I was expecting to come in.

Selectman Coutu said it was in your budget request for 2018. Ms. Nute noted the goal here is to do back to back. We have two data centers that are...Chairman Luszey said it was in the current budget. Ms. Nute agree it is in the current budget. Selectman Coutu said how much is what I'm asking. Ms. Nute budgeted for core equipment. In addition to doing this, we will be upgrading our VMware version. So there's a piece of that in there. There was something like \$60,000 budgeted for the whole thing. I will take a portion of this for here and then a portion of that will be software related. I'm making sure that we're going to be on our 10 gig switch. I have just a little bit of small equipment to add to the switch. Overall I think it was about \$30,000 or something I estimated for this or just slightly under. It is, again, in this current budget and then the second portion of this for the Police Department data center is in this FY19 coming up. We'll be doing these back to back. Again the nice thing about this system and the reason we went with it because we can keep everything up and running and we want to do this as seamlessly as possible without missing a beat or going down. I'm comfortable that we're going to be able to do that.

Selectman Coutu stated the question was how much was budgeted. I believe I heard \$60,000. Lisa Nute said for everything which includes this. Selectman Coutu noted this is for \$70,000. Ms. Nute said it was over two budget cycles. Selectman Coutu said \$35,000 each. I know it was \$35,000 each. I thought we were talking about...Ms. Nute indicated this is just slightly more than I anticipated to budget for but I'll be fine with the \$30,000 I budgeted for and we'll make that work.

Chairman Luszey said if we should go default, you'll still have enough money to complete this because you have the \$60,000 in the current budget. Lisa said that was correct. I'd just shuffle things around next year.

*Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Morin, to award the bid for two enclosures for Dell SC4020 storage units to Mosaic Technology, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$70,728.22 with funds from the IT Computer Equipment budget with one unit purchased in fiscal year 2018 and a plan to purchase one in fiscal year 2019 as recommended by the IT Director and the Finance Director, carried 5-0.*

#### B. Harbor Homes Request for Additional Funding

Chairman Luszey indicated this was an item that came in requesting the town to add I believe \$80,000. We had budgeted \$3,000 this year to Harbor Homes and they're requesting an additional \$64,673. Is that correct am I reading that right? Selectman Morin you said you made some calls about some numbers on this.

Selectman Morin said I talked to Nashua Fire and our own department and it's probably what I got for information probably won't help any decision because this problem affects more than just the safe stations. I can tell you this year Hudson has had 8 overdoses. Last year we did 54. When we talk about overdoses though in town is that you've got to take into effect the people that we have responded to multiple times. You have to think about accidental overdoses and things to that nature. So the 54 isn't always an illegal drug overdose.

Selectman Morin indicated the second thing is the numbers may not show exactly what's taking place in town because now that they've administered Narcan to families, we don't know actually how many overdoses are actually taking place in town. If the families have the Narcan, the Fire Department is not getting called. Fifty-four residents have visited the safe station and have gone through the program in Nashua. We are number four out of all the State, cities, and town to use that out of Nashua. I have no numbers from Manchester but I assume that there are some out of there. I can get those later if we need more information on this. Talking to them over in Nashua today, they have seen a 17 percent drop in their overdoses since safe station has come on line. Hudson really can't give us any numbers because again we don't know how many are going there and things. The variable too is depending on how potent a drug comes through town. We may do 5 or 6 overdoses and not do any for a while. We're averaging one a week at this point. It is an extreme cost. There's no real federal money. There's not State money. It's been put back onto the local cities and towns. I know Manchester has had to change their program. Nashua is still continuing with theirs but they are also having financial problems and that's one of the reasons why they've come to the towns asking for some funding to this because they're not getting any support from the feds or the State government.

Selectman Morin noted if we don't have the safe station on the back side, we're going to continue to have the overdoses. They're going to go up again so we're going to be paying for it anyway through our services and then you have to take into effect the families that are affected by this and the services to them. People not going to work because they're missing time on the overdoses, insurance rates, and all that. It's kind of a no win situation on either side of the story.

Selectman McGrath read in the packet what Harbor Homes presented. They're indicating that they had 46 individuals from the Town of Hudson that received at least some services. It doesn't give any real detail of what they received. That's quite a difference from the number that you have.

Selectman Morin read that too that's why I didn't talk to them because I had the information. I went to Nashua Fire to see exactly how many people went to the safe station. Just because they went to the safe station doesn't mean they went to Harbor Homes. Depending on the condition when they get to the safe station, they may forward right to the hospital and never go to Harbor Homes. That may be the discrepancy something to that effect.

Selectman McGrath said the other thing doesn't directly have anything to do with this, however, I read a little report this morning. I didn't read any real detail but apparently there's another drug that they're using with fentanyl that now is resistant to Narcan. That will create as opposed to overdoses there will be more deaths because Narcan won't have any effect.

Selectman Routsis stated reading through this do we know if these 46 - and I did the math, it will average to about 69 people average for a 12 month period - but are the numbers that they're giving us for this 46 does that include the people that they help with medical, dental, and things like that or is this just for substance abuse. Selectman Morin said all that is part of that program. We took a tour of that last year and they offer all those services.

Just to kind of go back, Selectman McGrath noted 2 or 3 years ago we had a session in Hudson. Doug Robinson I think got that put together. In fact I was just talking about this the other day before I ever saw this. There was a woman there that spoke about her son that was addicted to opioids. They went through just complete torture trying to get help for him. They went through their savings. It was devastating for the family. That stuck with me because it could be anybody that would have to go through that. You want to do anything that you possibly can to save a friend or a family member. I'd like to look into this a little bit more. I am not opposed to giving them more funds if they're truly needed. I think that we do have a problem whether - what did you say 9 people? Selectman Morin said 54 last year and 8 this year so far. Selectman McGrath indicated that's a good size number of people that are being affected by this.

Chairman Luszey said the number is that a calendar year or is that on the fiscal year basis. It does make a difference because I would recommend that you revisit this in the June timeframe right at the end of this fiscal year to see what shape we're in in terms of funding if we're going to do anything more.

Selectman Routsis thought fiscal just because when they give some of the numbers they say from July.

Selectman Morin indicated for Hudson it goes from 1-8-17 to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. So it's calendar year. Chairman Luszey said the numbers that they're reporting on incidents are calendar. I know their budgeting is fiscal and that's what I was asking how the numbers line up. That would affect that cost if you will for that slice of period. Selectman Morin asked would the Board like me to get someone from safe station and Harbor Homes to come in and talk.

Selectman Coutu thought we're going to open an Pandora's Box. We're going to have other agencies who have also had a reduction in funding. We try to feed the poor within our community and the food pantry is always running low. You're involved in a nonprofit yourself. You know what it's like to have a need for funds. We did our allocations for the year. Again I'm going to close with I think we're going to open a Pandora's Box. We're going to have other agencies wanting to come in and tell us why they have a need and I don't know where this is going to end. We had set a budget of whatever the total is for the fiscal year. We had it here in our worksheets - \$90,000 approximately and we allocated \$90,508. There are a lot of people in this community and I hear it year, after year, after year who are having a difficult time understanding why we have seniors in our community living on a fixed income, can't afford their taxes but we are in the business of donating taxpayer dollar to nonprofit agencies. They're a little upset about it. If you're in their position, you could understand why. I think we're going to open a Pandora's Box. I think we made our appropriations for the year. We did them in good faith. They're a little late in coming. The budget has already been submitted. It's been approved and recommended by this Board and now we want to dip into some of this year's money. This is for this year right before the end of June? Chairman Luszey agreed. Selectman Coutu was just not going to support it because I just don't want to have to deal with a whole bunch of agencies coming in here and requesting it. I would extend a courtesy to Selectman McGrath wanting to look into it further. In the end, I don't think I would vote for it but I will support putting it off for a while so that you can look at other numbers. I just read this and you start looking at these numbers in here. There's a lot of duplication. I can see it. There's no doubt. If you do the math, there's a lot of duplication. Thank you.

Selectman McGrath thought it's probably a good idea to have someone from Harbor Homes to come in to give us a presentation of exactly what they do and how it benefits Hudson residents. That's number one. Number two, whether or not we should have Chief Buxton and/or Chief Lavoie coming in and talking about whether or not they think it's a program that we should be supporting. They're in the position to know better than anyone else. That's what my suggestion would be and that's what I would like to see.

Selectman Morin asked if the Board would like me to follow up on that. Chairman Luszey thought we'd table this and if this Board chooses to start the follow up in the May timeframe because if you're going to do anything in this fiscal year - I think it's the first meeting in June when they do all the transfers if there's any. You would want to have the informational meetings in May so that you would have everything you need to make a decision in June.

Selectman Morin asked would the Board rather talk to the two Chiefs before we have Harbor Homes in here. Chairman Luszey highly recommended that.

Selectman McGrath noted that may help us to decide whether or not.

#### C. NH House Bill - HB#1381

Chairman Luszey indicated this has to deal with the telephone pole tax - utility poles. I sent a note off to Representative Ober asking why this Bill is good for the Town of Hudson. She has not had an opportunity in the last couple of months to take an in depth look at this. She did promise me that when she got back up there she would do that. The only thing that I can gather out of this and my recommendation would be is that I know that the Assistant Assessor and the Town Administrator have spoken at this hearing for this particular Bill and that we asked the Administrator to put a letter together representing this Board and send up requesting all of our State Representatives to oppose this Bill. This will have a pretty significant impact on our revenue line. Basically it sets the valuation or assessment of the property for the utility poles to the date that that property was obtained and some of it was obtained back in the '30s and '40s. The assessed value of that land back then was a heck of a lot less than it is today.

The other thing that bothers Chairman Luszey personally with this Bill is that it is the utility guidelines that they're using to assess the value. It's like the foxes in the hen house saying who can open the door. That would be my recommendation.

Selectman McGrath noted Steve is on vacation this week and the recommendation in this letter that we received from Jim Michaud is that there's an expected vote the first week of March. That's next week. Tomorrow is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Someone else had to write the letter. Chairman Luszey said I'll take that on.

Selectman McGrath said the other thing that I wanted to mention reading this and it's really astounding to me that our representatives not only ours but all of the other communities that they're even considering this. This can have devastating effects on the property taxes especially in poorer towns. I don't think that we're a wealthy town by any means but we're certainly not in comparison to others like - I don't even want to mention names because I'm not sure of my facts here. He's saying that Eversource alone their value it could be a reduction of up to \$15 million in a lost tax base for us. That's a huge, huge amount of money that helps to offset the taxes for the residents, all of the homeowners, all of the business owners. It's astounding to me that they're even considering that. I would certainly want a letter sent and hopefully our representatives take heed.

Selectman Coutu stated if I did the math correctly on \$15 million would be an increase of \$.60 on the tax rate.

Selectman McGrath noted that's just for Eversource. That doesn't include any of the others.

Selectman Routsis said it looks like it says a potential for over a \$50 million drop in our tax base because of the Bill.

Selectman McGrath said it's mindboggling and those people that are promoting that and pushing for this to happen ought to be voted right out of office. They're not looking out for their residents. They're looking out for the utilities.

Chairman Luszey stated a consensus. I'll work with Donna putting something together and we'll get it out to all of our representatives.

#### 9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Coutu - Two things Mr. Chairman. Number one fact check. This past week in the Hudson/Litchfield News Thumbs column, there is a reference to Freedom Field being plowed and the impression was that the town had been plowing it. The fact is that we do not plow it. We don't do any plowing for the schools at all. We haven't done it for a while. This is being done by an individual with a plow on his truck. Maybe a parent of one of the kids who parks there and wanted to make sure that the kids had a plowed space. The town is not paying to have it done. That was the fact check on that one.

The only other thing Selectman Coutu had is I won't be seeing you at the last meeting apparently. I will be just coming back from North Carolina. I want to thank you for your years of service to our community. It's not just the Board of Selectmen, the Budget Committee and a lot of other things that you do for our community. I think the Veterans and the service people who are from this immediate area and some who are not as a matter of fact are very grateful for everything that you've done for them throughout the years. I want to congratulate you for receiving Citizen of the Year at the Chamber dinner this year. I was well earned and well deserved. Thank you again. I've enjoyed your friendship, your company, our tete to tetes. It's been a ride and I've enjoyed every minute of it. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Selectman McGrath - I don't really have anything this evening. Thank you.

Selectman Morin - I also want to congratulate you on your award. Well deserved. Other than that, I have nothing.

Selectman Routsis - I have nothing this evening.

Selectman McGrath asked to jump in here. I wasn't aware because I haven't read anything so I wasn't aware that you received that honor but it's well deserved.

Selectman Coutu welcomed Donna back. I'm glad to see you. You have good color and you're doing well I hope.

Selectman Luszey - I think our viewing audience probably know by now that I am not up for re-election because I chose not to. It's been a number of years. I had a great time serving the public. I truly enjoyed working with each and every one of you. I know I personally have grown a little bit as a person working with each of you and I want to thank you for that opportunity. I will miss the debates and the arguments. I truly do enjoy that.

Also Chairman Luszey wanted to put a shout out to my wife. Congratulations. She is one of the New Hampshire's top 20 women this year. Greatly deserved. She does probably 1 ½ times more than I do. That kind of gives you an idea of the level of involvement in our community that she has. I again want to thank you all.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted; and (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant, carried 5-0 by roll call.

Chairman Luszey entered Nonpublic Session at 7:33 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 8:11p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Routsis, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

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Thaddeus Luszey, Chairman

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Marilyn E. McGrath, Vice-Chairman

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Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

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Angela Routsis, Selectman

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David S. Morin, Selectman