

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the January 8, 2019 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Coutu the meeting of January 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Shawn Jasper.
3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Roger Coutu, David Morin, Marilyn McGrath, Angela Routsis, Normand Martin

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Donna Graham, Executive Assistant; Lisa Nute, IT Director; Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Jess Forrence, PW Director

Chairman Coutu noted an item was brought to my attention about a public hearing advertised at 7 p.m. and I have a copy of our web page and it does specify that the public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. In order to comply with what we advertised, I'll ask you all to pull out the two packets you have relative to Warrant Article K. One will be the public hearing and the second one I will be speaking to. It will be an additional motion relative to the Warrant Article.

8. D. Public Hearing - Warrant Article K - Bond the Southern Section of the Circumferential Highway

Chairman Coutu stated as you all know, we had met with the Department of Transportation about having the possibility of the circumferential highway being put back on the ten year plan. After many meetings and in particular the last one that we went to, the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation said that they were willing to put the circumferential highway extension on the ten year plan. We applied for a federal grant for up to \$25 million for a project that total cost would have been \$45 million hoping to reduce the cost to \$20 million. As you may all be aware, we were not selected as recipients of the grant. Therefore we have advertised that we were putting on the ballot the possibility of building the first of three sections of the circumferential highway and this section would go from the Sagamore Bridge to Route 111. The second phase which would be taken up by the Department of Transportation would go from 111 to 102 and the third phase which would also be financed by the Department of Transportation would go from 102, across the Merrimack River and would become potentially the new Exit 9 off of Route 3. With that information, if there is anything you want to add Mr. Malizia - you were at the meetings with us.

Steve Malizia said no you said it all. It's a Warrant Article that you just put forward. You need to have a public hearing on it.

Chairman Coutu stated we need to have a public hearing inasmuch that it would be a bond article. At this stage if we were to continue with pursuing this, it would be a \$45 million article. Therefore, I'm going to open the public hearing at 7:04 p.m. Anyone who wishes to speak on this article may step forward. You will state your name and address for the record and I ask that anything that you say that's not repetitive of something someone else said.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Shawn Jasper, 83 Old Derry Road. I'm here in opposition to the warrant article and would hope that you would withdraw it. Certainly with the lack of federal funding that would make it an extremely expensive warrant article and I think it's highly unfair to put any road such as this on the backs of the taxpayers. I think that other things have to be considered and this is the oldest project that I'm aware of in the Town of Hudson. This was first brought up for consideration by Leonard Smith in 1959 - the year that I was born. This project is as old as me. As many of you may know and some may not, the original alignment for the northern tier was going to be where the library is now. What's happened with the northern tier is we can never find agreement on where to cross the river into Nashua and Merrimack. That's really killed the project and every time we're close to it because we can't find an alignment that works to complete the project, the State says well you guys can't agree on where to build this thing so we're going up north with our money essentially.

Mr. Jasper indicated I had the good fortune to be in line for the Governor's inauguration last week next to the Commissioner of Transportation. We had the opportunity to talk about this a little bit and I was aware at that time that you did not get the grant. What I wasn't aware of previously that she told me is the State does not even own all the land that's necessary to build this. There are still pieces of property that have to be acquired to do this. That's not to say it's not possible. One of the things that she suggested and I think the town should really explore is to look at the possibility of actually having a private partnership here. There are many areas of the country and the State of New Hampshire does authorize the building of such a public road as a private toll road. I think that's the way that if we look at this we should do that. I believe that because of the population of Hudson, most people don't really live at that extreme part of town and I think the usage by Hudson residents would probably be very limited. While I think the use of the road would be heavily used, I don't think it would be by the people who would be paying it. If this is something that is viable, and I do believe it is something that's needed, we really should look at a partnership and actually build a toll road. I would, again, urge you to withdraw this warrant article this evening. Thank you very much.

Selectman McGrath asked when you're talking about a private partnership with who. Shawn Jasper said it would really be - there are groups are out there of investors who would look at this project and who would evaluate whether or not they could make a profit and if they could sustain their own bond. There would be an agreement primarily I think with the State and an entity to build a road. The town I think would be the entity that would really have to be pushing this and encouraging it to happen. I didn't have a long time to get into the details of the discussion with Commissioner Shaheen but I think it's something worth exploring to see if something like this could work for that project.

Selectman McGrath asked a second question. You mentioned that there are parcels that we don't own. Do you know how many and where they're located? This is the first I've heard of that. Mr. Jasper agreed. I hadn't heard of that either. We've been talking about this for many years. Again we're standing in the hallway and the Commissioner was right behind me so I took the opportunity to talk to her briefly about this because I knew this hearing was coming up. She was very clear that there are parcels that are still not owned.

Chairman Coutu noted that's in the third phase. 102 to the river there's some parcels there.

Mr. Jasper said she indicated to me because we were talking about just the southern loop that it sounded to me like they were still...I don't know. Regardless I think the way to do this is to try to find some entity that would be willing to build this because this should not be on the backs of the property taxpayers in Hudson. This should be borne by the users. Thank you.

Chairman Coutu said I have some information relative to your proposal and I'll bring it up when the public hearing is finished. Thank you Sir. Anyone else wish to come forward.

Donald Dion - 28 Speare Road. I also am against this project spending this kind of money but I also don't know enough about the project. I guess I'd like to ask some questions if I could before I object to what this is all about. How are you going to address all the intersections of the seven or so roads that you're going to cross?

Chairman Coutu said the State has a plan put together for the construction of - at least the first phase anyway we know that that one is complete. It was my understanding that all lands in the first phase have been acquired and are owned by the bond holders. We are not going to do any overpasses. Steve Malizia understood it would be at grade crossings but that was based on the engineering that we had. Chairman Coutu stated initially we were going to put an overpass over Lowell Road that's why that pile of dirt is at the end of the Sagamore pass. That was much too expensive to do overpasses so last we heard in our discussions with them, they were going to be at grade level. One of the intersections was going to be a dead end as I understand it. One of the streets they were going to make a dead end and a cul-de-sac. Other than that, they're just going to be traversed at grade level as a four-way intersection.

Mr. Dion asked with stop signs? Traffic lights? Roundabouts? What kind of...Chairman Coutu said no roundabouts were discussed because I would have...Steve Malizia said basically stop sign if warranted, a

traffic light. I don't know. Chairman Coutu thought those details because the project would have been a year out. Those details will be worked out with our public safety committee and the engineer would have to go out with the State engineer and look at all of the traverses and see what is appropriate for the flow of traffic that we expect to have if we were to construct this.

In the article, Donald Dion stated it talks about building a bridge over Trigate Road. Is that still part of this project? Chairman Coutu said it's been in discussions. I don't know. The information came back to us that we were not going to get the grant. We really didn't sit down and go over all of the particulars of the project as it would have been laid out. That was something that the engineer was going to come in and brief us all on and our Town Engineer. That would have been in coordination with the State Department of Transportation their engineer. Their engineering team who originally - not the team that originally designed it but would be working with us on the construction of the project.

Donald Dion asked can you give me an idea why somebody would want to spend that much money to go over a road so seldomly used as Trigate. That's the most expensive part of the whole project. Of any place, that's the last place to spend money for a bridge. I'm talking my opinion. Chairman Coutu said best to my recollection our discussions with the Department of Transportation the crossovers were going to be at grade level. Selectman Morin I believe you had your hand up. You were at the meeting with us.

Selectman Morin stated there was discussion about a bridge there but because nothing was final until we knew if we got a grant, there was nothing put firm. We don't want to tell you something and then not it be true. Yes there was a mention of a bridge but that was just putting the information to get out. There was nothing firm on how we're going to do it. Traffic lights would probably be the best but again there was nothing that was put forward until we knew we had the grant and we were going to move forward because why spend all this money to do engineering and everything if we weren't going to go forward with it. You're asking questions that make perfect sense Sir they really do but we don't have the answers at this point. We had very limited meetings other than to get this back on track to see if the town was going to move forward with it.

Donald Dion indicated I'm going to have to vote with Mr. Jasper. The information that you're giving me here, I don't think this is anywhere near ready to go in front of the taxpayers and spend \$9 million a mile for road. I just don't see it. I haven't been involved in it as long as Mr. Jasper. I've only been involved in it since 1965. I'm a basic newcomer to this lovely project - a civil engineer that graduated UNH in 1959 who have lived his whole career and never seen one shovelful of dirt moved, seen people's houses taken away from them. Barretts Farm intersection by Musquash Road when you're going across was turned into farm land and let it sit there. The beavers took it over. Now you're crossing swamp land and that's how you ended up with Benson's property. This has got to be the worst project in the whole State. I just can't see a project that has been as screwed up as much as this project has been. I don't think you're ever going to live long enough to see it cross the Merrimack River. You couldn't win that fight 55 years ago. You sure as heck can't win it today. There's just no way that I can see that part of it ever getting done. Would it be helpful to have an intersection at 111 coming down to Lowell Road? Yes but I'm not sure it's going to take away congestion. I think it's going to bring more traffic to the town and none of it's going to be benefitting businesses of people in the Town of Hudson for any real advantage that I can see. I don't see what the Town of Hudson people gain for \$45 million in this project and that's not counting the maintenance, the plowing, and everything on this road for the rest of your lives without the State being involved. I think you're pretty close to being on the so-called State boundaries for roads. I don't know exactly but somewhere right along 3A is where that becomes State maintained road and the same thing with 111. Now the town is going to be involved in all of this. Every traffic light you're going to put in is (inaudible) - at least \$300,000 a traffic light. It just doesn't make any sense and I honestly don't believe you can do it for \$45 million. I don't think you're going to come close to doing this for \$45 million at least not the way it's written. I'm sorry but I disagree with going forward with this project. Thank you for your time.

Jerome Bento, 7 Muldoon Drive. I'm also against the road but I have some basic questions. What is the incremental cost going to be if the road does go in for public safety and highway? Has that been determined what those costs will be on a year to year basis? Chairman Coutu said we have not done those studies. Mr. Bento asked shouldn't that be part of the warrant article also what the ongoing costs are or a part of the education of the taxpayers. Whereas the grant was denied, we did not pursue it any further. Mr. Bento

stated I live in the south end of town so quite honestly I would probably benefit from the road at some level. The cost to the taxpayers is more than I would like to put on my taxes on a regular basis so I am against the road.

Betsy Gamrat - I live at 8 Muldoon Drive. I reviewed the plan and there's no mention of accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians. This violates the town's Master Plan. In addition, this road will induce further demands turning Hudson into a highway for commuters at the expense of the residents. Finally with respect to climate change, this is an extremely irresponsible project destroying trees and replacing them with asphalt and emissions. I am strongly opposed to this project in any form. Thank you.

Chairman Coutu commented there were bicycle lanes in the plan. Just letting you know. There was plenty of space on both sides for bicycles. Anyone else.

Michael Drouin - 6 Coll Street. I'm opposed to this project. I think it's a waste of money. It was a theory by a German - I can't remember his name but basically the easier you make it for people, the easier the road is to travel, the more they'll travel it. The harder, the less they'll travel it. What this road will do is encourage more people to use it. Eventually what population level it's going to get just as bad as Lowell Road is now and they'll be switching back to Lowell Road because that will then become the easier option. What I would suggest is there's only certain times of the day that Lowell Road is actually congested with traffic and during those times you should have a toll across the road open just during those times and that would discourage enough people to where the traffic would be much less. Thank you.

Donald Dion stated assuming that this does go forward, will this be a limited access? In other words, no driveway permits allowed on this road - sort of like Albuquerque is in Litchfield or is this the kind of thing that people can go and get driveway permits to start intersecting this traffic that's going to be? As time goes on, this is going to get busier and busier. Chairman Coutu said again another particular we didn't discuss because we were not looked upon favorably for the grant so we didn't get into - another engineering aspect minor though it may be, it was something that would have been considered. It was discussed but very briefly. Driveway access was briefly discussed but nothing conclusive because we weren't awarded the grant.

Donald Dion asked to make another comment as far as assuming the road does get built, I think even though they're supposed hated in this State, roundabouts do keep traffic flowing without stop signs and more pollution. If you're going to do it, I think it should start off with roundabouts and not stop signs, not expensive traffic lights and then the future plan if you find a place you want to take and do traffic lights, then you do it ten years down the road or that kind of timeframe. I know roundabouts work well over the (inaudible) is looking roundabouts that there are in the world which is Pelham. I don't know if you've been through there but there's a couple of roundabouts on top of a roundabout on top of a roundabout. It is unbelievable how much better the traffic flows over there. Everything this moving and people somehow seem to be courteous enough to use that and nobody is courteous at a stop sign. That's just a real pain in the neck. Chairman Coutu noted they're not courteous at a red light let alone a stop sign. Mr. Dion said they go through the red light. Chairman Coutu said sit at the Sagamore Bridge and you'll see it every day.

Jennifer Parkhurst, 21 Roy Drive. I more just had a question just about whether or not this project moves forward about traffic congestion and the potential other solutions and if they have been explored. I was curious about what work had been done to look at other options.

Selectman Morin stated at this point the only other two options we could see was to widen Lowell Road which will wipe our business district because we have to widen the road and take all their parking and turn Wason Road into the by-pass. People living there I feel for them I wouldn't want that. At this point, that's the things that would come to us right away other than building a whole other road.

Ms. Parkhurst indicated I'm not an expert by any means but I'm familiar with an acquaintance that was involved in the project in Keene, New Hampshire. Several years back they had an extensive highway system planned with on-ramps and off-ramps. It substantially impacted wetland areas as well. In the process of doing so, it created a lot of havoc between people that were for and against it. One solution that was offered and eventually accepted was actually the concept of the roundabouts. They actually flew a

gentleman, an expert on roundabouts in from the UK and he talked about the research and the traffic study of roundabouts and how it's a new evolution of traffic solutioning. They eventually had to go to this method. If you go to Keene, New Hampshire, today, you'll see there's been a lot of development with roundabouts. So just offering that as a resource perhaps to look into should this project not move forward, looking at other alternatives like that and perhaps seeking advice from people involved in that project. Ultimately I just want to state I appreciate the addressing of the traffic congestion. It obviously is something that impacts many Hudson residents. I'm not sure I totally agree with the current solution as it stands but I am open to kind of seeing what happens and hopefully addressing some of these other possible solutions that could alleviate the traffic and not create the financial liability and environmental liability of this current project. I appreciate the work that is being done to explore this.

Chairman Coutu asked is there anyone else who wishes to address the Board at this time. Seeing none, I'll declare the public hearing closed at 7:28 p.m.

Chairman Coutu noted there are two matters relative to this topic before us this evening. Mr. Dion I want you to know that I was never a strong advocate of turnabouts. One of the worst intersections that - certainly not the worst but an intersection that I was never too thrilled about going through is in front of Rivier College in Nashua, NH. When they talked about putting in a roundabout, I advocated that that was a big mistake and boy was I wrong. It is one of the easiest intersections to go through in Nashua and you mentioned people being more courteous in the roundabouts than they are at stop signs, red lights, etc., I find that to be true. Pelham is unique in that it's a circle eight but I've spoken with several people who initially were not pleased with the setup. It was too close to its municipal buildings - the new fire station, the police station, Town Hall, the library, and it was a massive confusion because once you made one turn you didn't know if you had to go around the other one. I was at one time I remember initially when it opened I didn't know if I was going the right way or the wrong way on the roundabout until I looked as saw well I'm following that car now. I just went around. People have acclimated themselves very well to that circle eight in both roundabouts. It does work. I've seen it work first hand. I've since changed my opinion on roundabouts. As it relates to the circumferential highway and its extension, we anticipated that we relied heavily on getting a bond because \$45 million I felt would never pass. Maybe if the federal government would agree to give us \$25 million and our cost was \$20 million, then we would have to roll up our sleeves and do an awful lot of work to put all of the facts, figures, and data together and just go with it if the voters were to pass it.

In Chairman Coutu's wildest dreams I never thought that the voters would ever vote for a plan for \$45 million and today based on all of the conversations I've had and people I've spoken to, they won't even support a \$25 million plan. With that said and we'll have an opportunity for discussion, I'll entertain a motion.

8. E. Warrant Article K - Bond the Southern Section of the Circumferential Highway

Motion by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to remove Warrant Article K to bond the southern section of the circumferential highway from the 2019 Town Warrant.

As you know, Selectman McGrath stated I wasn't in favor of this to begin with. I felt that if there was enough support among the board members that at least it should go before the voters to let them make a decision. I wasn't going to support it nor was I going to vote for it. As former Speaker Jasper stated and I've mentioned this before, Lenny Smith is the very first person that ever talked to me about the circumferential highway. He was so excited about it, he was certain that it was going to go through. That wasn't in 1959 I'm happy to say, it was much later than that. Nonetheless, he talked about it for years and he worked very hard in the legislature to get that passed. It wasn't meant to be and this is not meant to be. The cost is too high. The State is not going to contribute towards it. They'll put a toll in to collect any passengers traveling that roadway but they're not going to contribute towards it. We didn't get a federal grant for it either. I think that this is the right thing to do to take it off the ballot and be done with it.

Chairman Coutu supported removing the warrant article but at the same time, I am not conceding that we don't have a traffic problem in the Town of Hudson. We have a serious traffic problem. I feel that though we may be abandoning the idea of the extension of the circumferential highway Phase I, we're removing it at this time that there may still be an opportunity to do one of two things. The first would be as the Commissioner stated, we could potentially enjoin the bondholders into a partnership with us. As a matter

of fact, that was discussed at length at a previous meeting that we had that the bondholders would look favorably on us entertaining the idea of a toll road because they want to get their investment back for the land that they bought and the buildings that they bought. Many of them were renting and now I understand quite a few of them are now vacant. That's not my problem. That's their problem. They opted to buy all of that land. That is one opportunity that we might have to explore. It would take some research. We would have to work with the Department of Transportation and a spokesman for the bondholders would have to come forward, identify themselves, and then we would enter into some serious discussions.

Before I mention what the second is, Chairman Coutu stated we have to realize that regardless of what we do tonight there still exists a serious traffic problem in the Town of Hudson and it's only going to get worse. Development is going to continue to grow. More and more contractors are looking to buy whatever land they can in town because Hudson is one of the most desirable communities to live in. We may not get that designation by some magazine out there, but we know that when you put a house on the market and it sells within the first week of being listed - my home sold in 13 hours for more than my asking price - you know that it's a very desirable community to live in. We have what I feel still to this day a very unique community. We are a community of one. Whenever there's a need in our community, it's been time and time again. The best Christmas present I got this year was the fundraiser for the food pantry. Our community came together as one in a last minute appeal. They've done this time and time again for many families in need in this community. It is unique. It's well liked and we have a passion about making our community work.

Chairman Coutu stated we do need to study the traffic patterns in the town because there are many problematic areas in town. I've spent a considerable amount of time in front of T-Bones watching the traffic pattern two weeks ago. The roads coming off of Belknap Road and trying to come through the backside of Susie's Diner and getting out on Lowell Road is a nightmare. I sat there and said Roger do not propose another street light on any street in the Town of Hudson ever again. There has to be some sort of a solution to the traffic problem. Lowell Road is going to get worse. Wason Road is going to get worse. People are using those back streets now because they don't want to wait on Lowell Road. I think it was you Selectman Martin several years ago stated that I don't know why everyone is complaining about waiting on Lowell Road. There's some nice looking signs you can read while you're sitting there and now there's even a couple more signs that have gone up and make it a little more entertaining when you're sitting in traffic. However, every year I've said this before and I'll repeat it again, every year when candidates for this office are asked what do you see as the number one problem facing Hudson, we've all responded fairly much the same - traffic - and we need to find a solution to the traffic problem.

Chairman Coutu said I'm going to look at and have the Town Administrator, and our Town Engineer, and perhaps Selectman Morin because we were the original people who went to the Department of Transportation relative to this extension sit down and talk about whether or not we want to explore a partnership with the bondholders which I think we should engage in that conversation. Two - to appoint a citizen community ad hoc committee to look into the traffic problem and see if we can get enough volunteers who are willing to work together with this Board to come up with some alternate solutions. Traffic circles obviously would come to the four at a couple of intersections to alleviate traffic. I know it would work in a couple of places. Look at Lowell Road, Wason Road, and all of the other side streets that are affected very seriously by the congestion of our traffic and looking ahead to our future years - the out years. Our children and grandchildren are going to inherit. We must be aware of and we must take corrective action today and try to be proactive to alleviate any further traffic growth that we can't handle on our roads. We will explore those two opportunities as a Board and the Board hopefully will give us direction - the consensus of this Board will give us a consensus on which direction they would more apt to support than have us look into and if we appoint a committee, every meeting the committee representative will report back to the Board and keep us abreast as to what's going on. I'll certainly have one or two members of the Board of Selectmen on that committee to work with the committee that would be appointed.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Coutu noted Warrant Article K will be removed from the ballot. I want to thank everybody for coming. If we're going to appoint a committee, we will advertise it. It will probably be in the local, weekly paper - Hudson/Litchfield News and maybe perhaps the Nashua Telegraph as well. Thank you for showing an interest and for coming this evening. I like to see government with its people participating.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

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

Michael Drouin - 6 Coll Street. One of the biggest problems in Hudson I see is litter. It seems most of the litter comes from out of town residents and businesses along Lowell Road who let their parking lot trash cans overflow. The wind from the cars picks it up and distributes it. I do the roadside cleanup for the Lions Club in front of Walmart and it goes all the way to the State line. That stuff is everywhere. Way down the road from McDonald's you'll see McDonald's stuff down in the streams. We go down in there and we fish it out. It's a serious problem in town and I'd like the Board to take a look at that at some point.

Chairman Coutu asked if there was anyone else. Seeing none, we'll move onto nominations.

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

A. Interview

- 1) Zoning Board of Adjustment - (5 vacancies - 1 member term to expire 12/31/21; 1 alternate term to expire 12/31/19; 2 alternate terms to expire 12/31/2020; 1 alternate term to expire 12/31/2021)

Charles Brackett (incumbent member)

Chairman Coutu noted Mr. Brackett is not here. I would hope that maybe one of us knows Mr. Brackett and knows that he serves our community honorably with dedication, devotion, and love of community for many, many years. He was I believe a civil engineer for many years. He is very knowledgeable and I would think that you might want to speak to Mr. Brackett's reappointment.

Selectman McGrath indicated I certainly endorse Mr. Brackett as a member of the ZBA to reappoint him and he's serving as the Chairman of that Board now and he does a wonderful job. He's an asset to have whether it's on the Zoning Board in this particular case but he also serves on the Planning Board. I heartedly endorse his reappointment.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Morin, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Charles Brackett as a member to the Zoning Board of Adjustment with a term to expire 12/31/2021, carried 5-0.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

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

Motion by Selectman Martin, 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) Superior Court Settlement (2011 through 2018 tax years) - Consolidated Communications NNE (formerly Fairpoint), w/recommendation to approve
- 2) Current Use Lien Release - Map 116, Lot 91 - 30 Senter Farm Road, w/recommendation to approve
- 3) Current Use Lien Release - Map 116, Lot 92 - 37 Senter Farm Road, w/recommendation to approve
- 4) Disabled Veteran Tax Credits - Map 134, Lot 042 - 52 Robinson Pond Drive; Map 177, Lot 005, Sub 320 - 8A Monarch Court, w/recommendation to grant

- 5) All Veterans Tax Credits - Map 156, Lot 006, Sub 003 - 7B Cricketfield Lane; Map 237, Lot 045 - 11 Brook Drive, w/recommendation to grant
- 6) Veterans Tax Credits - Map 133, Lot 039 - 16 Beechwood Road; Map 204, Lot 006, Sub 833 - 833 Fox Hollow Drive; Map 171, Lot 048 - 7 Greenfield Drive, w/recommendation to grant

B. Water/Sewer Items - None

C. Licenses & Permits & Policies - None

D. Donations

- 1) \$555.20 from AAT Photo, LLC, d/b/a Clix New England to be put into the Recreation Donation Account

E. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the November 27, 2018 Meeting
- 2) Minutes of the December 11, 2018 Meeting
- 3) Minutes of the December 18, 2018 Meeting

F. Calendar

- 01/09 7:00 Budget Cte Public Hearing - Community Center
- 01/09 7:00 Planning Bd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 01/14 7:00 Cable Cte - HCTV Meeting Room
- 01/14 7:00 Conservation Cmsn - BOS Meeting Room
- 01/15 7:00 Municipal Utility Cte - BOS Meeting Room
- 01/16 7:00 Library Bd of Trustees - Hills Memorial Library
- 01/16 7:00 Budget Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 01/17 7:00 Benson Park Cte - HCTV Meeting Room
- 01/21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - TOWN HALL CLOSED
- 01/22 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
- 01/23 7:00 Planning Bd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 01/24 3:00 Trustees of Trust Fund - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 01/24 7:00 Zoning Bd of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room
- 01/28 7:00 Sustainability Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on December 11, 2018

- 1) Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman Morin, to hire Richard Riendeau as a Truck Driver/Laborer at a starting rate of \$18.38 per hour, Grade VIII, Step Minimum, in accordance with the Hudson Public Works Department Union, AFSCME Local 1801, carried 5-0.
- 2) Motion by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to deny the request to waive the interest in the amount of \$780.94 on the support lien for 633 Fox Hollow Drive, Map 204, Lot 006, Sub 633, as requested by the property co-owner, carried 5-0.
- 3) Motion by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman Martin, to approve the Tentative Agreement with the Hudson Support Staff Union, AFSCME Local 1801 for a successor contract, carried 5-0.

- 4) Motion by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman Morin, to forward Warrant Article "O" for the Hudson Support Staff Union, AFSCME Local 1801 successor contract to the 2019 Town Warrant, carried 5-0.
- 5) Motion to adjourn at 10:26 p.m. by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman Morin, carried 5-0.

B. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on December 18, 2018

- 1) Motion by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman Morin, to approve the Tentative Agreement with the Hudson Public Works Union, AFSCME Local 1801 for a successor contract, carried 5-0.
- 2) Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Morin, to forward Warrant Article "P" for the Hudson Public Works Union, AFSCME Local 1801 successor contract to the 2019 Town Warrant, carried 5-0.
- 3) Motion by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman Morin, to approve the Police Chief's request to buy out 80 hours of vacation time, carried 5-0.
- 4) Motion to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman Morin, carried 5-0.

C. FY 2020 Warrant Article "J" Change the Date for Town Meeting

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia explained this was deferred from I believe the 18th. This was a discussion that came about because the School Board did not forward a corresponding warrant article to change their Town Meeting date from March to April. The Board wanted to find out what the School Board was going to do. They apparently didn't do anything but my understanding is there's been a petition submitted to the School Board.

Chairman Coutu said a petition was submitted to the School Board. Selectman Martin and I acquired and had certified sufficient signatures to have a warrant article placed on the School Board. That would only appear on the school side, right - that warrant article? Mr. Malizia stated that petition warrant article if it was petitioned to the School Board would only appear on the School District's ballot. Chairman Coutu noted there will be one on the School Board. Mr. Malizia said okay now it's up to this Board if the Board wants to let it stand. In other words, you've already forwarded an article to change the date. This was to discuss it if you want to remove that article. That's the discussion.

Selectman McGrath asked are we going to be able to include such language with this so that the voters understand that if the School Board portion fails, the petition that was submitted if that fails, there would have to be two separate meetings. It would have to be the town's portion on one date and the School Board on another. Are we going to be able to include language so that the voters are really clear about what would happen?

Steve Malizia stated there's an item in your packet. If you flip to the back of that item, the warrant article language is there. I'll read the section that says, "Passage of this article (this is the Town's article) is contingent upon passage of the same article by the Hudson School District in order to facilitate coordination of School District elections with Town elections to best accommodate the voters." If one doesn't pass or the other doesn't pass, my understanding is nothing changes.

Selectman McGrath had one question. When the petition was presented to the School Board, did they make a motion to forward to the warrant with a recommendation? Chairman Coutu said they did not make a motion to do either. They're forwarding it but they did not give an opinion one way or another. Selectman Martin you saw the meeting last night.

Selectman Martin indicated I was at it. I gave comment. Nobody - not one of the four that was sitting there would make a motion to recommend or not recommend.

Selectman McGrath said apparently by that could you assume or should we assume that they have no opposition to that. Is that something we'd want to assume? I'm concerned about...Chairman Coutu asked are you concerned about having two separate elections. Selectman McGrath said I am. I understand what the language does but I don't know - I guess I'll just keep my opinion to myself. I just have a concern.

Chairman Coutu said I'll ask a consensus before I entertain a motion to go forward with Warrant Article J or do you want to remove it.

Selectman Routsis indicated it would almost be foolish to remove it since people that are on this Board brigaded the other petition so it forces the hand no matter what for it to go forward.

Selectman Martin commented I did it as a citizen not a Selectman. I wholeheartedly - why wouldn't you give your voters consideration to change the date of an election from a more snowy month to a less snowy month where there could still be snow in April. I say just leave it and see what happens.

Selectman Morin agreed with Selectman Martin. This was something that the townspeople asked us to look into due to the past couple of years. The Town Moderator at some point had suggested that we look at this. He disagreed with it the other night and said we shouldn't do it because they were working on things but we're here for the citizens and they asked to look into it just like the highway. We looked into the highway, now we took it away because it's not going to work but we're doing what the citizens are asking us to do.

Selectman McGrath said you're right. The citizens did ask us and people talked to me. They talked to you. You were there all day and they really wanted to change the date of the Town Meeting so that they could somewhat be reassured, although you can never count on New England weather. The driving and the conditions might be easier for them to get to the polls and be able to cast their vote. I really think it's unfortunate that the School Board didn't wish to take that upon themselves to present that to the voters and I'm disappointed that they wouldn't give an opinion when presented with the petition. I did not sign the petition and there's reasons for that that I'm not going to go into. I didn't feel that it was right for me to do that. I think it's unfortunate. I think that I'm willing to put this on the ballot number one. I'm willing to let it go to the ballot but I think that it's going to add some confusion for some of the voters and it's really unfortunate.

Chairman Coutu said the consensus is that we will leave it on the ballot.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. IT Dept. - Recommendation to Sell Equipment - End of Life - Oce' Copier

Chairman Coutu recognized IT Director Lisa Nute.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. As you know it's the policy of this Board of Selectmen that any items purchased with taxpayer dollars gets sold at property.com. We had purchased a large format printer and scanner through a lease to own option back in 2007. We've seen last fiscal year a large jump in the maintenance costs. Now that it's getting older, this will be the trend and that will continue. It is time to upgrade that and we are doing so by just transferring the cost of our maintenance for another lease.

Ms. Nute indicated unfortunately property.com no longer will take technology, PCs, or peripheral devices like printers that are more than five years old now. The option is to either send this to recycling which Oce' will do for us and pick up at no cost but we get no money for it or the second option of trying to find somebody who will purchase this. I did reach out to smaller communities who would be more likely to need something like this. Pelham is in fact interested and have made an offer of \$500 for this equipment. I am here tonight to ask the Board to waive the property.com option which is no longer an option and to allow me to sell this to Pelham. They will come and pick that up in conjunction with us getting the new one in so this would be

no cost to us either. There may be the last I know there was like one extra head or something we have so I added supplies in there just to go ahead and give them anything that was not compatible with our new machine which would be the spearhead.

Chairman Coutu said we can help the Town of Pelham. I see no problem with doing it.

Motion by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to sell an Oce' large format copier and scanner to the Town of Pelham for \$500 as recommended by the IT Director, carried 5-0.

Selectman Routsis asked you said property.com won't take anything over five years old. How is that going to affect you and your team I guess going forward because that's obviously most of our stuff we keep longer than five years? Lisa Nute said this has been a concern of mine and brought it up with the department heads on a couple of occasions. We know that we need to find something else. I currently have a small stash of PCs that I was unable to do anything with. They're currently sitting at Oakwood where all our scanned documents are waiting to be removed. I have a temporary pile there until we can figure out and I believe maybe a discussion at our department head tomorrow and coming before you with some other options in the near future.

Chairman Coutu asked is the equipment so old at the time that we are trading it out that companies won't take it as part of a trade in. Ms. Nute said technology just changes so quickly it's harder and harder to get people to buy that stuff I would imagine. I'm not sure. This is only one company that we currently use. I have not looked into others to see if they have the same policy with technology older than five years old.

Chairman Coutu asked did we advertise this item for sale. How did Pelham know? Ms. Nute said no because it would have cost me a couple hundred dollars. I reached out to smaller communities.

Selectman Routsis said I just wanted to throw that out there because the Library has a stockpile too.

- B. Police Dept. - Request to Withdraw Money from the Bullet Proof Vest Capital Reserve Account to Purchase Replacement Vests

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia indicated it's a very simple request. They have five vests that need replacing. They're at the end of their practical useful life. What they're asking for permission is to withdraw \$5,320 from the Bullet Proof Capital Reserve Account which has a balance of \$77,291 and was established for this purpose. So quite simply put, you're the agents to expend. They're asking your permission to do so.

Motion by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman Martin, to authorize the withdrawal of \$5,320 from the Bullet Proof Capital Reserve Account to purchase five (5) replacement bullet proof vests, carried 5-0.

- C. Fire Dept. - Request to Advertise for a Firefighter/AEMT Position

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia explained you have a resignation from Firefighter/AEMT David Cormier. The Fire Chief has asked for permission to advertise for a Firefighter/AEMT position. My understanding is the hire list was down to two people and he's not sure if they've gotten other jobs so he is definitely asking for your authorization to advertise so that we can either repopulate a list and/or get a replacement for Firefighter Cormier.

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to accept the letter of resignation from Firefighter/AEMT David Cormier effective January 26, 2019 with the Board's thanks and appreciation.

Chairman Coutu asked if he gave an exit interview. Steve Malizia stated he's been given the opportunity. I'm not sure if he's scheduled one. Chairman Coutu asked can we have a policy where at the time that we get letters of resignation from employees that we know whether or not they've been offered the opportunity

and if so what the result of that request was. It seems to me a lot of people are leaving our employ and not a one is opting for an exit interview.

Selectman McGrath indicated I read the Fire Department's report and in that report it stated that they had given two exit interviews. I don't know who they were. They didn't elaborate on who they were but in any event they did grant two exit interviews.

Selectman Routsis stated when we had initially put the policy in place for exit interviews, at that time I had said I don't think it should be with their direct supervisor and I think some people that are not going to have that exit interview is solely because it is with their direct supervisor. If your problem or the reason you are leaving is because of that person, you're not going to tell them. I still think that's why some people may not be doing exit interviews. Chairman Coutu asked you're not talking about department heads, you're talking about their immediate supervisor. Selectman Routsis said yes.

Steve Malizia indicated there is a form that has me as the exit interviewer so they're signing that form that has the option of them coming to me. Maybe there's another form...Selectman Routsis thought the policy we put in place said it was with their supervisor and if they chose not to do it, then they could do the Board.

Selectman Morin stated it's in the town policy. I know from experience. You do have a point. We don't see what the outcome is.

Chairman Coutu said we're their employers. We should know and if there's something adverse that we can correct, then we need some information. It's going to be kept confidential. This Board will discuss it in non-private if it affects the reputation of another. If we're not given the information, don't we have a policy?

Steve Malizia said I'm not aware that you haven't been given the form that says they declined the interview. I haven't had anybody that's taken...Selectman Morin said we didn't get one tonight. Mr. Malizia agreed you didn't get one tonight but I'm not sure Mr. Cormier has been back on duty since he submitted his resignation because the Chief had an issue trying to communicate with him. Any exit interview form that I've gotten I believe I've forwarded to you and most of them have declined. I'm not aware I'm not getting any.

Chairman Coutu stated Selectman McGrath alluded to what she read is that two exit interviews were granted. Well how come we're not aware of them. I'd like to see - I don't care if they don't put the employees name on it although there shouldn't be any objection to our reading what's in the personnel folders we're their employers. An exit interview would be beneficial to us I think generally speaking about employing and what we can do better to provide a better working environment or whatever it is they're complaining about if in fact they have a complaint. Some of them just say they'd love to work here and they just had a better opportunity and they're moving on. I'd like to hear that too.

Selectman McGrath said I brought in the two reports tonight - police and fire - because it occurred to me based on reading, and I read them every time I get them. There was some sensitive information in one of them. It occurred to me that maybe we should be having them shredded at Town Hall as opposed to throwing them in my recycle bin at home. I brought them in and gave them to Donna. If anybody wants to take a look at the fire report, she's got it there and it clearly states that there were two exit interviews granted.

Chairman Coutu state it clearly states that. Now the sensitive information included in this document. Selectman McGrath said in the other one. I didn't want to...Chairman Coutu asked how did you get it and we didn't get it. Selectman McGrath said first of all we all get them by e-mail. I asked Donna and Susan to print them off for me because it's easier for me to read them. If I need to make notes on them or want to highlight something I want to bring up. I get them as a printed report as well as an e-mail report.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded b Selectman Routsis, to authorize the Fire Chief to advertise for the Firefighter/AEMT position.

Chairman Coutu asked where do we typically advertise this. I hate advertising in the newspaper that comes to town and trashes our streets.

Steve Malizia said I don't want to use the word "typical" because I don't want to speak for the Fire Department but I think they go beyond just a local newspaper.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

D. Sale of Tax Deeded Property - 15 Windham Road, Map 168, Lot 129

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia explained the Board approved the sale of this tax deeded property at their November 13th meeting. The invitation to bid was mailed to three abutting property owners, advertised in the HLN, on HCTV, and the Town's webpage. The town received one sealed bid in the amount of \$900 from one of the abutters. Based on the size of the property and the lack of any value to anyone else, I recommend that the Board accept and sell the town owned tax deeded property located at 15 Windham Road, Map 168, Lot 129, to the high bidders Paulo and Jessica Ramos of 9 Windham Road in Hudson, NH, for \$900.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to sell town owned tax deeded property located at 15 Windham Road, Map 168, Lot 129, to the high bidders, Paulo and Jessica Ramos of 9 Windham Road, Hudson, NH for \$900, carried 5-0.

E. Involuntarily Merged Lot Application - 12 Gambia Street, Map 165, Lot 021

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia stated the town received an application for the restoration of involuntary merged lots pursuant to RSA 674:33-aa from the owner of 12 Gambia Street. Upon the receipt of that, town staff including Chief Assessor, Town Planner, and Zoning Administrator went out to the property and met with the property owner, reviewed the records. They made a recommendation that the Board deny the application because constructively the owner of the property merged it themselves when they constructed other buildings on the property. Their opinion and their review and research was reviewed by Attorney LeFevre who concurred with their recommendation. In essence, the town did nothing. The property owner through the years has actually constructively merged their own property therefore there's no basis for you to grant the application. It was not involuntary.

Selectman Martin said generally if the town were to involuntarily merge lots which they have done on property that I own, you would get a letter from the town stating the fact that they did that.

Through the years depending on the circumstances, Mr. Malizia said it could be many different circumstances but in the assessing records for example, god knows when lots were merged because maybe they weren't conforming or whatever. That's one example. If the town did something proactively, yes I would expect they would notify the property owner.

Selectman Martin commented I went to this site and if we voted to approve this and you see the buildings, you can't even fit a snow blower down the middle of the two buildings so it would be non-conforming to begin with.

Chairman Coutu said I was wondering that too when I looked at it.

Steve Malizia said that's why town staff made a site visit because it's important. They met with the property owner and they reviewed all the records which have included I believe the records that are available. After they did that, I had Attorney LeFevre look at it. Obviously he's an expert on land law.

Chairman Coutu said the good thing about it is you could open a window and give your neighbor a cup of sugar.

Selectman McGrath said another important reason for not granting this request is because if we did it would create a zoning violation. We shouldn't and nor do I think we can do that.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to deny the Application for Restoration of Involuntarily Merged Lots Pursuant to RSA 674:33-aa for property located at 12 Gambia Street, Map 165, Lot 021, carried 5-0.

F. Annual Report Dedication

Chairman Coutu stated as we do every year, we identify people who have served our community to be our Annual Report dedication. We have two before us this evening. Do you want to speak to both of these?

Steve Malizia stated I prepared the first. Obviously Selectman Nadeau who was well known as a long-term member of the Board. I put in my memo it was brought to our attention that David Buhlman who I believe was a State Rep. and on the Zoning Board. Those would be the recommendations.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Morin, to dedicate the 2018 Annual Town Report to Benjamin Nadeau and David Lewis Buhlman, carried 5-0.

G. Petitioned Warrant Articles

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia indicated obviously this was a placeholder. I had no knowledge but today you received a Petitioned Warrant Article. It appears to be in the correct format. I apparently has 31 signatures. You need a minimum of 25 registered voters. Therefore, this article needs to be acted on by the Board and forwarded to your warrant.

Chairman Coutu stated the warrant article reads as follows: "Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 which will be added to the Library Improvements capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2017?" What bothers me is that the Library submitted a budget and they didn't see fit to request \$25,000. Why do citizens have to go out and request money when the Library had the opportunity to request it within their budget? It's just asking a question. Any comments? Can we vote on it? Do we wish to recommend or not recommend this warrant article?

Selectman McGrath thought it would have been nice if we had gotten some information from the Library to determine whether or not whether we want to recommend it or not.

In fairness to them, Steve Malizia indicated this was submitted today. I'm not aware that it went through the Library. I'm not aware that the Library asked for it. I'm not aware that the Library sponsored it. Any group of citizens 25 or more can petition pretty much anything that's a legal purpose. I'm just saying I don't know if the Library is even aware of this. We got it today late this afternoon.

Chairman Coutu said I'm not going to support it only because the Library didn't ask for it. The voters will decide ultimately but I'm going to vote not to recommend. We need to know your positions.

Selectman Morin asked the Library liaison was there any discussion at some point during any of the meeting about this? Selectman Routsis said there have been no discussions. The last time I saw them was their holiday party and nothing was mentioned then. As far as I know, nothing and I have no messages so they may not even be aware of it.

Motion by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman Morin, to forward Petition Warrant Article Q to the 2019 Town Warrant as Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, carried 4-1. Selectman Routsis in opposition.

Selectman McGrath said I'm voting not to recommend because I don't have any information of whether or not the Library wants this funding, whether they need it. I have absolutely no idea. I can't recommend to the voters that they approve that.

Chairman Coutu agreed. It was shocking to me that they asked to establish a capital reserve fund in 2017 and they didn't make an effort this year to request any money. It was kind of shocking to me that they didn't. We had no control over their budget. They could have just put it in their budget.

Steve Malizia indicated not they couldn't. The law does not allow you to put funding to existing capital reserve funds. So I would have had to have come through the warrant process. I am not aware that in this year's proposals I don't recall seeing an article from them. The fund was established as Chairman Coutu said in '17. It has \$1 in it which is what it was established with. It was their prerogative to come in and ask you to put a warrant forward. I'm not aware that they did.

Chairman Coutu said pretty much in accord with what you said Selectman McGrath. We have nothing to go by.

H. Revenues and Expenditures

Chairman Coutu recognized Town Administrator Steve Malizia.

Steve Malizia indicated we are half way through the year - 50 percent. I don't see anything major from an expenditure perspective. Obviously there are things that are encumbered - trash contract, legal contract. We do paving in the summer. So those items are higher. Revenue side, it's still going strong. Automobiles are 54 percent. That's running ahead. Interest has done very well. I believe we're two months behind on ambulance because our clerk was out. I just saw one so I believe it will obviously catch up. Right now I don't see any major concerns.

Chairman Coutu indicated our investments are doing well. Mr. Malizia thought the interest climate has improved. The investment climate seems to have improved. We bumped that number if I'm not mistaken. We're already over the number we bumped it up to.

Chairman Coutu asked if there were any comments or questions to the Town Administrator. Okay.

9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Morin - I have two things real quick. I attended a class last night with the Conservation Commission and the Town Engineer. We had discussed this before the holidays moving forward. I actually got a lot of out of it. The Town Engineer got a lot of out of it and I believe the Commission did. It wasn't directed per say at the operation of the Commission, it was more of Right to Know, effective public meetings, conflict and interest and ethics, the goals and responsibilities for them, select board roles, responsibilities, and relationships, and things to that nature. I would strongly urge this Board to have Mr. Buckley back in and have at least one member from every board and anybody from the board that would like to attend this class to have it. There was a lot of information in it that we as the boards and seeing that the boards that I serve on as liaison don't follow the protocol into that. I think it would be good for everybody to have at least one member from every board to participate in this class.

Chairman Coutu asked was this advertised as a meeting. Selectman Morin said not it was strictly a training course for the Conservation Commission. Steve Malizia believed it was a training session for the Conservation. Selectman Morin indicated the cable lady was there but this is training and we just sent her home. It was strictly training.

Selectman McGrath agreed in part to what Selectman Morin just said, however, I think that the training should be for all Planning Board members and all Zoning Board members not just one. You want to make sure that the message gets sent to all of them. All members that are going to vote on whether it's on the Planning Board and their voting on plans, whether or not to accept impact fees which is as you know I think it's a critical item. I think that they could definitely use the training. Zoning Board they could use it and I

know a couple of them have asked me about it - at least one asked me about it. I think someone else sent a message through that same person. They could use it as well if they're interested in that type of training. They go to the Law Lecture Series every year. They're very good about going to those trainings. If it became an issue about funding to pay for additional training this year, they would be the board that I would say could wait until funding was available. If we can accommodate that, I think that we should.

Steve Malizia indicated we could look at what the cost would be because Attorney Buckley doesn't matter if he's in this room, the Community Center, it's his time and it doesn't matter the room.

Selectman Morin believed when I talked to him last night to see if this would be available for all the boards, he said it was somewhere around \$500.

Chairman Coutu said we'll pick up the cost for that. It's worth the investment. He's a great guy. Mr. Malizia said I'll check with him and see what his schedule looks like because this is something you have to set ahead of time. Chairman Coutu asked did you find that he spoke in a language you understand. That's what I like about Buckley and that's what I like about LeFevre, they don't give you all this legal jargon.

Selectman McGrath thought it was important that they all get this training.

Selectman Morin said it did answer a lot of the questions that we had discussed. It got the message out there how things need to be run.

Chairman Coutu stated they have the knowledge now. If we're going to take any corrective action, they're the ones that are going to be digging their own graves if they continue to pursue the avenues they were pursuing. Selectman Morin said like I said, myself and Elvis also got a lot out of it. We talked afterwards and Elvis said the same thing we should do this for all the boards and committees.

Selectman McGrath indicated I was planning to attend because I wanted to send a message that I thought it was important. At the last minute, I couldn't.

Chairman Coutu said I didn't know if we were going to hold jointly with the ZBA and the Planning Board. Obviously I'll go but I would invite the Board of Selectmen to come as well.

Steve Malizia suggested is it's a training session set up for all. We have a Community Center that you could set the tables up for all.

Selectman McGrath's point especially about the training session of last night, I thought that it should be just dedicated to that one board because they needed to hear a clear message and that it not be interrupted by other board members whether it's Planning, Zoning, and I think the same holds true for Planning. Zoning, again, they've had enough training that I don't have concerns about that board as I do about Planning and Conservation. If we can do one training session for the Planning Board because that's a bigger board, more people, more questions, more time that needs to be dedicated. Zoning - if they wanted to sit in on it fine but I think it should be more geared towards Planning.

Selectman Morin indicated it's going to be a matter of getting them all there and Mr. Buckley on two additional occasions. Mr. Malizia said it's Right to Know training. Selectman Morin said he covers that. He briefly hit all of these subjects and there was a lot of questions. He outlined how meetings should run. One thing that he actually hit upon was when agendas are sent out. When some of the committees send out agenda, everybody's e-mail is on that instead of a blind copy which is considered a meeting because you have five people participating. Just small stuff like that that nobody thinks about. I can tell you I know three committees that do it that way. There was a lot that he brought out that has never even been discussed or looked at that everybody should go through it.

Chairman Coutu said the Benson Committee does it all the time. It's the one that jumps out at me. I'm not faulting them. I know there are other committees but I know that one as I see everybody's e-mail. Selectman Morin indicated that's one thing of many that he covered that we could change. Mr. Malizia indicated this is global information. In other words, what you're identifying as opposed to what Selectman

McGrath is identifying, you're identifying just a global overall here's how you should proceed as opposed to here's how you should maybe conduct a Planning Board meeting.

Selectman Morin said last night it was kind of centered at the Conservation Commission and I believe that's what Selectman McGrath was alluding to with that other committee. I think we could take all the other committees just as a global class and a general.

Chairman Coutu said they do it in Concord they'll have a class. Mr. Malizia said it's easier for him to come here than for everyone to go there. They do classes up there. Chairman Coutu said 50-60 people for the exact same class. They're in and out in 2 hours. Selectman Morin indicated I've had many classes with him here. Chairman Coutu said why don't we plan this. Why don't we see if we can see what his schedule is? I'll mention it to the Planning Board tomorrow evening at the meeting, although I should be going to the Budget Committee. I think we should attend that.

Steve Malizia thought it would be quick because you don't have the circumferential highway and there's nothing else of controversy. I believe we're first in the evening. If you wanted to go, you probably could go to both. Just saying. I don't know.

Chairman Coutu said I'll probably miss that now that they've taken the circumferential highway off. How much damage can they do? We took care of it. Steve Malizia said they've been very favorable to our budget. Our budget went well. I think we can all agree that the contracts all got forwarded 5-0. I'm not aware of any issues that the Budget Committee has with the town side of the budget.

Chairman Coutu said why don't we plan to do a meeting with the Planning Board and then we'll have a separate one to open to all of the other committees and departments. We'll have some sort of a form letter to all of the committees and invite them. Mr. Malizia said we're best waiting until after April only because you'll reappoint people and I'm not going to train people who aren't going to come back quite frankly. I'd rather do it after. All the committee ones are April as opposed to the Planning Board and Zoning Board.

One point about Mr. Buckley, Selectman McGrath noted he served on the Planning Board in the town that he lives in for a number of years. He's well versed in planning and they should get good training.

Selectman Morin asked to recognize one of our employees if I could. Firefighter Andrew Perkins was traveling on Friday and he saw a gentleman standing on the other side of a bridge to jump into a river to commit suicide. He stopped, talked to the gentleman, and at some point due to a crowd and the emergency services getting there, the gentleman actually tried to jump from the bridge. Firefighter Perkins actually grabbed him and pulled him back over the rail. I just wanted to make sure that he got the recognition he did for saving that gentleman's life.

Chairman Coutu thanked Selectman Morin for mentioning that. He was certainly off duty. He was with his wife. He was going from one house to another and he saw it. He could have ignored it and said let's move on I'm not going to get involved. He opted to do what he's trained to do and he reacted to save a person's life. I was talking to my wife about it. I said in my mind there's a true hero. We hear that word bandied about time and time again. What would have happened if the guy had actually gone into leap and he reached over the railing to grab him and he went over himself? You think of all the possibilities or if he had left what would have gone through Firefighter Perkins mind about oh I didn't save him. Those are the chances the risks you take. To me that's a true hero. Whether he would have been successful or not. He did all of the right things based on how the story was written. He talked to him. He tried to calm him down. He was a mediator and he had some success because he didn't jump right away. When he saw that the initial reaction was this guy's going, I'm going to grab him. I hope someday this guy comes and says to Firefighter Perkins it would be the greatest reward he could get - come to him and put his arms around him and thank him for giving a second chance at life. Firefighter Perkins was his guardian angel that evening. Again, something that makes Hudson very proud and I'm glad that you brought that up Selectman Morn. Thank you.

Selectman Morin indicated that's all I have tonight.

Selectman Routsis - I have nothing this evening.

Selectman Martin - I have a few things. At the 12/18/18 Hudson Budget Committee meeting, there was a presentation of the kindergarten petitioned warrant article. The Budget Committee did not vote on it as in recommending it as of yet. We're probably going to do that tomorrow night. It's in the amount of \$900,000 some odd dollars. I just wanted some kind of consensus from the Board how I should vote for this recommended or not.

Chairman Coutu said I'm going to give my opinion. I probably will be the only one that will support it. I'm going to support it and I'll tell you why. The foundation to a good education is an early introduction into the system. I'm a strong advocate of kindergarten. I was a product of kindergarten. I thought I had a great primary school education as a result of having the opportunity to go to kindergarten. A lot of parents in today's age as compared to when I was young, mothers typically would stay home and do all the cooking, ironing, laundry, and the husband went out and earned the living. Today its dual incomes. Parents don't have the amount of time they had in days past to sit down with children and start an educational program, although many do. I see it every day in my family and other families. There are a lot of parents that sit and read with their children and discuss alphabet, numbers, and the basics to get them started. The State is going to mandate kindergarten pretty soon. I think that we should be in the forefront. I know this is a citizen's petition and I'm glad it's going to go on the ballot. I'm supporting it. I'm going to vote for it and I'm asking you - I'm only 1 of 5 - to support it.

Selectman Routsis noted I'm actually in support of it as well. I didn't know we didn't have full day kindergarten. My daughter we got here in fourth grade and we lived in Massachusetts and then Wisconsin. They had it so I just assumed we did. I think it was a great benefit for her and like you said, it helps families out now as well. Just getting a child acclimated to it is easier.

Selectman Morin asked what's the School Board on this. Selectman Martin said they did not vote last evening on any part of that warrant article whether to support it or not. They didn't. He's looking and they were staring at each other. I thought they were playing pinball with their eyes.

Selectman Morin asked wasn't Keno part of that that if we had Keno in town some of that...Steve Malizia said if you have Keno and you have full day kindergarten, Keno money will flow back to the Town of Hudson. I think there's a minimum but without full day kindergarten, we get none of the Keno from the establishments in Hudson that have Keno. Selectman Morin thought that's one of the reasons why when we had looked at that so that we could do that. I'm in favor.

Chairman Coutu believed its \$1,800 per student. The \$900,000 by the way just to clarify and I've had extensive discussion with her on the petitioned warrant article. Her and I have communicated quite a bit about this. She wanted to know if I would support it and I said absolutely. The introduction of education through a kindergarten program I think is critical to the health and wellbeing of a good education for a child. So I do support it. The \$900,000 represents the initial startup costs - class room acquisition whether it's by mobile or a building, refurbishing rooms that may need to be refurbished, buying the initial equipment. The outgoing costs per year will be closer to the \$450,000. I think \$500,000 is for the setup and then that goes away after the first year and then it's just the cost of the teachers and the space, supplies, and the major cost is obviously labor - the educators and the paras that you're going to need to get it running. So that will run about close to \$420,000 a year then the State reimburses us. Again, I believe its \$1,800 per student for every student that's enrolled in kindergarten we're reimbursed that money. That will go back into the general fund. It will offset a lot of that \$400,000.

Selectman McGrath said I know nothing about this. I don't watch the School Board meetings. As I've said before I don't have children. To try and relate to any of this, I need all of the information that I can get. If the School Board members wouldn't vote to recommend or not recommend, how can I as someone that doesn't have any information make any sort of recommendation to the voters on this. I am going to take a position that I am not going to recommend because I don't have the information that I feel is necessary for me to recommend to the voters to spend that kind of money.

Chairman Coutu said that's fair. That's consistent with what you said earlier. I have information so I'm in a position. If I didn't have any information like you Selectman McGrath, I couldn't support it either. I've been involved extensively in the discussions of introduction of kindergarten.

Selectman McGrath stated I'm a strong advocate for education. Strong education as opposed to a lot of the peripheral programs that seem to go along with the school systems. Not just in Hudson but in other areas as well. I think education is key for everything that we do in life whether it's understanding our local government, national government, how our taxes are spent, how our taxes are collected. If you don't have an education, you can't understand that. Again until I get more information that I can pass on to make a sound decision for myself, I can't do it.

Chairman Coutu indicated to Selectman Martin we have 3 to 1 and whatever your vote is going to be. Selectman Martin said I do support it. Chairman Coutu said it would be 4 to 1 and then you can explain the reason for the one. It's neither for nor against. It's lack of information. That's not faulting the School Committee, it was up to the petitioner to provide information. She doesn't have to provide for us because it's a school issue and we don't provide them with our (inaudible).

Selectman Martin said during the deliberations of the school budget, they had never given us physical copies of all the warrant articles. I wasn't able to get everything to ask you all for a consensus. So now I have Warrant Article 3 on the school side for a partial replacement of Alvirne roof which is the main school - \$275,000 warrant article that they want to replace the roof.

Selectman Morin asked how does that fall into the renovation. Selectman Martin indicated that's not part of the renovation. Selectman Morin said if they're going to do construction on that building why do we want to do a roof now until we know if we're going to get...Selectman Martin said the roof is the 1975 building. There won't be anything on that side for construction. It's the three story that you see out along, it's that roof that they want to replace - \$275,000. There are issues with it and it needs to be done.

Chairman Coutu indicated they have a capital reserve fund for that. Do they have enough money to cover it? Selectman Martin said in their capital reserve fund is \$151,000 balance and that's another warrant article they want to add \$100,000 from end of year fund balance. Chairman Coutu asked are they going to use that money. They're going to have over \$100,000 end of year balance. They always have hundreds of thousands left over. Selectman Martin said no that's not the plan. Chairman Coutu said they want that over and above what's in capital reserve which would have been with the \$100,000 would have been enough to fix the roof. I don't support it. It doesn't make sense. It's fiscally irresponsible to do that. You can tell them I said that. It's fiscally irresponsible to do that - to ask that \$100,000 be taken out of their end of year balance and put it in the capital reserve fund which would give them enough to fix the roof but say no we're just going to keep that in the bank. We're going to have the voters to give us \$250,000. That's like a half a million dollar project. I know 250 of it is in the bank but take it out and spend it. If the problem is that dire and it needs to be done, that's how you take care of it and you don't wait until you - if the roof is that bad, you don't wait until a year later to have it fixed and wait for the voters to appropriate the money. You get it fixed. You figure it out. We did it. We've had to do it with the Fire Department roof. We don't have to go to the voters and ask for it. We know we're going to have some reserves and we go and we take care of it. If the roof is leaking, it's leaking.

Selectman Martin said that's you. I don't support it.

Selectman Routsis indicated I support the repair of the roof but it's because I don't support the renovation if that makes sense because they're not repairing the school. That was my big thing. You need to repair what's wrong with your school first.

Chairman Coutu noted there's so much that needs to be done before they build big band rooms and cafeterias. There is so much more that needs to be done that are hazards in that school.

Selectman Routsis said I'd prefer them taking it from their capital reserve. It needs to get done.

Chairman Coutu stated I'd say its no.

Selectman Martin asked about the \$100,000 contribution. Chairman Coutu said I don't mind them putting money in the capital reserve fund. That's not an issue. They're going to have the money to put into the capital reserve fund. Selectman Routsis indicated that comes from money they have. Chairman Coutu said I don't have a problem with that. Mr. Malizia said it's usually an up to number so if they don't have it, they don't put it in.

Selectman Morin said they'll have it. Mr. Malizia said more than likely.

Chairman Coutu told Selectman McGrath you look befuddled. Selectman McGrath said no I'm not befuddled. I know what they're trying to do with this. I'm not in favor. You're asking the voters to give you another \$250,000 to add to the capital reserve fund and they're only going to use a portion of it and then they'll leave the balance and then they'll come in again next year looking to add more. You said physically responsible. I think the word is fiscally responsible. Chairman Coutu noted I thought I said fiscally. It takes physical effort to convince them to do the right thing fiscally.

In any event, Selectman McGrath stated we can't keep going to the voters and asking them to come up with these large sums of money. It's not right and I can't do it and I won't do it.

Selectman Martin had one other thing. At the 1/2/19 Budget Committee meeting, we discussed extensively the warrant article for \$9,480 for the raises for the Library personnel. Remember we had that discussion during budget deliberations and how they put a 2 percent increase in the budget and then they had this warrant article to get an additional bucket of money. Chairman Coutu said to try to level out the playing field against other libraries. Selectman Martin indicated they came forward with a spreadsheet with a 5-year plan which they're in year 3 of. The Chairman of the Budget Committee handed the gavel to the Vice-Chairman and made a motion and moved \$9,480 into the operating budget for salaries. Essentially taking away the purpose of the warrant article. We can't zero out the warrant article. Right now in the budget is all of the money that they put in and then \$9,480 from the warrant article. Then the Budget Committee voted not to recommend that warrant article. If nobody does anything at Deliberative Session to zero that warrant article out, then they're going to get the \$9,480 twice if it passes at the election. The warrant article plus the additional money in the budget. You're taking \$19,000 additional.

Selectman Morin asked what was the purpose of doing that. Selectman Martin said so they didn't have to have the warrant article. Selectman Morin asked did anybody from the Budget Committee contact the Library Trustees and say this is what we did to see what they wanted to do with it. Selectman Martin stated it's funny that you say that. They did not stick around for this conversation.

Steve Malizia indicated they were there when they put the money in the budget. There was a conversation about that. My understanding if I may, the Library was tasked with coming back with some answers to questions that the Budget Committee had. I believe they satisfied those questions with some data they presented. The Budget Committee, the majority, took it to say okay here's what we're going to do. We're going to make a motion and we're going to put this amount of money - \$9,280 into the budget which they did. The Library got up and left. Then the Budget Committee voted to not recommend the warrant article but they can't zero it out. They do not have that ability. Deliberative Session has that ability.

Selectman Morin agreed but did anybody contact the Library to withdraw that warrant article. Steve Malizia said no. It would be up to you to withdraw it if you wanted to. Chairman Coutu said that's what I would like to do. That's what I was asking. Can we withdraw that warrant article? It's our budget. Similar to the bond article you withdrew, Mr. Malizia said you still have time to withdraw that if that's appropriate and that's what you want to do.

Selectman Martin had nothing else.

Selectman Morin asked Selectman Routsis have you heard anything on this whole thing. Selectman Routsis said no.

Chairman Coutu said I can't believe the Budget Committee did that. What's happened to our Budget Committee? Nothing gets done. Well I think they're adding money to the budget. I didn't think they had

the right to add money to a budget. Steve Malizia said it's their budget. At this point in time when it goes to the Budget Committee, they can add and they can subtract. It's their budget quite simple.

Selectman McGrath - I just have a couple of things. I, too, read the article about Firefighter Perkins. I thought it was a wonderful article, wonderful testament to that person for stopping his vehicle to try to save another human. If we can recognize him at a Board of Selectmen meeting...Chairman Coutu said I'll ask the Fire Chief to make arrangements. I asked him to have him come tonight but I believe he worked his 24 was yesterday. I don't think he'd want to come into a meeting this evening. The Chief said that if they weren't here physically tonight that we are going to make arrangements for a presentation and accommodation from the Board and a small token to show our appreciation.

Steve Malizia indicated that's up to this Board. I am not in the small token department. We will certainly do a certificate but from a token perspective, that's this Board.

Chairman Coutu thought from my perspective based on the events and how the story was written, I think dinner for two would be appropriate so he and his wife can enjoy an evening out as a way of saying thank you.

Selectman Morin agreed wholehearted that he needs to be recognized. The token - being a firefighter and being in those situations, that's now what he did it for. That's not what they expect. I think we're setting a bad precedence. Chairman Coutu stated I don't expect things from Santa Claus but he brings me things just the same.

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman McGrath to withdraw Warrant Article G from the warrant.

Chairman Coutu noted the motion has been withdrawn temporarily.

Selectman McGrath said the other thing that I wanted to mention. The police officer in California that was murdered this week it was especially sad given that he came into this country because he wanted to and he did it the right way. He went into a position where he was working to help people and help his community. For that, he lost his life. He's got a five month old child. Just incredibly sad. It made me wonder and I know that we did it in the past when there were two or three different communities that lost police officers and we sent some people from our police department to attend the funerals. What is our policy for doing something like that whether it's attending or whether it's sending a message from our agencies to the affected communities? Do we have any kind of a policy?

Selectman Morin said it's a department thing. I could tell you both the Police and Fire Department are very active. If it's something that they can drive to within a day, they will always send people. Now where it affects California, then they get into the funding issue and my experience in the past it's been through the Relief Association or the local. It's never been the town. I can tell you that both departments will definitely if they can get there within a certain period of time. I've gone as far as New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania. If they can drive there, they will definitely go. The Fire Department and I know the Police Department too they will supply a vehicle for them to get there.

Selectman McGrath said I wanted to make sure that our community is represented in some way. I thought perhaps they were. Chairman Coutu asked to make a note to ask the Chief to do whatever - send a card from the Town of Hudson. Something of that nature. Selectman McGrath said something of that nature so that our community because I think most people - maybe not all - but most people in this community would want to be represented in some way in an event like that so that that community knows that there are others thinking of them and holding them in their thoughts.

Selectman Routsis asked was the Budget Committee's purpose to put the money in the budget and to keep the warrant article to get them closer sooner to their goal. Steve Malizia said no. The Budget Committee voted to put the equivalent amount that the warrant article raised and appropriated and then put that amount into the budget. Of course after that, they made a motion to not recommend the warrant article. Therefore their intent was not to double down.

Chairman Coutu asked a question because I've never seen it done and I know in days past things have happened at Deliberative Sessions. Can a person get up and remove money from a line item? Steve Malizia said yes. Chairman Coutu said tell her if she's still greedy about that \$9,000 now they want to double up, I'll make a motion to remove the \$9,000 they put in the budget besides the warrant article.

Selectman Routsis didn't know that they knew that the Budget Committee did that to the warrant article because it was done after they left. Mr. Malizia indicated they were notified.

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to withdraw Warrant Article G from the warrant, carried 5-0.

Selectman Coutu - Selectman Morin I want to thank you for the historical articles that you post on Facebook. It's very, very interesting. I enjoy reading every single one of them. I learn more about my neighborhood from one of your articles when we had the fire over on Rita Ave. It evokes - I don't have the history in town that Selectman McGrath or you have. I started working here in the Town of Hudson when George Ayotte bought Ayotte's State Line back in the '70s. Other than coming to the races when I was 18 every Sunday, I always took a trek down Dracut Road. I stopped at Louis convenience store and I had his dirty hands in the candy thing and selling me candy. I'd head right out to the race track. I did that for a couple of years and then I went to work for Ayotte's and then of course my wife and I eventually moved to Hudson. It evokes a lot of memories. A lot of good things have happened as a result of a lot of the work that firefighters did. You always remind us whenever someone dies in the line of duty or is killed whether they're firefighter or police officers, you're always right on top of it. You let us all know about it. I appreciate it. I want you to know that as a reader I enjoy reading those things. I know you know you have a good audience. Thank you for that.

Selectman Morin stated I appreciate that but I can tell you I wasn't interested in the government part but since I've gotten to this position, this Board is doing pretty well compared to the past. I'll tell you that. Chairman Coutu said Selectman McGrath could tell us some history on that. Yes compared to the past, I had some very interesting discussions with some very colorful people who served on some of the town boards and on the Town Council. There's some very interesting conversations I've had with some of the old timers.

Chairman Coutu indicated I did go to the school administrative office yesterday. I want to say that the Superintendent of Schools is very fortunate having Gail as his Administrative Aide. I went home and I said to my wife I said wow she is to the school administrative as you are to us. You're both dedicated. You do an outstanding job. I'll tell you I was treated with so much respect. A lot more than I got from the School Board when I went. Gail - School Board - I'm saying it not School Committee. She corrected me many times. She said wear this rubber band so you'll remember to say School Board. I met with the Superintendent briefly. I met with the Assistant Superintendent briefly. I met with the Deputy Assistant Superintendent in charge of curriculum. We talked about curriculum. That's my major topic. I was treated with a lot of respect. Gail if you're listening, I know you watch some of the Selectmen's meetings, I appreciate your listening to me and I appreciate your courtesies and the same goes to the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. They were very, very good.

Chairman Coutu said my heart goes out to Ed Duchesne. I went to the wake today. I knew Ed. Terry I've known. Their son was a loyal customer of ours for years at both the store on Dracut Road and River Road. She was a wonderful wonderful woman. This happened so quickly. I'm surprised the amount of time I had with Ed tonight but there were a lot of people there which says a lot about Terry, Ed and the family - wonderful people. Ed Duchesne I'm sure you all share with me our sincere condolences to the Duchesne family. I wish them well. He'll bounce back. It was totally unexpected but he'll bounce back and we'll have some great conversations in the near future. I just want to have a shout out to Ed and his family.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:2 (a) Strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining; and RSA 91-A:3 II (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee, carried 5-0 by roll call.

Chairman Coutu entered nonpublic session at 9:10 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 Coutu entered open session is being entered at 9:30 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to hire Christine Strout-Lizotte for the Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector position at a starting rate of \$16.14 per hour, Step 1, in accordance with the Town of Hudson Support Staff Union AFSCME Local 1801 Union Contract, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to hire Jacquie Lemay and Madalyn Persons-Cutting for the "Regular Shift Employee" HCTV Camera Operator positions at a starting rate of \$11.00 per hour, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to hire Lorrie Weissgarber for the position of Administrative Aide in the Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator's office at Step 1, \$17.02 per hour, in accordance with the Town of Hudson Support Staff AFSCME Local 1801 Union Contract, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Martin, to deny the Step 2 Grievance filed by the Hudson Public Works Union, AFSCME Local 1801 for the Class Action Overtime Pay, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman Morin, to deny the Step 2 Grievance filed by the Hudson Public Works Union, AFSCME Local 1801 for the member who was bypassed for a promotion to the position of Parks Foreman, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to deny the Step 2 Grievance filed by the Hudson Public Works Union, AFSCME Local 1801 for the Class Action Parks Foreman Promotion process, carried 5-0.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman Morin, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Executive Assistant.

Roger E. Coutu, Chairman

David S. Morin, Vice-Chairman

Marilyn E. McGrath, Selectman

Angela Routsis, Selectman

Normand G. Martin, Selectman