

**HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Minutes of the May 23, 2000 Meeting**

7:00 - 7:45 Atty.-Client Session

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman E. Lorraine Madison at 7:50 p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Selectman Terry Stewart.

3. **ATTENDANCE**

**Selectmen:** E. Lorraine Madison, Rhona Charbonneau, Shawn N. Jasper (arrived at 7:55 p.m.), Ann Seabury and Terry Stewart

**Staff/Others:** Paul D. Sharon, Town Administrator; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Richard Gendron, Chief of Police; Police Capt. Ray Mello; Frank Carpentino, Fire Chief; Matt St. Laurent, Assistant Fire Chief; Fire Lt. Dave Morin; Fire Lt. Jeff Emmanuelson; Fire Lt. Kevin Blinn; EMS Supervisor Mickey Rudolph; Kevin Burns, Road Agent; Dave Yates, Recreation Director; Atty. Brad Westgate; Jim Peterson; Nancy Regan; John, Derry News; Fidele, HLN; Tim, SUN

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

There were no speakers during Public Input.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

A. From: Steve Malizia, Finance Director

Re: FY-2001 Pavement Marking Program

Refer to: New Business

B. From: Richard Gendron, Chief of Police

Re: Amending Licensing Ordinance

Refer to: New Business

C. From: Frank Carpentino, Fire Chief

Re: Various Items

Refer to: Old Business

D. From: Sewer Utility Committee

Re: Sewer Abatement Applications

Refer to: New Business

E. From: Steve Malizia, Finance Director

Re: Water Utility Backflow Testing Procedure

Refer to: New Business

*Motion by Selectman Charbonneau, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to receive the Correspondence, Items A-E, with appropriate referral carried unanimously.*

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **North Ridge Estates**

Chairman Madison announced that the Board would refer this matter to Legal Counsel for an opinion. It is anticipated that a response will be received in time for the next Selectmen's meeting.

B. **Combined Dispatch Report**

Town Administrator Paul Sharon said RCC Consultants have been working on this. This afternoon, he and the Fire Chief and Police Chief discussed the draft report that was received about a week and a half ago, but they were interrupted by the fire on Riverside Drive. Copies of the report had been previously distributed to the Selectmen. Chief Carpentino said the report contained a lot of information, but whether they combine or not, a decision has to be made. There are staffing issues, personnel/salary/benefits issues, equipment issues, facilities issues, etc., most of which center around the Fire Department. The report clearly states that Fire Dispatch is undersized and understaffed

but it is impossible to fit another person into that area. The Dispatcher is involved with duties not directly related to dispatching that should be sent to someone else. Whether or not Dispatch moves, there will be a space issue. The Town will continue to grow and the Fire and Police Departments will receive more calls for service. If the Town wishes to keep it in the Fire Department, they will have to implement some changes. Combining Dispatch centers will reduce some duplication of effort, but it needs to be addressed, one way or the other.

Chairman Madison said she has a lot of questions concerning the report. RCC prefers combining the centers at the Police Department, but there is a \$900,000 cost associated with doing this. She was shocked to learn that they would have to add on to the Police Station in order to combine. According to the report, the Fire Department's Dispatch Center was very outdated. The Town would spend as much to maintain and upgrade what is already in place as it would to combine the centers at the Police Department. It's a matter of spending money now to save in the long run. Chief Carpentino thought some of the proposed construction costs were underestimated.

Chief Gendron said the report addresses the issue of hiring full-time help as opposed to part-timers, who don't stay, and that increases the cost. When the Police facility was originally designed in 1993, they had a supervisor's office in the third console station to be used for training and backup emergency purposes, but that was eliminated to cut costs. Chairman Madison said if they go to a combined Communications Center, she hoped all of the departments would eventually be included. The report talked about phasing in the equipment over five years. Chief Gendron said in 1988, the Police Department had a new UHS system put in. Last year through grants and the budget, they added a mobile data terminal. The Fire Department's equipment needs upgrading. Mr. Sharon discussed updated numbers on the spread sheet, saying Option 2 is less costly in terms of capitalization, but more costly in terms of added manpower--\$356,860 v \$220,000.

Selectman Charbonneau asked how many other towns in the State, with the same population as Hudson, have combined dispatch. Chief Gendron said Merrimack, Rochester, Lebanon and Portsmouth have combined dispatch. This is a big ticket item, comparable to constructing a building or a road. A decision has to be made to either do that, or to update the Fire Department's center. Combined Dispatch will eliminate a lot of duplication of effort. This afternoon, there was a working fire on Riverside Avenue. If they had Combined Dispatch, it would have turned into a Fire dispatch center very quickly with enough help to handle the three-alarm fire. It's very difficult for one person to handle that. When they get a 9-1-1 call, it gets very difficult. You can't place anyone on "hold," and things are happening quickly.

Chief Carpentino said in order to see what the Dispatcher goes through, people should spend an afternoon in the Dispatch Center. Today, the Dispatcher had to handle the three-alarm call, incoming administrative calls, people at the window, an EMS call and call Mutual Aid, which involved Nashua, Windham, Londonderry, Pelham, the Police Department and all of the Fire Department's units. That's a lot to ask of one person, but the quarters are too tight for more than one person.

Chief Gendron said a project of this magnitude would probably require some workshops to discuss it. Chairman Madison agreed, as they need to make a decision prior to budget time. Chief Gendron suggested they could visit other combined centers. Selectman Stewart asked the Town Administrator to contact the Town Manager in Merrimack to get his feedback on Combined Dispatch. Mr. Sharon said he would.

## **C. Fire Department Items**

### **1) Firefighter Memorial Certificates of Appreciation**

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Fire Lt's. Dave Morin, Jeff Emmanuelson and Kevin Blinn and EMS Supervisor Mickey Rudolph. A special plaque was presented to Lt. Morin, in recognition of his hard work in spearheading the Hudson Firefighters Memorial project, which was dedicated on May 21. Chairman Madison said it was an excellent service.

#### **1. Call Firefighter Testing Update**

Chief Carpentino said the field has been narrowed down to 13. Next Monday night, they will do an orientation. With the exception of one, none of them have previous firefighter experience. They will show them the equipment, how it's used, and let them practice with it. On the 31<sup>st</sup>, they will do the physical agility test. After that, they will do the interviews and background checks.

#### **2. Call Firefighter Hiring Agreement**

Chief Carpentino said some time ago, it was decided to draft a two-year agreement for new

employees, which was reviewed by legal counsel and then implemented by the Town. However, some questions were raised about legalities, so it was sent out to the labor counsel. It appears now that the Town can only recover the cost of the training. In view of that, he asked if the Board still wanted to move forward with this program. Costs, including protective clothing, was around \$65,000. The Town will recover \$350 times the amount of people that go through the class. They will not keep the clothing and equipment the Town pays for because that is Town property. Chairman Madison asked if he would be able to come up with the \$65,000. Chief Carpentino said he could not. Selectman Jasper said the Chief had already made them aware that they would have to find the money in another area. Chairman Madison said that was when they thought they could recoup the costs. Chief Carpentino said the 13 people they have are very motivated and are putting in a lot of time. Some want to make it their career and others are public services oriented. The Board felt that the Chief should move forward with this program as the need is still there.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. FY-2001 Pavement Marking Program**

*Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Charbonneau, to award the bid, as recommended by the Finance Director and Road Agent, to L & D Safety Markings, the low bidder, in the amount of \$16,035 carried unanimously.*

##### **B. Amending Licensing Ordinance**

Chief Gendron said he and Capt. Mello were there to discuss amending Chapter 248 of the Town Code, dealing with licenses and permits. Sports bars come in, then the next thing you know, there is dancing and other types of entertainment, which takes everyone by surprise, but there is nothing to regulate it. They are nuisance issues for the Police Department and they violate the quality of life of nearby residents. They need to have an ordinance in place, governing where they can have dances, the times, how to get officers there, etc. He asked if the Board wanted them to develop such an ordinance, which would need input from Town Council. Chairman Madison and Selectman Jasper thought that was an excellent idea and that most Hudson residents would be pleased to have such an ordinance. Chief Gendron asked if he should wait until July 1 because of budgetary concerns. Mr. Sharon said for this, they could start immediately, as they may be able to implement some things prior to adoption at Town Meeting.

##### **C. Liaison Assignments**

Benson's Madison/Charbonneau

Budget Committee (Member/Alternate) Seabury/Jasper

Cable Committee Charbonneau

CIP Jasper

Chamber Commerce Stewart

HazMat Seabury

HEDCorp Jasper

LEPC Seabury

NRPC Seabury

Nominations & Appointments BOS Chairman

Planning Bd. (Member/Alternate) Stewart/Charbonneau

Sewer Utility Committee Jasper

Solid Waste Study Committee Stewart

Emergency Preparedness BOS Chairman

Departments:

Conservation Seabury

Public Works Stewart

Planning Jasper

Engineering Jasper

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Seabury

Police Charbonneau

Zoning Jasper

Assessing Charbonneau

Library Seabury

Fire Seabury

Finance Jasper

Recreation Stewart

**D. Sewer Abatement Applications**

SUTL-00-18, 1 Megan Drive, #5679, \$25; SUTL-00-19, 34 Rangers Drive, #3477, \$38.10; SUTL-00-20, 166 Central Street, #1259, \$50.01

*Motion by Selectman Charbonneau, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to grant the sewer abatements on S-00-07, as recommended by the Sewer Utility Committee, carried unanimously.*

**E. Water Utility Backflow Testing Procedure**

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to adopt the procedure, as outlined by the Finance Director in his memo of May 15, 2000, carried unanimously.*

**4. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Cable Committee Chairman Coleman Kelly**

Selectman Charbonneau said Coleman Kelly is doing a fantastic job and commended him for all of the hours he volunteers. (Everyone agreed with her.) She especially like the announcements he posts on the local channel and some days he plays classical, some days it's jazz.

**B. MRI Report**

*Motion by Selectman Charbonneau, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to accept the MRI Report, as amended, concerning Planning, Engineering and Zoning, which was conceptually approved by the Board on May 16, 2000 carried unanimously.*

**C. Conservation Easement Deed for Country Woods**

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Charbonneau, to accept the Conservation Easement Deed for Country Woods Subdivision on behalf of the town and authorize the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to sign it carried unanimously.*

**D. State-owned land on Grace Drive**

Chairman Madison asked if the Selectmen are interested in purchasing a parcel 7/10ths of an acre on Grace Drive. Staff consensus reflects that the Town would not benefit in acquiring this land, which does not have direct access to water or sewer.

(Start Tape 1, Second Side)

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to send a letter of reply to the State, indicating that the Town is not interested in purchasing the parcel carried unanimously.*

**E. Setting Curfew at Greeley Street Park**

Recreation Director David Yates said this is an on-going problem. In July, they will be putting the lights on a timer, which will cut down the problem. The neighbors are complaining that kids are playing basketball, with their stereos blasting until 3:00 or 4:00 a.m. on weekends. The Chief suggested that they should create a curfew, consistent with the one on Library Street.

Motion by Selectman Charbonneau, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to place a curfew at Greeley Street Park, Sunday through Thursday, 9:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 10:00 p.m. carried unanimously.

#### **F. Updated Sections of the Personnel Policies**

Chairman Madison mentioned the updated sections of the personnel policies will be on the next agenda.

#### **4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

##### **A. BOS Minutes of May 9, 2000**

##### **B. BOS Minutes of May 16, 2000**

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to accept the Minutes, as presented, and refer to file carried unanimously.

#### **4. COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

05/24 7:00 Planning Board in P/Z Mtg. Rm.

05/25 7:30 ZBA in P/Z Mtg. Rm.

05/25 7:30 Budget Committee at Robinson Road Fire Station

05/29 Memorial Day Holiday--Town Hall closed

06/06 7:30 BOS Meeting in BOS Mtg. Rm.

#### **11. LIAISON REPORTS**

Selectman Jasper said the Town certainly got it's money's worth on the new Highway facility. The contractor and the Highway Department did a fantastic job. It's beautiful and a far cry from Melendy Road. He never thought he'd hear Kevin Burns talk for a half hour straight. It was a nice event, but he wished more people had come out to see it. In 1984/5 when he and Ann Seabury were on the Board, a new Highway Garage was their #1 priority. It's finally done!

Selectman Charbonneau said it was a busy weekend. The new DPW building is beautiful. On Sunday, they were at the Firefighters' Memorial and that was a wonderful event. She thanked Dave Morin and everyone else who put it together, including Selectman Shawn. It was a real community effort, which she appreciated very much. Selectman Seabury said she was upset because the microphone didn't work, but Mr. Dolbec fixed it. The volunteers and firemen did a great job.

Chairman Madison said it was a great weekend for Hudson with the dedication of the Highway Garage and the Firefighters' Memorial.

Selectman Jasper said Lt. Morin contacted the past firefighters and the turnout was tremendous. It was wonderful to see all of the old-timers, with everyone interacting at the station before marching down to the monument; an Old Home Days for the Fire Department. Chief Nutting was there, and George Cate, George Fuller, Jr. The list went on and on, many who are no longer in Town. Bob Cahill, who got an award came up from Florida for the occasion.

#### **5. REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN**

Selectman Stewart wished Harry Chesnulevich a great retirement and thanked him for 44 years of service to the Town.

Chairman Madison said she was glad that Selectman Jasper's blood pressure has gone down, now that she was back. He said he's on medication now.

#### **12. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

Motion by Selectman Charbonneau, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to enter Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) personnel issues and (b) hiring carried 5-0 by roll call vote.

Nonpublic Session was entered into at 8:40 p.m. and was terminated at 9:10 p.m.

*Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to hire the 2000 Recreation Department's summer staff, as outlined by the Recreation Director in his memo, as amended, dated May 18, 2000 carried unanimously.*

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. carried unanimously.*

Recorded and Transcribed by Priscilla Boisvert

Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

**HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

---

**Chairman E. Lorraine Madison**

---

**Rhona Charbonneau**

---

**Shawn N. Jasper**

---

**Ann Seabury**

---

**Terry Stewart**