

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the May 5, 2020 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Morin for the meeting of May 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led Chairman Morin

3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: David Morin, Kara Roy, Marilyn McGrath

Selectman Roger Coutu & Selectman Normand Martin participated remotely from their residences due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Rob Buxton, Fire Chief; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant

Chairman Morin started off by saying, before we start I'd like to read a brief statement to why you're seeing the masks tonight in the Selectmen's Meeting.

"To our residents watching from home, the meeting tonight, and for the foreseen future, will look a little different due to the ongoing pandemic. Recently a face mask policy was put in place in all Town buildings to protect our employees and to limit the spread of the covid-19 virus. The members of the Board of Selectmen, since the beginning of this event, have taken the health and welfare of the Town's residents and our employees very seriously and the Board members and staff, along with many presenters or public coming before the Board, will be required to follow the policy. The Board members in the room will be wearing masks at all times unless speaking on an agenda item or during discussion. As seen in the last few meetings, Selectman Coutu has chosen to attend the meetings remotely and now Selectman Martin will be doing the same.

Also, several Selectmen over the last few days, have received many emails, calls and have had discussions with residents asking if Bensons Park will be reopening. At this time the park remains closed. The Town has in place an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and plan that has been put in place to guide the operations and the health and safety encompassing the Town as a whole. Over the next week a committee of EOC members will formulate a plan on whether the park will reopen or remain closed. The guidelines for the safety of those using the park and what extent the park will be allowed to be used. I must stress that the forming of this committee does not mean the park will reopen. I ask our residents to be patient as the Board of Selectmen have asked for a report on the park to be presented at our May 12, 2020 meeting. We still have a long road ahead of us and we thank our residents for the diligence following the stay home rules, social distancing and personal protective equipment precautions in working together to get us through this. Thank you."

4. NEW BUSINESS

Covid-19 State of Emergency Update - Chief Buxton

Chairman Morin recognized Chief Buxton. The Chief started his update saying, Good evening Mr. Chairman, members of the Board. Privileged to be here again this evening with you. I provided you three documents that we traditionally give you. I gave you the update for the Board of Selectmen briefing this evening, gave you a copy of the expenditures and then a copy of the incident action plan for this week moving forward. Good news, at approximately 4:15-4:30 this afternoon, we received notification that we will receive our first grant application award in the coming week. So that will be coming before the Board for acceptance at the, I'm assuming, 12th meeting. That original grant was put in through the Department of Justice (DOJ) for \$31,000 and it looks like that award got fulfilled. That is a 100% award so that means the federal government is going to fund that 100% so we'll recover some overtime monies that were initially spent during the initial quarantining days and also some additional money for cleaning equipment that will provide for deep cleaning for fogging devices for both interior apparatus and Town owned vehicles. We're very happy to have that one behind us as we move forward. There will be several other funding opportunities that we are exploring through grants management and that has become pretty much a full time job, managing the grant program for reimbursement through the federal government. Different pockets allow for different opportunities and we try to match out projects to make sure we're maximizing the recover for the Town and the taxpayers here in Hudson.

Today in your briefing you will note that we have just over 3.6 million cases within the world. In the United States we have 1.1 million. Probably the biggest concerning factor for us is Massachusetts continues to uptick. The State of New Hampshire has 86 total deaths, they had 86 deaths yesterday. So obviously being a border community very concerned about those efforts. To date we have 2,588 positive cases in the State of New Hampshire. 86 deaths. We have 1,157 cases just in Hillsborough County. So you can see where the density type things take place. We have 55 estimated cases here in Hudson. As we've seen in past weeks a lot of long-term care facilities have been impacted by the covid-19 event. I'm very happy to report that as of today our long-term care facility, Fairview Nursing Home, has no cases and has no positive hits for any employees. They were all tested within the last week as part of that 6,600. So that is outstanding news. Kudos to them. Very early on into this event they shut the doors from visitors, public coming in for entertainment and really took this very serious from the get go.

State of New Hampshire is still targeting 1,500 samplings per week across the State. Later on this evening I'll give you an update on our sampling expectations for May 14 & 15. Obviously Governor Sununu has issued "Stay at Home 2.0". That will also be a piece of the presentation that I think we'll spend some time on this evening.

As of today with good weather comes pressure in regards to social distancing and gatherings. This weekend was no exception as we see larger groups flood to the recreational areas, hiking areas. The Town of Lineborough actually took an action. They have a very popular water feature over there on a hiking trail that was completely overrun this weekend and they have closed it indefinitely because they cannot maintain social distancing and the effects on the community.

We continue to move forward with acquiring protective clothing, specifically for a long term approach to this event as we prepare not just for today or tomorrow but for the long term for this fall also. Additionally to date we have spent \$62,000 in expenses between goods and overtime type expenses.

Weekly goals we continue to push forward with the goals that were developed after the survey last week. We also have established goals to implement "Stay at Home 2.0" in open discussion regarding Benson Park and the Town Hall in regards to how we flex those opportunities to offer services in person. We continue to pursue and identify funding opportunities and implement safe working levels across the board.

Just to give an update regarding sampling, next Thursday and Friday we will be conducting a sampling drive-through located in Hudson. It will take place on the 14th and 15th. It will be two four hour blocks. I need to stress this is a partnership between not only the State of New Hampshire, the Town of Hudson but also the School District. The school nurses have mobilized and are providing a tremendous amount of support. Not only the day of the event, capturing samples, but they have also stepped forward to take care of all scheduling of folks that want to attend. This target for this is at risk individuals, and care takers and will be a pre-registered event that we will start to push out. Samples will be collected through nasal swabs. To give you some highlights to the prequalification criteria, residents will need to meet one of three criteria. 60 years of age or older, they need to reside in a group home, or they need to a caregiver for somebody that has a medical issue. Those types of issues that would push somebody forward on the list will also be inclusive of any mild symptoms that may be associated with covid-19. Additional medical conditions that will be considered would be chronic lung disease and asthma, heart conditions and immune compromised people within the community, along with diabetes. We will start pushing out messaging starting later this week for the targeting of the areas of Town that we believe these folks reside in, that meet these criteria. Again, this is a partnership between several different groups and there will be a hotline to call into to schedule your appointment. It will be a simple drive through event. There will be 150 slots per day. So we're hopeful to collect 300 samples here in Town. Those samples will then be turned over to public health and will most likely go to Lab Corp which is a private testing agency which the State has contracted with.

Chief Buxton went on to say, I would entertain any questions you have on the sampling piece. Selectman Roy then asked, so if there's a demand will it be expanded? Chief Buxton replied, if we fill all 150 slots each day then it would be my impression that we need to continue to do this. Those are the two slots we've been given in the coming week. I will tell you after we go through this episode we'll see what the follow up is and how we get that rescheduled to make that a continuous process. We're looking at running this through the Hills Garrison School parking lot. That provides us a nice loop to come in off of Derry Road, go up and around the school and come back and out and not have any traffic impedence.

Selectman Martin asked the Chief, my question is, have you heard anything with regards to the different strain of covid-19 that they just found? The stronger strain? Do you have any concerns with that in Town? Chief Buxton said, I have not heard any of that information as of yet. The last conference call I got off of was at 4:00 and that was not relayed to us publicly. So I have not heard anything on that as of yet, of a different strain.

Selectman Coutu asked Chief Buxton, Chief, I was in one of not necessarily at the present, favorite stores, this week for a necessity, and again I had employees come up to me and tell me that despite some of the precautions that have been taken, they're very concerned that they can't seem to get a test. And I know that you want to, based on what I just heard you say, that you're going to use the two days for testing and the goal is to do 150 a day and if we get the 300 we might continue the testing. As you I'm sure are aware, I've been pushing for testing now, this is my fifth week, I know that things don't happen overnight. We're going awfully slow. I think the State has been horrible in its response to providing testing equipment and the guidelines to get this done. And I know we need the proper staff to do it and logistically that is a problem. But one of the employees said to me that they were so concerned that they drove down to Lowell because they have a testing center there and the person was denied because they said they were only going to sample those that show some symptoms. I think that's unfair. I think that in reality we have to understand how dangerous this virus is. This virus could be within thousands of people and it just hasn't exploded in the system but we could all be carriers. We're not all going to be. There are a lot of people that more people prove negative than positive. I don't understand, regardless of how many people show up those two days, we don't open up a testing center and allow people to go in for tests. What is your response to that? To which Chief Buxton replied, my response is very simple, that I am coordinating the rules that have been handed down from the State of New Hampshire regarding testing and the criteria that needs to be pushed. We are working with a limited number of sampling tools and as sampling tools come in they are making those available to the public as quickly as they can and this is strictly a supply in demand type scenario. I am not happy that we can't schedule more folks but this is the criteria that was given to

us to work with today and that's why we remain open to scheduling more samplings because we are hopeful to secure more testing tools and capabilities. I agree with you, it is going slow in their moving it out. I think there was some hope on everybody's part when we received the Abbott testing machines, that we would see more pin-prick type testing because that's a 15 minute turnaround. State of New Hampshire, from my understanding, received 15 of those machines and then the initial allotment was 100 test strips. So that did not provide the supplies necessary to be able to utilize that. It's nice to have the machine but if we can't secure the supplies, and that is why you've seen them stick with the sampling of the nasal swab, because that is more readily available. The Public Health lab in Concord can accomplish approximately 150 test per day. The Lab Corp which is a third-party contract the State has entertained, they can work through approximately 80,000. So there is a big shift in the number they can get accomplished with Lab Corp, but it is a supply of gathering the samples and having the tools to do that safely. Those are the challenges. This is no different than some of the PPE concerns we've had over the last 8-10 weeks, and we continue to push and they worked diligently to try to secure more testing supplies. And this is the criteria that we have been given to work with today.

Selectman Coutu responded saying, Chief I want to thank you for your response and I want the people to know that as you stated, Chief Buxton, that despite the emergency management system, the emergency management plan that we in dire need of testing equipment and it isn't because the Town is not pushing for it, it's because the State has been very slow in responding to the requests. I'm sure we're not the only municipality within the State that has made such requests. These concerns are rampant and it's appalling that this crisis has been here since January and here we are the beginning of May and we're still begging for equipment. We have one testing machine and we don't have the equipment to be able to do the tests other than the machine, but there's more to a test than just the machine. You have to have the strips and you have to have the personnel. I understand and I appreciate everything that our Emergency Management Team has done and I thank you for your candid and honest response to my question. Other than that, Mr. Chairman, I'm all set for the time being.

Selectman McGrath asked, are these rapid tests? What's the turnaround? Chief Buxton replied, so after we collect the sample they will take it and determine what is the fastest response to get that done. Right now, our response, unless you fall into a critical area, first responder, nurse, or a source test, they're flipping those in about a 24 hour period. The average test is between 48 hours and three days, somewhere in there. So they're trying to get that out as quickly as they can. There is seven test sites set up from the west, across the north, and back down the east of New Hampshire. We had a testing location in Nashua last week, we'll have one in Hudson next week and they continue to try and set one up over in the Derry area.

Selectman Coutu asked, Chief, did you say they set up 15 testing stations in the northern part of the state? Chief Buxton replied, they set up 7 across from the west and they made a loop, up to the north and back down to the east and then they filled in the bottom with Nashua, Hudson and Derry. Most of the staffing is coming from the National Guard. Down into New Hampshire they're using what is called an MMR group that is a host of volunteers that come down with supplies and work with the local municipalities to get that accomplished to get the testing out as fast as they can. To which Selectman Coutu responded, we're only going to have three in Hillsborough County? Chief Buxton replied, as of today. If I can clarify, those are partnerships with the local municipalities. So we're fortunate. We have staff that is aggressively putting a plan together to get this done when we were given the green light. A lot of communities don't have the support network that we have through our EOC to get that accomplished, or the technical expertise. If you didn't run a fire based EMS system here, locally, and have some of the expertise that you have inside, you'd most likely would not be able to stand this up because you'd be relying on the National Guard to come down and do that. There's a lot of expertise that is gained when you look at folks like Michelle Rudolph who has been with us almost 40 years, and the expertise she brings to the table from the public health standpoint. To all of the paramedics, over 12 paramedics that we have internally, to give us a hand mobilizing this, this is a big effort and a lot of kudos to them for putting that time in. I will tell you they had a conference call today, just with Town staff, between the School, Highway, and Police, School Nurses, you name it, there were a lot of folks involved with that call. I would say there was probably just as many folks on that call as there are for a normal everyday EOC briefing, which is about 25, meeting for an hour trying to figure out how to get the logistical side of this established, so this goes out without

a hitch. We are still in May. You get a day like this weekend where it's 46 out, or you get a day that's raining, it's a long day. And you're talking about folks that are doing the collection of the sampling, that not only collect the sample, secure the sample, then have to de-robe, sanitize and get re-robed to get ready for their next sample. So you start talking about those numbers, they have two very long periods of time that they'll be working very, very hard to get that accomplished. So we are truly fortunate in this community to have that staff and that expertise available to us.

Selectman Roy asked, talking about that, do we have a plan in place to make sure those folks working it have water and food? Chief Buxton responded, yes, that's all part of the logistical piece. And the School has again, I can't say this enough, the School has been a very good partner from come get a key fob, we'll open up the building, whatever you need, making an area available so staff can rest and get recuperated, access to a bathroom, water, those types of things. So we'll get all that stuff established.

Selectman Coutu went on to say, Chief, we're very fortunate that we have you as the face of our emergency management plan. You've been able to pull everybody together. But again, I want to reference your last response relative to testing, and say that obviously somebody at the State level is not paying attention to the numbers. We are going to have by next week, three testing centers in the county that has the most cases. I don't know who's making the decisions at the State level. Whether it's Dr. Chan or the Governor or a group, but they're missing their mark and I'm sorry to say but I feel in greater danger today than I did yesterday, just hearing what you're telling us. The response and the mechanics and the logistics have been too slow in coming and I don't see any hope for the immediate future except for the money and we can talk about the money a little later. But again Chief, I want to thank you and our emergency management team for being the face and the spokes persons for our citizens. You've done an outstanding job and I greatly appreciate it. Chief Buxton replied, thank you for your kind words.

Chief Buxton went on to say, I thought we should break format here, I think one of the things we should talk about is the implementation of what does stay at home 2.0 actually say. What did accomplish immediately? What has it not accomplished? What is it going to provide for opportunity? This emergency order is 45 pages in length. There is a host of guidance that is provided by the State that was put together with stakeholders from the different areas, whether it was retail, medical, barber shops, restaurants, and those types of things. We're trying to identify opportunities to slowly in flex the State open again. So the current order will stay in place through May 31st. Right off to start things off it talks about basically encouraging folks to continue with their current practice regarding stay at home and really continue to work with telecommuting and continue to work with your social distancing and those types of events. One of the things they did secure right off the bat, they reestablished exhibit a, which talks about all of the essential sectors. They continue to move that forward with a list of things as they slowly identify. One of the biggest pieces that they attempted in phase one, as they're calling it, is to provide an opportunity for the hospitals to start to engage in what they might call is alternative surgeries. Whether it's a knee or a hip or whatever you may need to have done. The hospital industry itself, prior to this, was losing \$200 million dollars per month. So they felt the need before we started closing hospitals that they had to be able to provide some sort of relief for them. The guideline for medical facilities and the separation requirements put together by the hospitals, I certainly would not want to try to have to manage. We're talking about separate floors, different wings, different operating rooms, MRI machines, all those types of things, along with the additional cleaning. That really took us through the beginning of where we are today. So as of May 4th they started talking about phasing those types of things in. One of the challenges for them is no different than it is for your fire based ambulance, based on the fact that they need to go out and procure, not only staff and recall staff, but they need to make sure they have all the protective clothing that was pushed out to the surge centers, because they need to continue to keep the surge centers up but now they need to get protective clothing on the back side to basically support the new activities.

Additionally, there was a universal guide that was created for both employers and employees that basically gives guidance and was developed by the business bureau with the Governor's staff in regards to activities that they believe are just good business practice moving forward. A lot of them are not going to be a surprise for you

to hear. Encouraging folks that are not feeling well, to stay home. Self-monitoring stations, which we have. Moving down those paths. I think it's important to note that increased hand hygiene is a big push. There was some question regarding glove usage vs. non-glove usage and what's the impact to that? What they were figuring out is if I'm working in one office in wing a, and I wear a pair of gloves and I don't take them off when I leave the office and go to an office in wing b, I'm just transporting everything that was with me when I'm not hand sanitizing or watching my hands in between there. So that was one of the things we internally had talked about just because we didn't know. You're trying to put out hygiene and critique training requirements for folks so they understand those types of things. Cleaning guidance is probably the most aggressive change I see in business practice in here. They're talking about if you open a counter area or what they're considering to be "high to moderate touch surface" they're requiring that is cleaned every two hours. I think when we think about our little business here called the Town of Hudson, you start talking about how we manage that on a day to day basis with the number of that would be in and out of Town Hall and what that looks like.

Reducing the number of physical interactions. And allowing people to continue to work from home. Something we haven't seen in a long time but reverting back to open top trash cans and not affording folks the opportunity to open a door on a trash can to dispose of a paper towel or a mask or those things. So that is a big piece of increased hygiene that they've pushed out. Starting on the 18th of May, they are going to give an opportunity for the restaurant industry to look at outdoor dining. It is May in New England. It is a very cool time of the year. A rainy time of the year for us potentially. April was one of the coolest Aprils they've had in 20 years. So what is the impact on the restaurant industry? We talked today and one of the questions we clarified with the State Fire Marshal was, if somebody was to increase their outdoor seating area and go through that process could they put up a temporary tent covering over that area? The Fire Marshal's office worked with the business industry to basically identify you could have a roof over the area but you could not put any sides on there because then it becomes an independent structure. Anything over 400 square feet will still require a place of assembly permit. Probably the most aggressive thing within the guidance for outdoor gatherings is the separation between tables. No more than six folks sitting at a table together. They all need to be six feet apart and then the server has to be six feet from the table that they're serving from, other than to pass down food. So if you can visualize this in your head, when you talk about aisles, you're talking about creating aisles that are 12' wide so the server has a place to walk to keep the social distancing requirements. That is going to limit the patrons that have the ability to sit down and eat dinner in our restaurants. Face covering on all staff. Request for face coverings on patrons and continued hygiene increases. That is slated to start on the 18th of the month. All reservation, call ahead, don't wait in line, all of those things need to take place. The bars will remain closed, they cannot open the bars because there's no way to social distance within there. We don't have a public campground in Town, but that is also highlighted in there if you have interest.

One of the things that was pretty tell-tale, what does park management look like and how do we manage parks? They're talking about employees along with consumers, and having signage and social distancing. Not allowing any area for folks to congregate. That means, I'm going to use Benson Park for example, that means that potentially you're looking at the removal of picnic tables, all the benches, all the memorial benches that are in a specific spot because that's where the memorial was set. This is not a very easy process to put together. You're looking at creating an environment where folks can't get on the playground equipment. They can't go in and touch the gorilla cage, the elephant barn, the old woman in the shoe. How do they keep folks away from that and keep them on the trail systems. Not only do we have to do that but we have to be able to provide them hand sanitation on the way out. So hand sanitizer dispensers to make sure as you're leaving, and around the park, you have the ability to keep your hands clean. That's a pretty cumbersome piece when you think about what the potential is for opening up a park in New Hampshire. They're certainly attempting to try to work. The beaches will remain closed. They're trying to work with the interior portion of the State to make sure that there's an opportunity for them to have some recreation, but what does recreation look like? It's going to be much different this coming late spring, early summer. They're also looking and working to identify to open up retail, as of the 11th of May. How do we re-open retail? They want to limit capacity within the stores, so that is going to be an impact on your fire prevention area as they go around and try to identify capacities for the different stores. I'm going to use Market Basket as an example, because I know it's universally set up across the State. They not

only have the 6' wait in line outside the door, they're limiting capacity, they're also now talking about setting up spots so you create a line and you're only going up to the cash register one at a time. What does that look like on a Saturday or Sunday as folks are trying to get their weekly groceries? Additional to that is the cloth mask usage that we've put in place here. All of these guidelines have a requirement and a very strong suggestion for not only staff, but for the folks going to visit those areas, to wear cloth masks. I know we're a border state, so I'll make sure I mention this, Massachusetts has put that requirement in place, in public. My in-laws live in MA, that's a requirement that's out there for them now as they go to the store every day. That is being enforced by their law enforced folks in Massachusetts.

On the 11th we're going to do something that I guess they call golfing, because I don't know how you golf if you can't put the ball in the cup, but they put something out there that you're going to hit the ball, I called the Police Chief today and asked "is that really golfing or is that like hockey on grass?" he enjoys both, so I'm sure he'll enjoy that. But what does the golf season look like for us? It's going to be much different. No renting clubs. One person in a cart, unless it's a family member. 15 minutes in between foursomes moving off. No open dining areas there. They will provide for the ability to have takeout, but you'll call in, drive in pick up your lunch and then out the door you go. Those are all pieces that are built in here.

Barber shops and salons will open on May 11th. I'm very thankful for that. I look forward to the opportunity to get a haircut, but at the same token, that industry, the guidance was developed by them. They're talking about putting separation in between stalls. So if you go to a barber shop that has more than one person cutting, how do they set up a barrier between, not only the person getting their hair cut, and the barber himself will have a face mask on to take care of those things. There's no blow drying of the hair. This is going to look different for a while, Again, all by scheduled appointments.

They're also going to provide the opportunity for mobile movie theaters to open up. I think Milford is the last one in this area. They'll get that available for the summer months.

The reopening committee continues to meet daily, 3-5PM that is between those meetings and Gopher you can only take so much of that in a day because everybody is coming in trying to prove that they're essential and what does that look like? My biggest concern, I've expressed this to the Town Administrator, is if we don't play by the rules and we don't encourage the social distancing and we have further increases of the cases in the State, then we're going to see this go the opposite direction. I don't mean to play the Debbie Downer card, but the reality is we need to be good students of the system and work within what we're doing and really stay diligent and not get complacent for how we're going to be able to continue to get back to post covid-19 life. What does that look like long-term? So, I'm certainly open to any questions if anybody has any, but that would be the 2.0 conversation for this evening.

Chairman Morin asked the Board if they had any questions. Selectman Coutu said he was having some breakout at the end of the Chief's remarks. He went on to say, Chief, I want you to clarify something for me, I just don't want our golfing fans out there in Hudson, misled. My understanding of golf privileges is for private clubs only. Which would mean that Nashua Country Club, unless you're a member, you can't play golf until further notice. The Governor has not lifted the sanctions on golf courses, public courses. Has he changed that? Chief Buxton replied, so public golf courses will open to New Hampshire residences only. Selectman Coutu then said, okay, on May? Chief Buxton responded, May 11th. Selectman Coutu reiterated, public courses are open to the public on May 11th, but only New Hampshire residents. Okay, I'm hoping they're going to monitor that. Relative to other measures, I know Benson Park, I was anxious to push ahead this evening and request that the Board support me in opening Benson Park, but after having an extensive discussion with the Chairman, all I was thinking about was protecting the use of the playground and not having ever youngster and adult going in and out of there touching everything. But after tonight's explanation, the logistics are a lot more difficult. I hope the citizens understand that now that you've given that explanation. And that they understand that it may be a while before we can accomplish all of the tasks that you say need to be done in order to open that area so that it is safe to the public. I encourage our citizens. We have many trails, we have conservation land, we have

a State Forrest. There are places they can go and there are trails that were well built and structured for viewing pleasure by the Conservation Commission, which I appreciate greatly and I hope people take advantage of that. So now that you've cleared up the question on the golf courses, thank you so much Chief, once again.

Chief Buxton said, the only other thing I want to offer this evening is the funding for recovery money is a full time job. It is the different pots of money being identified and what we can actually utilize them for, seems like a lot of money but a very narrow within the scope. I had a conversation with the Finance Director tonight and she said "if you need any more assistance with this", I joked with her and said, on a week when you're pulling your hair out because you're trying to figure out which bill goes with which grant, let me know how it's going. Because it really is going to be a very cumbersome piece. This goes back to some of our planning on the front end of this, identifying costs right up front, what are we spending for money, put it in a pot, Cpt. Mimone and Cpt. Bianchi sit down every day and look at the list and say, hey, this matches this area, let's get this pulled together. Getting tonight's grant behind us really gives those guys a boost of now we know we're we can go with some of this? We're attempting to spend money that is 100% reimbursable to the community first. Before we go down the public assistance grant project which is only still at 75%. They're projecting that that will move to 100% funded also. But right now that's at 75%. We're trying to make sure we're maximizing, from a strategic standpoint, make sure we're making sure we get the best amount of money back for the community. There are expenses. Some of them are going to be long-term expenses. How do we identify protective clothing needs for the fall? Yesterday they made an announcement, they're making \$40 million available specific to grant projects, to improve infrastructure within municipalities. Because we're not going back to business as usual. We're going to have separation from this point forward. We talked about it today. How is the air getting cleaned? How is all those things taking place? How are we identifying that, not just in this building, but in all the municipal buildings throughout Town? The School has a different funding mechanism that will provide some relief. The suggestion was made by Selectman Roy today, is there any opportunity for us to partner and try to get some better pricing on some of these projects? That's a great opportunity to leverage money in a different way. We'll research that and get that pushed together. Every night you turn on, there's a different grant funding becoming available. With every funding that's coming up, to a certain extent, they're flying the ship and trying to build the plane at the same time on certain things. So you get an award that's announced where the Federal Government is pushing out money, but there's no guidance on the back side. So we're catching up on the guidance and the training now to make sure we're highlighting the right areas. We're working. I know tonight we had \$62,000 spent, we recovered a little over \$30,000 today, good start, but we have a lot of work to do. We do have some expenses that I think will be coming down the road. I just wanted to bring that up.

Selectman Coutu asked, Chief, I read a 40 or 45 page document today, that revealed that the State of New Hampshire has received or will receive an allocation of \$32 million, of which, based on population, we're going to be eligible for 1.88% of that money or an equivalent to \$600,661 dollars. I believe that we're not necessarily going to get the amount that would be allocated by population percentage, the \$600,661 dollars. As I understand that document, that money is going to be based on our expenses, or did I miss something when I read it? Chief Buxton replied, that announcement came out this afternoon through the Municipal Association, I have not seen that as of yet. I don't know if the Administrator has seen that, we saw the announcement, but we did not review that or digest that yet. We also got, while we're on that type of funding, the CARES Act also provided an opportunity to collect a stipend from the Federal Government regarding ambulance revenue. That is to be spent specially on covid events and try to inclusively, help with recovery of costs. Including if you transport a patron and they don't pay their bill, they've given you an opportunity to leverage that money and put back in that account. Along with some additional EMS monies to spend those things on. So I don't have that dollar figure yet, but that is also coming out from the CARES account. Everything else is grant based at this point.

Selectman Martin said, you mentioned about KC and all the tracking of the funding, all the funds going out with regards to this covid-19, was there any discussion amongst you all, to give her other assistance besides the two captains? Chief Buxton replied, two different pieces, all the PO's get cut by the individual departments and we set up an excel spreadsheet that they get that reported into and then the two captains working in grants management actually take care of all the logistical work, putting the narratives together for the justifications,

Erika takes care of the submission. So there's a process to make sure we're dealing with those pieces. As things ramp up, I certainly offer her the opportunity as we get to the point we're paying bills in accounting for things, to see what she needs for assistance, for sure. Because I think as programs get leveraged with a more rapid pace, they'll be an opportunity that she'll need some assistance in accounting potentially.

Selectman Roy asked, so some of the more involved infrastructure, projects like air filtration, those types of things, do we apply for those grants up front? Chief, yes, Selectman Roy, what would we have for a time period to put a plan together? Chief Buxton responded, so what we set for a goal today was they identified the \$40 million yesterday, I emailed the Administrator and the command staff for the EOC this morning saying hey, I think we need to get aggressive on putting a plan together to deal with fresh air makeup, air filtration within all the Town's facilities, and separate out our counter spaces. What we agreed upon it, we put a plan to identify costing, before the end of this week, so we can get our grant application written and get on the front end of the awards. The grant will most likely be open for a 30 day period, for applications alone, we want to get our application in on the front end. They're not waiting to start review when the applications are going in, they're also being considered for awards. We want to maximize our ability to actually get our award on the backside. So that's why it's important to get the pricing gathered quickly. Have folks that can mobilize quickly and get it put into a narrative and have them specifically working on those types of things to get us a better opportunity to leverage.

Selectman McGrath said, the grant process, I know can be difficult and time consuming. Can NRPC help? Chief Buxton said, that is one area I have not reached out to, but I will put it on the list of opportunities. Selectman McGrath said, I think you should probably look into that because I think that they can help and if not, maybe the municipal association too. I've never tried to do anything with grants, but I do know it's a difficult and very time consuming process. Chief Buxton replied, we are fortunate that they are actually utilizing the FEMA process for the grant piece because both the Police and Fire Departments have extensive experience in writing those types of grants and carrying the information over. So that is specifically how we hand-picked Captain Mimone and Captain Bianchi for that task because they both have pretty extensive experiences there. As good grant management people they also identified a bunch of They all couldn't be here tonight due to the situation but they asked me to bring it forward to have this Board except this donation. Hopefully something on Memorial Day we can set something up to at least fly one and have some sort of limited ceremony with the flags. The cost of the flags they are donating is \$1,300. Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to accept the flags with great thanks. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Chairman Morin asked if anyone had anything else that was not on the agenda. Selectman Coutu said, relative to the flags, Chairman Morin, and I believe this would be a consensus item, rather than a motion, I'd like to send a letter to each group thanking them, signed by you, the Chairman. The group agreed that this should be done.

5. SELECTMEN COMMENTS

Selectman Coutu- first of all I want to wish all the mothers out there a Happy Mother's Day, it's this Sunday. We won't have another opportunity before then. I'm very proud of the citizens of Hudson. Almost everywhere I've been I see NH cars and I see people exiting the cars. For the most part they're all wearing face masks. It's a little different with cars coming in from out of state, mostly from Massachusetts, they're not wearing face masks. From the Police Department and my notes from the Chief, they have been very very busy at the Police Department. They made several arrests over the weekend. Just so you're aware, one person in the Police Department is still on quarantine as a result of the corona virus epidemic. I don't think the officer has the corona virus but they were in contact with someone who was. So they're going through the 12 day quarantine I think that will work out fine.

I have a questions, I went into Town Hall this Saturday as I usually do, I walked in and used the check-in, took my temperature it was 98 so that's good, but my question is do we as Selectmen

have to fill out one of those slips? I failed to do it both entering and exiting the building. Chairman Morin explained that the Selectmen have been filling them out. Selectman Coutu said, okay then I will start doing that as well.

Selectman Coutu went on to say, this is my last remark so people aren't caught off by surprise. This Sunday, Memorial Day, from 12-10, starting at my parish, St. Kathryn's Church, our good pastor, there will be a procession of vehicles leaving the church, traveling through Hudson mostly up Lowell Road. For those of you who are Christians, this will be the exposition of the body of Jesus Christ. He will be going with Deacon Ray Marcotte who's very familiar to us all.

Selectman Martin - I did attend the Board of Trustees meeting last Wednesday. They are paying all their full time employees as we are and they are also paying their part time employees through the end of May. Then they're going to reconsider. They're working on plans directed by the Governor how to reopen the library in the coming weeks.

Just one thing I'd like to say to the Chief if he's still there that you're operating the EOC and you're doing a wonderful job. You and your team. Sounds like everything is going fairly well. Plus the two Captains. Captain Mimone and Captain Bianchi doing all this work behind the scenes that nobody sees. But we do hear about it. I think the EOC is running pretty smoothly and keep up the good work and thank you for keeping us safe.

Selectman McGrath - Just a couple of things. We've all received emails over the last week or so concerning Benson's. Mr. Chairman, you spoke about that earlier. I have not responded to any of the emails because I want to be careful about how I respond and getting the correct information. For those people who have sent emails concerning Benson's and also those that have sent emails concerning the development on Green Meadow Golf Course, particularly that one, I am not going to respond to any of those emails. Because I serve as the alternate liaison to the Planning Board, any comment I could make or would make might cause the applicant or anyone else to request that I recuse myself because they might think that I prejudged the case and that is not so. In any event, for those that are writing emails, I do read them, I just cannot respond to them at this time. That's all that I have.

Selectman Roy - I just again want to thank all the employees of the Town for their efforts and their patience. And for all the citizens, this period has made me proud to be part of this community. I don't think I can say that enough.

Chairman Morin - I just want to echo everybody's comments. We are doing very well for our community with the EOC and everybody's time and the Chief's work, we are doing very well. Again, compared to some of the other communities, we're doing extremely well. So I just want to thank everybody, all the employees and the residents. Especially now that it's getting warm. I took a ride by Robinson Pond on Sunday and it was packed. Everybody was out in boats. I know people want to get out there but please, just use safety and use your head while you're out there. Make sure nobody gets sick.

The other thing is, I would like to thank the Rec Department. They had an outstanding food drive on Sunday. They collected two trailers full of food. The Food Pantry had put it away today and we're going to give them some final numbers on a weight but there was a ton of food that was donated. As I stopped over the Rec Center today, they have a whole other car load that came in afterwards that we're going to pick up tomorrow. It worked very well and we very much appreciate the residents helping out.

Last thing I've got is as of last year the American Legion started the Field of Flags on the Common. They are going to do that again this year. They're going to set it up on the 16th of May. There will only be five of

them working on it to get it done to stay within the guidelines. But they thought it was very important and it meant a lot to the Town last year and they want to boost some spirits as much as possible so they will be doing that project again. And I understand that they added a large amount of flags this year so it should really add to the park.

6. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Roy seconded by Selectman McGrath, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Chairman Morin entered Nonpublic Session at 7:53 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 Morin entered open session at 8:23 p.m.

Selectman McGrath made a motion seconded by Selectman Roy to allow the Police Chief to call back two part time crossing guards to assist with traffic flow at the upcoming covid-19 testing dates in Town. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Roy. A roll call vote was taken, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant

David S. Morin, Chairman

Kara Roy, Vice-Chairman

Marilyn E. McGrath, Selectman

Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

Norman G. Martin, Selectman