

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the October 03, 2023 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Vice-Chairman Morin the meeting of October 03, 2023 at 7:12 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Fire Chief, Scott Tice

Vice-Chairman Morin addressed the audience saying, for everybody at home, I'd like to apologize. We were running a little late tonight and that's why the meeting is starting a late.

3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Dillon Dumont, Bob Guessferd, Dave Morin

Chairman McGrath and Selectman Roy are both excused. Vice-Chairman Morin then said, Chair Chairman McGrath asked me to let everybody know she is on the mend and she expects to be back very shortly.

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Tad Dionne, Police Chief; Dan Moulis, Superintendent of Schools; Jay Twardosky, Public Works Director; Scott Tice, Fire Chief; Jim McIntosh, Director of Community Media; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant and Craig Putnam, Karl Huber, Alex Woodyard and Kate Messner of the Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee

4. PUBLIC INPUT - there was no one public input.
5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS - none
6. CONSENT ITEMS

Vice-Chairman Morin asked if anyone had any item they'd like removed for separate consideration? Selectman Guessferd asked that item 6E-2 be removed. Selectman Dumont asked that item 6E-3 and 6E-4 be removed for separate consideration.

*Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to approve Consent Items A, B, C, D, E1 & E2, & F. Carried 3-0.*

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said just the meeting minutes of September 12<sup>th</sup>, I was not present, so I'm going to abstain. *Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2023. Carried 2-0-1, Selectman Guessferd abstained.*

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said so I wasn't on the Board during those times. I'll be abstaining. Selectman Guessferd then said, just to comment on that, I was not on the Board either. However, I think if two of the three of us, we're not going to be able to approve those minutes or not. Vice-Chairman Morin said so we don't have to abstain if you weren't there. The Town Administrator said, we don't have to do them tonight. Vice-Chairman Morin replied okay so we'll just put them off until the next meeting when we have a full Board. Selectman Guessferd replied yeah, I think that's probably the best thing to do.

A. Water/Sewer Items - none

B. Licenses & Permits & Policies

1) Pole License - Eversource - One (1) Pole on Dugout Road

C. Donations

- 1) Pallet Racking from Life is Good to Hudson Fire Department
- 2) Three Airdyne Bikes (used) from Best Fitness, LLC to Hudson Fire Department
- 3) \$200 to the Recreation Department from Eagle Scout Kenneth Chafe of Troop #20

D. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of September 05, 2023
- 2) Minutes of September 12, 2023
- 3) Minutes of October 22, 2020

F. Calendar

10/04	8:30	Highway Safety Committee	BOS Meeting Room
10/04	7:00	Budget Committee	Buxton Meeting Room
10/09	-	Columbus Day	Town Offices Closed
10/09	7:00	Cable Utility Committee	HCTV Meeting Room
10/10	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on September 12, 2023

1. Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to promote John Dowgos to the position of Traffic Technician at Grade XIV, Step 4, \$31.22 per hour, in accordance with the Hudson Public Works Employee contract. This promotion will be effective September 17, 2023. Carried 3-0.
2. Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to authorize the Public Works Director to advertise for a truck driver/laborer. Carried 3-0.
3. Selectman Morin made a motion to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. This was seconded by Selectman Dumont. Carried 3-0.

B. Public Hearing- Town Code Ch.317 Vehicles and Traffic - Memorial Drive

Vice-Chairman Morin recognized Police Chief Dionne, Superintendent of Schools Dan Moulis and Memorial School Principal Keith Bowen. Chief Dionne began by explaining, So on August 3rd, we came before this Board to ask to restrict access on Memorial Drive from Thornton Road to Central Street from the Times of 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through school hours and or school days whenever the school functions. So the purpose of that was or the history behind that was Principal Bowen and the Superintendent had come to me and suggested that they're having a lot of problems with traffic that has nothing to do with schools. I mean, my experience, I've personally witnessed that we've had some complaints for vehicles coming the wrong way. With actually no school business because Memorial Drive is a, is a one way, and maintained by the town. And we've also we've also seen well, there's pedestrian traffic there. The students, students biking around, etcetera. There's no sidewalks that actually run from Central Street to the front of the school so that that would place pedestrians in an area that could be on the road, shoulder or on the, on the roadway, too. And when we see traffic come through there, that really has no school business, we we thought the best idea was to take it to the Highway Safety Committee. We took it to the Highway Safety Committee and they've also recommended that we come to the town and ask to restrict access to that roadway between 7:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. And on August 3rd, we had asked for a public hearing and the Board has had held the original one already. And this is the second public hearing.

Vice-Chairman Morin asked, anybody got any questions before we open the hearing? Selectman Dumont and Selectman Guessferd did not have any questions at this time. Vice-Chairman Morin addressed Superintendent Moulis and Principal Bowen asking, you guys like to add anything? Dr. Moulis replied the only additional information, just to mention is that during different times of the day, there's also commercial traffic that goes through Memorial Drive, various trucks, again through Google Maps. Other map features. Principal Bowen has indicated that again, when school is in session and even before the school day officially starts, there is some commercial traffic that does utilize that road. So that's why we're also seeking to restrict the access during school hours. Vice-Chairman Morin replied, Okay. Thank you.

Vice-Chairman Morin opened the public hearing at 7:20pm and asked, anybody in the audience like to speak at the hearing? Seeing none. I'll close the public hearing at 7:21 p.m.. Anybody have anything else they'd like to add? If not next meeting, we will take the vote, official vote. Thank you.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Hudson Community Power, Power Procurement - Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee

Vice-Chairman Morin recognized Craig Putnam of the Electric Aggregation Committee. Mr. Putnam began by saying, Good evening, Craig Putnam, 19 Rangers Drive. I'd like to start our workshop by first introducing the other members of the Electric Aggregation Committee. With me tonight are Kate Messner, Alex Woodyard and Karl Huber. The fifth member of the committee, Chris Thatcher, is unable to join us tonight due to a prior business engagement. I'm quite sure you are tired of listening to me go on about electric aggregation, so I'm going to ask the other team members to come up now and further introduce themselves. I think it's important that you hear from them directly. This has been and continues to be a team effort and I want to thank them publicly for all the work they have done in getting us to this point. So with that, I'll have them take over the presentation and I'll retire to the back of the room. I'll pitch in as needed. As the workshop progresses, I expect that will be mostly during any Q&A that follows their presentation. Thank you.

Okay. I'm first up. My name is Kate Messner. I'm sales administrator or a sales support specialist at TM Technologies in Salem. We are a manufacturing company that manufactures specialty computer chips and substrates, ceramic substrates. The some of the computer chips go down to the size of a fleck of glitter, cost a dollar or two apiece and are ordered in the tens of thousands at a time. The substrates get much more sophisticated and much larger multiple layers and can go up to like \$2,000 a piece going into things like anti-radar and radar and fighter jets and hypersonic missiles that can go across the country in minutes and things like that. I've been at this job six and a half years, and prior to this job I've worked at other high tech companies. One of them made Fourier transform infrared spectrometers, which are analytical instruments used to determine molecular structure of compounds. Cryogenic equipment. And we didn't freeze any heads. It's just that that's used for fundamental research for measuring materials at ultra-low temperatures like Kelvin temperatures. Industrial lasers, which are capital equipment used in production lines for things like precision marking of parts, for example, like our company has now. In these roles, I've learned new difficult concepts and skills, and I'm challenged by that in my profession. I've been in Hudson since 1996 and decided a few years ago that with my kids grown and my career on track, I would give back and join the Sustainability Committee. And that led me to the Electric Aggregation Committee, and I enjoy serving on both and look forward to continuing to do that. And Karl is next.

Good evening. My name is Karl Huber, 23 Clearview Circle. And basically I have been in the high tech software world for 35 plus years. Primary goal is managing global strategic partnerships as far as system integrators, distributors. Et cetera. And that was going right internationally based from start to finish, from vetting the partners criteria, making sure that they can meet my program requirements. And then once they signed up and met the requirements, manage the relationship right through from start to finish, sales

training, product knowledge, sales, calls, etcetera. I've also been involved in a town I've recently moved into Hudson recently, 2020 came from Dunstable, Mass, where I sat on the Sustainability committee, the Master Planning Committee, as well as running the Dunstable Water Department for 21 plus years. In moving into Hudson, as with as Kate said, I wanted to bring forward and stay involved. That's why last year I applied for a job with the Municipal Utility Committee. Came in front of this Board recently, has been part of that committee, working diligently on those plans, and then was also asked to join the HEAC committee, getting involved in developing a partnership for the town for our residents. So I feel my experience in that kind of customer facing, listening, working one on one developing relationship has been a very exciting environment for me. So I want to continue with forward looking forward to working with the team and bringing a successful campaign to the community. Alex.

My name is Alex Woodyard, 14 Pasture Drive. I'm an engineer by trade. I've been at Draper in Cambridge for eight years doing system integration and analysis for a variety of projects, mostly centered around unmanned aerial vehicles. I also work doing system analysis and design verification and compliance activities supporting our nation's strategic deterrent on the guidance system for the submarine launched ballistic missile.

Mr. Woodyard went on to say, by way of the agenda tonight, we're going to, we've just completed the introduction, but we'll talk a brief history about community power in Hudson and then go through the selection process that we marched through this summer, present a comparison of the partner candidates and then in conclusion provide two recommendations for the Board.

Ms. Messner explained, so this is really an overview of the efforts of the Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee since November of 2021, looking into the feasibility of bringing power, Hudson Community Power to the town for the purpose of lowering the rates, increasing rate stability and increasing renewable options for those who choose them. The next slide is a reiteration or review of many of you have seen it before. I won't spend too much time on it, but it's basically just the supply and delivery sections of the bill of an electric bill. The supply side is what would change. The default supplier would become Hudson Community Power, as you see in the top right there, the rate would change. Of course, everything you see under that in the delivery section would not change. That's Eversource. The transmission charges, the stranded cost charges, all those things would not change. Eversource would still be the owner of the power, the poles, the wires, the transmission. They would still do the billing. And if the power were to go out, they would be the ones taking care of it. The next slide is just a graphical presentation of what we've been up to.

We formed the Committee and attended workshops and conferences, talked to other towns, learned about Hudson Community, learned about community power, did our research, developed an aggregation electric aggregation plan, presented it to the town in two public hearings that was voted on by the Board in December and put on the ballot. The Hudson voters approved the ballot, approved the warrant article by nearly 4 to 1 margin, and that was in March. And we're now up to the star part there of implementation. There are several steps that would need to be taken, choosing a procurement partner, adopting their policies and agreements, negotiating the rates, continuing to educate the public. It's important to note there that the Hudson Electric aggregation plan was approved by the PUC, the Public Utilities Committee, just a few weeks ago, September 18th, without incident, and where it says launch there everything. If everything were to go perfectly smoothly, the earliest would probably be around February. But there are sweet spots in the energy markets and February is one and after that would be spring of '24. Karl will take the next couple of slides.

Mr. Huber began by saying so as you saw in our timeline, we had to start a selection process. So we went through a lot of due diligence. We talked to a couple of communities already involved in wave one of this project, and the biggest thing that we needed to find out was a short list of the partners that we can talk to. There are many partners out there that are involved in this sort of campaign. A lot in Massachusetts. We needed to focus on New Hampshire, so we identified three main partners, especially servicing the New Hampshire area. And then what we did was we developed a set of questions that we wanted to inquire about the company background or their familiarity, their past track record, how they do business, how they

set rates, do they do any kind of analysis so we could do some trend setting, Et cetera. So we drafted up a lot of those criteria. We passed those out to the prospective partners so they could prepare their presentation, that they would come into a Sustainability Committee meeting and present the presentation answering those criteria. So we did speak to them. And in parallel along the way, we still had conversations with Nashua, Peterborough, Londonderry, Keene, other communities already involved in that wave. One of the aspect we Hudson are going to get more involved in the wave two. So we're doing a great timeline as far as our homework, preparing this sort of a workshop, educating the community, the residents. Et cetera. So we did go through a ranking period. We put a set of rubrics together that outlined a lot of criteria based on how we, the members of the HEAC, would look at those and score those. Each of those partners, we weighted their responses and how they fit into those categories and we essentially came up with three and then we decided on independently, what we found is all of those factors just came together with the one common denominator.

Mr. Huber continued saying, so the next slide is very important. I believe, Jill, you shared a lot of this information with the Board. What we did was we identified the three partners. Community Power is a non-profit organization. Standard Power and Freedom Energy are what you consider broker partners. And we'll go through those comparisons and specific criteria of those later on. But I urge everybody to go and look at a lot of this content because that last column is when they presented at the Sustainability Committee. So Community Power was in May. Standard Power came in front of us in April and Freedom Energy came in front of us in March. So we've been doing a lot on this project ever since the February time frame. So the next slide give you some idea of comparing the supplier partner candidates. The business models are so, so different. There's really no common denominator or common criteria that those companies put their business models together. So we try to do as best as we can compare and contrast on all three.

The brokers by themselves are so different. They're so different amongst each other. So Freedom and Standard Power are so different, just as how they do rates, how they work with other communities like Hudson, how they go and have a customer service aspect of their business. Et cetera. CPCNH a non-profit does a whole different business model from their rates to their terms and conditions. Et cetera. But as you'll see later on, there's a very valuable asset that they bring forward compared to the brokers. Like I said earlier, the rubric was developed that really identified the criteria and we could share that. It was a lot of information. There was a lot of criteria. Those partners came back with a lot of information that we as the HEAC team try to take our own individual view and perspective on. So it was a very important task and it took some time.

So next slide, here's a simple model of the legacy broker model trend. They develop the source, they send the electricity to us, the community, the monies go back to them. But you can see as that blue arrow points, the profit goes all to the shareholder of that partner community. So it's a different it's a, we have to be so cognizant on how we capture that revenue stream and how we work it into our overall budget as a town. The next image is where the nonprofit rolls in same diagram, the source, the electricity coming into the community, the money going out. But the biggest differentiator here is that savings/reserve arrow going back to us. Basically, in short, working with the vendor, that's a nonprofit or the partner that's a nonprofit. Everything that we build from rates, everything that we build from trending to see the analytics, we can set a rate for the town, but there's a reserve fund that also allows us to put a little bit more cents per kilowatt hour in to what we charge to save for a rainy day, to save for renewable energy, to save for other projects that may come along. There's another caveat to that that says there's a community specific adder that we could put in for a reserve fund that's totally Hudson. That's monies that we can work on for a stormy day, for an emergency, etcetera. It's a, it's a model that we would have to go through a little bit more. But the Community power presentation, Henry Herndon really laid out a lot of good input on just that funding. I think, Bob, you were with us during that meeting and that caught all of our attention, that reserve fund. You know, it's there's money that are coming back to we the town and the community of Hudson, both private and commercial. That I think is a very important factor for us looking forward.

Mr. Woodyard began the next segment of the presentation saying, So I'm going to talk now a little bit about some of the specific factors we looked at as we were comparing these partners. You see them all listed here, energy cost, contractual risk to town, additional administrative burden, quality of customer support,

price stability, green power availability, complexity of business relationships, support for net metering, avenues for funding, local projects, supporting green energy, the nimbleness of their their specific power procurement process, the transparency of operations and partner collaborations. Really, we looked at all of these and trying to come up with a decision. Some of these, just the way the statute is written, are almost guaranteed to be a wash. I believe the statute specifies that there's no added administrative burden on the town. So all of these all the scores across all three partners are the same there.

So I'll describe a little bit more about the rubric. So this this tool we use is an idea I had where it's used in engineering to basically come up with a comparison where there's no apples to apples comparison possible and you can't perform a quantitative analysis due to the fundamentally different business models. We we felt we couldn't do a quantitative analysis, which would have been ideal but just not possible given the differences in the business models. So as a result, we kind of had to do a qualitative comparison where we compared the three to each other. In this exercise, we had to choose a baseline and given that CPCNH offers a significantly different business model, it was chosen as the baseline. Not that it was better or worse, but it was just chosen as a baseline and a data point. And so as a result we ranked the two respective brokers against CPCNH. The scores we gave them were either range in integers from minus two to plus two minus two being much worse plus two being much better. And then we weighted each of the factors I just listed. One, Two or Three. One is less important, three being very important. The results of that exercise again showed a clear winner. Both brokers scored, I would say significantly below CPCNH, and as a result, HEAC is recommending Hudson partner with CPCNH.

Mr. Woodyard continued saying, so this graph just shows a quick comparison of the CPCNH rates versus the default Eversource utility rates for the current period for Eversource, which is 8/1 through 1/31 of next year. Rough math is in aggregate Hudson customers would save between \$550,000 and \$600,000 assuming everyone defaulted to the Granite Basic plan in aggregate, over these six months. The average household, this is the bottom right cell of that table would see a savings of \$60 to \$80, depending on their usage. Stepping one step back. The commercial and industrial or C&I customers also would see savings in this plan depending on their specific negotiation and their their contracted rates with their providers. They could see somewhere in excess of \$200,000 of savings over the six month period. So total we could see as much as \$800,000 in savings per six months over the current Eversource rates. And again, these are all aggregate numbers.

Mr. Huber then said, so we did some follow up to the broker partners. And essentially we posed the question, as you can see there, suppose Hudson had agreed to partner with your company and you were going to provide us with a contract for power procurement and related services starting on August 1st. What would the rates be and for what period of time? So it was interesting because both partner candidates provided a set of assumptions that was very broad. They really came across in so many different aspects, and based on their answers, the assumptions were so different. You know, Freedom, Electric, more detailed than STP, you know, Standard Power. And we're, of course, not identical. The details of most, but not all of those assumptions are in the slides that we have in the backup deck that we provided. But they're so, so interesting. We didn't get that one fixed answer because there were so many well, what ifs. What if this? We don't have Hudson's data, we don't have Hudson's price points yet. So we essentially just captured what you saw here as some numbers that they provided to. So the next slide is a quick snapshot of some rate comparison. As you can see, the left hand column, the first or the the third green circle. FEL is Freedom Electric. So that's what represents their numbers. The one below that is Standard Power. On the right naturally, we based the Eversource number in that chart and then right below that is Keene. Keene is working with CPCNH so we wanted....Ms. Messner interjected saying, no. Standard Power. Mr. Huber replied, Standard Power. I'm sorry. Mr. Huber continued saying, So we wanted to at least show a rate from one of the communities that are working with one of the partners.

Now, this chart is a segment of a larger chart that, again, is a part of the backup deck. It's a larger chart that really talks to a bunch of other identifiers. But this summary piece is a part of that and you'll see that when you take a reference. So this slide is really important and it's really carrying a lot of information. So source is that red dashed line starting on the left and as you can see, it increased in. Let's see, let me make sure that I can see they hit their first marker in February 2022. That's that one highlight point. Then it really

increased up in August of 2022, and then it started to flatten out or decrease down the start points of those downward pointing lines. That's when the whole program started for Community Power. So you can see the green dark green line is CPCNH Clean Energy, Clean 50, Clean 100. So it started in February of 2023, and as of September it dropped significantly. The solid green line, same thing. If you look at the lighter green line right below it, all of the rates are decreasing. That shows a good trend. The other one is the Granite Plus program, which is the solid blue. And then the other one is the Granite Basic program is the red. So all of those program options are seeing a significant decline as far as the rate which is on a good trend. So we're coming up to the end of that quarter and pretty much we're only looking at to the end of December 2023. We're not going to go any further. But if this is an indication of how the rates are going to be playing out, it looks like we're in pretty good shape as we forecast forward. And if we stand up or when we stand up, Hudson Community Power, we should be working in a very good rate for the community with the reserve funds and everything else from a fiscal financial perspective. And again, this and other information on this is all in more detailed in the backup slide.

Mr. Huber went on to explain, so the next topic, here's that reserve fund issue. Basically, this is from them per se, talking about how they highlight it. If you look at how they're bringing up things like future projects, controlling rate fluctuation, making sure that we're providing the best rate for our community, that reserve fund allows us to leverage it even more. We can control working with CPCNH they do a lot of analytics, so they do a lot of trending month over month, quarter over quarter. And that's good for us because then we can see where things are going. If things stay flat and don't have a large change, well then we're doing okay. Or all of a sudden if we start to trend to see a high pitch in a rate, we could plan for that instead of all of a sudden telling the community your rates are going to go up automatically with no explanation. So I think that's a very important factor for us because the rate payers in town, commercial residential need to know that it's a good thing to stay proactive instead of reaction to financial conditions.

Mr. Woodyard then said, so I'll go through the recommendations here briefly. As you may recall, the warrant article authorized the town to move on community power, but it did not obligate the town to stand up. Hudson Community Power. So our first recommendation is to do just that stand up Hudson Community Power. It's in the, we feel it's in the best interest of the town. The voters indicated that they were in favor of it, as Kate said, with a margin of nearly 4 to 1, regardless of what company Hudson chooses to partner. And then secondly, as I mentioned earlier, our recommendation is to partner with CPCNH. We feel that the the reserve fund that they offer and the way they do business is a superior choice for the town. So are there any questions from the Board?

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, yeah, I got quite a few actually. So one of the things that you had mentioned was the savings and reserves. Ultimately, the videos that I watch, it seemed as though CPCNH would collect those savings and reserves, and Hudson would have the option to add on a penny or two here to to have their own funds set aside. The savings and reserves that they had talked about at the meeting, I think that they talked the rate was roughly around \$0.09 at the time. They were charging around \$0.15. So there was a difference of \$0.06 going back that there were, that they were collecting up. Who has control over that \$0.06. Mr. Woodyard replied, I'm going to defer to Craig on that one. The precise answer. Mr. Putnam came forward and said so the the reserves are held in secure bank accounts and by the River City Bank, which CPCNH is partner banking organization. So that's where they're they're held is they're they're held on behalf of all of the towns that are members that are using CPCNH services. So so we're going to be real clear about the two different reserves. There is the CPCNH-wide one. And so a portion of the that rate, that \$0.06 that you were looking at that goes into that reserve fund and it's managed by and for all of the towns. And so a portion of that belongs to Hudson and a portion belongs to Nashua. That portion depends on the load and that each community has the size. And and it's it's complicated to explain, but it is all outlined very clearly in the Joint Powers Agreement and the Cost Sharing Agreement documents for CPCNH. But there are ways that that monies can be, those monies can be used, to help buffer rate shocks and level out rates across all of the member communities. But it is possible for individual towns to go in and be able to use their allocated portion of it. Okay. There can be shared projects across multiple towns and you can get at the monies for that purpose. Separately. It's possible to have the separate adder, which is a town specific adder. Okay. All right. And that's entirely optional and can be done later on. We don't you don't need to do that at day one. You can you can turn that

on at some point down the road. Okay. Selectman Dumont asked, so and that's above and beyond, obviously the numbers that were provided in the packet. So that would be something that's added? Mr. Putnam replied that's correct. So so, so Hudson wanted to add on, I'll invent a 10th of a cent for what's called a Discretionary Reserve for Hudson, and that's specifically Hudson's money. Again, CPCNH and the bank would manage it for us, but it would be separately noted that there's that money and then that money can be used for town projects. It's I hesitate to state it quite this way, but it's almost like a capital reserve fund, so we can use it for energy related projects, efficiency projects, whatever the town decides it wants to do with that money. But again, that's a that's a separate and optional thing. We can, we can decide how much that should be if we want that discretionary reserve. But the only person that has to approve it is the CEO of CPCNH they have to also sign off on it.

Vice-Chairman Morin then said, Selectman Dumont, on your question now that reserve, is that a at the Selectmen's choice of how to spend it or is that a warrant article? How does that all work? Mr. Putnam replied that I guess I don't have a I think it's at the Select Board's discretion how to spend it. I don't know that you necessarily need a warrant article. I'm not I've not heard anyone ever mention that you would need to have a warrant article.

Selectman Dumont then said, And so when you speak of the profits going back to the community. So it's not that above and beyond reserve. It's it's and I know that the numbers have changed a little bit, but it's at \$0.06 going back into CPCNH as a whole. So not it's not going back to us as a community. So we we don't actually get that money back. So I just want to make that. Mr. Putnam replied I want to clarify something that Karl said, that there's there's no mixing of the monies that CPCNH with the town budget, they're entirely separate.

Selectman Dumont then said so basically so just so again, to clarify, so the reserve fund stays with CPCNH. Again, it doesn't just a slide. I guess if anybody is watching at home, it almost seemed as though the community would be would be getting those profits back. So instead of the profits going to a shareholder, it's sitting in a reserve fund that CPCNH has control over. Mr. Putnam replied, CPCNH but remember, CPCNH is of, by and for the member communities. Selectman Dumont replied, sure. And that was going to be my next question. So what is the representation that we have through there? Is there would there be a liaison? Would there be some a member rep that how was the board makeup? How does that go? Mr. Putnam replied, All right. So so Hudson already is a member of CPCNH. Kate and I are the representatives currently from town to CPCNH. So being being members we can vote on at the annual meeting and so on. So, so things changed this last spring, real quick, the early days up, up to the point where CPCNH had acquired 20, I believe it's 20 members or 21st member. Every town had a seat on the Board of Directors. Okay. Once we exceeded 21 members, then at the next annual meeting, all of the members vote on who the board should be and the board would be no more than 20. All right, So while I acted as a director and voted as a director in the early days of CPCNH, I did not choose to run for a director position of the reconstituted Board of Directors. So we're now just members, okay? And don't have the same level of control as the directors do who are also members. Okay. But we can serve on committees and I do. And so we still have we, we still have a voice and all the communities have a voice. Does that does that help? I'm trying to stay out of the weeds. Selectman Dumont replied, yeah. No it sounds kind of a little similar to how NRPC is set up with our representation over there. Mr. Putnam replied it is similar. Yes. Okay. All right.

Selectman Dumont then said, I got a couple other, but I don't know if anybody else wants to. Go ahead. The questions that you talked about that you provide, or at least I think it was through CPCNH, were the same questions provided for Standard Power and for so so that was yeah, and for Freedom. And I had seen that you had you had showed us what Freedom was or was it Standard Power for Keene that you had on here.. Did you have another community that was using the other alternative that you that you had numbers on? Mr. Woodyard replied, at the time we put the slide together, that was the best information we had. Probably the best comparison we can give you is if you look at Slide 16, this is the comparison versus the CPCNH rates are public, right? Which is a great thing. And so we basically ask the brokers to go through the exercise, Hey, re quote us what you would be charging us if we signed up when we ask this in August. So like kind of the apples to apples comparison there. So Eversource's rate was 12.582¢ CPCNH

is 10.90¢ and the two two brokers are listed on the slide. Mr. Putnam said, I think it must have been in July. July CPCNH rate was 12.5¢. It was. It was still July. Mr. Woodyard said, Eversource's rate. Mr. Putnam replied, right. I'm sorry if Eversource's rate was 12.582¢ then it was in July.

Selectman Guessferd asked, that was lowered right? That was when they lowered the rate? Mr. Woodyard replied August 5<sup>th</sup> was when it came down. Selectman Guessferd added it was twenty something. Selectman Dumont added, twenty-two I think. Mr. Putnam replied, yeah at the peak it was 22 and change and then it went down to 20 and change in February.

Selectman Dumont then said, and these kind of go together. But so it obviously seems like the best or the cheapest plan, which I would assume most people want to see, that biggest savings is the Granite Basic that you have on here for. What exactly, can you just describe what difference that is? What is the Granite Basic? Is it a certain is power coming from a certain area? Mr. Woodyard replied, sure, I'll tackle that one. So the the state mandates a certain amount of green energy that everyone has to use. I think the number is 23%, give or take. So the Granite Basic is just that, the basic, the minimum 23%, the Granite Plus I want to say is 33% renewable is listed on the chart slide 17. Mr. Woodyard added that's percentage of green energy. Selectman Dumont then said, so that is and that's what that percentage is next to it. So that's 23.4%. So that is the renewable energy on each one of those. Mr. Woodyard added, if you wanted to pay more for green energy, they have the option all set up to do that.

Selectman Dumont the asked, and when are the rates set and, and what are the periods that someone would have to lock into any one of those options and when could they opt out if they wanted to? How does that work? Mr. Woodyard replied so Hudson Community Power is set up that the you it is an opt out program. So if you do nothing you are opted into the program. However at any time within I think it's like a monthly billing cycle you have to do it on a monthly billing cycle, but you can opt in or opt out at any time. No cost to the resident, no no fees or no no transaction costs. Selectman Dumont replied, so like Karl, you had mentioned, if you start to see those trends of rates climbing back up, someone doesn't have to wait six months to to leave that program. They could do it okay, next month it's going to be going up. I want, I want out. I just think it's important that people know that they have that control. They don't. Mr. Woodyard replied, oh, absolutely. One of the great things about Community Power is there's almost no risk to the resident. You can jump in, jump out as you want. Okay. If you can beat the CPCNH at the energy market, go for it. Mr. Huber added, and there's there's no force for the resident to no obligation that they have to have to join up. Okay. It's entirely up to them.

Selectman Dumont then said, and and you did mention there's no there's no penalties or anything like that for anybody. One of the things that that you had mentioned, I think it was net metering that you had in there. And is that keeping track or incentivizing people to use a certain amount of power? Can you talk a little bit more about that or. Mr. Woodyard replied, I'll probably have to defer to Craig, but I'll start start the conversation. Net metering is the idea of if you have a solar panel on your roof, you're generating power, but you're also consuming power. If you have a football field in your backyard full of solar, you might be generating more than you use. So the the question there we were evaluating how well do each of them handle the that concept of net metering. There's without getting too far into the details, there's a lot of opportunities for improvement with the utilities on how that's handled to CPCNH. The bottom line is that basically both all three partners, if memory serves, were set up and ready to handle it, if the utilities were ready to act. Mr. Putnam replied, nicely said. Selectman Dumont replied, all right. I'm good for right now. Yeah. Thank you. Appreciate the answers, guys. Thank you.

Ms. Messner then said, I just want to mention I don't know if anybody has mentioned that we did have a company in in Hudson approach, Craig. Mr. Putnam interjected saying well, approached the town first and then Jill, I think you or maybe it was Lorrie had redirected them to me, but it was one of the companies in the industrial estate toward the south of town, and they were very interested in in being 100% green and wanting. They wanted to acquire 100% green renewable energy for electricity. They already have solar on their building. It doesn't meet all of their needs, so they're still bringing in power from the grid. They wanted that to be 100% green. And so they were inquiring about, so how could we do this? And so I talked to them about Hudson Community Power, community power in general, because this was a little while ago that we

had the conversation. But yeah, I mean, there is a there is a desire and a demand for that. It's not a huge demand, but we hope it'll grow. Ms. Messner added, but it might be an incentive also for more businesses to come into town if they're looking for a town that would offer. Mr. Putnam added, at least they'd have the option to do that.

Selectman Dumont then said, one other follow up, actually. As you mentioned, that you talked about savings overall to the community, roughly around \$200,000. Do you have just an average household savings for people at home might know what they could see? Mr. Woodyard replied yeah, it was back. I'll back up the deck. So, yeah, this is the slide here. Slide 14 in the deck. The bottom right is the average household savings over six months, which is 61.00 to I think that's an 85, \$85. So 10 to 15-ish dollars a month. Selectman Dumont replied, I missed that. I appreciate that. Thank you. Mr. Putnam added, and the fine print underneath the chart has the assumptions that that's based on a certain number. Mr. Woodyard added, all that is usage based. You use more, you save more.

Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said I didn't really have many questions, but just we're talking about the lock in. So when you look at the other companies lock in, I think it was 15 to 27 months. So you don't have that ability to jump in and out like with the CPCNH. Mr. Woodyard replied, individual customers have that ability to jump in and out. But the Town, Hudson Community Power as a whole is locked into that rate. Mr. Woodyard replied firm fixed price. Selectman Guessferd replied the lock in is. Yeah. Okay for the town. Mr. Woodyard added put it differently from brokers are more firm, fixed priced, and the CPCNH might be more considered like an IDIQ. Selectman Guessferd replied, okay, I understand those terms.

Vice-Chairman Morin asked, did the Committee talk to any other towns that are using this group and get a rating and how things were going with them? Mr. Huber replied yeah, we we did talk to Nashua, for instance. They're working very diligently and closely with CPCNH. It took them a while to make a decision because don't forget, they have a mayor, they have the alderman, and then they have, you know, a full time person driving it. But there was a lot of things that they did a check on. Dorian Brown was the person who we spoke with and she said they went back and forth. They were not quick to make a decision. But when they added up all the pros and the cons, CPCNH was their choice and they lessons learned. Did everything work out? Some things changed when they got the partnership together. CPCNH and bought some things that Nashua didn't even think about when they came into the relationship. So from that perspective, it was very good. And Dorian said that everything that they presented as far as their business plan, the trending, the reserve fund, how that financial aspect can be well managed by both Nashua and CPCNH, and it worked out very well and I think Peterborough, Peterborough as well was also CPCNH. And so the responses were good. You know, it was they were more receptive. They talked to the broker and they, they had to go back to the broker to get questions answered all the time like we did when we asked them about that one. If Hudson stood up with you guys, how would those rates change? It was such a not a direct response. It was a circular response. So I think we we felt good when we heard back that the report was good. They were glad to make the decision.

Vice-Chairman Morin asked, how many towns are involved in this right now throughout the state. Not that specific group. (talking over each other). Mr. Woodyard replied slide 18 in the backup deck, it's a map of the state. Mr. Putnam added well, there are 40 members of CPCNH 12 of which are live now. That was the Wave One towns. As Mr. Putnam looked for the slide, Mr. Huber said, you know, one good thing about us, we're in the Wave Two. So we got a lot of that outreach that we could go and find out what worked, what didn't work. Ms. Messner added, and it's growing quickly. It's growing. A lot of interest.

Mr. Putnam went on to say so it's 12. There's 12 communities at the moment. There's probably another two that are likely to launch with CPCNH this fall, maybe in the December time frame. And there's a dozen, I believe, that are in Wave Two. That's the blue include, which includes Hudson. Selectman Morin replied, so are the people, all of the towns that have launched, what is the breakup of which company they went to do you know? Mr. Putnam replied those are all CPCNH. Mr. Putnam added, so what you see is the total membership there, right? It's broken down. The green have already launched with CPCNH. Yeah. The blue group which includes Hudson, is in process but not launched yet. All right. So that's Wave Two. And then the red towns are they're in the planning their earlier talks, but they're members of CPCNH.

Selectman Morin replied, right. The company that you're choosing, though, to supply Hudson how many of those towns? It is the green. Okay. Mr. Putnam replied 12 at the moment. Soon to be 14.

Vice-Chairman Morin then said, my last question is where do we go from here after we take a vote? Mr. Putnam replied, so there's so regardless of so there's two votes. One, one, let's do this. And then who do we do it with? And regardless of the latter vote on that choice, the process is more or less the same. The details will be a little bit different depending on who we partner with. But the first thing that has to happen is once we know, yes, we're going to do this and who we partner with, then we send a message to the Public Utilities Commission and say, we're launching and this is your notice, and it goes to Eversource as well, and that becomes Eversource 90 day notice that that we're going to stand up a community power aggregation. Mr. Woodyard added, and that's a statutory requirement. So you start a 90 day timer and as soon as we can launch, as soon as we can do that, the better. If we could have that done by November 1st, then we would have that 90 days handled by February 1st and CPCNH is working to try to move up the late spring launches to more in the late winter. Okay, so maybe if not February, maybe March, late March or early April, somewhere in there sooner we can launch, the sooner people start saving money.

Vice-Chairman Morin asked, and what is the process going to be to notify the residents of when this is going to start, how it's going to work and all that? Mr. Putnam replied, so again, by statute, what is required is 30 days ahead of the planned launch date, the go live date, a mailing needs to go to every single customer in town, regardless of whether they're net metered or not. That that document, that that letter would come out from our partner and have Hudson Community Power stamped on it, all of that. So it's going to be very official looking. That's one of many outreach methodologies. Obviously, there will be a website, there will be a call center up and running so that once that letter is received and the letter will explain how that opt out process works and what you need to consider if you're a net metering customer. All that's in the letter. There's an example of the letter on the the HEAC website. It's Nashua's letter. The letter that we would do for Hudson would be quite similar to that. And that starts a 30 day timer. Once that that letter is sent out, that starts a 30 day clock about roughly half way through that. So two weeks in, we're required to have a public information session. It's not a public hearing like we did before, but it is a required public information session. We have to have at least one. We could do multiple. And again, there can be other ways of doing outreach. And during that 30 day time window, anyone who doesn't want to be part of Hudson Community Power can opt out. So they can go to the website and opt out. They can call the call center and opt out, and then nothing will happen on the go live date. They'll continue with Eversource in that case.

Mr. Putnam continued saying, one of the other cases that's described in the letter is if you're already using a third party competitive electric supplier, what happens then? Well, the answer is nothing. You would not be opted into the program automatically. You're just excluded so nothing changes for you if you're if you're already using a competitive electric supplier and and that's somebody who's a homeowner or a commercial business. If it's the same.

Vice-Chairman Morin asked, do you need any funding? Mr. Putnam replied, No. Vice-Chairman Morin replied okay. I'm all set.

Selectman Guessferd then said, total transparency here. Yeah. So one thing is so the "who" in terms of how that all happens, who does all the mailings and all that, that would be? Mr. Putnam replied that's the partner. Selectman Guessferd replied, the partner. Right. Okay. Mr. Putnam continued saying, and all those costs for doing all of that, it's all baked into the rate. Okay. Mr. Huber added, and Dorian from Nashua, she said that that worked out so good letting CPCNH just take on that challenge and help answer the calls. Selectman Guessferd asked, and they answer the complaints and whatever else as well. Mr. Huber replied, right.

Selectman Guessferd then said one other thing. So you said you talked to Keene, who went with Standard Power. What was the rationale for going with standard power just for? Ms. Messner replied part of that was CPCNH wasn't ready yet when they were doing it, they said, But they're happy with Standard Power. Mr.

Woodyard added it was interesting. One of the other conversations, I think it was Peterborough, they ended up going with CPCNH and they decided late and part of their part of the reasoning for being for their decision process was CPCNH started to mature and come online really as they had to finalize a decision. So as CPCNH really came onto the market and has matured, it became a better option for them. And we've we've talked with with a variety of towns and I think we're going to benefit a lot from the lessons learned from the pioneer Wave One towns. So it should be a pretty smooth experience.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said just a couple of things that I missed in my messy list here. The the overall the CPCNH have an overall goal. I guess what to do is there has there been talk what they would like to do with those reserve funds? Do they have projects in mind? I know it got mentioned a little bit, but I don't know. Did you guys talk in greater detail about that or like what their long term goal, I guess would? Ms. Messner replied I think it's really up to the membership. Selectman Dumont replied I'm sure it can be ever changing but I didn't know what the focus was. Mr. Huber replied their biggest goal is just that have that that funding, have that capability to support anything that the towns, the communities may want to do. You know, they give you some direction or they'll put some issues to it or some examples of what the other projects that they have done with some other communities. So it's kind of nice to know that.

Mr. Putnam then said, so I will say beyond beyond rate stability and and lower costs, they do want to see more local generation. And by local I mean within New Hampshire. So part of the part of the costs that are on that right hand side of the bill, the delivery and transmission side of the bill are costs having to do with bringing power in from wherever the generators are. They're all in ISO New England, but they might be in Connecticut or they might be. And the further away those generators are, the more costly that money is, that electricity is, by the time it arrives in New Hampshire. So the more local generation we can get in state, the better. And then you can take that model and bring it down to the town. You know, we could bring it down to the town level and the town's got some resources to apply then the town benefits even more. So that's the kind of 30,000 foot level model that they're operating to. Selectman Dumont replied, thank you very much. I'm good.

Vice-Chairman Morin said no more discussion. Anybody got a motion or?

The Town Administrator then said looks like there's two motions. The first would be *to stand up Hudson Community Power in accordance with the EAP adopted by the Town in July 2023 and approved by the PUC in September 2023. Selectman Guessferd made this motion. Selectman Dumont seconded it. Carried 3-0.*

The Town Administrator then said appears that the second motion to authorize the Town Administrator to engage Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire as Hudson Community Power's power supplier. Mr. Putnam added, feel free to change, edit as necessary. The Town Administrator asked, so what does that mean I got to do? Mr. Woodyard replied there's two documents that CPCNH is going to want to get signed. The first is the Joint Powers Agreement. Mr. Putnam and Ms. Messner said, no. Cost Sharing Agreement. Mr. Putnam said, so, so Cost Sharing Agreement needs to be sent to the lawyer and reviewed and agreed to. Mr. Malizia asked, You have that? To which Mr. Putnam replied Yes. All these documents are available. And then then the second part of the Cost Sharing Agreement document is a is what's called the Complete Services Bundle. And that's the actual contract that says, okay, we're agreeing to do business with CPCNH. The cost sharing agreement, the first part basically says here's how, here's what we're agreeing to in terms of how our load factors into the overall load and what costs we're on the hook to pay for, which is a piece of CPCNH's GNA. General and administrative costs. And that's that's that's scaled by our piece of the overall load being serviced by CPCNH. Mr. Malizia asked, that's through the rates, correct? Mr. Putnam replied and that's all baked into the rates. Yeah. It's all baked into the rates. Mr. Malizia replied, so the attorney would review it if he concurs, we're good to go sign it. Mr. Putnam replied yeah, there are there are four other documents which we you don't need to they're not contracts. The Board just basically needs to agree that you'll abide by what's in those documents. There's it's the policy documents. It's here's here's how CPCNH will do their risk management. Here's a data protection policy. The third one is I'm spacing on the other. The Town Administrator asked do the four need to be approved by the Board? Mr. Putman replied They just need to be approved by the the board.

There's no warrant articles or anything. The Town Administrator added, but they, they have to come to a meeting and get approved. Mr. Putnam replied they just need to be approved by the Board. Mr. Malizia added, at a meeting. So in the future you'll get those. Mr. Putnam replied, you'll have them tomorrow.

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said I know this may slow things down a little bit, but I think it would be more appropriate to review those documents before making the second motion. I don't feel comfortable making the motion without reviewing those. I just wanted to put that out there for the Board. Vice-Chairman Morin asked, so would you like to defer? If we can get those two Mr. Malizia tomorrow and he can get them out to us, we can have it ready for the next meeting. Is that fair? Sound good to you guys? Selectman Dumont replied, yeah. I just think it would be appropriate to for the Board members to review them, have our attorney take a quick look at them if possible, and. Vice-Chairman Morin added, especially where we have two members that aren't here tonight that didn't hear this presentation. It's probably fair to them also. Mr. Putnam replied that's fine. I mean, I mentioned, you know, the timeline that we're working to If we have a decision by November 1st. That's great. Vice-Chairman Morin replied, you will. You will. Mr. Malizia added remember, the next meeting is next week. So it's a short turnaround. Selectman Dumont asked, do you believe that Dave would be able to give us his comment within? The Town Administrator replied I can't speak to him for him. I'll send it to him. If I get something, I will give him a copy of everything and I'll give it to you at the same time. Vice-Chairman Morin then said we'll defer the second motion tonight.

Selectman Guessferd then said, I just want to make sure we understood that timeline. I think that's important. Vice-Chairman Morin replied, yeah, we have a meeting next week. Selectman Guessferd replied, Right. And then another one after that before. The Town Administrator replied and we have one on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget, we have budget meetings. If you had to, you could do it very quickly at another one of the budget meetings. Vice-Chairman Morin replied we're gonna be here a lot in the near future. The Town Administrator replied a couple times a week for the next few weeks. Selectman Dumont then said, so motion to defer? Vice-Chairman Morin replied, yeah, we're just going to defer it. Anything else? Seeing nothing else from the Board, the Board thanked the HEAC for their time.

#### B. State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program - Request to Apply

Vice-Chairman Morin recognized IT Director John Beike. Mr. Beike said, Good evening. I'm before you tonight to apply, requesting to apply, for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program. This is a federal program, but the state is administers the program will set up the project side of what they feel is necessary for the state. So if you look at your backup material Program One is the the state setting it up and then they have three elements to the to the program, which is multifactor authentication. They would like to do that. Migrate to the.gov domain, which we are already there. And then security training for IT, which we already do. So the big thing is we're looking at is to do the multifactor authentication which will come into play during my budget cycle when I request to look at Office 365 because that's an element of 365. So we might have some help there to do that.

Vice-Chairman Morin asked, anybody have any questions? To which there were none. Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to authorize the IT Director to apply for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program. Carried 3-0.

### C. Emergency management Equipment Contract Awards

Vice-Chairman Morin recognized Fire Chief Scott Tice. Chief Tice began by saying, Thank you and good evening, everyone. At the October 25th, 2022, Board of Selectmen meeting, the Board authorized the Fire Department to accept a Homeland Security Competitive Grant in the amount of \$137,944 to purchase two signboards, a light tower with a 20 kilowatt generator and a trailer mounted generator. Tonight, I'm here asking the Board to approve the purchase of this equipment. We've been through the RFP process for the signboards. We've received three bids. The high bid was \$76,800, which did not meet all the requirements of the RFP. The second bid was for \$35,000, but that had a one year warranty instead of the requested five year warranty. And the low bid was \$39,900 from ADA sales and rentals. And this bid met all the requirements of the specifications. So this would be our recommendation.

Chief Tice went on to say for the generator, we received one bid and that bid was \$30,000 over the suggested retail price. So we looked locally and we looked at Generac Direct. We got a quote from a local vendor, which was \$58,477.71 and Generac direct from the Sourcewell contract quote was \$56,750 and that would be our recommendation.

Chief Tice continued saying, for the light tower. We did receive a bid same vendor as the light tower. It was either for \$28,730 or \$23,730. It was not clear in the bid. We had several discrepancies with that bid. So we looked at local vendors. We got quoted for a light tower with an eight kilowatt generator, which didn't meet the specifications for this project. And the Generac Direct from the Sourcewell contract quote was \$29,339.50, and that would be our recommendation.

The total for all of this would be \$117,989.50, which leaves a balance of \$20,004.50. We're working right now through an RFP process for a transfer switch for the Community Center. So we would be able to connect a generator to that building and power it up for warming warming center, cooling center, during elections, town meeting, anything that we need that building for during a power outage. So we're working on that right now.

Vice-Chairman Morin then said, Chief, it's been a while since we started this. Can you just explain a little bit what these are going to do for our fire, police and public works? Chief Tice replied, yes. So it's going to be available town wide for whoever needs it for any kind of situation. Obviously, power outages. We had a power outage issue at town hall last year from a mishap out back and we had to borrow Nashua's generator. But this would give us our own generator to use for that. In the case of a natural disaster ice storm, those types of things where we have large power, large parts of town out of power, we need to either a warming center or a cooling center. We can use the Community Center, which is why we want to get a transfer switch that goes with the generator. You know, for the sign signboards, if we have any kind of road outages, bridge washout, any kind of issue where we need to redirect traffic, we could use those to help divert traffic to the areas that are passible. We could use them for routine things such as, you know, voting or any other town event where we need to direct traffic or control the crowds and get information out. And the light tower anytime we have any kind of emergency at night time, either during power outages or some sort of emergency situation where there's no ambient lighting, we could move. It's a trailer mounted light tower, so it would be mobile and we'd be able to light up a scene or any kind of planned event would be able to use it for planned events to provide extra lighting.

Vice-Chairman Morin replied, thank you. Anyone have any questions? Selectman Guessferd said just one. I think the the signage. are the ones that are mobile. Chief Tice replied, yes, they're trailer mounted like you see on the side of the road.

Seeing no further questions from the Board, Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to authorize the Fire Department to award ADA Sales & Rentals of Bow, NH, the low bidder, the contract for the purchase of (2) Message Sign Boards in the amount of \$31,900.00, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Carried 3-0.

Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to reject the sole bid from Technology International and authorize the Fire Department to award Energy Systems the contract for the purchase of a Mobile Diesel Generator using the Sourcewell contract in the amount of, \$56,750.00 which includes freight, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Carried 3-0.

Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to reject the sole bid from Technology International and authorize the Fire Department to award Generac Manufacturing the contract to the purchase of a Mobile Light Tower using the Sourcewell contract in the amount of \$29,339.50 which includes freight, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Carried 3-0.

D. Request to Rescind Motion to Hire Firefighter/EMT

Vice-Chairman Morin recognized Fire Chief Scott Tice. Chief Tice explained, Yeah. So you're at July 11th meeting this year, you authorized me to hire Joseph Walker for one of our open firefighter positions. He was slated to be in this recruit class, which started September 11th. On September 7th, he emailed us and stated he was no longer moving forward with his employment with Hudson Fire. I was able to find out in the meantime that he was considering a neighboring department to go there. So we would need to rescind his conditional offer. Seeing no questions, Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to rescind the motion to hire Firefighter/EMT Joseph Walker that was made on July 11, 2023. Carried 3-0.

E. Southern NH RC Club Capped Landfill Use - Presentation

Vice-Chairman Morin recognized Ed Van der Veen of the Southern NH RC Club. Mr. Van der Veen started off saying, Ed Van Der Veen, 9 Newton Street, Hudson, New Hampshire. I'm here tonight representing the southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club, who currently operate a airfield for RC aircraft at the top of the Town Landfill at West Road. When we heard about the request for qualifications related to a solar farm for that site, we thought it would be important to provide the Board with information on our club, our activities and what we have in place on the top of that landfill. in turn introduced John Hayes, Club Secretary and Cody Wojick, Club President. Mr. Wojick explained, Good evening. So my name is Cody Wojick. I am the president of the Southern New Hampshire RC Club. And my goal tonight is to familiarize you with what we do, why we're up there. And I think the value that we add to the area and just make you aware of what's happening up there because this converting of the capped landfill to a solar farm would displace us for sure. So I'll start with just the name of our organization, the Southern New Hampshire RC Club. We've been around since 1966. We're a nonprofit RC Club chartered for the promotion of building and flying radio controlled model aircraft. SNHRCC currently has 52 members, including Hudson residents. Ages range from teenagers through retirees. And we fly at Wagner Field, which is our home at the top of the Hudson cap landfill. A little background on RC aviation in general. So RC Aviation flying remote controlled airplanes and helicopters and gliders has been my favorite hobby since I was a kid, and now I basically do it professionally as an engineer. The aircraft we fly up there range in weight from about two ounces to could be as much as £25. They're powered by small engines, mostly electric motors or wind, have a lot of glider pilots. Many people in space, such as Neil Armstrong or aviation, Burt Rutan. And of course, the Wright Brothers got their start with with model aviation.

So so why do we fly at the Hudson capped landfill? Why do we fly at any specific location at all? So typically, people who fly RC aircraft join or form a club. And the reason for that is so that you have a safe area to fly where you're not interfering with anybody else and you can maintain a runway and facilities

where you can enjoy the hobby and make sure that you're not going to get into anybody else's way. We really, really like the use of the landfill for this because we are very far away from houses, from any businesses or roads. So we don't interfere with anybody. You know, we have swamp land around us or heavy industry with Continental Paving on the northeast side. And it should be noted, I think, that it's these days it's harder and harder to find good areas to fly. This is our second flying site for the Southern New Hampshire RC Club. When we started flying, actually, you can see if you look way off to the east here, there are some houses and we actually flew from this from on the east side and they basically noticed us. And so we switched and we started flying on kind of the I'm sorry, we started on the west side and we switched so that we started flying from the northeast side so that we were closer to Continental Paving. The square around here represents basically our area of operations and we don't really fly outside of that area.

Mr. Wojick went on with his presentation saying, so a little bit of background on Wagner Field. It is recognized by the FAA as what we call a FRIA. FAA Recognized Identification Area. So the FAA has started to put into place some requirements for identification of small unmanned aircraft. I'll say that drones, as people call them, you know, quadcopters with cameras on them and RC airplanes are kind of the same thing in the eyes of the FAA. And even though, you know, we obviously we draw some distinction between them. And what the FAA has said is that aircraft, small aircraft are going to need some type of identification device on them unless you fly at a identification area. A FRIA. So we are one of the first clubs to be granted this FRIA status. We have a letter of agreement with the Nashua Airport because the area that we fly in has a small overlap with one of their approach paths. We had actually a great meeting with the Nashua Airport and some officials from the FAA, as well as some officials from the Academy of Model Aeronautics. And we had one of the one of one of the most permissive, I should say, kind of unprecedented agreements with the Nashua Airport to allow us to operate up to a 1000 foot altitude. And we can actually operate up to 1500ft altitude if we make a phone call. We started drafting an agreement with the Town Administrator for formalized use of the field in 2019 and kind of with Covid coming in, that kind of got pushed to the side and we haven't picked that up. Nobody has really picked that up since. We've been chartered by the Academy of Model Aeronautics since 1966. The Academy of Model Aeronautics is a nationwide organization, nonprofit that lobbies Congress for our right to do this. And they charter any of these clubs. So basically a club, these types of clubs like SNHRCC, supports the Academy of Model Aeronautics and vice versa. They provide, they also provide up to \$1.5 million in liability insurance for any RC club.

We maintain the grass runways and the shelters that are on top of the capped landfill, and we have occasionally in the past maintained the roads as they come up. These days usually the town gets to those. If they start to get washed out before we have a chance to grade them. Most people don't know that we're up there, and that's very much on purpose. Obviously, dump day at the at the transfer station is Saturdays 8 to 12. And we do not fly. We don't want to be there. And more specifically, we don't want to be cutting people in line and causing traffic issues as we're trying to get into fly and people are waiting to to do dump day. We have a number of amenities that we've installed at the field. There is there are two metal roof shelters. We have a custom built solar powered charging station, so we have DC power available to members so they can plug in their battery chargers and charge up batteries for model airplanes or even plug in an inverter if you needed to power a laptop or something. We have a shed where field maintenance equipment is kept. We have mowers and seeders. String trimmers and pilot stations are fenced off as well.

Mr. Wojick continued saying, there's kind of a bird's eye view of the of the field. You can see we've got on this would be the north east side furthest from the camera here. And then roughly 30 degrees to that closest to the camera would be the west side. And then the area between them on the right of the image is a an area for flying helicopters. We only operate internal combustion engine like gas aircraft on the the runway that's furthest from the camera in this picture because you can see it's what it starts to get closer to the Transfer Station or Continental Paving instead of closer to any houses that might be behind where the camera is here.

So, why is it called Wagner Field? So we named the field for Darrel Wagner, who was a member and a good friend of all three of us for sure. He was a former New Hampshire state legislator. He secured the

field for our use in 2000. Sadly, he passed away in 2021, but it's been named Wagner Field ever since we started flying there. So we have a nice memorial that we put up and a really good friend of mine actually made those steel wings that the prop is on by hand.

So over the years, SNHRCC has been kind of the breeding ground in place for a lot of really, really cool achievements. It's been the practice site for many world level competitors and aerobatics, helicopters and gliders. It has been the development site for a lot of actual commercial RC airplanes that you can go and buy right now. That's actually myself holding the airplane and the upper right. I designed and developed that airplane at SNHRCC and you can buy it right now. And it's also a filming site for a Nashua based business called Tail Heavy Productions. Who is they make merchandise and videos online content. They have about 200,000 subscribers across their social media networks. These are just some pictures of this is our one of our fun flies. You can see a lot of people just having a great time. I'm just going to go through a couple of pictures here. This is from a building derby that we had where we showed up with a bunch of components and then a kit was presented to you and you had to build a flying a flying aircraft out of it. And we had some that's me with my father there. We had mixed success. And this is one of our members who competes nationally in Sailplane competition. This is another aircraft built a long time ago. It's actually still in John's workshop where we had a interclub competition to try to lift as much weight as possible with a certain engine size. And this is a friend of mine, Liam Melvin, who I taught to fly a long time ago, and now he's still actually this this was taken about ten years ago, this picture, but he still flies at SNHRCC with me quite often. I also have a brief, a brief video that that I can show. The group showed the video, which recapped the information Mr. Wojick shared.

Mr. Wojick asked does anybody have any other questions? Selectman Guessferd was recognized and said, nice presentation. So if the field was not going to be available for your use due to this project or something else, do you have alternate plans or is there any other places that you've looked? Mr. Wojick replied, we don't currently. I've been a member of a lot of RC clubs over the years. This is the first one I've been president of. And very often what happens is if a club loses a field, the club kind of dissolves. And often RC aviation in that that area kind of dissolves as well. So there are other clubs, you know, anywhere from a half hour to 40 minutes away. But what would likely have the most typical scenario these days is, you know, everybody tries to find an alternate place to fly with usually pretty limited success. So, you know, what, what we would hope for and ask would be just to consider what we're doing there in this planning phase. You know, maybe there's a way to coexist. Maybe, you know, this is an organization that's been here for a very long time. I think we're adding tremendous value to a lot of people, both directly and indirectly, both through members and through people who benefit from what we do there and just want to make you aware of what we do up there. So yeah, to answer your to answer your question, there is a slim chance that we might find some other place to fly. I heavily doubt we'll find someplace as well suited, and it's probably more likely that that would be the end of the club.

SNHRC Secretary John Hayes then said the last site that we had to fly at, we were, it was turned into a golf course. So we lost that site. And because of the the site here, it's not suitable for sports or other things that usually wind up with open spaces. It works out perfectly for us. And it's been it's been an excellent site. We've tried to maintain it, be good stewards of the of the property. And we were asked in the beginning to keep a low profile. Maybe it's time that we change that. Maybe it's time that we try and gain more activity from the town. Certainly willing to do that. Selectman Guessferd replied thank you for your candidness there.

Selectman Dumont then said, you brought up an interesting point about coexisting. Have you have you seen any other air clubs go this way? I mean, I know that this project that we're talking about is solar panel. Have you seen that happen where they do actually coexist? Mr. Wojick replied, I've seen personally a site where a solar farm was built kind of off off to the side in some area that they were already flying over. But the area where they were operating wasn't suitable for the solar panels. So it's not to say that that it's impossible. And in fact, I can I can ask our officials at the AMA to see if they can if they can come up with any other recommendations or other sites where that's happened. I think it has. I'm sure it has, because this is not a totally unique situation for us, but it's it would probably be difficult, but I think it could probably be done.

Selectman Dumont then asked, and you may have mentioned. But how often do you guys meet? I mean, is it irregular? Do people kind of come and go as they please? Mr. Wojick replied, yeah. Anybody who's a member basically has free access to the field whenever as long as they're following the rules, obviously. And part of those rules are not 8 to 12 on Saturday. We have monthly meetings either at the field or at the Litchfield Fire Department, depending on the season. And typically Sunday is the day when you're going to find a lot of people up there and then there might be a bunch of people happen to go up there on a nice Tuesday or something as well.

Selectman Dumont then said, I just want to say for myself, I appreciate because I was unaware of that going on up there. Sure. Again, I think that it also shows, you know, the kindness that you guys put into that. So I appreciate that as well. Mr. Hayes replied, thanks. We're we're trying to abide by keep a low profile. We did. Maybe it's to our detriment. Yeah, I hope not.

Seeing no further questions from the Board, the Board thanked the group for coming in.

#### F. Town Hall Relocation Committee

Vice-Chairman Morin stated at this time I'd like to defer this again till we get the Board here.

#### 9. Board Liaison Reports/Other Remarks by Selectmen

Selectman Dumont: Yeah. So we're working with Benson Park Committee. We've been trying to we've been working through the process with the golf cart, as you guys well are aware of. So they'll be bringing, I believe, some rules and procedures forward to us. Outside of that, we've also been working to try and add an additional gate for the dog park that will be coming in front of this board as well for for a donation. So it looks like we've we've got some some good help coming from Gate City Fence, as well as the members of that board working to try to try to put that together for very minimal cost. We do have another cleanup day. I apologize. I don't have that down in front of me, but I believe it'll be towards the middle of this month. Typically, they're around the 15th, 17th, somewhere in that area. But that is that's about all I have for right now.

Selectman Guessferd: Planning Board's been, been busy. We've been still working, working on the Master Plan chapters approved one the other the other day and we had another public hearing on on one. So that's moving along nicely I think. And we've had a few plans that we've been going over. Our our latest one was the the shop down on Lowell Road that was approved at our last meeting last week. And did you approve the 84? Vice-Chairman Morin replied, we deferred everything. Selectman Guessferd went on to say, so that's still on the agenda that the the 84 Lumber site over on Sullivan Road.

So beyond that, let's see. We did we were scheduled to do a Hudson Cable Utility meeting last night but we we canceled that. We'll be hopefully rescheduling for next month. There really isn't anything on our agendas right now.

Rec comedy show is coming up. They've got a new one coming up on the 11th of November. Tickets went on sale yesterday and they usually go pretty quick. So if you're interested, sign up for that. It should be a lot of fun. It's on November 11th. So it's on it's on Veteran's Day. It's on a Saturday. Basketball signups are extended. Men's and high school league registration is open for basketball until the end of the month.

Senior program has been busy. They're going up the Hearts Turkey farm next week. They're thinking about doing an international trip next year. So stay tuned for that, seniors.

Fright Night, it is October, so the Fright Night is coming up. It's going to be on October 27th. Inside the Community Center and registration will open on the the the Rec website next week for that event. So that's what I got.

Selectman Morin: In reference to meetings last Budget Committee myself as the liaison and the backup liaison, Selectman Guessferd were both on vacation so none of the selectmen attended it. The next meeting is tomorrow night and then the following Monday is Conservation.

Two things. The Food Pantry has invited this Board, the School Board, the presidents of the unions, Mister Malizia and Kathy, to take a tour of the Food Pantry to see what they do, what the operation is. School Board discussed it last night and the three days they're available, the 16th, the 23rd or the 30th, and that would be at 5 p.m.. Does that work for anybody? One of those days?

The Town Administrator asked, are those are Monday nights? Vice-Chairman Morin replied, the 16th, 23rd or 30th. So what's that 5:30? Selectman Dumont asked, do you know roughly how long? The reason I ask is on the 16th at NRPC with New Hampshire DOT is doing the Ten Year Plan at the Community Center. The Town Administrator said, yeah don't do it that night. So don't do the 16th. The 23rd or the 30th would probably be best. I can do either one. Doesn't matter to me. Selectman Dumont said the 23rd or the 30th I'd be fine. Selectman Guessferd said, the 23rd I'm going to be out of town that day. The Town Administrator said sounds like the 30th is the winner!

All right. I will let I will let the School Board know and the Pantry know.

And the second second thing is, did you all receive the email from Mr. Siegel? Selectman Guessferd replied yes. Vice-Chairman Morin replied we can't take that up right now because we're going to be very busy very shortly. But maybe something in the new year to look at. You know, he has some points. He has some points. You know, there's a lot of stuff we talk about and people don't pay attention. But but, you know, maybe it has some merit and we can look into that after we're done budget because we're going to get busy. But I thought it was worth just looking into. Anyway. Selectman Dumont replied, any time we can educate the public on how everything operates and it works, I think is a benefit to everybody. Vice-Chairman Morin replied, yeah, great. So we can take that back up after after we get through budget. The Town Administrator added, I'm just laughing because we don't have a mayor. I found that fascinating. People call and ask, where do we vote for mayor? Nashua. Fascinating. Yeah.

10. Remarks by Town Administrator

Town Administrator Steve Malizia was recognized and said, real quick. Obviously, everybody's well aware that budget deliberations will start next Thursday. So next Thursday is the first budget night. You should have your budget books by the end of the day Friday. So we'll send out an email. So books will be Friday.

And just for the general public, town offices are closed on Monday and observance of Columbus Day, so the town offices are closed this upcoming Monday, the 9th of October. So those are just two things I want to put out there. That's it. Okay.

11. Remarks by School Board - there was no School Board member present this evening.

12. Nonpublic Session

Motion by Selectman Dumont at 8:55 p.m., seconded by Selectman Guessferd to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 3-0.

Nonpublic Session was entered at 8:55 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 was asked to leave the room.

The Board entered open session at 9:06 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session:

1. Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to hire Michael Pilon as an HCTV Assistant, for up to 29 hours per week, at a rate of \$19.00 per hour, moving to \$20.00 per hour after successful completion of a six month probationary period. Carried 3-0.
2. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont to promote Eric Courounis to the position of Chief Mechanic in the Public Works Department at \$32.55 per hour, Grade XVI, Step 3, in accordance with the Hudson Public Works employee contract. This promotion will be effective October 8, 2023. Carried 3-0.
3. Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to authorize the Public Works Director advertise the assistant mechanic position. Carried 3-0.
4. Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Guessferd to hire Kyle Cloutier for the position of Truck Driver/Laborer in the Public Works Department at \$21.98 per hour, Grade VIII, Step 1, in accordance with the Hudson Public Works Department employee contract, effective, October 8, 2023. Carried 3-0.
5. Selectman Guessferd made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin to hire James Martorana for the position of Truck Driver/Laborer in the Public Works Department at \$21.98 per hour, Grade VIII, Step 1, in accordance with the Hudson Public Works Department employee contract, effective October 8, 2023. Carried 3-0.
6. Selectman Guessferd made a motion to adjourn at 9:09 a.m. this was seconded by Selectman Dumont. Carried 3-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:09 p.m. by Selectman Guessferd seconded by Selectman Dumont. Carried 3-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant.

absent  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marilyn McGrath, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Morin, Vice Chairman

absent  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kara Roy, Selectman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Guessferd, Selectman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dillon Dumont, Selectman