

## HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### Minutes of the March 4, 2025 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER – by Chairman Guessferd the meeting of March 4, 2025 at 7:01 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Selectman Roy.
3. ATTENDANCE  
Board of Selectmen: Bob Guessferd, Dillon Dumont, Dave Morin, Kara Roy and Heidi Jakoby.  
Staff/Others: Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson; Fire Chief, Scott Tice; Deputy Chief, Enos; Director of Community Media, Mike Johnson; Public Works Director, Jay Twardosky; Public Works Supervisor, Jeremy Faulkner; School Board Representative, Gary Gasdia; Executive Assistant, Lorrie Weissgarber.
4. PUBLIC INPUT – None
5. RECOGNITION, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

A. Appointment

- 1) Building Board of Appeals – Tim Malley, incumbent seeking member position
  - o One (1) member vacancy to expire April 2028

Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy, to appoint Tim Malley to the member vacancy that is set to expire April 2028. I just like to add he's a valued asset to the Town. He volunteers in a lot of capacities, he does a lot of great work. So, I make the motion.

Selectman Roy: I'll make a second but I have a question. (inaudible) what position he's in.

Selectman Dumont: The member vacancy?

Selectman Roy: Yes, the member vacancy.

Selectman Dumont: I apologize if I did not. So the member vacancy is to expire April 2028.

Selectman Roy: Of what Board though?

Selectman Dumont: Building Board of Appeals.

Selectman Roy: Thank you.

Selectman Jakoby: And can you just expound a little bit on the Building Board of Appeals and what that is for the public?

Chairman Guessferd: Selectman Dumont you probably have a better...

Selectman Dumont: It's a municipal board for any (inaudible) has a right to grieve, they have a right to file with the Building Board of Appeals for that case to be heard after a decision is made on a municipal level.

Selectman Jakoby: And are there, how many members are on that Board?

Selectman Dumont: I believe there's three.

Selectman Jakoby: I just didn't have any of that information with this this. That's why I'm asking. Because nothing in the packet told us what that Board was or how many members were on it. Who the members were currently which would have been helpful for me in making, in understanding.

Selectman Dumont: Do we do that typically with any of the Boards where we do reappointments? But, like the information I know it's available online. But I believe it's three or five members.

Selectman Jakoby: Awesome.

Chairman Guessferd: Yes, you should be able to find it on the website.

Selectman Jakoby: And the appointments rotate as with other Boards, everything rotates.

Selectman Dumont: Same as every other.

Selectman Jakoby: Yeah, just letting the public know. So it's a continuous rotating process. Just if you want to know and see that's what it is. It's just again, just as we go forward I just realized that we don't all, we assume a lot about, you know, things as we go forward.

Selectman Morin: I understand you want to get the information out. But, all of this is on our website. So, if people have questions before our meeting, and you can bring it up, don't get me wrong, but they can find it on our website. It's all there.

Selectman Jakoby: Absolutely.

Selectman Morin: I just think adding it just a little more work for our employees because we can all get it ourselves. That's all.

Selectman Jakoby: I just like to have it all in the packet, so. It's just a difference. But, thank you for that. I have no further questions.

Chairman Guessferd: OK. So we have a motion and a second, any further discussion?

Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy, to appoint Tim Malley as a member to the Building Board of Appeals with a term to expire April 2028. Motion carried, 5-0.

Before we move on to consent items, I just want to bring up a recognition. As Selectman Roy has not, is not going to be running again, she has decided to move on. I just wanted to take this opportunity to publicly thank Selectman Roy for her service. She served two terms here as a Selectman. And as we all know, everybody in this room for sure, that being a Selectman is, I'll say a thankless job like a lot of the elected and appointed positions in town. So it takes, it takes a lot to serve as a Selectman, it's not just what you see here in this meeting. But it is a job to do right. You have to spend some time doing it. So, I appreciate everything you've been able to do, everything you've brought to the Board and it's been a pleasure to serve with you these past few years.

Selectman Roy: Thank you.

Selectman Dumont: I would just like to echo that, it's definitely not a thankless job. Definitely appreciate the service with the Town of Hudson.

Selectman Roy: Thank you.

Chairman Guessferd: OK. So we'll move on to consent items. Does any Board member wish to remove any item for separate consideration? Do we have a motion to approve the consent items?

Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to approve consent items A-F. Motion carried, 5-0.

## 6. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Assessing Items - None

B. Water/Sewer Items - None

B. Licenses & Permits & Policies - None

C. Donations - None

D. Acceptance of Minutes

1) February 25, 2025

F. Calendar

3/04	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room
3/05	8:30a	Highway Safety Committee	BOS Meeting Room
3/05	7:00	Planning Board Workshop	Buxton Meeting Room
3/05	7:00	Budget Committee	BOS Meeting Room
3/06	7:00	Zoning Board	Hills Memorial Library
3/10	7:00	Conservation Commission	Buxton Meeting Room

**\*\* 3/11 7:00am – 8:00pm TOWN & SCHOOL ELECTION \*\***

3/12	7:00	Planning Board	Buxton Meeting Room
3/18	7:00	Municipal Utility Committee	BOS Meeting Room
3/19	6:00	Library Trustees	Hills Memorial Library
3/20	7:00	Benson Park Committee	Hudson Cable Access Center
3/24	7:00	Sustainable Committee	Buxton Meeting Room
3/25	7:00	Board of Selectmen	BOS Meeting Room

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on February 25, 2025**

- 1) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to hire Alexander Borghetti with a starting salary of \$28.82 (step 1), all in accordance with the Hudson Police Employee Association Contract, as recommended by the Police Chief. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 2) Selectman Dumont made a motion seconded by Selectman Morin, to appoint Public Works Supervisor, Jeremy Faulkner, as the Acting Public Works Director until such time current Public Works Director, Jay Twardosky, returns to work. Further, to increase his salary by 7.5% during this period including retroactive to January 6, 2025. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 3) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to adjourn at 8:48 p.m. Motion carried, 5-0.

**B. Proposal for Legal Services – Administration/Decision**

Chairman Guessferd: We have another item of old business. A proposal for legal services which we discussed last week. We had asked our Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson, to do a little research to determine the, a little bit of support for the rehiring, the extension of the current legal services. I'll recognize Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: Thank you once again. So, this item here you do have in your packet, you'll see the memo I prepared. One of the tasks or the directions I was given was to potentially reach out to communities. I did that, you see that in the table attached here. As I mentioned in the memo I'd like to keep those town in confidence. I gave a general idea to give you a dynamic of it's comparison to Hudson per se and you can see the fee average by per hour. When I say average per hour, some of these communities use firms and each lawyer at a different rate, so I took the average of that. Regarding Hudson, we have one exclusive lawyer that we use pretty much, with Tarbell and Brodich, that's David LeFevre and his rate has been established in the memo as well. The other thing I did just to kind of work this through a little bit, and you'll see the motions here attached, is I did reach out to him as well and see if he would extend that rate and services for three years, OK. So that could be a consideration for this Board as well. Alright, so you have three options here, there's three motions. And you have the backup for each one and it's the pleasure of this Board to take action at this time.

Chairman Guessferd: Do we have any questions or comments by the Board?

Selectman Roy: I think it's good to have the three year option, we don't have to revisit again for three years.

Chairman Guessferd: Especially since he's agreed to hold the rate for those three years as well. He has a good history. Does this information satisfy the Board? OK. So, what I'll do is we'll go through the motions here then. To enter into a contract, we have a motion to enter into a contract for legal services with the law firm of Tarbell & Brodich, PA for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028, for the terms as specified in the Proposal for Legal Services 2025-2028 letter as prepared by Attorney David LeFevre.

Selectman Roy: So moved.

Selectman Morin: Second.

Chairman Guessferd: So moved, second. Selectman Roy, Selectman Morin. Any questions, concerns, comments?

Selectman Jakoby: I just have a couple questions. So for any action currently we use the same attorney as you stated. So at no point are we looking at, in certain circumstances, using additional or different attorney?

Chairman Guessferd: Not for these services. We have attorneys for different, we have a labor attorney...

Selectman Jakoby: I just wanted to let the, I wanted to let the public know. So we have attorneys for different services? This is our general attorney.

Chairman Guessferd: Yes.

Selectman Jakoby: And we have attorney's that specialize in certain areas that are separate from this?

Chairman Guessferd: That is correct.

Selectman Jakoby: So, I just wanted to point that out to the public. Because I know that was something that was always a little confused for me.

Chairman Guessferd: OK.

Selectman Jacoby: And then I, again will just reiterate, that I would like to go out to bid. I prefer not to have a three year contract. But, I understand what the will of the Board is. So, I just wanted to specify where I stand.

Chairman Guessferd: OK. Thank you, thank you for doing that. Do we have any other comments or questions?

Roy Sorenson: If I may Mr. Chair. So, one thing, and I will have, and I can do this after the fact, I think it's important if you read the backup letter for the three year, is to actually just add a clause that says we can exit that at any time, either party can. It's not part of the letter, I will have that added and forward that to the Board. Which would just be another sentence or two within that motion one that you see right there.

Chairman Guessferd: Does the current contract have an exit clause? Even though it's only for a year?

Roy Sorenson: It's because its professional services, it does. But this one specific now because we're going to three years. I think you just identify it within that, or memorialize it within that letter.

Chairman Guessferd: OK. I don't have an objection to it, I just want to make sure we're being consistent.

Selectman Jakoby: Can you just amend this motion to add that?

Selectman Dumont: I was going to say that would just be an amendment if the motion maker and the seconder.

Chairman Guessferd: Are we good with that? OK. Amending the motion to include an exit clause for either party.

Selectman Roy make a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to enter into a contract for legal services with the law firm of Tarbell & Brodich, PA for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028, for the terms as specified in the Proposal for Legal Services 2025-2028 letter as prepared by Attorney David LeFevre as amended with an exit clause either party can exercise at any time. Motion carried, 4-1. Selectman Jacoby opposing.

Chairman Guessferd: So, motion number two is to enter into the contract for legal services with the law firm of Tarbell & Brodich, PA for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, for the terms as specified in the Proposal for Legal Services 2025-2026 letter as prepared by Attorney David LeFevre, as amended with the exit clause....

Selectman Dumont: We would only need one.

Selectman Jakoby: We only needed that first one that took care of everything.

Chairman Guessferd: OK. Wait a minute, are these the same?

Selectman Roy: Except ones for one year and one was three years.

Selectman Jakoby: So we just voted on the three year.

Chairman Guessferd: Sorry about that.

Selectman Jakoby: And then number three is not necessary either.

Chairman Guessferd: Alright, we're good to go. OK, thank you. So now we move onto the Policy Sub-Committee Second Read. And we did a first reading of these policies last week and so I'll recognize Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson.

Roy Sorenson: Alright, thank you. So, once again as discussed at last week's meeting, some of the changes which were minor. In fact if you look at the policies themselves we didn't red line any of the language, I think we're amendable to that. It was just the call up box at the top. And I believe we made those changes to the pleasure of

the Committee and/or the Board. So, these two policies, I guess at this point can be read into the record and accepted.

Chairman Guessferd: Absolutely.

Selectman Roy: Do we need to do a motion for that?

Chairman Guessferd: Yes, it looks like we do have a motion here.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to move that the Board of selectmen, through the Policy Sub-Committee, hereby accepts Policy IV J: Conduct – Discipline, and Policy IV K: Conduct – Grievances, to be placed on file as reviewed here, and to be brought forward again in five years, or shortly thereafter, for further review. Motion carried, 5-0.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. CPCNH Update – Public/Discussion**

Chairman Guessferd: Next I will recognize Craig Putnam. Member of the Sustainability Committee and of our CPCNH initiative to provide with an update to the Community Power of New Hampshire.

[A slide show of CPCNH is presented to the Selectmen]

Craig Putnam: Good evening, hi. Craig Putnam, 59 Rangers Drive. I appreciate the... [preparing slide] opportunity to come back in front of the Board of Selectmen, it's been awhile since I've done an update. There's been a lot going on of late, so I thought it was high time to make an update. The information that's in your packet is slightly different from the slide show. There is some late breaking news after I submitted the slides so there is an insert that I passed around and I'll address that as the second couple of items here. The others are the same. What I'm going to update tonight on is change to Hudson's Principle Executive Officer for CPCNH. A statement he's made to change to senior leadership, we'll discuss the recent rate increase and I also want to talk a bit about some important legislature. One of the roles that CPCNH has defined in the Joint Powers Agreement is that of a Principle Executive Officer. The PEO is the person named by the town's legislative body, by you folks. Who is empowered to make certain decisions regarding Hudson Community Power. Specifically the choice of the rate for the default can either be Granite Basic, which is the current default, or it can be Granite Plus. It's up to a given community to choose one of those as the default rate, the other ones then become optional rates that can be opted out or down as appropriate. The other thing that the PEO is empowered to make a decision around is whether to set a discretionary reserve adder and that's something that's defined in the Joint Powers Agreement, this is something that Hudson has not yet taken advantage of. So unless there's particular interest in having me describe that further, I'll move on. The Board of Selectmen had previously named the previous Town Administrator, Steve Malizia, as the PEO. And so I think it's appropriate for the Board to now decide who the new PEO should be. It's not something you have to act on tonight, you don't need to do it right this minute. But, when you do make your decision there's some people that need to be notified at CPCNH. I've already spoken with Mr. Sorenson about that and I can provide that information (inaudible). So are there any questions on this? Oh, I should add that these two decisions are a decision that the PEO would have the opportunity to make basically twice a year ahead of a new rate period taking effect. The way its set up is that if you make no changes from the state that your current rate period is going into the new rate period, they just propagate forward. So there's actually no active action that a PEO must take twice a year. These are opportunities that are available twice a year to make a change. Any questions on that? OK. This is the addition to the slides that I had in the packet. This statement from CPCNH happened after I'd submitted the packet Thursday, Wednesday evening, this came out on Friday. I hate reading slides, the text of slides, but I think it's probably appropriate at this point that I do that. I'm not sure that the audience will necessarily be able to see what's there on the screen. So, this is a statement from CPCNH: "As we approach our third year of services being delivered to our members, our CEO, Brian Callnan, has decided with the agreement of CPCNH to step aside on February 28, 2025 to allow CPCNH to begin its next chapter with new leadership at the helm. While at CPCNH, Brian helped grow the staff to eight talented employees and expanded contractor and service providers to meet our growing organizational needs. Brian will be focusing on recently discovered family health issues while looking forward to what new opportunities are uncovered in the future. CPCNH's staff and contractors will ensure member services and operations are performed effectively." At the bottom there's an additional box there with a link to a, into the CPCNH.org website and it's a link that I'm in the process of trying to get added to the Hudson Community Power website as well. And it basically expands on this and discusses that Henry

Hurndon who is one of the staff members at CPCNH, his previous role. Now is director of member services, he has now been promoted into acting General Manager. So, there's a plan in place for filling the gap and this is something that the Board of Directors and staff are all behind. Everyone's in alignment with this change in leadership at this time. So, I can discuss that further if there's more interest but, if not I'll move on. Alright, so I want to talk about the rate increase. So, as you know, the affinities and CPCNH and to some extent, some of the competitive electric power supply brokers have fixed rate periods. So the utilities and CPCNH have rate periods that run from February 1<sup>st</sup> through the end of July and then August 1<sup>st</sup> through the end of January. So we're just now into the beginnings of the, I'll call it, the winter/spring early summer rate period. CPCNH had set a rate of 8.9¢ per kilowatt hour for the spring rate period. It has become necessary for CPCNH to adjust that rate. CPCNH is required to cover its costs and it was through a number of things that have happened of late, some new data that's been uncovered. We found that the 8.9¢ rate was not going to cover CPCNH's costs through the entire six month rate period. So a new rate has been calculated. There's a number of different things that contributed to this, which I can discuss in more detail if there's interest. But, the bottom line is that there was an increase in the rate from 8.9 to 9.7¢ per kilowatt hour for the remainder of this rate period because we have to do a 30 day notice of the rate increase. So that new rate of 9.7¢ per kilowatt hour took effect yesterday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and will extend through the end of July. That's a little bit higher than Eversource's rate which is at 8.9, 8.929, actually. So this is the first occurrence of CPCNH having a rate that is actually over the utility rate. And there's a number of factors for this. CPCNH is always working to provide the lowest rates possible while covering costs and maintaining financial stability. And the great adjustment was necessary to ensure that rates were covering costs. I think it's helpful if we look at some recent history on rates across the utilities. So the left part of this chart here is basically April of 2023, just prior to CPCNH launching. The two lines that you really want to pay attention to here are the light blue line, the third down from the top, if you will, at the left. And the red line underneath that. The light blue line is Eversource, which is the utility that covers Hudson, and the red line is the CPCNH rate. As so you see that the red line starting in, basically late April, early May of 2023 and that's when CPCNH launched with the (inaudible). And so at that time you can see that CPCNH was underneath all of the utilities except for the co-op, which is the green line there. The interesting thing to look at is how the rates have reduced and compressed over time. What you're seeing is the effect of Community Power. Not just CPCNH, but because there's other Community Power agencies around the state. But, certainly CPCNH is the largest of them and the competition that's arisen because of Community Power, has caused these rates to, in part, has caused the rates to be decreasing and compressed across the utility. So, the room for maneuvering has decreased very dramatically as you see as this graph moves on to the right.

Chairman Guessferd: It's amazing what competition does.

Craig Putnam: Ya, a little competition is great. So, this is all goodness and of course as I said, CPCNH's desire is always to be underneath the utilities. But, sometimes that's not going to be possible and it's not possible right now. And I'll come back to that in a moment. But, I wanted to kind of get to the bottom line on rates. As of from launch, which for Hudson Community Power in April of '24, through the end of December Hudson residents saved over \$475,000, the Hudson residents that were using Community Power, I should say. Saved over \$475,000 as compared to having stayed on Eversource. That's fantastic. The updated rate because we moved, CPCNH moved from 8.9¢ to 9.7¢, that updated rate will erode that savings a little bit for those who stayed with Community Power, this spring. The supply part of the bill, remember again, with Community Power we're only talking about the supply part of the bill. The supply part of the bill for residential customers that are on Granit Basic will be about \$5.00 a month higher as compared to what they're paying prior to this rate change. OK, so the 8.9¢ to the 9.7¢ for your average customer's 650 kilowatt hours a month is going to be about \$5 a month difference. This rate change is only taking place for the latter five months in the period so we're talking about \$25 total. Approximately. Through July 2025, in other words, through the end of this rate period those customers on Granit Basic, which is the vast majority of customers in Hudson, there're still going to see an 8.7% savings, approximately, relative to Eversource. So even despite the fact that we're going to erode the savings a little bit by being higher than Eversource for this five month period, you're still going to see about an 8.7% in savings since launch. And so out of just, and on the rate discussion, by saying that CPCNH expects in and works to provide rates that are lower than the utilities and we expect that it will more often than not. Especially if we can influence several bills going through the legislature. That's my Segway into the next section but I'll pause here if there's any questions on rates before I go on.

Selectman Roy: What are the chances that the rates are going to go down again after July?

Craig Putnam: Um, there are many factors that affect rates, competition being one of them. Weather is a big one. Part of what led to the rate increase for CPCNH, and oh by the way, I noticed today that the co-op raised their rates, or is going to raise their rates. They announced a rate change on Friday, so April 1<sup>st</sup> their rate are going up as well. So, it's been the coldest winter in 20+ years. That is a big influence on the cost of electricity. And what I'm going to be talking about next is one of the other major factors which has to do with new guidance from the PUC. It is going to be a major influence on rates. And maybe I can answer the question a little bit more fully once I've talked about what the PUC is doing. But there's a variety of things. Well, can I guarantee that the rates will be lower starting August 1<sup>st</sup>? No I cannot. Will they be likely lower? We could hope so. Possibly they will be. It's hard to say at this point.

Selectman Dumont: You said that the savings has slightly eroded and then you also elaborated on it's roughly about an 8%, 8.7% savings. What is that dollar amount that's left over after the rate change?

Craig Putnam: So the 8.7% is basically, so take a typical residential customer at 650 kilowatt hours per month. If they joined Community Power at the beginning of the launch, you know, in April, through the end of December, I'm sorry, through the end of July, I'm sorry, through the end of July, so there's what? Maybe about a 15, 14 month window there, they would have saved roughly 8.7% as opposed to what they would have paid if they'd stay with Eversource.

Selectman Dumont: And that's figuring in this rate?

Craig Putnam: That is figuring in this rate increase. That includes the rate increase.

Selectman Dumont: And do you have a rough dollar amount as to what that is for that average customer vs. a percentage?

Craig Putnam: Um, so if you look there you can see, most of our customers are on Granit Basic. This is the higher rate, the 9.7¢, this is the new rate. It's roughly \$63 a month. And so the rate that we went into at the beginning of February was about \$5 less than that. So \$57, \$58

Chairman Guessferd: So what I'm thinking here is, it was \$475,000 up until now. I think that's going to end up going down because now we're paying a little bit more. So that will go with like \$400... I don't know. You know whatever it is, it's going to be a little bit less than that overall.

Selectman Dumont: And I was just trying to put a dollar amount on it. I figured if we could put a dollar amount on the savings, we could know what that difference is going to be figured for this rate.

Craig Putnam: I can, ya. OK, I understand. I don't know what the new number would be, you know. It was \$475 up through the end of December. It will probably erode down a bit from there. I can try to calculate that new number and get it to the Board. I don't have it.

Selectman Dumont: I think that would be helpful, I'd appreciate that.

Chairman Guessferd: Good to have numbers.

Craig Putnam: There are, there are things, so, I don't know if the Board necessarily knows that I have a new hat that I'm wearing as well. So, in the past I was one of the member reps to CPCNH from Hudson. Myself and Kate Messner were named, in fact by you folks, to, your predecessors, to represent Hudson to CPCNH. I am also now a Director. I'm on the Board of Directors of CPCNH so I have that additional role.

Selectman Morin: I've got a question on that then. Does that fall under a conflict of interest where he is running our thing and he's a Board of Director?

Chairman Guessferd: I don't know. I mean you ...

Craig Putnam: It hasn't for anyone else. So, it's not come up as a potential conflict of interest.

Selectman Morin: I understand. But it just did.

Craig Putnam: No I understand. What I'm saying is none of the other Directors have said that it's been an issue for them in any of their towns or cities. So, ...

Selectman Morin: I just...

Craig Putnam: No I understand the question.

Chairman Guessferd: The optic.

Selectman Morin: You're working for us and you're also a Board of Director, that could be seen as a conflict of interest. And where we've got other people on the Committee that we could put into that position which would eliminate that. But that's my question, that's all.

Chairman Guessferd: Yes and that's a legitimate question.

Craig Putnam: It is. I mean if I felt that there was, you know, a question that was coming up where I was in a conflict of interest I would recuse myself from that, from participating, however it was appropriate. Whichever hat I had to drop. As I say, it hasn't come up so far. I mean if it's the pleasure of the Board to replace me with someone else as the member, as a member rep, so be it.

Selectman Morin: I think what we should do, my opinion, is you've done a good job. So if we can get an attorney and find out if that would be considered a conflict of interest because he's holding both positions. Especially he's also a Board member.

Chairman Guessferd: Alright, yes. We'll contact Dave and see what he has to say.

Selectman Jakoby: I think that's an excellent point. I think either way what the attorney says is important. But, I think it might be good for us to consider replacing with someone else. Because then it gets another voice into the process. So, I don't think that's a terrible thing if we have another candidate or someone else that would be able to do that.

Craig Putnam: So, Kate Messner is also a representative.

Chairman Guessferd: It would be like a third person, basically.

Craig Putnam: If you wanted to swap me for somebody else to work with Kate.

Chairman Guessferd: Yes, let's put it on the agenda for the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Selectman Jakoby: Yes because I think that's a really good point.

Chairman Guessferd: Just so at least discuss it. And in the meantime talk to the attorney and we'll see what he has to say.

Selectman Morin: And my question referenced the rates. When I watch the Sustainability Committee, I believe there was a mention they were \$7 million in the deficit, is that true?

Craig Putnam: Deficit is not the correct word. There is a joint reserve which is monies that come from the rates. It's baked into the rates that all Community Power customers pay. And that reserve, there's targets for building that reserve up over time. And the reserve has different functions. It's mainly there to act as a buffer for electricity price changes. Remember when you're purchasing electricity you're making forecasts of load. And the forecast may or may not be correct, there's a whole bunch of things that can influence the load. Customers come and go, weather can change the load. Weather can change the price of electricity and has done so this winter to a great extent. And so, the rates can vary a lot depending on quite a number of factors. Part of what led to that reduction that hit, the diminishing of the joint reserve, was some discoveries around load forecasts that were incorrect. And so in order to cover our costs, it was necessary to dip into the joint reserve. That's one of the reasons it's there. Turns out we couldn't cover enough costs by just dipping into the joint reserves, we didn't want to drain the joint reserves. That led to the rate increase.

Selectman Morin: So how much are they down?

Craig Putnam: That is a number that you can obtain by doing a Right-to-Know request. I'm at liberty...

Selectman Morin: You said that night \$18 million.

Craig Putnam: I did and I got over my ski tips.

Selectman Morin: So you sitting on the Board, won't tell the Board of Selectmen, who are part of this program, how much they're down?

Craig Putnam: You're welcome to, you're welcome to obtain that information through Right-to-Know.

Selectman Morin: Thank you.

Craig Putnam: I got out over my skis when I spoke earlier on that.

Selectman Morin: I have a concern with that also.

Chairman Guessferd: Well, there is a concern, yes.

Gary Gasdia: I never speak but I just feel like, I feel like there's something here. What are we going to do to inform all of the customers? Because I know the charts start back when they were, but I've been playing this game for many, many years going back and forth between Eversource, Direct Energy, all of these people. So, what happened in the past for savings is irrelevant, right? I mean the whole idea of this was we want to give you the lowest rate. And I can



tell you, I'm going hypothetically but I've been around this world long enough, if Eversource came out tomorrow and said, sorry, the rate we promised you for six months is going to go up, we would be telling everybody that the evil big company is doing this to us. And to me, we need to tell our people that you signed up for something that to get away from evil Eversource and now Eversource has a better deal. We should be telling everybody that you know, hey, for the next five months go back. And then you can come back to us when we have a lower rate. Or at least make it available because to me, I mean again, I do my research this isn't surprising news to me I saw about it. But, the whole purpose of this was for the people that aren't paying attention. Because anyone who's paying attention doesn't need Community Power, you could always get a better rate. For the people that aren't paying attention, they are under the belief that they're getting a better rate with this thing. And if we're not, and I understand there's reasons why we're not, they're perfectly valid. But we have to treat it the same way as if it were the other way around and I guarantee you if Eversource said sorry we're not doing 8.9¢ we're doing 9.7¢, there's be flyers going to every home as to why they should go to Community Power, we need to do the same thing on the way back. I'm just saying.

Selectman Morin: And I agree.

Craig Putnam: May I respond?

Selectman Morin: I've got an issues that they won't tell us how much they're in deficit. Our people are paying that. That's probably part of this rate increase that they won't tell us about. That concerns me greatly.

Chairman Guessferd: I think he said that's part of the rate increase.

Selectman Morin: No he told me I have to get a Right-to-Know to get that.

Chairman Guessferd: Right, but that is a specific number.

Selectman Morin: But I want that number so we can understand it better.

Craig Putnam: The specific number, I should not have bandied about the number that I, range of numbers actually, that I did. Part of what's going on there as well, is that as we have studied further over the last couple of months, what was going on, we've now come to better understand the causes of having to dip into the joint reserves. And the specific numbers as we've understood things better, ... OK. CPCNH is a relatively young organization, only three years old. So we're learning, have been all along. You design anew machine, sometimes the machine doesn't work quite as well as you had hoped and so you make some revisions to the machine and you generate a new release of the machine and you move on. And we're learning and making changes to some policies and procedures and so on. We found that there are some things that weren't being accounted for correctly in our forecasts that was part of what led to all of this. One of the complications around this, and part of the reason that I can't give you, and I'm reluctant to try and give you a number, is that is depends on revenues that we haven't collected yet. Alright? That are owed to us but the settlement costs and when settlements take place in the power industry, are often quite a bit out in time. Months in some cases. And so, this was all news to me, you don't know on the day exactly where you are with things. This is why you have a buffer.

Selectman Morin: But you know right now what you have for a number. Even without those, you do have a number at this point. So what is it?

Craig Putnam: We do have a number. I'm not at liberty to tell you. OK? Right-to-Know will get you that number.

Selectman Morin: I understand that I'm just very concerned. You know we hear all the time we want to let our residents know, we need to get our information to our residents. How many of our residents? 70% of the town's residents are paying?

Craig Putnam: 71%

Selectman Morin: 71% of our people don't know how much money and deficit that they may have to make up. That is my concern.

Craig Putnam: No, no, no, no, no. They don't have to make up anything.

Selectman Morin: Is it in their rates to fill this fund back up?

Craig Putnam: Yes.

Selectman Morin: OK, then they have to pay for it.

Craig Putnam: There's not, well...

Selectman Morin: Yes.

Craig Putnam: There's not an additional charge over what they're paying now.

Selectman Morin: But we just raised the rates. So, some of that money is going into this fund that has gone down, correct?

Craig Putnam: Yes.

Selectman Morin: OK, so they are paying for it.

Craig Putnam: That will help restore the fund.

Selectman Morin: They are paying for it then.

Craig Putnam: Let me point out, because this gets into the next set of topics that I want to talk about. That we have experienced something similar but, different from the utilities. The rate that you see from Eversource right now...

Selectman Morin: I'm not talking about Eversource because 71% of our people are on your thing. I want our thing.

Craig Putnam: I understand. But, my point is that the utilities are playing by different rules and one of the things that really complicates this whole for any community program, not just CPCNH, is that the playing field is not level and we're trying to get the playing field leveled. Utilities when they have a rate, they don't have to live with that rate. We've experienced this in the past, we've seen this in the past before we ever launched. There were times when Eversource had over charged in a rate class and then would restore that money in a subsequent rate period. And the inverse happens as well, they didn't charge enough. OK, so then they come back later and they say we want more money, so we're putting an adder on in a subsequent grid class. CPCNH is not allowed to do that. We have to cover the cost in the period in question. And so, that's one of the major drivers of having this rate increase from 8.9¢ to 9.7¢. Is we're not going to be able to cover our costs and raise rates to do so.

Selectman Morin: So, we are paying for it. And what concerns me now, what you said when you were asked if how the rates were going to change in July, and what you're telling me now, I'm going to put words in your mouth, but I don't see it happening, what you're telling me. Because there is obviously considerable amount of money that has to be made up, is what it sounds like. You said \$18 million at you Sustainability Committee meeting.

Craig Putnam: No, I never did.

Selectman Morin: Yes, you did. Because I watched it again tonight to make sure before I came. And that's, that's where I got the information that they were in a deficit and you answered me earlier when I said \$18 million, yes I shouldn't have said that. That's what you said to me about five minutes ago.

Craig Putnam: I believe the words I used before was before \$8 and \$12.

Selectman Morin: I'd like that number, but I will be getting it.

Chairman Guessferd: We will, yes we will.

Selectman Morin: Yes, we definitely need to get it for our systems.

Chairman Guessferd: Before I know we got a couple, I want to say something here, too. The way this is being presented tonight it's almost like, not entirely, 100% factual. In other words, what I mean he's not lying or anything, but, you're trying to put a good spin on this. OK? And I get it. My concern is we should be saying that rather than the savings, the overall savings from X date until July this year, instead of saying it's going to be degraded a little bit, we should be saying that, because people don't care what happens. Quite frankly people have very short memories. People care about what they're paying right now. And just like what you're saying, and what they're going to be paying for the next five months. Personally, I'm paying way more, because I'm on Direct Energy and I gotta move off of that and I've spent way too much time on Direct Energy at this point, I was locked in for a while. But anyway, beyond that. People are going to be concerned about what they're paying now and that's what we have to present to them, open, right in front of them instead of trying to put a kind of a rosy picture on it.

Craig Putnam: Again I believe ...

Chairman Guessferd: Hold on, hold on, I want to finish what I'm saying, sir. OK? And what's going to be really, really important for CPCNH and for the Board and everybody else associated is, is to be, just to lay it out. OK, just to lay it out and say this is what's happening. Because what's going to happen, and here's my question for you and you don't know this, you don't know this yet. But over the next five months, how many people are going to opt out because of this. Even though it's a little tiny amount, how many people are going to opt out. And then, if you get a mass exodus, that's going to hurt you even more. That's going to hurt the company more because you're relying on the masses of

people to help put all this together. And so what I'm concerned about is that if we're not up front with people and we don't tell them exactly what the situation is now vs. well know, you're not as good as you were before, the rate is lower, I mean the rate is higher, our rate is higher than Eversource. How are they going to a) stop people from jumping? They're not going to stop people from jumping back to Eversource. And if you get a significant amount of people that are doing that, guess what? The CPCNH is going to be in trouble.

Craig Putnam: So it is certainly a concern. It is certainly something we are well aware of, OK? And we have to the extent that it's been possible, looked at other CPA's, Community Power Associations, around the country that have experienced something similar. And there are examples. And so, it's never exactly an apples to apples comparison but you can at least get a sense. The sense from those other examples is that it wasn't all that bad. OK, you didn't have mass exodus. Is it something CPCNH is going to be watching? Of course. We're going to be watching it like a hawk. I believe I've been very up front around what your average homeowner rate pair should expect over the next five months. It's roughly going to be about \$5 more a month on the supply side of the bill. I didn't hide anything there, that's ...

Chairman Guessferd: Yes, you did say that. No, I'm not saying you're hiding....

Craig Putnam: And, we've been trying, very much to get the word out about the rate increase. We're not trying to hide it. So it's posted on the Sustainability, the Hudson Community Power part of the Sustainability page on the Town website. It's posted on the CPCNH website. So, it's out there, nobody's trying to hide it.

Chairman Guessferd: No, I'm not saying you're hiding it but the bottom line for us is that this is a reflection, not only on CPCNH, a reflection on us and what we sold, I don't want to say sold, but what we told our citizens, that you were going to save money. And that was the way it was presented and now it's a little different. I get it. Hopefully it's just for this short period of time, hopefully.

Craig Putnam: I will reiterate. That you never ever heard me say that we guaranteed that you would save money.

Chairman Guessferd: No, I don't think we did. But, the message was it's going to be less. I think I recall hearing at one point that it's going to be at least what Eversource is charging or less. That's what I heard.

Craig Putnam: That was our launch criteria. That was the criteria at launch.

Chairman Guessferd: The launch.

Craig Putnam: We weren't going to launch unless we were underneath Eversource.

Chairman Guessferd: Right, right. But, that sends a message though, right? Yes. And now you know the message is a little different and you're going to have to somehow market that. So, either number one, people are aware and number two, they're going to immediately jump ship on you. Because if they do, and they have every right to, there's going to be, it's going to be a major financial impact to CPCNH. And it's going to look even worse than it looks now with the reserve going down. So, I'm concerned about that. Now, having said that, I know there's a couple others that wanted to, that had comments. I just needed to feel like I needed to talk about this.

Selectman Dumont: I won't beat a dead horse, I'm going to ask a very basic question. Is this update coming from you as a Board of Director? Or, you as a citizen representing the Hudson, NH?

Craig Putnam: The presentation is mostly me as the member rep. I'm not really speaking very much here with my Board of Director hat on.

Selectman Dumont: Because I'll be honest with you, with the way that this stuff is worded and the way it's being perceived, at least from me, is that we're highlighting all the positives and just skating over the negatives of it. And I understand that you are stating them, but we kind of seem to highlight the positives and what we gave you and what we did for you and what we can do for you, instead of being even across the board and say, yep, we had some good we had some bad. Because as a citizens representative I think that that's your duty. The program, good, bad or indifferent, it's your job to let us know if it's failing. It's your job to let us know if it's improving. I don't see that and I didn't get that feeling with this. So, I think transparency, which we hear about over and over again, is extremely important with this. So I would be very careful as how you balance those two hats.

Selectman Jakob: I want to be clear on a couple of points. So the residents were given 30 days notice that the rate was going to increase?

Craig Putnam: Yes.

Selectman Jakoby: And that was done individually on their statement, or how was that done? Just to be clear because it started yesterday but they were given 30 days notice so let's be clear on how that happened.

Craig Putnam: So CPCNH has to, all utilities, and all of the Community Power, all the agencies that supply power, they have to list the rates the 30 days in advance on the DOE website.

Selectman Jakoby: On the website.

Craig Putnam: CPCNH has listed their rate increase on its own website. There has been...

Selectman Jakoby: But it wouldn't be a notification on a statement or on a bill?

Craig Putnam: That's correct. Because Eversource actually generates the actual bill.

Selectman Jakoby: And CPCNH can't put a note in saying that in 30 days it's going to increase?

Craig Putnam: That's correct. They cannot do that.

Selectman Jakoby: That's unfortunate because when we talk about ....

Craig Putnam: I say we cannot, I don't believe we can.

Selectman Jakoby: When we talk about 30 day notice, to me that's notifying everyone in CPCNH individually that the rate is going up in 30 days.

Selectman Dumont: You said you don't believe that you can, can you please do the research to see if that's a possibility?

Craig Putnam: I will find out.

Selectman Jakoby: Because that would make me feel better because that I got 30 days notice to decide whether I'm going to stay.

Selectman Dumont: And that's one that people are going to get.

Craig Putnam: I'm 99% sure it's not possible but, I will verify that.

Selectman Jakoby: So, then as the representative to the committee, I think it's really important whenever there's a rate change, let's talk about how we're going to notify this 70% of our population that their rates are going to go up in 30 days. I mean just to drill down a little bit.

Craig Putnam: I did post a notice in the Hudson Times. There has been an update to the Community Power pages on the Hudson town website. All that was done at the time.

Selectman Jakoby: Absolutely. You've done it as publically as you can but not individually and I don't know how we do that. But it's a good question.

Chairman Guessferd: Especially since many of us, like myself, get out bills electronically. How do you do that on an electronic bill?

Selectman Jakoby: Correct.

Chairman Guessferd: You know. How would you do that? I don't think you can. It's one thing to answer something in an envelope...

Selectman Morin: If you do it electronic you can do that. You can put a little red scroll that goes across when you receive your bill or something. That's probably easier than printing it on paper.

Chairman Guessferd: Eversource sends out the bill. I'm sure they'd be happy to say their....

Selectman Morin: Yeah, but they have to look at their bill. So if you had something, you all set Selectman Jakoby?

Selectman Jakoby: I have one other question but, if you want...

Selectman Morin: I was just going to ask that we defer this until we get further information.

Selectman Jakoby: Ok, then I just have one other point. This always drives me crazy about the Right-to-Know piece of this. If we can get it as a Right-to-Know, why can't we have it today? Because then that means it's public. Is it that you don't have that information at your fingertips today? Or, is it that in your role as Director we have to ask the Board of Directors and not in your role as member representative? I want to drill down on this because you know I'm a Right-to-Know girl.

Selectman Morin: And on your point, if you're the Hudson representative tonight, you can tell us. If you're the Board member tonight and you can't tell us, then we definitely have a conflict of interest.

Selectman Jakoby: Thank you. So, I'm fine with deferring it but whenever anybody says you can get it in a Right-to-Know that means its public information. Period. So, you should be able to look it up on the computer and its public. You don't need a Right-to-Know, it's just... sorry, I agree with you, Selectman Morin.

Craig Putnam: It is my understanding that the desires to have is the CPCNH actual staff respond to that kind of a question as opposed to me as a member.

Selectman Jakoby: The representative. And that's unfortunate.

Selectman Morin: So, as our representative tonight, as a member of the Sustainability Committee who worked on this, you're not going to tell us the rate?

Craig Putnam: I have told you the rate.

Selectman Morin: No, no, no, you definitely didn't.

Chairman Guessferd: Not the rate. The dollar amount.

Selectman Morin: How much money they're down.

Craig Putnam: I don't even know the number, OK? I know a range...

Selectman Morin: OK, give us the range. If you're here representing Hudson tonight, not the company, you should be able to give us that range. If you will not give it tonight, I can tell you I'm going to make a motion right now to pull you off as the representative.

Craig Putnam: My understanding is that the range is what I had spoken to earlier.

Selectman Morin: And what is that?

Craig Putnam: What I believe I said, what I intended to say, is that it was between \$8 and \$12 million dollars.

Selectman Morin: \$8 and \$12 million dollars. OK.

Selectman Jakoby: Currently in the reserve?

Craig Putnam: No that was...

Selectman Jakoby: How much it depleted the reserve. I just want it to be clear how much the reserve was tapped into.

Craig Putnam: The reason that it's a range is because as this process has evolved, played out, CPCNH is learning more about how to exactly calculate that number. As is said, it is not the case that CPCNH is about to go out of business. That's not what's happening, OK? We dipped into the reserve, it's somewhere in that range, OK? And exactly how it's calculated is often the finance people and I don't have that.

Selectman Jakoby: So, let's be clear with the public. That fund is not fully depleted, it is depleted exponentially more than what was intended. Is that a fair statement?

Craig Putnam: It was certainly much larger than ever hoped for, yes. But it is not ending. We are in the process of starting to build it back this spring. So that 9.7¢ rate is starting to, it's intending to add to that. I'll say intended because we're a forecasting load. We're forecasting how many customers might abandon Community Power. We're forecasting that cost of electricity. There's a whole bunch of things that are just unknowns, we don't what the weather is going to do for the rest of the spring and that effects the cost of the electricity.

Chairman Guessferd: And now you have an additional factor that seems to be popping up where the supply of the electricity may be effected by tariffs and things like that.

Craig Putnam: I have no idea what that's going to do.

Chairman Guessferd: I get it but it's going to happen soon, if it happens. I'm just saying there's a lot of factors.

Selectman Morin: I've got a question. If you hadn't taken any money out of the fund, what would the rate have been?

Craig Putnam: I have no idea.

Selectman Morin: Considerably more than it is. You can give me a guestimate because you know how much you took out of the fund.

Craig Putnam: I couldn't possibly calculate that number.

Selectman Morin: OK, so how much did they take out of the fund then?

Craig Putnam: I said it's between \$8 and \$12 million dollars is how much the fund is diminished.

Selectman Morin: OK, they used between \$8 and \$12. OK.

Selectman Jakoby: But, you won't have, you said earlier that the actual number won't be actualized for a couple months.

Craig Putnam: Oh, it will be many months before ...

Selectman Jakoby: Before you know exactly how much you had to ...

Selectman Dumont: Doesn't sound like it will ever be actualized because there's too much forecasting.

Selectman Jakoby: Oh, I see what you're saying.

Selectman Dumont: It's ever changing.

Craig Putnam: It's ever ...

Selectman Dumont: That's fine, that's why they have ranges. I have two simple questions, I apologize Mr. Chairman. How much is left in the fund? Today. Not with any forecasting, what is left in the fund after that depletion? You can give me the same \$4 million range if you'd like.

Craig Putnam: I don't know how much is in there today.

Selectman Dumont: How much was in there the last time you checked?

Craig Putnam: Last time I checked, I believe the number ... again, the number I'm going to give you is what I'll call the actual, what's in the fund. But there's really, that number did not account for ...

Chairman Guessferd: These collections you're talking about?

Craig Putnam: Collections, yeah. Collections in the future.

Selectman Dumont: I'm not looking for anything in the future. Last time you checked what was the number?

Craig Putnam: It was roughly \$4 million dollars.

Selectman Dumont: With the way that the rate structure today and how much you dipped in, how long is it going to take to replenish that? Based on the customers you have today, let's say they all stay, let's say the rate remains the same. Is it going to be, is that reserve going to be built back up in these next five months?

Craig Putnam: The intent with this new rate based on the forecasts, it would roughly add \$1.1 million dollars back in.

Selectman Dumont: If you're using on the small end you're only going to be able to cover about an 1/8 of what you guys dipped into with this rate change.

Craig Putnam: Please don't put all of that decrease in the joint reserve. Don't load all of that as rate change.

Selectman Dumont: I don't believe that and I wouldn't expect that. I understand there's other costs that you guys...

Craig Putnam: A bunch of other things were going on.

Selectman Dumont: But included in that is obviously this part of it ...

Craig Putnam: Some of that.

Selectman Dumont ... It just gives everybody an idea just like in any business when you're forecasting what your profit and loss is going to be, you have to understand where those are going and how you will recoup some of those loses. And that's why I was trying to figure out where that would go.

Craig Putnam: The intent is to build it back, start building back over this five month period. We might build back more if possible if electricity comes down. We might build back less if the cost stays high.

Chairman Guessferd: But suffice to say it won't be all built back up in the next five months.

Craig Putnam: Oh, we're not going to recover it all.

Selectman Dumont: And I understand that you're not going to have all those things ... OK, thank you. I'm good.

Chairman Guessferd: So, let me ask you a question. A question came up. So these people that are doing the forecasts for all these things, are they experienced people, have they been in the industry for ...

Craig Putnam: So, we have a partner called Ascend Analytics, their major role is to do statistic forecasting. One of the things that we have found as we've been analyzing what happened is that they weren't getting all of the information they should have been getting. And in some cases the forecasts that they were producing were not being used. And so there was consequences from that.

Chairman Guessferd: We're hitting you hard tonight, I know that. I know you probably didn't expect this level of pushback. We're going to have to revisit this. And I think maybe at this point it may not make a lot more sense to continue the presentation at this point. To do it at the next meeting and when you can also bring us back a little bit more information and on some of these questions that we've asked tonight. We're going to need a lot more, I'll say it in Selectman Dumont's terms, transparency on this. And very matter of fact, this is what's going on and this is where we are and this is where we're looking to be. I'm not getting that sense right now I don't think any of us are. I think all of us are concerned right now. We bought into this and you know we were, and again, a good concept, everything was great. And hopefully it will be again, but, here we are right now and the company is still young and there's a lot going on. I think we need to get more information to understand where we are. The bottom line is our citizens need to understand what the situation is. And like Mr. Gasdia said most of the people aren't paying attention. They just see their bill and they just pay it and everything's great. They don't see what's going on, they're not looking at those notices. And you can't necessarily make everybody do, just like you can't make everybody come out and vote. So, the idea it to try to educate as many people as we can on this and to be very straight forward about it. That's what we have to do.

Craig Putnam: I'm certainly open to other ways to do outreach in the town.

Chairman Guessferd: Right, and like I said, you're fighting just human nature there with regard to a lot of that. We're never going to be able to get to everybody, we know that. But beyond that, just the people that are listening, the people that are here, the people that are paying attention to those websites and looking at those things, they need to see, in the Hudson Times, they need to see that this is, there's no, everything's right in front of them. I just don't think right now so far we're thinking that it is. So what I'm guessing is, one thing I'd like to do tonight if we can, I think it's important that we have a Principle Executive Officer. I think that we, I'd like to see Administrator Sorenson as named as that, if we can possibly, if we can get a motion for that one.

Selectman Dumont: So moved.

Selectman Morin: Second.

Chairman Guessferd: A motion and a second. So, motion and a second to appoint Administrator Sorenson as the Principle Executive Officer for Hudson.

Roy Sorenson: If I may, too. What I would do, just my advice to the Board this time, if this concludes this item and whatever comes back should come back under new business, as such, and not old business. I think that's what you should do as well, I don't know when the next Sustainability Committee is, but ...

Chairman Guessferd: It's the 24<sup>th</sup> and our next meeting is the 25<sup>th</sup>. So, that's, it'll be the day after the Sustainability Committee meeting. So I think there's a little bit of work that we've got to do in the meantime to kind of pull things, pull a little bit more of this together. So, we have a more, I'll say a complete picture.

Craig Putnam: Can I ask the administrative assistant to provide me with a list of, my list of action items? I'm not going to remember everything that was asked of me. (inaudible)

Chairman Guessferd: Between Administrator Sorenson and Ms. Weissgarber, I think ...

Roy Sorenson: Can we call the motion that we accepted?

Chairman Guessferd: So, we've got to finish this off, right, with that. So, we have a motion and a second, do we have any further discussion on that? All in favor of that motion to make Mr. Sorenson the PEO.

Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to appoint Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson, as the Principle Executive Officer for Hudson to CPCNH. Motion carried, 5-0.

Chairman Morin: I just have one question I'd like to get answered. With that \$8-\$12 million, there's got to be a way to figure out what the rate would be using that money. I'd just like to know what that rate would be if you wouldn't had been able to use that \$8-\$12 million. Because if you've got to make that up there's got to be a way to do it. You've got people to do it. That and you can take out all your other fees and everything, I understand that. But, there got to be a way to do that.

Craig Putnam: I think I'm still not understanding exactly what it is that you're trying to take it off ...

Selectman Morin: Sort of like when we take money off the general fund to drop our taxes every year. If we didn't take that money we'd know what the tax rate was. You can do the same with taking that \$8-\$12 million out of that to see what the rate would have been if you didn't have that to use.

Craig Putnam: OK.

Selectman Dumont: Out of the analysis what I believe Selectman Morin asking is, you have analysis breakdown of how you're cost is created, how that rate is derived. Just remove that surplus line item of that \$8-\$12 million that was utilized in that. All of your other costs remain the same. Had that \$8-\$12 million not brought that down, where would it be at?

Craig Putnam: OK, it would have been way higher.

Selectman Dumont: Correct. And I think that's all he's just trying to figure out is where that would be. Good, bad or indifferent, it just gives a perspective of hey, this, and you know maybe it's a positive CPCNH can speak to and say hey, we have this savings account that allows us to this. Had we not have this saving account ...

Craig Putnam: That's the purpose of it, one of the purposes.

Selectman Dumont: Exactly. This is what this rate would have been.

Craig Putnam: I'll work on getting an answer for you.

Chairman Guessferd: Alright, having said all that what we're going to do is the PEO is going to provide a list of actions. Actions for the next meeting, to be answered by the next meeting.

Craig Putnam: I know you wanted to move on. I will just that there was that there was one extra thing here that I had intended to speak to which is of a time, there's a time ...

Chairman Guessferd: The legislation?

Craig Putnam: Yes, it's the legislation. It's in the pack.

Selectman Jakoby: I think it's important for the public to know in case they want to take action.

Craig Putnam: I'll try to be as brief as I can. So one of the things CPCNH is very much involved with is monitoring and it's (inaudible) influence legislation. There's 20 plus dockets at the PUC and over 50,000 senate bills that are being monitored, at least. And they're actively involved with quite a number of these dockets and house bills. There's one in particular I wanted to highlight which is House Bill 760, preserving fair market competition and protecting competitive electricity choice from utility cost shift. What's going on here, and this is part of the whole thing around rates and why they're fuzzy for the utilities. House Bill 760 is intended to protect consumers and the competitive market from an emerging threat by regulators, meaning the PUC and the monopolies, the utilities themselves. And the problem is that there's the opportunity to shift costs from utility default supply service. In other words, from people who are taking supply from Eversource to nonbypassable wires charges which means shifting it over onto the other side of the bill, the distribution/transmission side, for all customers whether they're utility supply or not. Meaning you would end up with Community Power and the competitive electric power suppliers being in the position to have to subsidize the people who are taking supply from Eversource. I'll use Eversource as the example, it applies to the other utilities as well, but strictly an Eversource town. So there was a change in the advice from the PUC to the utilities on how to go out and buy power. So this slide indicates that before, what the old advice was, that these utilities had to be fully hedged. So they would go out and they would buy six months' worth of power. So they were not exposed to the stock market at all or very little exposure. Any exposure was basically due to some variations and demand that could happen. An over and under collections were either refunded or recovered in a future default supply rate for the class of customer's incurring the rates discrepancy. That's the way it used to work. OK, we've seen that happen in the past before Hudson was involved in Community Power. The new stance of the PUC is that the utilities are to be less than 100% hedged. Their actual advice is that the utilities should be at least 30% and as much as 100% unhedged. They should be 30%-100% in the spot market which is highly volatile. The new advice is that over collections would be refunded in a future rate of period, like before by the rate class. But, the key thing here is that under collections are proposed to be shifted to the delivery side of the bill and paid for by all Eversource customers. And by customers I mean people who are receiving electricity from Eversource, not the customers that are purchasing electricity from Eversource. So this cost shift would allow Eversource and the other utilities to basically underprice their default supply rates and recover any losses from all customers who are served by Eversource even if the customer is on Community Power or on one of the competitive services. This is just not fair. It's tilting the playing field and it's anticompetitive. And so House Bill 760 is intended to rectify this. It's basically saying no you cannot do this PUC. That's the bottom line on it. And so, what I want to encourage is that individuals can contact their legislators and speak on this. There's a couple of different ways that you can do that. You can use LegiScan or you can go directly to the general counsel of New Hampshire .gov site and do that. So individuals can make their voices heard. And, I



would like to encourage the town to have a voice here, too. I don't know that Hudson does that, or it has done that, but I would like to encourage the town to do that. To actually take a position on 760 in particular, but other bills. There's other related bills that are important. I included in the packet letters from the town of Rye to the House Science Technology and Energy Committee which is committed to hearing 760. And, they wrote the bill sponsors, as well it's a bipartisan bill. So that's the main thing that I wanted to encourage the town to do. The hearing has actually happened, it happened last week on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Or, a couple weeks ago now. But, it's not been voted on yet so there's still time to possibly influence how the vote goes.

Roy Sorenson: If I may, Mr. Chair. I would as acting in my capacity right now, just make a point or two, perhaps the Sustainability can draft a letter to our consideration this Board can take action and/or move accordingly based off of that. I think that's, that would be something Sustainability Committee should put together, though.

Selectman Dumont: Just a note, it is due out of Committee by March 20<sup>th</sup>. So public hearing has already happened, they have to take action prior to March 20<sup>th</sup>. So if Sustainability doesn't have a meeting until after that, you're not going to have the letter in time. They have to take (inaudible) either by March 20<sup>th</sup>. I just pulled it up on my General Court website. So, the information is available with these links that he gave you, you guys will be able to review it. But I would suggest whatever the Board decides or Sustainability, maybe, I think you can have a special meeting on it but, you're going to have to do something quickly.

Craig Putnam: I mean you could take what's in the packet, which is what the town of Rye did, as a template.

Roy Sorenson: Yes, I think the Committee should draft that, myself. I can review it.

Craig Putnam: OK, I can speak to the Chair 'cuz I know her, well, and see if we can hold a special meeting to do that.

Roy Sorenson: I would imagine they could do that and I could just act in my capacity to forward it up to (inaudible).

Selectman Dumont: The appropriate action would be send it up to the Chair using the link that he provided there that way it will come to testimony ...

Chairman Guessferd: Like in opposition to that bill.

Craig Putnam: No, we're supporting the bill.

Selectman Dumont: I read the list of sponsors there is a good bipartisan support on it so chances are it will be favorable but, any testimony in for it will be helpful.

Craig Putnam: The PUC and the utilities are, they're throwing their weight around trying to make sure 760 doesn't happen.

Selectman Jakoby: Let's just be clear. I mean the Chairman of the Sustainability could draft her letter, share it with the rest of the Committee and then just say, you know, and forward and forward, you don't necessarily need ...

Craig Putnam: That was my question, do we have to have a meeting to give you something?

Roy Sorenson: No, I would just copy it to me in my capacity right now so I can see that.

Chairman Guessferd: Let's get something.

Craig Putnam: On this point I did do a letter to the editor in the Hudson Times and also, anyway. It's important that...

Chairman Guessferd: That we get something up there before the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Selectman Dumont: Just a follow up, so that is for the House after, obviously, that decision is made it goes before the House floor and after that it goes back to Senate. They can do with it whatever they want so that will also be necessary that time around as well.

Craig Putnam: CPCNH will be following it and I can give you updates on where it's at.

Roy Sorenson: [Selectman Dumont] You could testify too, right?

Selectman Dumont: Yes, if need be.

Selectman Roy: I just have one question. It goes to the conflict of interest thing that kind of trying to wrap my head around. Do receive any compensation from CPCNH?

Craig Putnam: No, I do not. The only thing I get is mileage.

Selectman Roy: OK.

Chairman Guessferd: OK, thank you. Thanks for coming tonight and we'll see you again soon. So we will move on to our Annual Public Health Update.

**B. Annual Public Health Update – Fire/Discussion**

Chairman recognizes Fire Chief, Scott Tice. Thank you Mr. Chair, good evening everyone. So tonight I'm hear as the Public Health Officer to give an update on public health activities. I thought it would be a good opportunity to give an overview for the Board and for the public on how Public Health works in Hudson. So, each in New Hampshire under RSA is required to have a Public Health Officer. In Hudson, that duty is assigned to the Fire Chief. The Board of Selectmen in the absence of a Board of Public Health is the Board of Health along with the Public Health Officer. So all of us together, the Board of Public Health. Public Health Officers typically, some communities do have people who are, you know, have college degrees in Public Health or what not, but that's not necessarily what the Public Health Officer needs to be. I am not an expert in Public Health by any means, but that's not really the role of a local Public Health Officer. If somebody has a public health issue or concern, they contact us and we investigate, try to determine what the cause is. A lot of time if you just work with people you can resolve a lot of issues. Most of the things we do, Public Health nuisances and housing complaints. Not single family houses, but any rental property. There is an RSA, it's RSA 48 a, Minimum Housing Standards, that discusses the minimum requirements in rental property. And then RSA 147 is Public Health Nuisances and that talks about what is and isn't a public health nuisance. So if we find something that we can't rectify ourselves working with the people involved, we have the state that we can work closely with. Typically Department Health Human Services or the Department of Environmental Services. They have the experts there, we need that type of support, we can get that through them. And sometimes they come to us looking for information. If they have a report on something and they need, just need verification that's (inaudible) sometimes they'll call us and we'll go out and check into it and say, this is what we saw. Then they will determine whether they need to get involved or not. We also work with the Greater Nashua Regional Public Health Region in New Hampshire there's 13 public health regions that are supported by the state. Every community is a part of one of those public health regions and they also provide us some support and they do more of the outreach and those types of things. So that's why locally we're not, we don't do public health outreach or those types of things, the Regional Public Health Region's do that. I don't do this alone, honestly, physically I don't do most of it. Deputy Public Health Officer's do this. We use the Inspectional Services division to do a lot of this. We also have the Animal Control Officer who will handle any of the animal related health issues. And the Town Engineer will assist us with septic type issues. So types of activities that we handle in 2024 we had two multi-family properties that had severe hoarding and unsanitary living conditions and we worked with landlords and tenants and rectified those situations. We had two other rental properties with mold issues so we worked with those issues to get that cleaned up. We had one landlord who had mold, rodents and electrical issues that we worked with. This is where it really comes in helpful having Inspectional Services involved because we (inaudible) the public health aspect which was rodents and the mold and then we could deal with the electrical issues. And mold, also, in the state of New Hampshire, there's no regulations on mold, what we have to go after is the cause of the mold. So, if there's leaking pipes, if there's leaking windows, leaking roof, that type of stuff which really helps to have the building department involved with that type of stuff as well. We did have on retail property that had unsanitary bathroom conditions that was reported to us. We worked with them to have that cleaned up. There is a state law where childcare facilities and educational facilities are supposed to be testing for lead. Which the Department of Public Health needed some help contacting some of them. Sometimes the private schools when they change ownership they didn't have contact information so we help follow up with that to make sure that we're contacting the state to get those tests done. We work with the state to get the swimming water tested at Robinson Pond and facilitate the results and getting that out and posting the signs. We did the school inspections this year. All schools are required to have health inspections every three years, so we did that in 2024 and we conducted two foster care inspections. So, anytime somebody wants to become a foster parent, they have to go through an inspection of fire and public health, or health related ones, we do both of them. So that's what we do here at the local level for public health.

Chairman Guessferd: OK. Any questions, comments?

Selectman Jakob: I just want to thank you for that overview and I think it's really helpful for the public to understand what is all involved. Because that's a wide variety of things that you do and there's great breadth and graph to that and you know, to keep our community safe. So thank you, that was very helpful.

Scott Tice: You're welcome.

Chairman Guessferd: OK. Thanks very much, appreciate you coming for that.

C. Winter Operations Update – Public Works/Discussion

Chairman Guessferd recognizes Public Works Director, Jay Twardosky. Thank you, good evening Board. As directed I, in this memo I came up with our update for the winter operations, what we've been through so far this year. We've had nine snow events totaling 45". Twenty four events total, and when I say twenty four events total that's when, sanding, salting, getting called out in the middle of the night, ice storm, snow storm, all together, twenty four events. We've spent \$181,139 in overtime. So, we're about 25% was that last big ice and snow storm together where the guys worked their butts off to get that taken care of. We've used 2,873 tons of salt totaling \$218,000, a little over that which is over 2/3 of our budget for the year. And 3,084 tons of sand totaling just about \$54,000 for a total of \$453,173 approximately. I also included a two year comparison where you see based on what we had last year for a total year vs. is what we had this year so far. Everything is pretty much in comparison so we haven't used any more than we normally would have it's just it works out per storm. But, it just goes to show you that we we're definitely behind the eight ball in where we need to be for budgets to keep the same level of service on our roads.

Chairman Guessferd: When you say that what do you mean behind the eight ball?

Jay Twardosky: We have rising, just like everything else, you have rising costs. Just like salt. When you're going out for a salt bid and we actually use the state salt bid, it doesn't, you don't even get to bid that until three months after you're into the new budget. So, you have no idea, you know you need a crystal ball on that one to try and figure out where you're going to be for a budget. So you go with what you've used for tons on average through the years. And based on what you've been paying there's really no idea to figure out how much they're going to go up until the bid actually comes out. We had one year where it went up over \$20 a ton, nothing we can do about it other than not use it. Which is not an option. There's other types of deicers, they are more expensive. Some of them arguably work better but they're more expensive, the equipment is more expensive to use them. They're not necessarily as efficient because of the way you have to put it out and most of it is a liquid. The liquid melts faster, it also dilutes faster so it runs off faster so you're out there putting it down again more often. So, even if you were to save money on materials you're spending more money on overtime.

Chairman Guessferd: So, are we going to make it this year with the budget we have?

Jay Twardosky: We're going to make it. We're over on some items unfortunately, like we keep telling everybody, there's only about one budget item we can pull any overages out of and that's out of town wide paving. So when we don't get it in this budget we have to maintain a certain level of safety on the roads and we don't have the money to do that. It has to come from some place. We can't just say we're not maintaining the roads for the rest of the winter.

Chairman Guessferd: How many events did we have last year, do you know? Like compared to this year.

Jay Twardosky: So the total last year was 50.

Chairman Guessferd: So far we've had 24.

Jay Twardosky: Correct. And we've been lucky the last couple weeks and now looks like the temperature is moderating, but, with moderating temperatures you don't get snow but you're going to get rain that washes all the residuals off and then at night it freezes over again and now we're out there again putting even more down. Trying to keep everybody safe.

Chairman Guessferd: Just keep us, if there's anything that happens, we need to take any action on, please let us know.

Jay Twardosky: Absolutely, I'll keep an update.

Selectman Jakoby: I really appreciate the timeliness of this report because I think it's very important for the public to know especially as they're going into Election Day in March, on March 11<sup>th</sup>. And the planning that you had to do for your budget and for the town budget. A large part of what we do is safety and this just shows that as much as you try and predict you can only do the best you can with the numbers you have.

Jay Twardosky: Correct. We'll never predict how many storms we're going to get. We always pick an average of 13, it used to be in the private sector contract is used to bid on like 13 plowable storms a year. And that's just plowable storms, not including everything else. We might be a little below average on plowable, but we actually use less material on a plowable storm. So the less snow we have, the more material we end up using because more people on the roads. There's less times during the storm where we can put out less material because there's so many people on the road we have to keep up with it. So we're getting to the point where we just don't have those overnight hours or heavy storm periods where we can back off on the material and just be plowing snow and everybody's off the road.

When you only have an inch or two and then it's raining and sleet and freezing rain people aren't staying off the road so you have to put more material out, keep the treated to keep everybody's safe and keep the rest of the emergency services moving.

Selectman Jakoby: Can I just clarify that for a minute for the public. So the more material you are putting out is essentially that the tons and tons of salts and sand?

Jay Twardosky: And liquid magnesium.

Selectman Jakoby: And liquid magnesium. So those items and those prices go up every year and the more iceish storms we have the more you're going to use and the more it's going to cost.

Jay Twardosky: That's correct.

Selectman Jakoby: Like if we had a really good snow storms it's easier because you just plow the snow.

Jay Twardosky: Correct.

Selectman Jakoby: And that's what I want to make sure the public knows. Like we're safe because you're continuously putting that stuff down especially on the ice storms that we've been having. So I appreciate that because I continuously get comments as people drive through other towns that Hudson's roads are very safe because of all the work you do. And the money that we're spending.

Jay Twardosky: And we do, because we still use sand, a lot of towns try and get away from sand, sand adds more abrasive. It helps cut through ice, it helps cut through packed snow, it gives you more traction. Salt does not give traction, salt melts. The minute you run in over it turns to dust. So, even though everybody, you know, hates all that sand in the springtime, in order to keep the roads in the condition we keep them in the winter and keep everybody moving, the lease amount of accidents. We have very few accidents on town maintained roads because of that even with higher traffic speeds.

Selectman Morin: I just want to say you said it was expensive but, if you take Nashua who puts the salt brine down before storms and looks at their roads even with that down, and that's supposed to make it not stick. And you look at their roads compared to our roads. So we actually do get a good bang for our buck.

Selectman Jakoby: I know. I totally agree. I've been driving in Nashua and I couldn't believe the different. Ours are so much better because of how you're maintaining them.

Selectman Dumont: You made it all the way through?

Selectman Jakoby: What?

Selectman Dumont: You made it all the way through?

Selectman Jakoby: My car is low so some of those were bad.

Chairman Guessferd: You know you're in Hudson when you cross the line. I go into Londonderry a lot and you know as soon as you cross that Londonderry line into Hudson, you know you're in Hudson.

Selectman Morin: As soon as you get onto a state road.

Selectman Jakoby: And you're doing this with a very old fleet that is in desperate need of replacement.

Jay Twardosky: It is a very aging fleet.

Selectman Jakoby: And I want to point that out because there are warrants coming up on Tuesday as well.

Jay Twardosky: And one other thing that I wanted to mention, I don't know if we're the only town but we're one of the very few towns that do not hire anything out. We have zero subcontractors. Everything we do for snow removal is in house.

Roy Sorenson: If I may, I think they may be, and that's unheard of to be honest with you and I have a lot of knowledge on this. I was quite surprised at how good of a job they do and to find out there's not contractors involved.

Chairman Guessferd: Had there been any truck breakdowns that you weren't expecting? I know things are, we need those new trucks.

Jay Twardosky: We do. Those four trucks that are in desperate need, not anymore breakdowns than we've been expecting. You always learn to expect the unexpected. We have an excellent maintenance staff, also. We're set up. We can fix almost truck during a storm. We have the tools and the specialized labor we need. We can cut two inch thick pieces of steel in the middle of the night. We can weld everything together, we make things work. As long as we

have the parts on the shelf, or something we can make happen, we make it happen. We keep everything running the best we can even if it's just band aids for the night.

Chairman Guessferd: OK, well we appreciate that. Very much. Alright everybody good? Thank you for coming in to do this. I think it was really important to hear this.

D. Job Descriptions, Informational - Administration/Discussion

Chairman Guessferd recognizes Town Administrator, Roy Sorenson. Thank you Mr. Chair. We talked about this a little bit as you can see in a memo from February 11<sup>th</sup>. This is just something I'm doing internally right now, I just want to bring to the Board's attention. There's no action required. I think it's just to keep you up to date on what's happening. So, going through, as you know we have multiple positions open, we're filling those positions, there's some movement there. When we do that I'm actually tasking those departments with updating their job descriptions. Number one, so what is in there for detail? Is the job description up to date? And then taking that job description and putting it into the format you see in your packet which is very similar to our policies and procedures now. It's got the call out box at the top, it tells you revisions, whatever it might be, that information is now there. It also has a review date of typically every three years just to get in there or as positions get changed. Just an informational item. Any comments you might have or questions, fell free.

Chairman Guessferd: Consistency is huge. I think this will be a big help.

Selectman Jakoby: I like the consistency of it and to have that review process. And even looking over the job description for IT and for the Production person, I think the level of detail and understanding is excellent. So thank you.

Selectman Roy: So, I also think it's excellent and it's consistent with the way that the Town policy looks like. I think that's important. The one comment I would make is that in one of the job descriptions it has you have to have a good driving record. I think that should be in all of the job descriptions if they're going to operate Town vehicles.

Roy Sorenson: Yes, I think if it's specific to the position, absolutely. We can do that.

Chairman Guessferd: If the position involves access to it.

Roy Sorenson: Town vehicle, yes.

Chairman Guessferd: OK, I think this is great, this is excellent. Looking forward to seeing a lot more things like this.

Roy Sorenson: Yes, keep the Board up to date on that.

Chairman Guessferd: Anybody with comments or anything? Alright so here's where we're going to go now.

9. **SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS/OTHER REMARKS**

Selectman Morin: I think we need to have a discussion on how people represent certain Boards. We saw internal conflict tonight and I see that as an issue. I actually see it due to another position being held that it holds a conflict for the whole Committee. I think we need to look at that and seriously look at that because we saw the conflict on both sides. Personal conflict and that's a problem.

Chairman Guessferd: And I think that's probably something that we need to take on as part of this next... anything else?

Selectman Morin: Just Selectman Roy, thank you very much for your service and I wish you the best.

Selectman Roy: this is my last meeting as a member of this Board. It's a bitter sweet time for me. I've had some ups and downs on the Board but overall my experience has been positive. However, I believe in term limits even if I have to self-impose them. New blood on the Board means new and fresh ideas that will move this community forward. And, I am internally grateful for this clerisy for the last six years. I am honored to have served as a representative to this town. One week from today we have Town elections. Normally we have a small turnout for Town elections even though local elections have the most impact on your lives. I hope this year will be different and I hope I see everybody at the polls on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Selectman Jakoby: I just want to thank Selectman Roy for her years of service as well. I have appreciated serving with you for this one year. I also want to point out I've gotten a lot of good feedback about the different videos regarding the Warrant Articles. Just reminding everyone to take a look at HCTV there is a lot of information

out there from our staff about the different warrants and why they're there. March 11<sup>th</sup> on Tuesday, you have the opportunity to voice your opinion with your vote. So, come out and vote, I look forward to seeing you there and I do not have any other updates. Thank you.

Selectman Dumont: I just want to echo again, thank you Selectman Roy for your service to Town. Thank you Mr. Gasdia I know this is your last meeting. So, again, thankless job but you guys obviously put your neck out there every time and did a good job at it. So, I really appreciate that. One thing I'd like to throw out there, obviously, as well as the election is volunteers. So March 11<sup>th</sup> for elections I hope everybody come out, does their due diligence. We're also looking for plenty of volunteers on Boards and all across. The more people out the better we are as a town. So, I just want to say again, thank you and that's my spiel.

Chairman Guessferd: Ya, I probably couldn't have said that any better in terms of the election. It's so important and that's probably the number one thing before the next week. As we round the final turn or coming to the home stretch with the election in front of us. I do want to thank Selectman Jakoby for the videos. Some really good things that people got a chance to see that they might not have seen otherwise. And we definitely have to try to make a point of coming out. Whether it's before work, after work, lunch time, whatever it is, please come out and it won't take too much of your time. It's once a year and it impacts your pocket book, OK big time. In terms of other things, I'm doing, let's see, the Rec update, there's two things. Always like talking about these things, right? The Bunny Bash Brunch is coming up on April 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. They're going to have waffles with a waffle topping bar, arts and crafts and pictures with the Easter Bunny himself. They've been doing this every year and it's a really nice event. And then finally, adult softball. Believe it or not, adults women's and men's softball league registration is March. But, it's now open online and will close at the end of the month, the season begins in May. So it's just around the corner. And both of those leagues are highly competitive, very well attended. We have a lot of folks in town who really enjoy getting out in the evenings and playing softball. Both female and male. And in the fall there's actually a co-ed league that goes on. Tomorrow night there is a Planning Board Work Shop. Things including driveways and sidewalks we'll be discussing. There is that Sustainability meeting, we talked a lot about Sustainability a lot. I'm just going to say the next meeting is on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May. I just want to say this. Not in the same way that Selectman Roy did, but, there's a possibility I might not be on the Board after this meeting. And if that's the case, I want to thank everybody for your support, it's been an honor to serve the citizens of Hudson these last three years, three and a half, really. And so, if I'm back great, if I'm not, then I just want to thank everybody for making this time (inaudible). And this particular last year as Chair, I think we've had a good year and we'll see where things go after this. So, that's all I have.

10. Remarks by Town Administrator: On that note, good luck Mr. Chair to you and any other candidates that are running for office. Thank you again, to Selectman Roy for her service to the Town of Hudson. And, the ability to serve with you in the short period of time, so I appreciate that, thank you. Just some items to cover, I'll stick on that time of year where we're voting. Jay and Jeremy, by the way, have told me that the weather will be perfect for next Tuesday. So that's number one. We did receive, and they spoke last week at the Selectman's meeting, a protest petition for Article #32. We have since validated that petition, so it is valid. We will follow [Board corrects Article number] I'm sorry, I'm sorry, thank you. Article 33. I'll take that back, so it's Article 33. What that means now that the protest petition is valid, you will need 2/3 for that to pass. OK? And that's all by State guidance. So the Town Moderator, the Town Clerk are all well aware of that and we'll handle that accordingly by State law as well.

Selectman Roy: So can I just clarify that. You need 2/3 to pass the original petition Warrant Article?

Roy Sorenson: To pass it, correct.

Selectman Roy: I just want to be clear on that.

Roy Sorenson: We talked a little bit about last week as well. The staffing, we assembled the Finance sub-committee, we're moving forward with that. We had a good meeting earlier this week. Just on staffing alone, because we have had a series of vacancies and we're filling those. So, that process is starting, I just want thank the staff for just filling in, right? And, being able to pick up those gaps in this period of time which hasn't been easy because I'm also hearing I'm new And, the support I've gotten from folks of all things Hudson, that I don't know much about right now, has been fantastic. So, I can't say enough about their support reaching out and helping me as I ask questions. So, thanks to them on that. That's all I have.

Chairman Guessferd: And last but definitely not least. I just want to also say thank you for your service to the Town, to the school district and to the students of Hudson, Mr. Gasdia. So, I will give you your ....

11. School Board Liaison Gary Gasdia: Yes, so, I don't have much of a School Board update, it was vacation last week. But I did want to thank this Board and the folks that served even previously, when we ran, when I ran six years ago, and Kara was there, the two Boards weren't exactly friendly to each other. The Board of Selectmen and the School Board. And I think we've done a lot of things to make that bridge come together and I've always felt very welcomed here and very respected by every single one. And that goes for everyone around this table but also everybody that's sitting in that seat. All Town employees and the cooperation has been fantastic and so I just want to thank everybody for that, it's been great, it's been an honor. And so, Chairman Guessferd if this is your last night, thank you for everything you've done. I think you go back as far as anyone because my first foray into public service ended up with a dinner with you at Kendall Pond Pizza. In some ways you may be the reason I'm here. So thank you for that.

Chairman Guessferd: Most people don't about that, but yeah.

Gary Gasdia: And to Kara, thank you for everything, we've been sort of locked at the hip since day one and it's been a great ride.

Selectman Roy: Yes it has, thank you.

Gary Gasdia: Best of luck with whatever you do next.

Selectman Roy: Thank you, same to you.

Chairman Guessferd: Well as you run off into the sunset, enjoy. So, before I close the meeting, just wanted to also say because you made a very good point. And I didn't way that a little bit earlier but these employees that work for our town. Department heads, folks here, and every single person that works for this Town, it's also been an honor to work for them and we have great employees here. And, we just heard about the DPW and the great work that they do. This is a great town. Great town to live in and a great town to work with. So, just thought I'd make that comment. OK, so here we go ...

Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy, to enter into non-public.

12. NONPUBLIC SESSION

*Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to enter into nonpublic 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.*

Nonpublic Session was entered at 8:50 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 into public session at 10:01 p.m.

Motions made after nonpublic session:

- 1) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to authorize the Director of Community Media to promote Cameron Macdonald to a full-time Production Coordinator at \$25.21, (step 1), effective March 23, 2025. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 2) Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to accept the Director of Community Media, Mike Johnson's, proposed staff restructure of the current organizational chart. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 3) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to authorize the Director of Community Media to promote Mike Pilon to a full-time Production Coordinator at \$25.21, (step 1), effective March 23, 2025. Motion carried, 5-0.

- 4) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont, to terminate the employment of Probationary Firefighter/AEMT Corey McLaughlin effective 0800 on March 25, 2025 if he has not successfully fulfilled the requirements of his probation, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 5) Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Morin, to terminate the employment of Probationary Firefighter/AEMT Peter Sykes-Clark effective 0800 on March 25, 2025 if he has not successfully fulfilled the requirements of his probation, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 6) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont, to terminate the employment of Probationary Firefighter/EMT Christopher Penny effective March 8, 2025 with the understanding that he can reapply at a later time, as recommended by the Fire Chief. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 7) Selectman Morin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy, to authorize the Public Works Director to hire Christopher Koziol as a full-time Truck Driver/Laborer at \$24.25 per hour (grade 8, step 1) in accordance with Teamsters Local #633, effective March 16, 2025. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 8) Selectman Dumont made a motion, seconded by Selectman Jakoby, to seal the March 4, 2025 minutes. Motion carried, 5-0.
- 9) Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dumont, to adjourn at 10:05 p.m. Motion carried, 5-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:05p.m. by Selectman Roy, seconded by Selectman Dumont. Carried, 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Lorrie Weissgarber, Executive Assistant.

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Bob Guessferd, Chairman

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Dillon Dumont, Vice-Chairman

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Kara Roy, Selectman

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Heidi Jakoby, Selectman

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Dave Morin, Selectman