

TOWN OF HUDSON



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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Deliberative Session Minutes

February 3, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Community Center, 12 Lions Avenue

1. CALL TO ORDER BY THE MODERATOR, the Honorable Paul Inderbitzen at 9:00 a.m.
2. POSTING OF THE COLORS by Hudson Police Honor Guard
3. THE NATIONAL ANTHEM was sung by Hudson Firefighter Michael Armand
4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Board of Selectmen Chairman, Marilyn McGrath
5. ATTENDANCE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Marilyn McGrath, Chairman
David Morin, Vice-Chairman
Kara Roy
Dillon Dumont
Robert Guessferd (absent)

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Normand Martin, Chairman (absent)
William Cole, Vice-Chairman
Shawn Jasper
James Lawrence III
Kathy Leary
Shawn Murray (absent)
Patrick Quinlan
Kevin Walsh
David Morin, Board of Selectmen Member
Gretchen Whiting, School Board Member

STAFF/OTHERS

Christine Strout-Lizotte, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Steve Malizia, Town Administrator
Scott Tice, Fire Chief
John Beike, IT Director
Jim McIntosh, Dir. of Community Media

STAFF/OTHERS - Non-voters

Jay Twardosky, Public Works Director

Lisa Labrie, Finance Director

Linda Pilla, Library Director

Tad Dionne, Police Chief

Chris Sullivan, Zoning Administrator

Town Attorney - Atty. David LeFevre of Tarbell and Brodich

Jill Laffin, Executive Asst. to the Board of Selectmen

6. REMARKS BY THE MODERATOR

Town Moderator, Paul Inderbitzen addressed those in attendance saying, Thank you. Please be seated. Ladies and gentlemen, this is the deliberative session of the Hudson Town Meeting for 2024. You will act as a legislative body to determine the final form of the warrant articles that will be voted on at the March 12th election. All the articles, by law, must be placed on the ballot. The rules you will follow are the moderators rules, which are in the handout you received when you checked in the green book. It's there in the back. Please review them. If you have any questions about the rules, please feel free to ask for clarification at any time by a point of order. This body could also vote to set its own rules that they deem necessary. You may also overrule any rule, any rule made by the moderator. Any decision. If you are new to the deliberative session, please review the rules. I see a few new faces today. As a legislature, we will be discussing the warrant articles before us. These discussions will be respectful of everyone's opinion. We do not cheer and applaud when we agree or boo and groan when we don't agree. Please be respectful of all the comments and opinions of those who speak as you would want yours to be respected. To keep personalities out of the debate, please use terms such as the previous speaker, the select person, or the Budget Committee member.

All questions and comments must be directed through the moderator. If you have a question of a specific person, you ask me the moderator and we'll see if that individual or someone from the town or the budget committee would yield an answer. And there's no requirement that somebody has to answer a question if they don't have an answer or they don't wish to. If you are a registered voter of Hudson, you were issued a red voter card when you checked in. We'll use this card for any votes that are taken at this meeting. Do not lose it. You won't get another one. After the meeting, there's a box in the back on the table where you can recycle your card as you leave. Only registered voters of Hudson are issued are allowed to participate in the discussion of the warrant. There are some non-voters. Um. Staff members of the town and others who will be allowed to speak. To answer questions and assist us in the meeting. We have our, uh. Uh, Town Attorney, Mr. Lefevre. We have Lisa Labrie, Finance Director, Linda Pilla the Library Director, Chief Dionne of the Police Department, Jay Twardosky of the Public Works Department, and Elvis Dhima, our Town Engineer. There may be some others as well.

Please turn off your phones or put them on silent mode so that we're not interrupted. We'll be taking a few breaks after some of the articles, the lengthy articles, if we need to. This is going to be a long meeting. We have 31 articles to go through. Refreshments are made are in the back by the Hudson Women's Club, and I think they'll also be bringing in lunch. I think pizza around 1130, 12:00, and we'll take a break at that point as well. We are also. This meeting is being televised live on Hudson Cable, and will be available for viewing our streaming after today on HGTV, and we appreciate their the staff of HGTV for all they do to keep our our citizens and our community informed. That said. Let's begin the meeting. The inhabitants of Hudson and the County of Hillsborough, State of New Hampshire qualified to vote on town affairs. You're hereby notified of the annual meeting to be held the first session, the deliberative, on Saturday, February 3rd, 9:00, at the Hudson Community Center. The second session of the annual meeting. The official ballot voting will occur Tuesday, March 12th from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Ward One will vote here at the Hudson Community Center. Ward Two residents will vote at Alvirne High School.

6. DELIBERATIVE SESSION OF TOWN MEETING

FISCAL YEAR 2025 WARRANT ARTICLES

The Moderator said, Article One is the election of officers.

Warrant Article 02 General Fund Operating Budget

Moderator - Shall the Town of Hudson raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the Warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$35,527,448? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$35,044,662 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Hudson or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-2

Tax Rate Impact is \$0.232

Estimated tax rate is \$4.942

The Moderator then said, I was going to recognize Chairman Martin. Is someone from the Budget Committee going to present article 2? Budget Committee Vice-Chairman, Bill Cole was recognized and explained, Warrant. Article 2 the FY 2025 Town General Fund Operating Budget. The Board of Selectmen directed Department Heads to submit level funded operating budgets exclusive of labor and benefit costs. Other major items or new initiatives were to be addressed separately for the Board's consideration, either as a request outside the department's budget or in the form of warrant articles. The Board reviewed each major item and adjusted the department's budget for those that were deemed essential for this proposed year to a department's operation. The Board voted to send to the Budget Committee the general fund operating budget of \$35,527,448. The Board also approved the general fund default budget in the amount of \$35,044,662. After reviewing the general fund operating budget, the Budget Committee is recommending a general fund operating budget of \$35,527,448. The projected tax rate for the general fund is \$4.94 per thousand, which is a .23 cent increase from FY24. The Board of Selectmen has recommended this article 4 to 0. The Budget Committee has recommended this article 7 to 2.

Moderator - Thank you. We will now open article two the operating budget to questions, comments, amendments. Does anyone wish to speak on article two? Yes, ma'am.

Peggy Huard, 13 David Drive - Good morning, Mr. Moderator. Peggy Howard, 13 David Drive I rise in opposition to this warrant article. While I appreciate the hard work this town does, I have great concerns for the direction the financial needs for this town is going. The Board of Selectmen added \$500,000 to the operating budget for fiscal 2025, along with adding many big warrant articles. The taxpayers just endured a significant surprise tax increase this past December, on top of many taxpayers enduring an astronomical increase the year before due to a town wide assessment. What will fiscal 25 look like for the taxpayers if we allow these increases? What will future tax bills look like if we don't take control of the budgeting and spending? New Hampshire RSA requires the Budget Committee to assist the taxpayers in the prudent appropriations of public funds. Thank you to the Budget Committee. You once again failed the taxpayers. New Hampshire RSA 41 requires the Board of Selectmen to establish and maintain the appropriate level of safeguards to protect the town's assets, with the appropriations being one of the biggest town assets. Most Board of Selectmen members don't even have the expertise to even fully comprehend this requirement. What is the remedy to the taxpayers for this ongoing abuse of spending, budgeting, and spending causing unnecessary increases in our tax bills? Increasing the budget once again is not the answer. I spent the last two years exercising my right to know, looking at actual spending for fiscal 22 and 23 as I did, I saw many areas available for improvement and or reduction that

undoubtedly carries forward to the budget year after year. Yet the administration, the Board of Selectmen, and the Budget Committee all fail to acknowledge or highlight these areas that gave them ample opportunity to keep, at the very least, a level funded budget for fiscal 2025.

I have prepared a few examples for your consideration for now and the future. The first area involves some procedural issues which undoubtedly affect the numbers. First and foremost, strengthen the safeguards and controls over spending. This includes improving the bid process, automating the accounting process, eliminating some of the unnecessary paperwork. Go paperless in the areas legally allowable. The '22 census shows that 94% of Hudson has access to the internet today. Apply this internal control more effectively to the use of grant and capital reserve fund money, and by all means, reduce some of the environmental hazards in this town. Increase the education and health and wellness to decrease the ever rising emergency medical service cost. Some of the other areas that could have been addressed and lowered the areas by a little bit, or consider reducing them. Our hydrants are rented by our own water department. At \$23,000 a month, solid waste is out of control. The audit, I can assure you that a number of my colleagues would perform this audit for much less money and a higher quality.

The supplies and equipment, budgets and spending. Those could be reduced by more effective negotiations for quantity discounts and pricing strategies. The following areas all could have been reduced by a very small amount to accumulate to make up for the \$500,000 that was added to the budget. These areas historically are not being used to budget for the purposes requested. Facilities. Some of the line items across the district. Some of the office supply line items. Uh. Other supplies. Some of the uniform accounts, park maintenance, printing, mailing, postage. To go into an online paperless environment where it's legally possible. By all means, the sample ballots for the local and presidential election. Most of those end up in the trash. Legal value, defense insurance, community grants. Uh, and the last one is the new tabulators that Mr. Moderator put \$50,000 in the budget. This is something that was handed down by the state, if I'm not mistaken, and every single town was given two choices, a more expensive one and a lower costing, uh, tabulator. And the town, I believe, chose the more expensive one. There was also a third choice there, and that was to go back to hand counting. The administration, the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee all need to make a greater effort before they burden the taxpayers with continued outrageous increases. Thank you.

Moderator - Thank you. Any further discussion on warrant article two, the operating budget? Seeing none we will close the warrant article, the discussion on warrant article number two, and it moves to the ballot.

Article 03 Sewer Fund Operating Budget

Moderator - Shall the Town of Hudson raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the Warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$2,426,706? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$2,375,172 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Hudson or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.000

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, Good morning, the Moderator kind of stole all my thunder there. He gave out most of the information. But warrant article three raises and appropriates \$2,426,706 for the operation of the Sewer Utility. There are no changes to the sewer fees or charges. The default budget would be \$2,375,172. The Sewer Fund is a special revenue fund and all costs are paid by the sewer users, not the property taxpayer. There is no tax rate impact for this. The Board of Selectmen has recommended it 4 to 0, and the Budget Committee has recommended 9 to 0. Thank you.

Moderator - thank you. Thank you. I'll now open article number three, the Sewer Fund Operating Budget for questions, comments or amendments. Anyone wish to speak on the sewer operating budget? Seeing none. I will close the discussion on article number three, and it moves to the ballot.

Article 04 Water Fund Operating Budget

Moderator - Shall the Town of Hudson raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the Warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$4,371,665? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$4,334,213 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Hudson or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.000

Chairman McGrath was recognized and said, Good morning, and please excuse me for not standing. Warrant Article Four raises and appropriates \$4,371,665 for the operation of the town's water utility. The Water Utility is funded by water user fees and charges. There are no changes to the water rates for fiscal year 2025. The default budget for the Water Utility is \$4,334,213 should this article fail to pass. The Water Fund is a special revenue fund, and all costs are paid by the water users and not the general taxpayer. There is no tax rate impact for this warrant article. The Board of Selectmen has recommended this article 4 to 0. The Budget Committee has recommended this article 9 to 0.

Moderator - Thank you. I will now open the Water Fund operating budget to. Questions, comments, amendments. Yes, sir.

Alex Woodyard, 14 Pasture Drive. Um, my question is regards to the adjustment in both the water and the sewer funds. If the, if the user rates remain the same, how are we projecting an increase in revenue.

Moderator - that's a finance question. Does anyone have an answer to that? Response from Mr. Malizia is that there are more customers.

Alex Woodyard, 14 Pasture Drive - Where are they coming from?

Town Administrator - new hook ups. So when you see a new development like the one on Greeley Street, for example, those are all in the water utility. So we get more revenue because there are new customers that did not exist before.

Woodyard - Okay, thank you.

Moderator - Further discussion on warrant article number four the Water Fund operating budget? Seeing none. We'll close the discussion of warrant article number four and it moves to the ballot.

Article 05 Hudson Public Works Union Contract

Moderator - Ratification of a Contract negotiated between the Town of Hudson Board of Selectmen and the Hudson Public Works Department Union Teamsters Local 633 for Wage & Benefit Increases. Shall the Town of Hudson vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Hudson Board of Selectmen and the Hudson Public Works Department Union Teamsters Local 633 which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
7/1/24 - 6/30/25	\$90,267
7/1/25 - 6/30/26	\$99,373
7/1/26 - 6/30/27	\$105,142
7/1/27 - 6/30/28	\$105,286
7/1/28 - 6/30/29	\$108,250

and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$90,267 for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year, said sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those paid in the prior Fiscal Year?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Tax Rate Impact is \$0.018

Selectman Dumont was recognized and said, Warrant Article number five proposes a five year contract for the members of the Hudson Public Works Union. The union covers 25 employees. Employees in the union include foremen, equipment operators, mechanics heads, groundskeeper, truck driver, laborers, operators and assistants. This contract provides for a 3% cost of living adjustment in the first two years, and a 3.5% living adjustment in the final three. The beginning pay scales have been adjusted in years one and two, in order to remain competitive with the surrounding labor market. Eligible employees would receive a step on their first anniversary date. This contract would run from July 1st 24 to June 30th '29, and the warrant article would add \$0.02 to the tax rate the first year and \$0.10 over the life of the contract. The Board of Selectmen recommended this contract 5 to 0, and the Budget Committee recommended this contract 9 to 0. And it's my belief that both Boards realize the amount of work that this, that department puts in and understand that the cost of living has increased. And we're hoping that you guys do too. Thank you.

Moderator - thank you. We'll now open article give to questions, comments or amendments.

Tim Carson - Uh, first of all, I'd like to thank for me, uh, allowing me to speak on behalf of the employees of the Department of Public Works. My name is Tim Carson. I've been an employee of the town for the last four years and member of the Local #63 Teamsters. Public employees provide a necessary service to the residents of the town. We maintain the basic infrastructure to the to include sewage, waste disposal, and safe transportation of the roads throughout the year. In order to provide those services, the department requires qualified, skilled workers to complete these tasks. In order to remain competitive with towns in the area and ensure that qualified candidates want to work here, whether as new or existing hires, the town needs to pay fair wages for the work provided. During the course of negotiations, the members of the union's negotiating team, along with those of the town, were careful to weigh the needs of the department as well as the needs of the taxpayers in the area. With that in mind, we agreed to a five year contract that would be beneficial to all parties. The taxpayer impact would be spread out, as well as allowing the town and the department to effectively budget budget in order to gain and maintain skilled employees. Again, thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your support.

Joanne Lucas, 1 McKinney Drive - Um, I have an unusual comment. Um, on the ballot. When it's time to print, can we please tabulate the increases by year like it's shown up on the PowerPoint presentation? The reason why I'm asking this is because it just seems like it's a lot of numbers thrown in the middle of a paragraph, and people are going to look at it at the ballot and they're going to say, oh, no, too many numbers or they're not going to read it. Um, and I personally, I think this is a fair contract and I just don't want it to be overlooked.

Moderator - Thank you. We can ask the Selectmen and they send this out to print. Have to remember, this ballot that we're going to face in March is 51 articles. I understand that it's going to be a number of pages. So I understand why they wanted to consolidate it.

Craig Powers, 31 Cedar Street - Good morning. My name is Craig Powers. I live at 31 Cedar Street. Um, we talked about the general operating fund. Um, and again, my comment is more of a point of order as opposed to any specific discussion about this particular warrant. But in order to keep context of how we're doing relative to previous years. Um, looking at my tax bill and I live in, I live in the median house in Hudson, so half are cheaper than mine, half are more expensive. It's been that way for 34 years, and I look at the 8.1% compounded growth in my tax bill the last two years, and I'm now at 4.5% just on warrant article two. Now we're starting to add a couple of pennies here, a couple of pennies there. As a point of order, Mr. Moderator, will there be a slide put up that says if all these warrant articles are passed, what that resulting rate would be and how it compares in a percentage, something very easy, very much, uh, to what the previous speaker brought up. Uh, in order to provide context, is this a 10% increase relative to last year, all things considered, or is it a 5% or is it a 20%? I think that would be a very valuable piece of context to provide. Thank you sir.

Moderator - Thank you. I'm not sure if there's I don't believe there's going to be that kind of slide here today, but it's something that Selectmen may want to be able to put onto the website if they consider that after this meeting makes any substantive changes or whatever might happen, they'll take that under consideration. Article Five - Public Works Union Contract. Any further comments?

Debbie Putnam, 59, Rangers Drive. I want to totally support the employee that spoke very eloquently and very factually to this particular warrant article. Um, I was also appreciated, um, Selectman Dumont's clarification that over the course of four years, five years, the the total impact would be \$0.10 per thousand. Speaking to what the other one, um, female resident spoke to making these types of information. I know there's going to be a very long ballot, many sheets, but making that type of information available to the person who is not attended this meeting, who is not going to watch this meeting, um, on the actual ballot might help gain further support for this. We all are willing and happy to post on Facebook about wow, the Public Works Department cleaned the roads. They're safe. They're good. We had a terrible storm, and all we had to do was wait for the plows to come through. And they do the best they can, but they're having a terrible problem getting new employees. We are fighting against what other towns fairly nearby are paying their employees, so we're all fighting for the same pool of CDL drivers, etc. people competent to run the equipment at the Department of Public Works. Thank you, thank you.

I'm Mary Jo Gasdia 4 McCann Road, Hudson, New Hampshire. Listening to the previous gentleman speak about the amount of, you know, just to know how much the taxes are and, you know, the increase with year to year and thinking of all the people that are going to go in and vote and you're going to look at this is going to be one of the articles that comes up. I know a lot of people are frustrated with taxes going up. Nobody wants to pay more money. Whether you can afford to pay it or whether you can't. You don't want to pay extra money if you don't need to for anything. And so I just want to encourage people. It's very important that when you go into that ballot box and when you're sitting here today listening, and as we're going through up to 51 things, like the moderator said, you're sitting here going, this is a lot. Some people just tend to get frustrated and say, you know what, I want to send the town a message. I'm voting no on all of it. When it comes to something like this, please take the time to really consider before you're just a strict no vote on all taxes. You're not shoving it to the Selectmen, and you're not shoving it to the town in any way, shape or form. The Selectmen, the Budget Committee, every person up there is a volunteer who takes the time every week to be in these meetings to do all this work, and they do the best they can to come forward with recommendations. Okay. Both of them approve this. This specific warrant article affects people's livelihood. These people depend on this. This isn't just their boss saying you can get a raise or you can't. They're they're dependent on us voting for this contract to go through. And we see time and again the work that this department does in town and how fantastic they do. You know, maybe they get a complaint every now and again from someone who's upset during a snowstorm. But when you look at the whole of it year to year, these people work super hard. They do the best that they can do, and they have the chance to be overlooked because they're in with 51 other things. So when you're going down

that ballot and you're deciding what you're going to yes or no to please give consideration that this affects somebody's life, okay, this is their wage. This is they work hard for this and you can make an extreme impact. So I would absolutely support and encourage that. You vote for this contract and support, um support this department.

Moderator - Thank you. Further discussion Warrant Article number five the Public Works Union contract. Seeing none. We'll close the discussion on warrant article number five and it moves to the ballot.

Article 06 Firefighters IAFF Union Contract

Moderator - Ratification of a Contract negotiated between the Town of Hudson Board of Selectmen and the Professional Firefighters of Hudson I.A.F.F. Local 3154 for Wage & Benefit Increases. Shall the Town of Hudson vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Hudson Board of Selectmen and the Professional Firefighters of Hudson I.A.F.F. Local 3154 which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
7/1/24 - 6/30/25	\$230,106
7/1/25 - 6/30/26	\$231,353
7/1/26 - 6/30/27	\$275,130

and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$230,106 for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year, said sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those paid in the prior Fiscal Year?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Tax Rate Impact is \$0.046

Selectman Morin was recognized and said, Good morning. Warrant article six proposes a three year contract for the members of the Hudson Firefighters IAFF Union. The Union covers 44 employees. Employees in this union include the firefighter/EMTs, paramedics, lieutenants, and fire dispatchers. This contract provides a 3% cost of living adjustment in the first two years, and a 4% cost of living adjustment in the third year. The pay scales have been adjusted in years one and two in order to remain competitive with the surrounding labor market. Eligible employees would receive a step on their anniversary date. The contract also provides an increase of the annual clothing allowance to \$250 per year per employee. This contract would run from July 1st, 2024 to June 30th, 2027. This warrant article would add \$0.05 to the tax rate in the first year and 16 over the life of the contract, the Board of Selectmen have recommended this 5 to 0. The Budget Committee has recommended this 9 to 0.

I just like to say and reiterate, over the last year, the Fire Department has lost over a quarter of its firefighters due to the surrounding departments offer a much more pay scale. And I got to say, less work. If you take our firefighters who ride the ambulance, who have to take their medical training, they have to take their fire training, they take their rescue training and compare it to the city of Nashua, where my son is a firefighter. Our firefighters do twice the work because they do not in Nashua run the ambulance. These people, men and women, work very hard and cover a lot of things to keep you safe. I'm going to ask Chief Tice to come up and talk on this contract.

Fire Chief Scott Tice - Good Morning. I asked to speak on this particular warrant article this morning because of its significant importance. Recruitment and retention is one of the most serious issues facing the fire service today. We've been very fortunate in Hudson to hire good people, but we're getting them earlier in their development, which means we need to invest more time and training to get them up where they need to be. As with all of our employees, the more we invest with them, the better they're able to perform for us, and that has a direct impact on the quality of service we're able to provide you, our taxpayers. If we want to keep our good people in Hudson and get a return on our investment, we need their pay and benefits to be competitive with our surrounding communities. This contract will do that. It will tell our employees they are valued and they are wanted here. I don't plan to speak on all of our warrant articles today. I had my chance to speak during the budget process. Today is your turn to speak, but that

doesn't mean our other warrant articles aren't important. I assure you, as your fire chief, I will not bring anything forward that I don't feel is important. But I also understand that some people may not be able to support all of our warrant articles. And if that's the case, you need to be selective. I ask that you support this one. Thank you.

Moderator - Thank you. We'll now open article six, the firefighters union contract to questions and comments.

Brian Clarenbach, 99 Highland Street - Good morning, Brian Clarenbach, 99 Highland Street. I am the president of the Professional Firefighters of Hudson, which represents the firefighters, EMS providers and fire dispatchers of the Hudson Fire Department. And I'm here to speak to this article. Five years ago, the voters graciously approved a five year contract for our members. At that time, it was a very fair contract that made the Hudson Fire Department competitive with other area departments. However, in the past five years, a lot has happened. Covid inflation and labor shortages have impacted job markets across the country, and the fire service in New Hampshire has been no exception. Our wages and benefits have fallen below other surrounding departments. This is especially concerning because of the extreme shortage of fire department applicants statewide, which are causing departments to take unprecedented efforts in order to recruit and secure quality candidates. In this environment, departments without competitive wages and benefits are not looked upon as serious contenders or place of employment, and will have staffing problems. We have been very lucky here in Hudson that we've been able to hire as many quality candidates as we have. However, we still have multiple firefighter vacancies that we are struggling to fill. The other side of the firefighter shortage coin is retention of fully certified and experienced firefighter is worth their weight in gold.

It is easier than it has ever been for firefighters to change between departments, and it is happening very frequently. In the past year and a half, the Hudson Fire Department has lost ten members to other fire departments, most of which have a higher level of pay and benefits. This exodus will only continue and most likely increase if the department cannot become more competitive. This contract that is being brought before the voters goes a very long way towards doing so. After extensive negotiation with town officials, we have what we believe to be an extremely fair contract that includes specific mechanisms designed to increase both recruitment and retention, and to bring Hudson Fire Department into line with most of our surrounding departments. We realize that tax increases are very difficult, especially during these economic times. However, this contract is very much needed in order to continue to have an effective and efficient fire department. I would like to thank both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee for the unanimous support of this article. Our membership is very grateful that they recognize the situation that our department is in, and are doing what they can to correct it. I ask the citizens of Hudson to do the same and vote yes for this article at the polls in March. Thank you, thank you.

Len Segal, Beachwood Road. I highly support this particular article. There isn't anything more critical to a town than its public safety people. And we can't afford for the town to be a training ground to train firefighters and EMTs for a year or two and have them go off elsewhere. You've heard about the fact that there's been quite a bit of an attrition to other towns, and we need to pay them fairly so that they stay here. Um, the experience that they get and the number of years it takes to be, you know, a top notch firefighter and EMT is critical. Uh, God forbid any of us need, you know, medical care, you know, as an emergency. Uh, we see the number of traffic accidents in town, which, unfortunately, requires a lot of professional medical care on the scene. We can't afford not to approve this particular contract. So I urge everyone to vote positively for this at the election. And obviously today, too. Thank you.

Logan Faulk, 303 Fox Run Road. Good morning everyone. My name is Logan Faulk and I am one of the new probationary firefighters here in Hudson. I recently left a decade long career as a personal trainer to serve this community. My passion in life is to help and give, and while I was fortunate enough to make a positive impact on hundreds of lives over the years, I still did not feel fulfilled. So at the age of 31, with my beautiful wife and three year old son, I decided to change careers. To say it was worth it would be an understatement of the century. Speaking of Understatements, becoming a firefighter in the State of New Hampshire is no easy task. At minimum, an entry level firefighter is required to obtain their EMT, firefighter

one, and firefighter two certifications. Individually these are lengthy courses and could take the average person roughly two years to complete all of this just to be eligible to apply for a position in the State. Now, I think I can speak for all my colleagues when I say we didn't expect to become millionaires when joining the fire service. However, given the sacrifices we make daily, I don't think requesting a fair and livable wage is asking too much. In surrounding towns, the average pay is roughly 32% higher than what Hudson is currently paying us to do for the exact same duties. If this contract does not go through, my fear is that we will continue to lose more and more talented firefighters from this department. As a realist, I understand how standing up here asking for taxes to be raised is a bold move. I do not have too much more to contribute either, given that I only make \$18.14 per hour. However, as an optimist, I hope that the taxpayers will understand that contributing just pennies on the dollar would substantially increase the wages and livelihood of this town's bravest and best. That being said, on March 12th I ask you on the behalf of the Hudson Fire Department, my family and the families of the amazing men and women I have the privilege of working alongside to, please vote yes on article six. Thank you.

Hi, my name is Kerry Harrington, 48 Orchard Park Lane. Um, I just want to thank Logan for his speech there. It moved me and I had already wanted to support this article. I just had a question, you know, so that I could fully understand the numbers. Um, you know, because when I look. Excuse me, it says 230,000 to 231,000 and then it goes up to 275,000. So I just wanted to understand what that increase was from 231,000 to 275,000. And, um, you know, would it, could it be spread or like, what is it, first of all, the year two.

Moderator - to yield to that question, Ms. Labrie, our Finance Director.

Kerry Harrington, 48 Orchard Park Lane - my question is to hope everyone understands what the vote is and so that they'll vote for it more.

Lisa Labrie, Finance Director - It's 4% in the last year versus 3% in the first two. So you know, accumulates as time goes on on a little higher wage.

Ms. Harrington - All right. All right. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Moderator - Thank you for any further discussion on warrant article number six, the Firefighters Union contract. Seeing none, I will close the discussion on warrant article number six and it moves to the ballot.

Town Administrator Steve Malizia made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dave Morin, to restrict reconsideration on articles two, three, four, five and six.

Moderator - Okay. Mr. Malizia moves. I'll explain this in a minute. Seconded by Selectman Morin. They've moved to restrict reconsideration of articles two through six. What that does is that locks those in. We cannot bring them up later in this meeting. If we don't do that, then someone later on today could say, I want to reconsider that and make changes to it. Restriction of reconsideration means is that these will now be moved to the ballot the way they are, and they cannot be brought up again in this in this meeting. Is that clear to everybody? Motion made to restrict reconsideration of two through six numbers. You'll use your red cards. Those in favor of restriction, please raise your cards. Thank you. Those opposed? The ayes have it. Articles Two through Six are restricted. That's something you'll see a couple of times today as we go through these, this lengthy agenda.

Article 07 Funding for (1) Fire Captain Training Officer

Moderator - Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$164,891 which represents the cost of wages and benefits, to hire one (1) full-time Fire Captain Training Officer?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-3
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.033

Selectman Morin was recognized and said, Warrant article seven seeks voter approval to hire one Fire Captain Training Officer at the total cost of \$164,891. Starting salary for this position is \$92,423. Step one and the associated benefits, including health insurance and pension, equals \$72,468. The lack of consistent, high quality training program has been an area identified as a major safety concern within the fire department. The primary role for this individual would be to develop, implement and manage a robust training program on a day to day basis. The tax impact on Warrant article three Warrant Article is \$0.03 per thousand. The Board of Selectmen recommended this article 4 to 0 Budget Committee has recommended this article 6 to 3. This training officer goes along with what we just discussed at reference to the personnel leaving the fire department, and we have a such a young fire department with not much experience in the training is very much needed. Again, I would like to call chief Tice up to talk about the impact on the department. We'll recognize Chief Tice to add to the presentation.

Chief Tice - Good morning again. So one of the comments we consistently get from our firefighters is the need for the training program to improve. Right now, one of our deputy chiefs is responsible for training, and he spends about 40 to 50% of his time, uh, ministering the training program, developing, training and whatnot to develop a high quality training program as a full time job. Uh, we do not have a person right now that can dedicate that kind of time to to creating the training program. We had a training officer up until 2013, at which time, uh, we used that money. We eliminated the training officer's position and hired two more firefighters. Um, since that time, we have struggled to be able to, with our administrative staff, administer the training program at the level it needs to be and to also handle all the other administrative responsibilities we have. So not only will hiring a training officer improve our training program, but it would also, uh, free up that deputy chief from the time they're spending doing training to handle other administrative responsibilities that aren't currently getting done. So that's why we asked for this position also with the with the, um, level of training and experience of our new employees, which make up a large portion of our department. Now there is a need for more training, um, to make up for the lack of experience. Thank you.

Randy Brownrigg, 2 Little Fields Lane - Good morning. My name is Randy Brownrigg, 2 Little Hills Lane. I just have a question on this article. Are we hiring within, within or outside the department on this question?

Chief Tice yields - From conversations I've had with employees, I believe we do have some interest internal, but we have not done anything official to advertise the position because we don't have it yet.

Mr. Brownrigg - Okay. So if this was to get approved in March, then we would start the the hiring process? So if we were to hire from someone within, who would how would we replace that person? If that person's position in the department changes to something else to the training officer?

Chief Tice - We would follow it all the way up. So say it was one of the, one of the current captains that wanted to take on the training officer position, right, a lieutenant, we promoted him into that position. Then we would promote somebody, one of our firefighters up into their position. And then have to hire a firefighter.

Mr. Brownrigg - All right. So this goes out to the public and to in-house also?

Chief Tice - Correct.

Mr. Brownrigg - All right, thank you.

Rich Weissgarber, 21 Flying Rock Road - So, Chief, you had said in 2000, up to 2013, there was a requirement for training officer.

Chief Tice - There's not a requirement for it, but we did have that position as a full time position. So we had a fire chief, two deputy chiefs, a training officer.

Mr. Weissgarber - Okay, so they were basically like dual hatted to do training stuff outside of having a full time type requirement. Is that what you're saying?

Chief Tice - That was their full time job. It was a full, full time position within the administration.

Mr. Weissgarber - So is so the training development plan you're saying one does not exist today or it just needs to be revised or what are you saying?

Chief Tice - It needs to be improved. We do have training program. We constantly train. Um, but a lot of it's up to the individual groups to put together. Um, which then leads to inconsistency. So that's one of the things we're looking to improve.

Mr. Weissgarber - And so we're not just fixing. So so are we fixing a systemic issue with a training plan and does this take a full time captain for the for like an enduring requirement, or is it just a part time need to get to a good training plan and then hand it off to a different pieces of the department?

Chief Tice - It's it's a long it's a long term because it's a constant, as we turn people over the need to do that training will exist. This is also to develop our instructors. There's very little training as people move up through the ranks to be instructors. And then we expect them when they become company officers and supervisors to go out and instruct. So not only would this person be developing the training program and conducting some of the training, they would also be developing the company officers in their instruction and training, ability to go out and conduct the training.

Mr. Weissgarber - and why captain versus the lieutenant I mean, does it matter?

Chief Tice - You're not going to get somebody at a lieutenant rate to do this job. It's enough. It it can be difficult enough to fill it at a captain's level. Somebody is not going to take this job at a lieutenants position.

Mr. Weissgarber - Okay, thank you, thank you.

Moderator - Further discussion. Warrant article number seven. Yes, sir.

Alex Woodard, 14 Pasture Drive. My question is more for the finance side of this. It says that we'll raise \$164,000 and change. Is this a perpetual appropriation that will be renewed year after year, or is it a one-time appropriation for FY25?

Moderator - This has to be put into the warrant when you have a new position like that has to be put into the warrant. Once that occurs, it will be in the budget for the fire department salaries from then on.

Mr. Woodyard - Okay. Thank you. Is this a union position?

Moderator - Yes, it would be in the Police, Fire and Town Supervisor's Association.

Mr. Woodyard - Okay. So it's not covered under the the union in article six, is that correct?

Moderator - No. Correct. It's a different different association okay.

Kate Messner, 10 Third Street - I just want to thank the Selectmen for pointing out that the amount of the salary and the benefits and maybe suggest even putting that in parentheses when you present it, because benefits are a lot.

Peggy Huard, 13 Dave Drive -So just to clarify your theoretically replacing the second deputy position, but calling it something else because you only have one deputy chief right now, correct?

Chief Tice - No, we have two deputy chiefs now. So this is an additional position dedicated to training.=

Ms. Huard - Um, so along the lines of the previous speaker, um, why couldn't the initiation of a training program be done by an outside contractor saving some of the benefits? So with every new program, there is a certain amount of, um, a lot of time needed at the beginning. And then once it's flowing properly, then you won't need as much time. I understand training because my own profession, we need to be trained properly. The state has certain requirements. You come with a certain amount of training. So why do you actually need a full time position and can it be done with a subcontractor?

Chief Tice - I don't believe it can be done with a subcontractor. The amount of work and the amount of particular knowledge they need in the department to do this correctly, and at the level we're looking to do, it requires somebody within the organization that's going to be there day after day, uh, mentoring the officers and improving their training, monitoring the training program. It's more than just developing the training. It's monitoring the training, um, mentoring the instructors who are going to be delivering the training, uh, and the administration of the, of the, the training program.

Ms. Huard - With all due respect, why isn't that your responsibility as the chief?

Chief Tice - If I didn't have to sleep, I'd have plenty of time to get all this work done.

Brian Clarenbach, 99 Highland Street - I just wanted to kind of reiterate what Chief Tice said. We did lose the the full time, the previous full time training officer position over ten years ago, which actually allowed us to open up the Robinson Road fire station from the positions that we were able to get on the firefighter side. Um, and since then, um, training throughout the department has been fairly inconsistent. Um, if it's somebody's added task, um, piled on to their other responsibilities and duties. Um, so having a dedicated person for that, that can 100% be devoted to the training. Um, especially if the new people right now we have, um, over 12 members that are on probation. Um, which is a very large task. It's very intensive training in their first year. Um, but beyond that, members, um, that have been here for for a longer period of time need, um, refresher training and continual, um, continual training in order to keep their skills sharp. So this is a much needed position.

Paige Schaller 213 Fox Hollow Drive - Um, speaking to the previous speaker where she was talking about having it a subcontracted. I just want to get some clarification on this, because the training is an ongoing thing. Um, and also, the trainer would need to develop consistently throughout the time drills that the firefighters would need to be doing to keep their skills up. So as in times when we have a home that has been donated to the fire department to be able to be a controlled burn for training, we would need this trainer for that. So it's not really something that you can have a subcontractor. You need to have somebody there full time all the time.

Chief Tice - Correct. And these are these are perishable skills. It's not like we can train on them once and then they retain them forever. This is a constant ongoing cycle of training. And to Mrs. Huard's point, I understand that the thought that if it was just the setup of a training program, that was a short time thing, and then it was just going to flow easily, um, we wouldn't need a full time position. But this is an ongoing position. And over the years, as we train people up, we are going to lose people. People are going to retire. We're going to promote new officers who are going to then need to be mentored and then and have their instructor ability mentored and improved. So this is not a this is not a short time thing. This is a constant, constant need.

Moderator - Thank you. Any further discussion on warrant article number seven? Seeing none, we will close the discussion on warrant article number seven and it moves to the ballot.

Article 08 Town Wide Paving

Moderator - Shall the Town of Hudson vote to increase the Public Works Department's paving budget by an additional One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) and to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for this purpose? This increase in the Public Works Department's paving budget will be included in the operating budget and default budget in subsequent years.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-1
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.020

Selectman Roy was recognized and said Warrant Article Eight seeks to appropriate \$100,000 to increase the town's annual paving budget. The town currently budgets at \$990,000 in the Public Works Department Street Overlay account 5552-248 for paving. The town's paving budget was increased at the March 2012 town meeting, when it went from an annual budget of \$290,000 to \$790,000. The Town's paving budget was last increased at the March 2021 town meeting when it went from an annual budget of \$790,000 to \$990,000. This request would set the town wide paving budget at \$1,090,000 per year. There are over 200 lane miles of road that the town is responsible to maintain. The tax impacts for this article is \$0.02 per thousand. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0. Recommended by the Budget Committee 8 to 1. So I just want to say this accounts for two things. It accounts for the increase in road miles, um, due to development. And then it increases, it accounts for the increase in costs of materials to keep our roads safe and well paved and and just safe so that they can do all of their other duties. So I, uh, stand in support of this article. Thank you.

Moderator -Thank you. We'll now open article eight town wide paving to questions, comments, amendments. Seeing none. We will close the discussion on warrant article number eight. And it moves to the ballot.

Article 09 Melendy Road Bridge Rehabilitation

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for construction of Melendy Road Bridge Rehabilitation? This project will be funded from unassigned fund balance. This is a Special Warrant Article, per RSA 32:7 VI, reflecting an appropriation that will not lapse until the monies are expended, or June 30, 2030, whichever is the earliest.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.000

Selectmen Dumont - Warrant Article Nine seeks to raise an appropriate \$100,000 for the construction phase of the Melendy Road Bridge Rehabilitation project. This bridge is located between the towns pickleball courts and the Veterans Kiwanis Hall and Melendy Road over First Brook. This bridge is listed as a four out of ten on the State Bridge list, which puts it on the red list and in need of rehabilitation. This article would appropriate \$100,000 from the unassigned general fund balance, which is approximately \$7.3 million. This appropriation will not lapse until June 30th, 2030, or the project is completed, whichever is sooner. There is no tax rate impact on this article. The Board of Selectmen has voted to recommend this 4 to 0, and the Budget Committee has recommended to this article 9 to 0. And I would also suggest that everybody take a look at the poster boards in the back that actually have a couple of pictures, and explains this a little bit better. Thank you.

Moderator - Thank you. We'll now open article number nine to questions comments and amendments. Yes, ma'am.

Peggy Huard at 13 Dave Drive - I just want to take the moment to explain what zero tax impact means. And I'll only do this once today. Several articles show zero impact, but yet they are coming from what's called the unassigned general fund balance. There actually is a tax impact because in order to be in the unassigned fund balance, your taxes were overstated from a prior period and put into this general fund balance. So while there is no current tax effect for this year, it's coming from an overstated taxation from prior years. Thank you, thank you.

James Wilkins 112 Belknap - I realized the fiscal year isn't over yet, but we have we have any sort of estimate as to what this this balance will be.

Moderator - The the balance for the unassigned fund balance. He said it was 7.3 million. The State does require every town to maintain a surplus. You can't zero budget. The State requires you to have money put aside just in case. Like this. Further discussion warrant article number nine. Seeing none. We'll close the discussion on warrant article number nine and it moves to the ballot.

Article 10 Circumferential Highway Feasibility Study - Lowell Rd. to Route 111 Segment

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,075 for feasibility study and preliminary engineering design? This project will be funded \$800,300 (80%) from NHDOT federal grant and \$200,075 from this appropriation. This is a Special Warrant Article, per RSA 32:3 VI, reflecting an appropriation that will not lapse until the monies are expended, or June 30, 2030, whichever is the earliest.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-1
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 3-6
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.040

Selectman Dumont - Warrant Article Ten seeks to raise an appropriate \$200,075 for a feasibility study and preliminary engineering study for the for the southern portion of a proposed circumferential highway. This study will look at the Lowell Road to Route 111 segment of the proposed highway to determine if it is still economically and environmentally feasible to move forward with this project. The New Hampshire Department of Transportation has this project listed on the State's Ten Year Plan. This study has been funded 80% by the State of New Hampshire, with a 20% match from the Town of Hudson. This appropriation will not lapse until June 30th, 2030, or the study and preliminary engineering is completed, whichever is sooner. The tax rate impact for this article is \$0.04 per thousand. The Board of Selectmen recommend it 3 to 1 in the Budget Committee did not recommend this article 6 to 3. Now, the Board of Selectmen, if I just could say, put this forward to the voters to give you guys a choice. We've heard over and over again that traffic is a major concern. This is one of the options that's been brought up numerous times. It's up to you guys now to make the choice. Thank you very much.

Selectman Morin - Before before anybody speaks. I'd just like to have the Engineer up here. Town engineer, because he can answer the questions.

Moderator - Okay, make yourself available, Mr. Dhima in case there are questions. We'll open article ten to questions, comments and amendments. Yes, sir.

Ted Trost 63 Rangers Drive - Um, I see a lot of words about feasibility in this warrant article. Um, will this study include whether this is necessary or helpful to the traffic situation? I think with enough money, of course, it's feasible. Um, the question is, is this really necessary? I mean, I think we've looked at some old traffic studies that are now more than 20 years old.

Moderator - Question of the town. Mr. Dima will yield.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Thank you. I'm not aware of any studies done in the past for this particular segment. It's a good question. Um, we're trying to determine this once and for all based on today's facts, based on today's cost, based on today's, uh, environmental impact and benefits. Um, we're trying to figure out once and for all if we need to move on or move forward with this. That's kind of the intent. That's why the Board of Selectmen is putting this forward for you to decide once and for all. But we keep hearing this an issue out there and there's no solutions. And this just uh, keeps lingering. So hopefully that answers your question.

Moderator - Want to just stay up here a little bit, Mr. Dima, in case there are further questions.

Alex Woodyard, 14 Pasture Drive - I rise against this, uh, this warrant article. My back of the napkin math that I did in my seat just now, uh, states that we're looking at if all the warrant articles are approved, roughly a 14 one- four percent increase in our town taxes this year. I don't know about you guys, but I did not see a 14% raise. I have not seen a 14% raise in the last five years combined. Um, my also back of the napkin math says that this is going to be \$1 million study. I'd like to see some scope of the study more detailed than a paragraph of how we're going to justify spending, at least in my world, what would constitute three full time engineers a year's worth of work. So roughly 40 what is that? 5000 hours of work. Um, to me, a feasibility study should be a quick back of the napkin effort. I can't imagine it's 1800. No. What did I say? 5000 hours of work? It seems like it should be at most, a thousand. Thank you.

Moderator - Further discussion. You can just sit down there, Mr. Dhima.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Do you want me to comment?

Moderator - He didn't ask that question.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Would you like me to answer it a little bit of that?

Moderator - It wasn't a question Mr. Dhima. It was just a comment in opposition. Further discussion.

James Crowley and I've lived at 4 Fairway Drive for 36 years. I make a motion to amend article ten Circumferential Highway feasibility study low to zero out to \$1,000,375 in the first sentence of existing language of the article, and delete everything after the first question mark. The tax rate impact would change to zero. The resulting amendment, article ten Circumferential Highway Feasibility Study law, would be. Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise an appropriate the sum of \$0 for a feasibility study and preliminary engineering design for the Circumferential Highway low Road to Route 11 111 alignment tax rate is zero. If I receive a second on the motion, I want to explain my reasons for making.

Moderator - Let's let's get that first part done. Is there a second to Mr. Crowley's amendment? Mr. Trost seconds. Now to speak on the amendment is to take the money down to zero and delete everything after the the question mark. Mr. Crowley, go ahead.

Mr. Crowley - Okay. Why I propose this amendment. I'm sure everyone has their opinions concerning traffic, future development impacts in Hudson and environmental issues, including the EPA intent to veto. I want you to understand there are other issues that need to be considered as well. It should be understood that this article ten is a project of regional impact. To clarify for everyone, a regional impact simply means multiple communities have an identifiable interest and will be impacted by the design and possible building of a proposed project. A fact to know the state is not providing any actual direct funding from their budget allocations, just help in attainment of federal grant dollars. Ask yourself why isn't the state picking up the 20% that Hudson is being committed to in the original article ten language? If this original article were approved for \$1,000,375 pre, consider how your prop future property taxes can increase. Remember, the state will not fund 20% for preliminary engineering. The same formula will apply again for unspecified and undetermined additional funding of final engineering design and permitting. What happens if construction starts? We are talking about millions of dollars then, and if Hudson is lucky, the federal government will pick up 80 to 90% of that. But there is no help or commitment by the state with

the remainder millions that Hudson will be committed to pay. If the original proposed article ten language is approved by voters in March, ask yourself again, are you ready to absorb that in your future tax bill? Please read more details in a letter to the editor the issue of the free Hudson Times before voting on article ten in March. No matter whether this amendment is approved or original article stands at delivery, I've noticed some copies in the back. I strongly suggest that everyone approves this zero funding amendment. Note the Budget Committee does not favor committing to Hudson tax dollars for original article ten wording. What's the rush to spend tax dollars on something that's been thought about for decades? The point of this amendment is to validate a disagreement with the currently proposed funding source, not timing or desire to do a task. Why get, why not get an updated March voter consensus first to gauge current overall compelling desire to proceed with a preliminary engineering design before committing Hudson tax dollars. If this zero funding amendment language is approved in the deliberative, and if a majority favors the zero funded article ten in March, then I suggest contacting your state representatives to lobby harder on our behalf. For state legislator to directly fund the 20% for the preliminary engineering design, that would be a Hudson taxpayer dollar savings. I repeat, this is a regional impact transportation project affecting southern New Hampshire. Is it reasonable for only Hudson, New Hampshire taxpayers to commit funding for it? I say it is not. Please vote yes on this zero funding amendment today and again in March to facilitate a fair and reasonable financial outcome that Hudson taxpayers deserve. Thank you.

Moderator - We will now deal with the amendment, just the amendment to take the money to zero and remove the words after the the question mark. And it's what's up on the board there. on the amendment? Yes, sir. You speak on the amendment?

Mr. Weissgarber - Uh, I don't think I'm speaking on the amendment.

Moderator - This is on the amendment. Whether to take the money down before be a, uh, opposed or in favor of the amendment. Mr. Jasper, I got a bunch of people that have been in line for a while. This is on the amendment. Yes. Okay. Well, might you make sure you get in line, I'll get you after these people.

Rich Weissgarber, 21, Flying Rock Road -So yeah, I had several things to speak on, but as far as the amendment goes, um, I think that it's fair to let the voters decide that in March and not to deliberately zero out a a warrant article that basically makes it null and void. So you're basically just going to get like an anecdotal review of what voters think, and it will have no teeth with the voters.

Doreena Stickney, I live at 14 McKinney Drive - which is the southernmost end of town, which means I go north for pretty much everything. Um, first of all, to change this to a \$0 value basically renders this warrant article moot. And it takes away the voice of everybody in town. You may have people out there who don't have the same opinion as you, but our opinion counts just as much as yours. Okay. You don't.... It's not fair to zero this out and make it moot. For \$18. We could get a whole lot of questions answered. We keep hearing over the last three years all the public input and believe it or not, we are listening. We keep hearing the traffic, the traffic, the traffic. We need a study. We need a study. We need a comprehensive study. Comprehensive means not just shining a spotlight on the problems. It means looking at all possible viable solutions. And let me tell you a full transparency, I work for the Engineering Department at Town Hall, but I'm also a 30 year taxpaying resident who commutes everywhere in this town. And I've driven my kids to, you know, a 6:00 parent teacher conference or try to get this one to baseball practice or whatever. And yes, we absolutely have a traffic problem. But you you don't solve a puzzle by taking away some of the pieces. This is not voting yes or no on the project. It could be that cost minus benefit equals not worth it and fine. Or if the people don't want to spend \$200,000 on the study, let them vote on that. But don't take away their voice. Don't don't let a handful of people decide for the entire town of 25,000 people, because there's a whole lot of people with kids who commute through this town who can't be here today. Don't take away their voice. Don't zero out this warrant article if people don't want it. And the answer is no, great. We have an answer. People are not interested. But if they are, let's just get some answers. People look to us to solve this puzzle of a problem, but then they don't want to give us all the pieces. Let us at least have the pieces to understand what we're looking at. That's all. Thank you.

Moderator - Further discussion on the amendment.

(Selectman) Moran Dave Morin, 29 Library Street - I'm opposed to this. The residents of this town, when we were doing the Master plan, asked for survey question on that survey was should we look into the circumferential highway? A majority said, yes, that's why we are here today, because we are looking at the master plan of our town. This is part of our master plan. One way or the other, we're going to either do it or we're not. As the previous speaker just said, we know about the traffic it's been a complaint about for years. This is an option. And we'll see one way or the other if it's going to work, if it's going to not. We've seen the accidents that we've had. We see the danger that it is to our children in town crossing these roads. We want sidewalks, we want traffic lights, we want all this. And yeah, those are going to help, but traffic lights are just going to make traffic. If we can take this traffic and move it around the outside of our town and not through the main area, for the people that are just going through our town, not doing business in our town, this would be well worth it. Thank you.

Sue Ellen Seabury 50 Pelham Road - 30 years ago, I sat on the Hudson Planning Board when we discussed the Circumferential Highway, and I rise in opposition to this as well. The State was very involved 30 years ago in in the planning and feasibility of putting in a Highway that would take the roads off of that, take the traffic off of the connector roads and our main corridor roads, which would ease up the traffic solutions not only for the residents, not only for parents taking their children here and there, but for emergency response people, uh, for for the fire, for the police, for for everyone. We have needed this road for 30 years. And 30 years ago, the State had allocated to the town and had earmarked property to be able to design that road. Um, I participated, along with many members of the Planning Board at that time, and going up to Concord and talking with DOT. Relative to that. I am opposed to this because the feasibility study and the reasons submitted for it by the proponent of this amendment are not entirely accurate. It doesn't mean that the town would not work with the state. A feasibility study would basically provide the necessary information for the town to determine whether or not to go forward with a project that it has desperately needed for 30 years, continues to need today, and has parcels of land are being sold off for development, make it more and more difficult and out of sight and out of reach. We need this road. We need information to be able to decide to move forward as a town. I oppose this amendment and I ask for this to go to the voters so that the voters can can decide whether or not waiting for three cycles at the light on Wason Road to commute to their place of employment in the southern part of the State, is worth it or not. Thank you.

(Selectman) Kara Roy 46 Marsh Road - I stand in support of the amendment. You know, we've we've had this question asked to us several times since 1959, and this community has never had the stomach for the project. Why, why we keep having to be answering this question and wasting past taxpayer dollars to the tune of 200 plus thousand dollars is ridiculous. We should just end it now. Put the amendment to zero and leave it at that. Thank you.

(Budget Cmte. Member) Shawn Jasper 83 Old Derry Road - Previous speaker got the the year right. It has been talked about since 1959, but the reality is the town has never said no. The problem has always been the river crossing. The town has done a lot to support this project. Originally, the Circumferential was going to go through where the Rogers Memorial Library is. We couldn't get agreement on Nashua.

Moderator - Mr. Jasper try to stick to the amendment.

Mr. Jasper - The discussion on the amendment is important, I think, when people come to vote. So I'm I'm opposed to the amendment. I think, as a previous speaker very passionately said, we should let the voters decide. But I would challenge anyone to see where the town has said no. The State has put millions and millions. I would remind you that, uh, Benson's Park was bought primarily by the State for wetlands mitigation, and they still have rights for that during the Clinton administration. The section of the road that we're now talking about as a four lane highway was turned down because of the wetlands issue, and it couldn't be sited there. So I believe the as the maker of the motion also puts some inaccuracies in his statement. The feasibility has got to be how this could wind through the wetlands, what could be mitigated, perhaps with land that's still available to the state. But the voters need to determine this. I ask

you, is it fair to the people who live on the section of, um, Kimball Hill Road of um, uh, Wason Road and and one other road in there whose name I had a moment ago and now have lost.

Dean Sakati 11 Fairway Drive - I strongly support this amendment. Um, what really resonated was the fact that this is. Regional impact, right? It shouldn't be for the Hudson voters, the Hudson uh, residents to bear the expense of this, right? Just a just a side. A quote from a recent letter from the Nashua Regional Planning Board, Commission or Planning Commission, it stated, quote, the Hudson Boulevard project has the potential to unlock the economic development potential of some of the most significant commercial and industrial sites in southern New Hampshire, resulting in the creation of close to 6,000,000ft² of commercial and industrial development. That's their quote, right. So this is regional impact. This is about development in their eyes. And we should not be putting our money to work for a feasibility study for something that's not necessarily going to benefit our town. So that's number one. Number two is it's common knowledge that when these types of projects are engaged in what it does is it creates what's called induced traffic. It doesn't alleviate traffic, it creates more traffic because of that ensuing development. So for that reason, thank you, Mr. Crowley. I support this amendment.

Victor Oates, 77 Souza Boulevard - I also stand in support of this. Um, speaking to the previous speaker, I had a separate conversation with the Nashua Regional Planning Commission. Um, they stated that should this be built, it would do nothing to the traffic situation. It would in fact create induced demand. As the previous speaker stated. Um, what induced demand is, is that you see instant improvement, but within 2 to 3 years, you're going to have a worse traffic situation due to more cars coming through the area. Similar to any time a roadway is widened anywhere in the country. It starts out good. Boston built the Big Dig to alleviate traffic, didn't alleviate traffic widening roads, building roads do not prevent traffic situations and per the Nashua Regional Planning Commission, they basically stated this would not help. It would not alleviate the problem because it does not go broad enough. If you look at the conventional highway as it was intended, it was intended to go through 3 to 4 separate towns, all tied together. This study would not address that. We're not talking about going through Litchfield. We're not talking about going straight up through Manchester. We're talking about Hudson. Is this study spending all that money? And if you look at it, two years ago, the state agreed to pay the full \$1 million. Now, a few years later, they want Hudson to pick up 200,000 of it. I don't think so. Thank you.

Paige Schaller 213 Foxhollow Drive - I stand, um, in agreement with this amendment. Um, I also think that what we could do is we could put that money that they're asking for in this study toward one of the firefighter amendments that we have instead, um, us spending the money instead of regionally, people spending the money. It's a state road. The state should be paying for it. I think everybody says that not having this on the ballot with money attached to it, isn't going to give the voters the opportunity to vote, whether they want the circumferential highway or not. Yes it would. It does give you the vote on whether we want to do the feasibility study and spend the money later on, instead of now saying, you have to put money toward it. Maybe I want the circumferential highway, but I want the state to pay for it, or I want the regional towns to pay for it. But I'm not going to vote yes on spending the money now. And I also have a question as to whether we're talking about the circumferential highway, or are we talking about the boulevard, because that keeps getting mixed back and forth.

Moderator - Right now we're talking about the amendment.

Ms. Schaller - Okay, well I stand in support of the amendment. Thank you.

Peggy Huard 13 David Drive - I also stand in, um, support of the amendment. This has nothing to do with the money, and we cannot deny that there is a traffic problem to the passionate speaker. Who spoke about it being unfair for this body to make the decision for the people that are troubled by traffic. It's unfair to put this vote to the 3000 people that come out to vote, to make the decision for all of the abutters that the town built out. Development's right up to the right of way reserved for this highway. To Mr. Jasper's point I do think there's some confusion between the circumferential highway and the Hudson Boulevard. The Hudson Boulevard was voted no, voted down by the taxpayers of this town. And to clarify, the Hudson Boulevard was only a portion of the circumferential highway. The previous speaker asked what

this warrant article was, the Hudson Boulevard or the Circumferential Highway, and I hope that's clarified later. Thank you.

Moderator - Further discussion on the amendment. Mr. Morin for a second time. Are we ready to vote on the amendment?

Selectman Morin - I think to be fair to everybody in this room, there were a lot of comments made and reference to this road and certain things. And I think some of those need to be answered before we move on. There were statements made that are true, aren't true. I think we need those answered before we can vote on this by the Engineer.

Moderator - All right, a question of the Engineer. Thank you, Selectman Morin.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - This highway never meant to go to Manchester.

Point of order - What question is the Engineer answering?

Moderator - Selectman Morin had said ask the Engineer to answer some questions that have come up in some of the discussions.

From the Audience - What question, nobody has asked the question that I'm aware of.

Selectman Morin - There were statements made that are not correct.

Moderator - If you could, if you could identify them, we can.

Victor Oates - Motion to move the question.

Moderator - Nope. We have somebody on the floor.

Selectman Morin - Is this the Circumferential Highway or Hudson Boulevard?

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - his would be the Hudson Boulevard will be one lane on each direction.

Selectman Morin - Can you please explain the funding? There was a lot of discussion about funding.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima The original amount that the New Hampshire DOT Commissioner proposed to the State about two years ago was \$1 million for the total project. And I think that's what everyone is referring to this project right now, the study in the Ten Year Plan. Every single project that we have done since I've been here, that's been on the ten year plan needs to match from the town, similar to Benson Park train station relocation, similar to the widening of Lowell Road right now. So every single project that we have done that I'm aware of always needed some kind of match from the town. This is not any different.

Selectman Morin - A statement was said that this would not eliminate traffic. Could you explain that or does it eliminate traffic?

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - That's simply not true. I'm not sure where they got that from, from NRPC

Point of Order called from the audience.

Moderator -He's answering the question of the member of the body.

Selectman Morin - someone made the statement that this wasn't going to save traffic. So I'm just asking the other question. That's all.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Yeah, that that is not accurate, that I'm not sure who they spoke to at NRPC, but I just simply not true.

Selectman Morin - Can you discuss the funding and our input because a statement was made this doesn't support the taxpayers. We shouldn't spend the \$200,000. But in my opinion, \$200,000 supports every single taxpayer in this town, not just this room. So if we're spending \$200,000 as a town and they're spending \$800,000, just explain that, because how that works.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Well, without getting into too much into it, I'm just going to try to keep it through the facts. But what I would say is I don't think the town is ever going to get a chance to get \$800,000 from the State again to do this. They'll still be the end of it. If this goes through or not, I don't think there will be any more, um, probably support or assistance from the State regarding this.

Selectman Morin - And my last question is, is there was a lot of the study is not going to give us information, explain to us what exactly is going to come out of this study.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - The study is going to include an engineering, um, preliminary plan. So basically the study is going to say this is where the road could go. This is what's going to look like. This is the wetland impact. This is a construction cost. These are the permits that are required for it. This is the chance that we might get these permits or not. You know, uh, state permits, federal permits, things of that sort. It's also going to look into the traffic if it's going to deviate it or not. I can tell you that when the town submitted the grant to the federal level, it shows improvement to three years ago and NRPC did that study the traffic and it did indicate there was relief. Short term and long term. So um, that's why the previous statements was not accurate. That just simply not true. Um, but you're going to get all the answers. But the main one is, the one we always seeking. Does this make sense today or not anymore? This could very well be a no. This could very well be a yes. But either way, whatever the answer is, you're going to go back to the State and you're going to say, this is the answer. What are you going to do for us next?

Selectman Morin - And you just brought up one more question. Mr. Jasper had stated that Benson's was purchased to take care of the wetlands issue, and the wetlands was a major concern. So we have Benson's in place for that, and construction has changed to make it much better for the environment as they build. So that would be also taken into consideration that the new construction styles would take care of the environmental concerns.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - And they will be looking to everything. And if if one of those is not going to be basically able for us to be able to obtain, I think that's going to be a part of the matrix and all that is going to be taken into consideration before basically a conclusion is taken. It's going to be put forward to say, yes, it makes sense. No, it doesn't make sense. But no matter what that answer is, it still makes it the State problem. So they will have to help us no matter what we do. That's the main thing about this.

Selectman Morin - One more, I promise. If this doesn't get built, we've talked about a million times. Nobody knows how we're going to take care of traffic.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Flying cars. They're coming.

Moderator - Thank you. On the amendment to take the amount to zero and remove the subsequent wording. Uh, we would like order.

Paige Schaller 213 Fox Hollow Drive - Point of order. When Selectman Morin asked the Engineer whether we were talking about the circumferential highway or the boulevard, the town engineer stated, the boulevard.

Moderator - The boulevard? That's correct.

Ms. Schaller - So the wording in the warrant article is incorrect because the warrant article is talking about the southern part of the circumferential highway.

Moderator - I think it's only I that I don't know about the Selectmen. The Selectmen put that together. That's good. All right. On the amendment. Are we still ready to speak a second time, Mr. Dumont? You haven't spoken a first time.

(Selectman) Dillon Dumont, 195 Central Street - This is just the first time. Dylan Dumont, 195R Central Street. Uh, just more or less information for everybody. I was present at the meeting the TETAC happened here a couple months ago, where they actually talked about the spending for this. On the Executive from the State. David Wheeler, did make it clear to me after the meeting, and I pleaded with him several times to free up for money for Hudson, because I also agree with everybody. I think this is a regional impact. But he made it very clear to me that there is no more money. If Hudson doesn't step up, it goes away. I'm not in favor of that, but that is the reality. Thank you.

Moderator - Further discussion on the amendment.

(Budget Cmte Member) Kathy Leary 8 Par Lane -Uh, quick question. I was going to debating whether to put this say this now or later, but if we're going to try to raise some questions so that people can vote in an informed way on the amendment. Quick question for the Town Engineer. When we talked about this at the Budget Committee meeting, we're looking at a two lane road going from those two points for one point to the other. Is there going to be the possibility of crossroads, curb cuts, which would mean further traffic lights along the way, which would have an impact on how much traffic is actually alleviated.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - So that's a two part question. The first one is, is this proposed road if it happens and again we're not there yet. This is just for the study. But is the study is going to include basically this road at grade, they refer it to basically intercepting the existing road out there. Yes. That's going to be looked into too. The second question that you have is is it going to be additional curb cuts along this road once it gets built? What we have received from the state is no. But as I said at the budget hearing, that doesn't mean that no one is going to stay there forever. So it is a possibility that things change at the State, and they go from one decision to not allow curb cuts to later on when we're all gone, to say yes. So I cannot answer that for them. But but what we got from them originally was no, but that could change. I just wanted to put it out there.

(Budget Cmte Member) Kathy Leary 8 Par Lane And I appreciate your honesty, but I and I just wanted people to know that that is a possibility. Thank you.

Moderator - Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment.

Dean Sakati 11 Fairway Drive - Um, just for the avoidance of any doubt, Mr. Morin made an assertion that some of the facts that were borne out were not true. Um, just again, for avoidance of doubt, what I wanted to bring to everyone's attention, page 15 of the Boulevard Study that's on our engineering website states 6,000,000ft² of commercial and industrial development would be created by the creation of this boulevard. So if anyone wants the stats, I have them here. It's on our town website. It's our work contact as Mr. Elvis Dima. So this is our work in conjunction with the Nashua Planning Board. Thank you.

Moderator - Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment.

Selectman Roy - So I just want to point out again that that we were given wrong information. The Board of Selectmen were given wrong information when this was called the Circumferential Highway, when it was brought before us. It's not the circumferential Highway, it's the Hudson Boulevard one. And two. There's no question that Mr. Dhima. Um, there's no question there. Um, two, is this the only money we will have to spend for this project?

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - So there is a question. Okay.

Selectman Roy - Now there is yeah.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - For the feasibility study this is the only money that you've been asked for right now. 200 grand. That's it.

Selectman Roy - But in the future, will we. Will we be?

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - I don't know what the future holds. All we have in front of us right now is the feasibility study. And that's what.....

Selectman Roy (interrupting Mr. Dhima's reply) - A comprehensive study, or is this just for one project on one piece of one piece of Hudson? Because what the townspeople has asked for is the comprehensive traffic study, not on one, just one project, a comprehensive that looks at all of the alternatives.

Moderator - Let's stick with the amendment of whether to take it to zero before we talk about the article itself.

Mary Joy Gasdia 4 McCann Road - I'm sitting here today as a voter looking at this amendment and seeing that we've spent about a half an hour of discussion on it, lots of other ones go by not one person gets up. We've had a half an hour about multiple people getting up back and forth about this. And so what it comes down to for me is, so much information was thrown into have to make a decision right now and say yes or no to me, with the amount of back and forth, everybody in this room should be wanting it to go and be in front of the voters. Because if there's this much passion on both sides, right, it should be really open up to the whole town. And that's really what voting is about. Everybody has a voice. So to the amendment, I would say I would recommend voting no, because that's going to take your voice away as a voter. I'd also like to move the question so we can get on to the rest of you.

Moderator - You can't speak and move the question at the same time. All right, further discussion.

Alex Woodyard 14 Pasture Drive - Yes. I have a quick question for the members of the legislative here. Is anyone here a licensed professional engineer in any capacity, in any way? All right. Thank you. Um, Mr. Dhima, you are the only professional engineer licensed in the building. Um, now that we've clarified that.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Don't hold that against me though.

Alex Woodyard 14 Pasture Drive - Um, yes. Using your best judgment as the licensed professional professional engineer. What additional funds would be required of Hudson in order to pursue the entire Hudson Boulevard?

Moderator - We're not talking about the... we're talking about the amendment, not the additional funds. Whether to take it to zero or not, I want to keep it on that so we can decide that now and then. Talk about article ten.

Alex Woodyard 14 Pasture Drive - Thank you, Mr. Moderator, I apologize. Please strike my comment I moved I'm now let's vote on the amendment.

Carrie Harrington from 48 Orchard Park Lane - Um, I'm under the impression that this is a State funded program, and I disagree with what Dillon said about that if we vote no or agree to this event amendment, that we're hurting ourselves because the State, if it's a state funded highway or program, they will fund, the feasibility study in Hudson should not be the only sole town that is impacted to pay for the \$200,000 if that's needed. Thank you.

Moderator - Thank you. Any further discussion? *Mr. Oates will move the question to cut off debate. Second, I heard Mr. Campbell. Motion to cut off debate.* Not debatable. We're going to. If this passes, we would cut off debate and vote on the amendment. If it doesn't pass, we'll continue discussion. If you are in favor of cutting off debate on the amendment, please raise your voter cards. Requires a two thirds those opposed. Seeing none. One, two. *The ayes have it.* The question is moved.

Moderator - If you are in favor of the amendment to take the amount to zero as you see on the screen, and and remove the wording after the question mark of the original, so it will state exactly what it says. There shall the town of Hudson vote to raise an appropriate the sum of \$0 for a feasibility study and preliminary engineering design of the Circumferential Highway, Lowell Road to Route 111 segment. That's it. If you are in favor of that amendment, please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed? *The nays have it. The the amendment fails.*

We are now on Article Ten as original. Do we have that article up there? We do. Thank you. So further discussion of Article Ten. Yes, sir.

Rich Weissgarber, 21 Flying Rock Road - Um, the unassigned general fund balance. I know over the years it's been a little gray as to what we can use that for. Um, we used it in article nine because it's a construction project, but is there a way to understand objectively what we can use that for as far as like the maybe for the part of the feasibility study, is that is that possible? And the reason why I ask is because we need to know, as the legislative body and the residents, what we can change language on. Um, as we did with the school. So I would like to understand that better only because, um, it might help on some of these warrant articles as to whether or not you can change the language and save some tax implications. So I know it's, um, from what I understand. Correct me if I'm wrong, it's about 9% of the town's in the school's basic um budget. Which together is about 35 million and 53 million before, I think, the schools, state and federal funds. So 9%. So the town's portion of that is about, what, 4 million if you took out the schools budget? Um, so I just wanted to understand that better, because if we can change language again on some of these to zero out the tax rate impact. I think it would help.

Moderator - Question of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Weissgarber - Or the Finance Director?

Moderator - Well, apparently you're questioning whether or not we can use Unexpended fund balance, right? We would have to amend this to put that into the into the wording.

Mr. Weissgarber - I won't amend it until we know for sure if that pot of money can be used to pay for that 200k.

Moderator - Okay. So that would need some wording design. If you wanted to make that amendment, Mr. Malizia will yield.

Mr. Weissgarber - And it's not just this warrant article, I mean the paving. Why can't we use it for paving? Why can't we use it? You know what I mean? Why are we raising and appropriating for some projects and unexpended unassigned general fund balance for others? And and again, I know that there's some guidelines.

Town Administrator Steve Malizia - So the Board makes the decision when they look at the warrant articles whether they want to propose using unassigned fund balance. I'm not aware that you could not, that this body could not amend an article to do the same. Again, it's an unassigned fund balance. This is a legitimate appropriation. That would be my opinion, a legitimate use of that. So somebody amended an article to take it from the unassigned fund balance. I believe that's a legitimate use of fund balance. Again, it's an appropriation. I'm not aware that it's restricted from using it for this. So if this body so chose to amend I believe this body could.

Mr. Weissgarber - Is that the same potentially for the paving or an article.

Moderator - Well the paving warrant article doesn't have that in it. It's the Melendy Bridge Road has that wording right.

Mr. Weissgarber - No I'm saying why can't we can I amend the paving warrant article to include the use of.

Moderator - No, we we'd have to bring that back up. That would have to come back up as a discussion.

Mr. Weissgarber - So for the one that we're on, Article Ten, I'd like to to amend the wording so that it supports the 200K is supported by the use of the unassigned general fund balance. Versus being raised from general taxation.

Moderator - Okay. Mr. Weissgarber wants to make an amendment. And we can use the word can we use the wording of the Melody Road Bridge, this project to be funded from the unassigned general fund balance? Is that acceptable wording, Lisa we could do that?

Mr. Weissgarber - And then the tax rate would go to zero. Correct

Moderator - Right. Wait a minute. So you want to insert.

Mr. Weissgarber - Right after \$200,075

Moderator - Okay. After two project to be funded from the unassigned general fund balance. And let our HCTV people get this stuff in place. Okay, let me give this to, Make sure it's correct. Uh, Mike what this amendment will do would be to after the \$200,075 take out to be raised from general taxation. And add. Um, where was that wording.

Mr. Weissgarber - Which will be funded from unassigned general fund balance.

Moderator - With said sum to come from the unexpended fund balance. Okay, you're going to strike out the words to be raised from general taxation after the \$200,075. And you're going to add said sum to come from the unassigned general fund balance. It's the the last part of Article 11 that wording. If we can do that quickly, we can. And the tax rate impact would go to zero. And that would change the tax rate to zero. We're going to take a break. We're going to take a break after this ladies and gentlemen. We have it up. Does that meet the what your intent was, Mr. Weissgarber?

Mr. Weissgarber - It does.

Moderator - Okay, so we're striking out the words after \$200,075 to be raised from general taxation. We're striking those out, the two to be raised by general taxation. And we're adding with said some to come from the unassigned general fund balance. Is there a second? Mr. Siegel seconds this amendment number two. Mr. Weissgarber, to speak on your amendment.

Mr. Weissgarber - Well, I, I just think that if we have opportunities to use. Um, a portion of that fund balance, because it is, I think it's typically between 6 and 9% is where you keep that fund balance. Um, we're kind of at the top of that. Um, also, again, it includes both this the town and the school's budget in that 9%. Um, I think there's plenty of room to for, like, the rainy day just with this amount. We're not, we're not gutting this fund balance by paying for the feasibility piece of the town from the town. So thank you.

Moderator - We are on the amendment to add the words said some to come from the unassigned general fund balance and taking out to be raised by general taxation. Any further discussion. If some people in line. Yes, ma'am. Speak on the amendment.

Peggy Huard 13 David Drive - I rise in opposition to this amendment, and I know I promised that I was only going to speak once.

Moderator - Yes you Did. Taking from the unassigned fund balance.

Ms. Huard - But I'm going to break that promise because it is so important for the taxpayers to be reminded that there is a tax impact. \$200,000 is a lot of money. That means that was left over in prior years, and your you were taxed higher than you needed to be in prior years. So this has a prior year tax impact even though it doesn't have a current year impact. Thank you.

Victor Oates 7 Sousa Boulevard - Um, I rise to amend article ten.

Moderator - No. We're on an amendment right now. Okay? We're not amending an amendment. I won't take those. We're going to deal with this amendment to take out the words, as it says up there. We're taking out the words to be raised from general taxation and inserting with said some to come from the unassigned federal general fund balance.

Catherine Nardoni 20 Maple Avenue- Um, I just have a question. The original article said to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,307,500. Um, and then it goes to the 200. And I don't know if that's gonna if that's supposed to be that or if it's supposed to be the million, but also if there would be a, um, if the State

didn't get this federal grant or if the federal grant wasn't used, if we would be, um, required to to do the whole feasibility study.

Moderator - We are required to appropriate the full amount. And the State said if the State doesn't come up with the money, we don't either.

Randy Brownrigg 2 Little Hills Lane - I want to talk before we go further about the rules. My understanding of the rules before the meeting is started, that people who are residents of the town get a red card correct? People who are not a resident don't get a card, but yet are allowed to participate, correct?

Moderator - No, not to speak not to speak on the articles.

Mr. Brownrigg - Okay. Not to speak on. Okay.

Moderator - Anybody's up there should have a red card so I know they're a voter.

Mr. Brownrigg - Right it I'm a little disappointed in the unions here today. All these gentlemen that were sitting over here.

Moderator - Mr. Brownrigg be in order

Mr. Brownrigg - it is in order

Moderator - No you're not. We're talking about an amendment.

Mr. Brownrigg - and I'm talking about the rules before we started.

Moderator - you had a question on the rules and I explained it.

Mr. Brownrigg - I was just asking those two questions, and I'm just making a statement to what I feel was disappointed by the rules.

Moderator - That's the rules are there. I explained them.

Mr. Brownrigg - So you were in favor of what just happened?

Moderator - We are moving forward. We're not requiring.

Mr. Brownrigg - Again, I'm out talked.

Matt Carpenter 19, Stony Lane, President of the Hudson Public Works bargaining unit. I just wanted to clarify to the gentleman before me. He approached us outside. We came here in support of our article and the firefighters, and we were moving out after that. Thank you.

Moderator - Mr. Carpentier, you're out of order.

Sue Ellen Seabury, 50 Pelham Road - I rise in support of this. I think that this is a prudent and more palatable argument for people who are concerned about their tax increase, to take this money from the general fund. Again, I support the study for this road. Hudson has been in need of this road for decades, and if Mr. Dumont spoke with Dave Wheeler, who has held a variety of hats in New Hampshire State government over the number of years, and that gentleman communicated that the state this is our last chance to get funding from the State, I believe him, and I believe Mr. Dumont, and I think that the town needs to take advantage of that. If this doesn't have a tax impact on the citizens, and it provides us with necessary information to be able to alleviate our crushing traffic traffic problem in the town, I support this and I support the amendment.

(Budget Cmte. Member) Shawn Jasper 83 Old Derry Road - Thank you, Mr. Moderator. I do rise in opposition to this only because it sets a very dangerous precedent. I've been coming to town meetings since I was 13, and I have never seen us start to mess with the fund balance. The fund balance is something that has a number of important components into it. And what I'm going to do is ask you to turn

to page 11 of 13 in your book and almost the well, it's 9998 amount voted from fund balance. We are already taking \$1.1 million from fund balance, which is a higher number than we normally take from our fund balance to decrease the taxes. You're not having more taxes taken from you than are required. As a previous speaker has said, what happens is less of the appropriation for whatever reason gets spent or there is an excess of income, which is generally the case from motor vehicle registration from other things, that money becomes surplus. The selectmen look at that number carefully, I hope, and I assume and decide, how much should we put to reduce taxes? And then in addition, if there are warrant articles that. Could be used and it could be any particular number. There's no there's no magic to that. There's no magic to which article that they asked for the money to be used. But it's a balancing act to make sure that at the end of the day, the right number is kept in the fund balance moving forward in case something goes wrong. So if we start doing this here, we could do it everywhere, get ourselves into a lot of trouble down the road. I would urge you to let this article stand on its own merits going forward to the voters, and not do this personally. If you know I were in charge, I wouldn't use any of the money to offset warrant articles. I would put it all in the line of the 1.1 million so that everything is looked at equally. There is, you know, oh, maybe this one's a favorite of somebody. I don't know, but we're just arbitrarily now bringing that fund balance down by \$2,200,000. If we pass this amount amendment without really knowing what the consequences of that are. But I'm not worried about the \$200,000. I'm worried about now doing this on pretty much every warrant article comes along. It's very appealing to do that. And we shouldn't be doing that. We should let the selectmen do their job, and they've done that because I believe last year it was \$600,000 that was put into offset taxes. They've upped that this year by a half \$1 million already. So please, I urge you just in for fiscal sanity going forward to defeat this amendment.

James Wilkins 112 Belknap - I have to agree with the previous speaker. One way or the other, we're going to pay for this. Is there, I was previously told that the balance is 7.3 million. Is there a State recommended minimum level for us for that balance?

Moderator - Question of finance? This would be in the current fiscal year. This is we're talking about money that's still that's projected to be available in on July on July 1st Ms. Labrie.

Finance Director Lisa Labrie - It's 6 to 8% of a calculated number based on what the, um, appropriations are.

Mr. Wilkins - So what would 6% be as a as an unassigned balance?

Finance Director Lisa Labrie - I don't have that with me. I can look and see if I have it in my notes.

Mr. Wilkins - I'm just trying to see if we have room to push this down at all or how much.

Mr. Weissgarber - Mr. Moderator, I recommend we take a break so they can do some research and come back.

Moderator - I think that's prudent. Why don't we take a 20 minute break? I believe there'll be some pizza coming at 11:30. It should be here any minute. Why don't we take a 20 minute break? Get some refreshments. There is pizza coming.

Moderator - Let's get back into order, please. Where we are, we are in the second amendment to Article Ten to strike out the words to be raised from general taxation and insert said some to come from the unassigned general fund balance. Mr. Wilkins had the floor. He had asked a question of the finance. Mr. Wilkins, where is he? He was looking for a bottom line number. I don't think they have that because that is a very fluid number as the year goes on. Uh. Ms. Labrie will respond to that question.

Finance Director Lisa Labrie - Okay. So the range is considered 6 to 8% as a safe range. Um, 6% would be \$5,277,000. Um, we're approximately around 8% right now, which would be 7.3 million and 10% would be \$8,785,000. So we also have, we took out that's including \$1,100,000 that came out to reduce taxes. And there are two more warrant articles coming up where we're looking to cover them from the unassigned fund balance, the, uh, Police Safety Equipment for \$105,000 and the \$100,000 for Melendy Road. So that one's already gone by.

Moderator - Further discussion of the amendment to change those words.

Peggy Huard 13 David Drive - You made me a liar, damn it. Um, I'm going to go back to the fund balance and dispute the Budget Committee members statement that it is not the taxpayers money any time. So the fund balance is comprised of, uh, surplus appropriations, unbudgeted revenue. So if you have unbudgeted revenue, that's revenue that could have gone to something that the taxpayer had to pay for, whether it be in that year or a future year. So to present this to the taxpayers, I know it's a legal wording, but to present this to the taxpayers as having zero tax impact, that only represents the current year it undoubtedly takes from a fund that has accumulated from funds that should have been used for what our tax bills come from. I just want people to understand that because this is very deceiving. When you go to the polls and you say, oh, zero impact. The other thing I question is the legality of a taxpayer pulling from the fund balance. Last year I had asked the Board of Selectmen, or I think it was the Budget Committee, one of the bodies, if we could take more money from that fund balance and apply it to taxation. And they said they couldn't. So if they couldn't, then why can't a taxpayer do it today? Thank you.

Moderator - Further discussion on the amendment.

Rich Weissgarber 21, Flying Rock Road- I understand that the fund balance is a good thing for the town. It helps in several ways, right? It helps. It's almost like your debt to income ratio. It helps when you go to get a loan. So having it there is a positive thing. So what what I'm curious about is you have the school's budget included in that 6 to 8% or 9%. Right. So it's 35, about 35 mil plus I think about 53 mil before state and local or state and federal portion of the school. Yes, the school has their own end of year fund balance. That's historically 3 to 4 million. They don't come to the town to use their portion of the fund balance. They probably it's an assumption we'll probably never come to the town because they use their own fund balance to pay for their needs. So and SAU 81, has told me in the past that they are unable to use the fund balance, which for them is at least half of that fund balance. So this is not arbitrary. It's deliberate. There's a deliberate use of an existing fund balance. You're barely scratching the surface for a fund balance. To me, that seems inflated because you're including the school's budget in something they will probably never use. So, um, again.

Moderator - Are you speaking in favor or against the amendment?

Mr. Weissgarber - in favor.

Moderator - Oh, yes. Okay. Thank you I wasn't sure, I wasn't sure. Mr. Jasper. Then, Mr. Zuccotti, on the amendment, let's stick to this amendment and get this out of the way. This is.

Shawn Jasper 83 Old Derry Road - In response to a statement. The fund balance includes the schools because no matter what happens to the revenue on the taxes and remember the the town collects all of the property taxes, both school and, uh, and town and county. So if there is a shortage, no matter what happens, the town is responsible for paying the school district their full budget. That's why it's included. So that there is enough to to deal with that. Uh, in years past, and I can't remember, the Hudson had to do it. I know Hillsborough County had to do it. There was borrowing tax anticipation notes because the tax hadn't come in to meet the expenditures. And that's what would happen if we didn't have enough money in the fund balance and the revenues didn't come in. The town would have to go and bear that sole cost to borrow money to meet the expenditures, including the schools.

Dean Sakati 11 Fairway Drive - Um, just really quick. This is borderline deceitful, right? It's we're taking \$200,000 from the general fund. Um, that's real money. The town owns it. It shouldn't be you know it. And then to say the tax rate impact is zero, which is it is technically correct, but it's deceitful in the sense that the taxpayer's going to believe that, that it's free and it's not. It's \$200,000 of our funds in our war chest, if you will. Thank you. That's all.

Mike Ruby, 7 Eagle Drive - Yes. Um, I'm against this amendment simply because we've got people that are on these boards that know where all the money is and what the money should be used for. And I don't

think at a meeting like this, you just say, well, let's just take from Peter to pay Paul. So I'm against the amendment.

Ted Trost 63 Rangers Drive- So if I understand things correctly, we've got \$7.6 million in there now. Now, and we're planning on pulling out \$1.1 million to reduce the tax rate. So that sounds to me like we're starting to get much more close to the minimum recommended by the state, and I think in principle I'm opposed to this. Any way of using it for this kind of a project, and I think it misleads the voters, say leaving the tax impact at zero. I understand that that's the way it has to be worded.

Finance Director Lisa Labrie - Just to clarify, the 1.1 million has already been taken out. That's the 7.3 is after the 11.1 million.

Mr. Trost - Thank you for that clarification.

Moderator - On the amendment to change the words and take it from a, uh, I mean, um, unassigned general fund balance.

Craig Powers, 31 Cedar Street -Uh, at the risk of amending an amendment, which I would never do, uh, I would have to recommend against this, but I could very easily be persuaded uh, should we bring up amendment three that the tax rate impacts, instead of saying zero, consistent with so many of the passionate pleas so far, and some words, very harsh words, like inaccurate words, uh, deceptive, to put in the "opportunity cost lost is" and whatever that original value is, uh, it's a way to better communicate with our fellow voters to say that there is no free lunch. But we're not going to raise your taxes to do this. We're going to tighten our belts. We're going to manage as wise stewards, and we're going to squeeze out that 200K. Um, but just so you know, if we chose not to do this project at all, then we could return to you. Technically, this amount of money that needs to show up, in my humble opinion, in a proper amendment. Thank you.

Moderator - The decision on where on adding the tax impact onto an article onto that I think, is that a Selectmen's requirement or is that a town meeting? The Selectmen have the ability to do that or not do that. They don't even have to put that on there. That's something that the Selectmen have control of. *Now we are on an amendment to remove the words to be raised from general taxation and adding um said some come from the unassigned general fund balance.* Be ready for voting on that amendment. *If you are in favor of that amendment, please raise your voting cards. Thank you. Those opposed? The nays have it. The amendment fails.* We are now on warrant article ten as written.

Victor Oates 77 Sousa Blvd. - Um, I'd like to amend article ten.

Moderator - Mr. Oates wants to add an amendment three.

Mr. Oates - Um, the only amendment is moving the existing article from saying \$200,075 to \$1.

Moderator - Seconded by Alex Woodyard. The amendment the article as written in the amendment is to remove take the \$200,075 to \$1.

Mr. Oates - Just before I speak to that um, could I just state that, um, one of the Board members, um, swore directly at me, and I think that that is inappropriate.

Moderator - Mr. Oates, please speak to your amendment.

Mr. Oates - um, we're putting forward this feasibility study to the voters. The key reason why this feasibility study and the highway was killed before was due to the EPA. Um, the EPA, to my knowledge, has not been asked once what their view currently is on doing this highway one more time. If they were the key reason why this highway was not built before, why have they not been asked? I have already

reached out to the EPA and they have not stated once why anything about this new highway. So I guess to my point is we keep on putting this forward to the voters, but the entire people that keep on killing this highway have never been asked whether or not they favor it again. So for that reason, I'd like to put it to \$1.

From the Audience someone shouted - Move the question further.

Moderator - No, I will not take a move to question when only one person has, has has spoken.

Shawn Jasper 83 Old Derry Road - And I want to challenge the ruling of the chair. This amendment is exactly the same as the previous amendment, because the effect of \$1 kills the amendment as much as zero does. Therefore, this is not a different amendment. It's just a tactic to delay this debate. Could you challenge the ruling and put it to the House to decide whether this, um, this amendment is proper?

Moderator - They will be able to do that. Mr.. Jasper, after they.

Mr. Jasper - I have challenged the ruling of the chair. Is your duty as moderator to put it to a vote of the body?

Mr. Oates - Motion has been seconded Mr. Jasper.

Moderator - I have not made a ruling. I've accepted an amendment and a second.

Mr. Jasper - And now we have to challenge that.

Moderator - How can you challenge that?

Mr. Jasper - Because you shouldn't have accepted. Because it's the exact same effect. It's the exact same effect as the First Amendment.

Moderator - Mr. Jasper challenges my agree or my taking of the amendment as inappropriate. Or what is the other just.

Mr. Jasper - It's the same effect. It's the same amendment in practicality.

Moderator - You can make an amendment more than one time and different letters and different wording and different. And we're just going to do this. Let's do this amendment. Let's do it quickly. Anyone wants to speak to the amendment of taking the money, the town money down to \$1. Not seeing anyone. Somebody coming? We got somebody coming. Okay. And then we'll vote on it. Okay.

Mary Joy Gasdia, 4 McCann Road- I'm going to speak to the amendment and say I've been here all morning. We actually already did the same thing earlier, so I'm 100% against the amendment because in two minutes we can get up and now say we're going to reduce it to \$2. Let's reduce it to \$3,4, 5, 7. Okay. Mr. Jasper is correct in challenging it. This shouldn't even be allowed to be an amendment. So I think we need to vote. Say no, just like we did earlier. Move on.

Selectman Morin - I also agree with the last two speakers that this shouldn't be happening. And again, we have a small room of people trying to take the rights of every single voter in the town of Hudson away and do it here. I think that is grossly unfair. Thank you.

Dean Sakati 11 Fairway Drive - I support this amendment. Let the voters let the folks in the room decide if they feel it the zero one last time. Why wouldn't this? Why wouldn't it fall the same way?

Moderator - Okay, *the motion has been made and seconded to to take the \$200,075 to \$1. We're ready for a vote. If you're in favor of that amendment please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed the nays have it. The amendment fails.*

Mr. Jasper - Mr. Moderator, move to restrict reconsideration on article through seven through nine. Selectman Morin seconded this.

Moderator - We have to finish this. I'm going to finish this and then I'll take that restriction. We are on Article Ten as worded. Nothing has changed.

Peggy Huard still 13 David Drive - So I wanted to for the people that don't understand what the circumferential highway is, it is a right of way that has been reserved and established many years ago. And if you look at the map, it starts at Lowell Road at Wason and it starts to run parallel. And if you pull up a map, you will see the strip of land that looks like a tree covered road. And what you will also see are residential developments that were built closer and closer to this right of way. While many of those individuals were given notification on their deed, maybe that says that they have some sort of easement. I don't know if it would have been as clear to them. So so the body is going to make the decision for these people. And while we may eliminate traffic, we're going to create a huge burden, sound traffic on that road. And these butters are going to have that in their back yard. But no one seems to mind that 3000 people can go out and vote and force those people to have this highway in their backyard as a, um, someone that who endured an abusive construction project in this town, I urge every taxpayer to vote no for the taxpayers that will be affected by it, not financially, but emotionally and their health as well. Thank you.

Moderator - Circumferential Highway Feasibility study Article Ten

Kathy Leary 8 Par Lane - I'm also a member of the Budget Committee. Uh, I just wish to speak to the the warrant article for the record on when we voted as a Budget Committee I did vote against this for a number of reasons. One, it's been here for years. It's never gone through my specific comments today will be the same ones they made at the Budget Committee. I live at the south end of town. I work at Alvirne. I am back and forth on Lowell Road, uh five days a week. During the week when it's a work week, commuter week. This particular road, if it's coming off from the Sagamore Bridge, will do nothing to alleviate the traffic that all the trucks and traffic that I see on a daily basis, going from all the way from the south end of town, up past Auburn, presumably heading up to 93 up in Londonderry. So it may not alleviate the north south traffic as opposed to, you know, east west traffic number two. Um, while it's been made, the comments are made in the past that the state owns the land itself for the road, whatever we want to call it. If while the state might own the land, we do definitely need to look into who owns the land that is adjacent to that property. Some of it may be residential, some of it may be commercial. I mean commercial developers. And as was recognized earlier by the town engineer, if there is the possibility of curb cuts potentially even maybe down the. Line crossroads or even just an exit. All of those things if there are developers, which needs to be, I think, determined if there are developers along that roadway, this particular roadway may or may not alleviate traffic. It may in fact add to the traffic of people going to those developments which may spring up along the road. Thank you.

Tim Wyatt 139 Barrett's Hill Road - Can we or should we, as mentioned earlier, change it to, uh, Hudson Boulevard from..

Moderator - No, we we cannot do that. That would be changing the subject matter that we've warned the public to on the warrant article. That would be changing the subject matter from even though it's the same area, it's a change of subject matter. We can't do that. Thank you.

Victor Oates, 77 Sousa Boulevard -Um, I don't want to pretend that we're in here taking the rights of the voters away around this or that. The voters in this town, the few that do show up at the town election. I think somewhere between 2 to 4000 out of the 26,000 residents are not constantly making the decisions as to which direction should go. The people along this stretch of road, I'd say 90, 95% of them are unaware that this is going on right now. They're unaware that a small group of people are voting, or potentially going to vote in March. As to whether or not to approve a feasibility study that might put a major artery straight through their backyard. And yet that's what we do. And the EPA continues to say, no, we don't have any information from them. Induced demand hasn't been addressed by our town engineer or anybody in the town. We continue to say that roads will fix the traffic problem. They won't. We need to

stop putting the same issues back before the voters and start looking at fresh new ideas. And that isn't this. At no point have we looked at a different process, a different idea. We're rehashing the same old argument year after year and putting forward the same bad plan that the EPA killed before.

Rita Banatwala 29 Fairway Drive - I wanted to propose the same amendment as two people back, and I you said we can't, we can't. But we have a problem in that we are misleading people by calling it Circumferential Highway when it's a Hudson Boulevard. And we can run into some major issues between the State and the Town just by calling it the wrong project.

Gary Gasdia 4 McCann Road - *I'd like to move the question. Mr. Jasper seconded the motion.*

Moderator - We have a motion to move the question. We have two people, three people willing to speak. Um, it's up to this body to decide whether or not you want to let them have their say, or whether you want to vote on closing Article Ten. Basically, moving the question would be closing article ten. It's been made by Mr. Gasdia, who seconded it. Mr. Jasper. I heard a few names, a few people. If you are. In favor of closing debate on Article Ten, please raise your voter cards. Thank you. *Those opposed and want to continue. The ayes have it. Warrant Article Ten is uh closed and it moves to the ballot as written.*

Shawn Jasper 83 Old Derry Road - I would now move to restrict reconsideration on Article Seven through Ten. Mr. Gasdia

Moderator- Okay *motion to restrict seven through ten.* That means Articles Seven through Ten could not be brought up later in this meeting. If you're in favor of, you know, it's not debatable. If you want to restrict reconsideration, meaning that we would not be able to bring this back would be done with raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed. *The ayes have it. Article Seven through Ten are restricted.*

Victor Oates 77 Sousa Blvd. - Um, I move to amend the order in which we take the following articles moving the petition article warrant articles up starting with article 27.

Moderator - *Mr. Oates moves to take articles 27 through 31 out of order.* In other words, take those up now.

Mr. Oates - Actually, 26. Sorry. 26. Starting at Article 26.

Moderator - *Mrs. Porter 9 Newton Street seconded the motion.* Mr. Oates moves and Mrs. Porter seconded to take articles 26 to 31 out of order. And take those up now. Everyone understand what we're doing? After we finish those, we would go back then to article 11. If you are in favor of taking article 26 through 31, those are the only articles that's at the end of our our business. I'm sorry, 32 is the end of our business. The rest of it is all Zoning Amendments which we do not handle here. This body can't do anything with Zoning Amendments. That's all done by a different process by the Planning Board, and they've completed theirs. Everyone clear? We're going to be. The proposal is to take up articles. 26 through 32 out of order. And to take those up now, if you are in favor of that, please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed, please raise your cards. *The ayes have it. We will take the article 26 through 32 out of order.*

Moderator - We're now going to take article 26 ratification of a lease agreement on West Road Landfill.

Article 26 Lease Agreement West Road Landfill Solar Farm

Shall the Town of Hudson vote, pursuant to RSA 41:11-a, to ratify a Lease Agreement between the Board of Selectmen and Kearsarge Energy, LLC ("Kearsarge") according to which Kearsarge will be leasing a portion of the West Road Landfill property located at 26 West Road (Tax Map 100-002-000) for a solar generation facility. The initial term of the lease shall be twenty-five (25) years, and may be extended for three (3) additional five (5) year terms (total 40 years). Rental payments received during the first year of the lease shall be \$48,440, and thereafter increase by 2.25% annually. Copies of the full text of the Lease Agreement are available at the Town Clerk's office.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-2
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.000

Selectman Morin - For an article 26 seeks to enter into a lease agreement with the Kearsarge Energy for solar farm at the Cap, the West West Road landfill. The initial terms is 25 years, with the option to renew for three additional five year terms for a total of 40 years. The first year's lease payment is \$48,400, and thereafter will increase by 2.25% annually. These payments will be made to the town's general fund. There is no tax impact on this warrant article. The Board of Selectmen has recommended this article 3 to 2. The Town Engineer is present for additional information, and I would like him to call up and come up and talk about this. Thank you.

Moderator - Mr. Dhima to continue the presentation.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Thank you, Mr. Moderator. Um, Mr. Morin, um, the Board of Selectmen decided to move forward with the possibility of increasing revenue and savings for the Town of Hudson. One of the projects out there that appears to be doing that is solar farms. Uh, we looked into it and, um, after finding out that Nashua and Manchester and other communities around us are doing it, we went out, uh, to find firms that they can do this. We selected one; Kearsarge in this case. And basically what it comes down to is a three piece. Uh, the first one is, um, basically receiving about \$3.6 million over a period of 40 years in a lease, then in an additional 5.5 or \$5.4 million, um, in savings for the Town of Hudson and the School Department. In addition to that, there's a tax that's going to be coming out of this project, about 300,000. So overall, it's about over \$9.5 million over 40 years. That is equivalent to \$230,000 per year moving forward for the next 40 years. If you choose to, um, to move forward with this lease. But basically, in a nutshell, it's the biggest green project that this town will probably have that has right now and probably have for a while if it's moved forward. Um, I think that's about it. I'll take any questions.

Moderator - Thank you. I want to point out that we are voting. The towns people get to vote on the lease whether or not to approve the lease. The Selectmen have control of town property under RSA as they said it 41:11-A. The only thing the townspeople can do, have to do is if it's over a year that they have to approve the lease. So what we're voting on here and what we're discussing is the lease, and that's, we got to limit ourselves to that. This is whether or not the town will approve a lease agreement with Kearsarge Energy.

Board of Selectmen Chairman, Marilyn McGrath - Mr. Moderator, question for you. Can you ask all of the people getting up to speak if they're residents of Hudson?

Moderator - Well, they should have a card in their hand with. Yep.

Chairman McGrath - I just want to make sure that happens.

Moderator - Yeah, we're going to do that. We'll now open Article 26, the ratification of a lease agreement with the West Road for the West Road landfill to questions and comments. Yes, sir. Mr. Woodward.

Alex Woodyard 14 Pasture Drive - So I am a resident of Hudson. I pay taxes here in Hudson. I rise against this warrant article because the way I've been understood to this agreement, it enters the Town into a power purchase agreement with Kearsarge Energy. If anyone is familiar with the way solar is done,

it's either one of two ways. You either buy the panels outright and put it on your roof, or you enter into a PPA, a power purchase agreement with the solar company where they effectively rent your roof and, uh, you are not purchasing the You don't own the power that comes off your roof. I feel like this opportunity is a great way to, uh, increase the green energy footprint of the town. I'd just like to see it done in a way where we own and we have more control over what is done with the energy that we have and what would be generated on the town land.

Ed van der Veen, 9 Newton Street - Hudson, New Hampshire. Slide, please. I move to amend Article 26 to read Shall the Town of Hudson vote pursuant to RSA 41:11-A to ratify a lease agreement between the Board of Selectmen and Kearsarge Energy, LLC. Kearsarge, according to which Kearsarge will be leasing a portion of the West Road landfill property, including the area currently used by the Hudson New Hampshire Radio Control Club, located at 26 West Road. Tax map 100-002-000 for a solar generation facility. The initial terms of this lease will be 25 years. And may be extended for three additional five year terms. Total of 40 years. Rental payments during the first year of the lease will be \$48,440, and thereafter increased by 2.25% annually. A yes vote breaks a 24 year positive relationship between the Town and the Southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club likely close, causing the closure of Wagner Field and FAA recognized flying site. Alternative solar sites are available.

Moderator - Mr. van der Veer I'm going to rule that amendment out of order. Let me explain. Under RSA 41:11-A the Selectmen are given the authority to manage and handle town property. All town property. They can say what they want to do with it and how it's going to be moved, what they're going to sell it or whatever. There is no provision in the RSA that allows the town meeting or the voters to interject or put stipulations on that lease agreement. This is totally in the authority of the Board of Selectmen and the townspeople. Really, all they're being asked to do is to ratify it. If you don't ratify it, then it goes away. But you can't put any stipulations on that lease agreement, and this puts a stipulation on it. The last sentence is more like a campaign statement, and I don't believe that belongs in there. But it also is putting a moderation on the lease agreement. And you can't do that. So the, uh, amendment is out of order.

Mr. Van der Veen - Point of Order. How does it restrict the lease Agreement? It's all it's doing is notifying the voters what the full story is.

Moderator - It's something that you would put out in the public that you as a reason for voting for or against something. It's not something, if we did that, then that means the Board of Selectmen could put in a yes vote would mean this, and a no vote would mean that, um, they do that as part of, uh, distribution, which I think we do every year of an explanation of all the warrant articles. But that's done separately, not as part of the, uh, of the, uh, warrant itself. So that would be, um, an explanation that doesn't apply to the lease. So it wouldn't be appropriate because it doesn't apply to the lease agreement. It applies to an opinion as to whether or not you feel that's correct. Um, so it's out of order. I won't take that amendment. And we will continue the discussion of warrant article number 26 to speak on the warrant article.

Gary Gasdia 4 McCann Road - Um, I support this warrant article, and I just want to talk about a couple things, because, good, bad or indifferent, I get to sit at all the Board of Selectmen meetings. So I've heard a lot about this. You know, what it comes down to for me is for many years, we come to this meeting every year, and we look for ways to save a little bit of money here and a little bit of money there. I mean, we just talked about an hour to save \$200,000, right? At some point you can save your way to a to some points, right? I mean, I could give up my Pepsi, I could give up all that stuff. But when you have the opportunity to make money, you sometimes have to look at that. And that's to me what this is doing. And I do have a lot of empathy for, um, you know, the radio control club. Um, but unfortunately, unlike this, there isn't, it's not like there was a 24 year lease. They were allowed to use an area that was great. Um, based on all everything that I heard in all of the testimony at the Selectmen meetings, it's really an all or nothing thing. If you don't put these at the top of of it, it's not going to get the right amount of solar panel, and we're not going to get, you know, what we need. So that's why I'm doing this, because I see so much, so much energy, whether it's the Fire Chief every week coming in with a new grant or the Police Chief or DPW or the Engineer, they're looking for ways to give us revenue so that we don't have to choose between, you know, things like, should we have lights on the common, should we have this so you can save to a point.

But sometimes. When you have the opportunity to get money to come in on a piece of land that I know for the RC group, it's very valuable. But for the rest of us in Hudson, it's just the top of the landfill. Um, I think we need to consider that. And again, if money was no object and we weren't didn't spend the last hour figuring out how to save \$200,000, then I'd be like, who cares about the \$200,000 bucks? We got plenty of money, but it's clearly a big deal for people. And we're going to look and we're going to find all these different ways to save a little bit here. When right in front of us, we're going to get basically a few hundred thousand dollars a year for the next 20 years. So that's why I support this. And thank you to the Chiefs and the Engineer and everyone that does look at all these grants and all these different ways, because it does end up saving us a lot of money. There's a lot of projects going on that we as taxpayers are not paying for because they're taking their time to write grants, go to the state and find money. And this is just one more example of that.

Wade Wagner, 150 Robinson Road - Good afternoon, my name is Wade Wagner, 150 Robinson Road, Hudson New Hampshire. I've been a resident of Hudson for my whole life. Um, while the last person spoke quite eloquently, there is more to the story on everything as there usually. There are other areas, and I am not in favor of this warrant article passing at all. There are other areas that have been failed to. They've been presented, but for some reason we aren't looking at these other areas. Um, brief little history lesson for the people here. In 1999, this was actually ratified, the use of the field as a preserved green space in perpetuity by a Rona Charbonneau, who was then the Chairman of the Select board. And it was an agreement that was made in good faith with the town. And this was something that the club put a lot of money, a lot of time, a lot of effort into creating a green space, something that does it brings people from all around. There's not a lot of.

FAA certified airspaces. There's not a lot of places that they can do these activities. And the whole point was what the selectmen did at the time was to say, okay, here's an area that you won't be kicked out of. That's just a brief little history lesson on that. And that's one of the reasons why it's very important to strike this warrant article down, because we're not saying don't go with solar, we're saying don't go with solar here. There are other sites. Um, I really was very disappointed when I found out that the selectmen reversed their previous decision. Um, that was almost heartbreaking, in a way. Um, one of the things that I believe is that we do need to have the green energy, but we also have to protect these spaces that are already established. And I believe it's also we have to keep our word when we say we're going to do something and we say that we are going to, okay, we're going to be doing this. We've set this aside. You wouldn't dream of putting a solar farm in Benson Park. And but it's the same idea where you draw the line as to who benefits and who doesn't benefit. Where do you draw the line? I really don't have a heck of a lot more to say on that. But if we wind up defeating this and I urge everyone to vote no on the warrant article, then it will force the town and force everybody to look at another alternative site. If they can pass this one here. And that's all that we're asking for.

Moderator - Thank you, thank you. Further discussion. Yes, sir.

Craig Putnam, 59, Rangers Drive (Hudson Community Power Founder) - Um, I rise in opposition to the warrant article. Um, people might find that a little odd, given that I'm a member of the Sustainability Committee, which has a long history of supporting solar efforts in town. Uh, that and the fact that my wife and I have owned and operated a solar array at our home for the last eight plus years. But let me explain why I'm in opposition. I see two factors here. One has to do with the process that's been used and and the and the rapidity at which this has moved forward. Okay, this this effort came seemingly out of nowhere and moved forward very quickly. And yes, I know we've looked at solar in the past in the town, but but this particular effort, uh, seemed to seem to come very quickly. I think that there are other funding opportunities for this. Hudson is on the verge of going live with Hudson Community Power. We're a member of Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire, and that membership provides for funding opportunities that are different than the PPA that is being considered here. We can't take advantage of those funding opportunities today, but we'll be able to do so sometime in the near future. And it just feels like a rushed job to me. And I, and I urge the town to tap the brakes on this. It just feels like we're moving too, too rapidly on this. And there are other opportunities that could and should be considered. The other reason that I'm opposed is it has to do with the RC club. I see this as an asset to the town. And we're

trading effectively one kind of asset for another kind of asset here. The, the the benefits to the town. And it's bigger than the town. It's the southern New Hampshire RC club okay. This is a this is a location and a set of permits from the FAA that are very hard to come by and hard to replicate anywhere else. The solar array, as I understand how it's been designed for the landfill area, has two portions to it. There's a lower portion, and then there's a portion up on the top of the landfill. Where the runways and and the other assets for the RC club are located. Those are the portion of the array that is intended for the top of the landfill that could exist somewhere else. Okay, it doesn't have to be there. You can't easily move the runways and replicate that asset. Okay. And so the town would lose that asset and the region would lose that asset. But we can put solar arrays elsewhere. For example, we've got the roof of the new carport in the police station that is effectively solar ready. Conduit has been run. It was part of the design for that. And so we could move some of the array elsewhere in town. Right. It doesn't all have to be there. So in summary, I'm just urging the town to think more holistically. Think more broadly. There are other opportunities that can be explored both for the funding and location of the array. Thank you.

Kimberly Allen, 3 Daniel Webster Drive - I will start this with. I know nothing about how solar power gets installed. So I did some of my own research, and I just had a couple of questions that I wanted to ask. Sure. Um, how is the property maintained? Is there going to be chemicals used, and if so, what will the impact be of the chemicals getting to our water? Also, how will the old and broken broken panels over time be handled?

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima yields - Uh excellent questions. Thank you for asking. Thank you. Um, the maintenance is 100% on the developer. Whoever's going to put this in, they're going to own them and they're going to maintain them. They're also going to maintain the grounds as well. The ground maintenance is going to consist of what I've been told is goats going around and actually eating the grass. What it consists of right now is us going out there, DPW and cutting the grass 2 or 3 times a year. So there's no chemicals. It's none of that just simply cutting the grass because the panels might be close to each other. One way to do this is basically getting goats that do exactly that. Just eat vegetation and they'll be it. That's what it consists of.

Kathy Leary 8 Par Lane - I'm a member of the Budget Committee. Uh, we did not discuss this at the Budget Committee because it is a lease that was not within our purview. The questions I have today, all the other issues have been addressed for other people. Some of the questions that I have pertain to the lease itself, and obviously the lease could be viewed, but I think it needs to be mentioned so that voters, when they're voting on this warrant article can at least be asking these questions of themselves. We're looking at a 25 year lease based on the numbers that were presented. As far as with the overall potential savings was going to be. If you divide that out over 25 years, it came to about \$180,000 a year. Based on the numbers that were presented at the time at the Budget Committee. Um, my other question is, is we're just leasing them the property, all of this energy that's being, uh, what's the word I'm looking for, generated. It's kind of late here. Anyways, all that energy that's being generated is the town required to buy all our energy from Kearsarge? Are we required to, are we required to buy a certain minimum amount? What if we don't buy enough? Is there any penalties? Are there any fees? Are there any termination fees? What happens if ten, five, ten years from now? The solar panels that are placed on that property are now either inefficient, obsolete or whatever? Technology is changing so fast in the green energy sector that are we. Is it a good idea to be making a potential 25 year lease commitment without everybody knowing full well what all that entails? And before I yield the floor, I just want to make sure I addressed all of my questions. And well, the other thing too is we're obviously they're leasing. We're we have this lease situation, any of that excess energy that's developed that the town may or may not buy or use since we're, you know, letting them use our land, is the town going to get any cut of any excess profits from energy developed that they might be selling to somebody else?

Moderator - Mr. Dhima will yield.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Yes. Thank you. Um, so, as stated earlier, uh, all the energy that's going to be produced here is going to be spoken for for the Town of Hudson, the building department, the the town hall departments, if you want to call it that, or owned by the Town of Hudson. And then the rest of the energy is going to go to the, um, school department, we're going to get a significant reduction in our bill, and so will the School Department as well. As I stated earlier, you have a lease amount that you're getting out, which is about three. 53.6 million. That's a check to you every year. And then you have the five point something million dollars, 5.6, \$5.7 million there's going to be given to us as a credit for using basically the power over there. There was a question regarding to what happens to the panels ten years from now, if they're obsolete or they need to be replaced. As I stated earlier, the 100% owned by them and they will be maintained by them. There's no cost to the town of Hudson taxpayer to put the capital or maintain them or operate it. This is 100% operated by the third party and they'll be responsible for it. Are you getting is a check for the lease and savings on your electrical bill from the town side and the school side, but ultimately, you as a taxpayer that basically pay for both.

Ms. Leary - Well, just quick a response question. Well, just suppose there is a significant change in technology and the panels installed there either whether they fail it needs to be updated whatever, or are we still committed to the 25 year lease?

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - As Mr. Moderator said, you're going for a 25 year lease with the option of an additional.

Ms. Leary - I'm asking, what would the first 25 years suppose in ten, 15 years, we decide they decide they're going to do something else. Do we have a say in what else is going to be taking place on that property? If we have if they have a 25 year lease, what happens?

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - You're agreeing to a 25 year lease. If they walk away from that 25 year lease, they still have a contract and they have obligations to what they're supposed to provide to us. That's on them, which means we're still going to be expecting a check for the lease because you have a 25 year contract. But the short answer is if they break the contract, we all know how that goes.

Ms. Leary - I just, I'm not passing judgment on anything here. I just think it was these are questions that we could not bring up if they were not budgetary things. But they are some like some things that could have financial impact for the town. So I thought it was important to bring it up so that people can be thinking about it when you make up your mind in March. Thank you.

Selectman Dave Morin - Thank you. First of all, I'd like to start out solar is not new. This wasn't rushed. Other towns around us have very large solar fields. Tyngsboro has a very large one. Nashua is in the process of doing one now. They're everywhere. As for the process, how it was come about, like you do at home, you want solar panels. You go out and research companies who do this. They come and they give you their sales pitch and you make a decision. The town did exactly that. They interviewed five companies with a committee involving the Engineer, the the liaison to the Sustainability Committee, Mr. Malizia, I believe, and they interviewed they there was five, I believe. Right?

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Yeah. The committee consisted of, uh, Selectman Guessferd, myself, the Town Administrator, and the Public Works Director. And we went through the interview process. We had, I want to say, about 10 or 15 applications, and we picked the top 3 or 4. I forget now I think it's either 3 or 4. And then at the very end we looked at what what company provided the most for this project. So we made a decision based on the recommendation to the Board of Selectmen based on the revenue. What were we going to get the most out of? So that was that was pretty much it.

Selectman Morin - So we went through the process and like I said, like you would do at home if you wanted solar panels, you'd go through the process. It wasn't rushed. This is not a new technology. There's a lot of information out there about it. As for other sites, I myself haven't been approached about any other sites in town other than the one in Litchfield. But that's not our property. That's Litchfield, that's in Litchfield. That's not in Hudson. Um, the site was chosen for a reason. I mean, that's what the company found. That was going to be the best advantage to the town and the residents to put it there. The

Sustainability Committee has been looking at this for quite some time for solar, and they talked about putting them on the roofs of the town buildings. But here's my concern. Right now we have it on a field. We're not affected by it. They're going to take care of all the maintenance, all the issues. It doesn't affect any of our buildings. If we have solar panels on our roofs and we have any roof issues or we need to replace the roof, the panels have to come off. That's going to cost money. A residential house. Now, I'm not talking the size of our buildings. Like, look at the police station how big that is. A single family home it ranges between \$10,000 and \$25,000 to take them off and put them back on. So there's a cost. We're getting that if we have to remove them from the roof, where if they're on the landfill, not our problem. If we the town buys them, we're responsible for maintenance, replacement and everything else. If it's at the landfill, it's under these people. They take care of all that. It's not our problem. We're going to make them money. We just heard \$100,000. Really? Is that not much? Well, we just increased, you know, paving and stuff. So there's some money maybe we can do that won't affect the taxpayers because we're getting this income. The Board of Selectmen have talked numerous times. We've talked about electric vehicles for the police. We've talked about other other items that we could do to save. So here we are taking a step to move forward with this. This my again, my opinion is a no brainer. I think we should do this. And if there's any concerns out there in safety, I can tell you already the fire department is trained in solar panels on roofs because we have them on our residential structures, and they would definitely affect them. This is a bigger area of solar panels, and it's a little different. And the chief will have their firefighters trained if we got that, so the safety would be there. I just think this is a win win for the town. Thank you.

Doreena Stickney, 14 McKinney Drive - Um, first of all, I just want to say that I do completely, um, empathize with the RC club. My brother flies these planes not in New Hampshire, but. And I do understand that it's difficult to find spots to do this. However, we have to, as a town, look at the big picture and the lease agreement alone brings us in a 1.8 million over 25 years. Um, and then and it benefits both the town and the school. And then there's the, the cost savings. It's really I mean, 9.1 million over 40 years is nothing to sneeze at. Now, if we were talking about intangible assets like Benson's, then maybe we'd have an argument. But this is a this is a private club. I'd like somebody to tell us exactly how many members are in the club and how many are actual Hudson.

Moderator - Please stick to the lease agreement. That's what we're dealing with now. Okay. There's another article that deals with that later.

Ms. Stickney - I'm just, um. I guess bottom line is, I feel like this is a large amount of money that benefits the whole town versus a very small few. And as much as my heart breaks for those few, I think it's easier for them to find a new place than it is for us. I actually asked the question, is there another place that they could lease? But we only have town force and people seem to get very upset when we touch our town forest. So I just want to throw that out there. Thank you.

Ed Van der Veen, 9 Newton Street - I have a comment and a question. I presented my amendment, which I'm not representing to make clear, to Help make clear to the Voter what the tradeoff is with the warrant. And we often hear about warrant articles that are devoid of complete information, and people struggle to know what they're voting for or not. And there's several recent examples that continue to be talked about. So the original in its original form, article 26 is one of these it doesn't say anything about. What the tradeoff is. The second reason is that the lease agreement attached to the warrant article states put to good use public land that would otherwise have no useful purpose. It has a useful purpose. And we've we've gone to several Board of Selectmen meetings and talked about what's up there and so forth, and it should have been very evident that there is another useful purpose. However, attached to the warrant article, there's a statement in the first page of the lease that says that there is no useful purpose to this land. That's why I that's why I presented my amendment. My question is, is this rate discount that's going to earn us all this money, so that's the Kearsarge rate. And then we're going to have community power. We're going to have a rate available through community power. And then we've got Eversource is going to have a rate. What regulates the Kearsarge rate and is it possible that the discount that we're going to receive off the Kearsarge rate, that I think we're going to be bound to, from what I understand is higher with the discount than what could be available from other sources.

Moderator - Mr. Dima will yield to the question.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Good question. Um, we've been told numerous times that this program related to this solar power farm is going to be run in parallel and not against any other programs that we have in place. So if anything is going to be an additional benefit to what we already have in place, these are not competing programs. That's what we've been told over and over again. And that's basically the. So you now don't have to worry about this overlapping something else. This runs parallel with the other ones. And in addition to what we already have for savings.

Mr. Van der Veen - I guess what I'm asking, if the Kearsarge rate is high and the discount that we get off of it ends up being a number that is higher than our other opportunities. Are we still bound to buy from Kearsarge?

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - You have an amount of you have an amount of dollars that they're committing to that doesn't change. So basically they're saying you're going to get X amount for the lease. You're going to get X amounts in the savings that's in the contract.

Mr. Van der Veen - But the savings aren't really savings that we're still paying more for our power.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Of course you get in a lot of savings. You're saving \$5.8 million in your bill.

Mr. Van der Veen - Saving a savings off an elevator, a potentially elevated rate that we have no idea how it's regulated.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - My understanding is, is if the electricity goes higher, our savings is even higher. And to your point, Manchester had a projected and because the rates went up, they actually had a bigger savings. So Manchester has a similar project that we're discussing right now, and we've been told that their current revenue and savings are much higher than the projection. So it could be higher. To your point you're talking about it could be lower, but there's also it could be higher as well. But for so far from the most recent project that we're dealing with, and we asked the same question you did. And it's a good one, it appears that the higher the rate is, the more savings we can get, because we're locked in at a 90%.

Heidi Jacoby, 94 Gowing Road - I've attended many of the BOS meetings and watched them over this lease agreement. My concern is I agree that solar is important and making money for the town is important. My concern was the due diligence that I was concerned about as and unfortunately, Mr. Guessferd isn't here and one of the meetings I recall and I could be incorrect, he he said that there was not a discussion of the RC club already being on this property prior to making the decision to go with Kearsarge. I believe that's in the minutes of the meeting. So my concern is I think we need a contract with a solar farm, but I think we need to be courteous to those groups that are already on particular sites and include them in the conversation, possibly including them in the conversation. We might have come out with an even better deal. Secondly, so it's the due diligence. That's what I have issue with here. And then secondly, Mr. Morin, Selectman Morin stated that the site that the site in Litchfield isn't ours. I thought at the BOS meeting, the alternate site that was suggested by the RC club member was in Litchfield, and it was owned by Hudson, but located in Litchfield. Could I get clarification on that? Because that's what was in the minutes of the meeting.

Moderator - Oh, there's a question, Mr. Morin will yield.

Selectman Dave Morin - You are correct. But the property be in Litchfield and it hard for us to maintain. But you are correct.

Ms. Jakoby - Absolutely. I just want to make clear clarify that point that we do own the land in Litchfield, which was the alternate site recommended by the RC club, which does not meet their needs because of the FAA regulations that they have. Additionally, I just want to point out what makes the the capped area such a perfect place for the solar farm is all the work and effort that the RC club put into making that a flat space, and that makes it perfect for solar. So again, I'm just concerned about the conversations that didn't happen with the RC club, because I think this could have happened in a much more community oriented

win win situation for both the RC club and the town. So I would hope that people would vote against this and give it back to the Board of Selectmen and to come up with a better plan in congruence with other people. Thank you.

Selectman Kara Roy, 46 Marsh Road- So I'm just going to make a comment that I stand in opposed opposed to this warrant article. I think it was rushed. And I also think that disregarding a long term relationship with the RC club was at the very least disingenuous. But I also have a question. Is there an increased risk in fire? And the reason I ask the question is, the only time I've ever known them to use goats is when there's an increased risk of spark that could cause a fire. Um, and that question is to Mr. Dhima.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Thank you, Selectman Roy. Now, the goats are basically a friendly, environmental way to basically take care of the vegetation without introducing any heavy equipment to do the cutting for it, like we're doing right now. So that is standard. That's what they prefer. That's what they've been talking about basically for maintaining these grounds.

Selectman Roy - And who maintains the goats? I'm serious. There's vet bills. There's there's.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - I think after today it's probably going to be me. I'm going to get into that business. And and I'm open to anyone else keeping up with it. it's a third party Selectman Roy, that takes care of these. And it's it's basically handled by, by the power people. So we have nothing to do with the goats, even though I know that someone that works for the town does have plenty of goats, and he can help us out. But to answer your point, to answer your point, we don't have to deal, we don't have to get into the goat business. Now it's a third party. We don't have to do anything with it. The maintenance, the operation, it's all on this third party Kearsarge in this point.

Selectman Roy - I just say that because the only reason I've ever seen goats used is when there's an increase for a spark and an increase of fire.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - So what I've what I've noticed and what I've seen in the industry is goats and sheeps and things of that sort are introduced when there's steep slopes and there's tough areas to take care of the vegetation. In this particular case, because the panels will be close to each other, that's where they're going to introduce. But we have seen the goats taken a lot of, um, work recently because of those. It's just more eco-friendly. But also it's safer too. You're not putting an individual behind this vehicle to get in the way. So Goats is basically the most environmental friendly to take care of this area.

Tim Wyatt - Thank you. Um, I have solar at our property and we own the panels. When we looked at doing it, the option to lease didn't seem to make sense to us. And a question, if I may please. Um, so, uh, Kearsarge is going to be paying for the equipment, the maintenance, and they're going to be leasing the land, and we're going to be getting power. What's their end of it?

Moderator - Mr. Dhima will yield.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - I'm sorry. Say that. I'm sorry. Can I can I hear that again?

Mr. Wyatt - Um, so Kearsarge, uh, pays for the equipment. They maintain it. They pay for the land. We get the power. What do they get?

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - I get so that's a great question, by the way. That is the real question is if everyone is making money, it's too good to be true, right? So it's a it's it appears to be a business on its own when it comes to these because there's a lot of these businesses. But my understanding is from what we've been told, is that they seem to get a significant credit when it comes to basically this particular project. So they put the capital in and then they they basically benefit through like a tax return, things of that sort, the way that because this is a green project. So it appears that it's a credit driven business. That's how that's done. Also, it appears that they might be getting money from the power company to provide these, especially during peak hours. That's my understanding.

Mr. Wyatt - Um, so we get a month, a quarterly check, um, uh, energy credits.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - We get it every...we could get it every month. So every month we get a check for the lease. And then every month when you get the electric bill or quarterly, you're going to get a credit for that as well. And then in addition to that, they're going to I think. Through the pilot program. They're going to pay us about \$5,000 a year as a tax because of this asset on top of it. So there's three things to it. There's the lease. There is the savings in you're getting on the electrical bill. In addition to that, about \$5,000 a year for actually them utilizing it as a as a tax.

Mr. Wyatt - When I first saw the warrant, I, I thought, well, where's the power going? And I saw the handout and I said, oh well we are getting some power.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima -Yes, we are getting all the power for the town buildings that's spoken for. The remaining is going to go to the school department. It just happened to the School Department has more electrical needs than the town does. So therefore their savings. If you look at the packet that's been put in front of you and will probably be available online, will be much higher because they simply use more electricity than us. So their savings through the 40 year lease will be much higher than the town. But we all benefit for it. You know, the bottom line is all the taxpayers benefit for this.

Mr. Wyatt - When I Google Kearsarge, it looks like they're out of Massachusetts. I would have hoped the New Hampshire company could have been.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima -Yeah, we we try to work with locals, but this is about the bottom line. And this was about who was going to give us the most return on this particular project. And that's what we went for. And that's what was presented to the Board of Selectmen. We went to what was going to who was going to offer us the most for basically this project. And they did. Their numbers made more sense than anyone else.

Mr. Wyatt - When I looked at leasing for our home, we would forfeit the renewable energy credits, but apparently now it looks like we're going to get them for the town, which I was going to ask to compare the purchase price, uh, eventual savings to the lease. Finally, um, I am disappointed that the radio control airplane club, um, are going to be displaced. And, um, also, um, I would prefer that we hold off on town solar until the community power are able to put into place their ability to purchase or lease. Um, so, unfortunately, I have to find myself in opposition to this, to this warrant. Thank you.

James Wilkins 112 Belknap - Yes. Um, uh, it hasn't been explicitly stated, but I assume that that the article 26 and, and 31 are mutually exclusive. You can't you can't have heavy metal engines flying around solar panels. What happens if both pass?

Moderator - Well, if both pass, the Selectmen would have the right to lease the property. And as they do now, they'd have they have the right to tell people that they can't use town land. I mean, town land is under the purview of the authority of the selectmen. And they can tell people, well, yeah, you can use it for that, or we we don't want you to use it anymore. So they still have the authority. Article 31 won't make take that away from them. They have the authority over all town property they can lease for a year or rent for a year. Anything over that requires a meeting, a town meeting authority for the lease agreement or a rental agreement.

Mr. Wilkins - Is there any way that both these uses can share the property?

Moderator - Mr. Dhima yields.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - We did ask that question and the answer was no, because these projects were basically to scale. And also there is the, you know, the accident part of it. If these things fly, they do, some of them do run on fuel. Some of them are pretty significant in size. So that was asked. And their preference and their recommendation was no, we would like to just do this thing. We do not want to mix with any other uses out there because this thing is fenced, it is secured. And if you think about it, you're talking about fuel and producing electricity. I don't feel comfortable with it, to be honest with you, because I don't want to be responsible sending anyone down there. There's a fire because, you know, something

hit something. I just don't feel comfortable with it. I would not be supporting that. I just I don't need that in my life, you know? I don't need to put it out there. That's my take on it.

Budget Cmte. & School Board Member Gretchen Whiting, 22 Glen Drive - I think you've answered my question, but you've talked about the benefit to the School. Um, is there a monetary benefit from the lease rental coming in, or is it just from a, um, electrical bill? Savings and just.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Never enough for you guys? Is that. It's just always, always. Um, it's a very good question. So the way this will be structured is the lease goes to the town. So basically the monthly check what you will get is savings on your electrical bill, which will be much higher than the one from the town because you have a higher electrical bill. But that is structured as of now that that will go to the town. Now, if the Board of Selectmen wants to change it and wants to share that, that's up to them. Obviously they have the final say, but as of now, it appears that the the way it's structured is that it goes to the town and we both benefit from the savings. But could that be restructured? Sure, I don't know.

Ms. Whiting - Thank you. I just want a clarification. Thank you.

Gary Gasdia 4 McCann Road - I'd like to move the question.

Moderator - Mr. Gasdia moves the question, Mr. Dumont. Seconds. There are still people who are lined up to talk. I hope the the voters that are here today would take that into consideration in their discussion, in their vote. But we're going to take that vote. To move the question means cut off debate on Article 26. If you are in favor of moving the question and cutting off debate, please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed, please raise your cards. Oh, I'm in doubt. Let's do a standing count. Thank you. The ayes are 34. The nays are 37. So the motion to to cut off debate fails. We are now talking about Article 26. Yes, sir.

Mike Coumis 16 Oban Drive- Uh, my question is, I don't know who can answer it, but during the discussion phase of this, um, did they look at what the, uh, local other towns are doing? Are they also setting up these type of policies for, uh, a number of years with a contract? And if so, are they using the same company as well?

Moderator - Yes. Mr. Dima will yield.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - So the template we're using right now is similar to the one Manchester City of Manchester is using. So it's basically not any different than uh, the most recent one. Same size. So that's that's what we're doing. We're using something that other ones have using as well.

Mr. Coumis - And have has other local towns used this company.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Yes. Yes. We. Yes, absolutely. So they have we did the references thing. Yes. And they were highly recommended. Yes. To answer your question.

Kathy Leary 8 Par Lane- just a quick question. I think it may be addressed by one of the speakers in line as well as, um, town engineer is how does this work vis a vis the community power program that we voted in last year that the town will be going into, um, did that community power I can't remember from last year if it was said I apologize, was the community power program and rate, did that include the possibility of the town also getting their power from or through community power in terms of the rate we get? And if the town is doing their own thing through Kearsarge, how does that impact the Community Power program?

Moderator - Mr. Dhima will yield, and I think Mr. Putnam will yield for the community power part.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - So, as I said before, this program does not run against any other program that's already in place. This runs parallel with it. This is what we've been told. And I'm going to repeat it again. This does not impact what's already in place at the school might have and the town might have. It's a completely separate additional benefit to what's already in place.

Moderator - And, Mr. Putnam, if you would answer that other part of the question, you can do it right there.

Craig Putnam (Hudson Community Power founder)Okay. Um, essentially. Correct. Yes. The this opportunity has really nothing directly to do with with community power. And the rates community power can present a an additional different kind of funding model for this kind of project. So I just wanted to be clear about that. Um, I'm sorry you had a question around specifically around the the ability to, um, how one would affect the other. They they really don't.

Wendy Anderson, 150 Robinson Road - Um, I actually had a question about something that, um, Selectman Morin had said regarding the the selection of sites and the land in Litchfield specifically that is owned by the town. You indicated that it would be harder for us to maintain. But according to Mr. Dhima, Kearsarge, is doing all the maintenance. So why is that a consideration?

Selectman Morin - The lands in Litchfield, that's that's the only difference. If we had any issues, we'd have to send our people out there right now I don't believe we do anything with that property. Correct? That's in Litchfield.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - The the sites that were brought up in Litchfield. We have the community wells on those locations. So they were being utilized for our water that comes from Litchfield to Hudson. That's what they're referring to when we went out.

Ms. Anderson - we're talking about solar maintenance, I guess that's what I'm unclear on.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - When the when the request for qualifications came out for this particular project was on a landfill. Most projects that are out there that similar towns are doing in communities are on the landfills because they're not being utilized. That seems to be the case. They're also secured as well, which means they have fences around them and things of that sort. So that's why the landfill was and currently is being proposed to be utilized for this project. There was never a there was never a request put out there to put the solar farms and solar panels where our community wells are located in, in Litchfield. And, and I think it's it's worth bringing in this and mentioning it up that just because we have property in Litchfield doesn't mean that we can put certain things in Litchfield. You know, they have their own rules and regulations and they will not be any different than us.

Ms. Anderson - Has Litchfield spoken against that?

Mr. Dhima - We never asked them because never came out. What we're discussing right now is basically the solar farm over the, the not the transfer station, but the landfill area, the cap landfill area. That's that's been always the questions from the beginning, because this seems to be the...

Ms. Anderson - But when it was put out there regarding this particular possibility of an alternate site, it does beg the question, if this had been a broader conversation with other communities surrounding us, if we have land in those communities.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - The directions from above, from the beginning is, look, if there can be a solar farm at the landfill area, that's what we pursued. Could you do other things? Sure. You can do a lot of things, but I can't control, we can't control what could happen in Litchfield or what they might be okay with or not. This is in Hudson. You can control this much more than another community. You typically don't have solar farms in other communities that are owned by a different communities. I can tell you, as difficult as it is that we own the wells in Litchfield, they they're not a big fan of that. We draw water out of them to bring it here. They're not big fan of that. So to put solar panels out there, I don't know how they will react. No one asked that question.

Ms. Anderson - Okay. Um, my other question is regarding the question about whether or not this land could be used alongside in conjunction with the the RC club and based on attending the Board of Selections meeting, there is precedent that other clubs have worked with other solar companies successfully to be able to jointly use land. Could we make it clear that this is a specific Kearsarge issue, that they do not wish to share the land with the RC club? Not that it is not possible.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Nothing is ever impossible. If money can fix it, then it's not a problem. Um, this is a matter of are you willing and are you okay with basically cutting down the revenue by half if you're willing to do that? But with that said, what they're seeking is basically the discussion is get rid of the area on the top and utilizing the rest, you know, which is about half. If you look at the I don't know what the revenues will look like, I don't know that. But it appears that there is a scale to these projects. So there's a significant capital put into the site. That's one piece. The other piece is bring in the infrastructure from the transmission mains, which are on the to the side to draw the water, to draw the water, to draw the power out of that I have I don't know what those numbers look like. I don't have that. But it appeared the discussions we had was to maximize it. It's this way we do not feel that these planes should be driving, should be driving, should be flying over our panels

Ms. Anderson - Correct. But that was Kearsarge. It's not all solar companies, and that's the point I'm trying to make that it's it's being presented that it's not possible when the reality is this company is the company that didn't want to do it.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - no that is not correct. No. All four of them that we interviewed, we brought up the same question.

Ms. Anderson - But there is precedence for other clubs working with other solar.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - The ones I noticed was basically the one that's brought up is that there's a place in New York I think, that does this. I live in New Hampshire for a reason. You know, but yeah, they did. Everything is possible. But we asked the question and the answer is no because of basically there's again, you're talking about fuel and electricity.

Ms. Anderson - And for the record, I am opposed to this article in case it wasn't clear.

Craig Putnam, 59 Rangers Drive (Hudson Community Power Founder)- So I just want to address a question that came up earlier around the panels being possibly hazardous material and catching fire and goats. So yeah, goats are used frequently in this kind of thing to keep the vegetation down. That's that's normal solar panels rarely if ever catch fire. Okay. There's very little there that can possibly burn. It's mostly aluminum and glass. Um, and the concern usually is if there's a lightning strike on a solar array on a roof, that that the structure is going to catch fire. The structure here is, you know, going to be steel pipes and things like that on concrete blocks. So there's there's not an issue with that kind of thing here. Right. So however the array is mounted wherever it's mounted, this is a ground mount array not a roof mount array. And so fire and hazardous waste and that kind of thing really shouldn't be a big consideration. I just wanted to clarify on that.

Heidi Jacoby, 94 Gowing Road - For a second time, I just want to agree with the previous speaker about coexistence with the RC club. I just want to put forward that. I, I didn't see any minutes of the meetings with the different contractors, and it would be really great to make sure that Kearsarge makes a statement

to the effect that they cannot coexist this way. It is on the contractor and not on the town. I would I would appreciate seeing that. Um, in addition, just a reminder that the um, Board of Selectmen many years ago gave the RC club the permission to be on this site in, in writing at a Board of Selectmen meeting. And that's why I am against this, because there wasn't that communication to have this go forward in the best possible way for all members of the community. Thank you, thank you.

Wade Wagner 150 Robinson Road - I have a couple of quick questions. One for the Town Engineer and it is. First question is, um, you said something that actually kind of twisted me a little bit. You said, I don't want to be worrying about that all night long. How much effort did you actually put into looking at the other sites? Once you found out that you'd already allocated the site for something that was pre allocated for something else?

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - So the way it works is the Board of Selectmen says go look for this, for this location. So if you look back to see what the qualifications for bids were, was for this location, there was no direction to go to Litchfield to look for solar panels.

Mr. Wagner - My question though, you have an answer to my question. How much effort did you put into checking out the alternate sites? That's my actual question.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - There was never a direction to look at other sites...

Mr. Wagner, interrupting Mr. Dhima - thank you, that was my question. The other thing was, is I wanted to address Selectman Morin on this one. And with all due respect, sir, there is, uh, it's been said that there is no maintenance issue because the solar companies and you had said one of the issues with having it in Litchfield, and I understand the engineer's concerns about having it in another township. But you did say and I just wanted to correct you in the fact that there is no maintenance because Kearsarge does take care of the maintenance. So I wanted to make sure that that was corrected, because you had mentioned one of the reasons for not checking off that site or not pursuing looking at the feasibility of that site was it would be too much maintenance for the town. And I just wanted to get your, correct you on that because he seemed to rebut what you said.

Selectman Morin - Okay. He said that those sites in Litchfield are our town drinking water, so we don't want anything on top of those. We have a warrant article about aquifers right now and not building on them. So right now, would we want to develop some type of development where possibly could contaminate our water even more than we have one well that's already contaminated. That's my maintenance comment.

Mr. Wagner - Does that actually also include the wetlands that are previously around the encapsulated area of the landfilled landfill? Because that is all wetlands there. I don't see where we wouldn't be contaminating them as well with the same issue.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - There's no contamination from the solar panels.

Mr. Wagner - Then why would there? Why would the drinking water be an issue then?

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - What Mr. Morin is referring to is the infrastructure underground that needs to be removed or basically repaired. So you have to move the you have to move the panels out of the way.

Mr. Wagner - I may tend to disagree with you having been involved actually in construction of the physical construction of these solar fields.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - I understand, but when you go and try to fix a water main, you have to open up the ground. If there's anything above it, you have to move that other way and you have something above it that produces electricity that adds to the equation. So....

Mr. Wagner, interrupting Mr. Dhima - I do understand that, but I believe that that's actually and again, having physically installed these things before and having done all the maintenance on these, as well as also being a certified corrosion and safety guy for National Grid, I can actually tell you that that is actually a moot point. We deal with that all the time in Cambridge. We would deal with that in all the cities where we have to move, we have to go around, we have water breaks, we have issues with that. The issue was brought up was contamination. I believe that's what was said and that's all that I was referring to. Okay. I just wanted to clarify those. Thank you.

Moderator - Let's on the ratification of the lease. Yes, sir.

Jeness Keller 1 Chiswick Road. Uh, question for the town engineer. Um, I have just a question for the town engineer. Um, I'm thinking of, uh, risk risk mitigation. So the amount of, uh, moving equipment as well as the foundations for the solar panels, you've got four feet of topsoil or something above the rubber barrier. So there's maybe five ways to secure a solar panel array.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Good question. So what they what they like to utilize is all the land within these areas that are less than 10% in slope. And the reason for that is there's not a lot of movement going on. So what they typically do is they build up from the existing terrain up, and they put these concrete pads where the solar, you know, panels sit on and basically everything else is above ground. So to your point, there's nothing being buried. These are staying above it. But for the elevation, basically that 10% would level things out. They bring in gravel to level things out to put the concrete pads on. So that's how it works. What was the other question?

Mr. Keller - um, question I'm thinking of well, first thing, the equipment they use that's being used to move everything in place. Yeah. And then secondly, the foundations of the solar arrays.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - There's no foundations, there's no foundations. They're just basically concrete pads where this thing sit on.

Mr. Keller - And the pads are going to be on the top or?

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - On the top. That is correct.

Mr. Keller - So frost heaves are gonna, will frost heaves affect them.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - No. These are all above. So frost heave was not a factor. Again, these have been done in the past. And just to answer a little bit more to it, these, these particular designs go in front of the state as well for review because of, you know, the the Waste Bureau also reviews this as well. So basically the ones that were in charge of the landfill that does the QAQC for the town, they review these as well, but there's no heaving issues related to these. This is above it. As far as what was that question. It keeps saying there was a question there. So the heaving the foundation was something mitigation. That's all mitigation. So basically getting rid of them right?

Mr. Keller - Minimizing your risk. What steps you take to minimize risk?

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Great question. And we brought that up as well. So there is going to be a performance bond in place for them to take care of the to get rid of these at their own cost if we ever want to get rid of them. So again, as stated, there's no cost to the town putting them up, maintaining them, operating them and getting rid of them if it comes down to it. Okay. Thank you. You got it.

Moderator - Mr. Crowley. What purpose do you rise?

James Crowley 4 Fairway Drive - Gee, I was hoping to say James Crowley 4 Fairway Drive, but beat me to it. Uh, I just need some clarification on the lease, if I could. As what I look at my electrical bill is supply and distribution. This lease is, I understand, is supply. Uh, where is the distribution of connecting it up and who's maintaining and all that?

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - You had to be an engineer, Mr. Crowley, asking this questions. Uh, it's a great question. It really is. Um, and I hopefully you got some of that from my previous comment. So this particular developer is going to build infrastructure from the site to bring it to, I believe is West and 102. That seems to be the main hub for the basically for bringing power to they believe that there's enough capacity right on the old landfill in West Road, which is basically if you build the landfill is you're on West Road, you take a left and you basically off you go and then the DPW guys will be waiting for you. Um, but basically our understanding is that they did the research and they did an evaluation to what the system can handle. And it appears that there's enough capacity for them to get the electricity from the site to Old and West Road, if that is a West Road. If that's not basically a feasible option for them when they get to do this, if they get to do this, they'll be going to West and 102 intersection, which is basically another thousand feet out. But they will be building the distribution network to get this power on the main hub. And that's all them.

Mr. Crowley - If I may, Mr. Moderator. Uh, so it's on them to work with Eversource to make sure everything's okay.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - It's it's basically in line to what the Planning Board does when we go out and say, I want water main into this development, they need to make sure there's enough available water out there, but also there's infrastructure that supports the domestic infrared protection. These guys do the same thing. They go out there to see what's for network. And this was too far out could have probably been not financially feasible. But it appears that there's enough capacity, as I said at the landfill old landfill/West Road. If not there, it's going to be further down to 102 and West Road, but it appears as the main hub that they can tap into and bring this power back into the grid.

Mr. Crowley -Thanks for that explanation.

Harry Peters, 2 Spear Road - Uh, I have a question for the, uh, Engineer. Uh, I attended the, uh, Selectmen's meetings when this was all taking place and I believe it was it was rushed. To the point where we just didn't get enough consideration. And I believe at one of the meetings, Selectman Roy specifically asked you if there was room for us, possibly down below the lower cap, the lower end. And you said, well, there's probably a space we could give them down below, but I have a future, uh, future plans for that piece of property. So you wouldn't want to let us go down there and develop it and then give us the boot. If there's room for there would have been room for us down below. Why don't we put the panels from the top of the cap down below and work with each other to coexist.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - So what you're referring to is the area basically where the old, you know, metal building is as you come in to, to basically. Yeah, even beyond that, between the building, I guess, and the piles in the back, if you want to call it that. But basically it's at the at the lower level as you're trying to come up through the fenced area, that particular area, there is a plan that in the future and there's no plans right now, but there is a plan, a master plan for the transfer station that the recycling center can be put in that location. So. What is misstated. And what you were saying is that we don't want to do this to you guys again by saying, go ahead and go over there in ten years from now and saying, you're going to have to pack it up again and go see what you're saying. So there is a plan. I don't know if it's going to happen or not, but there's an area there for the town of Hudson to have a regional, basically recycling center for all the communities to come in there. And it appears if you look at the plans and you can if you don't know if the facility goes right there, right.

Mr. Peters - You don't know if it's going to happen, why don't you give us some consideration and put those panels down there and let us coexist? That's my question.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - And that area is not as secured as the fence area. I think that's what drives in the landfill area. But the that's why the bottom...

Mr. Peters, interrupting Mr. Dhima - fences are easy.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - But but the bottom line, to answer your question, all kidding aside, there is a plan that indicates that there could be a recycling center down there.

Mr. Peters - I get it, but you're not taking us into consideration. Please vote no for this. Thank you.

Page Schaller 213 Fox Hollow Drive- *I'd like to make a motion to move the question, please.*

Moderator - Is there a second, *Mr. Dumont?* Okay. Are we ready to cut off debate on this question? If you are in favor of cutting off debate on article 26, please raise your voter cards. Thank you. Those opposed to cutting off debate. Thank you. *Article 26 is closed, the discussion and it moves to the ballot.*

Article 27 Study Needs for New Town Hall (by Petition)

The Town of Hudson will conduct a study to determine the space needs for a new town hall. The study will include a look at renovating the existing town hall versus building a new one elsewhere in town whether it be on land already owned by Hudson or land it would need to acquire. This study will include the costs of renovation versus buying land and building a new facility. A similar study was called for and not started in the 2020 Capital Improvements Plan.

Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.000

Dean Sakati - Petitioner 11 Fairway Drive- I was hoping for the big seat. Um. All right, why don't we start? This should be pretty simple. So the situation, the situation here, uh, precipitating this warrant article as a recently, our Board of Selectmen considered a proposal to build a new town hall to and engage in a long time lease at the corner of Central Street and Lowell Road. This article that I'm proposing is not intended to judge whether that was a good plan or a bad plan. The recommendation here is that this warrant article, um, has no funding attached to it. It's meant to be advisory. The intent is for our town residents to formally voice that with the magnitude of this, this potential project and the enduring nature of it, that it should be approached in a prudent and professional manner, that we should do a thoughtful analysis and plan should be developed as well, and that is well communicated and vetted before the, uh, before the public, kind of like we did with the police station. Hasty decisions are not that are not pre-planned, don't typically go very well. Um, so with that, you know, I was disappointed that the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted against this because it's something that they voiced when they talked about it, that they're already doing. And as such, you would think that they would embrace, share with the public we're doing this and this is the right step forward. But they didn't. Hopefully the public will voice their support of what they're going to be doing.

James Crowley 4 Fairway Drive- I guess what I'm trying to understand is this was in the 2020 Capital Improvements Plan. Uh, why wasn't it started way back then before this proposal? I guess it Central and Lowell Road went in. I just don't understand why, if there's such a need, that the Board of Selectmen didn't do a look into it earlier. Question of the lot of other things on your plate. But question of the Board.

Moderator - Question of the Board. Anyone wish to yield? Selectman Roy.

Selectman Roy - So I'll say a couple of things. One is the timing. 2020 happened was Covid was going on and we didn't. We were in a different mode at that point than we are now. The other thing is that that we already talked about committing to doing the study. Um, using actually this fiscal year, if we have the money available at the end of the year. So so to me, it's just the warrant article was a little redundant. That's, that's personally why I, I voted against it. But we are committed to doing it. So does that?

Moderator - Thank you. Further discussion. Warrant article 27 seeing none.

Gary Gasdia 4 McCann Road - Mr. Moderator I'd like to restrict reconsideration on 26 and 27.

Moderator - Well, we haven't finished 27 yet. Let me do that and I'll recognize it. Okay. Seeing no more discussion on 27, I will close the discussion of Article 27 and it goes to the ballot.

Gary Gasdia - *motion to restrict reconsideration on 26 and 27.*

Moderator - *Mr. Malizia seconds 26 and 27 who moved.* The motion was to restrict reconsideration of articles 26 and 27, so they cannot they will not be able to be brought up again today. If you're in favor of restriction 26 and 27, raise your cards. Thank you. Any opposed to restriction? *The ayes have it 26 and 27 are restricted.*

Article 28 Required Public Input (by Petition)

Should the town require any public board, committee, or general public meeting, to include time for public input regarding anything that board or committee has control over at the start of each meeting? This will offer consistent and reliable opportunities for citizens to express their thoughts, insights, concerns, thanks, and ideas, which will foster understanding and transparency.

Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-1
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.000

Heidi Jakoby - Petitioner - 94 Gowing Road - Thank you all. The reason I brought this petition warrant article forward, which is advisory and is because at one point I needed to attend a Board of Selectmen meeting to speak to an issue regarding the Planning Board in order to address the liaison to bring my concerns to the Planning Board. I am asking that the Planning Board and other subcommittees that may or may not have an agenda out, that we as citizens all know that we have a right to speak at those meetings. And again, this doesn't say how long they have to give you or what the parameters are. It's just asking for an opportunity for the public to have public input at each meeting that is held. Thank you.

Moderator - Thank you. We'll open Article 28 to questions, comments or amendments. Anyone wish to speak on Article 28?

James Crowley, 4 Fairway Drive - Uh, I guess my first question is I don't understand the logic of Board of Selectmen not supporting it. I need an answer to make an informed decision when voting in March. But I would like to make a point to is that at Planning Board meetings, which I attend, generally, uh, if it's not on the agenda, you can't bring it up. And I would think this would open it up more to public to bring up other things to various boards.

Moderator - That would be the way it reads. Yes, but it's advisory. This is an advisory document, uh, warrant article that the boards could decide to do or not do or move it around.

Mr. Crowley - Okay, well, hopefully people vote yes. So we advise these boards to g. It's a good idea. Thank you.

Catherine Nardoni, 20 Maple Avenue -I just wanted to stand in favor of this. I was at a board meeting that I needed to speak at, and I couldn't talk until the very end. I was allowed to speak. But since I teach at Alvirne and I'm usually there by 6:30, that was kind of an imposition, and I would love to have been able to speak earlier.

Mary Joy Gasdia 4 McCann Road- I actually speak in opposition to the petition. Um, we already have public input at all of our board meetings. And my issue with this petition and the way it's been portrayed by some of our citizens online, on social media, is that that the Board of Selectmen was trying to take away the ability for any of us to ever speak, which is 100% untrue. If you watch the meeting that, um, generated all of this. So we already have public input. Yes. It's supposed to be related to the agenda so that they can run an efficient meeting. So nobody's ever denied anybody public input. You just reach out that week

before or even that day of and say, hey, I'd like to talk about this. And they're very accommodating, I found in the past. So I don't see a need for this. I think it was, um, petty and misleading by some, um, people in town. And that specifically what made me come speak opposed to it today.

Randy Brownrigg 2 Little Hills Lane, Hudson - Of course. Um, just have a question on it by the petitioner. The word citizens that mean anybody can come in, or is that meaning just Hudson citizens only? Are we open? We usually do open the doors, mainly for residents only. But is this open the door for anyone off the street to come in and speak?

Moderator - Well, I can answer that. Um, a public, a public hearing, a public meeting is open to anyone, uh, whether they speak or not. I'm not sure if you can put a restriction on that, but if you have a public input session, then it is open to the public, and non-residents can come in as they have and speak to the boards.

Shawn Jasper 83 Old Derry Road - Thank you, Mr. Moderator. So I just want to share an experience that I had as Chairman of the Charter Commission way back 100 years ago. The town council didn't have public input, and we on the committee thought this would be great. Let's require the town council to have public input. Well, they did, but they never had a quorum present. At the beginning of every meeting they reserved a half an hour, 2 or 3 people would show up. And you never got to address the quorum. So while this is just advisory, um, that was an actual charter amendment and there was still a way around it. So, I mean. It's really irrelevant. It's whatever the board is going to decide they want to do. So even if you vote for it, don't think that this is going to require anything to change because unfortunately it won't. Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

Dean Sakati 11 Fairway Drive- Super supportive of this. Um, it's really, really important as an abutter that just went through a process before the Planning Board for one of the largest projects in New Hampshire, Um, it's really critical that the public be allowed to speak. And I get it. If you're on the Planning Board, some of it feels redundant, and it might be, but you got to let people speak. It's super important for them to get their information out there. And a lot of times it was a little disappointing at times when we were before the Planning Board, because there's a lot of really, really good information people in the community that have really thoughtful ideas, really good perspectives that if they don't, if they're not given the time to speak, it's ignored, it's lost. And that's not better for the town. And, you know, just simple things, you know, like, you know, we were given very tight time frames to speak by three minutes. It was stop stopwatches. You know, I get it that people might go a little bit too long. But just like we've done here today, we've voted several times to let people continue to voice their their thoughts. Same thing for the for all the boards. And I know I'm at the Zoning Board. We do it for each case. But maybe we should extend that at the beginning a few minutes. If people want to come and just share whatever it is they're thinking, put it out there, it'll be good for us. Thank you.

Moderator - Thank you. Any further discussion on Article 28 required? Uh, public input. Seeing none. I will close the discussion on Article 28 and it moves to the ballot.

Article 29 Comprehensive Infrastructure Study (by Petition)

Should the Town of Hudson complete a comprehensive infrastructure study independently run by a qualified third-part contractor unrelated to the Town of Hudson or the Nashua Regional Planning Commission? This study will include the following:

1. Comprehensive traffic study and impact for the entire town to include all developments being built and approved to be built.
2. Emergency services review of staffing, equipment, and training needed based on the facilities and anticipated demand from all the development. This includes, Police, Fire, and DPW.
3. Impact on our schools based on the high-density housing and the housing development under construction.

4. Sewer and water needs for the town.
5. Review the current impact fees assigned to developers based on this study.
6. The study results are expected to be used to upgrade and improve the Master Plan, Zoning ordinance, Land Use regulations , and to determine the impact to budgets/taxpayers and equipment/facilities/staffing needed to function.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-1
 Tax Rate Impact is \$0.000

Article 29 a comprehensive infrastructure study by petition. Should the Town of Hudson complete a comprehensive infrastructure study independently run by a qualified third party contractor unrelated to the Town of Hudson or the National Regional Planning Commission? This study will include the following. Comprehensive traffic study and impact on the entire town, to include all development being built and approved to be built. Emergency services review of staffing equipment training needed based on the facilities and anticipated demand from the all development. This includes police, fire and DPW. Impact on our schools based on the high density housing and the housing development under construction sewer and water needs for the town. Review of the current impact fees assigned to developers and based on this study, the study results are expected to be used to upgrade and improve the master plan, zoning ordinance, land use regulations, and to determine the impact to the budgets, taxpayer and equipment facilities staffing needed to function. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen four to 0 to 1.

Mr. Dobbins was the chief petitioner, but I believe he, Mr. Sakati had something to him he couldn't be here to read. To present it.

Dean Sakati 11 Fairway Drive - Thanks. I'll take the grown up table on this one. Um, so Jim Dobbins is the, uh, as was mentioned, Jim Dobbins is the petitioner on this. Jim Dobbins is a 4 Eagle Drive. Um, so I'm going to read basically just read a statement that he prepared on his behalf. I, you know, am let me just go through it. Jim Dobbins was unable to attend this deliberative session. So insert name that's Dean Sakati will read this statement. This warrant article for an infrastructure study is pretty self-evident and should be embraced by the town. Yes, it will cost approximately \$100,000, but money well spent to preserve our quality of life and puts us in the right direction. Today we're heading down the path of commercial and industrial development this town is not prepared to handle. Over the last four years, we've seen mega projects get approved. And frankly, when I ask if a total assessment of all project impacts combined were considered, I was told no and that each project is reviewed by itself. That is ludicrous and a poor approach to planning. Heck, this isn't planning at all. While developers talk mitigation, I not once heard anyone on the planning board or select board question what does this mean to our town emergency services, schools and its residents quality of life? I called out over three years ago the impact these developments would have, and some are just starting to raise their heads. Heck, the biggest ones haven't even opened yet. You will be in for a real treat when they do. Critical questions need to be asked that were never asked by the planning board. Not a single board member asked how many more incidents would occur when approving these mega projects in our town, or what impact it would have on the residents. Instead, the answer again, was the developers would be mitigating the issues. Key questions this study would ask one. Is the fire department structured and staffed correctly? One a should we have a separate EMT and firefighter group? One b do we have enough personnel to handle situations without calling for mutual aid? One C are the stations in the right locations with the right equipment and personnel? Two is the DPW prepared, staffed, and equipped? To a all the new development, all the new development means some point more roads to clear in the winter. Next up point more roads to maintain all year. Three is the police department prepared, staffed and equipped. Oh three. I'll just go to three. A will there will be more accidents. Three B there will be more crime as you commercialize and build out for what are our sewer usage? Water usage. Next five. What's the impact on our schools? Six is our town government structured right to handle all of this? My understanding is that we are the ninth largest

community in the state and of the top ten, all but Hudson has a mayor or a town manager structure. Why is this? It is time to conduct a town infrastructure study in conjunction with a building moratorium that will allow us the chance to compete to complete a master plan that meets what our vision of Hudson should be. It will guide us to make the right choices and support what we want, not others. Two final comments One. Do any of you know what a Target Flow center is? Again, you'll be in for a real treat. The homework on this was never done. Two. The Hudson Boulevard is not a solution. It will create another huge set of issues. Watch development expand should that happen. And that's the end of his statement.

Moderator - Thank you. We'll now open Article 29 to questions comments amendments. Anybody wish to speak on Article 29 Mr. Jasper?

Shawn Jasper 83 Fairway Drive - Thank you, Mr. Moderator. I have first I'd like to start with a question to the Board of Selectmen. Um, we just heard that this would cost at least \$100,000, which I believe would probably cost a lot more than that. But a majority of the board is supporting doing this. How do you intend to fund this?

Moderator - Selectman Roy will yield.

Selectman Roy - So. So it's at this point because there's no appropriation attached to it it's advisory. So if we have the money available, then we'll do the study. If we don't have the money available, we don't do the study.

Mr. Jasper - But this is a specific purpose. When you say have the money available, you believe that you can just take money from any place.

Selectman Roy - No, no, but we can take it from, say, the unfunded, unexpended fund balance.

Mr. Jasper - I would challenge that a a member of the Budget Committee. You need a purpose within state law and a comprehensive study is not a purpose you have now. And I hope that all members of the Budget Committee would be concerned as well. If you intend just to take, you know, \$100,000 to do something for which you currently do not have a purpose. That would be a real, real problem in my opinion. I think you need the specific.....

Selectman Roy, interrupting Mr. Jasper - Again, at this point. It's an advisory warrant article.

Mr. Jasper - Well, but and I understand that except a majority of the Board is saying, yes, we want to do this, but you haven't put an appropriation on here. Uh, and so I am really concerned within the next year, you intend somehow to just say, okay, we know you're going to have money left in the budget. That's that's a reality. Every year you put a 1.1 million from fund balance, uh, into this year's budget. So clearly there'll be \$100,000 available. Are you telling me without an appropriation you intend to to execute this contract?

Selectman Roy - Well, there's no contract. What's what's the contract? There's no contract.

Mr. Jasper - No, but you're supporting it.

Selectman Roy - And I think we supported it because. Because in theory, that's a that's a great idea. If the money is available, that's a great idea. But but there's no appropriation associated with it. So we don't have to do the project.

Mr. Jasper - Okay. So you're you're saying to the voters, yes, we support this idea by a four to 0 to 1 vote. But on the other side you're saying, yeah, but we won't do it because we didn't ask for an appropriation.

Selectman Roy - Well, right. But we.

Moderator - That would require another a warrant article at another town meeting if, if they get it all straightened out and say we want to spend this money to do it and see what the people say, they'd have to approve.

Selectman Roy - So if, so if this gets approved, then then at the next town meeting, we can we can go forward with an appropriation. If that's if that's what would make it right, then that's what would make it right.

Mr. Jasper - All right. Well that's that's a clarification of this. So nobody should expect anything to happen in this in this next year. All right. Thank you. That was my question. And I'd like to that's helpful. I am concerned about, you know, some of the proposed things that we would be spending money with this independent contractor number for, uh, sewer and water needs of the town, that's not really, you know, doesn't get us any place we could spend a lot of money looking at that. We own a capacity of the Nashua treatment plant, and I seven point something percent of it or something like that. We can't do anything beyond that. We have capacity now. But once we reach our limit, unless we want to build a new treatment plant, we can't do anything. So I'm not sure that's worth spending our money on. Now, we do have the capacity water needs of the town. We buy water, we wheel it through. That's really not an issue. We should be studying. Um, we buy and sell water. And so why would we be spending money to look at that review of the current impact fee assessment that is under the legal purview of the Planning Board. We shouldn't be trying to override an authority that's given by statute to the to the planning board. Um, and I heard a couple of things that give me great concern, um, and that that wasn't a question that was just, uh, you know, a statement is that we heard we should look to build our fire department to the point of not needing mutual aid. That would bankrupt every taxpayer in this town, because that would be putting enough firefighters in place to deal with the maximum thing that could happen in here. There is not a community, certainly, that I know of, certainly not Nashua. We go mutual aid to Nashua all the time, to Windham. They come in. Mutual aid is a system that is built to allow us to respond to those worst case scenarios. So when I'm hearing that, that's an expectation that we're going to study. What would it take to fill every position, you know, or have enough positions to deal with all of that? Uh, that's a that's a concern. Um, then I heard something about, um, you know, why are there only why are we the only town left with a, uh, this form of government? We've got a petition warrant article later to to discuss that, but I really people are going to vote on it. I'm not going to offer to amend things out here, but I think we should not get anyone's expectation out. I would up on this. I would certainly urge that people vote no on this. And if the selectmen believed this should happen, then they should come back with a comprehensive warrant with the appropriate money in it, and not just put us in a situation here where there's going to be expectations that can't possibly be met because there's no appropriation. And I would finally suggest that to do this is going to be a lot more than \$100,000. Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

Selectman Roy - I just want to point out that this is a petition warrant article. So the Board of Selectmen could not change the verbiage of the petition warrant article. So there's that.

Mr. Jasper - you didn't have to recommend it.

James Crowley 4 Fairway Drive -Uh, yeah. This is a petition warrant article. At least the Board of Selectmen are putting it out, that they agree that it looks like they recommend it, but, uh, it should go to the voters, and they'll definitely get confirmation that the town is behind this. Uh, that's one reason there's no money on it to start with. Uh, my experience is I get frustrated on the Planning Board that whenever a project is started, we're supposed to put on our blinders, and, uh, traffic reports will say, oh, we're only going to increase it a minor amount compared to what's there. Well, we already got the too many straws on a camel's back already. Uh, this would actually help us see me. Okay, you're only adding a little bit, but are you adding it to a place that already has a level of service F or something like that? Uh, I don't know what that goes over people's head on that, but you just got to have where's your baseline? Understand it how it affects different things and turn it in to where you can start doing zoning ordinance. You can get, uh, land use regs and that and try to get control of where we're going to go in the future. I will definitely vote yes for this.

Heidi Jacoby, 94 Gowing Road - I just want to point out that the item one is a traffic study to look at all the options throughout the town. There are many different mitigation opportunities. And um, at the town engineer actually taught me about a whole bunch of them, um, that aren't necessarily new roads. It could be different types of dividers, um, circles and different things. So this is saying to look at the entire town and what's being planned and gone forward. And just to Mr. Jasper's point, um, just the, the, the article itself says to look at emergency. The the petitioners statement was stronger than that. This is saying look at it because, um, mutual aid is important throughout the southern area. Um, and then its impact to our schools, what are all these differences have and the sewer and water. I just wanted to point out that the sewer district was extended to Green Meadow, and I know I'm in South Hudson. I don't have sewer. So my concern is I don't have sewer. Who else is? Where else is sewer going to go within our allotment? I totally understand that. But should there be other people near that south end having sewer? Is that a yay or nay? Should it be looked at and water needs? I have a well and let's look at water needs not only water from the town, but water needs and wells. So I just wanted to point that out, that there was a statement that was different than what the article was up to. I'm in support of the article. All it does is say, hey, Board of Selectmen, consider doing this and there is no money attached. Thank you.

Page Schaller 213 Fox Hollow Drive- Um, I just wanted to point out that this warrant article is asking to do a comprehensive traffic study of the entire town. We just spent over an hour talking about one section from Wason Road or of Wason Road, um, Bush Hill Road and Kimball Hill Road going from Lowell Road to um, 111 for \$200,000. Um, this is looking for a town wide comprehensive study. So I don't really know why people would say no to this when they said yes to the smaller one. So I too am in support of this. Thank you.

Dean Sakati 11 Fairway Drive - Now speaking as as a resident and not reading Jim Dobbins comments, I support this. Um, I think it just makes a ton of sense to do a good, thoughtful analysis. We're on our back heels right now. We've approved very, several very large projects that are going to have enormous impact. We had a developer come in and say the solution to our traffic problem was smart lights. They were going to pay for it. And we had a planning board that said that was good, right. Um, so I get a little confused. There's a little bit of dissonance here when I start hearing that the solution to a traffic problem is actually building a new highway through the town. So we got to square this stuff up. And I think, you know, doing a thoughtful analysis, um, starts to put us ahead of this, especially if, in fact, this highway would open up. What would the. Was a 6,000,000ft² of development, um, 6,000,000ft² of development, then that will have consequences. So let's get ahead of it. Great job, Jim Dobbins. Very thoughtful.

Debbie Putnam 9 Rangers Drive - I understand Jasper's, Mr. Jasper's statement regarding the his objection to the purview of the Board of Selectmen. I feel opposite to that. The Board of Selectmen, I look to you all to represent every resident in this town, regardless of their political or religious background. I look at you as our parents looking out for us, and by the fact that you have supported article 29 speaks loudly to me because you're open to the items and points and concerns that the residents have. So I just want to thank you.

Moderator - Thank you. Any further discussion on article 29 Comprehensive Infrastructure study by petition. Seeing none, we'll close the discussion on article 29 and it moves to the ballot.

Article 30 Change Election Day Date (by Petition)

Shall the Town of Hudson and the School District change the date of the elections from the second Tuesday in March to the second Tuesday in April in accordance with RSA 40:14, which would also change the date of the deliberative sessions to a date between the first and second Saturdays after the last Monday in February, inclusive? This warrant will only take effect if it passes on the both the town and school districts ballots.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-1-1
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.000

Mike Tranfaglia via 24 Woodcrest Drive -Thank you. I'll be brief. The purpose of this warrant article was to push the current March election past the threat of inclement weather that would threaten to postpone the election, as it has twice in the past few years, which has resulted in even lower voter turnout for the town and school elections. Um, well, town and school elections historically have much lower turnout. Um, I think we are, on average, between 3 and 4000 voters turn out for the town election. Um, out of. And I know this is probably an old number, about 16,000 current Hudson voters. I'm hopeful that the date change into warmer weather may increase even ever so slightly. Uh, voter turnout. Um, this warrant article was submitted to the for the school um, deliberative sessions as well. So I probably speaking next week as well. Uh, but that is that is everything. Thank you.

Moderator - thank you. We'll open the discussion on on Warrant Article 30, the change of the election day date from March to April, with the deliberative sessions to be in the beginning of March of, uh, March instead of February, like we are now. Yes, ma'am.

Gretchen Whiting, 22 Glen Drive -Um, I am opposed to this. Um. And I just want to make it clear I am on the Budget Committee. I'm also School Board Chair. Um, I do welcome and make sure everybody comes next week as well to the deliberative session. While I understand that there isn't much of a change or an impact that might affect the town, there is quite a bit that would affect the school and that this specific petition warrant article must pass both the town and the school in order for it to go through. So while I don't have a lot to state on the town side, I do have quite a bit of objection on the school side. So I do welcome everyone to make sure that they listen to both sides and from a school side. I am opposed to this. Thank you.

Craig Putnam, 59, Rangers Drive -While I very much support the the intent and spirit of this, I share the concern around the impact on hiring at the school side. Uh, having been teaching in higher ed. for 20 plus years, there is a cycle and a season for hiring in education, and we certainly experienced that at the college level. And I'm sure it exists at the high school level as well, and other in lower grades. So I'm mindful of of that impact. And it's very much of a concern.

Moderator - Before I recognize Mr. Morin, I just want to say what this does is when we had the, uh, snowstorm last March, the law requires us to move if we postpone an election. The moderator with consulting with the town officials can postpone a town election, not a federal one or state one, but it has to occur two weeks later. So our our election last year was done on March 28th, not that far away from April, April 12th or whatever it would have been. So just keep that in mind as you're as you're considering this, recognize. Mr. Morin.

Selectman Morin - I have a little bit of insight on what what this may cause for the school. So I'd like everybody here to hear it so they understand it in this meeting and the school meeting.

Ms. Whiting - Thank you. Um, so the reason that I wanted to bring this up, the way the teacher contracts, the pair contracts, all of the contracts work is we have to inform or the school board and the school district must inform all of those teachers by April 15th, about the next school year, starting July 1st, contract into the next school year. By moving this date into April, it diminishes and reduces that time frame that we have the ability to inform and make decisions. That reduces it to a week, maybe two, based on timing of the election. By keeping it in March, it gives us more time to understand what the voters approved for the

budget, as well as what we can and cannot, should and shouldn't do in regards to positions for the following school year. In addition, many of the districts around us do march time frames for their elections. Therefore, for when they get what that budget is going to be based on that election, uh, they then are able to, um, advertise for those open positions by putting us into April. To do that, it diminishes the pool of teachers that are available to apply. And we already have a teacher shortage, so we are trying to eliminate that. And so therefore that's why we are not recommending that. So I don't know if that answers your question. Thank you.

Mike Campbell, 6 Baltusrol Drive - I'm also a member of the School Board. Um, I just want to talk about the unintended, unintended consequences that this could have. I like the concept of getting as many people in the town to vote as possible. But like in 2021, when we had the additional, uh, location to vote in the petition article, uh, warrant article, it was worded as state elections, but we later found out it had to be every single election. And although I would like three hour waits, like for the national or sometimes for state elections to be for the town elections, that's not the case. So the fact that we have to go to Alvirne, we originally hoped that all the other schools would be able to be in session in Alvirne could be on remote, but then the state of New Hampshire made it. You can only go remote for weather related causes. So we couldn't go remote for Election Day. So that pushes another, uh, day of school. So we have a teacher development day there. So although I love the idea of getting more people out to vote and not having to change it because of inclement weather, I'm not sure we can guess all the unintended consequences that, uh, pushing it to April could or. Yeah, to April could do. Thanks.

Mary Joy Gasdia, 4 McCann Road - Um, I have a question, and then I have a comment. So my question to the Moderator is how many times in the last 25 years have we had to cancel because of snow?

Moderator - Well, let's see, I've been doing this since '08.

Ms. Gasdia - Since '08 how many times have we canceled?

Moderator - I think we've had two town elections that were canceled. The one last year, of course. I think there was one before. And actually we canceled the state, we postponed a state election, uh, before they changed the law and said, you can't do that.

Ms. Gasdia - There's only been two over all those years.

Moderator - Yeah. That was in November. March we've had a couple. Yeah. There's been a few. Right.

Ms. Gasdia - So as an elected official who actually works at all of these elections and I actually register voters. Right. So I talk to people that register, I talk to people that are here for their first time to vote. I was just here at the presidential primary where still in the in the Town of Hudson, where we have, um, such a large number of registered voters, we only had a 45% turnout at the presidential primary. And so, to me, I'm going to tell you that changing the date to April, there is no evidence to prove that that's going to bring more people or a bigger turnout. If only two times we've been snowed out, I'd hate to run the risk of the the school contract side, but just in general changing it, right. It's not that's not how you're going to get more people out to vote. The people that are worried about getting more people out to vote really have to get out there and educate people about voting and how important it is to vote in town elections. I had somebody come and register in front of me that said, oh no, I don't come in March because I live in an apartment that doesn't apply to me. I'm not really like a full resident. And I was like, what are you talking about? Every person's a resident. Our voters, the people in our town are not as educated as they need to be, not by fault of their own, but by the lack of real communication across the whole state about how important it is and impactful for your town. More information about when it is. Um, when we had an extreme weather several years ago and the election wasn't cancelled, we had one of our largest turnouts. And you know why? Because when people care about something that specifically affects them, they show up regardless of the weather and all the people that you would think changing the weather would help, specifically the elderly. Right? People? Last time I'm like, oh, the elderly people aren't going to be able to get out. I'll tell you right now, elderly people were at this door at 7 a.m., you know, who didn't get out? The younger people because they made the excuse. So people that want to vote are going to come out,

whether it's March or April. Your issue is not to do with the date. So I would absolutely caution people to vote for this, because the impact on that school side could be very detrimental for us hiring really good employees. And there's nothing to support the fact that this is going to fix anything, um, get people educated and explain the importance and maybe explain to everybody that lives in the town. If you are here, this directly affects you because they don't seem to get it. Thank you.

Moderator - Thank you. Any further discussion on article 30? Seeing none, we'll close the discussion on article 30 and it goes to the ballot.

Article 31 West Road Landfill Remote Control Airplane Club (by Petition)

Shall the Town of Hudson allow Southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club continued use of the West Road Landfill Wagner Field, a Federal Aviation Administration Recognized Identification Area. Per the agreement with the Board of Selectmen in July of 1999, the Town of Hudson will grant continued use of the West Road Landfill capped areas to the Southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club 501C non-profit organization, a fully insured and chartered member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics. This club fosters community efforts related to the building and flying of model aircraft, STEM education, and enablement of skill creation related to employment in the aerospace industry, many past members have subsequently established careers in aviation and aerospace. The club is in need of continued access to a suitable site for flying activities; the current site is recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration and has been granted special permissions allowing for high altitude flights. For the past 24 years the club has donated time, expertise, and money to the Town of Hudson NH and wishes to remain a vibrant part of the community.

Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-2
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.000

Ed Van der Veen (Petitioner) 9 Newton Street - And thanks for reading all of that. I appreciate that. So we can go to slide two now as we already covered that piece. The next one, there we go. Okay. So this is what the airfield at West Landfill looks like. It's obviously we have two runways there. It's all well maintained. The the club maintains that top piece I mean it plants grass seed. It mows it. The buildings are there to you know to protect from rain. And there's solar solar powered charging stations for electric airplanes. So the two runways are to accommodate pilots of different types of aircraft and different skills. Next slide. So a little information about the club July 13th, 1999. As has been mentioned before, the Hudson Board of Selectmen approved the unanimous unanimously the to allow the Southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club to use the West Load Road landfill to fly model airplanes. 1999 approved by the Board of Selectmen, the club has been flying at the Hudson Landfill since the year 2000. That's almost 25 years of continued presence. No issues that I am aware of whatsoever. The club maintains the grass runways and the shelters at the top of the landfill at its own cost. The West Road RC airfield is recognized federal aviation airspace and is recognized by the FAA, Boston Air Traffic Control Center, as well as the Nashua and Manchester airports. Difficult to replicate. Certifications and agreements. The West Road RC airfield is a hub of education, inspiration, and community bonding. Its role in cultivating the next generation of science, technology, engineering and math enthusiasm enthusiasts and its contribution to the local community cannot be understated. The club has made contributions to the Town of Recreation Department to the tune of \$16,000 over the years. The new master plan we all talk about the master plan for Hudson emphasizes the need for more recreational and socialization space. The West Road RC landfill is one of those spaces. I would like to read some excerpts of a letter that I wrote to the Hudson Times editor. Initially, my son and I flew radio controlled aircraft in less than ideal places like parking lots, you know, Alvirne sports fields and discovering the club and and its welcoming environment made it made a turning point. It provided a safe area for this activity. Think of all those recently gifted quadcopters and airplanes and being able to fly in a place without trees, houses or power lines to hit. I mean, what's the first thing that happens when a kid gets a gets a RC aircraft? Well, many times they hit something

because they don't have a good place to fly it. This space provides a safe place for people to fly, and it's open to all residents. Look me up. I'm the membership coordinator. The airfield has hosted numerous events, inviting both enthusiasm and the general public to witness a diverse range of aircraft and aerobatics, fostering a strong sense of community engagement. Members include young and old from diverse backgrounds, anybody with an interest in aviation, including veterans, youth hobbyists, full scale pilots, and employees of technical business such as BAE, participate. This hobby not only cultivates technical skills but also sparks creativity and problem solving, demonstrating its extensive influence. The West Road RC airfield has nurtured future S.T.E.M. talent, offering hands on learning and experiences. Young minds learn about physics, mathematics, engineering through building and flying of these models, potentially steering them towards S.T.E.M. careers. The airfield also provides a unique recreational anatomy. While the environmental advantages of a solar farm are evident, it's important to note that other locations in our community can accommodate such a project without displacing this valuable and hard to obtain airfield and its certifications. This loss of space would mean forfeiting a vital educational and community resource. In conclusion, the radio controlled aircraft airfield at West Road Landfill in Hudson represents an irreplaceable asset to our community. And I think we need to keep it. So with that, I would like to play a short video on the club and I would appreciate your vote for article 31 in March. Thank you.

A video from the Southern NH Radio Control Airplane Club was played.

Moderator - Thank you. We'll now open article 31, the West Road landfill, uh, Southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club to questions, comments, amendments. I point out this is an advisory document as well. Since the control of town lands and properties are under the authority of the Board of Selectmen.

James Crowley, 4 Fairway Drive - I think this article deserves your yes vote. The New Hampshire Radio Club has provided a unique service to Hudson, which could not be duplicated at another location in Hudson. They deserve our support to a minimum to be allowed to coexist at the West Road Landfill. I encourage everyone to vote yes in March on this article.

Victor Oates 77 Sousa Boulevard - I support this as well. I guess I just want to understand why I mean, \$50,000 a year for the solar panels isn't really that much money compared to the 4 to 5 million that the Kearsarge is making off of it. We need places in this community for the kids, adults and others to go enjoy things, and it's been utilized like this for decades. I just don't understand why we need to do this with the solar. There are other options out there. I would hope that the Board of Selectmen would change their view on this. Um, and, you know, again, I understand we want to make money for the town, but there's also bigger things. Thank you.

Greg Putnam, 59, Rangers Drive. I'm just seeking clarification on how this, uh, advisory petition, uh, interacts with the other petition. If they both pass in the spring. What does that mean?

Moderator - Well, if the contract, if the lease agreement passes, the selectmen can implement it. If this passes, they can decide not to, or they can just say it's advisory. We're not going in that direction.

Mr. Putnam - All right. So so it ends up it's going to be the Board of Selectmen they have the authority either way?

Moderator - Yes.

Mary Jo Gasdia, 4 McCann Road -Um, I've lived in Hudson since 2003, and just some feedback to the petitioner and the club. I've lived here since 2003, and this is the first year that I've ever actually known that this existed. And so that's not a it's a good thing, right? I now know it's here. If I had younger kids, maybe I would get them involved. And so one of the things that was shown in the video, which seems very great, and one of the things that you talked about, um, that when the petitioner presented was how there's all this, you know, people grow up and they go into S.T.E.M. and there's all these great activities and opportunities for our kids. And so as a parent in town, um, to support this, I would really love to see in the future you guys have some type of connection with the schools, and if it's already there, maybe it's just a

matter of marketing it better. But where are our Hudson kids? How do they get involved in this? How could my son have been part of this? Because he would have loved it if I knew it existed. But I never knew, and I only know now because it's an issue. Um, and so I don't know that I'm, I don't know that I'm 100% for or against this. Um, but I do wish that if it's something that's so, um, you know, provides S.T.E.M. education and it has such a grounded thing with our community, then this should either tie to some program at Alvirne or the middle school where they have all this S.T.E.M. stuff where these kids could get involved, and you would actually have our Hudson students that are part of this. And then going forward, those kids that are in our community, we see that they're using it. It's not just adults out playing with planes. And I'm not trying to be rude. I'm just saying that that's what some people going into this, it's like, oh, it's those RC people. Nobody knows about it until this came up. And so, um, in order to get support and have people follow you a little bit more, those would be my recommendations as a parent and as a citizen to say, let us know a little bit more. So I have a hard time saying I recommend for you to to keep it. Yet I have to. I'm not going to say yes or no, but I wanted to give that feedback.

Wendy Anderson, 150 Robinson Road - Um, I'm a fourth generation resident of Hudson, New Hampshire, and I fully support this article. Um, to speak to the prior speakers comments. Um, if this goes through that the club is not allowed to stay there, then the opportunity to get involved with the schools and bring students more integrated into the club and all it has to offer will be lost forever. I think that it's important that we maintain this space for the club and that the Board of Selectmen, if the voters show that this, that they want this, that the Board of Selectmen would reconsider their position on allowing the club to stay and coexist with the solar farm. Thank you.

Ed Van der Veen, 9 Newton Street- I'd like to make an amendment to my petition. One article in the first line allow the Southern New Hampshire Radio Control Club continued use in perpetuity of the West Road landfill, Wagner Field.

Moderator - Well, that would be out of order, because if in order to do that, you'd have to make a lease agreement with the Board of Selectmen. They can only grant rental or use of a property for up to one year. Beyond that, this the town meeting has to vote on doing it. So you this meeting could not say we're going to allow something in perpetuity when they have no authority to actually, uh, grant that, uh, to have the authority to make that decision. It's the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Van der Veen - Am I getting to the record of out of orders?

Moderator - That's right. I haven't done too many out of orders.

Gary Gasdia 4 McCann Road - Just a point of clarification with something you just said in the video. It said that the Board of Selectmen in 1999 unanimously approved the use of the field and the indication at least, or the impression of that is, well, that's why they're allowed to use it. But based on what you just said, that means that that was only good for one year, because if it was in perpetuity, we would have needed to vote on it. So really, there's no based on what you just said, if I'm interpreting correctly, there is no standing in perpetuity agreement to use that. That was really only good '99 to the year 2000 is that a fair statement?

Moderator - Technically they just said go ahead. And then there was never an agreement that was came up to be signed.

Mr. Gasdia - Right. So it wasn't like in '99 that said, we're going to use it in perpetuity. That was go ahead and use it. But in theory, technically said or not said, at some point we may come back because there's no agreement. Okay. Thank you.

Tim Wyatt, 139 Barrett Hill - question for the petitioner.

Moderator - Sure. If if he'll yield. Ask your question and see if he wants to yield.

Mr. Wyatt - Thank you. Um, this is the only such radio controlled club in Hudson?

Mr. Van der Veen - Yes, correct.

Mr. Wyatt - And there's, uh, 700 such clubs in the US. I thought I heard that number?

Mr. Van der Veen - I don't have I don't have the back up on that.

Mr. Wyatt - Where would where would the next closest one be?

Mr. Van der Veen - The next closest one would be in Merrimack.

Moderator - Yeah. The next closest one is in Merrimack.

Mr. Van der Veen - the next closest one is in Merrimack, I believe.

Mr. Wyatt - So if, um, they're no longer. This land is no longer available. They might go to the Merrimack location. But this opportunity for Hudson would be lost. Thank you. Has there been any, uh, research into any other possible locations in Hudson for this club? I don't know. Thank you, thank you.

Harry Peters 2 Speare Road - Uh, my question was, if Article 26 is defeated and this is goes through, can I get a commitment from the selectmen right now to allow us to use Wagner Field?

Moderator - Well, you can ask them that, but my feeling was they were going to ask for a lease agreement that you're going to sign and would involve costs and everything else. So that would have to come back to this body at another, at another meeting.

Mr. Peters - So if that article 26 failed?

Moderator - They they still have the control of the property and they can say yes or no, you can use it. So if it's more than a year, then they have to have an agreement that comes back for ratification to this to, to the town meeting so they can.

Mr. Peters - so they can go against the towns vote for non-ratification and ratification?

Moderator - If the ratification agreement is is voted down then there won't be one. But this is a whole separate issue okay.

Wade Wagner 150 Robinson Road - Um, while I'm in support of this, I do have a question about it. What happens if the Article 31 and Article 26 both pass?

Moderator - Then the selectmen have the authority to implement that one or, uh, approach or decide what to do about this one. It's it's in their purview. They have control of all town property.

Mr. Wagner - Okay. All right. As a and as a again, a fourth generation Hudsonite, you know, I am in support of this. And one thing I want to remind everybody here is that once it's gone, it's gone. And you can't bring it back. It'd be the same as if you decided to put solar panels or bulldoze over and make a landfill out of Benson Park. You know, once you destroy something like that and you take it away from people, it's gone. And I do think it's very sad that there was an agreement that was made in good faith. I think it's very sad that that was forgotten. You know, I just that's all I have to say on that. Thank you.

Harry Peters 4 Speare Road - One more question, please. Uh, yeah. Lost my train of thought. Uh, all the times we came to the Planning Board and stated our case for for us to stay. Uh, the selectmen said let's let the voters decide. Well, when the voters decide, they're really not deciding. Do you get what I'm trying to say?

Moderator - The voters have their authority. The Selectmen have their authority. In the case of town property, it's the law gives the selectmen the authority, not the voters.

Mr. Peters - Being told that they would let the voters decide were we led down the wrong road?

Moderator - well, they probably weren't thinking in those terms. But, uh, uh, when I had to do the lookup in the Articles of War, uh, RSA 40, what is it, 42:11 I'm getting off the subject here, but yeah, uh, that's. Any further discussion? Warrant article 31. If not, we'll close the discussion. Article 31 and, uh, goes to the ballot.

Ed van der Veen - motion to restrict reconsideration on 28 through 31.

Moderator - seconded by Mr. Dumont seconds. I'm going to vote on restricting reconsideration to articles 28 through 31. Those in favor, raise your cards. Those opposed. The ayes have it. Articles 28 to 31 are restricted.

Article 32 Adopt Town Manager Form of Government (by Petition)

Do you favor the adoption of the Town Manager plan as provided in Chapter 37 of the Revised Statutes Annotated? For Hudson, the current Town Administrator would assume this role until his retirement or termination of employment. A Town Manager has powers and duties afforded to it by state law whereas a Town Administrator does not.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-1
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.000

Victor Oates (Petitioner) 77 Sousa Boulevard -

Next slide, please. So, um, under New Hampshire law, RSA 37, um, every town has the ability to appoint a town manager as a form of government. Um, if the voters pass this um, under section RSA 37, the Board of Selectmen would appoint this form of government and appoint this person based on their experience and hired based on education, which is key to the differences this is working. Next slide please. Um, as you can see, um, currently we are the sixth largest community in the state of New Hampshire. Um, every community within the top ten except for the bottom two in population size, over 20,000 either have a town manager or a city manager. Um, running, running the show. And that is key because the town manager has special authorities. Next slide please. Um, they have the ability to. Manage projects based on education and based. In early 2022, the Town of Hudson spent 14,500, roughly that on running a study. During this study, they came back and they basically said one, we need to do a space study, two, we should hire a town manager over the town manager to better streamline things. And three, we should be putting in an HR manager. Um, during this spot point, it was provided to the Board of Selectmen by the Town Administrator. Since then, none of it has been put into place. Now, examples of where some things could have been stopped earlier, last year or late last year, a group of us all met here to discuss a new town hall. That new town hall meeting wouldn't have happened if a town manager was in place. Why? Because they would have had the expertise to put things in place to ensure that everything was lined up ahead of time. Things like, um, policy implementation, things like community development, they manage Department of coordination. They would also ensure shorter Board of Selectmen meetings. Currently, our Board of Selectmen meetings run on average of two and a half to

three hours. Most towns in the state that have town managers most most of their meetings are an hour, maybe an hour and a half. Why? Because the town manager is managing a lot more responsibility. They don't have to meet around to discuss hiring and firing. They just do that. That's their responsibility. They don't have to discuss whether or not we need to put forth a feasibility study. They they put everything in place and bring it to the Board of Selectmen in state. This is what needs to be done. It's the difference between having a COO running your company or a CEO. There's a different structure in there, and that's why it's time for the town of Hudson to pivot. Because right now, what I'm seeing is growth in development running rampant throughout town. And there's no one in control of that at the very top with the authority to better manage and utilize that. And I believe that if we put in place the town manager, like other towns of our size, have, you will see a more streamlined and efficient operation. You will see less warrants on the ballot. Why? Because they won't be needed. Look at all the petition warrant articles. Space study town manager would have managed that right. So many different things are dealt with. The landfill with the RC, the town manager woulda sit down with the RC club. They would have had meetings with them. It wouldn't have been Board of Selectmen. What do you think? Let's put forward this. The town manager is your liaison to the community. Currently, we don't have that high level liaison to the community with that ability to sit down and understand what the total picture is. Why? Because they have a different education level. They have a different background. They have abilities and project management. They've been studying urban planning. They're not just out there to do the will of the Board of Selectmen and bring information to the Board of Selectmen to ask. We're not stripping away that much power from the Board of Selectmen by doing this. They still will have just as similar responsibility. But we're not going to ask them, hey, go hire and sit down and find a town planner. That would be the town manager's responsibility. Next slide please. In conclusion, I believe that the professional leadership, the expertise in government, the future ready strategy and the responsive local governments is core to Hudson moving forward. We keep on approving things. We keep on having warrants after warrants come on. That could be mitigated by a better form of management, similar to almost every other town in the state of our size or larger. Unlike Mr. Malizia's hands. Take the handcuffs off. Let him do his job that we are paying him for. He is getting paid currently almost \$40,000, more than any town administrator in the entire state, but not allowed to execute on those key responsibilities that he could that every other town manager that making that same salary could do. Let's shift. Let's pivot and focus on the future of Hudson. And it starts with the town manager. It gets followed by an HR manager. And then we can start running things a lot more efficiently in the town. Thank you.

Moderator - Thank you. We'll now open Article 32 to questions comments, amendments.

Shawn Jasper 83 Old Derry Road - thank you, Mr. Moderator. I rise in opposition to Article 32, and I would encourage the Board of Selectmen to reconsider their their vote on this article. And I have no questions for you, Mr. Oates. Um, and urge the voters in March to to reject this. What you just heard sounds like utopia. It's not. Much of what you just heard about a limiting what will come to town meeting. None of those things will stop every petition warrant article would still need to come here. Every single one of the, uh, funds that you see that will be voting on afterwards will still need to come here. I can't identify anything on this warrant that won't come here. Now because it wasn't the selectmen asking for permission to do the studies, it was voters. Doesn't mean that the town manager would do that. But what you are doing is you are creating an unelected head of government. Now, we went there before in the late 70s or 80s, and I know that was a lifetime ago, but human nature is the same in the problems are likely to persist, but regardless of of that. I want, and I hope you want to have a say in the people that sit up at that table. I want to be able to pick up the phone and say, I've got a problem. I want it dealt with not having to have them say, well, I'm sorry, you're going to have to talk to the town manager about that. I got a big surprise yesterday. Was in Town Hall to sign up for the Budget Committee. I went to the Selectmen's office first. I thought it was closed for the day. There's now a tint on the window. You can't really see anything. And there's a lock on the door. Do you know in Concord you can still walk right into the Senate President's reception area. You can walk into the Speaker of the House's reception area. You can walk

into my office as Commissioner. Now, this is this is different. It's got nothing to do with this article, but we're already limiting the access of people to our officials this limited even even further. The town manager under the RSA shall be the administrative head of all departments of the town. My favorite job that I've had over the years, and I held it for 17 years on and off, was being a selectman because I could solve problems of the people, because I could call up the police chief, the road agent at the time, now public works director, the fire chief, whoever solve a problem because they worked for the Board of Selectmen, and I was a member of the Board of Selectmen, those people will no longer work for the Board of Selectmen. They will work for an unelected person. Unelected? Yeah. The Board gets to hire them. They get to fire them. But it doesn't make for better government. Here's an interesting thing that I haven't quite figured out that the powers and duties.

Now this is an old statute. This is actually a 1929 statute. It's had some updates to it, but it goes back to 29. The job of the town manager is to give the selectmen a budget before January 31st, on or before January 31st of each fiscal year for the ensuing year. So that was like this week. That's his job to give them a budget. I don't know how that that works. Obviously you could give it earlier than that, but it has some potential conflicts there because this is what the statute tells them has to do. And the in theory, the selectmen can't tell them to do it earlier because that's not the way it works. But here's here's really what concerns me to have control and supervision subject to the direction of the selectmen. What does that mean? I'm not really sure, but to purchase all supplies for the town, he's in charge of the police and the fire department, not the public Works department, because probably there wasn't one back in 1929, the system of sewers and drains, if any. This is interesting. This is how old this statute, the sprinkling of streets, which means he's in charge of having a water tanker go around in, lay down water to keep the dust down. That's one of the things in here. The care of the cemeteries, letting in, making performance of all contracts for work done for the town. So that is interesting. Now, I don't know where contracts with the town workers come in. I'm can't find anything on that where those contracts, if that's still under the Board of Selectmen or if it's under the town manager bringing it back to us here at the meeting. But, uh, that should be a little concerning. All contracts just by him. Here's another thing. The town manager shall supervise, supersede any board of commissioners and municipalities adopting the provisions hereof. The town manager, um, or in other supervisory officer or offices previously established, elected or appointed. So that means that the authority of the Cemetery Trustees is gone. I mean, they're still there, but who's in charge of the cemeteries? This one person who's in charge of water and sewer. We have a board that makes recommendations. They would no longer be making recommendations to the selectmen. That's gone. Um, Parks and Recs are specifically in here. Our Commission there is gone. In terms of authority, all the authority really is vested in one person who is not elected by us. It doesn't mean anything is better. And I got to tell you, and you should pay attention, probably, and have seen that a lot of people get themselves into a lot of trouble and go to jail. Even though supposedly they have great education and and really know what they're doing. This does not guarantee that we get some sort of superhuman being. I want to be able to vote for the five people and and hold them accountable. And I hope you do too. Thank you very much, Mr. Moderator.

Mr. Oates - Can I just speak on that?

Moderator - He didn't ask a question, Mr. Oates.

Kevin Walsh 5 Stony Lane - I am also a member at large of the Budget Committee. Um, just a couple of things. I have a couple of questions. First, Mr. Moderator, first, my question is, is this article if it's adopted, is it advisory to the budget, to the Board of Selectmen? No, no. This means that the town would have to move toward a town manager form of government. Okay. I don't know how they would do that, but there must be a process involved that would do that. Okay. Thank you. Second question is there would. Go ahead. Second question is, during the budget process, there was a lot of discussion around a new position that was put into the budget by the Board of Selectmen for an assistant town administrator for \$182,851. How how would that be impacted by this? Should this, uh, article be adopted? I don't know how that struck. I don't know how the town manager form is, is structured and whether the new positions have to be created by the Board of Selectmen or by the voters or. Or what? Or the manager has the ability to say, I need an assistant and I'm going to hire one?

Moderator - I don't know, we don't have those answers that would have to be looked at. Thank you.

Mr. Walsh - Um, I would like to make a motion to amend.

Moderator - Well, you've already spoken and asked questions, so I'm not going to take a motion to amend at the same time at this.

Len Siegel 6 Beachwood Road - I am very much against this article and my reasoning. After listening to Mr. Jasper explaining what the statute is and what those roles are, is based on my personal experience. 44 years in a suburban town in Massachusetts where we had that sort of government. Effectively, it was a town manager and a board of selectmen. The Board of Selectmen did the hiring, but all department heads answered solely to the town manager. And the example is they hired a police chief who? Well, he came from New Hampshire, and he was, uh, how do you put it? Uh, they were very happy to see him leave New Hampshire. He ended up in a federal lawsuit for firing two of his officers that were called up to Desert Storm, and he tried to defend his position in the town that I lived in. I worked for him for a few years as a police officer. He also took retribution on some officers that were called up in subsequent, uh, activity in the Middle East. He was basically hated by every department head and the selectmen, with one exception, his boss. And so they couldn't get rid of him. A number of officers quit. The force retired early because of him in particular. And I'd rather trust five people. To make the judgment call on someone that is a hired hand, if you will, for the town. Then having one person make that decision. Like I said, the only person that liked him and I was appointed to three different positions in the town and knew everybody in town hall. And, you know, I mean, they talked openly about what they felt about this fellow. So they were stuck with him until he retired. And I don't want to see that kind of situation. I don't want to see us drive towards that kind of situation. We have a pretty good town right now and pretty good department heads, and I really hate to see that messed up by changing the type of government to what's being recommended here in this article, so I oppose it. Thank you.

Mr. Oates - I just wanted to add some clarification. Um, when hiring a town administrator, there is zero qualifications required. There is zero background required. There's zero education level required. You can pretty much appoint anybody you want to your town administrator. No qualifications. Town manager. The state. The RSA puts strict requirements on who can and cannot be hired as your town manager. That is a core difference. The other core difference, as my slide reiterated, is that population size throughout the state of New Hampshire has been the shift from town after town after town, from town administrator to town manager to city manager. Depending on how large their population has gone, it's shown time and time again as the core reason, and you continue to see warrant articles for space studies, warrant articles for infrastructure studies, all things that would have been on the town manager's desk, all things the town manager would have already been looking at. They wouldn't need the education. They wouldn't need people to bring them as special warrant articles, because they would have already been looking at them, because that's what their education, that's what they went to college for. That's what they understand. That's their job. Right? A town administrator doesn't have any of those qualifications, doesn't have any of those backgrounds. If Paul and Planning wants to be the town administrator and the openings there, he can do it. If Paul, the moderator, wants to be the town administrator and the job opens up, he can do it. Why? Because there are no background requirements by state law around the Board of Selectmen and who they choose. They can singly appoint anybody they want at any point. They can fire the town administrator when they want. They can hire and put in anybody they choose. They can fire the town manager as well, but they have to rehire somebody else based on a strict set of qualifications set forth by the state. Thank you.

Rich Weissgarber 21 Flying Rock Road - Just a quick question. The warrant that I'm holding shows recommended by the board and the slide says not recommended. So I'm just curious which one is it.

Moderator - I have recommended that a mistake.

Mr. Weissgarber - So was it recommended or not recommended?

Moderator - It was recommended.

Chairman McGrath - But I may have voted against it because.

Moderator - It says 4 to 1.

Moderator - Okay. I just want to make sure that that language didn't make it onto the final warrant.

Selectman Morin - First of all, we've just heard that the the RC club would have been talked to the plans for warrant articles, and things would have been looked at by a town planner, a town manager. All these things would have been already done. But what they didn't say is if this town manager didn't want to see this stuff, he just had to say no. We had a board that all this stuff came to and whether it got voted for or against, at least it was five people. This one person can say, no, I don't want the RC club, I want the solar panels and that's it. You have no say. You lose a lot of say in this. When we originally discussed this, my personal thought was I agreed to this, but if we're going to do this step, we might as well just go to a city and stop the middle stuff. Let's just have a mayor and a council. Since that time, I've done a lot of looking into this, and the town manager plan, you, as the residents will lose a lot of say in what what goes on in the government with the town manager. He does have a lot of rights. Contracts will be handled by the town, uh, will be handled by him. It won't be handled by the Board of Selectmen or a committee anymore. And I did vote in favor of this. I will be voting against it today when the meeting ends. Thank you

Kevin Walsh 5 Stoney Lane - Mr. Moderator, *I rise to make an amendment to is to strike the second and third sentences. Just leaving the first sentence. The first question. Do you favor adoption of the town manager plan as provided in chapter 37 of the Revised Statutes Annotated?*

Moderator - And you want to remove all the stuff about the Hudson, the current town administrator, and all that. You want to just leave it to one sentence. *Ms. Whiting seconds the amendment.*

Ed van der Veen - Point of Order. Is it possible to amend a petition warrant article in this fashion?

Moderator - Every article is amendable except those that are set by law. And I think the wording of the law if I'm going to ask our attorney, the first sentence is the only thing that's required. The rest of it is just, uh, it doesn't doesn't have to be there. Only the first sentence. That's all that needs to be voted on. But yes, a petition or articles can be amended and have been multiple times.

Mr. Walsh to speak on his amendment- Thank you, Mr. Moderator. If I may indulge you for a moment. My wife and I arrived here in Hudson in 1972, in the wonderful month of August. So our first town meeting was 1973. And guess what was on the article? One of the articles, the petition article form a town manager form of government. This has been coming up since we've been in town more often than the Circumferential Highway. But to get back to the business of what I'm trying to propose here is to keep it simple. I applaud people who have taken the time to put together a petition warrant articles. I think it's awesome, and I'd like to see more people get involved and have competitive elections every March. So again, just to kind of keep this simple, it enables the Board of Selectmen to conduct the due diligence and, um, fulfill the position as required. Uh, the second thing is, as, uh, Budget Committee Jasper Member Jasper said, the devil's in the details. There's a lot of things in there that need to be addressed in terms of how the Board of Selectmen would want to see a town manager form of government evolve. So I think it's great that there's a petition article out here to have that discussion once again. But I think really what it is, is kind of keep it simple. Do we or do we not want to do this? I don't want to see the Board of Selectmen, quote unquote, handcuffed by saying they may need to, uh, offer this to our existing Town Administrator, with whom I have tremendous respect and admiration for his years of service. But let's do what's best for the town and to move forward that way. Uh, so ideally, what I would like to see is the Board of Selectmen, if this does pass, is to come back and really share with us what their vision is for how this is going to be implemented and make us a more efficient, effective and affordable town to live in.

Moderator - Thank you, thank you. Let's deal with just the amendment on removing the words after the first sentence question mark. All those words are coming out. We're going to deal with just that as the amendment. Anyone wish to discuss removing those words?

Mr. Segal - For the second time, I think my comments are just as relevant to this amendment as they were to the original, and that is I'd like to know, uh, Mr. Oates claimed that there's no qualifications for a town administrator, and I'd like to know if there's any statutory, um, prohibition for the selectmen to create, uh, requirements. Education requirements and experience requirements for a town administrator. In other words, what would we would could we do make the difference?

Moderator - You're still talking about the article I want to do deal with the part where they're removing the information after the first sentence. The first sentence is the only one required to to adopt, uh, a town manager form of government. All we're talking about now is, are we going to take out the rest of the sentences from the article, which is, uh, for Hudson, the current Town Administrator would assume the role of an until retirement or termination, and the town manager has powers and duties afforded to it by state law, whereas a town administrator does not. Those are what we're taking out. And that's we're going to deal with just that. We're not going to talk about whether we're going to go back to the article, but let's talk about moving, removing those words. If this body feels that they should remove them. Anyone to talk about removing the words?

Kathy Leary 8 Par Lane - just a question. Or maybe clarification. Previous you you stated that as originally awarded the warrant article would be, you know, basically mandatory not an advisory one would deleting those two sentences. Does that change that?

Moderator - No. The only thing that is mandatory under state law is the first sentence.

Ms. Leary - Okay. I just wanted to clarify. I just I wasn't sure it.

Moderator - It doesn't affect anything else. You could do that warrant article in one sentence.

Mr. Gasdia - Um, my only concern with this. And again, like I said before, I was I was on the fence. I would be against this, um, because I think that one of the benefits we currently have in Mr. Malizia, I'll call you out by name, is that he has been doing this a long time. I don't know if he has the qualifications of being a manager. Or not. I'd rather not find out in the last wording. Not that I ever want this to happen. It did say the Board of Selectmen could fire him if he if they don't want him. But I just worry here that we're going to go. If this passes, we go to a new form of government. Unfortunately, the person that has more history or as much history as anyone in this room of how our government works would potentially not be able to do it. And now we're going to bring in someone brand new, in a new form of government. So to me, I felt more comfortable with the continuity that was built into the other one to sort of give us that bridge. If we do go to a town manager, at least we have the person here that's been doing it for a while. And then when he moves on, we will have been at a point with this amendment. I would not be in favor of it.

Mr. Jasper, On the amendment. I am in favor of the amendment because it's really nothing more than advisory, but it's going to give people a false sense that that Mr. Malizia will stay in that role. There's no guarantee he wants to. But it's also under statute it's the Board's job to determine who's going to be that position. So this is advisory, but it gives a false sense. It needs to come out so people can look at this with the legal clarity that they should be. Thank you.

Mr. Oates - I oppose it just because, um, the original amendment that I put forth, the core was to keep Mr. Malizia in his position, um, understanding that, you know, he'll probably retire in the next few years based on some comments that he's made in the past. Um, wasn't really a surprise, I thought. I thought that this would give us the opportunity to structure into a new form of government. With Mr. Malizia in place while preparing for this new form of government, my intention was never to push Mr. Malizia out. That's why I had that second part in because, you know, he's done a great job for the town over the last. What is it,

two, three decades you've been here? Okay. Um, far longer than I've been here in town. So, you know, my intention was to let him ride off into the sunset, and then we pivot.

Moderator - But it's advisory. So are we ready to talk about the amendment, taking the words out?.

Mike Tranfaglia 24 Woodcrest Drive- Um, while I am against the article, I am very much against the amendment, as it is. At least the other two sentences added some clarification. Thank you.

Paige Schaller 213 Fox Hollow - Uh, I just wanted to clarify. Earlier you had said this was not advisory, but now this is?

Moderator - The second two sentences are. The first sentence is the only one that has the law behind it.

Ms. Schaller - Okay. Thank you.

Craig Putnam 59 Rangers- So so by having the law behind it as worded, do you favor the adoption sounds advisory to the Board of Selectmen. If it were worded. Shall the town adopt? That sounds prescriptive.

Moderator - I think the wording is set in the RSA. Our attorney says yes. That wording is what prescribed in the RSA for adopting a town manager form.

Mr. Putnam - So this is prescriptive wording?

Moderator - This is prescriptive wording. You can't change it. Are we ready for the amendment to remove the last two sentences?

Debbie Putnam 59 Rangers Drive - So wait a minute. The last two sentences that are being proposed to be struck are advisory? But overall, if they're included with the first sentence, it becomes?

Moderator - No, they're not they're not legal. It's an advisory.

Ms. Putnam - It's mandatory.

Moderator - the first sentence is mandatory. The second two sentences are not.

Mr. Jasper - That just gives a false sense. So it needs to come out.

Moderator - to create a town manager form of government. You need that first sentences. Anything else after that is advisory to the Board.

Gail Porter 9 Newton Street - I just have a question, and I think I'm not the only person confused as it's worded now and or how it was worded before the proposed amendment. Either way, if that is passed in March is this warrant article advisory?

Moderator - No.

Ms. Porter - Either way they have to follow through with it if it passes?

Moderator - The other part that we're taking out would have been an advisory comment by the voters.

Ms. Porter - Thank you very much.

Moderator - *Are we ready for a vote on the amendment to remove the last two sentences?* All in favor of the amendment, please raise your cards. Thank you. Those opposed? Oh, the nays have it. *The amendment fails.* We are now on Article 32 as adopted or as originally stated.

Mr. Jasper - Yes, for second time. The statements were made about the qualifications being very specific in the statute, and I'd like to ask the town attorney to read the specific section dealing with qualifications of a town manager. Or I can. Glad to do it as well. All right. The town manager shall be selected with special reference to his education, training and experience to perform the duties of the office, and without

reference to his political belief, and shall in all matters be subject to the direction and supervision, and hold the office at will of the selectmen, who may by majority vote, remove him at any time, for cause. So that doesn't say you have to have any type of coursework, and it's totally subjective to the views of the Board of Selectmen at the time as to if he has special training or not. There's nothing in there. So to say, oh, we're going to get this person. No, it happens, you know, all the time. It happens in state government when, you know, commissioners are supposed to have these qualifications. The Governor and the Executive Council decide close enough. So don't be fooled to think that there's anything special about this here. It's whoever the five people decide, decide. But they have to have cause to fire. And that is the problem. It just can't be that they don't like the decision. Cause is defined in law. We've gone through this many times, um, with, with other officials who have special, um, legislative protection, if you will. And so cause is not just I don't like the tie he wore today and that this is part of why I don't like it. It's part of what happened in, in the early 80s. You know, we went from a three man board of selectmen with a town administrator to one with a town manager. That didn't work out. We went to a five member board with an administrator, and then we went to a town council, and that didn't work out. And we went back to a five member board of selectmen. And we've had the same administrator for 21 years. And I'm going to tell you, we've never had such a stable period of time in our government. And I think it's there's no reason to change and there's no evidence that it's going to do anything, um, special here. And again, I just urge people to vote this down and hope that the Board of Selectmen will change their vote.

Moderator - further discussion on Article 32 as written?

Len Segal - Uh, back to what I was trying to say before, I don't believe and please correct me if I'm wrong, that there's any statutory, uh, words that prohibit a Board of selectmen from creating, um, you know, a list of qualification requirements in the hiring process for a town administrator. That's correct. They can make up their own rules for how they hire qualifications. We can ask for someone that's, you know, qualified educationally. We can ask for someone that has experience. It isn't like cut and dry that because it's a town administrator, you know, you can take a person that was a janitor yesterday and make them the town administrator. No offense to janitors, but that's up to the Board. The Board's decision.

Chairman McGrath - I'd like to limit discussion.

Moderator - *Selectman McGrath moves the question. Is there a second?* Thank you, Mr. Siegel. It's to cut off debate on article 32. If you're in favor of cutting off debate on article 32 and closing it, please raise your hand. Cards. Thank you. Those opposed. The ayes have it. Article 32 is closed and it goes to the ballot.

Article 11 Funding for Police Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$105,000 from the unassigned General Fund balance of June 30, 2024 which will be added to the Police Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established March 9, 2021?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.000

Chairman McGrath - Thank you. Warrant article 11 seeks to appropriate \$105,000 from the town's unassigned fund balance, also known as surplus, to put funding into the Police Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The unassigned fund balance is approximately 7.3 \$7.3 million. This capital reserve fund was established in March 2021 for the purpose of purchasing new and replacement Tasers, bulletproof shields and body worn cameras for the police department. This capital reserve fund currently has a balance of \$6,112. The tax rate impact for this warrant article is zero. The Board of Selectmen has recommended this article 4 to 0. The Budget Committee has recommended this article 9 to 0.

Moderator - Thank you. We'll open article 11 to public questions or comments if anybody has any. Seeing none. We'll close the discussion. Article 11. It goes to the ballot.

Article 12 Funding for Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 which will be added to the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in March 2008?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Tax Rate Impact is \$0.005

Chairman McGrath - Warrant Article 12 seeks to appropriate \$25,000 to put funding into the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. This Capital Reserve fund was established in 2008 for the purpose of conducting future property. Reevaluations. This capital reserve fund currently has a balance of \$158,719. New Hampshire municipalities are required to reassess property a minimum of once every five years. Hudson's last town wide property reassessment was in 2022, and it cost approximately \$175,000. The town is scheduled to conduct its next reassessment no later than the 2027 property tax year. The tax rate impact for this warrant article is less than \$0.01 per thousand. The Board of Selectmen has recommended this article 4 to 0. The Budget Committee has recommended this article 9 to 0.

Moderator - Thank you. We'll open up Article 12, the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund, the questions or comments. Anyone have any questions? Comments. Amendments? If not, I'll close the discussion on Article 12.

Mr. Jasper - Mr. Moderator, could I ask the Board of Selectmen if they could just forego talking about it unless there are questions moving forward, because I think they're all self-explanatory and we could save a lot of time. It's been a long day and a lot of a lot of breath.

Moderator - I'm going to still read them only because in case there's somebody brings up a question, but there usually is a discussion as to what what the fund balance is, so that if you at least put that part out there instead of, you don't have to repeat all the other stuff. Article 12 moves to the ballot.

Article 13 Funding for VacCon Truck Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 which will be added to the VacCon Truck Replacement Capital Reserve Fund as previously established in March 2006? \$15,000 of this sum will come from the General Fund and \$15,000 will come from the Sewer Utility Fund.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0

Tax Rate Impact is \$0.003

Selectman Dumont - I'll keep it quick. It was established in 2006, and currently there's a value of \$96,740 in there. It was unanimously approved by both, unanimously recommended by both boards, and it's less than \$0.01 per thousand on the tax rate impact.

Moderator - Thank you. Anyone wish to discuss the question? The VacCon Truck Replacement Capital Reserve? Seeing none. Close the discussion on 13 and it goes to the ballot.

Article 14 Funding for Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 which will be added to the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund previously established March 14, 2000?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.010

Selectman Morin - Pretty much this covers all the apparatus of the Fire Department major apparatus, the engines, ladders, things of that nature. Currently, there's a balance of 81,007, 57. This is a \$0.01 per thousand. And the moderator gave the votes of 4 to 0 and 9 to 0.

Moderator - Anyone have any questions about the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund? If not, we'll close the discussion on article 14 and it goes to the ballot.

Article 15 Funding for Fire Apparatus Refurbishment/Repair Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 which will be added to the Fire Apparatus Refurbishment/Repair Capital Reserve Fund previously established March 11, 2008?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.020

Article 15. Fire apparatus refurbishment. Repair capital reserve fund. Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the fire apparatus refurbishment repair Capital Reserve Fund established in March of 2008. Board of selectmen recommended 4 to 0 Budget Committee, 9 to 0.

Selectman Morin - At this time. That fund has \$312,598. \$0.02 per thousand. This also covers the major apparatus within the Fire Department.

Moderator - Thank you. I'll open it up to any questions. Anybody have any questions on this capital reserve fund? Seeing none we'll close the discussion on article 15 and it goes to the ballot.

Mr. Jasper - I like to move the reading, waive the reading of any additional warrant articles, and just move on with the presentations by the Board.

Moderator - Okay, I can do that. We can put it up on the on the on the article and if the Selectman needs to make a few comments. All right

Article 16 Funding for Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 which will be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established March 18, 2011?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.005

Moderator - The town is appropriating \$25,000 to be added to that fund was established in 2011, recommended by the Board 4-0 and the Budget committee 9 to 0. Does anyone have any questions on that? What is the balance right now? Currently there's \$61,619 in the account.

Article 17 Funding for Generator Replacement/Repair Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 which will be added to the Generator Replacement and Repair Capital Reserve Fund previously established March 8, 2022? \$10,000 of this sum will come from the General Fund, \$10,000 will come from the Sewer Fund and \$10,000 will come from the Water Fund.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.002

Anyone wish to discuss the generator replacement repair fund? If not, we'll close the discussion and it moves to the ballot. Thank you.

Article 18 Funding for Benson Park Renovation Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 which will be added to the Benson Park Renovation Capital Reserve Fund previously established in March 1998?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.002

Moderator - The amount is to appropriate is \$10,000, which will be added to the fund established in March of 1998. The Board of Selectmen was 5 to 0 and the recommended by the Budget Committee 9 to 0.

Selectman Dumont - Balance in that account is \$76,940, and there is a tax impact of less than \$0.01.

Moderator - Anyone wish to discuss the, um, Benson Park Renovation Capital Reserve Fund? If not, we close the discussion on Article 18. It goes to the budget.

Town Administrator Malizia made a motion to restrict reconsideration of Articles 11-18. Seconded by Mr. Weary. Motion carries.

Article 19 Establish a Drainage Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to establish a Drainage Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of designing, repairing or replacing drainage and drainage infrastructure projects, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be placed in this fund? Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-1
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.020

Selectman Morin - Okay, this is a new capital reserve fund, so I'm going to read it. Just so if anybody has any questions. Warrant Article 19 seeks to establish a drainage capital reserve fund. The purpose of this fund is for designing, repairing or replacing storm drains and drainage infrastructure projects. This article would appropriate \$100,000 to start the fund. There is approximately 100 miles of storm drainage in town, and much of it predates 1970. The recent heavy, persistent rain we've received has highlighted the need to invest the critical infrastructure. If this article passes, the Board of Selectmen are named agents to expend this fund. The tax impact on this article is \$0.02 per thousand. Board of selectmen recommended 4 to 0. The Budget Committee 8 to 1.

Debbie Putnam, 59, Rangers Drive - I stand in strong support of this article. We have a French drain system underneath our home. We're on Rangers drive. We have the detention area two houses away from us, which was very poorly designed from the beginning back in 1985. So the establishment of this new capital reserve fund is a great encouragement to those in town who especially through this last terrible rainstorm, there were people experiencing wet basements that had never experienced wet basements before. We the climate's changing. That's it. I'm a great support of this article 19.

Moderator - Thank you. Anyone else wish to discuss article 19 the establishment of a drainage capital reserve fund? Seeing none, we'll close the discussion and article 19 moves to the ballot.

Article 20 Discontinue Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to discontinue the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund previously established August 19, 1994 and transfer the remaining funds into the General Fund?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-0
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.000

Selectman Morin - I'm going to read this one also, but I'm going to ask the Fire Chief to come up so he can explain this. If anybody's got any questions, or an Article 20 seeks to discontinue the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund, which was established for the purchase purpose of buying and replacing ambulances and associated equipment and supplies, the ambulance, associated equipment and EMS supplies are now being bought and replaced through the EMS Revolving Fund, which was approved by the voters in 2019. Capital Reserve Fund currently has a balance of \$67,324. If this article passes in March, the reserve will be fund will be closed and the funds will be remitted to the Treasury and deposited in the General Fund. It's recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4 to 0. But your Committee 9 to 0.

Fire Chief Scott Tice - So you're up until a few years ago, we funded all our EMS operations through the operating budget. And then we, uh, funded the ambulance replacements through the capital reserve. Uh, since we initiated the EMS Revolving Fund, we also, uh, replace our ambulances through the EMS Revolving Fund, which is, uh, financed through, uh, ambulance fees and our ambulance billing. So the money for several years has just been sitting in this capital reserve fund. Um, we were our original intent was to move that money to the EMS revolving fund to go towards our next ambulance. Uh, but apparently that was not the proper way to to dissolve the, um, capital reserve fund. But there's no sense having that money just sitting there, um, when we're not using it to replace the ambulances.

Article 21 Revised Property Tax Exemption for the Elderly

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to modify the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemptions from property tax, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$132,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$156,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$233,000? To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$50,000 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$60,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$160,000 excluding the value of the residence. If approved this article shall take effect for the final property tax bill of the 2024 property tax year.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.000

Selectman Roy - So the first one on Article 21 is the property tax exemption for the elderly. So for this I'm going to talk a little bit about the qualifications. Just just so everybody understands property owners must be at least 65 years old and have been a New Hampshire residents for at least three consecutive years, and only real estate, either individually or jointly. This article raises the exemption amount from \$121,000 to \$132,000 for qualified taxpayers 65 years or older, up to 765 years old, up to 75 years old, and raises the exemption amount from \$144,000 to \$156,000 for qualified taxpayers 75 years old, up to 80 years old, and raises the exemption amount from \$173,000 to \$233,000 for qualified taxpayers 80 years of age or and older. There are currently 179 elderly exemptions for the three age groups. The annual net income is being raised from \$45,000 to \$50,000 for single taxpayers, and is being raised from 55,000 to 60,000 for married taxpayers. The net asset level amount remains the same at \$160,000. The exemption mammals were last increased in 2022, and the net income and asset amounts were last changed in 2007. If approved, the new exemption amounts take effect with final property bill of 20 of the 2024 property tax year. There is no tax impact for this warrant. Article. The Board of Selectmen recommended it 4 to 0.

Moderator - Any questions on the property tax exemption for the elderly? If not, we'll close that. It'll go to the ballot.

Article 22 Revised Property Tax Exemption for the Disabled

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to modify the provisions of RSA 72:37-b, Exemption for the Disabled from property tax, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be \$132,000? To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, and own and occupy the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by a spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$50,000, or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$60,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$160,000, excluding the value of the residence. If approved, this article shall take effect for the final property tax bill of the 2024 property tax year.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.000

Selectman Roy - So property owners must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least five years and own and occupy the real estate individually or jointly, and be qualified per the Social Security Disability guidelines. This article raises the exemption amount from \$121,000 to \$132,000. For qualified taxpayers, the annual net income is being raised from \$45,000 to \$50,000 for single taxpayers, and is being raised from \$55,000 to \$60,000 for married taxpayers. The net asset level amount remains the same at \$160,000. The exemption amount was last increased in 2022, when the asset and income levels were last raised in 2007. In 2023, 27 properties qualified for the for the disabled exemption. If approved, the new exemption amount takes effect with the final property property tax bill. Of the 2024 property tax year, there is no tax impact for this warrant. Article. The Board of Selectmen recommended 4 to 0.

Moderator - Thank you. Anyone who wants to discuss the revised property tax exemption for the disabled. Seeing none. We close that and it goes to the ballot.

Article 23 Revised Property Tax Exemption for the Blind

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to modify the provisions of RSA 72:37, Exemption for the Blind, to allow an inhabitant who is legally blind as determined by the blind services program, to be exempt each year on the assessed value, for the property tax purposes, of his or her residential real estate to the value of \$132,000? If approved this article shall take effect for the final property tax bill of the 2024 property tax year.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.000

Selectman Roy - This article raises the exemption from \$121,000 to \$132,000. For qualified taxpayers, the blind exemption by law does not have any income or asset limitations. The exemption amount was last increased in 2022. In 2023, the town had 14 blind exemptions. If approved, the new exemption amount takes effect with the final property tax bill of the 2024 property tax year. There is no tax impact for this warrant. Article the recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0.

Moderator - Anyone wish to discuss the revised property tax exemption for the blind? If not, we'll close that article and they move to the ballot.

Article 24 Establish Fire Alarm/Master Box Revolving Fund

Shall the Town of Hudson vote to establish a Revolving Fund pursuant to NH RSA 31:95-h (b) for the purpose of providing monitoring and maintenance of the Municipal Fire Alarm / Master Box System? 100% of revenues received from related residential and commercial permit fees shall be deposited into the fund, and the money shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town's general surplus. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the Board of Selectmen, and no further approval of the Town Meeting shall be required to expend from the fund. These funds may be expended only for purposes of Fire Alarm / Master Box maintenance, supplies, training and education, renovation, salaries or associated operating and administrative purposes. The Fire Alarm / Master Box revolving fund shall go into effect on July 1, 2024.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-0-1
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.000

Selectman Morin - All right. Again, I'm going to read this one because this is a new fund. And just so everybody understands what this is related to the red fire boxes that you see on buildings or on telephone poles around town and the wiring, this is what this fund will take care of, and the fire chief will be available after. If anyone has any questions, Warrant Article 24 seeks to...

Moderator - I just read that, Mr. Morin, you don't have to reread it. I, I just read the whole thing.

Selectman Morin - Obviously, I wasn't paying attention to you.

Moderator - Does anyone have any questions? Uh, on the establishment of the fire Alarm Master Box revolving fund? If not, we'll close the discussion on Article 24.

Article 25 Ratification of Lease Agreement between the Board of Selectmen and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless

Shall the Town of Hudson vote, pursuant to RSA 41:11-a, to ratify a Lease Agreement between the Board of Selectmen and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless ("Verizon") according to which Verizon will be leasing a portion of the South Water Tank property located at 12 Groves Farm Road (Tax Map 235-012-001) for communications equipment. The initial term of the lease shall be five (5) years, and may be extended for four (4) additional five (5) year terms (total 25 years). Rental payments during the first year of the lease shall be \$28,800.00, and thereafter increase by 2% annually. Copies of the full text of the Lease Agreement are available at the Town Clerk's office.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0
Tax Rate Impact is \$0.000

Chairman McGrath - I'll just read the last three sentences if this because you covered the rest. If this article passes, the lease payments will be made to the Water Utility Fund. There is no tax impact tax rate impact for this warrant. Article. The Board of Selectmen has recommended it 4 to 0.

Moderator - Anyone have any questions on the Water Utility? The the ratification of the lease for the water tank?

Heidi Jacoby, 94 Gowing Road- Um, the communication equipment is this like for 5G? And, um, what exactly is the communication equipment and what what course do we have, if any of that equipment causes issues within the neighborhood or other. Because I know some of the 5G equipment and things, um, have. Different kinds of environmental, um, issues. So just wanted some more information.

Moderator - Mr. Dhima has the background on that. Thank you.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - It's my it's my understanding that. And, you know, I can I can get back to you probably tomorrow, not tomorrow. Tomorrow we're going to take off, but Monday maybe, um, shoot me an email. It's my understanding this is a booster station, basically, for what's already out there. So I can tell you personally, I have Verizon and it's horrible. Yes. Um, so I also know that the fire and police had issues on the south end with their radius and all that. So what we've been told that it's the booster, uh, related to the already existing lines out there. Um, if it supports this 4 or 5, I'm not sure I can get that for you, but it's to boost already existing signals that's already out there. So if there's already 5G out there, it which it is, this is just simply going to boost that system. It's a boosting system for what's already out there. That's my understanding.

Ms. Jakoby - Thank you.

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - You got it.

Kathy Leary 8 Par Lane - I assume that Verizon will be maintaining the equipment.

Tim Wyatt 139 Barrett's Hill - question, so it's a tower?

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Ah, this is a platform slash short tower on top of our tower. So it's not going to be a separate tower adjacent to ours. It's going to be on top of the existing tank already. They're going to utilize the height of the tank is basically the primary um, elevation between that. They don't build their own towers if they don't have to. So this is basically a ten foot tower on top of our tank. And it's going to be housing their units. So they're not building something completely like the fire department did when they had to bring the tower from the ground up. That's not the case.

Kathy Leary 8 Par Lane - Do we know how tall our tank is?

Town Engineer Elvis Dhima - Our tank is about 65 to 70ft. So this will be an additional, I want to say about 9 to 12ft on top of that. And it's not some, uh, extraordinary large thing, only ten feet tall and just for

boosting signals. And so this is going to go through a structural engineering review. We want to make sure this is safe obviously, but everything seems to make sense. Other communities have done it as well. And it's basically an asset that could be utilized to generate additional revenue for us. But it will go through the review process if we decide or if you decide to have the selectmen move forward with this.

Ms. Leary - And you already answered my other question, I wasn't absolutely clear on what a water tank was referring to. Just a quick question to clarify if there was if this is on top of our existing tank, any any damage to the tank, I assume Verizon takes care of that as well. Thank you.

Moderator - Thank you. Any further discussion on the ratification of the lease for Verizon for the South Water Tank? Seeing none, we'll close the discussion and it will go to the ballot.

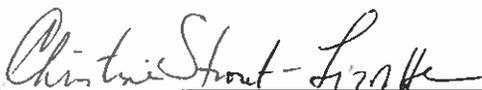
Moderator - Ladies and gentlemen, I congratulate the willingness of you to sit through all of this. Our staff is still here doing their job on a Saturday. Thank you very much. I want to point out to everyone next Saturday here at 9:00, we will have the School Deliberative Session. They only have nine articles, so that's not too bad. We should be out by noon. And please remember that March 12th Ward One will vote here in the Community Center, Ward Two at Alvirne. And you get to vote on your money and taxes. And please show up and vote. We always have not the greatest turnout. Please show up and vote. Thank you very much.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Moderator - I will entertain a motion to adjourn I will entertain a motion to adjourn. Selectman Roy moves to adjourn. Is there the second, Mr. Weissgarber? Second. Oh, and remember, please try to be a little quiet. The Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen are having. They've scheduled meetings and posted them. I hope, um, to look at the warrant article recommendations again before they go to the ballot. Um, those in favor of adjournment, please signify by saying aye. Aye. Those opposed? The ayes have it. We are adjourned at 3:34p.m.

Selectman Kara Roy of 46 Marsh Road made a motion to adjourn at 3:34p.m. this was seconded by Rich Weissgarber of 21 Flying Rock Road. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by HCTV. Transcribed by Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen.

Attest: 
Christine Strout-Lizotte, Town Clerk