

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the January 9, 2012 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Jasper the meeting of January 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the BOS Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Selectman Luszey.
3. ATTENDANCE
Board of Selectmen: Shawn Jasper, Roger Coutu, Rick Maddox, Ben Nadeau (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Ted Luszey
Staff/Others: Mark Pearson, Assistant Town Administrator; Donna Graham, Executive Assistant; Bernie Manor, Chairman of the Sewer Committee; Dave Briand, Chairman of the Dog Park Committee
4. PUBLIC INPUT - NONE
5. NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS - NONE
6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman Jasper asked if there was any Board member who would like to remove any item from the consent calendar for separate consideration.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to approve consent items A, B, C, D and E, as noted or appropriate, carried 4-0.

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Veteran Tax Credit - Map 253, Lot 012; Map 167, Lot 058; Map 198, Lot 161; Map 175, Lot 080, w/recommendation to approve

B. Water/Sewer Items

- 1) Sewer Abatement - S-UTL-12-16, w/recommendation to approve

C. Licenses & Permits

- 1) Hawker/Peddler/Itinerant Vendor's License by James A. Kubit, aka Jimmy's Catering
- 2) Raffle Permit by Jeanie Barkley Memorial Fund

D. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the December 27, 2011 meeting

E. Calendar

01/10		VOTING - PRIMARY ELECTION
01/11	7:00	Planning Board - Buxton CD Mtg Room
01/11	7:00	Budget Cte - public hearing - Community Center
01/12	5:00	Sewer Utility Cte - BOS Meeting Room
01/12	7:00	Budget Cte - IF NEEDED - Community Center
01/12	7:00	Zoning Board of Adjustment - Buxton CD Mtg Room
01/16	7:00	Energy Cte - Buxton CD Mtg Room
01/17	5:00	Senior Bldg Cte - Buxton CD Mtg Room
01/17	7:00	Cable Utility Cte - BOS Mtg Room
01/18	5:00	Water Utility Cte - BOS Mtg Room
01/18	7:00	Council on Aging - Buxton CD Mtg Room
01/19	7:00	Benson Park Cte - BOS Mtg Room
01/19	7:30	Budget Cte - Buxton CD Mtg Room
01/23	6:00	Recycling Cte - BOS Mtg Room

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on December 27, 2011

- 1) Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to reconsider Warrant Article "D", carried 5-0.
- 2) Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to forward Warrant Article "D", carried 5-0.
- 3) Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to forward revised Warrant Article "D" for the tentative contract agreement between the Town of Hudson and the Hudson Support Staff to the Fiscal Year 2013 Warrant, carried 5-0.
- 4) Chairman Jasper declared the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

For the record, Chairman Jasper said that Selectman Nadeau has arrived at 7:03 p.m.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion relative to dog park fence installation at Benson Park

Chairman Jasper recognized Dave Briand, Chairman of the Dog Park Committee. Good evening Dave.

Mr. Briand said he was sure the Board has all seen what's going on at the Park. I believe I'm here tonight for a motion to...

What happened, Chairman Jasper thought everyone on the Board knows that they had a little bit of confusion all the way around. I think even Dave didn't realize that they were going out there to actually start installing the rails and posts last week. I received a call from Selectman Luszey and I had forgotten that we had only gone as far as allowing them to grub. I didn't have any problem with it. We knew that the area had been marked out and laid out. That really wasn't the case. The work did proceed and I think hopefully we'll all agree that in the end it was for the best for the interest of certainly the people raising the money. They received a good deal on having it done now and the company that installed it is counting on income from snow plowing and there is no snow. Why don't you tell us where the project is at the present time?

Mr. Briand said all the posts are in the ground, cemented. We started framing today the top and bottom rail sections. We have fence stretched along the section that runs parallel to Kimball Hill Road. Our sally port entranceway is fenced off, and fencing is stretched almost about half way, and the access road. Tomorrow we have to finish the framing, top and bottom rails for the other two sides. The small dog area poles went in today. The stumping and grading for the small dog area happened today. Assuming we should have everything done - gates in Wednesday.

What Chairman Jasper did tell Mr. Briand is until we get the agreement between the Committee and the Town, regardless of how much is done it's not going to open. At this point, although we're a little behind the 8-ball, what I would like to see tonight is just a motion to authorize them to continue and finish the fencing. I would ask that you add to that that the part not be opened for use until the agreement with the Town is finalized.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to authorize the Dog Park Committee to continue the installation of the fence at Benson Park, and that the dog park not be opened for use until the agreement with the Town is finalized.

Selectman Maddox said no good deed goes unpunished. I understand that in their enthusiasm, we had certain requirements. They still don't have an agreement. Again as you said, they have a great deal. They're doing a good thing. Let's see if we can help them along. I would also as part of this motion we ask the Engineering interns if they're available to shoot out there and give us a real what's out there. I know you've made some modifications. Mr. Briand indicated that they were out there today.

Chairman Jasper talked to the Town Engineer today and he was sending the interns out there to do that.

Selectman Maddox said he's seen 3 different plans Mr. Chairman. It would be nice to have a final plan that reflects what we're going to have out there. Again, let's see if we can get the agreement worked out so we can open it. At least until the snow flies.

Selectman Luszey said he went out there today. It looks fabulous and I think it will be a real boost to the Committee to help continue raise funds for it. People will see something there that they can contribute to.

Pretty much Selectman Coutu's sediments too. As you know, I was out there yesterday and gave a good look and looked at other things while I was at the park as you had suggested I do. I've been in constant contact with Mr. Briand on a weekly basis. When the confusion arose and Mr. Briand became aware of the confusion, he certainly iterated to me that he would be most agreeable if we allowed the company to continue with the erection of the fence. They had absolutely no problem especially where this is winter time and we don't expect a lot of people going down there walking dogs. They would certainly keep it gated and locked until such time as the plans have been approved. It would also give them an opportunity to look at alternative methods of fundraising to continue raising money for the project. I think they're benefitting greatly as a result of the deal that's been offered to them by Gate City Fence Company in that he's doing this without full payment. They still have quite a few dollars that they have to raise in order to complete this project. I'm trying to give you a plug here Dave. If anybody is willing to donate to see this thing through its fruition, they've taken on an awesome responsibility in that Gate City Fence is accepting approximately 50 percent of the money. They still need to raise the other 50 percent. He's willing to wait for them to raise the money. He'll wait to get paid, but he'll put up the fence. This has been long and coming. I applaud you and your team for the work that you've put into this. I think it's going to be another great attraction at Benson Park and certainly will support the motion. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Nadeau has also been out there. One of the things that we looked at is the size of the fenced in area has changed. It's gotten smaller. The little dog park is now put inside the fenced in area. The original plans that we told them to go ahead with have changed. I'm glad to see that the interns went out today and it was GPS while they were out there so that we know exactly what we have. I just wanted to thank the Dog Park Committee for going along with this and Dave for finishing it up and getting a great price on getting it done. I was there this weekend with the warm weather. People were asking when it was going to be ready. I told him as soon as they get the rest of the money. The ones that asked, hopefully they come through with some of the money. That's all I have.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

B. Sewer Utility Committee Secretarial Support

Chairman Jasper recognized Bernie Manor, Chairman of Sewer Utility Committee.

Mr. Manor knows you've been trying to drum up some new volunteers for us. Our volunteer secretary, Mr. Bailey, who has done an outstanding job for the last 3 years elected not to get reappointed. We're kind of left with a Committee that doesn't have the expertise to take good minutes and type them up for us. We're requesting that we get Donna to come on overtime status to come to our meetings and do the minutes for us.

Selectman Coutu said the monies for this would come from the sewer allocation. Mr. Manor said yes. Selectman Coutu said it has no direct impact on the tax rate Mr. Chairman. I certainly have not been diligent in attending the meetings this year inasmuch as we have an awful lot on our plates with the budget session. I intend to become more active as I had been in the past. I realize the importance of having accurate minutes at all meetings. Mr. Bailey did do an outstanding job. He was an outstanding member of the Committee as a matter of fact. I was sorry that he didn't wish to seek reappointment. Mr. Manor has members of the Board - a couple of gentlemen are seniors and have never had to take minutes in the past. I think he's pressed in order to get accurate minutes. I wholeheartedly support the recommendation to authorize the hours that he's recommending. It's a minimal increase in his budget.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to authorize overtime for Donna Staffier-Sommers, Sewer Utility Administrative Aide, to provide secretarial support at the Sewer Utility Committee's monthly meetings.

Selectman Maddox is going to vote against this. I think it starts a slippery slope of having committees coming in asking for secretarial support. I could see that she spends some extra time during the week having great minutes. The only thing you have to provide as far as minutes is motions and attendance. To pay somebody that kind of money to sit there at a meeting seems to make no sense. If that be the case, then we'd be asking for - again, I just think we're setting ourselves up for a position that we shouldn't be in. I think we have to task somebody, and I'm looking at the Assistant Town Administrator to find a way to have a checklist and all they have to do is check off who made the motion and whatever. I think this is just going a way that we don't want to go to in the long run.

Selectman Coutu asked if we should send our Executive Assistant home. Selectman Maddox said if we're going to save money, yes.

Chairman Jasper said to that there is a difference between a governing body which is and can be sued and has a responsibility to keep accurate minutes and a difference between a committee which only makes recommendations.

Our land use boards which do and can get sued have professional minute taking for that reason. We've sort of gone the other way from everything else. The Budget Committee does not. One of the things that would be very easy to do is to allow the staff during the day to simply watch the tape and make minutes from the tape. I think that Selectman Maddox is probably on the better course. When they go in with an agenda, they know what the requests are. You could have pre-made motions as we do here on the agenda here for the Board to simply record the vote and if there are any motions that came up - if somebody is not sure about it and didn't get them down, you can refer to the tape. I would agree with Selectman Maddox that to go down here and start spending the money for a board that is advisory to this Board is probably not necessary. Although I am very sympathetic for 2 years as Chairman of the Budget Committee, no one on the Committee would take the notes and I chaired and took the notes. It wasn't the easiest thing I ever did in my life. That is one thing that I did. I think now particularly where we have the advantage of the tapes it could be something that we could do pretty easily.

Selectman Luszey said you kind of just hit upon it. When I was the Chairman of the Budget Committee that's exactly what we did. We filled out motion statements and blank ones that people could write them up during the meeting. That's all the minutes were the motions, who made them, and seconded the vote. We did suggest that if folks wanted to see the meeting in its entirety, it's available on the website for their perusing pleasure.

Selectman Coutu wanted to straighten something out - a mis noma. For the record, their meetings are not taped. They're not live. They're held early in the evening at 5:30 p.m. and they're not taped.

Chairman Jasper was not suggesting we bring somebody in necessarily at 5. Perhaps they should be taped. That's part of the cable. The next is its going to be the water. I agree. This is a slippery slope.

Mr. Manor said we have all agreed to change the time of the meeting to 5:00 p.m. It would be less of a problem for Donna to attend and where our meetings have not last more than an hour in the past 6 months. It's only an hour of time and she could do it directly after work. If it means that I'm going to have to do more work, I'm certainly going to beg for her assistance. I don't think we need to do more.

Chairman Jasper didn't think Mr. Manor needs to either. When you have an agenda, you have pretty much all the requests. You know whose requesting abatements. You know who's requesting whatever. She could do those motions in advance so that when it came up, you would have a motion sheet in front of you. As I said as the Chair of the Board of Selectmen does as well in most cases. I understand what you're saying and we could certainly work with the cable people and see if we could get somebody in here to tape your meetings and broadcast them live at 5 p.m. That's well after school. It shouldn't be a problem to have them broadcast. That's one of the reasons we have the cable facility. I understand what you're saying and if it was just looking at the one committee, I would have a problem. I think it gets down that slippery slope. We've certainly tried to get away from that. You shouldn't have to do more. I ask to give it a try and see what we can do. See if we can get it taped. See if she can do the pre-motions and then just turn the paperwork over to her afterwards for her to do the formal minutes that need to be adopted at the next meeting and let's see how that goes. I think that's the sense on where this Board would like to go. Do you think that would be something that we could try for a while and see how it works?

Mr. Manor said he'd rather not. Chairman Jasper said he knows that. Mr. Manor said a lot of the questions we get from the Committee members are related to what she's doing as far as the paperwork goes and the charges that are against the manifest that she has. In a sense, she's not here to answer that. I have to take those questions back to her, take the minutes at the next meeting, and answer those questions. If she was here, we could get those answered at the time. I think it's a real advantage to have her here. I'm really pushing to get it.

Chairman Jasper said you've put a different twist onto things. If she's the Administrative Aide to your committee essentially, so if the question is or a large part of it is you really need her there to be able to answer questions and to have her there as an assistant to the committee. Do you have the Town Engineer there or not? Mr. Manor said he generally comes if he's available. By having the meeting changed now to 5 p.m., it's easier for him to make it too. We think it's going to be better for everybody all around if we go to a 5 p.m. meeting. Chairman Jasper said even though the Town Engineer is there, you have a lot of questions that have to go to her because of the billing. Mr. Manor said yes.

Vote: Motion carried 3-2. Selectman Maddox and Selectman Luszey in opposition.

Chairman Jasper said it changed his position based on that request. Let's see how long it goes. If this causes your meetings to go longer than average, then I may want to revisit this. Mr. Manor said they'd like to get home in time for supper. It won't be a long meeting.

Ms. Graham asked if the Board still wanted the Sewer Utility Committee to be videotaped. Chairman Jasper thought it should be. Selectman Coutu said he would make that request.

C. Conservation Commission 2012 goals

Chairman Jasper indicated that this item has been moved to the February workshop.

D. Second leaf pick up and weekend yard waste disposal at West Road

Chairman Jasper recognized Selectman Luszey.

Selectman Luszey said if it's a short discussion we can have it this evening. If it goes more than 10 minutes, we'll table it and move on. The purpose if I may is to have a number of requests for a second leaf pickup. We have one that we approved. There's a lot of folks that feel that a second one would greatly help especially in the TR zone. Plus I've also been talking with the Road Agent. He suggested that it would not cost the Town a whole lot to have the dump open every weekend Saturday mornings so folks could bring their grass clippings/yard waste only for 3 out of the 4 weekends if that would help with the yard waste/leaf/grass clipping situation that we seemed to have caused with the new contract. That's really what I wanted to bring up and see if there's support from the Board to have one or both of those proposals move forward.

Chairman Jasper thought we ought to have a comparison of what the cost would be of one towards the other. I would tend to lean towards having the landfill open more often, obviously not during the winter. This is an unusual winter but I would say probably until December 1st and maybe start again in April versus what a second pickup would be.

Selectman Luszey said that each pickup is about \$9,000. To have the dump open for the yard waste only is around \$200 a Saturday.

Chairman Jasper said it would be cheaper if we said you're looking at 8 or 9 months out of the year to open that additional - we're talking \$600 to \$800 depending on the number of Saturdays a month. So even if it's 10, that's cheaper and provides probably a better access to more people. I would certainly favor that idea. I think people have some responsibility to find a neighbor with a pickup truck, or a friend, or do something to be able to move that debris there and have more people have more opportunity for less money in my opinion.

Selectman Coutu hears what Chairman Jasper is saying but not everybody has access to a truck. A lot of seniors of late have taken advantage of the kids coming in and raking up their yards and they put them out for pickup. I think that the primary impact is going to be in the TR zone, which is pretty much the center of town. Like I said, a lot of people just don't have trucks. If it was me and it was the south end of town, most of us have a place we can dispose of it in our backyards. I don't have a truck and I wouldn't go asking neighbors to borrow their trucks to take my leaves and waste up to the dump. I think that's inconvenient. One of the comments I heard, and I know that Selectman Luszey and I have had a conversation about this, he had told me that he had received calls and people suggesting that we should continue to have pickup. I received the same kinds of requests. One of the things that I've heard on a few occasions is that sure you're keeping our taxes level, but you're taking away our services. A statement that I made pretty much consistently throughout the budget process both last year and this year is that we want to maintain the same level of services but try to control some of the costs. If we're going to remove some of the services, I find it very difficult.

Also what Selectman Coutu finds a little difficult to accept is that we went through an exhaustive, as we always do every year, a budgeting process. We vet the budgets very, very carefully and so did the school especially this year. They did an outstanding job vetting their budget. I personally thought they did an outstanding job but yet at the Budget Committee last meeting, one of the members of the Budget Committee added additional monies for something that he thought was necessary and it was approved. To me, if we had to go back to the Budget Committee or do it on the floor and ask that we add whatever it is to do the leaf keeping so that we don't cut that service, I would certainly be more inclined to support that than I would opening the dump every single weekend. That's my position Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Maddox thought it was a little bit of apples and oranges. I think people that can't get their leaves to the dump are the problem. Opening it up every weekend doesn't seem to make any sense to this Selectman. We saved \$18,000. If we only saved \$9,000 and do it twice and take a look at the tonnage see what actually gets picked up on the first pickup and on the second pickup and make a better decision next year. I think picking it up good or bad some areas it's not needed. I don't disagree but now we're going to have to figure out where those breaks are. I think for the \$9,000 to pick it up another time makes more sense to this Selectman also.

Selectman Nadeau guessed this is where I have a little bit of a problem. I do live in the TR zone for the time being. I have a pickup truck and I do have a place here to get rid of my leaves. I think if you open up the landfill and even if you lived in town here and you had a little car - I don't know how many times I've gone to the landfill and seen people unloading their Lincolns with the leaves on their backseats or their Hyundai with the leaves on their front seats in the

bags and just taking the bag and throwing it out. I guess if its open more often at the landfill and they have more opportunity if they go this week and they go next week and they get rid of their leaves versus spending \$9,000 on having them picked up, I seem to every year miss the pickup days in town. I end up bringing mine up to the landfill. They do a good job of advertising when they are and I do mention it here but it's just some of the times that they do it are just not convenient times like December to pick my leaves up. Usually I have them all picked up. Two years it was December 9th is when they had the second pickup. I think if we do open the landfill, I think that might be a better alternative then having the second leaf pickup. One leaf pickup is nice. Two at the total of \$18,000 for two of them seems a little ridiculous but we'll see where it goes.

Selectman Luszey's closing comment would be I think having the dump open every weekend is a good compromise for me. Given the size of Hudson and the number of residents that would probably use that service is disproportionate. The folks that we're trying to solve the issue for is in the TR zone. I think having the dump open every weekend - kinda to your point - it's not going to be bags, and bags, and bags. Their yards are very small. My guess is there are clippings during the summer is probably 1 bag worth if that, which would fit in most trunks. The major cleanup for the leaves when you rack in the fall would be picked up. So I think in terms of fairness to all the residents, I think that to me is a better approach than the multi pickups.

Chairman Jasper told Selectman Luszey that is exactly why we did away with the second pickup. It was a compromise. My recollection of the discussion really wasn't about the money, it was about how few people were using the services for \$9,000. In my book when you provide town services you provide town services that everyone is using, you don't provide town services that a select group are taking advantage of. Even with the TR zone, that was a relatively small number. I think again, I never wanted us to go to curbside pickup but unfortunately given the way things worked out, we didn't have the opportunity to do a transfer station. It may have worked out at this point where that maybe a wash but for a lot of years it was a lot more expensive to do curbside than it was for that. At that point people either hired somebody, and I'm sure if there is a need, there will be some enterprising young people who will put a notice in the HLN that if you need to have your leaves carted away, give me a call. Particularly if it's open every weekend, it's an opportunity for somebody to make a little bit of money with their pickup truck every weekend and not an expense of the taxpayer. I will be voting against this motion but would vote for a motion to open the landfill from April 1st through the 1st of December.

Selectman Coutu said it was certainly a good compromise and I wasn't thinking about it but it might provide an opportunity for kids to earn some extra money as well. I'd like to hear what your proposal is. How many weekends and for what period?

Selectman Luszey said it would be April 1st through November 30th. We'll give it for the first trial. Given that there will be one leaf pickup for a date which would set and I guess that would be in late November or based on when the leaves fall off.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to instruct the Road Agent to have the West Road dump open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. except for the fourth Saturday (3 additional Saturdays) for the additional 8 months of the year.

Selectman Maddox asked if they were going to put some sort of dollar number to this. Selectman Luszey said it was around \$250. It's the hourly rate of the person working. Selectman Maddox asked if there was only one. Selectman Luszey said there's only one person to manage the gate. That's it. It depends on the person. Chairman Jasper said we do 4 hours; we don't need to go 6 hours for that. You're looking less than \$200. Selectman Coutu said \$125 to \$150 he would think. Chairman Jasper said somewhere in there. It would be under \$200.

Vote: Motion carried 4-1. Selectman Maddox in opposition.

E. Petitioned Warrant Article

Chairman Jasper recognized Assistant Town Administrator Mark Pearson.

Mr. Pearson indicated that the Selectmen's office received 3 citizen's petition warrant articles before the January 10th deadline. That's tomorrow at the close of business. The signatures have been verified by the Town Clerk. The first petition is titled "Benson Park Funding". The second one is titled "Purchase and Contract Reform". The third one is titled "Town Waste, Fraud and Abuse Incentive". These petition warrant articles must be forwarded to the ballot by the Board of Selectmen either with a recommended or not recommended vote. The motions are listed below on the Memo.

On the first petition warrant article, Chairman Jasper did review the deed to Benson Park. It would be a clear violation of the deed to Benson Park to do this for any number of reasons. My feeling is since it does have to go forward, we

should prepare some amended language to this so that when it goes on the ballot it does become clear that it would be a violation of the deed. With that said, I would certainly recommend that the Board NOT recommend.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to forward petitioned warrant article 1, Benson Park Funding as Not Recommended to the Fiscal Year 2013 Warrant, carried 5-0.

Chairman Jasper said petition warrant article #1 will not be recommended. I'll work with staff to look at some language for proposed amendment to this. I think people need to understand the ramifications of it.

On the second warrant article, Chairman Jasper said it would certainly add a lot of money to the budget to try to accomplish this one, which for people watching is "to standardize their contract and purchasing request by requiring a minimum of 3 estimates for any purchase or contract over \$250 and taking into consideration overall cost, Locality of business, and quality/reputation of business to the benefit of Hudson Residents and its Taxpayers". I don't know how one could ever really comply with that.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to forward petitioned warrant article 2, Benson Park Funding as Not Recommended to the Fiscal Year 2013 Warrant.

Selectman Coutu agreed with Chairman Jasper. I think plaudits to people who submit petition warrant articles. In this particular case, the same as the first, the first is in direct violation of the lease agreement. The second one as you stated would add significant cost to the process of having to do this - to vet them. We have to advertise, go out to bid. I certainly agree that I think the intent is that we try to keep it local. I made it clear and I hope I got through to some people that work for this government that I'd like to see some preference given to our local contractors and vendors in town. This clearly would add significant cost to each and every item we wanted to do that cost \$250 or more. It just doesn't make sense. It's not a good deal for the taxpayer. That's why I'm recommending we do not recommend.

Selectman Maddox indicated that the petitioner called him and spoke to him one night. The thing that started him off was the defibrillators. He couldn't find any defibrillators for the \$30,000. I told him he'd had to find the model and the training. I think also be prepared for the deliberative session is to have some of that information. I know we had multiple pricing on that. That's not the same defibrillator you see at Town Hall or in the Community Center. This thing does all kinds of monitoring and whatever. I understand the concept. This is nice and general. We do most of the time request a minimum of 3 bidders. We try as Selectmen to look at a local vendor. To have departments going out every time they buy something that's more than \$250 would be a challenge and a lot of secretarial for a lack of a better term administrative time to accomplish probably what we're doing right now. Maybe we just need to do a better job Mr. Chairman when we get bids in to say we have 8 bidders at the meeting so that people understand that we are not simply going with Larry. It's a competitive bid situation.

Chairman Jasper though Selectman Maddox was exactly right. If people don't understand, we do have certain levels where you have to go out to bid versus just going out and getting the estimates. There are different levels in town. One level you get estimates at another level you go out to bid. When you're talking relative small purchases and for a town of \$28 million operation now and we're signing the manifests every week for hundreds of thousands of dollars. We certainly know that we do a lot of business with local people that our departments try very hard to do business whenever they can with people who are providing the services locally. This warrant article talks about locality, quality, and reputation. A lot of that is very subjective and you can really get yourself into a situation where it's more expensive to go someplace else but I like the reputation of that person better, or I've heard the quality is better. We have a good system in place and its unfortunate that people who bring this in well intentioned don't come in and talk to us or don't sit down and learn about the system that we have in place and what we're already doing in this town. I think we do a great job. Is there anything further?

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Before I read petition warrant article #3, Chairman Jasper didn't read the first one - to put in parking meters at Benson Park, and to give passes to Hudson residents, and things like that. So that was the first one we did not recommend. Number 3 is to require all town offices and departments and employees to have a responsibility to reduce waste and fraud and abuse of town resources and rewarding such town department found to reduce its annual approved budget greater than all other town departments by recognizing that department with an award paid for with a small portion of the department's monetary savings to the Hudson taxpayer. Examples of awards are vacation time, department cookout, small holiday bonus determined by a voting majority of recognized department employees. Much of that is in clear violation of our contracts. We couldn't do it because of our collective bargaining agreements. It would be a nightmare to even try to administer the rest of it. I don't believe that we have fraud in this town. I think we do a pretty good job of reducing waste. Certainly our budgets have not been growing and things have really been cut to the bone in most cases. I don't know how we'd ever administer anything like this.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to forward petitioned warrant article 3, Benson Park Funding as Not Recommended to the Fiscal Year 2013 Warrant.

This particular one Selectman Luszey agreed in terms of the waste, fraud and abuse of resources. There's a Budget Committee that's an elected body that scrutinizes every line item in 4 books that is about 3 inches thick each. I would suggest that if the petitioner has concerns that they may want to run for the Budget Committee since there will be some openings I hear this year.

Again as Selectman Maddox spoke to the petitioner, I said those very words. Sign up for the Budget Committee. I just think this implies that there is waste and fraud. I'm sure there's always going to be something here or there. This isn't going to solve it. We're going to need a department to keep track of all of this. A nice idea but I just don't think it's something that we're going to be able to make work.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

F. Petitioned Warrant Articles

Chairman Jasper indicated that we don't have any other petitioned warrant articles that have come in.

G. Warrant Article "J" Funding for Senior Center Capital Reserve Fund

Chairman Jasper said this was a request by the Budget Committee to add the word "additional" taxation. That's been recommended by the Attorney not to add that. We have forwarded it to the warrant.

Selectman Luszey said that part of the conversation is they wanted to try to make clear to the voting public that this warrant article would not raise any additional taxes. What I did try to instill into the Budget Committee that the warrant article wording was from a template that our Attorney used from DRA. It's important that we don't mess around with the language too much. There have been cases in the past where we did make changes and even though the voters approved the warrant article, DRA rejected it because of the language that went up there. I suggested to the Board that they vote on the dollar figure of the warrant article and if they felt strongly that they wanted to change the wording to bring it up on the floor of the deliberative session against the recommendation of our attorney. I would recommend that this Board do not make any changes to the warrant as it is going forward at this time.

Chairman Jasper said the language says "no amount to be raised from taxation", which is true. The money is in a reserve account. So additional taxation I think actually confuses things by just putting in people's minds well what do they mean by additional taxation. This is how we've always done it. No money to be raised from taxation. That's the way it is.

To add to that, Selectman Coutu watched the Budget Committee meeting and I listened to what they were suggesting. I had seen what was in the packet. I read this to two different people who came into my store. I saw it as because I heard the whole explanation which was it was money that was already raised in taxes but it's in surplus. I understood that. Both of them said well that means you're going to raise \$300,000 but there won't be any additional. Both of them interpreted it to mean that we're going to raise \$300,000 in taxes but there will be no additional after that. That's the way they read it. When a lot of people go into vote, most people don't read warrant articles before they go to vote. They read them when they're there because you can tell by the length of time they're in the booth. They're going to be very confused by the word "additional". I certainly support keeping the warrant article as it has been presented. I would argue on the floor if it's presented there that we don't change it for that reason. Thank you.

Chairman Jasper said without any motion, we'll move right along to Other Business and Remarks by the Selectmen.

9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Coutu - First of all, you and I went yesterday to Mike Undercofler's Eagle Scout Court of Honor. I want to congratulate Michael publicly and his family. You stayed longer than I did because I had to go into Boston to see my grandson. It was very well done and I'm very proud of Michael as I know you are Mr. Chairman. An outstanding job at Benson Park.

The only other thing I have to say is tomorrow is Election Day. Your Selectmen will be there as Board of Election. I hope you all get out to vote. We'll all be there. Selectman Maddox will be grabbing people by the arm trying to get them to join some of our boards and commission vacancies to fill in some of our board and commission vacancies. I hope to see you all at the polls tomorrow. I wish all the candidates the best of luck. Yours as well Mr. Chairman. I think he's going to be disappointed tomorrow. It's not going to be as big as he expects. With that Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman Jasper said he only wanted to double his win over Iowa, so he's only looking for a 16 vote margin. Selectman Coutu said he didn't come to my store and shake my hand.

Selectman Maddox - Let's keep on the election theme Mr. Chairman. Because it is a Presidential election and every four years this happens, probably a little less with the primary but certainly we're going to see a lot of people trying to go through the Community Center tomorrow. I ask for your patience and understanding. The Police Department will be there with some sort of management plan to make sure that this goes as smoothly as possible. Just give us some time. When you step up to the person taking the names if you can enunciate your name clearly, again there's a lot of noise in there and that building is tough. I've sat at those chairs a couple of times and people whisper their names and you're trying to go as fast as you can. Again, state your name clearly and patience. If all of you call your relatives with the same last name, don't be surprised when the M and Ns are out the door and the other lines are empty. People say why can't I go in that line. The books are broken up by alphabet. So understand a little patience. I hope all of you are going to get excited about this election and want to show up come in March. It will be nice to see anywhere near the number we're going to see tomorrow at our March election. Much like Selectman Coutu, I wish the best of luck to all the candidates. I got to ride the Chairman's coattails into Governor Romney's event today. There were more press than there were citizens. I think good or bad we have a responsibility in New Hampshire to do our homework. Hopefully everybody is prepared and we'll see you tomorrow. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Selectman Luszy - I think I'll stay on the election theme. I think we'll see more voters in March than tomorrow. That's my opinion. The media has already declared the winner but I won't say who it is. In terms of the budget, we did have our wrap ups. They were very uneventful. The two budgets, the town and the schools, were very tight. The changes that Selectman Coutu talked about on the school, the Budget Committee did add two small amounts. I think the total was either \$12,000 or \$24,000. I forget which was the right number. It was for items of maintenance that the School Board took out for maintaining the schools on a schedule that had been put in place at least 7 years ago. Those are items that we ended up a few years ago having to put a lot of money into the schools to bring up items that were in dire need of repair. It's the same situation we're finding ourselves in with the roads. Things need to be taken care of. On that note, they are very tight budgets. I'll just pass along that it was a good job by both parties.

Selectman Nadeau - I'll keep on the voting theme too. When I was in Town Hall today, people were coming in and they were asking if there was a democratic primary tomorrow. A lot of people don't realize that it's both the Republican and the Democratic primary tomorrow. There will be both ballots there. For those who are not registered to vote, they can register at the polls. There will be some Checklist Supervisors in the back where you can check in. Selectman Maddox will bring you right over there and show you how to get there through the lines of people waiting to get in. I look forward to seeing everybody there tomorrow. That's it for tonight.

Chairman Jasper said as a matter of fact, there are 18 candidates on the democratic side and 30 on the republican side. So when you go in and get that ballot, you may be blow away by the number of names on there. It could take you a while to find your candidate. There's a lot of competition there and I think it's time for New Hampshire to raise that filing fee. It's getting a little bit out of hand.

Selectman Jasper - I'll stay on the theme only to remind the Board that we need to be at the polls between 6:00 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. tomorrow. The polls do open at 7:00 a.m. but we need to be there by 6:30 a.m.

I'll move on to my favorite subject, Benson Park. You all have a little map in front of you. As you know we had authorized expanding the parking lot. That got grubbed out last Thursday. I went in Friday. If you look at the area that's all grubbed out about half way down it starts to get quite steep. Jay Twardosky the Highway Foreman said Shawn have you thought about this. I hadn't and then we walked around. He had a very good idea. You'll see it says existing parking on this map, which is actually larger because this hadn't been expanded from the last time we expanded. The proposed parking moves along the fence line. If you're facing down the hill you take a left-hand turn and into that area, which was parking. When you walk in there you can see that there were boulders up against the fence and what not. If this Board agrees with that, they'll start grubbing that out tomorrow. I talked to all of you individually about it. The checkered line on the one side of the fence, which is the new path and it has the Evergreens, the proposal would be to allow enough space for a mirror image on the other side with a walkway and then along the parking there would be boulders so that people wouldn't have to walk through the parking lot. They could walk up, get onto the path, and then in through the one gate. The kiosk would be relocated by the gate and the dumpster would be moved slightly closer to the gate, and then another row of boulders between the two so people wouldn't be driving into that path. That would hopefully give us enough parking going forward for a long time. There would still be an additional area that we could move down the hill if we had to. The area that's been grubbed out and some of the loam has been taken out, we'd be looking for fill to raise that up to keep it up a little bit more level than it is. In the area where it says "proposed handicapped parking", that's a very, very level area right there by the gate. So that would work out ideally to take care of those issues down there. I'm looking for a consensus of the Board.

Selectman Luszy asked Chairman Jasper what he thought the number of spaces we're adding. Chairman Jasper said it looks like all in all it would come close to doubling what we have available now. I would say probably at least 80 percent additional space than what we have. Selectman Luszy indicated it depends how they park. Chairman Jasper said they do a pretty good job of getting 4 rows across now. That could probably continue quite a ways down the hill. Gary says that when he has time he will figure out what the parking would hold. I would say in the neighborhood of 80 percent additional

spaces over what we have now. Again because we do this if we had to add on, it would make it pretty easy and nondisruptive just to continue down the hill again. Certainly a lot more parking than I ever thought we needed in that place.

Selectman Luszey asked if the dog park had its own parking. Chairman Jasper said a very limited amount. What their parking is right along - you can see the red edge. They're just going to have parking spaces right there. There had been talk at one time of additional parking. They'd be using the parking in here as well. I don't think we're going to see 300 dogs in there. I certainly wouldn't want to take my dog in there if there were too many dogs in there anyhow at any one time. I think you'll see that not a huge impact at any one time.

Selectman Nadeau had one thing. We said what time the polls opened. The only thing we didn't say is what time they close. Chairman Jasper said 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Selectman Nadeau wanted to make sure that everybody knows they can come until 8 p.m. You forgot that the polls close at 8 p.m. You did tell them they opened at 7 a.m.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Maddox, to approve the proposed parking area, carried 5-0.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted, carried 5-0 by roll call.

Chairman Jasper indicated that Nonpublic Session is being entered into at 8:03 p.m., thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public is asked to leave the room.

Open session is being entered at 8:17 p.m.

Chairman Jasper indicated that during Nonpublic Session there was a Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to approve Chief Murray's request to be paid for 40 hours of his earned vacation time at his current rate of pay, carried 4-1 with Selectman Maddox in opposition.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Luszey, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HGTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Shawn Jasper, Chairman

Roger E. Coutu, Vice Chairman

Richard J. Maddox, Selectman

Benjamin J. Nadeau, Selectman

Ted Luszey, Selectman