

Town of Hudson

Select Board

Minutes— March 25, 2024

Hudson Police Station, 911 Municipal Drive

7:00 PM

All non-confidential documents relative to this agenda are available in the Office of the Select Board or click on link below.

<https://www.boarddocs.com/ma/hudsonma/Board.nsf/Public>

1. Call to Order:

Present were Mr. Duplisea, Mr. Burks, Ms. Congdon, Mr. Quinn and Mr. Gregory. Also present were Ms. Santos and Ms. Vickery.

2. Minutes to be Approved:

a) Public session minutes – March 18, 2024.

On a motion by Ms. Congdon, seconded by Mr. Quinn, the Board voted 3-0-1 to approve the public session minutes of March 18, 2024. Mr. Burks abstained.

3. Meetings and Public Hearings - 7:00 PM:

4. Town Issues:

The Board met with Representative Kate Hogan and Senator Jaime Eldridge for their annual legislative update. Rep. Hogan explained that the year end revenue has been cut by a billion dollars due to a slowing down of the economy and revenue shortfalls. The national economy remains stable as the Biden administration continues to inject stimulus into the economy through various acts. She also noted that she is still working on a PFAS bill. The state budget process will begin in the coming weeks. Senator Eldridge informed the Board that the Governor has proposed an increase for Chapter 70 aid, however the Senator was hoping for more. The Governor proposed a 3% increase for Unrestricted General Government Aid.

Ms. Congdon read the following statement:

“First off, I apologize in advance for this being a little lengthy tonight. However, I’m unapologetic for the intent of what I’m about to share.

I like to think I do this job with honesty, integrity, and what is in the best interest for our residents, and I expect my colleagues are here doing the same. In fact, I know they are. I was put here by the voters to be detailed and forthright. I’m doing so with this statement.

I’m disheartened by a few things.

Recently over the last couple of weeks, I’ve received calls, texts, and even been approached by different residents of town, people who know me, asking what is happening at 78 Main Street, our beautiful town hall, and the dismay and troubles going on there. Holding this seat as a select board member does not give me freedom to discuss issues that are privy to the public. So, you can imagine my surprise when non-employee friends or acquaintances know just as much, if not more than I do.

I work for the residents of this town. My \$2,500 per year salary is paid through the tax payers, as is the same for everyone on this board and every employee of the town.

I, too, am a taxpayer. I am an average person who is trying to do my civic duty and contribute back to the town I was born, raised, worked for, and still love at 48 years of age. But, I am a bit disgusted with a few things that I feel is necessary to mention tonight.

As a resident, if I were to pull a permit from the building department to have work done at my home and someone from the inspector's office drives by and sees work being done, they have the right to knock on my door to ask to see how the work is going. In fact, they have routine inspections just for this reason. The homeowner has the right to allow or deny entry into the home.

So, you can imagine my surprise when I learned that there is discord between the building department and the DPW regarding the trailers that are there due to the fire at the DPW facility. While I am 100% in favor of the trailers, both departments have a job to do. To find out that department heads cannot work together, department heads that are receiving salaries paid by our taxpayers, cannot get along, or at minimum, sit at the obligatory table and solve their problems is appalling to me. What I find even more appalling is that now, the building department must call the DPW director in advance of an inspection, and the building department shall have the police department accompany them. Is this what it has come to? Really? Are we going to exhaust emergency personnel, the police, because two of our departments can't play nice? I find it gross and I am urging the top floor to fix this, because, I for one as a taxpayer, do NOT want to see hard earned money being used inappropriately and for childish reasons.

Second, social media can be so beneficial, and it can be so destructive. A few days ago, a post was put up on Facebook regarding our Building Commissioner, Jeff Wood. Jeff is out of work for medical reasons right now. A couple of meetings ago, we announced his intention to retire on June 3rd, which he will be out on sick leave until his retirement date. He has spent over 25 years serving our town. His job is thankless. You will only hear when he has upset someone, which usually goes to the 3rd floor, and not a lot of the many, MANY wonderful accomplishments he and his office, throughout their careers, have done.

Without getting into too much detail about the post, the answer is NO...Jeff Wood has not been arrested by the Mass State Police and NO, his town issued vehicle was not impounded. Making such statements without having facts is destructive and damaging to someone's character and hopefully the person who posted this is listening and will be more thoughtful in the future.

Thank you for your time and for listening. I hope I've made some positive difference in sharing my frustration. I hope the powers to be have listened."

5. Licenses:

6. Personnel:

- a) Select Board to consider approval of the appointment of Michael Tavares as w-1 Laborer/Driver-In-Training for the Department of Public Works, effective March 26, 2024.

On a motion by Mr. Burks, seconded by Ms. Congdon, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the appointment of Michael Tavares as w-1 Laborer/Driver-In-Training for the Department of Public Works, effective March 26, 2024.

7. Contracts:

8. General:

- a) Select Board to consider nomination of Jennifer Condon and Donna DeWallace as Inspector of Animals pursuant to MGL Chapter 129 § 15 & 16.

On a motion by Ms. Congdon, seconded by Mr. Burks, the Board voted 4-0 to nominate Jennifer Condon and Donna DeWallace as Inspector of Animals pursuant to MGL Chapter 129 § 15 & 16.

- b) Select Board to consider signing the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting in May.
On a motion by Ms. Congdon, seconded by Mr. Burks, the Board voted 4-0 to sign the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting and sponsor articles 1 – 13, 15 – 20, 25 and 28 – 35.

9. Budget:

- a) Select Board to conduct FY 2025 School Budget Hearing.

Department	Dept. #	Amount Requested
School Department	3050	\$44,279,710

Steven Smith, Dan Gale and Superintendent Brian Regan met with the Select Board to update them on their budget process. Superintendent Regan explained that there are no changes to the amount that was voted by the Board back on March 5th (reflected above). The over all increase will be just over 7% over last year.

10. Citizens' Issues:

11. Correspondence to be Noted by Clerk:

12. Executive Session:

13. Adjourn:

On a motion by Ms. Congdon, seconded by Mr. Burks, the Board voted 4-0 to adjourn its public session meeting of March 25, 2024 at 7:45 PM.

**Select Board
Correspondence List – March 25, 2024**

N/A