



**Town of Henniker  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Tuesday February 20, 2024 6:15 PM  
Henniker Community Center**

**Members Present:** Chairman Kris Blomback, Vice-Chairman Bill Marko, Selectman Neal Martin, Selectman Jeff Morse, Selectman Scott Osgood

**Member's Excused:**

**Town Administrator:** Diane Kendall

**Recording Secretary:** Hank Bernstein

**Guests:** See attached Sign-In Sheet

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Kris Blomback opened the meeting with recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Item #1 - Selectman Marko motioned to approve the Consent Agenda February 20, 2024, seconded by Selectman Osgood. The motion passed, unanimously.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town is pleased to announce that Greg Aucoin will be joining as a full-time fire fighter / paramedic. He will retain the position of Rescue Chief and Health Officer. Greg's resume is outstanding and will be a welcome addition.

**PUBLIC COMMENT #1**

No Public Comment

**APPOINTMENTS WITH THE BOARD**

**Dale Clement – HAM Radio Request**

Highway Superintendent Leo Aucoin introduced Dale Clement, of Corbin Rd. Mr. Clement represented the Contoocook Valley Radio Club and gave background on HAM radio users. While they are volunteers, they are federally licensed and provide public services. Mr. Clement introduced Bob Sletten of Bow. Mr. Sletten (KBIQU) is a member of the Contoocook Valley Radio Club, an engineer, and an authority on HAM Radio Repeater Stations. He noted that Mr. Clement is prestigious among the HAM radio community and shared that Mr. Clement was featured on the cover of the national magazine. Mr. Sletten presented a proposal for installing a HAM radio repeater on the Craney Hill Communications Tower. This repeater may be useful in emergency situations, with no cost to the taxpayers, and have minimal risk. The board will table decisions until they receive input from PD, Fire/EMS and Emergency Management.

**APPOINTMENTS WITH THE BOARD**

**Item #2 - Monica Rico – Special Event Permit, Henniker Handmade & Homegrown**

Monica Rico, of Henniker Community Market, filed a Special Event Permit application for 2-day market events on May 11-12 and Sep 28-29. All departments signed off on the application. TA Kendall asked that license applications for wine tasting be submitted 30 days in advance to allow time to process.

**The Board approved the Special Event Permits by signature.**

**NEW BUSINESS****Item #3 - Leo Aucoin, Highway Supt. – Truck & Truck Body Bid Awards & 2024 Paving Contract Extension****(a) Truck & Truck Body Bid Awards**

Supt. Aucoin shared information on the Truck Bid and the Truck Body Bid. Discussion ensued. **Selectman Marko moved to accept the bids and award to Reed Truck Services, Inc and the Truck Body Bid to Donovan Equipment Co., Inc – total \$302,555 dollars, subject to approval of Warrant Article 16 Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Expenditure and give the Highway Superintendent authorization to sign off on these bids. Selectman Morse seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**(b) Paving Contract Extension**

Supt. Aucoin shared information on the past paving contract with Busby Construction. Aucoin explained there are no specific unit amounts per road, the contract pricing is based on unit pricing included in the proposal. The modest increase in unit pricing was included in this proposal and is based mainly on wages. The Highway Department's primary objective to complete this season is Old Hillsboro Road overlay, Liberty Hill Road overlay, Western Ave. mill and fill, and Bacon Road and Deer Run shim and overlay. Other projects discussed with the Road Management Committee for paving are Foster Hill Road reconstruction completion, Dodge Hill Road reconstruction, which will include the stretch of West Hopkinton Road from 202/9 to Dodge Hill Road intersection. Before any projects get started the budgetary amount for each road will be forwarded to the Selectboard for discussion. Discussion ensued. **Selectman Marko moved to extend the contract for Busby Construction for 2024 and give the Highway Superintendent authorization to sign off. Selectman Osgood seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

*TA Kendall noted that Andrew Keller of NH Solar Garden was present and waiting in MS Teams. The board proceeded to Agenda item #6 NH Solar Garden – PILOT Agreement.*

**CONTINUED BUSINESS****Item #6 - NH Solar Garden – PILOT Agreement**

TA Kendall gave background information. NH Solar Garden proposed a solar array to be installed at 1104 Old Concord Rd and have applied for a Payment In Lieu Of Taxes. Mr. Keller updated the board with a revised PILOT agreement of \$5,000 for 20 years. Discussion ensued. Chairman Blomback noted the proposed \$5,000 payment in lieu of taxes represent 65% of the estimated municipal property tax of \$7,692, if taxed at the \$6.93 rate on estimated value of \$1,110,000. **Chairman Blomback moved to accept Mr. Keller's proposal for a \$5,000 PILOT for the Solar Farm at 1104 Old Concord Rd, subject mutually agreed upon language including an annual Consumer Price Index escalator. Selectman Martin Seconded.**

Selectman Marko noted that he would like to see a number closer to the estimated municipal rate. **Selectman Marko moved to amend Chairman Blomback's motion to the amount of \$6,153, seconded by Chairman Blomback.** Discussion ensued. Selectman Marko noted that this number represents 80% of the estimated municipal tax bill. **The amendment to the motion passed unanimously. The amended motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Keller asked for a few minutes to consider the offer as voted.

**NEW BUSINESS****Item #4 - Selectmen schedule for Town Voting March 12<sup>th</sup>**

The board has time to schedule election duties at a later meeting.

**Item #5 - Town Meeting – Assign Warrant Article to Board Members**

The board assigned members to speak to and move warrant articles. Assignments are as follows:

Warrant Article	Speaker	Motion by
#9 – Wastewater Borrowing	Underwood Engineers (or TA)	Selectman Marko
#10 – Lake Management Borrowing	Conservation Commission	Selectman Osgood
#11 – General Operating Budget	Chairman Blomback	Chairman Blomback
#12 – Capital Reserve Appropriation	Selectman Morse	Selectman Morse
#13 – Ambulance Capital Reserve Appropriation	Rescue Chief Aucoin	Selectman Martin
#14 – Ambulance Chassis Purchase	Rescue Chief Aucoin	Selectman Martin
#15 – Appropriation to Expendable Trust Funds	Selectman Marko	Selectman Marko
#16 – Highway Dump/Plow Truck Purchase	Highway Supt. Aucoin	Selectman Morse
#17 – Library Restoration Grant	Library Trustees	Selectman Osgood
#18 – Library Operation Budget	Library Trustees	Selectman Osgood
#19 – Library Accessibility and Safety Appropriation	Library Trustees	Selectman Osgood
#20 – Wastewater Operating Budget	Selectman Marko	Selectman Marko
#21 – Cogswell Spring Water Works Operating Budget	Water Commissioners	Water Commissioners

**CONTINUED BUSINESS****Item #6 - NH Solar Garden – PILOT Agreement Continued**

Solar PILOT discussion continued. Mr. Keller agreed to the board's offer. Mr. Keller will submit a revised agreement with language tying the \$6,153 PILOT to an annual CPI which will be reviewed by the board and town counsel. Once agreed upon, the board will take an official vote.

**Item #7 - Comcast Cable Franchise Renewal Agreement and Internet Update**

TA Kendall gave background. The current cable TV franchise agreement with the town was initially executed in 1983 and in 2008 renewed for another 25 years. Comcast is seeking early renewal to update the agreement to be consistent with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules. The governing body (Board of Selectmen) is the "franchising authority" to negotiate a renewal agreement with the existing cable TV provider because the cable company will occupy public (town) rights-of-way. Municipalities are entitled to charge the company "franchise fees" for that right to occupy public land, just like any other "tenant" of municipal property. The current franchise fee is \$0. This is known as an Informal Process under the law which provides that renewal can be requested by a cable operator at any time. Cable TV providers may only be denied renewal of their franchises in a community once initially granted if they are in default of their current franchise agreements or their proposals are not "reasonable." Additionally, if the municipality has a Franchise Agreement with another cable TV company, the town shall provide a similar agreement. The town also has a cable franchise agreement with TDS.

- The municipality can't use franchise cable television agreements as an opportunity to regulate parallel broadband services, dictating things like Internet coverage, speed, or prices.
- The town can negotiate "in-kind" contributions as part of franchise agreements, which cover everything from cable access for low-income areas to planting flowers in public parks.
- The maximum franchise fee is 5% of gross revenue.
- The gross revenue amount is to be based only on cable television services, not other services that might also be delivered, such as Internet access, phone, or smart home applications.
- The new ruling requires local governments to count most non-monetary "in-kind" contributions toward the maximum 5% franchise fee.

TA Kendall recommended establishing a committee. Discussion ensued. **Selectman Marko moved to convene an ad hoc Cable TV Committee consisting of 3-5 members, TA Kendall to solicit members. Selectman Morse seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

**PAST MEETING MINUTES**

**Item #8 - Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes February 6, 2024, 6:15 p.m.**

**Chairman Blomback moved to accept these minutes, seconded by Selectman Morse. Motion carried 3-0-2.**

**(Chairman Blomback and Vice-Chair Marko abstained)**

**Item #9 - Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes February 9, 2024, 5:00 p.m.**

**Chairman Blomback moved to accept these minutes, seconded by Selectman Morse. Motion carried 3-0-2.**

**(Selectman Marko and Selectman Morse abstained)**

**Item #10 - Board of Selectmen Non-Public Meeting Minutes February 9, 2024, 5:01 p.m.**

**Selectman Martin moved to accept these minutes, seconded by Chairman Blomback. Motion carried 3-0-2.**

**(Selectman Marko and Selectman Morse abstained)**

**Chairman Blomback moved to unseal these minutes, seconded by Selectman Martin. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Item #11 - Board of Selectmen Public Hearing & Meeting Minutes February 13, 2024, 6:30 p.m.**

**Selectman Marko moved to accept these minutes, seconded by Selectman Morse. Motion carried 4-0-1.**

**(Selectman Martin abstained)**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Item #12 - Town Administrator Report**

TA Kendall updated the board on ARPA funds and the Fire Pond.

**Item #13 - Correspondence**

No remarks from the board.

**Item #14 - Department Reports**

No remarks from the board.

**Item #15 - Selectmen Reports**

Chairman Blomback had nothing to report. The Police Facility Assessment Committee will meet next week.

Selectman Marko reported that the Energy Committee has been discussing decorative streetlamps with the Beautification Alliance.

Selectman Martin shared that at the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting he was appointed to the Hazard Mitigation Plan. He asked for that vote to be ratified. **Chairman Blomback moved to approve the appointment of Neal Martin to the Hazard Mitigation Plan, seconded by Selectman Marko. Motion carried unanimously.**

Selectman Morse has nothing to report.

Selectman Osgood reported on the Conservation Commission and the Natural Resource Inventory Update they are working on with Moosewood Ecological.

**PUBLIC COMMENT #2**

No public comment.

**NON-PUBLIC**

**Motion to enter Nonpublic Session made by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman Marko. Specific Statutory Reason cited as foundation for the nonpublic session:** 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 public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Roll call vote to enter nonpublic session: **Kris Blomback, yes; Bill Marko, yes; Neal Martin, yes; Jeff Morse, yes; Scott Osgood, yes.** Public meeting recording stopped. Entered nonpublic session at 8:49 PM. The Board returned to public session at 9:24 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Chairman Blomback motioned to adjourn at 9:24 PM, seconded by Selectman . The motion passed, unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Bernstein  
Minute Taker

Minutes Approved: 03/05/2024



Meeting: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Date: February 20, 2024

**\*PLEASE PRINT\***

Name

Address

Linda Parker	521 Liberty Bell Rd
Dale J. Clement	49 CORBIN ROAD, HENNIKER R.
Bob Sletten	163 Bow Bog Rd / Bow NH
Michaela Clement	49 Corbin Rd. Henniker
Tim Payson	187 Juniper Ridge Henniker
MONICA RICO	8 MAIN ST. HENNIKER
Philip Sletten	188 Gould Pond Road Henniker



**Town of Henniker  
Board of Selectmen Non-Public Session  
Tuesday February 20, 2024  
Community Center**

**Members Present:** Chairman Kris Blomback, Vice-Chairman Bill Marko, Scott Osgood, Neal Martin, , Jeff Morse  
**Member's Excused:** none  
**Town Administrator:** Diane Kendall  
**Others Present:** none  
**Recording Secretary:** Kris Blomback

**MOTION TO ENTER NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

**Motion to enter Nonpublic Session made by Selectman Martin, seconded by Selectman Marko. Specific Statutory Reason cited as foundation for the nonpublic session:** 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 public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Roll call vote to enter nonpublic session: **Kris Blomback, yes; Bill Marko, yes; Neal Martin, yes; Jeff Morse, yes; Scott Osgood, yes. Public meeting recording stopped. Entered nonpublic session at 8:49 PM.**

Selectboard discussed the Town Administrator performance, contract, and goals for 2024/2025.

**Selectman Marko motioned to authorize the renewal of the Town Administrator contract agreement for one year Beginning April 1, 2024, and ending March 31, 2025, seconded by Chairman Blomback, and unanimously approved.**

**At 9:24 PM Selectman Martin motioned to leave nonpublic session and return to public session, seconded by Selectman Marko, and unanimously approved.**

The public session reconvened at 9:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Blomback  
Minute Taker

Minutes Approved: 03/05/2024