

FINAL



**Town of Henniker
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday July 15, 2020
Henniker Community School**

Members Present: Chairman, Kris Blomback; Vice Chair Tia Hooper; Selectman Peter Flynn; Selectman Leon Parker; Selectman Scott Osgood

Town Administrator: Joseph R. Devine Jr.

Recording Secretary: Kelly McCutcheon

Guests: Bill & Lori Marko, Police Chief French, Principal Matthew Colby, Messenger Journalist Leigh Bosse, Russell Roy, Highway Superintendent Leo Aucoin

Item 1: Consent Agenda Items

- a. 2020 Administrative Abatement Map/Lot 1-318-P98
- b. NH DRA Warrant for Land Use Change Tax & Municipality Land Use Change Tax Bill Map/Lot 1-567
- c. NH DRA Warrant for Land Use Change Tax & Municipality Land Use Change Tax Bill Map/Lot 1-77-X2
- d. Intent to Cut Map/Lot 1-559
- e. Petition and Pole License – PSNH# 12-0843
- f. Petition and Pole License – PSNH# 12-0838
- g. Request to withdraw \$41,400 from Fire-Rescue Building Fund
- h. Request to withdraw \$147,010 from the Roads Expendable Trust Fund

Vice Chair Hooper moved to approve as presented. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comment

No public comment

Item 2: Discussion: Driveway Permit

Highway Superintendent Leo Aucoin spoke about the driveway at 30 Longview Drive not being paved correctly despite speaking with the contractor prior to the lot sale. The applicant did not adhere to driveway code 41-6 of the Town code, the driveway pitches 15% in the first 20 feet rather than 5%. Superintendent Aucoin requested the Board send a certified letter to the new homes owners to inform them the driveway was not paved correctly.

The Board agreed by consensus and authorized Joseph Devine to proceed.

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Additional Highway Discussions:

1. Superintendent Aucoin is in meetings with TDS regarding a conduit project on Main Street to bring fiber optics downtown (underneath the brick sidewalk on Main Street by Daniel's Restaurant).
2. Superintendent Aucoin has had several meetings with New Hampshire DOT (Department of Transportation) regarding flooding issues at Barry Borden's house. The DOT stated they would provide the materials if the Town will do the excavation. Currently, there are two 12inch pipes that are not able to handle the flow from the 24inch pipe, which results in water flooding Mr. Borden's basement. He believes the project is in the Town's best interest. Also, there will be a second storm drain installed on Ramsdell Rd.

The Board asked if NEC (New England College) attended the meetings and if NEC's parking lot, new academic building, and new theater caused the flooding at Mr. Borden's. Superintendent Aucoin stated NEC has 2 storm drains that are sitting too high and not collecting water and should be corrected. He also stated there were previous minor floods at the property before the theater was built. Also, he acknowledged the hard-heavy rains this season also played a factor in flooding.

3. Superintendent Aucoin will work with the DOT on repairing the pipe on the North side of Rt 114.

Board approves by consensus.

4. Proposal from GMI for additional work:

- Patterson Hill Road and Patterson Hill Extension – Overlay Patterson Hill Ext. to Patterson Hill Road.
- Western Ave Canal Bridge and Western Ave Bridge - Reclaiming Western Ave from the Canal Bridge to the Western Ave Steel Bridges.
- Water Street to Union Street – Overlay Water Street from Rt 114 to Union Street.

Selectman Parker moved to approve the road projects. Selectman Flynn seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 3: Discussion: Community Center Rental

Town Administrator Devine stated with the COVID-19 mandates and regulations the Community Center will be utilized more for public meetings and Town Hall Streams has been installed in the Community Center. GOFERR funding has been extended until October giving more time to consider and plan projects. GOFERR funding could be used to make the Community Center a better meeting place, in addition to keeping the building available for rentals.

The Board agrees by consensus.

Item 4: Discussion: Azalea Park Grant Update

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Selectman Osgood stated he contacted Lori Sommer from DES (Department of Environmental Services) and is waiting to hear from the Army Corps of Engineers before fully closing out the grant. Selectman Osgood will continue to monitor the situation.

Item 5: Discussion: Henniker Community School Project

Principal Colby stated the propane tanks are ready to be installed. He stated that preparing breakfast and lunch for students will not be impacted, as the meals are prepared at the middle school. The shoreland permit has been approved by DES. In addition, DES confirmed there is no impact on the school's propane conversion project on the outstanding Azalea Park grant.

Selectman Parker moved to approve. Selectman Osgood seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 6: Acceptance of Board of Selectmen Public Hearing Minutes – May 27, 2020

Chair Blomback moved to approve as presented. Selectman Flynn seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 7: Acceptance of Board of Selectmen Public Hearing Minutes – June 16, 2020

Chair Blomback moved to approve as presented. Selectman Flynn seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 8: Acceptance of Board of Selectmen Non-Public Meeting Minutes – June 16, 2020

Selectman Flynn moved to approve. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 3-2 (Blomback & Osgood).

Item 9: Financial Report

Russ Roy stated all but 9% of the tax bills have been collected. Water and Sewer bills will be going out tomorrow. \$859,000 is in unreserved funds; the lawsuit with Eversource is still pending and no judgement has been made.

Chair Blomback asked about applying more for tax relief. Russ stated with the pending litigation ongoing he would be hesitant to apply more than \$100,000. Vice Chair Hooper stated the Board had agreed to review this in the fall once the county and state rates are set. Selectman Flynn stated there should be at least \$1.2 million in unreserved funds, this is what is recommended although not mandatory.

Item 10: Department Reports

Vice Chair Hooper asked about health and safety inspections for the dorms and apartments before the college students return. Joe Devine stated with COVID-19 they stopped doing inspections. He will reach out to the Fire Department to see when they will resume.

Some town hall employees would like to make wearing masks mandatory inside town hall.

The Police department has seen an increase in calls in May and June and July thus far is also very active.

Item 11: Town Administrator Report

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- The town website has switched over;
- payroll process enrollment forms went out with paychecks this week; and
- community meetings with NEC are scheduled for July 22, August 12, and August 26.

Item 12: Selectmen Reports

Selectman Parker has been trying to schedule a Road Management meeting but with no success; no further selectmen reports.

Public comment #2

Bill Marko asked for a copy of the agenda for Town Meeting. Vice Chair Hooper stated Cordell will give an overview of what happened at the last meeting. Lori Marko asked why there was not a handout with an overview.

Chair Blomback moved to enter non-public. Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 13: Non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (i)

Item 14: Non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (i)

Item 15: Non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (i)

Item 16: Non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (i)

Upcoming dates:

July 15, 2020 – Town Meeting

August 11, 2020 – Selectmen Meeting

September 1, 2020 – Selectmen Meeting