



**Town of Henniker
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Tuesday August 1, 2023 5:30 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

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Item #1 - 5:30 pm Matthew French, Police Chief, New Hire Part-Time – RSA 91-A:3, II (b)

See attached

Item #2 - 5:41 pm Leo Aucoin, Highway Superintendent, New Hire Part-Time – RSA 91-A:3, II (b)

Selectman Marko motioned to seal the minutes, seconded by Selectman Morse, because it was determined that divulgence of this information likely would render a proposed action ineffective.

Roll call vote to seal the minutes: **Kris Blomback, yes; Bill Marko, yes; Neal Martin, yes; Jeff Morse, yes; Scott Osgood, yes. The motion passed unanimously.**

Item #3 - 5:51 pm Deborah Aucoin, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Review of Deeding List – RSA 91-A:3, II (c)

See attached

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

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

Item #4 - Continue with Tax Collector public session

Selectman Marko moved that the Board of the Selectmen offer deed waivers for the following properties (listed in Map/Lot-Sublot format):

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------|
| • 6/305-B56 | • 5D/153-J | • 2/90 |
| • 6/305-B54 | • 5B/270 | • 5C/395 |
| • 5C/372-MH | • 5B/275-A1 | |

Selectman Osgood seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Item #5 - The Merrimack County Department of Corrections crew will continue roadside little clean-up on Old Concord Rd on August 3rd. Thank you to MCDOC and Transfer Station for coordinating this effort.

Item #6 - The Highway Department is recognized by the Board for their work to mitigate damage in the recent torrential rainstorms. Henniker roads received minimal damage due to the quality of storm water management. Thank you to others who pitched in to help. Landowners, please keep driveway culverts clean of debris. If you have questions, please call the Highway Department.

Item #7 - Monica Rico was recognized as a hometown hero by the Concord Monitor on July 26th for her efforts to distribute homegrown organic food to the people of Henniker and beyond.

FINAL

- The Board of Selectmen is pleased to announce the Hiring of Robert Buelte for Henniker Police Department as a part-time officer. Mr. Buelte began his career as an officer in 1994 in Nottingham NH and recently retired from Concord PD. He brings with him a unique set of skills and will be a great asset to the Town, and the Selectmen appreciate him coming on board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #8 - Selectman Marko motioned to approve the Consent Agenda August 1, 2023, seconded by Selectman Morse. The motion passed, unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Leon Parker, of Liberty Hill Road, wanted to reinforce the accomplishments of the Highway Department and update the Board of the plans of the Road Management Committee. He shared that Highway Superintendent Leo Aucoin had goals of improving drainage since the beginning, and that drainage helped Henniker avoid the damage that other towns faced during the recent heavy rains.

Mr. Parker further updated the Board of the plans of the Road Management Committee, and informed the public that if they have questions or comments to come to their meetings, the next one being Tuesday August 8th, 6:30 PM at the Highway Garage, 209 Ramsdell Road.

Jennifer Lopez, of Foster Hill and Super Scoops, wanted to discuss a public comment from the previous Board of Selectmen meeting that addressed food trucks and their impact on local businesses. As a business owner she does not find the trucks or the parking they take up to be an issue. She surveyed other businesses in the downtown area as well who also felt that they were not adversely affected by the Concert Series.

Joshua Finet, resident, business owner, and member of the Chamber of Commerce, wanted to reinforce what his wife said, and shared that the Chamber is an excellent resource for such matters.

APPOINTMENTS WITH THE BOARD:

Item #9 - Warren Mattiello – Volunteer Application Economic Development Committee

Selectman Marko called Mr. Mattiello to the podium. Mr. Mattiello shared his background; He received a BS in psychology before joining the service. He worked in the airlines and marketing. He opened a restaurant and a telephone/security company, as well as a hotel. Mr. Mattiello is presently the Chair of the Historic District Commission. Selectman Marko noted that Mr. Mattiello has an impressive background and looks forward to him volunteering for the EDC. **Selectman Marko moved to accept the Volunteer Application of Warren G. Mattiello, appointing him as a Volunteer Member of the Economic Development Committee. The term will expire on September 1, 2026, seconded by Selectman Morse. Motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

Item #10 - Leo Aucoin, Highway Superintendent – Overlay/Repair Portions of Western Avenue and Cote Hill Road

Supt. Aucoin informed the Board of two projects. Cote Hill Road needs repairs to the culvert. Western Ave is planned to be reclaimed and then repaved, and Supt. Aucoin would prefer to get as much as that done in one go as possible. Discussion ensued.

Selectman Marko moved to approve the Cote Hill Rd reconstruction project at \$31,770, Selectman Martin seconded.

After further discussion the motion was withdrawn.

Selectman Marko moved to accept the proposal from Busby Construction for the Cote Hill Road job, Selectman Martin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Marko moved to accept the proposal from Busby Construction for Western Ave Road Reconstruction, funds to be taken as needed from the expendable trust, seconded by Osgood. Motion carried unanimously.

FINAL

PUBLIC HEARING

Item #11 - Andrew Kellar, New Hampshire Solar Gardens - Payment in Lieu of Taxes for Renewable Generation Facility with Santa Fuel, Inc.

Mr. Keller gave background on this agenda item, where the Selectboard would be discussing and negotiating a Payment in Lieu of Taxes for a one megawatt solar project on Old Concord Road. Mr. Keller was joined by the property owner Mehgan Brewer. Discussion ensued. Mr. Keller reiterated that their payment of \$2,500 a year in taxes is much greater than a 100% solar exemption, and more revenue than the land is currently providing. Members of the Board noted that if a different project were to be going on this land it would generate more revenue. Selectman Marko further clarified that the Board wants to make sure they are treating the townspeople fairly. Selectman Marko added that if the Town does enter this PILOT, then they would have to offer a comparable PILOT to other projects in the future.

Discussion opened to public comment.

Kelly McCutcheon, Broken Boat LLC, asked clarifying questions and went on to say she would prefer a solar project to a large business coming in and pushing out the local businesses.

Discussion closed to public comment.

The Selectboard shared that a duly noted public hearing was not specifically defined and felt that five days was not long enough. There will be another public hearing at the next meeting, August 15th, giving ample time for public input before a decision is made.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Item #12 - Way Investments – 566 Western Avenue Sewer Abatement Request Continued

On July 11, 2023, Mr. Frank Chen, representing Way Investments Trailer Park at 566 Western Ave., sought an abatement from two sewer bills because the trailer park had a water leak, and the water usage did not represent the volume of sewage that flowed to the treatment plant. **Chairman Blomback moved to abate \$20,194.60 of the current sewer bill dated April 27, 2023, for 566 Western Avenue, account number 1902S resulting in a net billing amount of \$2,944.14 and waive all interest accrued on remaining sewer bill, seconded by Selectman Osgood. Motion carried unanimously.**

Item #13 - Chapter 16 Special Event Permits and Notification Requirements – 2nd Reading Continued

There was no input from the audience at this time. The Board noted that Fire Chief Jim Morse had comments he wanted to include. **The Board consensus was to continue the second reading.**

Item #14 - Economic Development Committee Procedure Review

At the June 20th Selectboard Meeting a motion passed to increase the number of citizen seats on the Economic Development Committee. Selectboard policy states that citizen representatives are to be nominated by the Town Moderator. Comment from the Town Moderator stated that he has never been asked to nominate anyone and does not have that responsibility with any other committee. **Selectman Marko moved to strike the words “to be nominated by the Town Moderator” from the Economic Development Committee appointments, seconded by Selectman Morse. Motion carried unanimously.**

PAST MEETING MINUTES

Item #15 - Acceptance of Board of Selectmen non-public session meeting minutes July 11, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Selectman Marko moved to approve, seconded by Selectman Morse. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #16 - Acceptance of Board of Selectmen meeting minutes July 11, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Selectman Marko noted an edit under item #7 asking to include *“Selectman Marko asked that the committee work on a compromise with the citizens that are affected by the ATVs.”*

Selectman Marko moved to approve these minutes as amended, seconded by Selectman Morse. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #17 - Acceptance of Board of Selectmen SEALED non-public session meeting minutes July 11, 2023, 5:39

Selectman Marko moved to approve, seconded by Selectman Morse. Motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Marko moved to unseal these minutes, seconded by Selectman Martin. Motion carried unanimously.

FINAL

COMMUNICATIONS

Item #18 - Town Administrator Report

The Town Administrator report can be found at

https://www.henniker.org/sites/g/files/vyhli5391/f/agendas/08.01.23_agenda_package_for_web_publication_redacted_0.pdf on page 119.

Item #19 - Correspondence - Letters and Notices

Item #20 - Selectmen Reports

Chairman Blomback reported on the Concert Committee, which could be heard in the background of the meeting, and the EDC.

Vice-Chairman Marko reported on the RMC and the Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee.

Selectman Martin reported that the Planning Board will be meeting next Wednesday.

Selectman Morse reported on the RMC and the Athletic Committee- soccer signups are starting, and the baseball and softball teams had good seasons.

Selectman Osgood reported that the Broadband Committee and the Conservation Committee are meeting the next day.

PUBLIC COMMENT #2:

No public comment

Motion to adjourn by Selectman Marko at 8:27 PM, seconded by Selectman Morse. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Bernstein

Minutes Approved: 08/15/2023

Minute Taker



Meeting: Selectmen's Meeting

Date: August 1, 2023

PLEASE PRINT

Name

Address

Lt. Michelle Dandeneau

- Henniker Police

Matt Furdy

HPD

Leon Porter

Liberty Hill

Jennifer Lopez

Foster Hill Rd.

JOSHUA FINET

FOSTER HILL

Josh McCutcheon

FOSTER HILL

Andrew Keller

NHSG

William Ostrander

Santa Energy

Ed Santa

Santa Energy

Meghan Brewer

Henniker Forest Products

Warren MATTELO

HENNIKER



**Town of Henniker
Board of Selectmen NON-PUBLIC SESSION
Tuesday August 1, 2023, 5:30 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: Police Chief Matthew French, Lieutenant Michelle Dandeneau, Highway Superintendent Leo Aucoin

NON-PUBLIC:

Motion to enter Nonpublic Session made by Selectman Marko, seconded by Selectman Morse.

Specific Statutory Reason cited as foundation for the nonpublic session: RSA 91-A:3, II(b) The hiring of any person as a public employee.

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 **5:32 PM**.

Chief French came before the Board looking to hire a candidate for a part-time position. The candidate, Robert Buelte, is a retired Lieutenant from the Concord Police Department with over 27 years of experience. Mr. Buelte comes with skills that only come with years of experience. He has already completed the interview, background, polygraph, and psychological evaluation steps of the hiring process. Chief French would like to hire Mr. Buelte at \$25.00; Mr. Buelte would be eligible for the \$5,000 sign on bonus. Discussion ensued.

Selectman Marko moved to hire Robert Buelte for the Part-time position at \$25.00 an hour, seconded by Selectman Morse. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to leave Nonpublic Session made by Selectman Marko, seconded by Selectman Morse. The motion passed unanimously.

Public session reconvened at **5:40 PM**.

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Bernstein
Minute Taker

Minutes Approved: 08/15/2023



**Town of Henniker
Board of Selectmen NON-PUBLIC SESSION
Tuesday August 1, 2023, 5:41 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: Highway Superintendent Leo Aucoin

NON-PUBLIC:

Motion to enter Nonpublic Session made by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Marko. Specific Statutory Reason cited as foundation for the nonpublic session: RSA 91-A:3, II(b) The hiring of any person as a public employee.

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 **5:41 PM.**

Supt. Aucoin came before the Board looking to hire a candidate, Braden Graeme. Mr. Graeme does not have much experience in the field but is eager to learn. Supt. Aucoin noted that he cannot hold out for fully qualified applicants, and his department would be fully staffed by filling this position. Supt. Aucoin would like to start Mr. Graeme on Monday. Discussion ensued. **Selectman Marko moved to hire Braden Graeme at \$19.28 Grade 15 Step 3. No contract for CDL licensing at this time, seconded by Selectman Morse. Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion to leave Nonpublic Session made by Selectman Marko, seconded by Selectman Morse. The motion passed unanimously.

Public session reconvened at **5:50 PM.**

Selectman Marko motioned to seal the minutes, seconded by Selectman Morse, because it was determined that divulgence of this information likely would render a proposed action ineffective.

Roll call vote to seal the minutes: **Kris Blomback, yes; Bill Marko, yes; Neal Martin, yes; Jeff Morse, yes; Scott Osgood, yes. The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Bernstein
Minute Taker

Minutes Approved: 08/15/2023
Date Unsealed: 08/15/2023



**Town of Henniker
Board of Selectmen NON-PUBLIC SESSION
Tuesday, August 1, 2023, 5:51 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: Town Clerk / Tax Collector Deborah Aucoin, Deputy Town Clerk / Tax Collector Jean Scott

NON-PUBLIC:

Motion to enter Nonpublic Session made by Selectman Marko, seconded by Selectman Morse.

Specific Statutory Reason cited as foundation for the nonpublic session:

RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

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 **5:51 PM**.

TC / TX Aucoin informed the Board of the properties that would be sent Intent to Deeds and recommended properties for Deed Waivers. She also updated the Board on the Deeding process. Discussion ensued. **No decision was made in Non-public session.**

Motion to leave Nonpublic Session made by Chairman Blomback, seconded by Selectman Marko.

The motion passed unanimously.

Public session reconvened at **6:11 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Bernstein
Minute Taker

Minutes Approved: 08/15/2023