

FINAL



**Town of Henniker
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Tuesday, January 26, 2021
Virtually on Zoom**

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

Town Administrator: Joe R. Devine Jr.

Recording Secretary: Kelly McCutcheon

Virtual Zoom Guests:

Welcome to this evening's Selectmen's meeting. Please note that the purpose of the meeting is for the Selectmen to accomplish its work within a qualitative timeframe. Meetings are open to the public, but public participation is limited. If you wish to be heard by the board, please note the "Public Comment" at the beginning and end of the meeting to speak to items on a meeting agenda and/or matters pertaining to the business of the Selectmen. In addition, public hearings may be scheduled for public comment on specific matters. Speakers must be residents of the Town of Henniker, property owners in the town of Henniker, and/or designated representatives of recognized civic organizations or businesses located in the Town of Henniker. When they are at the podium, speakers first need to recite their name and address for the record. Visitors should address their comments to the board and not to any individual member. Each speaker shall be provided a single opportunity for comment, limited to three (3) minutes. Public forum shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes. Visitors should not expect a response to their comments or questions since the Board may not have discussed or taken a position on a matter. Public Comment is not a two-way dialogue between speaker(s), Selectmen, and/or the Town Administrator. The Chair will preserve strict order and decorum at all Board of Selectmen meetings. Outbursts from the public are not permitted.

Joe Devine explained the new format is due to zoom bombing in order to conduct the meeting as required without any improprieties.

Public comment:

Heidi Aucoin asked if the balloon test for the cell phone tower with the snow happening now. Joe stated it has not been cancelled as of this meeting.

Joan O'Connor disagrees with new format and the Board could hire someone or hire zoom to monitor those attending so there is more transparency. She liked the opportunity of seeing everyone and chatting and thinks the Board is chipping away at access, and maybe should go back to regular meeting at the community center.

Board of Selectmen

January 26, 2021

FINAL

Cordell Johnston, Town Moderator, condemned the zoom bombings and briefed everyone of what happened at the Weare and Henniker Select Board meeting and the options moving forward for Henniker Town Meeting.

Selectman Parker was in favor of moving forward as planned since he did not foresee any drastic changes in the following months. Vice Chair Hooper agreed. Selectman Osgood stated the more people are informed and the more people have time to plan the better the turn out will be. Chair Blomback agreed with Selectman Osgood.

Select Parker moved to continue with March 9, 2021 as planned for the voting session. Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 4-1 (Osgood)

Selectman Parker moved to continue with March 13, 2021 as planned for the business portion (Town Meeting). Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Item 2: Vacation Time Buyback

Selectman Parker moved to authorize the Town Administrator to purchase vacation time back from employees at risk of losing it, and not to exceed \$12,884. Selectman Flynn seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 3: Budget Discussion

Joe Devine stated as the budget currently stands there is a \$2.16 tax increase and suggested reviewing the warrants to see which the Board supports. Vice Chair Hooper asked about the Azalea Park warrant. Azalea Park is requesting money for erosion control.

Chair Blomback presented his cuts to the operating budget. Vice Chair Hooper presented her cuts to the operation budget. It got contentious but together Chair Blomback and Vice Chair Hooper merged their cuts as listed in the below motions.

Chair Blomback moved to cut Code Enforcement by \$2,500. Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 3-2 (Osgood, Flynn).

Chair Blomback moved to cut \$14,655 from Solid Waste. Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Vice Chair Hooper moved to cut \$10,000 from Athletics. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion failed 2-3 (Blomback, Flynn, Osgood).

Vice Chair Hooper moved to cut \$14,000 from the Tucker Library as recommended by the budget advisory committee. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 3-2 (Flynn, Osgood).

FINAL

Vice Chair Hooper moved to cut \$32,000 from White Birch. Motion failed, there was no second.

Vice Chair Hooper moved to cut \$1,000 from the Red Cross. Chair Blomback seconded. Motion failed 2-3 (Flynn, Osgood, Parker).

Vice Chair Hooper moved to cut \$14,915 from Beautification. Chair Blomback seconded. Motion failed 2-3 (Flynn, Osgood, Parker).

Vice Chair Hooper moved to cut \$350 from the Fuller Library. Chair Blomback seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Total approved cuts to the Operation Budget: \$54,005.

Capital Budget:

Chair Blomback moved maintain Parks ETF as is at \$2,500. Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Chair Blomback moved to cut \$75,000 from the Town Technology Fund. Selectman Flynn seconded. Motion failed 2-3 (Hooper, Osgood, Parker).

Vice Chair Hooper moved to keep the Town Technology Fund at \$125,000. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 3-2 (Blomback & Flynn).

Chair Blomback moved maintain Town Owned Buildings at \$20,000. Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Chair Blomback moved to cut \$150,000 from Road Maintenance leaving funding at \$600,000. Select Flynn seconded. Motion carried 3-2 (Hooper & Parker).

Chair Blomback moved to cut \$5,000 from Revaluation Fund. Selectman Osgood seconded. Motion failed 2-3 (Hooper, Parker, Flynn).

Chair Blomback moved to approve \$10,000 towards Ambulance, pending receipt of \$60,000 from the Town of Bradford. Motion carried 5-0.

Chair Blomback moved to approve \$100,000 towards Fire& Rescue equipment. Selectman Flynn seconded. Motion carried 3-2 (Hooper, Parker).

Chair Blomback moved to approve \$10,000 to Bridge Repair. Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Vice Chair Hooper moved to approve \$150,000 to Highway Equipment Fund. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

FINAL

Chair Blomback moved to cut \$50,000 from Police Building Fund, and fund at \$50,000. Selectman Flynn seconded. Motion carried 3-2 (Hooper, Parker).

The highway dept. needs a 10wheeler and the tax rate increase \$1.49 if the truck is purchased or an increase of a \$1.07 if the truck is not purchased.

Vice Chair Hooper moved to purchase the 10-wheeler with \$150,000 from the unreserved fund and \$50,000 to be raised by taxation. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

The Board approved the highway block grant by consensus.

Azalea Parker, Sewer Commission and Water Commission still need to be addressed.

Chair Blomback moved to approve the budget as amended with a tax rate of \$11.64 (\$1.70 increase). Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Town Administrator Report:

Joe Devine quickly updated the Board since last weeks meeting.

There were no Select Board reports.

Public Comment #2

No public comment.

Selectman Parker moved to adjourn. Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Adjourned at 9:15

Next Meetings:

February 2, 2021 – Board of Selectmen Mtg.

February 16, 2021 – Board of Selectmen Mtg.