

FINAL



**Town of Henniker  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Tuesday, March 24, 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:** Kristen Mix, Transfer Station Superintendent

Consent agenda

*Item 1: Consent Agenda from March 8, 2021*

*Item 2: Household Hazardous Waste Clean-up October 30, 2021*

*Item 3: Map 1 Lot 318-P100 Abatement Application*

*Item 4: Map 1 Lots 755 & 759 Current Use Change*

*Item 5: Map 1 Lot 615 Intent to Excavate*

*Item 6: Map 1 Lot 605 Intent to Excavate*

*Item 7: Map 1 Lot 605-A Intent to Excavate*

**Vice Chair Hooper moved to approve the Consent agenda as presented. Selectman Flynn seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

Public Comment #1

No public comment

NEWBUSINESS

Item 8: Select Board Elections

**Selectman Parker moved to appoint Kris Blomback as Chair and Tia Hooper as Vice Chair of the Selectmen. Selectman Flynn seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 9: Select Board Rules & Procedures

No changes were made to the rules & procedures

Item 10: Post Election Committee Assignments

Athletics – Selectman Flynn

Byway- Selectman Osgood

CIP- is appointed by the Planning Board

Community Center – Selectman Flynn

Conservation – Selectman Osgood

Economic Development – Chair Blomback

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Energy Committee- Selectman Flynn  
Highway Safety – Selectman Parker  
Historic District - Selectman Flynn  
Municipal records – Vice Chair Hooper  
OHRV- Chair Blomback  
Planning – Vice Chair Hooper with Selectman Flynn as alternate  
Road Management – Selectman Parker and Vice Chair Hooper  
Safety and Loss – Selectman Flynn  
Central regional Planning – Vice Chair Hooper

### Item 11: Swap Shop Re-Opening

Kristen Mix (formerly Bergeron), Transfer Station Superintendent is looking to reopen the Swap Shop April 1, 2021 with the same hours as the Transfer Station. She is searching for volunteers to help run the Swap Shop which will primarily be run by volunteers with paid staffing overseeing throughout their rounds and duties.

Chair Blomback asked what the ratio of volunteers to staff was last year. Last year the Swap Shop was only open on Sundays with volunteers. This year ideally volunteers will be in the Swap Shop on the weekends and staff will make weekday & weekend rounds.

Selectman Flynn stated his support but wanted to make clear he was not pleased with the abuse last year from people dropping off items that do not belong in the Swap Shop just to avoid disposal fees and the number of people coming in without stickers.

Kristen Mix stated the sticker issue is due to staffing because she is the only fulltime employee, the remaining staff is part-time and there are issues scheduling vacation and time off, as full as an open full-time position that needs to be filled. Due to the staff shortage, they will be checking in with volunteers from time to time on the weekends during their rounds to make sure the Swap Shop is not messy. Ideally, she would like to open the Swap Shop April 1<sup>st</sup>

**Selectman Parker moved to open the Swap Shop April 1, 2021 as outlined by the Transfer Station Superintendent and Town Administrator. Selectman Osgood seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

### Item 12: Glass Crushing

Kristen Mix stated currently the belt on the glass crusher is broken which had been processing over 1,000 pounds of glass a week. DOT (Department of Transportation) has approved uses for the crushed glass that can be utilized through town but currently is not. It will cost \$1,500 to repair the belt on the glass crusher.

Vice Chair Hooper asked Joe Devine how does the glass crusher work into the efficiency plan for the Transfer Station. Joe stated that if the belt is not fixed that the glass would have to be hauled off, which is expensive given the quantity received and recommended fixing the glass crusher.

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**Selectman Flynn moved to authorize the Town Administrator to work with the Transfer Station Superintendent to fix the glass crusher and to find ways to use aggregated glass in town. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 5-0**

*Selectman Osgood cut out from the meeting*

Item 13: Hiring of Harold Hunt

**Vice Chair Hooper moved Move to appoint Harold Hunt as a full-time Heavy Equipment Operator/Truck Driver/Laborer effective March 8, 2021 and initially set the position as a Labor Grade 16, Step 4 on the Town of Henniker Wage Schedule. Selectman Flynn seconded. Motion carried 4-0.**

Item 14: 10-Wheeler Dump Truck Purch

Joe Devine stated the warrant article for the 10-wheeler dump truck passed at Town Meeting. Of the 3 bids that came back 2 did not meet all of the specifications. The one that did will cost \$207,175 for a new truck complete. The amount allowed on the warrant \$225,000. Lettering on the doors will cost \$350. New Two-Way company radio installed will be under \$1,000. This will leave a balance to be returned to the general fund. The total purchase price is \$208,525, with \$16,475 able to be returned to the unreserved fund balance.

*Selectman Osgood rejoined the meeting*

**Selectman Parker Move to authorize the Highway Superintendent to complete a purchase and sale agreement with Reed Truck Sales and complete any additional work for the truck as required. The total purchase price of \$208,525 is authorized for the truck. Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

Selectman Parker asked a few times about the town COVID travel policy that at the last meeting had been delayed in updating and stated he felt strongly that the town policy should mirror the State's policy.

Vice Chair Hooper stated her difficulty receiving Selectman Parker's audio. Chair Blomback also had audio static when he attempted to speak. Joe Devine stated the major change made by the State is domestic travel no longer requires a quarantine upon return. This applies to New Hampshire residents who travel domestically and adhere to CDC guidelines such as wearing a well fitted mask, social distance, and getting tested upon return.

It does not apply to cruise ships or international travel.

Vice Chair Hooper stated that people who are vaccinated could still be exposed to the virus and bring it back into the community and she wants to be on the record that regardless of where you travel to have respect for your colleges and community members even if vaccinated.

Joe Devine clarified that there is the State travel policy and State Employer Travel policy which are two different policies.

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Vice Chair Hooper stated there is no way to tell which employee is vaccinated and which is not, and that it has to be across the board for all employees. If going forward she stated if someone not vaccinated is exposed and becomes sick, they will no longer be paid to stay home and isolate or be issued sick pay time, that would be null and void. Selectman Flynn stated that sounds like a separate motion. Vice Chair Hooper said it is all the same policy. Joe Devine stated the policy he had drafted did not state that and that Selectman Parker's motion to follow the State is more stringent than the town policy, but it would be easier to adopt the State policy as town policy moving forward.

Blomback asked for clarification on employees needing to quarantine because if they are exposed the town will no longer pay. Joe Devine confirmed unless the employee can prove they were exposed on site. Vice Chair Hooper stated it cannot be pinpointed which is why they town will not pay anymore. She also recommended department heads be aware for employees travel plans. Selectman Parker stated he was not comfortable asking department heads to quiz their staff.

**Selectman Parker moved to replace the town's COVID travel policy with the State of New Hampshire Department of Health policy. Chair Blomback seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

### OTHERBUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

Item 15: Acceptance of Board of Selectmen Minutes January 19, 2021, January 26, 2021 and March 2, 2021

**Vice Chair Hooper moved to approve the January 19, 2021 minutes as amended. Selectman Osgood seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Vice Chair Hooper moved to approve the January 26, 2021 minutes as amended. Selectman Osgood seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Vice Chair Hooper moved to approve the March 2, 2021 minutes as amended. Selectman Osgood seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

Item 16: February Department Reports

Highlights include a counter at the Transfer station to help monitor peak times.

The Finance Department asked if the Board would like to move forward with vacation time on paystubs or if he should wait until the PTO conversion has been made. Vice Chair Hooper stated the PTO discussions will take too long and employees have been waiting months already, *by consensus Joe Devine will give direction to move forward with vacation time.*

Item 17: Town Administrator's Report

COVID-19 Update—As of March 18th, 2021, we have nine active cases (0.18% of the population), we have had 15 new cases in the past fourteen days, a total of 202 cumulative cases (4.5% of the population), and 5,1225 tests have been conducted for residents of Henniker. The positivity rate for Henniker is 1.6%.

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- Highway Department–The Henniker Highway Department will be transitioning into the spring and summer schedule beginning April 5th. As a reminder, they will be working Monday – Thursday 6a.m.–4p.m. with Friday off.

- TAP Grant–On Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Town submitted the completed TAP grant. They made it very clear competition for this grant will be tight, with 43 municipalities also submitting for funding.

- Town Meeting Results–Residents voted on elected officials on March 9<sup>th</sup> and two zoning amendments, both of which passed. On Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, the residents voted on the remaining 21 warrant articles. 20/21 passed with only the Wastewater Bond failing. On behalf of the Town and its employees, I want to sincerely thank the community for their broad support of the budget and warrant articles. We all strive to provide the most effective and efficient services possible to the residents of Henniker.

Tia- can bring up in special meeting or lost until next year at higher interest rate. Joe will discuss tonight in legal.

- DOT Informational Meeting/Improvement to Intersection 202/9–The purpose of this meeting is to present citizens and public officials with information regarding the proposed project and to solicit public input to ensure that project decisions meet public transportation needs and community goals and protect and enhance the environment. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. The NHDOT will conduct the meeting virtually via Zoom. Presentation materials and the meeting link will be located on the NHDOT

### Item 18: Selectmen Reports

Chair Blomback reported the Economic Development Committee will resume meeting in April and that OHRV had met the prior night with the Contoocook Valley club working with residents regarding issues. The rest of the Board had no report.

Joe Devine was messaged via Zoom asking about NEC (New England College) Commencement. NEC Commencement will be virtual this spring but fall weekend will be happening October 1-3 2021.

### Public Comment #2

No public comment

Chair Blomback announced the Board would be entering non-public to discuss legal and personnel. The meeting was disconnected.

### NON-PUBLIC

Item 19: Non-public Session 91-A:3 II a Personnel

Item 20: Non-public Session 91-A:3 II I Legal

### UPCOMING DATES

March 25, 2021 –NH DOT Public Informational Meeting

April 6, 2021 –Board of Selectmen Meeting

April 14, 2021 –Planning Board Meeting

April 20, 2021 –Select Board Meeting