

FINAL



**Town of Henniker
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Tuesday, July 20, 2021
Henniker Community Center**

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

Member's Excused:

Town Administrator: Joseph R. Devine Jr.

Recording Secretary: Wendy Baker

Guests: Deb Aucoin, Heidi Aucoin, Greg Aucoin and Leigh Bosse

Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Blomback called the meeting to order at 6:15pm

Correspondence

Item 1: Email from Tracy Sudhalter – Re: Conservation Commission

Consent Agenda

Item 2: Consent Agenda for June 28, 2021

Item 3: Consent Agenda for July 6, 2021

Item 4: Consent Agenda for July 20, 2021

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

Public Comment #1

There was no public comment.

Public Hearing

Item 5: Receiving of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Joe stated that through the Federal stimulus funding there has been approximately \$19.5 billion allocated for all units of Government. Henniker's share of these is \$525,333.00 which will be received in fiscal years 2021 and 2022. The Town needs to accept the funds and enter into the terms and conditions of agreement to access the funds through the U.S. Treasury. The specific ways to spend these funds will be discussed at a later meeting. Joe said we will receive the first half \$262,666.33 in fiscal year 2021 and the funds can be spent on specific things, such as a loss of revenue, broadband infrastructure, water and wastewater infrastructure and small grants for small businesses that have been effected and employee stipends for people dealing with staffing

FINAL

issues due to the pandemic. Joe said the Town will have to show how the funds are spent after the fact and it has to be used by the end of 2024.

Chairman Blomback opened up the Public Hearing to questions from the public.

Seeing no public comment, Chairman Blomback closed the Public Hearing.

Selectman Flynn moved the Town of Henniker to accept and expend up to \$262,666.33 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds in FY 2021 by acting under the provisions of RSA 31:95-b and subject to the terms and standards in the ARPA regulations and the U.S. Treasury Awards Terms and Conditions Agreement. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Selectman Flynn moved to approve the Town of Henniker's entering the U.S. Treasury Awards Terms and Conditions Agreement for the receipt of American Rescue Plan Act Funding that is made available to the Town of Henniker. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Selectman Flynn moved to designate the Town Administrator as the signing authority for the Town of Henniker for reimbursement submissions and other documentation required for the ARPA Fund Grant Program. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

New Business

Item 6: Daniel Butler – Henniker Athletics Committee Appointment

Selectman Flynn stated that Mr. Butler could not be present tonight but because he is familiar to the Board and is on another Town Committee he would like to waive that requirement of him being present at the meeting.

Selectman Flynn moved to appoint Daniel Butler to the Henniker Youth Athletic Committee for a 3-year term. Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 7: Safety Committee Update

Deb Aucoin explained to the Board that currently the Town has a Safety Policy that refers to laws and rules from the State of New Hampshire that currently are not written out fully within the policy. Deb said the Safety Committee would like to request the Select Board adopt them into the Safety Policy. Selectman Flynn, as a member of the Safety Committee reiterated to the Board that it is State language that needs to be added. Joe said the referral to the RSA's are already in the policy, the rest needs to be added as an appendix.

Selectman Flynn moved to have the Board of Selectmen add the New Hampshire State safety statutes, rules and regulations to the current Henniker Safety Policy. Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 8: Acceptance of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
Acted upon earlier in the meeting.

Item 9: Wastewater Treatment Plant, Belt Press Building Roof Replacement RFP

FINAL

Joe Explained that we are in need of getting the roof replaced on the Belt Press Building because of a leak that is causing damage. Joe said it has gone out to bid twice, with the first round having no bids and the second time having 2. The first was from Griffin Construction with 3 options all based off the thickness and quality of material and the second is from R & H Roofing for \$155,358.00. Joe said he and Ken Levesque are recommending Griffin Construction's option #2 at \$55,381.54 and that it be paid from the Wastewater Unreserved Fund Balance that has a current balance of \$467,154.00. Vice Chair Hooper expressed her disappointment that the need was not brought up during the budget cycle. There was more discussion regarding the roof and the different options of thickness and material.

Vice Chair Hooper moved to award the Belt Press Building Roof Replacement to Griffin Construction in the amount of \$55,381.54 and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign all paperwork. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 10: Tree Removal on Town Property

Joe informed the Board that according to the Highway Superintendent, there are some trees in the downtown area that appear to be near the end of their life. There are 2 trees in Community Park, the first is dead and is towards the front of the park and the second is a very large tree along the NEC side and has been looked at by Jeff Dearborn of Old Yankee Tree and he is very concerned because it is completely hollow on the inside. The next one is a large maple tree in front of Academy Hall, which is also hollow on the inside and one near Western Ave Pizza that Leo is trying to find out if it is on private or Town Property.

Vice Chair Hooper moved to authorize the Town Administrator to have Old Yankee Trees remove the trees due to safety concerns. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 11: Committee/Commission Openings – Seeking Volunteers

Joe said this is a list for the Board showing what is open for spaces on Committees and Commissions and we'd like to advertise this list with the Board's approval. He said Committee Chairs have been informed of the members that are expiring as well.

Old Business

None

Past Meeting Minutes

Item 12: Acceptance of Board of Selectmen Minutes June 1, 2021

Vice Chair Hooper requested to postpone accepting these minutes for more amendments.

Item 13: Acceptance of Board of Selectmen Minutes June 22, 2021

The following amendments need to be made:

1. Page 7, change Selectman parking to Selectman Parker
2. Page 7, last paragraph, change Storm Water Permit to Shoreline Permit

Selectman Flynn moved to approve the minutes as amended. Selectman Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Communications

Item 13: June Department Reports

FINAL

Chairman Blomback asked if the Building Inspector has performed any inspections yet. Joe answered yes, and that he has been out in the community introducing himself and the feedback has been positive.

Item 14: Town Administrator's Report

Joe reported on COVID updates and statistics. Joe said the Governor signed the State Budget into law and the biggest impact on Henniker is going to be to the increase in Rooms and Meals Tax the Town will be receiving. We were expected to receive \$249,000 and will now be receiving \$323,000 for fiscal year 2022 and \$342,000 for fiscal year 2023.

Joe said he reached out to the NH Municipal Association and the Town Attorney regarding the 79E application for 19 Rush Road. NH Municipal Association said they felt it would be ok to accept the application due to the costs of construction and the Town Attorney said they felt we needed to find some way to have an accurate value of the property prior to the work. Joe said he learned that the Assessor had been out to the property in April 2021, which was just before work had started and they felt we could use that value since it was within a month of construction starting. Joe said we will be using the April date and he will be working with the owner to get a covenant signed to send to Town Council.

Vice Chair Hooper said moving forward based on the email from Town Council, we should not be approving 79E applications unless the work has not started. Joe said from here on, we are going to be handing out a State provided flow chart that shows the complete process.

Chairman Blomback asked Heidi Aucoin when selling a property, what is the impact of not having Broadband at the curb do to the value of the property. Heidi said it is definitely a question that comes up from Buyers. There was a discussion regarding Broadband in Town. Chairman Blomback asked if Mark Fougere could get coverage maps from TDS and Comcast to overlay on the tax map.

Item 15: Selectmen Report

Selectman Parker said the Road Management Committee met and they are still having problems but Leo has been able to get some needed pipe. At the next meeting they plan to look at what roads have deteriorated quicker than expected and come up with some revisions for next year.

Selectman Flynn said his report of the Safety Committee has been discussed earlier in the meeting. He also wanted to bring up the need of replacing the Transfer Station hopper door.

Vice Chair Hooper said there was a Planning Board meeting that approved a 2 lot Sub-Division.

No updates from Chairman Blomback and Selectman Osgood.

Public Comment #2

There was no public comment.

Vice Chair Hooper moved to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-:3, II (a) personnel and (e) legal. Selectman Flynn seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

FINAL

Vice Chair Hooper moved to return to the public portion of the meeting at 7:13 pm, seconded by Selectmen Parker. Motion carried 5-0

Selectmen Flynn moved to seal the minutes from the Non-Public session, Selectmen Parker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Vice Chair Hooper moved create a new part-time ambulance employee. The position will be at labor grade 19 step 5, Selectman Flynn seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Selectman Flynn moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm