

DRAFT



**Town of Henniker
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2020
Virtually via the platform Zoom**

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

Town Administrator: Joseph R. Devine Jr.

Recording Secretary: Kelly McCutcheon

Virtual Zoom Guests: Joan O'Connor, Ruth Zax, Steven Cunliffe, Bill Marko, Lori Marko, Joyce Bosse, Michael Pon, Cordell Johnston, Stephanie Teaze, wcolby, Heidi Aucoin, Dan Teaze, James, Jean Eaton, Mike French

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"COVID-19 - Public Meeting Procedures Notice Due to the COVID 19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, Henniker Board of Selectmen is authorized to meet electronically. The Town of Henniker will be utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04. All members of the Board of Selectmen have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting by following the link below, or dialing the number below and entering the ID number at the prompt. For those who want to provide public testimony in the Public Hearing portion of the meeting, and you are connected to the Zoom website, you may click on the Raise Hand icon in the Attendees Section of Zoom to make the request. When the time is appropriate, you will be recognized so you can provide your testimony. For those calling in who want to provide public testimony, dial *9 to alert the host that you wish to speak. The host will unmute you at the appropriate time/during the public hearing portion of the meeting. All participants please keep your phones and computers on mute unless speaking. Website Address: <https://zoom.us/j/98272257537> Telephone Dial: +1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 982 7225 7537 Members of the public can also email questions or other public testimony to townadministrator@henniker.org. Staff will read the testimony or questions into the record during the meeting. Any member of the public can also call the Town of Henniker at 603-998-1492 or email townadministrator@henniker.org if they are unable to access the meeting."

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CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Item 1: Intent to Cut Lot # 1-559

Item 2: Intent to Cut Lot # 1-548

Item 3: Intent to Excavate Lot # 1-678

Item 4: Summary of Forest Stewardship Plan Tax/Map 1-590-FX

Item 5: Permanent Application for Property Tax Credits/Exemptions 20-001 to 20-017

Item 6: Abatements Lot # 1-318-P108 & 2-451

Item 7: Henniker Rotary Club Donation \$1,826.54

Item 8: Contoocook Valley ATV Riders Donation \$2,650.00

Item 9: Town Administrator Vacation Request Item

10: Check Registers: 4-29-20, 5-6- 20, 5-13-20

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

PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Steve Cunliffe had questions regarding NEC New England College (NEC) re-opening, as well as COVID19 questions and asked if anyone from NEC served on the Board. Vice Chair Hooper recommended inviting NEC president to the next meeting. Steve asked if the town was notified about the NEC re-opening. The town was not contacted or notified. Steve stated his concerns regarding the college students returning from some of the highest infected areas of the country: the students' mindset of being invincible and not taking proper precautions, the towns susceptible senior population, and what the protocol will be should the college need to shut down again when there is an outbreak. Town Administrator Joe Devine will reach out to NEC. Steve expressed his disappointment at finding out from a news article and the town not being consulted.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 11: Discussion: Update from Concert Committee

Ruth Zax, Chair of the Concert Committee, requested Board permission to host the summer concert series for a total of 8 concerts, dependent on and adhering to all CDC guidelines on public gatherings and evaluating the situation throughout the summer. There will be no blues and brews this year nor any other vendors. In the event of rain, the show will be canceled and not moving inside. Heidi Aucoin asked about relocating to a bigger venue like the soccer fields or baseball park.

Selectman Parker moved to approve as presented with care regarding CDC guidelines. Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 12: Approval: First Responder Stipend

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Joe Devine stated there is a program available for first responders that will provide a stipend from May 4, 2020 - June 30, 2020 and has no impact on the budget.

Selectman Flynn moved to accept the First Responder Stipend. Selectman Osgood seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 13: Approval: Unanticipated EMS Fund Revenue

Joe Devine stated there was \$6475.44 from Health and Human Services, as they are rewarding towns that do Medicare billing. There is no financial impact to the town as it is unanticipated revenue.

Selectman Parker moved to accept the fund. Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 14: Approval: GOFERR Funding

Selectman Flynn moved to approve the Town of Henniker enter into the GOFERR Coronavirus Relief Grant agreement. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Selectman Flynn moved to designate Town Administrator Joe Devine as the signing authority for the Town of Henniker regarding the GOFERR program. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Selectman Flynn moved for the Town of Henniker to accept and extend up to \$117,263 in CARES act grant funds by acting under the provisions of RSA 21-P:43 (funds including amounts of \$10,000 or greater, without a public notice or notice being published in a newspaper seven days in advance) and the terms of the GOFERR grant agreement. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 15: Approval: Selling used Tasers

Selectman Parker moved to approve selling the used tasers back as proposed. Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Town Moderator Update: Cordell Johnston stated the default budget does not appear to be an option anymore. There maybe an option of drive up voting. He is still waiting to hear from the Governor's Office and has scheduled a meeting with Town Administrator Joe Devine.

OLD BUSINESS

Item 16: Approve: Contract from Checkmate HCM

Selectman Parker moved to approve as presented and appoint Joe Devine as the administrator and to sign on behalf of the Board. Selectman Osgood seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 17: Discussion: Azalea Park Grant Update

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Selectman Osgood stated he and Sachie Howard of the Azalea Park Committee have been in touch with Lori Sommers at DES (Department of Environmental Services) to discuss the community school propane project, which has no correlation with the \$25,000 Azalea Park grant. Vice Chair Hooper asked the timeframe for when the town will be reimbursed the funds. Selectman Osgood stated he did not have one. Selectman Flynn expressed his disappointment that each meeting the issue is no closer to being resolved. Chair Blomback asked Selectman Osgood to reach out to DES to request an outline of the reimbursement process.

Joe Devine stated he received the shoreland permit for the community school's propane project, and as the landowners he needs the Board's permission to sign the permit.

Chair Blomback moved to approve Joe Devine to sign the shoreland permit on behalf of the Town of Henniker for the Henniker Community School's new propane tanks. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 18: Second Reading: Public Hearing – Sidewalk Cafés

Selectman Parker stated his concerns with the current CDC criteria in addition to adhering to ADA (American Disability Act) compliance. Vice Chair Hooper stated she would like this to be a temporary policy with a sunset date for this year.

Public hearing:

Steve Cunliffe suggested closing the one-way street next to Abby's Café to allow for outdoor seating without infringing on the sidewalks.

Heidi Aucoin asked how many businesses downtown wanted outdoor seating and pointed out the sidewalk's downtown are not very wide compared to downtown Concord.

Bill Marko stated that there has to be a way to find a solution since given the extraordinary circumstances of the time, some of these businesses may not be able to weather the storm without some help and they should be given some leeway during this pandemic.

Mike French stated it is worth at least trying in these crazy times and if it helps the local businesses, we should do it.

Public Hearing Closed.

Vice Chair Hooper stated it will be a temporary policy with a sunset on October 31, 2020 and to remove item 6 regarding permits. Chair Blomback asked about extending into the parking spots on 114 in front of Abby's Café. DOT (Department of Transportation) will need to be contacted as 114 is a state owned and controlled road.

Selectman Flynn moved for a 3rd reading with the amendments. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

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Chair Blomback authorized Joe Devine to work with Abby's Café and reach out to DOT. Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 19: Second Reading: Chapter 25 Building Construction Fees Ordinance Revised

Any remodels consisting of work that does not increase square footage does not require a permit (examples – remodeling bathroom/kitchen, replacing a deck). Adding an addition and increasing the square footage of a deck does require a permit.

Board comments-none

Public hearing – none

Selectman Osgood moved to approve the new ordinance requirements and fees. Chair Blomback seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

Item 20: Acceptance of Board of Selectmen Public Hearing Minutes – May 5, 2020

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

Item 21: Acceptance of Board of Selectmen Non-Public Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2020

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

Item 22: Acceptance of Board of Selectmen Non-Public Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2020

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

Item 23: Department Reports – inside agenda packet

Vice Chair Hooper asked for an update on the tax lien discrepancies or if modifications were made. Joe Devine stated he reviewed them, and it reflects all properties not just the one lien.

Heidi Aucoin stated when she was at the Transfer Station, she saw a former town resident and employee as well as another person who she knows does not live in town. She asked about updating the stickers with colors each year.

Selectman Parker asked about Waste Water plant employees having protective equipment. Joe Devine stated Police Chief French gave them some masks.

Item 24: Town Administrator Report

Joe Devine stated the Town is now enrolled in the GETS program which provides first responders with priority cell phone coverage during an emergency. If the first responders have the call-in card, they will receive priority over the average citizen. It is cheaper than what the Town is currently paying Verizon.

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Joe Devine is working on getting more PPE masks for the Town and was able to secure 500 from the State as well as sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and thermometers for temperature checks at Town Hall.

Sgt. Doug Paul is losing his battle with cancer; a parade is being planned for him on May 30. No state roads will be used so no permits are required.

The Henniker Rotary asked for permission to place approximately six flags on Depot Hill Road in front of the Town Hall and along Weare Road by Woodman Memorial Park to promote patriotism on Memorial Day Weekend, June 14th, July 4th, Labor Day Weekend, and November 11th.

One May 26, Joe Devine is looking to bring everyone in for a remote conference.

June 1st the town hall will be open for scheduled appointments. Employees not behind glass will be required to wear masks and those coming in are asked to wear masks. Joe stated in June he would like the Board to start meeting in person again if the restrictions on gatherings has been lifted.

June 15th the town hall will open for normal operations.

Chair Blomback moved to approve the proposed Henniker re-opening agenda as presented contingent on Governor's Orders. Selectman Flynn seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Item 25: Selectmen Reports

Chair Blomback had none.

Vice Chair Hooper had none.

Selectman Parker had none.

Selectman Flynn had none.

Selectman Osgood stated Azalea Park Committee did work freshening up the walkway and taking up some bad weeds, and that the mulch is not for public use and it meant for Azalea park.

PUBLIC COMMENT #2

Mike French stated the Board runs a very efficient meeting and thanked them for all their hard work during these difficult times and included Joe and spry Kelly.

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

NON-PUBLIC Item 26: Non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (a)

ADJOURNMENT

UPCOMING DATES

Board of Selectmen

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May 25, 2020 – Memorial Day (Town Office Closed)

June 2, 2020 – Select Board Meeting

June 6, 2020 – Town Meeting