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**Town of Henniker
Road Management Meeting
Tuesday, March 3, 2021
Highway Department**

Members Present: Selectwoman Tia Hooper, Selectman Leon Parker, Highway Supervisor Leo Aucoin, Bill Marko,

Members Excused: Mike Flecchia, Danny Aucoin

Recording Secretary: Kelly McCutcheon

Highway Supervisor Report:

One of the trucks was damaged while sanding a steep hill when it lost traction. Once the truck passes alignment all the remaining parts are in the shop and will be fixed including the radiator and headlights. The wing tower for the truck was able to be salvaged and Leo Aucoin is waiting to ensure any salvageable parts can be used before having to purchase all new parts. Insurance will cover the damage and have located an aftermarket steering column without providing the town an estimate.

The committee reviewed the financial reports provided by the town and noted the reports do not recognize obligated funds, inflating the available budget. With the cut to the warrant made by the Board of Selectman from \$750,000 to \$600,000 and the reduction in the State Highway Block Grant to \$60,000, Old Hillsboro Road will not have the funds to be completed this year.

Bill Marko suggested emptying the capital reserve to complete Old Hillsboro Road. Leo Aucoin stated that would still not be enough to complete the road and he would be able to do more on Morrison or Gould starting at the Hillsboro line and working back. Bill Marko asked if the work could be contracted out so more roads could be worked on this year. Leo Aucoin stated that GMI is already booked for all of 2021 and told him his bids need to go out in January.

Selectwoman Tia Hooper stated it is important to have money left over in the capital reserve in order to have funds to plan for January bids in the future and suggested postponing all projects this year in order to better plan for the next fiscal year.

The project list for 2021 had included Bennet, Elm, Depot Hill Road, Circle Street, and 1/3 of Old Hillsboro Road. Leo Aucoin stated he would rather do the work himself than risk hiring a low bidder again given the town's past experience.

Selectman Parker stated that for the last several years despite the Board of Selectman voting to cut the \$750,000 that the towns people have always voted for and supported it on the floor. He also stated that the \$750,000 is not raising taxes as that number has been consistent the last several years and his support of asking the voters for \$750,000 again. Bill Marko stated he sees

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the benefit of asking for \$700,000 instead to show more compassion for the tax payers. Selectwoman Tia Hooper will provide slides in the presentation with figures for \$600,000 and \$700,000 for the tax payers to see.

Approve previous minutes:

Tabled.

Bill Marko asked about culvert replacement on Shore Drive as a neighbor had approached him on the subject.

**Bill Marko moved to adjourn. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 4-0
Adjourned at 7:30.**