Record of Affirmative Votes from 2015 Town Meeting

Town of Henniker
State of New Hampshire

The polls were open at the Henniker Community School Gymnasium
51 Western Avenue, Henniker on Tuesday, March 10, 2015
From 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM
And voting commenced on the following:

1) Town Officers were voted as follows for the ensuing year:
   *Asterisk indicates person(s) elected

   **Selectmen-3 year term**
   Robert French Jr.  312*
   Kris Blomback  322*

   **Trustees of the Tucker Free Library-3 year term**
   Jamie Ramsey  317*
   Patti Osgood  339*

   **Town Treasurer-1 year term**
   Ronald C. Taylor  354*

   **Supervisor of the Checklist-3 year term**
   Anne M. Gould  376*

   **Cemetery Trustee-3 year term**
   Martha Taylor (write-in)  7
   Khiara Bostrom (write-in)  6*
   Carl/Rocky Bostrom (write-in)  3

   **Supervisor of the Checklist-6 year term**
   Ryan Gould  350*

   **Trustees of the Trust Funds-3 year term**
   Lynn M. Piotrowicz  326*

   **Cogswell Spring Water Works Water Commissioner-3 year term**
   Jerry D. Gilbert  366*

   **Planning Board-3 year term**
   Rick Patenaude  302*
   Scott Dias  338*
2) Are you in favor of amending Chapter 133, Zoning Regulations, Article VIII Commercial District Regulations, Section 133 – 28 Regulations for all commercial districts, G, by amending it as follows (deletions are within brackets [ ] and additions are underlined):

No [commercial retail buildings, as defined as any building for commercial retail use, with a building footprint greater than 35,000 square feet] will be allowed within any of the zoning districts in the Town of Henniker. shall be prohibited from all zoning districts, except for the CH Heavy Commercial District.

Planning Board recommend.

Amendment purpose: At this time, no commercial buildings larger than 35,000 square feet are allowed anywhere in the community. Given the location of the CH Heavy Commercial District, (eastern portion of Old Concord Road), the Planning Board believes that this area of the community is well suited for commercial growth, with excellent access and vacant land. In addition, it will provide opportunities to expand the tax base, which is greatly needed.

YES 285 NO 98

3) Are you in favor of amending Chapter 133, Zoning Regulations Article XVI, Non-conforming Uses, Non-complying Structures & Non-conforming Lots by making the following changes?

Create new Section 133 – 75 to read as follows: Existing Non-conforming Residential Uses in the CH Heavy Commercial District: Existing principal and accessory residential structures may be expanded as a matter of right and shall not require a Special Exception from the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Planning Board recommend.

Amendment purpose: To reduce conflicts between commercial/industrial and residential uses, two years ago the Planning Board amended the zoning ordinance to prohibit residential uses in the CH Heavy Commercial zone. This change creates a burden to existing homes in this area, requiring homeowners to obtain Zoning Board approval for home expansions. This amendment will allow such natural expansions to occur by right.

YES 314 NO 65
The meeting reconvened at the Henniker Community School Cafetorium on Saturday, March 14 at 1:00 p.m.

The annual Henniker Town Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by the Moderator, Wayne Colby. A reminder was given to all in attendance to get checked in by the Supervisors of the Checklist and receive your voting card to be used when voting on articles. There were 223 voter cards issued at the Town Meeting. Wayne also mentioned that the 7th grade class will once again be selling refreshments to help defray some of the costs for the annual trip to Washington, DC. Wayne then recognized Leigh Bosse, from the Messenger who had a presentation to make. Leigh presented the Highway Department with gift certificates to the Appleseed Restaurant as a thank you from the Town of Henniker residents for all the hard work they have done this winter. Wayne then mentioned the results of the two zoning amendments and the results from the only contested seat on the Henniker School Board. Wayne reminded all the re-elected and newly elected officials that they need to be sworn in before taking any official actions.

An introduction of the head table was given – Kimberly Johnson, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Deborah Aucoin, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector; the Selectmen: Robert French, Jr., Leo Aucoin, Kris Blomback, Scott Osgood, Tia Hooper; Chris Trovato, Town Administrator and Russ Roy, Finance Director. Russ Roy, Nate Hadaway, and Ken Levesque are not Henniker residents, but they will be allowed to speak.

Wayne spoke about his role as the Moderator which is to make sure that we have an orderly and legal meeting. Any decision made by the Moderator may be challenged or overturned by making a motion. After a motion has been made and you wish to speak to that motion, come to the microphone, state your name and wait to be recognized. Any amendment that you would like to make must be in writing. A motion to end discussion on any article can’t be made by the last person to speak to that motion. Any 5 voters in attendance may request a ballot vote before any type of vote and 5 voters can also request a ballot vote recount. Please be respectful and no personal attacks. “We are all in the same town, same sandbox, so play nice”.

Kris Blomback, Chairman of the Selectmen, opened his presentation with the fact that this process of a Town Meeting in Henniker has unfolded at least 247 other times before today. The backbone of our operation is personnel based, and we had a number of departures and arrivals this past year. The departures this past year were Tom Yennerell, Nicole Gage, and Fire Chief Keith Gilbert. We welcomed Christine Trovato as the new Town Administrator; Steve Burritt, the new Chief of the Fire Department and Carol Conforti-Adams. We also wish the Ayer family heartfelt condolences with the passing of Chief Ben Ayer who held a steady watch for 35 plus years as the Fire Chief and retired from Henniker in 2003.

Kris said the Highway garage fire on January 30th is still a fresh memory and spoke about what the goal for rebuilding is. Kudos to all our employees who are working under difficult conditions and making the most of it. A brief explanation was given on some of the articles to be discussed during the meeting, including the Fire Truck, the operating budget, fire/rescue budget, the Canal Area Bridge, and the revaluation scheduled to take place this year. Kris mentioned the dedicated funds that people may make donations to for specific causes. These specific causes are Azalea
Park, Community Concert Series, the Community Center, Spirit of Henniker (S.H.O.T) and Athletics.

Most of the citizen input has overwhelmingly indicated that they are content with the level of spending and government services that are being provided. Kris said the Selectmen believe that the budget being presented today provides that and they are asking for your support.

Kris concluded with saying that Mr. Colby will help us navigate and keep the process legal. Kris ended with what his fortune cookie from lunch the other day said…."He who is afraid to ask is ashamed of learning” I thought that was very appropriate.

Wayne Colby, the Moderator, discussed the procedure for the 2 ballot votes that were necessary for Article 4 and Article 5. There will be a motion made to postpone discussion on Article 4 until discussion and the voting results are known on Article 5. The polls must be open for 1 hour on each of the bond issues.

4) To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of Five Hundred Fifty Three Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Dollars ($553,530) payable over a term of five years for the replacement of the Fire Department Pumper Truck and to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Three Thousand Dollars ($63,000) for the down payment for that purpose, and to authorize the withdrawal of $63,000 from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund; in 2016 the sum of $98,106 will be due on the lease/purchase agreement and this sum will be due each year over the five year term. (2/3 vote required for passage.)

Selectmen recommend.

MOTION TO POSTPONE DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ARTICLE 4 UNTIL RESULTS OF THE VOTING ON ARTICLE 5 ARE KNOWN

MOTION PASSED

5) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ($1,200,000) One Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars for the construction and equipping of a new public works garage and the purchase of road maintenance equipment, including, trucks, plows, wings, communications equipment, road grader, and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act(RSA 33) and to authorize municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and to accept such grants, insurance proceeds and other revenues as may be available.

MOTION made to postpone voting on Article 5 until action on Article 21 is complete.

MOTION FAILED

MOTION TO AMEND (#1) ARTICLE 5: to raise and appropriate up to the sum of ($1,000,000) One Million Dollars for the construction and equipping of a new public works garage and the purchase of road maintenance equipment, including, trucks, plows, wings, communications equipment, road grader, and to authorize the issuance of bonds or
notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and to accept such grants, insurance proceeds and other revenues as may be available.

MOTION FAILED BY HAND COUNT
YES 80  NO 109

MOTION TO AMEND (#2) ARTICLE 5: to raise and appropriate up to the sum of ($1,200,000) One Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars for the construction and equipping of a new public works garage and the purchase of road maintenance equipment, including, trucks, plows, wings, communications equipment, road grader, and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and to accept such grants, insurance proceeds and other revenues as may be available.

MOTION PASSED
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of ($1,200,000) One Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars for the construction and equipping of a new public works garage and the purchase of road maintenance equipment, including, trucks, plows, wings, communications equipment, road grader, and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and to accept such grants, insurance proceeds and other revenues as may be available.

BALLOT VOTING ON ARTICLE 5 BEGAN AT 3:19 p.m.

6) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Million Four Hundred Fifty One Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Four Dollars ($4,451,794) for general municipal operations.

Selectmen recommend.

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MOTION TO AMEND (#1) ARTICLE 6: to remove $47,000.00 from the budget to remove the position of a Planning Consultant.

AMENDMENT FAILED – NO SECOND

VOTED to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Million Four Hundred Fifty One Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Four Dollars ($4,451,794) for general municipal operations.

Selectmen recommend.

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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**BALLOT VOTING ON ARTICLE 5 CLOSED AT 4:19 p.m.**

7) **VOTED** to raise and appropriate the sum of up to Three Hundred Sixty Four Thousand Dollars ($364,000) for the Canal Bridge Repairs.

*Selectmen recommend.*

**BALLOT VOTING RESULTS ON ARTICLE 5**

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<th>YES</th>
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**ARTICLE 5 PASSED WITH THE REQUIRED 2/3 VOTE**

**MOTION** made to restrict reconsideration of Articles 5 through 7 in accordance with RSA 40:15, paragraphs 1 and 5.

**MOTION PASSED**

4) To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of Five Hundred Fifty Three Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Dollars ($553,530) payable over a term of five years for the replacement of the Fire Department Pumper Truck and to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Three Thousand Dollars ($63,000) for the down payment for that purpose, and to authorize the withdrawal of $63,000 from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund; in 2016 the sum of $98,106 will be due on the lease/purchase agreement and this sum will be due each year over the five year term. *(2/3 vote required for passage.)*

*Selectmen recommend.*
MOTION TO AMEND (#1) ARTICLE 4: To see if the town will raise from the current year taxation and appropriate the sum of $453,693.00 and authorize a withdraw from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve fund in the amount of $63,000 (Sixty Three Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of purchasing a Fire Department Pumper Truck.

MOTION FAILED

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of Five Hundred Fifty Three Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Dollars ($553,530) payable over a term of five years for the replacement of the Fire Department Pumper Truck and to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Three Thousand Dollars ($63,000) for the down payment for that purpose, and to authorize the withdrawal of $63,000 from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund; in 2016 the sum of $98,106 will be due on the lease/purchase agreement and this sum will be due each year over the five year term. (2/3 vote required for passage.)

Selectmen recommend.

BALLOT VOTING ON ARTICLE 4 BEGAN AT 4:43 p.m.

8) VOTED to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000) to purchase/replace Plow Gear for the Highway Department Loader.

Selectmen recommend.

9) VOTED to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars ($40,000) to replace the Pick-Up Truck used at the transfer station and to authorize the withdrawal of $40,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance. No amount to be raised from taxes.

Selectmen recommend.

10) VOTED to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Eight Dollars ($211,568) for the Tucker Free Library with the amount to be raised from current year taxation.

Selectmen recommend.

11) VOTED to raise and appropriate the sum of $4,583 (four thousand five hundred eighty three dollars for the purpose of restoration of the stained glass indows at the Tucker Free Library. Furthermore, this appropriation is 100% reimbursable to the Town from a Conservation License Plate Grant Program offered through the State of New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources. No expenditure under this article shall occur unless the library receives the amount of the stated grant.

Selectmen recommend.

12) VOTED to raise and appropriate the sum of up to One hundred forty six thousand nine hundred sixty six dollars ($146,966) for road improvements, representing the Town’s estimated share of the New Hampshire Highway Block Grant. Only the amount of revenue received from the block grant shall be appropriated for this purpose. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse before five (5) years.

Selectmen recommend.

13) VOTED to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000) to conduct the Statistical Property Revaluation.
Selectmen recommend.

14) **VOTED** to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($56,500) to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund established in 1988 under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purchase of an ambulance for the Rescue Squad, of which the amount of $6,500 will be transferred if received from the Town of Bradford.  
Selectmen recommend.

15) **VOTED** to raise and appropriate the sum of up to Two Hundred One Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Five Dollars ($201,865) for Fire Department Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment. Said appropriation is contingent upon receipt and acceptance by the Board of Selectmen of a FEMA “Assistance to Firefighter’s Grant” in the amount up to One Hundred Ninety Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Three Dollars ($192,253), and authority is granted to take all steps to apply for such grant funding. The remaining cost, not to exceed $9,612 will come from taxation. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2018 or upon completion of the project, whichever comes first. No expenditure will occur unless grant from FEMA is awarded to the Town of Henniker.  
Selectmen recommend.

**MOTION** made to restrict reconsideration of Articles 8 through 15 in accordance with RSA 40:15, paragraphs 1 and 5.  
**MOTION PASSED**

16) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Dollar ($1) to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund established at the 2001 Town Meeting under the provisions of RSA 35:1.  
Selectmen recommend.

**MOTION TO POSTPONe ACTION ON ARTICLE 16 UNTIL WE HAVE RESULTS FROM VOTING ON ARTICLE 4**  
**MOTION PASSED**

17) **VOTED** to raise and appropriate the sum of $19,000 for the Weatherization of the Town Hall as requested by the Energy Committee.  
Selectmen recommend.

18) **VOTED** vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Twenty Three thousand One Hundred Twenty Five ($423,125) for the operating expenses of Cogswell Spring Water Works. This funding is provided by water assessments.  
**Water Commissioners recommend.**

19) **VOTED** to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Forty Two Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Two Dollars ($542,482) for the operating expenses of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This funding is provided by sewer assessments.  
**Sewer Commissioners recommend. Selectmen recommend.**

20) **VOTED** to raise and appropriate the sum $300,026 (Three hundred thousand twenty six dollars) for the reconstruction of sidewalks and curbing on Rush Road, Maple Street,
Prospect Street and Hall Avenue and authorize the acceptance of the same amount from a Transportation Alternatives Program grant set forth by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. The funding is eighty percent (80%) reimbursable by the State in the amount of $240,020 (Two hundred forty thousand twenty dollars) upon completion of the project(s) authorized by the NHDOT, The State portion is $240,020; and furthermore, dispensing of funds from this article is contingent upon the DOT awarding the grant. The balance of $60,005 (sixty thousand five dollars) will come from taxation. The grant award will take place in Spring 2015. This is a non-lapsing article per RSA 32:7 and will not lapse before two (2) years or upon completion, whichever comes first.

Selectmen recommend.

BALLOT VOTING ON ARTICLE 4 CLOSED AT 5:48 p.m.

BALLOT VOTING RESULTS ON ARTICLE 4

YES 118 NO 58

ARTICLE 4 PASSED WITH THE REQUIRED 2/3 VOTE

16) MOTION TO TAKE NO ACTION to raise and appropriate the sum of One Dollar ($1) to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund established at the 2001 Town Meeting under the provisions of RSA 35:1.

Selectmen recommend.

MOTION PASSED

21 VOTED to authorize the conveyance of a conservation easement to an established Conservation Trust on two adjacent lots off of Craney Pond Road and identified in the Town’s tax records as Map 1, Lot 735 and Map 1, Lot 739, subject to the conditions that the Conservation Commission approve the conveyance and underwrite all costs from the Conservation Fund, including, but not limited to surveying, legal, transaction and monitoring fees.

Conservation Commission and Selectmen recommend.

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. (This article is meant to allocate time that public acknowledgments may be voiced and is not meant to add additional articles to the meeting. The final decision is the responsibility of the Town Moderator - per Henniker Town Counsel).

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

A True copy Attest:

Kimberly I. Johnson, Town Clerk