Members Present: Vice Chair Tia Hooper; Selectman Peter Flynn; Selectman Scott Osgood; Selectman Leon Parker

Members Excused: Chairman, Kris Blomback

Town Administrator: Joe R. Devine Jr.

Recording Secretary: Kelly McCutcheon

Guests: Patti Osgood, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Blanchard, Robert Garrison, Jerry Gilbert, Marc McMurphy, Steve Burrity, Mark Mitch, Cordell Johnson, Josh McCutcheon, Merrick Kennedy, Danny Teaze, Lynn Piotrowicz, Keith DeMoura, Deb Kreutae, Leo & Lisa Aucoin, Stephanie Teaze, Susan Adams, Danny & Heidi Aucoin, Bruce Trivileni

Public Hearing: 2020 Proposed Budget

Vice Chair Hooper opened the public meeting by asking everyone to sign in and stated the tonight will not include the $3.2 million dollar sewer bond or the $350,000 Water Commission warrant articles. Both will be discussed at the February 10, 2020 meeting. She asked the residents address the Board directly and not the Department heads, and to state their Name and Address when addressing the Board. There is to be no name calling, screaming, or personal attacks of any employees or the Board. Residents are asked to keep their remarks brief. Vice Chair Hooper introduced all the department heads in attendance.

Vice Chair Hooper stated that the budget is not finalized and the Board has been continuously reviewing and making adjustments since November 2019. She understands resident’s frustration with tax increases however, the town budget is only 28% of the overall taxes, 58% being the school budget, and 14% being state and county.

Vice Chair Hooper stated the town’s infrastructure is failing and the capital reserves have not been adequately funded and it will not get better unless the issues are addressed over a period of time and the town starts saving for the future. She knows the tax rate is unbearable and the Board has been doing their due diligence along with department heads to keep the operating budget as slim as possible. She stated CIP (Capital Improvements Plan), the long-range planning tool, outlines the cost of funding for basic municipal infrastructure and what the funding looks like year to year and what the estimated taxes would be if adopted.
Selectman Osgood thanked Vice Chair Hooper for the opening comments on the budget and asked the town to not forget that the State has requirements to help fund some of the infrastructure items as well, and that the State needs to fund more into roads, schools, and pensions. Towns are not able to do it on their own and need the State’s help.

Selectman Parker stated that there are very few people in attendance tonight and that there were also very few people in attendance last night at the school hearing for SB2 operations and capital expenditures starting at $2,250,000 this year which will be put on the tax payers since the school has no intention of bonding. Selectman Parker also stated that it seems nearly impossible to get information on the school’s $8,000,000 budget when they make up 58% of the budget, compared to accessing and reviewing the Town’s budget and operations.

**Article 9:** Shall the Town of Henniker vote to raise and appropriate a sum not-to-exceed $75,000 (Seventy Five Thousand Dollars) to hire a Certified Lake Management Consulting Firm to study conditions and provide design solutions to reduce external and internal phosphate loading in French and Keyser Ponds -- to mitigate recurring Cyanobacteria algae blooms in these ponds? And to authorize the issuance of not more than $75,000 of bonds or notes in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended, with the amount of such bonds or notes to be reduced by any grant funding received for the project; to authorize the Selectmen to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. It is anticipated that there will be $75,000 in principal loan forgiveness under the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Clean Water State Revolving Fund (NH CWSRF). Fiscal Impact Note: The tax impact associated with this will be $0.00 per $1,000 valuation. The principal loan amount of $75,000 will be forgiven per the terms of the NH CWSRF agreement. **No Tax Impact. Selectmen recommend.**

Mark Mitch read the warrant article and explained that when the entire project was completed the loan would be forgiven and there is no tax impact. The Conservation Commission has been in discussion with DES (Department of Environmental Services) for months now and the State recommends pursuing this project in order to determine what is happening in the watershed. The maximum allowed by the State is $75,000, although Mark Mitch anticipates it to be less than half, the State Advised the Conservation Commission to request the full amount.

Selectman Parker stated it has been a long-standing problem going back years and has a direct impact on all the properties around it, and has a serious impact on the tax revenue from those properties if it is not cleaned up.

Public Comment on the Article: Cordell Johnson asked about the issuance of bond and was trying to grasps the flow of money. Vice Chair Hooper stated she believed it was a grant set up. Financial Director Russ Roy confirmed it is a grant set up, and at the advice of the State it was worded this way. Although the balance sheets will show expense and revenue there is truly no
out of pocket expense. Cordell stated he would like to know if it will be a ballot vote or not. The Board will find out if it needs to be a ballot question.

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Million Six Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Five Dollars ($5,629,305) for general municipal operations. **Selectmen recommend**

Public Comment: Joan O’Connor stated she wanted the Swap Shop reopened (someone in the audience hollered in support) and wanted it to be a paid town position for the year, $12/hour for 6-8 hours. She stated again how she wants the Swap Shop reopen with a paid employee and was unsure if tonight or the night of Town Meeting was to make the request.

Vice Chair Hooper stated the Board will make a note tonight and that she may make a case again at Town Meeting.

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars ($800,000) To be added to the Roads Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, established at the 2019 Town Meeting under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of Road Maintenance Projects. **Selectmen recommend**

Vice Chair Hooper stated of the $750,000 warrant article approved last year that a number of projects where accomplished through the downtown area including Western Ave and Hall Ave up to Post Office Place in addition to a few other road projects. There is still $300,000 remaining of work for the top coat in the spring in addition to raising the man hole covers. The following projects have been proposed this year: Union Street, Gould Street, Fairview Ave, Patterson Hill, the remainder of Western Ave. from Cote Hill to the Town Line. The projects have been run through CIP (Capital Improvements Program) and there are addition cost savings when the work is bundled.

Public Comment: Mrs. Blanchard asked if the work included bridges. Vice Chair Hooper stated there is a separate fund for bridges.

Jack Krantz stated he thought Depot Hill Road was on the list and asked why the Water Department asked to postpone that street. Vice Chair Hooper stated there is a waterline that needs to be replaced before the road can be repaved. Jack asked why the Water Department is being subsidized when he paid to put in a well and septic tank. Vice Chair Hooper stated the Water Department is not being subsidized, but working jointly with the Highway Department to save money. Jack stated he thought the Water and Sewer users were suppose to pay for improvements. Vice Chair Hooper stated the Highway Department cannot begin to repave the road until after the Water Department has replaced the pipe. Jack stated the Highway Supervisor has done a great job and that well and septic users should not be paying for the Water Department. Selectman Parker stated both departments are staging the work like on Hall Ave where the new pipe was laid before the road was paved, and stated that if the road was paved and then dug up to replace the pipe and repaved, the results are an unsatisfactory
road finish. Jack stated get it done and pave the road. Vice Chair Hooper promised it is on the list for 2021.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars ($20,000) to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1. Selectmen Recommend
Public comment: Josh McCutcheon asked what would happen if the town voted to not approve? Vice Chair Hooper stated typically there is the P28 form that is mailed out to be filled out and returned, but the State mandates it this year and every 5-10 years.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety-Nine Thousand dollars ($99,000) to conduct a Full Property Revaluation and to withdraw $60,000 from the Property Revaluation Capital Reserve established for that purpose. Selectmen recommend.
Vice Chair Hooper stated this relates back to the last article and to be apply to apply the full amount. No public comment.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars ($70,000) 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 $7,800 will be transferred if received from the Town of Bradford. If the money is not received from Bradford only $62,200 will be deposited into the fund.
Selectmen recommend
Selectman Osgood asked when the town needs to purchase a new ambulance. Vice Chair Hooper stated this year and that it has been included in the vehicle and equipment. Rescue Chief Greg Aucoin provided a detailed scope of the of the issues with the ambulance. Currently there is $205,348 in the capital reserve leaving a balance of $348. Patti Osgood asked what capital reserve balance would be after depositing and withdrawing. Vice Chair Hopper stated $348.

Patti Osgood stated the need to secure and ambulance as well as the funds from Bradford. Rescue Chief Greg Aucoin stated that the town maintains 2 ambulances at all times and that frequently both ambulances are called out together. Patti Osgood asked when the last new ambulance was bought. Rescue Chief Greg Aucoin stated 4 years ago and that the ambulances have an 8-year rotation.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars ($275,000) to purchase an ambulance. Further to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to expend the Two Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Dollars ($275,000) from 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. Selectmen recommend
No public Comment.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Parks Equipment Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of Replacing equipment needed to maintain
the parks, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen thousand Dollars ($15,000) to be added to this fund and designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. **Selectmen recommend.**

No public comment.

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($18,500) to purchase a lawn tractor to maintain the Parks and Town properties and to further withdraw Fifteen Thousand Dollars ($15,000) from the Parks Expendable Trust Fund established for that purpose.

Public Comment: It needs to be stated where the money is coming from.

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 79-E, which will allow the Board of Selectmen to entertain applications for community revitalization tax relief for a period of up to five years for structures located within 0.60 miles of Proctor Square. The tax on the qualifying structure shall not increase as a result of substantial rehabilitation, defined as having a cost of 15% of the pre-rehabilitation assessed value, or at least $75,000, whichever is less. in the amount of 15%

Town Administrator Joe Devine stated that essentially the property taxes would be frozen for 5-years for any commercial or multi-family units, and after the 5-year period the full assessed taxes would be due. No public comment.

**Article 19:** Shall the Town of Henniker vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:81 and enable the town to grant tax exemptions for new construction performed in the CH Heavy Commercial District, CM Medium Commercial District, CR Commercial Recreational District & CR1 Commercial Recreational District. The intent of the exemption authority is to provide incentives to businesses to build, rebuild, modernize, or enlarge within the municipality. The exemption shall apply only for municipal and local school property taxes assessed by the municipality. The exemption will not apply to the entirety of the property value, but only to any increase in assessment which results from the new construction. The period for which the property is eligible for exemption is ten years. The percentage of authorized exemption is as follows:

- Year 1 and Year 2, 50% of the increased assessment value as described above;
- Year 3 and Year 4, 40% of the increased assessment value as described above;
- Year 5 and Year 6, 30% of the increased assessment value as described above;
- Year 7 and Year 8, 20% of the increased assessment value as described above;
- Year 9 and Year 10, 10% of the increased assessment value as described above.

For purposes of this exemption, the term “new construction” shall mean new structures, or additions, renovations, or improvements to existing structures. For the purposes of this the exemption “granted on a per case basis based on the amount and value of public benefit as determined by” the board of selectmen. For the purpose of this exemption, in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement a minimum of one of the following must be provided: enhance economic growth and increase the Town’s tax base; creation of needed services or facilities not currently available in the Town; redevelop and revitalize commercial or industrial area; prevent or eliminate blight; or, retain local jobs, increase local job base, and/or provide diversity in the
job base.” For purposes of this exemption, the term “Commercial” shall be defined as outlined in the Henniker Zoning Ordinance, Article II Definitions Section 133-3, shall mean manufacturing and heavy manufacturing, consumable manufactured goods, lumberyard, timber activities, recycling facility (household wastes), veterinary and large veterinary hospital, and warehouse. If adopted, this Warrant Article will become effective April 1, 2020 and will remain in effect for Five (5) Years.

Town Administrator Joe Devine stated this is another economic development and that there can be stipulated zones, and the focus is on commercial zones. It is important to note that in order to qualify there needs to be a clear public benefit for both the RSA perspective as well as the Board of Selectmen via public hearing.

Public comment: Joan O’Connor asked for a map with the proposed zones. Vice Chair Hooper stated it online, and Joe confirmed the zones are also listed on the website map. Jerry Gilbert asked on the behalf of the Chamber of Commerce if the it will be retro activated from January 1, 2020 or if it is only for development after April 1, 2020. Joe confirmed that it would be from April 1, 2020 and onward. Cordell Johnson asked about the language of the warrant and stated with the examples listed it seems as if those are the only ones that apply. Joe stated the examples can be struck. Cordell Johnson also pointed out that 133-3 does not have a single definition of commercial and the difference between light and heavy, and wants to ensure it is clear for everyone’s understanding.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Nine Dollars ($229,379) for the Tucker Free Library with the amount to be raised from current year taxation. Selectmen recommend.

Lynn P and Patti Osgood spoke on the Library operating budget and how the increase reflects the COLA’s with no steps, and that for any increases, the increase was taken from another line item. The Board had no questions.

Public Comment: Mrs. Blanchard asked if all of the 2019 budget was expended and about the increase. Patti Osgood stated that there is an increase because of the COLA (cost of living adjustment) of 1.5% for the one full-time employee for an increase of $1,261. Patti Osgood also stated the 2019 total budget was expended. Rocky asked what the total was for wages and benefits. The total is $159,000 in wages with the 1.5% COLA and the benefit rate is $15,840 same as the rest of town employees as well as dental, FICA, and retirement. Patti Osgood stated there is one full-time benefit receiving employee, the rest are part-time. The library has changed their hours without increasing staff to meet the demands of the town, and in the master plan from 2002 it was recommended to add a second full-time person in 2007, that has never been added.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Nine Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars ($109,250) to continue to advance design and planning for the library accessibility and safety project with the amount to be raised from current year taxation.
Patti Osgood and Lynn P stated the project has been in the works for a few years and that there have been several public meetings regarding the project. Patti stated that lift is no longer functioning and the company that installed it is no longer servicing it and based on the master plan from 2002 it does not make sense to install an elevator if it does not reach all the floors. In addition to the only bathroom being a single handicap bathroom. Patti them mentioned the drug problems at observed at the Dover Library and needles being found in the library, and how the library needs more public and more handicap accessible bathrooms. These funds would move the project forward to be ready to bid in order to prepare for 2021 Town Meeting and warrants. The scope of service would include construction documents, floor and ceiling plans, engineering plans, and detailed building plans and specs. They stated given the age of the audience the town residents are not getting younger and there is a need to be handicap accessible when the library serves over half the population and there are services for everyone from children- seniors. They also stated the cost for these renovations will only get more expensive the longer the town waits and construction cost tend to increase at least 10% per year.

Public comment: Rocky asked how much has already been spent towards the project. Lynn stated that in 2018 $10,500 was spent on a feasibility study, and in 2019 the town approved 40% construction design at $70,000. Mrs. Blanchard stated that she doesn’t understand how $80,500 has already been spent. Lynn stated that it was for the design documents and the remaining $109,250 is the complete the documents and start the process to be able to go out to bid.

Rocky asked if the addition is going to fall in line with the historic look of downtown. Lynn confirmed yes and why they selected a firm that’s forte is maintaining the historic look and feel of buildings. Vice Chair Hooper that there has been some back and forth regarding the communication the project. Vice Chair Hooper asked for the estimated cost of the 3 separate projects: elevator, bathrooms, and renovating the 3rd floor. Patti stated she does not have those numbers and the reason it was not broken out was because of the advice of the architect firm. If the library had to pick one project it would be the evaluator, but really everything needs to be done at once. Vice Chair Hooper stated the town has already spent over $80,000 and the tax payers deserve to know what the end cost is going to be. Lynn stated this warrant article would complete the initial design cost so it can be sent out to bid for a final cost for the 2021 Town Meeting and stated that Mile Stone Construction stated that would have a final number for the Library meeting on March 3, 2020 to be held at 7pm. Lynn invited to entire community to attend to see what the numbers look like and how it will all break down.

Selectman Flynn asked about the capital reserve that was set up a few year ago for the roof and how that money seems to have been spent. Lynn confirmed and that the expendable trust for emergencies has $5,000 and change.

Public comment: Chad Perce asked for confirmation that the library was asking to spend $109,250 in order to plan to spend $2,200,000 when the town has already spent $80,500. Lynn confirmed and that the $109,250 is to complete the preliminary design concepts in order to
send the project out to bid. Wayne Colby stated he does not understand how it is a surprise to everyone when it has been 40 or 60 year since any work was done to the library.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars ($30,000) for the Tucker Free Library to hire a Capital Campaign Consultant to assist in raising funds for the library accessibility and safety project with the amount to be raised from current year taxation.

Patti Osgood thanked the tax payers for their support that they have always given as well as the Board of Trustees and stated how the Library Board of trustees believes this is the right thing to do. Patti stated it was unsure when the right time to fund would be, but it is not ok to exclude people from using a public building and resource just because they cannot mange the stairs in the building. There are no professional fundraisers on the Library Board of Trustees or employed at the library, which is why it is essential to hire a profession fundraiser to raise the funds and help offset the cost. Residents are able to max tax deductible donations to Friends of the Library if they wish to donate and take advantage of the tax benefits.

No Board of Selectmen comments.  
Public comment: Mrs. Blanchard stated she loves the library, but believe these articles set a bad precedent and thinks it is bad idea to ask a paid professional to promote a vital essential. Rocky asked for confirmation that they lift cannot be repaired. Patti Osgood stated the company will not service it. Rocky stated hire another lift company and replace it. Patti stated the lift does not reach the 3rd floor. Rocky stated the town has other priorities like the $3.2 million waste water treatment plant. Joan O’Connor asked if the consultant was for one year or several years. Patti stated it was for the life of the project and would be a max of $30,000 and not renewable. Patti stated they will have a solid number once they are done interviewing candidates.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to One Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Five dollars ($177,945) 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 December 31, 2025. 
Selectmen recommend

No Board or public comment.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund established at the 2007 Town Meeting under the provisions of RSA 35:1 Selectmen recommend

No Board or public comment.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000) to be added to the Fire-Rescue Building Maintenance Fund, an Expendable Trust Fund under provisions of RSA 31:19-A Selectmen recommend
Vice Chair Hooper stated this is the other half needed to replace the roof at the Fire/Rescue Station. No public comment.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Wastewater Treatment Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of Maintenance Projects at the Wastewater Treatment Facility, and to raise and appropriate the sum of One Dollar ($1) to be added to the this fund and designate the Sewer Commissioners as agents to expend. Selectmen recommend

Financial Director Russ Roy stated the warrant does not specify where the $1 is being funded from. Vice Chair Hooper stated it will be discussed at the February 10th meeting. Mr. Blanchard asked how soon would work be done. Vice Chair Hooper stated there is $3 million dollars’ worth of work that needs to be completed within the next 3 years since almost everything is original in the plant, and $40 million dollars’ worth of work over the next 40 years.

The Waste Water Asset Management Plan can be found online at the www.Henniker.org.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000) to be added to the Town Owned Building Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of Town Owned Building Maintenance Projects. Selectmen recommend.

Jerry Gilbert asked what buildings are included. Vice Chair Hooper stated Town Hall, Grange, and Community Center. Jerry asked about the Transfer Station. Vice Chair Hooper stated they have their own separate fund.

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000) to be added to the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund established at the 2017 Town Meeting under the provisions of RSA 35:1. Selectmen recommend.

Vice Chair Hooper stated the two trash trailers will need to be replaced in the future and cost $100,000 each and it is in the towns best interest to start putting money in an expendable trust now. No public comment.

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000) to be added to the Bridge Repair Capital Reserve Fund established at the 2008 Town Meeting under the provisions of RSA 35:1. Selectmen recommend.

Mrs. Blanchard asked about the stone bridge in the center of town since the southwest corner cap stone is ajar. Vice Chair Hooper tasked Highway Supervisor Leo Aucoin to connect to DOT (Department of Transportation).
Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000) to be added to the Police Building Maintenance Fund. This is an expendable trust fund established under the provisions of RSA 31:19-A. **Selectmen recommend.**

Vice Chair Hooper stated there are health concerns with the current Police building and CIP recommended to start funding and initially asked more. No public comment.

**Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Town Technology Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of Hardware/Software upgrades to Town systems, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000) to be added to this fund and designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. Selectmen recommend.**

Vice Chair Hooper stated it will better serve the community be coordinating systems, making more efficient, and ideally implementing new financial technology that will allow for credit card payment processing for vehicle registration and tax payments.

Rocky asked if people would be charged the 3% card processing fee. Vice Chair Hooper stated from her understanding municipalities can have the fee waived. Heidi Aucoin stated other towns do charge a 3rd party vendor fee if paying online but not for payments made in the town Hall.

**Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Police Department Equipment Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of replacing Police equipment, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($2,500) to be added to this fund and designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. Selectmen recommend.**

Vice Chair Hooper stated there are two MBT’s (computers used in the cruisers) and over $80,000 in weapons that were originally donated by Ruger at no cost in 2016 and have a 10-year life span, and the town needs to start funding for those replacements because Ruger may not donate new weapons again.

Public comment: Josh McCutcheon asked about the $80,000 and stated the price of weapons have gone down and today is the “golden age” of buying firearms. He suggested if firearms need to be purchased, to buy them now while they are cheap. Rocky asked about the 10-year life, and stated that the weapons should be evaluated no replaced necessarily. Vice Chair Hooper stated that it should be standard for every department to evaluate equipment and inventory on a yearly basis in order to continue updating CIP.

**Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars ($100,000) to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund established at the 2016 Town Meeting under the provisions of RSA 35:1 Selectmen recommend.**
Vice Chair Hooper stated based on the fund flow found in the CIP report strongly recommends level funding for expenditures since there are two pieces of SCUBA gear that are over $100,000 each. Selectman Parker stated how he was active with the first CIP and is very unhappy and is disappointed and money has not been put away over the years to fund the years, so now warrant articles have to be raised. He stated the Fire Dept is one of the few departments that has a healthy capital reserve and he would recommend reducing to $50,000 to ease tax payer pain.

Rocky stated the Chief did an excellent job at evaluating everything to see if it actually needed to be replaced and encouraged setting a date to reevaluate, but no automatically replace.

**Article 34: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Six Hundred Nine dollars ($632,609) for the operating expenses of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This funding is provided by sewer assessments. **Selectmen recommend.**

No Board or public comment.

**Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Fifteen Thousand and Three Dollars ($515,003) for the operating expenses of Cogswell Spring Water Works. This funding is provided by water assessments. **Water Commissioners recommend.

No Board or public comment.

Two Petition Warrant Articles were submitted today, one on Climate Pollution and Fair Districting. No public comments on either.

The Board Closed public comments on the operating budget and warrants.

**Approval of proposed budget & warrant articles.**

Article 9 needs to be clarified if ballot vote or not.

Article 10 operating budget:

**Vice Chair Hooper moved to recommend flatling the emergency management budget for this year to $1,292.** Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**Vice Chair Hooper moved to recommend reducing CAP to bring back to 2019 funding.** Selectman Osgood asked about the impact on the town welfare department. Town Administrator Joe stated CAP is a different entity. There was no seconded. Motion failed.

**Vice Chair Hooper moved to level fund White Birch as the same rate as last year.** Selectman Osgood stated it was unfair to change funding when that was what they requested. There was no second. Motion failed.

**Article 11: Vice Chair Hooper moved to cut $50,000 from the $750,000.** Selectman Osgood seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
Article 12 and 13: no changes.
Article 14 and 15: needs to be rewritten to clarify.
Article 16 and 17: 17 needs to be rewritten to clarify.
Article 18: no changes
Article 19: needs to be rewritten to clarify.
Article 20: no changes
Article 21: no changes
Article 22: no changes
Article 23: no changes
Article 24: no changes
Article 25: no changes
Article 26: needs to be rewritten as capital reserve not expendable trust.
Article 27: Vice Chair Hooper moved to delay painting for another year and cut the $10,000 to $5,000. Selectman Flynn seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Article 28: Vice Chair Hooper moved to cut $25,000. Selectman Osgood seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
Article 29: no changes
Article 30: no changes
Article 31: no changes
Article 32: no changes
Article 33: Selectman Parker moved to cut $50,000 based on the money available in the capital reserve. Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Article 34: no changes
Article 35: no changes

Vice Chair Hooper moved to approve all the warrant articles as the Selectman recommend with the expectations of 14, 17, 19, 26 to be reviewed once updated. Selectman Flynn seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Vice Chair Hooper moved to restrict calling articles form coming back to the table besides 14, 17, 19, and 26. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Vice Chair Hooper moved to suspend the public hearing until February 10, 2020 at 6:15 to be held at the Henniker Town Hall, following both bond discussion and moving voting on warrant articles 14, 16, 17, 19, and 26. Selectman Parker seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Vice Chair Hooper moved to adjourn at 8:30. Selectman Flynn seconded. Motion carried 4-0.