



"The only Henniker on Earth."
Office of the Town Administrator

To: Board of Selectmen, employees, volunteers, and Town of Henniker
From: Diane Kendall, Town Administrator
Date: November 21, 2023
Ref: **Town Administrator's Report**

2024 Budget

Department heads are submitting edits to their budgets. The revised budget including revenue estimates will be prepared for the next Selectboard meeting on December 5th.

One time Highway Block Grant Funds HB2 (SB 270):

Certain provisions in Chapter 79 (HB 2, Sections 520 and 521) provides \$20 million is one-time property tax relief through additional direct payments to cities and towns for **immediate infrastructure improvements**: an additional and \$10 million in municipal highway block grants and \$10 million for the repair and maintenance of municipally owned bridges.

The town has received **\$46,960.09** in this one-time lump funding of apportionment "A". HB 2 will provide funding with restricted uses, meaning that it may be used to supplement (not supplant) local budgets; The "supplement not supplant" provision requires that these funds must add to (supplement) and not replace (supplant) local budgeted funds when providing services that repair, maintain, and construct municipal bridges (bridge -aid); repair and maintain class IV and V roads or acquire the equipment necessary to maintain Class IV and V roads (additional highway block grant)including advancing sidewalk construction adjacent to a Class V Road. Apportionment "B" Bridge Aid will be distributed in December. The funds are non-lapsing which means that the funds can be "carried over".

It is not recommended these funds be placed in a Capital Reserve Fund. That action requires the vote of the legislative body, and the road and bridge funds are already restricted in their eligible use and may not be redesigned.

RSA 31:95-b requires the governing body to hold a public hearing on the action to be taken, with notice of the time, place and subject of the hearing published at least seven days before the hearing is held. We will have posted the hearing to accept the funds on December 5th at 6:30pm.

Please see the attached supporting documentation.

Thanksgiving Holiday: Please remember the transfer station will be closed on Thursday for Thanksgiving.

Craney Hill Communications Tower: The highway department has completed the work on Lester Lane to allow equipment access to the tower site. Work has begun on the footings.

I wish all in the community a happy and safe Thanksgiving weekend.

Warm regards,
Diane Kendall
Town Administrator