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**Town of Henniker
Selectmen Meeting
August 16, 2016
Henniker Town Hall**

Members Present: Kris Blomback, Chairman; Tia Hooper, Vice Chairman; Robert French, Selectman

Guests: Leo Aucoin, Leon Parker, Peter Flynn, Leigh Bosse, John Kjellman, Jamie Ramsey, Robert Garrison, John Kjellman, Mike Kriester, Senator Jeannie Forster, Warren Mattiello, Bonnie Mattiello, Susan Adams, Rebecca Mow, Sachiko Howard, Bruce Goodenough, Deborah Dow

Recording Secretary: Karen Rose

Chair Blomback called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Appointments:
 - Deanne Mobley, Ballot Clerk
 - George Mobley, Ballot Clerk
 - Virginia Doherty, Ballot Clerk
 - Lance Rickenberg, Highway Safety Committee
 - Andrew Major, Conservation Commission
 - April Costa, Conservation Commission
 - Martha Taylor, Fair Hearings Committee
 - Martha Taylor, Municipal Records
 - Joan O'Connor, Azalea Park
2. Abatement/Refund; Lot 1-574 \$120.00 + interest
3. Abatement; Lot 1-318-P45; \$208.00
4. Application for Reimbursement to Towns and Cities in which Federal and State Forest Land is Situated
5. Refund; \$29.00 motor vehicle registration Susan G. French
6. Approve Hawker/Peddler License for Sally Chambers
7. Letter of support for Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)

Addendum:

1. Appointments:
 - Cynthia Marsland, Highway Safety Committee
 - Cynthia Marsland, Fair Hearings Committee
 - Jon LaBier, Athletic Committee
2. Intent to Cut; Lot 1-335

**A motion was made by Chair Blomback to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of the Hawker/Peddler License being pulled for additional information, Selectman French seconded.
Motion Passed 3-0**

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Public Forum #1

John Kjellman asked why there wasn't anything on the agenda regarding the recent Zoning Board decision on the Forster's Tree Farm. He submitted that he would like the Select Board to override the ZBA decision. There were two new warrant articles approved by a significant majority of the town and his belief was that the ZBA got it wrong. He said the Select Board should put it to bed once and for all.

Bob Garrison conducted a perambulation of the town boundaries and presented his findings to the Board. He has been to all the bounds and stated that the perambulation is going to be a lot more work. More than half the boundaries were hard to find, knocked over, or destroyed, some by culvert installation. He stated that according to the rules perambulation is to be done every 7 years. He also provided maps, pictures, and a cd with all the GIS shapefiles and information. Chair Blomback asked if the town could put this on the web and Mr. Garrison said yes. Chair Blomback thanked Mr. Garrison on behalf of the Board and the residents for all the work he had done.

6:35 PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1: Public Hearing to discuss the merits of an application for a Discretionary Preservation Easement

This was a request by Warren and Bonnie Mattiello to discuss the merits of their application for a Discretionary Preservation Easement at 22 Ramsdell Road. Mr. Mattiello explained that he would like to upgrade the blacksmith shop much like he did in the current house he is living in. He handed out pictures. Mr. Mattiello stated that he has been able to date the building back to the mid-1850s but thinks it is as old as the 1700s.

Peter Flynn stated that as a neighbor he wholeheartedly supports the application for at least 50%. Susan Adams also spoke and stated that she supported the project as well. Leon Parker stated that years ago there was another similar application and it was approved for 75%. Vice Chair Hooper applauded the Mattiello's for renovating this structure for future generations.

George Hildum, Assessor, submitted his recommendation and recommended that the Selectman accept the discretionary preservation easement and adjust the assessment between 25% and 75% of assessed value.

The Chair closed the public hearing at 6:45 pm.

Vice Chair Hooper made a motion to grant the discretionary preservation easement at 75% of assessed value or \$12,428. Selectman French seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Presentation:

Item 2: Senator Forrester to speak to the Board

Senator Jeannie Forrester came before the Select board to talk about her campaign for Governor. She provided those in attendance with her background and her position on issues that are important to her such as jobs, the economy, working with small businesses, and addressing the opioid epidemic that faces NH. In her first 100 days, she stated she would hold a ten town summit to determine what needs to happen in each community. She stated that she has fought every year for Henniker to get its flood control money back. Chair Blomback asked about the state renegeing on pension costs for police and fire. She stated that promises were made and realizes that it has to be addressed and would work with communities to try to resolve the situation. Selectman French stated that he had some issues with his business and the Senator was very helpful in working to resolve them.

OLD BUSINESS

none

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NEW BUSINESS

Item 3: Update from Human Services Caseworker

Carol Conforti-Adams came before the board to discuss the Human Services Department. She has been the caseworker since October 2014. The providers group offering public assistance to town residents, focuses on a hand up not hand out philosophy. They helped create the department along with Carol. Her job was to decrease processing time for obtaining benefits and to identify what other types of state and federal benefits are available to the residents in order to avoid chronic long-term dependency on town resources.

Carol handed out a summary of the analysis of the savings and research she has compiled over the past 24 months. She stated that the system promotes crisis management for the client and there was an assumption of 24 hour emergency management. The welfare director has to respond immediately. Aid is given and the applicants don't follow through with their documentation.

She has assisted over 50 families getting on Medicaid and food stamps through the state system as well as over 20 families on fuel assistance. She has also assisted 15 families in accessing SSDI and SSI benefits through the state. In addition, she was able to save the town \$6,000 by getting 8 people on affordable housing, 5 of which were chronic rent assistance requesters. She is helping to rewrite criteria that must be met before a client gets a voucher.

Carol conducted research in similar sized towns and stated that the majority of them have a public assistance budget of approximately \$35,000 while Henniker's is at \$100,000. The reason for this is that they have a complete case management system with one staff person who's job is to follow the RSA's and conduct investigations and research solutions.

Chair Blomback asked if she was looking for a software program. Carol stated that Henniker needs a management system vs. an emergency management system. It is a staff person with designated office hours for intake. Currently there are 2 positions and the client controls the communications. Carol recommends a full time position of 3 days a week with one staff member.

Peter Flynn stated that he is the Welfare Director in New Boston. He suggested that the Town Administrator weigh in on this topic and that the Select Board meet with the individuals involved and take their recommendations seriously.

Reverend Rebecca Mow stated that she has worked with the Human Services Director and she has seen how applicants play one position against the other. She would recommend one person in charge of the program.

Daniel Goodenough has been involved in the issue from the beginning. He stated the problems are good management. He agreed that the client controls the conversation between the two staff involved. The situation is made more difficult given the hours and lack of written records. As a taxpayer, he said he would like to see a better system, have the clients take more responsibility for getting off the town's resources.

Chair Blomback stated that he would like the Town Administrator to add to the conversation. The Board held off on any vote until such time the Town Administrator can be present.

Item 4: Request by Azalea Park Riverwalk Committee to submit a grant application

Sachie Howard and Susan Adams came before the Board to request approval to submit an application to DES for the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) grant program. They reviewed the proposal again with

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the Board. They expect the final design in February 2017. The grant proposal will be for \$5,000 for stormwater management and for tree filters. The Committee also needs a letter of authority signifying they are a non profit organization.

Vice Chair Hooper made a motion to authorize the Azalea Park Riverwalk Committee to move forward with the ARM grant application to include a rain garden and tree filters as presented. Selectman French seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Item 5: Request by Mike Kriester to release Right of Way on Juniper Ridge

Mike Kriester came before the Board to request the release of the Right of Way on Juniper Ridge. Mr. Kriester spoke with the Town Secretary asking for a fence permit to block the noise and dust and dirt from their neighbor's motorcycle track. Mr. Kriester stated that he has been at the property for 42 years and understood there to be a common driveway. He has also maintained the right-of-way all these years. The Town Planner, Mark Fougere, has spoken with the town attorney who stated that the first step would be to see if the Select board was in favor of releasing the right-of-way to Mr. Kriester. Mr. Kriester doesn't want to take possession of the right-of-way and increase his taxes. Mark Fougere is just looking for the Board's permission to move forward on researching this further.

Vice Chair Hooper made a motion to all the process to begin to look into releasing the public right-of-way on Juniper Ridge. Selectman French seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Item 6: Request to accept paving bid

The Road Management Committee voted on June 28 and then voted again on July 26 and a decision was made to move forward with Flanders Road originally. However, the Committee voted to move forward with shim/overlay of Bear Hill Road instead.

Leo Aucoin stated that Bear Hill Road is not fit for shim and overlay and needs a total redo; a shim and overlay would not last. Boulders are sticking up, culverts have settled and the shoulders are in rough shape. Vice Chair Hooper stated that they only had \$130,000 to spend. Bruce Trivellini asked what criteria we are using to evaluate the roads. Vice Chair Hooper stated that the Roads Management Committee has been tasked to create a 10 year plan and evaluate all the roads in town and to work on standards for the whole town.

Leon Parker stated that members of the committee are driving all the roads to come up with a plan to submit to the Select Board with prioritization of which roads need to be done. Pike Industries gave a bid of over \$300,000 for Gulf, Flanders and Bear Hill Roads. The committee chose Flanders. The road agent went back to Pike and because we were only asking for a bid on one portion of the job, the price went up.

Chair Blomback stated that he wanted a road to be done this year. Mr. Parker stated that the road agent's desire was to do Flanders. Chair Blomback stated that the Road Management Committee wanted Flanders to be done if we can find the additional \$7,000.

Vice Chair Hooper made a motion to accept the bid from Pike Industries in the amount of \$138,141 and to move forward on the project on Flanders and to grant the Town Administrator authorization to enter into a contract with Pike Industries. Selectman French seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

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OTHER BUSINESS

Item 7: Review public minutes—

The non-public June 20, 2016 minutes were tabled for the next meeting.

The public July 19, 2016 minutes were reviewed and Vice Chair Hooper asked that the abbreviations used for Town Administrator be spelled out.

Chair Blomback made a motion to approve the minutes with changes. Selectman French seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The non-public July 19, 2016 Item 5 minutes were reviewed and Vice Chair Hooper asked that the abbreviations used for Town Administrator be spelled out.

Vice Chair Hooper made a motion to approve the minutes as with the changes. Selectman French seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

A motion was made to unseal the non-public July 19, 2016 Item 5 minutes by Vice Chair Hooper and seconded by Selectman French. Motion passed 3-0.

The non-public July 19, 2016 Item 6 minutes were tabled for the next meeting.

The non-public July 19, 2016 Item 10 minutes were reviewed and Vice Chair Hooper asked that the abbreviations used for Town Administrator be spelled out.

Vice Chair Hooper made a motion to approve the minutes with changes. Selectman French seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The non-public July 19, 2016 Item 11 minutes were reviewed and Vice Chair Hooper asked that the abbreviations used for Town Administrator be spelled out.

Vice Chair Hooper made a motion to approve the minutes with changes. Selectman French seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The public August 8, 2016 minutes were reviewed and Vice Chair Hooper asked that the abbreviations used for Town Administrator be spelled out.

Chair Blomback made a motion to approve the minutes with changes. Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Item 8: Town Administrators Report

Executive Secretary, Cherry Palmisano, gave the Town Administrator's report during her absence.

The Town Administrator requests that Bob Garrison and Kristen McLean be appointed as delegates to perambulate the town boundaries.

Chair Blomback voted to approve Bob Garrison and Kristen McLean as delegates to perambulate the town boundaries. Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Town Clerk is asking for clarification on the decision by the Board on Dennis Hamel's request. Vice Chair Hooper stated she would look back in her notes and get back to the Executive Secretary.

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The Executive Secretary also reported that letters in support of the Transportation Alternative Program were received from Henniker Community School and White Birch. Once a letter in support is received from SAU 24 the application will be submitted.

Item 9: Selectmen's Reports

Vice Chair Hooper stated that the Roads Management Committee met, the outcome was discussed earlier. Also the Planning Board had the month off.

Selectman French stated that the Currier and Ives meeting is coming up as well as the SHOT team meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM#2

Bruce Trivellini talked about communication. He stated that he has reviewed all the minutes online for several years and one thing that is apparent is that communication between departments and the residents is lacking. He stressed that the annual reports by the town are woefully deficient. The report doesn't indicate how the roads are in such disrepair. We have wastewater issues, and we have to stop bonding 100% of the projects. The more the town understands what rollbacks are happening because of what is happening at the school board.

Mr. Trivellini spoke about the town's authority overruling the ZBA decision on the Forster Tree Farm. He asked if he could get a sense of where the discussion is going. Chair Blomback stated that there is pending litigation and he is not at liberty to discuss it.

John Kjellman stated that communication has been an ongoing problem. He stated that getting a large report a week or two before town meeting isn't manageable. Chair Blomback stated that the town made an investment in municipal software and is looking at expanding its capabilities. He stated that the town does not have the capacity to get everything online overnight.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm by Vice Chair Hooper and seconded by Selectman French. Motion passed 3-0.