

FINAL



**Town of Henniker
Selectmen Meeting
September 6, 2016
Henniker Town Hall**

- Members Present:** Kris Blomback, Chairman; Tia Hooper, Vice Chairman; Robert French, Selectman; Ben Fortner, Selectman; Scott Osgood, Selectman
- Town Administrator:** Christine Trovato
- Guests:** Leo Aucoin, Leon Parker, Peter Flynn, Leigh Bosse, Robert Garrison, John Kjellman, Tom Weston, Steve Forster, Bruce Trivellini, KB Patenaude, Bill Marko, Lori Marko, Michelle McMurphy, Ruth Ward
- Recording Secretary:** Karen Rose

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

CONSENT AGENDA—

1. Appointments
Doreen Connor, Zoning Board of Adjustment (removed from consent agenda, moved to Item 7)
Cheryl Morse, Concert Committee
Leo Aucoin, Road Management Committee
Joan Oliveira, Zoning Board of Adjustment (removed from consent agenda, moved to Item 7)
2. Hiring of Zachary C. Dodge as part-time Transfer Station attendant
3. Petition and Pole License, PSNH#36-0733 two poles; 39/23 and 39/23S on Freeman Colby Rd
4. Intent to Cut; Lot 1-559-F
5. Letters of appreciation to resigning committee members

Addendum:

1. Kelly Martin; Henniker Youth Athletics

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hooper to approve the Consent Agenda removing the Appointments of Doreen Connor and Joan Oliveira for further discussion; Selectman French seconded. Motion Passed 5-0

Public Forum #1

No comments

OLD BUSINESS

none

NEW BUSINESS

Item 1: Bob Garrison to discuss Perambulation of bounds and renewing monuments.

Bob Garrison handed out packets of information to the Select Board regarding the work he did on behalf of identifying the town boundaries. His summary is on file with the Town Administrator. He reported that he hiked ½ of the town boundaries. Several of the bounds are in disrepair. Some need to be cleaned and repainted, others need to be replaced. He provided quotes on the costs for each of the repairs from replacing posts at \$390 each to providing plastic signs screwed onto the trees at \$20 each.

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Volunteers are meeting Monday the 12th to discuss perambulation. Chair Blomback asked Bob what he needed from the Select Board for Monday's meeting. Selectman Fortner stated that the group should catalog and inventory each of the bounds before a financial decision is made. Town Administrator Trovato stated that they are waiting for the towns to get back to them as a representative from each town has to be involved when walking the boundaries. The Select board thanked Mr. Garrison for all the work he has done in this project.

Item 2: Request by Selectman Fortner to discuss Complete Streets

This item was tabled until the next meeting by request of Selectman Fortner.

Item 3: Dennis Hamel Hardship Abatement request

Mr. Hamel asked for this decision to be made in public forum. The board is privy to financial information that is not to be discussed in public.

Town Administrator Trovato stated that Mr. Hamel requested a hardship abatement. Previously the board voted to waive any interest and fees through May 6th until Mr. Hamel submitted the documentation required. The final documents have been received and are in the board's packet. He would have qualified for an elderly exemption and a reduction in his assessment of \$130,000. The taxable amount would be \$12,100. He has a VA credit as well. The total request for 2015 would be \$4,269.72 and for 2016 the Town Administrator and the Assessing department are still reviewing. He would have qualified for the elderly exemption for 2016.

A motion was made by Selectman Osgood to accept the findings of the Assessing Department and approve the abatement request submitted by Dennis Hamel for 2015 in the amount of \$4,269.72 and to waive interest and penalties through September 30, 2016; Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hooper to approve a hardship abatement of \$130,000 reduction in assessed value with a final tax to be determined; Selectman French seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Item 4: Review public minutes—

The non-public June 21, 2016 (2 sets) minutes were moved to non-public for approval.

The non-public July 19, 2016 Item 6 minutes were moved to non-public for approval.

The public August 16, 2016 minutes were reviewed with an edit to the first paragraph of Item 6.

Vice Chair Hooper made a motion to approve the minutes of August 16, 2016 with changes. Selectman French seconded. Motion passed 3-0-2 (Osgood, Fortner).

Item 5: Town Administrators Report—

- a) Choose a Voting Delegate for the 2017-2018 Legislative Policy Conference on Friday, September 23, 2016

NH Municipal Association is looking for a delegate for the 2017-2018 Legislative Policy Conference. Selectman Osgood, Hooper and Fortner indicated they were interested. It was decided that Selectman Osgood would attend.

Motion was made for Selectman Osgood to attend the conference by Chair Blomback; Vice Chair Hooper seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

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- b) Discuss Selectmen schedule for NH State Primary on 9/13 7:00 am to 7:00 pm (two Selectmen must be present all day until the counting is done)

Selectman Osgood can be there in the morning from 7-9 am and from 5 pm until close.

Selectman Fortner can be available during the day from 9-5

- c) Town Administrator Trovato met with the construction company on the Western Avenue bridge project and it is on schedule. The company would like a decision relatively soon on a bridge plaque. It can either remain the same or added to. Several suggestions were made and Chair Blomback asked to have this item as a rolling agenda item. He wants to open it up to the community for ideas as well.
- d) George Hildum is looking for guidance from the board on which current use rates to use for 2016. The current use board proposed changes to current use rates for 2016 by increasing the various categories from \$2.00 to \$8.00. DRA posted there will be a public hearing on 9/26/16, which changes will not get to joint legislative committee until October. We have to finalize the MS-1 by October 1st. Assessing, Finance and I thought we should stay with the 2015 rates for now. A consensus of the board was taken and the board agreed to stay with the current 2015 rates.
- e) Town Administrator Trovato referenced an article in the Villager regarding the facelift for the town roads. She wanted to clarify that the gravel leaving the Western Avenue bridge project belongs to the contractor and that the town is not giving away the gravel. She will speak to the article's author for a correction. Another incorrect statement was that Hillsborough called her to thank her for the gravel.
- f) Town Administrator Trovato thanked the Select board and others for attending her husband's celebration and for all the support everyone has given.

Item 6: Selectmen's Reports –

Selectman Fortner reported that the Town Administrator, he and the NH Municipal Association were working together on the Right-to-Know law. He stated that the town would not need a broad policy but more internal guidelines to make things work more efficiently. Training and workshops would be available.

Selectman French has two meetings coming up—the SHOT committee and the Currier and Ives Committee.

Chair Blomback attended an Economic Development Committee. They are trying to reestablish a river festival along with the New England College.

Selectman Osgood reported the Azalea Park Committee is working on a grant request with DES and other fundraising ideas including some long range planning including targeting the 250th anniversary of the town.

Vice Chair Hooper stated that the Roads Management Committee surveyed the culverts on Quaker and Dudley. She reported that in doing some research a 20-inch culvert had been replaced with a 12-inch culvert. She commented that she didn't see how water would move with the way some of the culverts were installed. Erosion is already seen. Tom Weston will look into it and report back to the Board. Vice Chair Hooper would also like to add to the next agenda to review policies that were discussed a few months ago. Town Administrator Trovato stated she met with the employees and has proposed edits and notes from them. A public hearing will have to be announced.

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Item 7: ZBA appointments (from Consent Agenda)

Vice Chair Hooper stated that she could not sign off on the appointment for Doreen Connor and Joan Oliveria until further research has been done. The board received several complaints on performance of these candidates and she would like to research items and discuss further.

Chair Blomback stated he was in favor of the nominations. He has known both candidates professionally for 20 years and spoke highly of them. He stated they are volunteers and an adjudicating body tasked to render decisions on how things are worded and formed. He stated he had no doubts that the town would be in the legal quagmire with or without them. He said he has read everyone's comments and letters and understands their concerns.

Selectman Osgood agreed with Chair Blomback. He stated they are both professionals and attorneys and performed their duty. He thought it would be a great loss if they were not appointed.

Selectman French stated that all he has to work with is what he has heard from residents, which are negative comments.

Leo Aucoin stated that he knows both of them and they are doing an outstanding job.

Steve Forster criticized Doreen Connor's handling of the rehearing on his case and that Joan Oliveria's attendance is poor.

Selectman Fortner made a point of order that they board was there to discuss the appointments.

Bruce Trivellini stated that Joan Oliveria only attended 4 out of the last 12 meetings. He stated that she only shows up if they need a quorum. Chair Blomback disagreed with those amounts but said the board would look into it. Mr. Trivellini felt that the entire board was dysfunctional.

Leon Parker stated that he has served on the Zoning board for many years along with Doreen Connor. While he and Doreen do disagree on occasion, they do so in a professional manner. And in some cases he said, their disagreements have led to better cases. She is one of the best litigators and makes her decision based on the reading of the law. Her service should be looked at in totality and not based on one case.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hooper to postpone the appointments of Doreen Connor and Joan Oliveria until more data can be collected; Selectman French seconded. Motion passed 3-0-2 (Blomback, Osgood).

Item 8: Non-public RSA 91-A:3II(b)—moved to the end of the meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM#2

Leo Aucoin asked who was responsible for the work being done by the highway crew. He reviewed 9 culvert installations on Quaker and Dudley and felt that 8 of them should be taken out and redone. He stated they were sagging and pointing uphill. He recommended that the board look for a part-time staff person for plowing services and not put on another full time staff person right now. Vice Chair Hooper stated she inspected the area near Pleasant Point and the old culvert was thrown into the woods. Chair Blomback asked Tom Weston, the road agent, to look into it and report back to the Board with his findings.

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Mr. Trivellini inquired to the Azalea Park expenditures and who is responsible for overseeing their expenditures etc. Chair Blomback stated that the Committee's money is generated through donations and goes through the town's account. Invoices are all directed to the Town Administrator.

Tom Inzinga commented that he would like to see the signs presented by Mr. Garrison cost shared with neighboring towns.

Item 8: Non-public RSA 91-A:3II(b)—

Chair Blomback moved, Selectman French seconded to enter into non—public session pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3II (b). A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chair Hooper – yes; Selectman Fortner – yes; Chair Blomback - yes; Selectman French – yes; Selectman Osgood – yes. Motion passed 5-0

Selectman Osgood moved, Selectman French seconded to come out of non—public session pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3II (b). A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chair Hooper – yes; Selectman Fortner – yes; Chair Blomback - yes; Selectman French – yes; Selectman Osgood – yes. Motion passed 5-0

Vice Chair Hooper made a motion to seal the minutes, Selectman French seconded. Motion passed 5-0

A motion was made by Selectman Osgood to conditionally hire Robert Ostertag as highway department driver/laborer, labor grade 15, step 1, subject to no issues on his criminal records, drug testing and motor vehicle check; Selectman French seconded. Motion passed 5-0

Item 4: Non-public minutes approval RSA91-A:3II(e)

Chair Blomback moved, Selectman French seconded to enter into non—public session pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3II (e). A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chair Hooper – yes; Selectman Fortner – yes; Chair Blomback - yes; Selectman French – yes; Selectman Osgood – yes. Motion passed 5-0

Selectman Osgood moved, Selectman French seconded to come out of non—public session pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3II (e). A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chair Hooper – yes; Selectman Fortner – yes; Chair Blomback - yes; Selectman French – yes; Selectman Osgood – yes. Motion passed 5-0

A motion was made by Chair Blomback and seconded by Selectman Fortner to approve the June 21 non-public Item 10a minutes as presented. Motion passed 3-0-2 (Hooper, Osgood)

A motion was made by Chair Blomback and seconded by Selectman Fortner to unseal the June 21 non-public Item 10a minutes. Motion passed 3-0-2 (Hooper, Osgood)

A motion was made by Chair Blomback and seconded by Selectman Fortner to approve the June 21 non-public Item 10b minutes as presented. Motion passed 3-0-2 (Hooper, Osgood)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hooper and seconded by Selectman Osgood to approve the July 19 non-public minutes as presented. Motion passed 4-0-1 (French)

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm by Vice Chair Hooper and seconded by Selectman French. Motion passed 5-0.