



**Town of Henniker
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Tuesday April 2, 2024 6:15 PM
Henniker Community Center**

Members Present: Chairman Kris Blomback, Vice-Chairman Bill Marko, Selectman Neal Martin, Selectman Jeff Morse, Selectman Peter Flynn

Member's Excused:

Town Administrator: Diane Kendall

Recording Secretary: Hank Bernstein

Guests: See attached Sign-In Sheet

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Kris Blomback opened the meeting with recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #1 - Vice-Chairman Marko motioned to approve the Consent Agenda April 2, 2024, seconded by Selectman Flynn. The motion passed, unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT #1

No public comment.

APPOINTMENTS WITH THE BOARD

Item #3 was addressed prior to the Public Hearing

Item #3 - Alexis Deruisseau, Henniker Area Christian Fellowship – Request for Reduction of Community Center Rental Fees

Alexis and Mike Deruisseau, of the Henniker Area Christian Fellowship, shared that on June 30th their pastor is retiring, and they will need to seek another option to express their faith. They have decided to start a nonprofit and rent the Community Center on Sundays 10 AM – 2 PM starting July 7th and ending December 29th. These events will be open to the public and Mr. and Mrs. Deruisseau will accept donations to cover the costs of renting and insurance. The Deruisseaus requested that the Board lower the rental fee from \$50 to \$30 to make the fee more affordable. Discussion ensued. Vice-Chairman Marko agreed that the fee might be difficult for a small group but as the group grows it will become easier. The Board will revisit this fee structure if the Henniker Area Christian Fellowship seeks rental after December 29th. **Selectman Flynn moved to reduce the rental fee for the Community Center from \$50 for a four-hour increment to \$30 for a four-hour increment for the Henniker Area Christian Fellowship, seconded by Vice-Chairman Marko. Motion carried unanimously.**

6:30 PUBLIC HEARING

Item #2 - Fee Schedule – Public Safety

Chairman Blomback gave background. Fees for Police Special Detail services were last updated in 2017. Fees and officer rates need updating to cover costs and remain competitive. It is unknown when Fire/EMS Special Detail fees were updated. A recent survey conducted by members of NH Municipal Mangers of Police Detail Fees for Service indicates an average police special detail fee for service of \$85.54 including officer, administrative fee, and cruiser fee. Several towns reported they will be updating fees in 2024.

Proposed changes for Police are as follows:

- Special Detail Rate: \$60.00 per hour for employees.
- Special Detail Fee: \$100.00 per hour (minimum one officer and one cruiser).
- Additional officer: \$85 per hour.
- Additional cruiser: \$15 per hour.

Proposed changes for Fire/EMS are as follows:

- Special Detail Rate: \$60.00 per hour for employees.
- Fire Engine: \$100.00 per hour
- Ambulance: \$75.00 per hour
- Forestry Truck: \$50.00 per hour

Police Chief Matt French, Fire Chief Jim Morse, and TA Kendall answered questions from the board.

Chairman Blomback opened the discussion to comments from the public.

Keith DeMoura, of Western Ave, asked a few clarifying questions.

Chairman Blomback closed public comment.

Vice-Chairman Marko moved to approve the Public Safety Fees as presented, seconded by Selectman Flynn. Motion carried unanimously. The board signed the public document.

The public hearing concluded at 6:44 PM

NEW BUSINESS

Item #4 - Board of Selectmen - Committee and Commission Assignments

The Select Board discussed committee assignments. They are as follows:

| Board / Commission / Committee | Assignment |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Azalea Park / Riverwalk Committee | Selectman Morse |
| Central NH Regional Planning Commission | Selectman Flynn |
| CRSW/RRC Resource Recovery Coop | Selectman Martin |
| Concert Committee | Chairman Blomback |
| Conservation Commission | Selectman Morse |
| Economic Development Committee | Selectman Morse; Chairman Blomback alternate |
| Energy Committee | Vice-Chairman Marko |
| Highway Safety Committee | Selectman Martin |
| Municipal Records Committee | Selectman Flynn |
| OHRV | Chairman Blomback |
| Perambulators | Selectman Martin |
| Planning Board | Vice-Chairman Marko; Selectman Morse alternate |
| Police Facility Assessment Committee | Chairman Blomback; Vice-Chairman Marko |
| Road Management Committee | Vice-Chairman Marko; Selectman Morse |
| Safety and Loss Prevention Committee | Chairman Blomback |
| Solid Waste and Recycling Committee | Selectman Flynn |
| Youth Athletic Committee | Selectman Flynn |

Selectman Martin moved to appoint Bill Marko to the Planning Board with Jeff Morse as the alternate to the Planning Board, seconded by Selectman Morse. Motion carried unanimously.

CONTINUED BUSINESS**Item #5 - Chief Morse - Expenditure Request from the Fire-Rescue Building Expendable Trust Fund**

Chief Morse came before the board to address the March 19th, 2024, Consent Agenda Item #7 “Expenditure Request from the Fire-Rescue Building Expendable Trust Fund”. This expenditure is to purchase replacements for the garage doors and is part of an Emergency Management Performance Grant that offers 50% matching up to \$51,000. The Fire-Rescue Department had received four quotes for the garage doors and chose a company to perform the work. Chief Morse believed he had followed proper procedure, but now realizes that he had not. Chief Morse apologized to the board. Discussion ensued.

Vice-Chairman Marko voiced concerns that due process was not followed, and because of that the taxpayers missed out on \$5,000 in potential savings. Chief Morse shared that the lower bid did not come with all the specifications that the department needs. Chairman Blomback acknowledged that the process was not entirely clean but did not believe that anyone acted with malicious intent. Selectman Martin and Selectman Flynn spoke in support of the Fire-Rescue Department.

Selectman Morse moved to authorize the expenditure of \$19,842 from the Fire-Rescue Building Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of installing new garage doors at the fire station. This represents an in-kind portion of the EMPG grant that has been approved for the fire station and the Board of Selectmen request disbursement from the Trustees of Trust Funds from the Expendable Trust of which they are agents to expend to reimburse the General Fund. Selectman Martin seconded. Motion carried 3-1-1.

(Vice-Chairman Marko opposed; Selectman Flynn abstained)

Item #6 - Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement – Generator for Emergency Operation Center

Chief Morse gave background. The generator at the Fire-Rescue Station, which is the town’s Emergency Operations Center, is not in working order. Chief Morse has requested bids, and the bid opening will be held on April 5th at 8 AM. Selectman Martin asked if the current generator is still planned to be transferred to Town Hall. TA Kendall shared that option is no longer viable. **Selectman Morse moved to accept the terms of the Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement as presented in the amount of \$51,000 for the EOC Generator Project. Furthermore, the Board acknowledges that the total cost of this project will be \$102,000, in which the town will be responsible for a 50% match (\$51,000). Vice-Chairman Marko seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

PAST MEETING MINUTES**Item #7 - Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes March 19, 2024, 6:15pm**

Vice-Chairman Marko moved to approve these minutes, seconded by Selectman Martin. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS**Item #8 - Town Administrator Report**

TA Kendal reported on the following:

- A minor procedural irregularity. At the next Board of Selectmen meeting the Selectmen may call a special procedural town meeting, in accordance with RSA 31:5-b for the exclusive purpose of curing such irregularity.
- Hazard Mitigation Plan Update process will have approximately eighteen meetings and work sessions over the next 8 to 9 months with all departments and community stakeholders. Information about the update will be on the Hazard Mitigation Update Committee page of the website and on the town calendar.

FINAL

- The Executive Council confirmed Henniker resident Chales N. DeCurtis, Henniker, NH to the Water Council for the State of New Hampshire.
- Main St. Community Forum on April 23rd at the Community Center. Please watch for announcements.
- Fire Pond Bid has been awarded and work is to begin soon.
- Contoocook Valley Radio Club Request for Ham Repeater on Communications Tower.
- Wastewater CMOM and Upgrade.
- Work with the Code Enforcement Officer and legal to resolve complaints.
- Henniker Spring Clean Up Day is Saturday May 11th 8 am-noon.
- The International City Managers Association conference in Boston. TA Kendall will be out of the office next Wednesday through Friday to attend.

Item #9 - Correspondence

No remarks from the board

Item #10 - Selectmen Reports

Chairman Blomback reported on the Police Facility Assessment Committee. They have developed a matrix for ranking potential sites. He also reported on the Concert Committee. They have received sponsorships for each show.

Vice-Chairman Marko reported on the Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Advisory Committee. They are near completion of updating the Solid Waste Ordinance (Ch. 101) and are in the process of reviewing fees. There is also discussion of acquiring a portable scale.

Selectman Martin had nothing to report.

Selectman Morse had nothing to report.

Selectman Flynn had nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT #2

Kirk Spofford, of Western Ave, expressed concern that if the Henniker Area Christian Fellowship is utilizing the Community Center for the next six months that there would not be availability for other Henniker residents.

Lori Marko asked about the redacting of the agenda package on the website. TA Kendall clarified that the online agenda is redacted for the security of vendors and employees. Agenda items are available for review at Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Martin motioned to adjourn at 8:07 PM, seconded by Selectman Morse. The motion passed, unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Bernstein
Minute Taker

Minutes Approved: 04/16/24

