

Hanson Board of Selectmen
Board of Selectmen's meeting room, Hanson Town Hall
Tuesday, January 28, 2020
6:00 p.m.
Regular meeting

ATTENDANCE: Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Matt Dyer, Kenny Mitchell, Jim Hickey & Wes Blauss, Board of Selectmen; John Stanbrook, Town Administrator; Merry Marini, former Interim Town Administrator; Kevin Sullivan, Michael Dugan, James Petersen, Patrick Powers & Kenneth McCormack, Finance Committee; Mike Miksch, Police Chief & Police Department representatives; Jerry Thompson, Fire Chief & Fire Department representatives; Arlene Dias, Denis O'Connell, Gil Amado & Theresa Cocio, Board of Health; Lenny Rowe, Bruce Young, Catherine Coakley, Tracy Seelye, Whitman-Hanson Express; Carol Brewster, WHCA TV

I CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m., Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Blauss read the public announcements and upcoming meeting dates.

HONORING MEREDITH MARINI FOR 21 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

The Board of Selectmen, State Representative Josh Cutler, State Senator Mike Brady, a Representative of U.S. Congressman Bill Keating, former Hanson Selectmen, and former Hanson Town Administrator Rene Read and Halifax Town Administrator Charlie Seelig as well as town employees were in attendance this evening to honor Merry Marini for 21 years of outstanding service to the Town of Hanson. Merry's family was also present for this very special occasion. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett said that Merry was not only as interim Town Administrator and Executive Assistant during her tenure, the "heart and soul of the Town of Hanson". As a token of their appreciation, the Board presented Merry with a clock with the seal of Hanson on its face. She was also lauded by the legislators for all of her dedication over the years.

There was a brief recess for refreshments.

II NEW BUSINESS

Vote Town Administrator's Recommendation for COA Van Driver position

Mr. Stanbrook told the Board that due to the retirement of long-time COA van driver Sue King, the position was posted and advertised. Five applications were received, and he and Council of Elder Affairs Director Mary Collins selected three applicants to interview. Mr. Stanbrook recommended that the Board appoint Dawnmarie Lewis. Ms. Lewis has an abundance of relevant experience, providing both advocacy and direct care for patients and special needs clients, as well as working as an EMT and ambulance driver.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey to appoint Dawnmarie Lewis to the position of COA van driver. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Council of Elder Affairs Director Mary Collins thanked the Board.

Town Accountant Update

Town Accountant Todd Hassett gave the Board his report on Hanson's FY20 second quarter revenues and expenditures. He said that the general fund is tracking well, if not favorably, in part because of non-recurring revenues from the sale of several foreclosed properties in town. There has been an uptick in investment income earnings. Expenditures have also been tracking well with vacancies in several departments recently. Public safety, education and public works are all doing well, with \$129,000 remaining in the Snow & Ice budget. Water fund revenues are at 51%, and it is expected that more will be brought in during the third quarter. There is a healthy surplus in water expenses. Camp Kiwanee is also tracking well this year, attributed in part to revenues from the Netflix rental of the camp. Solid waste has been tracking reasonably well with the sale of 3-year transfer station stickers that mean that revenues will be down in the coming fiscal year. The Board of Health is pressed with the significant increases in fees, and that budget will need some replenishment before the end of the year.

Mr. Mitchell inquired if the Town will change to quarterly water billing, and Mr. Hassett said that Water Superintendent Jerry David told him this will occur in FY21.

FY21 Budget Presentation

Mr. Hassett went over the sources and uses worksheet with the Board to track FY 17 through FY21 proposed budgets which indicate a 3% increase in FY21 based on the preliminary budget.

Police Chief Requests:

To appoint full-time Police Officer Cory Arseneau as of February 10th.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer to appoint full-time Police Officer Cory Arseneau upon completion of a physical per position requirements. ***Voted 5 – 0***

To appoint Sgt. Andrews a Special Police Officer as of February 24th.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer to appoint Sgt. Andrews as a Special Police Officer as of February 24th. ***Voted 5 – 0***

To promote Police Officer Jared Meegan to the rank of Sergeant as of March 2nd.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer to appoint Police Officer Jared Meegan to the rank of Sergeant. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Execute warrant for March 3, 2020 Presidential Primaries

MOTION by Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Hickey to execute the warrant for March 3, 2020 Presidential Primaries. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Accept December 2019 donations

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey to accept the December 2019 donations. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Appointments/Resignations

The resignation of Steven Regan, Planning Board has resulted in the Town Clerk requesting to place the vacant position on the May 4, 2020 Town Meeting warrant.

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to place the vacant position created by the resignation of Steven Regan on the May 4, 2020 Town Meeting warrant. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett suggests inviting the Planning Board to the February 11th meeting to appoint someone in the interim. ***Voted 5 – 0***

III OLD BUSINESS

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett addressed the Board of Health and summarized a previous discussion regarding the transfer station and the increase of cost. A representative discussed the dispute over the cost of recycling for the fiscal year and a conclusion has not been decided upon. Town Counsel has typed up a contract for with the waste company, but it is unknown if the contract has been passed along and the discussion of outstanding balances is yet to be resolved. However, the communication between Town Counsel and the waste company will continue as they work to resolve this issue. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett proposes that all further communication with the company will be followed by an email confirming what was discussed to avoid the same issues of miscommunication.

[There was a brief recess.]

Highway Director Update on Complete Streets Project - Will be discussed in the next meeting.

Invitation to Bid for Regional School Audit

Mr. Stanbrook drafted a bid to get someone working on the regional school audit and the operations. Mr. Stanbrook has been working with a town administrator on bid thresholds and qualifications as there are certain regulations which must be followed. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett notes that they have the green light to continue with the audit, and she encouraged Mr. Stanbrook to continue his communications in drafting this bid.

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett noted that the Selectmen had been invited to the unveiling of the FY21 School District budget. There will be no voting taking place at that meeting, it will simply be discussion of what the budget might look like. This meeting will provide opportunity to refine the budget to an actual representation of their proposed budget that the School Committee will later vote on.

Discuss formation of De-Regionalization Committee

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett discussed the complications in negotiations between Whitman and Hanson regarding the amount each town contributes to the School district. It was emphasized that this disagreement between the towns was the purpose behind the audit to determine an accurate representation of cost versus revenue for each town, further ensuring that each town contributes fairly to the school district. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett noted that it may be premature to form a de-regionalization committee given the lack of understanding of the facts currently, and she suggests deferring discussion and potential formation of a de-regionalization committee until early March.

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett emphasized further that there may need to be the formation of an Override Committee given the disagreements over the school budget. The group needs to be prepared if the need for an override is presented. The discussion is then opened to the rest of the board, and members agreed that it may be premature to discuss de-regionalization as well as the Override Committee.

2020 Annual License Renewal: Hanson Manor – Lodging House

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Dyer to renew the 2020 Annual License for the Hanson Manor – Lodging House. ***Voted 5 – 0***

IV TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Stanbrook presented his first official Town Administrator’s Report.

1. Mr. Stanbrook sent in a support letter for the Mass Trails grant, and he was also able to write and send out the letter requesting the cooperation of the school committee regarding the previously discussed audit.
2. He able to attend a regional dispatch meeting and mentions the desire of an individual to come in and give a progress update on a building being worked on in Duxbury. They also expressed interest in leading a tour of the building once construction is complete.
3. The Town website needs a bit of updating and refreshing with new current information, and this will be a topic of discussion at the next department head meeting.
4. Mr. Stanbrook has met with the Chairman and a resident regarding an open space acquisition request that went before the Community Preservation Committee, and he will be following up with this request to see if they can get the request moving through the committee.
5. Mr. Stanbrook met with Highway Director Matt Cahill and a representative from DEP regarding the status of the town’s MS4 permit, which relates to the discharge of stormwater into waterways and the process of identifying and mitigating any stormwater pollution runoff.
6. The request for information for the Maquan School reuse for senior housing was distributed with the original due date being February 10th before it was moved back to the 18th.
7. A resident reached out to praise the Highway Department regarding lighting around the area of a bus stop. Within a few days, the Highway Director Matt Cahill was on top of the issue, and it was resolved quickly and efficiently.

8. Mr. Stanbrook attended his first Town event as a spectator, the Polar Plunge. While he was only a spectator this year, he will be a participant next year. This event is a great community event, and it sends a wonderful message to the students in the school system about the support they have from these town officials.

V APPROVE MINUTES

Upon reviewing a few changes Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett wanted addressed in the minutes, the motion for a vote was decided.

MOTION by Mr. Blauss, seconded by Mr. Hickey to approve the amended meeting minutes from December 17, 2019. ***Vote 5 – 0***

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer to approve the amended meeting minutes from January 7th, 2020. ***Voted 5 - 0***

VI ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSES – Camp Kiwanee

Lauren Pomakis, Hanson – January 11, 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. – Birthday party

MOTION by Mr. Blauss, seconded by Mr. Hickey to approve. ***Vote 5 -0***

VII COMMITTEE REPORTS

Regarding the 200th Anniversary Committee, there are about 75-80 tickets left for the Roaring 20s event, and more to come for this event later.

First draft of plans for the Plymouth County Hospital Reuse were sent in regarding what should be done to the Plymouth County Hospital and the engineers will be sending back their second draft for the plans. This will be reviewed in the coming weeks.

The Highway Building Committee will meet February 3rd.

VIII EXECUTIVE SESSION

To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, to wit: Highway Director and Treasurer/Collector; and

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares, to wit: Fire Union Local 2713

IX ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer to adjourn. ***Roll call vote Bluass aye, Hickey aye, FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mitchell aye, Dyer aye. Vote 5 – 0.***

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Guindon
Minutes Clerk

