

***Hanson Board of Selectmen***  
***Board of Selectmen's meeting room, Hanson Town Hall***  
 Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 7:00 PM  
*Regular meeting*

ATTENDANCE: Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Matt Dyer, Kenny Mitchell, Jim Hickey, Board of Selectmen; Town Administrator John Stanbrook; Executive Assistant Greer Getzen; Police Chief Mike Miksch; Fire Chief Jerry Thompson; Arlene Dias, Board of Health; Health Agent Gil Amado; Tracy Seelye, W-H Express

**I      CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. She explained how the Board was doing all possible to stay safe during these unprecedented times, and she emphasized that this would most likely be the last in-person meeting for awhile given the circumstances.

**II     NEW BUSINESS**  
**Hanson State of Emergency**

After meeting with the Emergency Preparedness Team, Police Chief Miksch, Fire Chief Thompson, Health Agent Gill Amado, John Stanbrook, and Vice Chair Kenny Mitchell, it was decided that the best thing for the town of Hanson to do would be to declare a state of emergency [See Attached Emergency Declaration].

The town held a press conference yesterday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, outlining what services are and are not available. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett stated that there are extremely dedicated individuals at Town Hall and the emergency services of Hanson, and these employees hold responsibility for protecting the health and safety of the public.

Services that are closed to the public are the Town Hall, Counsel on Aging, the Public Library, and Town schools (as done by the Superintendent of the schools who holds jurisdiction over that decision). The one caveat to these closing is that the Public Library will be offering take out services for library loans, and more information on this service is available both on their website and on Facebook. The library will be taking precautionary measures to ensure sanitation of all the media that will be loaned out, and there will be no in-person contact as the loans will be dropped outside the library for patrons to pick up.

All public meetings, with the exception being this meeting in session, will be held remotely. This will be a challenging transition for all employees, but specifically for the Land Use boards who require hearings with no current waiver under the law for these hearings. Because of this, the Land Use Boards are asking for volunteers to push back dates of hearings that would otherwise be sooner to compensate for this transition.

Town parks and fields will be closed to organized groups until further notice, and specifically wanted to emphasize organized sports teams. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett

emphasized that she can empathize with parents and children as they are stuck at home with the schools closing, but this is more about flattening the curve of the virus to protect those most at risk. All functions at Camp Kiwanee are cancelled, and the Board will discuss refunds for events later during this meeting.

The Whitman-Hanson Regional School District cancelled all school and school activities until at least April 6<sup>th</sup>. During this time, the school will undergo an extensive deep cleaning. They have, however, made the decision to open the Snack Shack from 11:00-1:00 p.m. so that students who need access to breakfast and lunch will still have access to those services. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett then discussed the measures that the Food Pantry will take to ensure safety of all who need to use their services. Services like this will require patience and understanding from residents as the limitations will cause a major time delay on the process. They understand that there will probably be an increased demand on the food pantry but ask that everyone keep their neighbors in mind when utilizing the Food Pantry services. Similarly, the Meals on Wheels services will still be provided.

All police and fire services will continue as usual; however, it is asked that individuals only go in person to these stations if it is an emergency (license renewal does not classify as an emergency in this situation), and if possible, call the stations in an emergency to limit person-to-person contact. Per request from the fire department, burning will not be allowed, and the fee for fire permits will be waived for the time being.

The Board of Health will be enforcing Governor Baker's order banning all on premise consumption of food, drinks, and alcoholic beverages at the town's restaurants and bars beginning March 17<sup>th</sup>. Only take out food will be permitted until 11:59 p.m. on April 5<sup>th</sup>, or another date as the Governor determines. The town will be monitoring these measures, and they expect that restaurants will take extreme precautionary sanitary measures as well as enforce social distancing measures within confines of the restaurant. Any violators in the town will be subject to removal of their liquor license and the revoking of their business license.

The Transfer Station will remain open during this time.

As this is a fluid situation, the Board are trying to make the most responsible decisions to maintain the health and safety of Hanson residents. They are balancing the needs of the employers and the citizens to slow the spread of the virus.

#### **Coronavirus update: Police Chief Miksch, Fire Chief Thompson & Health Agent Amado**

Police Chief Miksch agreed with all the points that Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett made, and he also mentioned that daily updates are being put out to the officers and that officers are doing their best to stay safe as well. The only thing he wanted to add was to the license to carry and the firearms identification cards, and he wanted to note that they will be able to process renewal licenses through the mail. The courts also are not taking

anyone right now, and so this may cause a shift in personnel given that they will have to keep any individuals longer than anticipated.

Fire Chief Thompson also wanted to emphasize that the Fire Department personnel are following the guidelines that are always put into place for them regarding infectious diseases and viruses, and they will continue to work with the Board of Health, the Police Department, and the Town Administrator to keep the town updated. If any individuals have any concerns, the Chief said to contact the department.

Gill Amado, representative from the Board of Health, said that the Board of Health had been in contact with businesses in Hanson regarding the state of emergency. There were a few restaurants who have decided to close, and they will be required to reach out to the Board of Health before reopening. He emphasized the importance of social distancing and personal hygiene to combat the spread of the virus.

#### **Reschedule Town Meeting Date (June 15, 2020)**

Given the current circumstances, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett suggested that they postpone the Town Meeting to allow for more time to prepare. It is mentioned that the Board is allowed to postpone the meeting to anytime before June 30<sup>th</sup> per existing regulations, but there are a few concerns with postponing the town meeting as it relates to the budget. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett suggested postponing the town meeting to June 15<sup>th</sup>.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to postpone the Town Meeting to June 15<sup>th</sup>. ***Roll call vote Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mr. Mitchell Voted 5 - 0***

#### **Consider Right of First Refusal on 902 Main Street, Unit #39**

Mr. Stanbrook informed the meeting that the town has a right to first refusal on any sale of the affordable housing that is contained in Dunham Farm. Dunham Farm is getting ready to sell the property and the Town has the right to purchase it before it is sold at market value. They must decide if they will buy the property or pass the property along and allow the sale to continue to a private buyer and private seller.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Blauss, to reject the town's right of first refusal on 902 Main Street, Unit #39. ***Roll call vote Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0***

#### **Approve donation of 8 Hi-Vis Vests from Sullivan, Inc.**

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Blauss, to approve the donation of 8 Hi-Vis vests from Sullivan, Inc. ***Roll call vote Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Mitchell aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0***

### **Accept February 2020 donations**

**MOTION** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Blauss, to accept February 2020 donations. *Roll call vote Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Mitchell aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0*

### **Accept donation of 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banner from Webster Printing**

**MOTION** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to accept donation of 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banner from Webster Printing. *Roll call vote Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Mitchell aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0*

### **Approve April 25<sup>th</sup> Green Hanson annual cleanup Greenup Day, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m**

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett wanted to note that this is given that all returns to normal by this date and the Governor's mandate will take precedence.

**MOTION** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to approve April 25<sup>th</sup> Green Hanson annual Greenup Day from 8:30 – 12:30 p.m. *Roll call vote Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Mitchell aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0*

### **Refunds for all Camp Kiwanee events through April**

**MOTION** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to approve refunds for all Camp Kiwanee events through April. *Roll call vote Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Mitchell aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0*

### **School Budget/Assessment issues**

Mr. Stanbrook informed the Board that there was nothing new to report following last week's meeting, and they are still refining the numbers for the budget. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett asked that there be a proposal on the table, of which Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett is not at liberty to discuss until after the Board of Selectmen in Whitman has their vote, and this proposal would be an attempt at peace. The proposal will not solve the issue by any means, but it is what it is. Simply as an abundance of caution, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett wants to ensure that all negotiation points are on the table and have been vetted by a legal counsel.

### ***Appointments/Resignations***

Animal Control Officer - Mary Drake - Term expires 9-30-20

**MOTION** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Hickey, to appoint Mary Drake as Animal Control Officer for a 6-month position. *Roll call vote Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Mitchell aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0*

Veterans Service Officer – Timothy White – Term Expires 3-31-21

Veterans Service Director – Timothy White – Term Expires 3-31-21  
 Veterans Graves Officer – Timothy White – Term Expires 3-31-21  
 Veterans Burial Officer – Timothy White – Term Expires 3-31-21

***MOTION*** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to appoint Timothy White to Veterans Service Officer, Veterans Service Director, Veterans Graves Officer, and Veterans Burial Officer, all terms to expire 3-31-21. ***Roll call vote Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Mitchell aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0***

Treasurer-Collector - Jeanne Sullivan - Contract expires 6-30-21

Mr. Stanbrook explained that while the Board had signed the contract for her appointment at an earlier meeting, but that the appointment letter did not match up with the dates on that contract.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to appoint Jeanne Sullivan as Treasurer-Collector under contract expiring 6-30-21. ***Roll call vote Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Mitchell aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett aye Voted 5 – 0***

#### **Appointment to the Regional Agreement Committee**

Ms. Getzen informed the Board that there were two applicants for the Regional Agreement Committee, Bruce Young and Mary Webber. Mr. Young and Ms. Webber both spoke via phone call to the Board regarding their qualifications for the position.

After detailing many of the issues this committee would need to address, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett emphasized that the person suited to this role would require diplomacy, an understanding of the regional agreement, and understanding of the impact that each choice would have. Given that there are only two applicants, and the importance of citizen involvement in this decision is highly valued, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett suggested listing the candidate they do not choose as an alternate to the position.

Mr. Mitchell noted that while both candidates were very strong, Mr. Young's prior experience with the school and his knowledge on the numbers in the situation warrants a nomination to the position.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to appoint Bruce Young to the Regional Agreement Committee. ***Roll call vote Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Mitchell aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0***

***MOTION*** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to appoint Ms. Webber as alternate to Bruce Young in the Regional Agreement Committee. ***Roll call vote Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Mitchell aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0***

### III OLD BUSINESS

#### **Execute limited extension & amendment to New Bedford Waste Services Agreement, exp. 6-2020**

Mr. Stanbrook mentioned how Mr. Taleran negotiated with New Bedford Waste and they were able to come to an agreement on the prices. Mr. Taleran then noted that NBW was satisfied with the agreement he drafted, and the rest will be a policy decision for the Board to decide whether they want to go forward.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to execute the limited extension and amendment to the New Bedford Waste Services agreement to expire 6-2020. ***Roll call vote Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Mitchell aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0***

### IV COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee**

The next event is Hanson Day on June 6<sup>th</sup>, and Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett is hopeful that this event will take place given current circumstances.

#### **Final Plymouth County Hospital Reuse Committee**

Mr. Dyer informed the Board that at their last meeting, they discussed strategy for funding the project. He noted that they will have to take the time moving forward to ensure all the numbers they are working with are right rather than rushing into decisions.

#### **Highway Building Committee**

There are certain phases of the project that they must revisit so this will be pushed back [inaudible through phone call].

### V ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Guindon  
Minutes Clerk