

Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

**Hanson Board of Selectmen**

Selectmen's meeting room, Town Hall

Executive session/Open session

Members Present: Joseph Weeks, Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Matthew Dyer, Kenny Mitchell, James Hickey  
Others Present: Greer Getzen, Executive Assistant; Lisa Green, Town Administrator; Kate Federoff, Town Counsel

**I CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Dyer called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to enter Executive Session to discuss the following: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel pursuant to MGL C. 30A, S. 21(a)(2), to wit: Highway Council 93, Local 1700; Clerical Council 93, Local 1700; International Association of Firefighters, Local 2713; & Hanson Police Relief Association, MASSCOP Local 408, and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair declares so pursuant to MGL C. 30A, S. 21(a)(3), to wit: Opioid litigation & Katydid Lane. **Roll call vote Mr. Weeks aye, Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mr. Mitchell aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Chairman Dyer aye. Voted 5 – 0**

**III Public Announcements & Upcoming Meetings**

Mr. Weeks read the public announcements and upcoming meetings.

**IV NEW BUSINESS**

**Vote on the Opioid Class Action Lawsuit**

Ms. Federoff, Town Counsel, opened discussion with the Board about how to proceed with a potential bankruptcy settlement out of the Purdue Pharma bankruptcy. She explained that the lawyers who are undertaking the class action negotiated a bankruptcy settlement which did not yield monetary distribution to municipalities but rather yielded contributions to opioid programs. She presented the Board with the question of if the Town would be willing to sign off on the bankruptcy, and she noted that the alternative to signing on is undertaking individual litigation and trying to defend the Town's position without the assistance of all the other municipalities and States that signed onto the litigation.

The recommendation she provided the Board with was the agree to sign off on the bankruptcy settlement so the Town can take advantage of the opioid programs which will be funded through the bankruptcy settlement.

**MOTION** by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to sign off on the settlement involving the Purdue Pharma bankruptcy. **Voted 5 – 0.**

**Update on the Town's IT infrastructure**

Chairman Dyer thanked the Town's IT Director who would be pursuing the continuation of their career elsewhere, and he read off some of the individuals' achievements throughout their career with Hanson to recognize them for their service to the Town, as well as make note of where the Town is with the IT Department and where improvements can be made.

**Review MassHousing determination of project eligibility for Cushing Trails, C.40B with proponent**

Mr. O'Shaughnessy [representative from MassHousing?] began by addressing some of the concerns that the Board brought up in discussion over the past few weeks concerning the project eligibility for the Cushing Trails property. In response to the Board's concern over a certain number of units being handicap accessible, he agreed to speak and work directly with the specific individuals who need certain accommodations to ensure all needs are met, but they are not necessarily advertising in that way.

The Board also wanted the project to delegate a larger number of the units to be 3-bedroom as opposed to 2-bedroom. Mr. O'Shaughnessy explained that their original intention was to create units for those looking to downsize, but there is an agreement that at least 10% of the units will be 3-bedroom. After reviewing the Board's meetings, they recognize that there was a need for more 3-bedroom units, and so have worked out a plan to have an additional 4 3-bedroom units. Regarding the potential traffic increase that this development would create, Mr. O'Shaughnessy explained that they had filed a Traffic Impact Assessment with the Zoning Board of Appeals, and it seemed to indicate that there would be no additional impact.

The Board had also expressed a desire for more recreational development in the area like walking/biking paths and more, and this was an idea that Mr. O'Shaughnessy and the team had considered and discussed with the Zoning Board of Appeals. However, he cannot lean one way or another and would like to bring this concern before the ZBA to further discuss possibilities. Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett asked to discuss the line of communication between the Board and the ZBA to ensure everyone is on the same page and that all concerns are adequately addressed. Mr. O'Shaughnessy explained that there would be opportunity for the Board of Selectmen, as well as other Boards, to give their concerns in writing to the ZBA to consider as part of the project's process.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy then discussed the Board's concern over the sufficiency of the existing water supply and informed the Board that they had met with the Water Commission a few weeks prior to discuss this issue. There were no issues with the water capacity, but there had been discussion about improving parts of the water line and they are now just waiting to hear back after submitting a request. Regarding the Board's concern about the stormwater drainage and the potential impacts it could have on the surrounding residents, but he assured the Board that since this lot had been previously approved and designed for a project like

this, proper standards would be met per the Town of Hanson's regulations. Finally, Mr. O'Shaughnessy stated that they had no problem with a name change given the Board's concern over a similarly named location in Hanson.

Finally, after some discussion with the Board over a few additional concerns, it was emphasized that if any abutters had questions or concerns about the project that they should contact the Town Administrator to ensure voices are heard. In the discussion with the Board members, Mr. Weeks wanted to address the potential conflicts of interest that arise with members of the Zoning Board of Appeals and this project as there are some ties between individuals. To address the conflict of interest with the Chairman of the Zoning Board, Mr. O'Shaughnessy explained that the Chairman would recuse themselves from the matter to avoid potential conflicts.

**Reconstitute Bylaw Committee (General By-Laws Article 2-13)**

Ms. Green informed the Board that the currently By-Laws could be considered a bit outdated and there are also a lot of language issues, and it would be worth their time and money to update them. Ms. Green wants to reach out to companies that specialize in processes like this and is waiting for proposals to do so. Members of the Board agreed that this was a long overdue project and they collectively decided on the formation of the By-Law Committee. Critical members of this Committee would include Ms. Green, a member from the Board of Selectmen, and member of the Planning Board as well as citizens of the Town of Hanson.

*MOTION* by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to create the By-Law Committee. **Voted 5 – 0**

**Vote to support Amendment #327 for FY22 \$50,000 allocation to North River Commission**

Ms. Getzen explained that there was no funding for this Commission in FY22, and there is a bill in the legislature currently asking for funding to compensate an Administrative Assistant role for the commission.

*MOTION* by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to submit a letter of support for this amendment to the State's budget to include funding that will ultimately benefit the North River Commission. **Voted 5 – 0**

**Appoint Highway Director/Tree Warden**

*MOTION* by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to appoint [Jamison Shave?] as Highway Director and Tree Warden pending successful negotiations. **Voted 5 – 0**

**Approve tree take-downs at Plymouth County Hospital to prevent infringement on septic system**

Chairman Dyer briefly described the location of the trees that they wanted to remove, and he emphasized that it is more so just overgrowth that they want to remove as a preventative in maintaining the septic system.

*MOTION* by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to approve the tree take-downs at Plymouth County Hospital to prevent infringement on the septic system. **Voted 5 – 0**

**Appointments:**

**Kevin Perkins – Zoning Board of Appeals – exp. 6/30/24**

Members of the Board wanted to discuss if there had been any disclosures submitted regarding conflicts of interest as there was concern from constituents specifically regarding the Zoning Board of Appeals, and Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett suggested tabling the vote to allow more time to investigate disclosures. Other members disagreed as there wasn't necessarily cause for concern based on Mr. Perkins' prior experience on the ZBA. It was concluded that moving forward, the Board would adhere to the process and do their due diligence in appointing matters.

*MOTION* by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to reappoint Kevin Perkins to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire 6/30/24. **Voted 3 – 2.**

**Joe Kenney – Animal Control Officer – exp. 6/30/22**

*MOTION* by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to appoint Joe Kenney as Animal Control Officer for a term to expire 6/30/22. **Voted 5 – 0**

**Discuss appointment to the Economic Development Committee**

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett explained that the committee would like the reopen the vacancy for one of the positions as they have had issues with the number of appointed members present at meetings and the impact on the ability to vote on matters.

*MOTION* by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to accept the request to reopen the vacancy in the Economic Development Committee.

**Requests:**

**200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee request to use Town Green on October 2, 2021**

*MOTION* by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to approve the above listed request from the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. **Voted 5 – 0**

**Use Maquan School parking lot for Great Pumpkin Classic Car Show on October 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 3 pm**

*MOTION* by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to approve the above listed request from Ms. Green. **Voted 5 – 0**

***One day licenses:***

Fri., July 9, 2021, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Jeffrey Price – Celebration of life

**MOTION** by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to approve the above listed One-Day Liquor License. **Voted 5 – 0**

**V**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Discuss Bob Hayes’ request to be appointed to Cable TV Advisory Committee**

Chairman Dyer investigated the history of this committee and discovered that it hadn’t been active in recent years, and as emphasized by [NAME] there isn’t a lot of use for the committee unfortunately.

**Dissolve Cable TV Advisory Committee**

**MOTION** by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to dissolve the Cable TV Advisory Committee due to inactivity. **Voted 5 – 0**

**Revote Audrey Flanagan’s appointment to Recreation Commission**

Chairman Dyer reiterated that at the previous meeting, he had refrained from participating in discussion and vote of Audrey Flanagan to the Recreation Commission. In the vote, he misspoke and voted when he intended not to. For this reason, the Board will revoke on Audrey Flanagan’s appointment to the Recreation Commission. The correct vote should reflect a 4 – 0 – 1.

**VI**

**APPROVE OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

As there were so many meeting minutes to review, Chairman Dyer decided to move this item to the following week to allow for adequate time to review the minutes. The Board will review meeting minutes for the following dates to be approved at the next meeting: 7-9-19, 7-16-19, 1-7-20, 1-28-20, 2-11-20, 2-25-20, 3-17-20, & 9-29-20.

**VII**

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Ms. Green updated the Board on recent events, as follows:

1. The previous week, Ms. Green had received three checks for reimbursement from the CARES Act Fund for a total of \$154,453.09. This represents submissions 9, 7, and 5 that the Board had sent for reimbursement.
2. Ms. Green and Mr. Hickey had met the previous week with Team TMS who are completing the de-regionalization study. They also welcomed two members to the committee who will take the lead for this project. They hope to have a draft report by mid-late September.
3. Ms. Green informed the Board that there will be additional funds from the State for municipalities meeting certain population requirements, and in Massachusetts this will be called the Corona Virus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. Ms. Green has already applied for this fund and is waiting to hear back.
4. Ms. Green provided an update on the Maquan Reuse Committee and the different plans of action they are taking currently. Unfortunately, there had been a problem with a document that they had submitted, and they will have to re-bid.
5. Ms. Green also provided an update to the Board on the search for IT Director and Town Planner applicants, noting that they have advertised the positions for the past two weeks and they have been receiving applications, so they hope to be able to move along with the process for both positions quickly.

*++ Any other items not reasonably known by the Chairman within 48 hours prior to the meeting*

**VIII**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Final Plymouth County Hospital Reuse Comm.**

Chairman Dyer informed the Board that the FPCHRC is still waiting on engineering plans before moving forward.

**Energy Committee**

Chairman Dyer noted that the Energy Committee is looking into community aggregation after wrapping up the streetlight conversion project.

**Economic Development Committee**

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett briefly informed the Board that the Economic Development Committee will be planning a day in September (with an additional rain date) for Hanson Business Day. This will provide visibility for businesses, non-profits, etc. They will continue planning and will submit a formal request for approval to the Board in the future.

**IX**

**ADJOURN & ATTEND WAGE & PERSONNEL MEETING AT 8 PM**

**MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to adjourn the Selectmen meeting to attend the Wage and Personnel Meeting. **Voted 5 – 0**

Respectfully submitted

Amanda Guindon  
Minutes Clerk

**Announcements**

The Town Clerk's office will be closing at noontime on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking for a representative to serve as Hanson's member of the South Shore Vocational Technical School Committee. Let's give Hanson a voice at the table.

Volunteers are also needed on the following committees: Face Book Upkeep Committee, Capital Improvement Committee, Conservation Commission, Cultural Council, Disabilities, Economic Development Committee, Highway Building Committee, Historical Commission, Memorial Day Patriotic Observance, Memorial Field Trustees & Nathaniel Thomas Mill Committee

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Board of Selectmen – July 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Selectmen – July 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.