**\*ATTENTION: THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED TELEPHONICALLY.**

**AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING CAN BE ACCESSED IN REAL TIME BY LOGGING ONTO WHITMAN-HANSON CABLE ACCESS TV:**

**(http://whca.tv/watch/live-hanson)**

***Hanson Board of Selectmen***

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

6:00 p.m.

***Virtual Meeting***

**I CALL TO ORDER**

At 6:00 p.m., Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett called the meeting to order and led the

Pledge of Allegiance.

**II**  **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Mr. Blauss read the public announcements and upcoming meeting dates.

**III NEW BUSINESS**

***Chief Michael Miksch – Appoint one Student Police Officer and one Part-time Officer and town update***

Police Chief Miksch stated that he is asking that the Board appoint one part-time police officer and one student police officer for the Town of Hanson.

Chief Miksch described the police department’s Field Training Program during which part-time officers are trained to supplement full-time officers. He noted the department’s reliance on part-time officers for road jobs and covering cruiser shifts. Chief Miksch continued that the cost for part-time officers is part of the annual budget, noting that they are paid per diem. He stated that for various reasons, the department is currently staffed with only one part-timer and recommends that Kyle Bersani be appointed as a part-time police officer.

Chief Miksch also recommended to the Board that current part-time police officer for the Town of Hanson, Brian Rodday, be sent to the Plymouth Police Academy in August for an eventual full-time position in Hanson. Chief Miksch stated that Mr. Rodday would be taking a position that was funded at October Town Meeting.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer, that Kyle Bersani be appointed a part-time police officer for the Town of Hanson. ***Roll call vote Dyer aye, Mitchell aye, Hickey aye, Blauss aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0***

***MOTION*** by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey, that part-time officer Brian Rodday be appointed as a student police officer effective August 3, 2020. Upon the successful completion of the Plymouth Police Academy, student officer Rodday will be appointed as a full-time officer for the Town of Hanson. ***Roll call vote Dyer aye, Mitchell aye, Hickey aye, Blauss aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0***

***Permission to hold vigil at Town Hall***

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett informed the Board that organizers Juvy Hartweg, Arlene Dias and Marianne DiMascio are requesting permission to hold a vigil on the Town Hall grounds on June 19. Ms. Dias explained that the event is expected to last about an hour, with speakers and people gathered to discuss recent issues, and will be contained to that location.

In response to Mr. Dyer, Ms. Dias stated that the property is large enough to enable social distancing and the expectation will be that people attending will wear masks. She added that organizers will communicate that attendees dispose of their own trash upon leaving.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to allow for a vigil to be held on, and contained to, the Town Hall grounds on June 19. ***Roll call vote Dyer aye, Mitchell aye, Hickey aye, Blauss aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0***

***Vote to open Parks & Fields for practices as part of Governor Baker’s Phase 2 reopening plans***

Hanson Little League President Paul Clark was on-hand to request that the fields in town be opened for practicing. Town Counsel Kate Feodoroff explained that the guidance on the subject at this time centers around preventing close contact. As this particular request applies just to baseball, Ms. Feodoroff stated there should be social distancing within the fenced fields, no scrimmages or games allowed as yet and signage must be posted outlining the guidelines. In general, Ms. Feodoroff said, the fields can be opened, but they have to be opened safely.

Mr. Clark expressed that their board has been planning for a Phase 2 re-opening utilizing social distancing criteria from the state and from Little League at the national level. He continued that their plans have included an initial informational outreach to the parents with suggestion that players use their own equipment if possible, posting of signs with social distancing guidelines, no scrimmages, mask usage by coaches and players, hand sanitizer available, and not using the dugout. Mr. Clark noted that the four-year-old age group will not participating.

While not present this evening to speak on their own behalf, Mr. Mitchell spoke as a member of Parks & Fields, in support of the preparedness of the girls’ softball organizers to begin practicing as well.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to open up sports fields in Hanson to allow practice-only baseball and girls softball. ***Roll call vote Dyer aye, Mitchell aye, Hickey aye, Blauss aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0***

***Board of Health update – Phase 2 re-opening plans***

Health Agent Arlene Dias acknowledged a few restaurants that have opened up in town for outdoor dining and stated her expectations that more will open toward the end of the month when the Governor will likely announce Phase 2, Part 2 openings.

***Vote to consider outside dining pursuant to Governor’s order – liquor licensing and zoning***

In light of the Governor’s order relaxing liquor licensing and zoning laws, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett asked Ms. Feodoroff what the Board can do to expedite the re-reopening of restaurants for outdoor dining.

Ms. Feodoroff explained that in order to accomplish approval of outdoor dining areas in Hanson, the Board of Selectmen must create a policy for doing so, citing that it encompass topics such as ADA compliance, modification of operating hours where necessary, and perhaps the Town licensing a portion of the sidewalk for a period of time for outdoor dining. Ms. Feodoroff explained that she has a template that the Town can utilize for establishing a policy and that upon adoption, an approving authority can be delegated by the Board.

Ms. Feodoroff clarified that liquor licensing of restaurants approved for outdoor dining is intended for those establishments that have been previously approved by the Board of Health to prepare and serve food on the premises.

Ms. Feodoroff confirmed that the normal process through the Board of Appeals for expansion of dining outdoors is temporarily waived, except for a building permit if a tent/canopy is requested. Building Commissioner Robert Curran recommended that applicants submit a site plan to the Board, with Ms. Feodoroff describing that she is commonly observing in other towns that in order to expedite the approval process, Board’s will delegate approval responsibility.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Blauss, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, that the Board delegate Mr. Stanbrook to facilitate the approval process of restaurants for outdoor dining with utilization of a checklist provided by Town Counsel outlining required steps in the process. ***Roll call vote Dyer aye, Mitchell aye, Hickey aye, Blauss aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0***

***Recreation Committee – presentation of re-opening plans for Camp Kiwanee and Cranberry Cove***

Recreation Director William Boyle, Recreation Commission Chairman Diane Cohen and Commission members were present virtually to discuss re-opening of Camp Kiwanee, most notably, the Cove.

Ms. Feodoroff explained that her understanding of the Cove beach area is that it would fall under the definition of an “inland beach,” which are those that are limited to groups of ten persons, and the number of groups allowed is dependent upon the size of the beach. She said that each group of ten would be expected to distance twelve feet apart from another group. Mr. Dyer stated that he determined from Google that the Cove beach area is about 13,000 square feet.

In response to Ms. Cohen, Ms. Feodoroff stated that the guidelines from the Governor are unclear in terms of swimming at the beach and remarked on the difficulty to manage social distancing when there are varying abilities to navigate the water. Ms. Feodoroff agreed that Recreation should work with the Board of Health in devising a safe opening plan for the Cove and that in so doing, it would be beneficial to physically map out the beach to determine the maximum number of individuals who could be there per the Governor’s order.

During continued discussion, Recreation members acknowledged that they have not met to discuss and plan out a Cove re-opening. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett stated that there cannot be a vote by the Board on the Cove’s reopening until Recreation has prepared an opening plan, to include financial implications, for presentation to the Board.

***Whitman Hanson Regional School District graduation request discussion***

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett explained that the Whitman Hanson Regional High School has announced graduation ceremonies for July 31. She noted that the Board had not voted approval of the event prior to the announcement. Mr. Blauss recommended that the Board go on record with a vote.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Blauss, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to support a Whitman Hanson Regional High School graduation on July 31 provided that the event complies with safety guidelines from the Governor’s office and those of the Board of Health. ***Roll call vote Dyer aye, Mitchell aye, Hickey aye, Blauss aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0***

***Town Meeting Logistics – status update with Town Moderator and Town Clerk***

Mr. Stanbrook outlined his conversation with Town Moderator Sean Kealy during which they discussed various sites that can accommodate Town Meeting from a seating perspective, including the high school gym or auditorium, middle school, Indian Head School or outdoors with a tent. He noted the further consideration needed to assure proper social distancing.

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett expressed from participation on a recent MMA (Massachusetts Municipal Association) call, their strong urging for town meetings to be held outside if at all possible. She stated also that they addressed topics such as encouraging seaters and greeters; assuring ADA accessibility, handling non-mask wearing individuals, and microphone usage.

There was agreement that the most accommodating venue for the meeting will likely be the high school. Town Clerk Sloan noted that if the meeting were to be held indoors at the high school, the gym and auditoriums are already technically configured.

Mr. Dyer commented concerning an outdoor meeting, the need for mosquito control and comfortable seating. He also suggested the possibility of a drive-in style meeting.

Ms. Feodoroff offered that in order to move the meeting along as swiftly as possible, a consent agenda could be used. She described that with a consent agenda, all of the articles for which there likely will be no discussion are grouped together and can be voted in one motion. Ms. Feodoroff continued that if discussion of any those articles are requested, they are put aside for address later.

The Board expressed support for a consent agenda, with Ms. Feodoroff responding that doing so would not change the Warrant, just the way it is presented by the Moderator. She remarked that if a consent agenda is utilized at the meeting, the Warrant does need to be as detailed as a motion would be because the Moderator will introduce the “group” motion with wording such as “move as printed in the Warrant.” Ms. Feodoroff said that her office can meet with Mr. Kealy to suggest articles for which it might be appropriate.

***2020 Annual & Special Town Meeting Warrants – Update on Special and Annual Town Meeting articles wording and placement with Town Counsel***

Ms. Feodoroff responded to questions by Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett, as follows:

▪ Ms. Feodoroff explained that legislation permits postponement of both the election and Town Meeting and that the order does not matter.

▪ Ms. Feodoroff stated that if the Town wants to pass the school budget and not cut services, it must 1) approve the regional school amendment at Town Meeting, 2) pass the school budget at Town Meeting, and 3) approve the $800,000 extra appropriation, which is contingent upon the passage of an override ballot question.

▪ If the override question fails, Ms. Feodoroff explained that it means that taxes cannot be raised beyond the 2 1/2 % cap. She continued that the Town is required to present at Town Meeting the assessment amount that was presented to them by the school committee and Town Meeting decides the amount, perhaps less, to appropriate back to the school. Ms. Feodoroff stated that if the override question passes, Town Meeting would still be allowed to appropriate to the school an amount less than the assessment it was presented.

▪ Ms. Feodoroff stated that if the regional agreement amendment does not pass at Town Meeting, it presents an issue for the school committee to work out in that they would be left without a regional agreement apportionment.

▪ Ms. Feodoroff said that a contingency override only means that the capacity has to be approved at the ballot in order for the override to be approved.

Ms. Feodoroff explained for Finance Committee Chairman Kevin Sullivan the resulting process in the event that the Town votes to appropriate an amount that is less than what was assessed and the school committee rejects it. She described that the school committee would reconvene and if they in turn were to demand the requested assessment, then the Town would meet for another Town Meeting. Ms. Feodoroff continued that if that meeting rejected it again, the school committee would decide on the need for a combined Hanson/Whitman meeting. She said that if a combined meeting failed to reach an agreement by December 1, then the state would get involved, whose decision would expectedly be for the statutory method.

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett noted recent legislative change that allows the Board to change the quorum requirement for Town Meeting. Board members expressed that due to the anticipated heavy attendance at the upcoming meeting, it would be not be necessary to reduce the quorum requirement.

Mr. Dyer stated the need for a question/answer forum of some type giving the opportunity for residents to ask questions ahead of the election. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett stated that an informational broadcast is planned in coordination with the cable people. Mr. Sullivan said that they are considering a question/answer radio event as well.

Mr. Dyer also commented that recommendations for school openings for only ten students per classroom could impact the budget and asked if the superintendent could be invited to a Board meeting to discuss. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett asked Mr. Stanbrook to inquire of their office about a possible meeting.

***Town Meeting information outreach and dissemination***

[Community outreach was discussed in the previous section.]

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett drew attention to the two-page insert that was published in the Whitman-Hanson Express last week from two members of the Whitman Finance Committee. She said it has been determined that the insert was a paid advertisement, but not labeled as such. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett continued by saying that the piece contained some inaccuracies and appeared to written in order to sway Whitman voters to vote against the amendment and encourage Hanson voters to do the same. She explained that it is a campaign finance regulation violation for other than a political action committee to publish of that nature.

After some discussion, the Board agreed that the Town should respond and designated Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett to write a letter in some form for publish as soon as possible.

***Whitman Hanson Regional School district Letter regarding FY21 budget discussion***

This topic was passed over.

***Request by Highway Director Matt Cahill regarding surplus of materials***

Board members were in receipt of a list of materials that Mr. Cahill advises be declared surplus.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to declare certain highway department materials as surplus. ***Roll call vote Dyer aye, Mitchell aye, Hickey aye, Blauss aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0***

***Appointments/Resignations***

***MOTION*** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to appoint Conservation Agent Frank Schellenger to the Records Access Officer position for an indefinite term. ***Roll call vote Dyer aye, Mitchell aye, Hickey aye, Blauss aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0***

***MOTION*** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to accept the resignation of Sylvia A. Salas from the Nathaniel Thomas Mill Committee. ***Roll call vote Dyer aye, Mitchell aye, Hickey aye, Blauss aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0***

**IV OLD BUSINESS**

***State of outreach on override ballot question***

In addition to what has already been discussed, Mr. Sullivan encouraged all Board members to continue their outreach to Hanson residents in presenting the facts relating to the upcoming election.

***Regional School Agreement update***

Mr. Stanbrook stated that he received an email from Whitman Town Administrator Frank Lynam containing the wording of aticles relating to the school district. In response to Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett, Mr. Stanbrook said that he will find out if there were any significant changes relating to Hanson that had been made to those articles. Mr. Blauss also asked Ms. Feodoroff to review the articles.

**V TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Mr. Stanbrook updated the Board on recent activities, as follows:

1. Mr. Stanbrook itemized warrants that he has signed on behalf of the BOS as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 5/28 | Warrant 48 | $553,284.35 | Vendor Warrant (consisting of about 235K for six months of school article expenditures and 161K for June health insurance) |
| 5/28 | Warrant 48-PR | $176,061.97 | Payroll Warrant |
| 5/28 | Warrant 48-WH | $35,886.26 | Payroll Withholding Warrant |
| 6/4 | Warrant 49 | $95,597.92 | Vendor Warrant |
| 6/4 | Warrant 49-PR | $143,351.60 | Payroll Warrant |
| 6/4 | Warrant 49-WH | $27,237.08 | Payroll Withholding Warrant |

1. Mr. Stanbrook stated that Ralph Greenberg from Impressed LLC has been contacted for an update on his timeline for a cannabis manufacturing license. Mr. Stanbrook explained that Mr. Greenberg relayed that after long delay, his provisional cultivation license application has only recently come up for review by the Cannabis Control Commission and he is therefore requesting that action on the manufacturing license occur as soon as possible.

Given that the process will involve hearings, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett questioned how best to accomplish that given the current COVID-19 environment. Ms. Feodoroff stated that the initial Selectmen hearing would not be highly technical and could be held virtually. She said that the next step would be the community outreach meeting by the state, who has said can be handled remotely. The Board was in agreement to move this topic forward as soon as possible given the potential income for the Town. Mr. Stanbrook said that he will speak to Ms. Feodoroff to initiate the process.

1. Mr. Stanbrook noted his compliance with the Town Administrator’s Act to submit monthly financial reports to the Board, which have been provided to him by Town Accountant Todd Hassett.
2. Mr. Stanbrook explained that all employees are back to work at Town Hall and that safety measures have been implemented, i.e., daily temperature monitoring, installation of plexiglass and other protective equipment and availability of masks/sanitizer. He added that guideline signage will be installed after which the Health Agent will review all policies and procedures. Mr. Stanbrook said that the onsite voter registration next week will provide an opportunity to evaluate the procedures that have been put in place.
3. Mr. Stanbrook stated that the state grant that he applied for to assist small businesses with paying utilities, taxes, etc. was not approved, but expressed appreciation to Rep. Josh Cutler for bringing it to his attention.
4. Mr. Stanbrook reported that the Town’s Facebook page is now up and running (www.Facebook.com/Town.of.HansonMA) thanks to the efforts of IT Director Ryan McGonigle. He added that estimates related to the June 27 override vote are on the Facebook page as well as the town website.
5. Mr. Stanbrook said he will be attending the grand opening of the Regional Old Colony Communications Center (ROCCC) tomorrow in Duxbury and that the Town will be switching over to the regional communications center on July 1. He stated that more information can be found online at: www.town.duxbury.ma.us/regional-old-colony-communications-center.
6. Mr. Stanbrook said that at this time of year, vendors such as auditors, counsel, etc. are normally reviewed for their prior year’s performance and he will be working on those reviews as time allows.
7. Mr. Stanbrook noted that due to the July 20 scheduled Town Meeting, the Town must prepare a ½+ budget for submission to the Director of Accounts prior to June 30 to obtain approval for July of fiscal year 2021. He said that Mr. Hassett will be submitting a budget of $3,663,407.00. Mr. Stanbrook stated that he will have the budget ready for the Board’s vote at the June 23 meeting.
8. Mr. Stanbrook reported that relating to the CARES Act reimbursements for COVID19-related expenses, the school has amassed an expense total of $56,238.20. He said he will be working with Mr. Hassett and Business Manager John Tuffy to compile and submit those expenses.
9. Mr. Stanbrook said that the Annual Town Report has been printed and received and is ready for distribution.
10. Mr. Stanbrook expressed his appreciation for the return of Town Hall employees to the building.

**VI ADJOURNMENT**

***MOTION*** at 8:50 p.m. by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to adjourn the meeting. ***Roll call vote Dyer aye, Mitchell aye, Hickey aye, Blauss aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 - 0***

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Schindler

Minutes Clerk