

***Hanson Board of Selectmen
Selectmen's Meeting Room
Tuesday, August 25, 2020
6:00 p.m.***

Members Present: Kenny Mitchell, James Hickey, Wesley Blauss, Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett,
Matthew Dyer
Others Present: John Stanbrook, Town Administrator; Greer Getzen, Executive Assistant

I CALL TO ORDER

At 6:00 p.m., Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order.

II PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett read the public announcements and upcoming meeting dates. Chairman Mitchell remarked that the meeting scheduled for Sept. 1 will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 2 because of election day.

III NEW BUSINESS

Town Accountant Todd Hassett – Quarterly Update

Town Accountant Todd Hassett, present via telephone, explained his intent to brief the Board on FY2020, referencing the four-page handout.

Speaking initially of the General Fund, Mr. Hassett stated that FY2020 was favorable financially, saying that revenues were up nearly 3% over budget. He noted in particular the larger than usual unused budget in 2020, attributed to the year's extended closure, and the mild winter, which saved on the snow budget. Mr. Hassett said that transfers made in July were from existing budget balances as opposed to the Finance Committee's reserve fund.

Mr. Hassett stated that the Water Fund ended FY2020 ahead of its budgeted revenue due to late in the year permit and collection revenue. He continued that it expended 94% of its budget and ended the year with a net improvement of about \$130,000, despite the fact that they had utilized \$120,000 of their surplus on capital items.

For the Recreation Fund, Mr. Hassett described that revenues were about \$20,000 below budget in FY2020 due to the event cancellations that began in mid-March. He said that likewise, spending was down because the Cove did not open in June. Mr. Hassett stated that the end result was about \$40,000 in retained earnings, substantially less than years past. He commented that the \$26,000 revenue from Netflix was a one-time occurrence.

Mr. Hassett stated that the Transfer Station Fund revenues exceeded the budgeted amount by \$30,000, attributed for the most part to 3-year sticker revenue. He said that expenses were favorable, but noted the new contract during FY2021 that will increase disposal costs. Mr. Hassett stated that the Transfer Station ended FY2020 with retained earnings of about \$66,000,

which will be available to supplement their budget prior to any consideration of additional subsidy from the General Fund.

Mr. Hassett drew the Board's attention to the handout outlining departmental articles that are being continued where projects or purchases are under way, totally just under \$700,000. He noted that a large portion relates to school-related capital items.

In response to Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, Mr. Hassett said that the FY2021 budget is balanced, adding that they still await state-aid numbers that have been delayed. He also confirmed that the actions taken at Town Meeting resulted in a balanced budget.

Mr. Hassett affirmed to Chairman Mitchell that to fund the fiscal FY2022 operating budget, maintaining the current level of services, will necessitate an override.

Fire Chief Jerry Thompson – Fire Department Update

Chief Thompson reported that to date, there have been 1,229 calls for service, which he says is about average. He said that they have multiple calls about 15% of the time, which is noteworthy for staffing reasons. Chief Thompson stated that present staffing is adequate for the town.

Chief Thompson said that the current buildings are old, but in good shape, and that maintenance is performed by staff or outside vendors. He continued that in order to address future needs, he would like to do a feasibility study that would determine what reconfigurations or renovations to enable them to meet their needs for the coming years.

Chief Thompson stated that their apparatus are in good shape, as they utilize an aggressive maintenance and testing program. He said his only concern at this time is their breathing apparatus, which is 17-years-old and while ok to use and tested regularly, is considered out-of-date. Chief stated that they have applied multiple years unsuccessfully for FEMA grants, and currently await this year's grant application response. Responding to Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, Chief said the replacement cost would be about \$260,000-\$300,000.

Chief Thompson commended his staff for their adaptation to the ever-changing COVID-19 guidelines, who he said are always working to provide the best service and minimize risk. He noted that since March 1, they have transferred sixty-eight suspected cases of COVID-19 and fourteen confirmed cases. Chief also expressed appreciation to the medical control doctor at Brockton Hospital who has been a great resource during the pandemic.

In response to Chairman Mitchell, Chief Thompson said that they presently are adequately supplied with PPE that they have gotten from the state, but still have problems getting cleaning supplies.

Chief Thompson said that the transition to the regional dispatch in Duxbury has gone well, with minor problems resolved quickly and professionally by their staff. He stated that the center's receipt of their incentive grant means Hanson will receive over \$900,000 in equipment and infrastructure upgrades. And Chief Thompson said he was notified of a full refund for the

FY2021 assessment, which means there is no dispatch cost for the year. He said that there is a strong possibility that it may continue for the next two fiscal years. Chief expressed that while the decision to go to the regional dispatch was primarily to provide a better service for the town, they appreciate the cost savings they are realizing.

Chief Thompson stated that they were just notified that the department was awarded a \$48,000 EOPSS grant. He said the grant will pay for the portable radios that were to have been an article on the upcoming warrant.

Discuss disposition of Maquan School property

Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett updated the Board of events that have taken place pertaining to the Maquan School since her last update and amid COVID-19 delays. She reviewed over the past few years the town meeting vote in 2019 to fund \$1M to demolish the building, the recently completed Housing Production Plan identifying the Town's need for senior housing, and the selection of Keller Williams to head up efforts to attract developers to the property. She summarized survey results overwhelmingly in favor of the town retaining the property.

Town Planner Deb Pettey emphasized the importance of the town keeping the property given its size and prime location. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett stated that she was told that selling the property would net the town a one-time \$800,000-\$1M. She also said that the cost to the town to maintain the property is about \$25,000 annually.

Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett explained that library/COA expansion has been discussed as a possible reuse of the Maquan School, but said that a formal RFP will be posted soon seeking contractors interested in developing the building with a long-term lease of the land with the town. She said that the reuse conversation can resume after the RFP process has played out, with suggestion that renewed public opinion be sought.

Discuss possible articles for the October 5, 2020 Special Town Meeting warrant

Mr. Stanbrook said that this discussion is to name the articles that the Board wants to have on the warrant.

Chairman Mitchell voiced in favor of an article to change the Tree Warden position from elected to appointed. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett said that in so doing, it will be required that the warden be a certified arborist, with some discussion on compensation options.

Mr. Dyer offered that the town meeting following this one should address oversight of the town's open space.

Annual Appointments

MOTION by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to extend the term of all appointed individuals, e.g., election workers and commission members, as presented to the Board. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Execute Memoranda of Understanding

Mr. Stanbrook stated that the one-year contract extensions with the Administrative Professionals Union and the Highway Department Union, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 1700 includes a 0% cost-of-living adjustment and a wage re-opener if any other town bargaining units receive a cost-of-living adjustment above 0%.

MOTION by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to approve the one-year contract extension with the Administrative Professionals Union. ***Voted 5 – 0***

MOTION by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to approve the one-year contract extension with the Highway Department Union. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Authorize Chairman of the Board to sign Sleeper property closing documents

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to sign the closing documents for the Sleeper property. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Execute contract extension with New Bedford Waste Services LLC

Chairman Mitchell explained that New Bedford Waste Services rates will increase on January 1, and this is a six-month extension contract that was granted to the town at current rates, expiring on December 31, 2020.

Mr. Dyer asked if the issue with the rate increase notification had been resolved. Chairman Mitchell reviewed that notification of the rate increase was apparently sent to the Board of Health via email and the email was not received. There was discussion that future rate increase notifications should be communicated to both the town administrator and the Board of Health, and by certified mail.

MOTION by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to direct Mr. Stanbrook to execute the six-month contract with New Bedford Waste Services LLC on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, expiring on December 31, 2020, with the contract amended to state that future communication of contract changes to be by certified mail and Town Administrator John Stanbrook as the point of contact in negotiations of this contract. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Conflict of Interest Disclosure – C. 268A §19 – Rec. Commissioner Juvy Hartweg

Chairman Mitchell referenced the Conflict of Interest (COI) form presented by Recreation Commission member Juvy Hartweg, citing her volunteer activities with other organizations. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett noted that some other towns bring all COI forms to the attention of the Board of Selectmen.

After some discussion, it was agreed that presenting COI disclosures to the Board for review would be the most transparent action.

Deem 2012 Ford Explorer and 2015 Ford Explorer surplus property

MOTION by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to deem a 2012 Ford Explorer and 2015 Ford Explorer from the police department as surplus property ***Voted 5 – 0***

Appointments

The Board was in agreement that their requirement to meet all individuals prior to their appointment be temporarily suspended due to COVID-19 procedures in place.

Daniel Bathalon, 99 South Street, Economic Development Committee, Expiring 6/30/23
James Geronaitus, 71 Whitman Street, Economic Development Committee, Expiring 6/30/23
Ryan Morrison, 37 Woodbine Avenue, Conservation Commission (Associate), Expiring 6/30/21
Alexander Stewart, 671 Liberty Street, Cultural Council, Expiring 6/30/23
Carolos Caldas, 87 Waltham Street, Cable TV Committee, Expiring 6/30/23

MOTION by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to appoint the individuals named above to the groups and expiry dates stated. ***Voted 4 – 0 – 1***

IV OLD BUSINESS

Appoint Jim Hickey, Kevin Sullivan & 3 Members-at-Large to the De-Regionalization Feasibility Committee for terms expiring 6/30/21

Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett explained that she and Mr. Blauss recently interviewed ten of the applicants for at-large membership to the De-Regionalization Feasibility Committee. She said that she and Mr. Blauss made their selections on the three open positions and are interested in two additional persons to serve as non-voting alternate/research members.

MOTION by Mr. Dyer seconded by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to appoint Selectman Jim Hickey; Finance Committee Chairman Kevin Sullivan; at-large members Kim McCoy, Chris Ernest and Catherine Coakley; and non-voting alternate/research members Gwendolyn Linn and John Gillet to the De-Regionalization Feasibility Committee. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Mr. Hickey stated that he plans to organize the first meeting after Labor Day.

V TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Stanbrook updated the Board on old business, as follows:

1. Mr. Stanbrook said that he is revisiting the School Operational and Comparative Audit at the Board's request. He reviewed that just before the pandemic hit, the bid process had just completed, with one bid received in the amount of \$28,000 to conduct the audit. Mr. Stanbrook stated that he contacted the bidder, The Management Solution, of Auburn MA, who said they are still interested and would abide by that price.

Mr. Stanbrook said that he has notified Whitman Town Administrator Lynam of these developments. Mr. Stanbrook said that he will be seeking \$14,000 for the audit at the October Town Meeting, with Whitman paying the other half.

2. Providing an update for stump grinding at Camp Kiwanee, Mr. Stanbrook expressed that he has received one of the three bids that are required to be sought and said that he will be locating the septic plans for the camp. Mr. Stanbrook said it needs to be determined if stumps can be pulled or ground and they will have to be marked accordingly. He continued that if stumps can be pulled, they can be used by conservation to assist with habitat reclamation projects at Smitty's bog, which had been suggested by Mr. Dyer. Mr. Stanbrook said that an article will be presented to town meeting for the stump work.
3. Mr. Stanbrook said that previously the Board had requested that he look in to having meetings at the middle school. He reported that details are still being worked out with the cable company and they should be able to meet there some time after Sept. 2.
4. Mr. Stanbrook reported that Town Planner Pettey has told him that Environmental Partners has been selected to do most of the review of Impressed LLC's cannabis cultivation/manufacturing license. He said that they have staff qualified to perform bylaw review, stormwater calculations, cursory mechanical compliance and site plan review. Mr. Stanbrook said that Ms. Pettey is awaiting a quote for mechanical HVAC, which includes odor control mitigation. He stated that a ZBA public hearing on the matter is scheduled for Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. at the middle school.
5. As a follow-up, Mr. Stanbrook informed the Board that proper signage has now been posted at Camp Kiwanee.
6. In response to previous Board comment, Mr. Stanbrook said that at their recent departmental meeting, he announced that any gifts that are received are to be thanked in writing.

Mr. Stanbrook reported the following new business:

1. Mr. Stanbrook provided a written breakdown to the Board of FY2020 articles and their progress: 86 articles were active, with 31 completed and 55 rolling over to FY2021 (about \$1.5M); 41 town-related articles were outstanding at year-end (\$375,000); 24 school articles outstanding (\$448,000); 8 CPC articles outstanding (\$179,000); 12 water articles outstanding (\$500,750); and one recreation article outstanding (\$19,000).
2. Mr. Stanbrook stated that Treasurer/Collector Jean Sullivan on August 17 solicited bids for a \$800,000 bond anticipation note (BAN). He detailed that the one-year \$800,000 BAN is comprised of \$400,000 for a fire truck and \$400,000 for road engineering at the Maquan St./Route 14 project. Mr. Stanbrook said the winning bid was from Century Bank at .04%.
3. Mr. Stanbrook said that the Liberty Street/County Road intersection construction will begin on Sept. 14 and those requiring more information should contact the highway department.
4. Mr. Stanbrook said that the EEE risk in Hanson has been increased to high and the Board of Health has posted a notice on the town website.

5. Mr. Stanbrook informed the Board that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) formally approved the town meeting amendment (Article 5), which stipulated that FY2021 will be on a 50/50 basis and FY2022 full statutory.
6. Mr. Stanbrook reminded the Board that the next meeting will be Sept. 2 because the primary is on Sept. 1.

VI APPROVE JUNE 23, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2020 meeting. ***Voted 5 – 0***

VII EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Mitchell announced that the Hanson Board of Selectmen will meet in Executive Session under Mass. General Laws Ch. 30A Section 21 (a) Exemption 1 – To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition, or mental health, rather than the professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff members or individual.

MOTION at 7:33 p.m. by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to enter Executive Session. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Schindler
Minutes Clerk