

***Hanson Board of Selectmen  
Selectmen's Meeting Room  
Wednesday, September 2, 2020  
6:00 p.m.***

Members Present: Kenny Mitchell, James Hickey, Matthew Dyer  
Members Absent: Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Wesley Blauss  
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. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II      EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Mitchell announced that the Hanson Board of Selectmen will meet in Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to enter Executive Session. ***Voted 3 – 0***

Chairman Mitchell stated that the Hanson Board of Selectmen will meet in Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to enter Executive Session. ***Voted 3 – 0***

**III      PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING MEETINGS (PUBLIC SESSION)**

Chairman Mitchell announced that the Town of Hanson, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, has entered into an agreement with Matt Cahill to amicably part ways.

Mr. Dyer read the public announcements and upcoming meeting dates

**IV      NEW BUSINESS**

***Discuss Special Town Meeting Logistics***

Hanson Town Moderator Sean Kealy, present via phone, expressed his desire for a manageable agenda and an outdoor meeting, if possible. He recommended that quorum be reduced from 100 to 50. Mr. Kealy did not state a preference for a Saturday or Monday, but acknowledged that a Saturday might be more accommodating for those trying to attend.

Town Counsel Kate Feodoroff, also present by phone, stated that reducing town meeting quorum from 100 to 50 requires a vote of the Board of Selectmen, with a 7-day posting of the motion to reduce quorum. She noted to the Board that they are allowed to hold an indoor meeting.

After some discussion, the Board agreed to tentatively set Special Town Meeting for Saturday, October 3, 2020 at 10 a.m. at the high school stadium with seating in the stands, pending confirmation by the school of its availability.

Ms. Feodoroff expressed that the timeline for an October 3 meeting is sufficient. In response to Mr. Stanbrook, Ms. Feodoroff said that while the town bylaws say that the Special Town Meeting must be held on the first Monday in October, the emergency legislation allows for its movement to another day.

### ***Review proposed Town Meeting warrant articles***

Mr. Stanbrook outlined the Special Town Meeting articles that have been submitted to date:

- Article 1 For payment of unpaid bills from previous years.
- Article 2 For budget supplements that may be needed for the General Fund or the Water Fund for FY2021.
- Article 3 Items that need to be added to the Recreation Enterprise Fund budget, if necessary.
- Article 4 Placeholder for the Transfer Station Enterprise Fund budget for FY2021, if necessary.
- Article 5 Capital Plan article for those articles that were not funded last year and are being re-introduced:
  - Town Hall Maintenance Repairs - \$40,000
  - Information Technology server switch upgrades - \$210,000
  - Replace car #2 for Fire Department - \$67,000
  - SCBA equipment for Fire Department - \$40,000
  - (3) Heat monitors/defibrillators for Fire Department - \$61,000
  - Highway stormwater management phase 2 - \$65,000
- Article 6 Placeholder for WHRSD capital items:
  - Existing fire lane work (High School) - \$23,000
  - Roadway replacement (Middle School) - \$210,000
  - Window balances (Middle School & Indian Head) - \$50,000
  - Replace phone system (Indian Head) - \$27,948
  - Replace phone system (Middle School) - \$32,102
  - Replace phone system (High School) - \$159,281 (Hanson's portion \$63,712)
- Article 7 Placeholder for Community Preservation Mass Trails Grant Match - \$30,410  
Mr. Stanbrook explained that there are placeholders for other CPC-related items for which he does not have the specific details as yet.
- Article 8 To pay for the Operational and Comparative Audit of the WHRSD, the cost of which is based upon the one bid of \$28,000 received. Hanson would split that cost with Whitman.
- Article 9 To pay for the cost to recertify the town's real estate and personal property values. Mr. Stanbrook said that recertification of all commercial, industrial and personal property values is required of the town about every five years.
- Article 10 \$55,000 to update the Town's Master Plan, which is twelve-years-old. Mr. Stanbrook said that monies from Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) will supplement the cost of the plan. Mr. Hickey asked that the contribution amount from OCPC be provided to the Board before their vote to recommend.

- Article 11 \$30,000 to pay for engineering costs related to a park at the old Plymouth County Hospital site.
- Article 12 Placeholder of \$49,000 for stump grinding, stump removal and related improvements at Camp Kiwanee. Mr. Stanbrook said that the cost would include loam and re-seeding near the lodge and stone riprap back fill for the stumps that were ground or removed near a roadway.
- Article 13 \$22,000 for repairs to the parking lot at 228 High Street (Hanson Food Pantry). Mr. Dyer stated that not knowing the Plymouth County Hospital Re-Use Committee's plans for the parking lot, he suggested that there be a second opinion from Highway on the degree of work needed at this time, whether minor repairs would suffice for now or a full resurface.
- Article 14 Placeholder of \$55,000 to purchase five new compactors at the Hanson Transfer Station, with Mr. Stanbrook reporting that they are old and in disrepair. He stated that a grant may pay for one compactor, but its status is not known at this time.
- Article 15 \$10,000 to replenish the Conservation Fund for open space management and related conservation purposes. Mr. Dyer proposed that going forward, there should be research regarding the consolidation of various related committees/funds in order to better consolidate town government.
- Article 16 Transfer money to the Town's Other Post-Employment Benefits trust fund (OPEB). Mr. Stanbrook explained that the Town's OPEB liability is \$19.5M, which consists of retiree costs that are not pension-related. He said the Town's fund balance that is used to pay the liability is about \$132,000. Mr. Stanbrook said that the more the Town is able to fund its trust, the better it is viewed by bond rating agencies for its credit worthiness.
- Article 17 Add to the Town's Stabilization Fund, which Mr. Stanbrook said is one of the standard articles.
- Article 18 Add to the Regional School's Capital Stabilization fund, as established at the October 2014 Special Town Meeting.
- Article 19 Cease the Recreation Enterprise Fund, effective July 1, 2021 for FY2022. Mr. Stanbrook explained that the fund has historically not been self-sufficient, and a vote of this action will cause Recreation's revenue and expenses to be part of the General Fund.
- Article 20 Cease the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, effective July 1, 2021 for FY2022. Mr. Stanbrook explained that the fund has historically not been self-sufficient, and a vote of this action will cause its revenue and expenses to be part of the General Fund.
- Article 21 Change the Tree Warden position from an elected position to an appointed position by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Stanbrook stated that if the article passes, there will have to be a ballot vote as well at the May 2021 election. He clarified that the current office holder would remain through the currently elected term.
- Article 22 Placeholder article for a flood insurance study and adoption of maps.
- Article 23 Community Choice Aggregation Program for electric supply. Mr. Stanbrook said that this article is being introduced by Green Hanson seeking cheaper, cleaner energy.

Mr. Dyer commented that Article 19 regarding the Recreation Enterprise Fund and Article 23, concerning the Community Aggregation Fund, should perhaps be postponed to a future town meeting. He said that Recreation should weigh in on their fund's proposed elimination. He also

said that that if community aggregation is going to be pursued, there needs to be more community education, adding that a reduced quorum of 50 residents should not decide the town's future power suppliers. Mr. Dyer stressed that if either enterprise fund—recreation or solid waste—continue as such into the future, they both should have a business plan for doing so.

After additional discussion, Chairman Mitchell stated that the September 15 meeting will be the Board's opportunity to place, recommend and remove articles.

### ***Close October 2020 Special Town Meeting warrant***

**MOTION** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to close the October 2020 Special Town Meeting warrant. **Voted 3 – 0**

**MOTION** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to set the quorum for the October 2020 Special Town Meeting warrant to fifty. **Voted 3 – 0**

### ***Town Administrator's performance evaluation***

Mr. Stanbrook described per past suggestion from Mr. Blauss, that he prepared a short list of focus items to address going forward, as follows:

1. Concerning fall town meeting, create a safe place to complete the Town's business, with the outcome that town meeting would be held in a safe, orderly fashion on the designated date.
2. Submit all CARES Act paperwork by the October 2, 2020 submission deadline for all eligible costs.
3. Work on the FY2022 budget for a likely override amount given certain assumptions.  
Chairman Mitchell asked Mr. Stanbrook to consider questions for response as an override draws nearer: 1) Can an override be specified for use to fund the General Fund, or the everyday operations of the town, and 2) Given a particular override amount, preparation to answer what services the town would lose if the override were to fail.
4. Work through the backlog of human resources, labor relations and legal issues to reduce by one-half by year-end.
5. Work through technology issues and public outreach, such as telephone, email, computer and website problems, to ensure, in coordination with applicable parties, that they can reliably get the information to the public that they need.
6. Work through COVID-19 issues to increase public access while maintaining the governor's orders, with the goal of getting information out to the public without jeopardizing public safety.

Mr. Dyer remarked on item #4 to suggest that a survey be sent to all employees asking for 1) what they think is great and should continue, 2) what can be improved upon, and 3) comments. He added that the employees are the Town's greatest asset and should know that their opinions matter.

### ***Accept Donations***

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to accept donation. ***Voted 3 – 0***

### ***Requests – Vote to approve rental discount for seminars, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> & Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>***

In response to Mr. Dyer, Chairman Mitchell said that the request does not include a description of the seminar for which they would be granting a discount, only that it is a non-wedding function. Mr. Hickey supported approval stating that any business at this time is preferable to no business. Chairman Mitchell asked that Greer communicate back to them to say that going forward, the Board will not approve rental discounts without knowing the nature of the event. Mr. Dyer further suggested that a standardized form be created for submissions to the Board to ensure that all information is provided.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to approve the discounted rentals at Camp Kiwanee on Sept. 13 and Oct. 13 for seminars. ***Voted 3 – 0***

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

***MOTION*** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to accept the resignation of Tree Warden Dave Hanlon, with regret. ***Voted 3 – 0***

Chairman Mitchell explained that because the Tree Warden vacancy occurred in the middle of a term, the Board can only appoint until the next election.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to place on the May 15, 2021 ballot, the position of Tree Warden for a one-year term. ***Voted 3 – 0***

***MOTION*** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to appoint Steven Graham as a temporary officer to hold David Hanlon's vacated office as Tree Warden for the Town of Hanson until the next Town Election. ***Voted 3 – 0***

## **V TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

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

1. Mr. Stanbrook said that he recently met with Recreation Commission Chairman Diane Cohen, Recreation Director Bill Boyle, Assistant Dori Jamieson and Highway Supervisor Steve Graham to review the stump work to be done at Camp Kiwanee. Mr. Stanbrook outlined that there are 112 stumps to be removed or ground, that they will need to be marked as such or for underground hazards, that there is 20,000 sq. feet near the lodge that will be loamed and hydroseeded and that stone riprap will be added in areas that might wash out.
2. Mr. Stanbrook stated that County Road (Route 14) paving will continue for another day or two followed by line striping. He said that the Highway Department can be contacted with questions regarding road closures, detours, etc.

3. Mr. Stanbrook reported regarding the CARES Act that Phase IV has been released, which provides Hanson with additional funding in the amount of \$476,598.53. He said that during the recent conference call it was announced that October 2 is the deadline for submitting expenses, and that funds not spent by a municipality will be re-allocated elsewhere.
4. Mr. Stanbrook detailed the rescue that took place recently at the Burrage recreational area of a horse that was stuck in the mud. Mr. Stanbrook said that combined efforts and resources of the Hanson Fire Department, Plymouth County Technical Team and the Hanson Water Department resulted in a quick and safe rescue of the horse and its owner. Mr. Stanbrook conveyed Chief Thompson's statement that this is an example of how well mutual aid can work during major incidents.
5. Mr. Stanbrook announced from Town Clerk Beth Sloan that 2,791 persons voted at the recent primary election, which was 36% of the 7,769 eligible voters. He said that 149 people voted early.
6. Mr. Stanbrook stated that the next meeting will be held on September 15 during which they will finalize the Special Town Meeting warrant.

**VI     APPROVE JUNE 30, 2020 MEETING MINUTES**

***MOTION*** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to approve the minutes from the June 30, 2020 meeting. ***Voted 3 – 0***

**VII    ADJOURNMENT**

***MOTION*** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to adjourn the meeting. ***Voted 3 – 0***

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Schindler  
Minutes Clerk