

***Hanson Board of Selectmen
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Hanson Town Hall
Tuesday, January 29, 2019
Regular Meeting 7:00 P.M.***

Members Present: Wesley Blauss, Matthew Dyer, James Hickey, Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, and Kenny Mitchell

Members Absent:

Others Present: Town Administrator Michael McCue
Executive Assistant Meredith Marini

7:00 p.m. Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order. Clerk Dyer read the announcements and upcoming meeting schedule.

The Board thanked Melissa Valachovic for her work on the Polar Plunge.

II NEW BUSINESS

Town Accountant Update – Town Accountant Todd Hassett was present and reviewed the semi-annual report. He noted a correction will be needed at the May Town Meeting in the IT Line. Town Counsel informed the Town that Hanson has to fully fund the IT Director's salary. East Bridgewater's share will be added to the revenue side. He anticipates a shortfall in the Conservation Agent's line. The utilities have taken a hit with the addition of the Maquan School. There will be a modest increase in the 2020 budget line. The Police have had issues with their HVAC. Public works will need additional funds in the overtime line. Snow and ice is fine for now. The Town appropriates \$300,000 for Snow and Ice. The library has issues with the HVAC and may require major repairs. General insurance line has been decreased by the additional cost of insuring Maquan School. Water line is tracking fine. No concerns at this point.

Recreation fund – Mr. Hassett is concerned that the revenues are not keeping up with the expenditures. Approximately 15% off the pace for this year. The Commission is reviewing the matter and will take the necessary steps to reduce expenditures.

Solid Waste is O.K. at this time. But will need to be watched.

Mr. Hickey inquired as to why the Town only funds \$300,000 for Snow and Ice. Mr. Hassett noted that Snow and Ice is one of the few budgets which the State allows for deficit spending. Mr. Hassett reported that Free Cash will be used to fund the shortfall. If there is not enough it will come off the Cherry Sheets. Mr. Hickey requested an average from the last 10 years.

Budget

Mr. Hassett informed the Board that the By-laws require the Town Administrator to present a budget by January 31st. Mr. Hassett reviewed the anticipated revenues. The town is allowed to increase by 2.5%. New growth is also factored into the calculation.

The Town has a few debt exclusions. One is for the new police station, \$300,000 for Regional high School \$136,000 for a 5 year school IT upgrade plan. He believes FY2021 will be the last

payment. There is \$21,700,000 available to fund expenditures. There has been a decline in permit revenue \$200,000

Additional funding sources are State aid (Cherry Sheets) – The figures used in the presentation were based on the Governor's budget for estimated revenues. Local receipts include MV excise tax, permit revenues, investment earnings. East Bridgewater's share of the IT Director will be added to local receipts. There is a total of \$25,250,000 available to fund budgets.

One time sources are used mostly for Capital Improvement items. Mr. Hassett proposes to use \$994,000 with over \$600,000 for High School capital. It would fund most of the capital items. Hanson currently has funding for all the High School projects, but Mr. Hassett is unsure whether Whitman will have the funds. He recommends adding \$50,000 to general stabilization fund and \$25,000 to the school stabilization. Ambulance receipt/reserved fund. He will use \$300,000 to fund operating budget and \$350,000 for a new ambulance. He has carried \$250,000 for snow and ice deficit reserve.

A portion of Solid Waste is historically funded through taxation. This year \$87,000 is funded. The Finance Committee is working with the Board of Health. The amount increased by \$3,000. After FY 2020 financing will be a problem.

Recreation – balancing the operations will require a \$125,000 tax subsidy in order to cover the entire operation. He noted that this is a work in progress.

Mr. Hassett reviewed the department requests noting that work still needs to be done. General Government includes a new Conservation Agent, Full time health agent, full time planner and utility costs from the Maquan School. Communications included adding an additional dispatcher at the cost of \$80,000. Regional School District and SSVT have not submitted budgets to date. Mr. Hassett put in 6.5% for WH and 6% for SSVT as placeholders until the budgets are submitted. Group health insurance is not yet settled, but anticipates a figure by March. Risk insurance has increased due to the Maquan School.

Currently, there is a \$458,426 budget deficit. Water budget does not include salary increases as the contract is being negotiating.

Mr. Hickey requested Recreation 20 year history.

Mr. McCue pointed out the budget is a work in progress. This is the first pass at the budget. Still waiting for School budget. He has been working with the school to come up with a budget that everyone can work with. The Governor's numbers are not necessarily the real number. Capital and operating budget for the school depends on what Whitman can do. The budget will take the cooperation for all the departments and Whitman. He pointed out that the Town may not be able to afford everything.

He thanked Todd for his assistance with the budget.

Joint Appointment to the Housing Authority – Daniel Pardo 968 Monponsett St. – Chairman Mitchell briefly reviewed Mr. Pardo’s application. Housing Authority members Teresa Santalucia, Marilyn Cardile and Michael Jones were present.

MOTION by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Dyer to appoint Daniel Pardo to the vacancy on the Housing Authority. ***Voted 5 – 0***

MOTION by Santalucia, second by Cardile to appoint Daniel Pardo to the Housing Authority. ***Voted 3 – 0***

Class II License Renewal – Upscale Auto 169A Franklin Street – Building Inspector Robert Curran has issues with the property. Chairman Mitchell, after speaking with the Building Inspector, he suggested issuing a provisional license for 45 days. Mr. Tonney noted that they worked on some of the issues today.

MOTION by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Dyer to provisionally renew the Class II license for Upscale Autos conditioned upon meeting the Building Inspector’s concerns to be addressed within 45 days. ***Voted 5- 0***

Discussion and possible vote on Regional Dispatch – Chairman Mitchell noted that the matter has been pending. He has visited both the Duxbury facility as well as the Hanson facility. Chairman Mitchell supports regionalization and is concerned about the current employees. He feels that safety is a priority. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett is concerned about the way regional is set up as Hanson doesn’t have an equal vote at the table. Duxbury has the major control over the facility. She would like to see something in writing.

Chairman Mitchell indicated it will take 12 to 18 months for it to be implemented. He wouldn’t want to wait. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett would like to make a motion that the organization be put in place within 2 years.

Mike Mahoney is the Regional Director. He noted they have every intention of moving in that direction. The contract could be adjusted to a term shorter than 5 years. Everything funnels through Mr. Mahoney and not the Town of Duxbury.

Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett asked what will happen if he is no longer there. Mr. Mahoney hopes to have the organization in place by FY2020. They will have to renegotiate contracts with Halifax and Plympton which have 5 year contracts. The other communities need to agree to the new organization. Police & Fire Chiefs of all communities will be part of the organization.

Chief Miksch noted he has not been a fan of regionalization. He tried to address the issues the Fire Dept. has had regarding dispatch. He feels everything is working fine in the current situation. He cannot shut the lights off in the Police Station. Police officers will have to be called back to the station. Other communities have had to deal with the situation. Norwell put in civilian on the desk. The dispatchers do a lot for the police department including prisoner watch and paper work. He reviewed the number of citizens who visit the station with lowest month of 150 people coming into the station.

Mike Mahoney indicated there is no definitive costs for regionalization. Chief Miksch reported that E911 may provide between \$150,000 to \$200,000. Mr. Hickey noted that the Board would not let the station go dark. Chief Miksch indicated that he would have to hire four people to replace the dispatchers most likely Police Officers. Chief noted if he had civilians, he would have to pay for meal breaks because they can't leave the station. He doesn't know how he will pay for it. Chief is concerned about the current dispatchers walking away.

Town Accountant Todd Hassett indicated that he was not prepared to speak on the Chief's figures as he just received them this morning. The current FY2019 budget is \$400,000. The FY2020 proposed budget is \$480,000, an \$80,000 increase. With the \$200,000 paid to the Region there would be a \$280,000 budget for staff. That leaves some options. According to Mr. Hassett, the budget is cost neutral, based on the numbers he has seen.

Mr. McCue indicated there are a lot of moving parts, with various options for staffing. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett wants a person in the station at all times and doesn't want people using technology requiring residents to speak through a video camera.

Mr. McCue explained that the Town would send a letter of intent and E911 starts the process. The Chiefs work together to get the process moving. Chairman Mitchell feels the board can address the Chief's concerns.

Mr. Hassett pointed out that if we don't go regional the town will have to address the current dispatch staffing. Chief Thompson is a proponent. He feels regionalization will fund capital infrastructure. He is concerned with only one dispatcher during certain times of impact events. He noted that sometime in the future, the Town may be required to regionalize. The Town may find that you need more than two dispatchers. Chief Thompson will support whatever decision. Mr. Hickey requested the information which Mr. McCue had requested as to cost.

Chief Miksch reviewed the costs which have been presented to him. Duxbury would charge \$350,000 - \$425,000 – less \$200,000 from E911. Mr. Mahoney noted it would be closer to \$400,000. Chief Miksch noted that Hanson currently gets \$150,000 from the State. Hanson is eligible for grant money in the amount of \$50,000 which is a reimbursement grant.

Additional Dispatcher for impact times is \$461,000 for 5 dispatchers. With 4 dispatchers is \$372,000. Training is required – reimbursement grant is available. Usually \$8,000.

If he funded for four police officers at the 1st step with a bachelor degree would be \$259,000 including night differential for the first year. The second year it would increase \$3,000 per officer as they move up the steps. Clerks at step one clerical union rates and missed meals would be \$263,000. Norwell budgeted \$241,000 for their clerks.

Mr. Blauss noted that Mr. Mahoney has hosted all the Selectmen. He watched three dispatchers and a supervisor and he was impressed. He doesn't feel that one or even two dispatchers can handle catastrophic events. Every dispatcher who applies and can pass the test had been hired by the region.

Mr. Dyer would like to see the contract or a sample. He would like to see the numbers. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett agreed she wants the numbers as well. Mr. Blauss requested that Mr. McCue provide a breakdown of the costs and the Town's current budget proposal.

Mike Mahoney noted that a range of \$150,000 to \$200,000 but it is not definitive until all the requests are submitted. He feels it is a cost savings for the Town. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett pointed out that is why she wants the numbers because the Town Accountant says it is cost neutral.

Captain Reardon of Duxbury Fire explained that he did deals with Plympton, Halifax and Rochester as the former Director of ROCCC. The cost increases will be in the contract. He noted there is still a lot of work to do, such as when will Hanson join? The process will take several months to complete. Mr. Hickey clarified that if the Town doesn't like the contract, the Town doesn't have to act.

MOTION by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, second Hickey to approve entering into a letter of intent with regional dispatch. **Voted 5 – 0**

Mr. Dyer thanked all public safety personnel for their service.

8:37 p.m. brief recess

8:44 p.m. Returned to open session

Vote to sign the Highway Contract - Mr. McCue explained that a former Board signed the Memorandum of Agreement which detailed the changes and terms negotiated with the union for the new contract. The Contract before the Board integrates the terms from the Memorandum of Agreement. Mr. McCue requested the Board table the matter as he has not heard from the Union confirming everything is all set. Mr. Blauss asked why it is two years since the Memorandum of Agreement. Mr. McCue noted that the union has received all the benefits of the Agreement, but the parties go back and forth with the integrated contract.

Requests:

Cub Scout Fishing Derby – Sunday, April 28th from 7 – 10 a.m. at Wampatuck Pond - **Tabled**

III OLD BUSINESS

Request for Street light at Main and Brookside - Chairman Mitchell indicated that he spoke with the Highway Surveyor who recommends the installation of the light. Mr. McCue indicated he spoke with the Police Chief who agrees a light should be installed. Mr. McCue reviewed policy noting it needs to be updated as it references the Executive Secretary.

MOTION by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Dyer to approve the installation of LED street lights at Main Street & Brookside Way as well as Main Street & Progress way. **Voted 5 – 0**

Correction – Waiver of Fees for Library Trivia Night – July 31st Mrs. Marini indicated that the Agenda of January 22nd incorrectly listed the event date as July 13th.

MOTION FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Hickey to approve the waiver of fee for the Library Trivia Night on July 31st. **Voted 5 – 0**

JJ's Pub 16 Liberty Street – Vote to authorize Town Counsel to file Dismissal Stipulation

Mr. McCue noted that current order to the present property owner creates a cloud on the Title. Town Counsel recommended that she issue a Dismissal Stipulation which the buyer will hold the Dismissal until the closing. Closing is February 28th. Chairman Mitchell asked what type of guarantee the Town gets that the new owner will clean up. Mr. McCue noted you do not, but the Town could pursue the new owner. Mr. Hickey noted the Town could require clean up within the 45 days.

MOTION FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Hickey to authorize Town Counsel to go to court and remove the dismissal on the current property owner of 16 Liberty and immediately upon closing, file a motion on the new owner to clean up in 45 days. **Voted 5 - 0**

Discuss & Vote Green Communities Grant items – Mr. McCue requested the authority to include additional items to the grant, money for replacement of furnace at library, police station hot water, insulation at the Town Hall, any additional funds to go to lighting.

Mr. Dyer said the Energy Committee hasn't discussed the insulation at Town Hall. Mr. Dyer indicated the Energy Committee makes recommendations, but the Selectmen makes the decision for the grant funding. The committee will be meeting next week and will address the insulation at Town Hall.

MOTION by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second Hickey to approve the grant items contingent on the approval and support of the Energy Committee. **Voted 5 – 0**

Review & Vote Cell Tower contract/lease agreement – Chairman Mitchell inquired as to the requirement of the School Committee's signature on the lease agreement. Mr. McCue said as the school leases from the Town, they need to sign. It is a twenty year lease with anticipated installation to begin by the summer. They will remove the pole at the end of the lease or renew. The Town will receive the percentage of the rental from the other carriers.

MOTION by Hickey, second by FitzGerald-Kemmett to execute the lease with cell tower. **Voted 5 - 0**

IV TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. McCue met with Rep. Cutler yesterday inquiring about any earmarks from the State. Mr. McCue reviewed the most recent grants which have been received. Mr. McCue requested that Board members forward their recommendations to him.

On January 23rd Mr. McCue met with the Planner and Environmental Partners on the Complete Streets project. The project will be supplemented with Chapter 90 money. The project will go out to bid in the next two weeks. Environmental partners will handle the bid process.

Mr. McCue will meet with Mass Dot to review the next step for the Rt. 14 Maquan reconstruction TIP program in order for Hanson to move forward in the TIP process. He will have the engineers at a future meeting to provide an update on the process.

Mr. McCue will be tapping a Cable Show with Board of Health Chairman. The next show will be with the Planning Board Chairman. He invited the Board members to participate in one of the shows.

Mr. McCue spoke with the Director of Elder Affairs regarding consultant for the Senior Center Assessment. He will request the Board's approval at the next meeting for him to sign the proposal.

Mr. McCue reported that after the Selectmen voted to appoint the interim Conservation Agent at the last meeting, the Conservation Commission voted on Friday to affirm his recommendation to appoint Michele Grenier.

V COMMITTEE REPORTS

200th Anniversary Committee – Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett – They will be meeting Thursday.

Final Plymouth County Hospital Reuse Comm. – Mr. Dyer - Waiting on a meeting date. Mr. McCue will be meeting with the consultant to clarify what the committee is seeking.

Maquan School Reuse Committee – Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett - Meeting Feb. 13th to review the RFP for brokerage services.

Highway Building Committee – Chairman Mitchell - Nothing to report

Town Administrator evaluation – Mrs. Marini distributed the evaluation. Mr. Blauss would like to see a different tool which is goal driven. Mr. Dyer would like time to review the evaluation, then come back next meeting and set goals. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett would like to check in quarterly to work on progress. Requested Mr. McCue come up with his own goals based on the evaluation. Mr. Blauss is willing to work with Mr. McCue to review the evaluations. Wants it to be a positive process.

Mr. McCue will do what the Board wants him to do and is always happy to have a discussion.

VI ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by adjourn Hickey, second by FitzGerald-Kemmett to adjourn. ***Voted 5 – 0***

9:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Marini,
Executive Assistant
Approved & Voted 5 - 0
April 9, 2019