

***Hanson Board of Selectmen
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Hanson Town Hall
Tuesday, January 30, 2018
Regular Meeting 7:00 P.M.***

Members Present: James Hickey, Donald Howard, Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, James McGahan and Kenny Mitchell

Members Absent:

Others Present: Town Administrator Michael McCue
Executive Assistant Meredith Marini

7:00 p.m. Chairman McGahan called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance, read the announcements and upcoming meeting schedule.

II NEW BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Preview – Town Accountant Todd Hassett was present to review the FY19 Budget. The Board members were provided with budget books which included detailed information for all departmental budgets. There are several items still in play including the State Budget and Whitman Hanson Regional School budget. This is the Town preliminary sources and uses of funds. Currently there is a \$4,596 surplus. It is a balanced budget.

He reviewed the sources to fund the budgets. The levy limit is \$19,240,837. We can add \$481,021 under Prop 2 1/2 . Estimating \$250,000 in new growth.

Debt Exclusions included the Police Station which will be paid off in 2026. The High School \$313,000 is set aside for that debt. Technology improvements will be paid off in 2021. Current amount is \$134,556.

Governor's Budget increased the Town's local aid by \$38,000.00. There was a decrease in veterans benefits which is directly related to the case load for Veterans. He expects that the State aid amount will be \$1,500,000.

Additional source of funds is local receipts. The largest item is excise taxes. Other sources are fees and interest on taxes. This is a 7% increase \$24,134,758 in Revenue which is approximately 4% increase.

None re-occurring revenues include Free Cash. The Town is required to set aside 1% of the overall budget for Capital. Mr. Hassett has set aside \$535,000 for any capital items.

Overlay Reserve – Money for abatements or reduction of tax. The Town can use the funds after the Assessors agree to release the overage. Currently releasing \$20,000.

Ambulance fees are used for the purchase of new equipment and salaries for the firefighters. When the account get large enough the funds are used to purchase an ambulance.

Debt Offset are associated with the Septic Loan payments. There is nearly \$1,000,000 of funds available to the Town.

Costs out include Overlay to fund abatement, state assessments include payments to the public library. Snow and ice shortfall is estimated at \$200,000. Mr. Hassett noted that the Snow and Ice budget has been gradually increase over the years to get a truer figure for Snow and Ice. Cherry Sheet charges MBTA, Mosquito Control, area planning councils.

Raise Tax Title at \$20,000. Subsidies to Solid Waste at \$85,276 and Recreation has been budgeted at 0. The solid waste budget has been taxed in recent years and is not sustainable. Recreation had been supported in recent years. There will be no subsidy for FY19 although it will be tight. Total funds available are \$24,495,000.00

Mr. Hassett reviewed the expenses totaling \$24,490,424.00

Modest funding into the stabilization funds. \$30,000 to General Stabilization and \$15,000 for School Stabilization.

The budget is currently fundable. The budget does not include any staff increases. The binders have detailed information on all the budget items. The proposed budget includes a 3.95% increase. He noted that the WHRSD budget has not been set. He has estimated at 6.2% increase for the school budget as a place holder.

The Water budget includes indirect costs. The large increase is due to the fact that the Town is assessing the Water Department for the pension assessment. Mr. Hassett and the Auditors recommended the assessment. The debt service has increased as a result of the Water Tank and Water main projects.

Recreation requested an increase to the budget, but he isn't sure that can be sustained with the current revenues. The debt service is for the new septic system which will be paid through retained earnings over the next five years.

Solid Waste can be sustained for the next three years. He feels the solid waste program needs to be reviewed.

He noted that the town does not have a lot of debt.

Mr. Mitchell asked about the increase is unemployment. They budget based on one person being out for the entire year.

Mr. McCue thanked and acknowledged all the work and expertise of that Mr. Hassett provides.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to approve the preliminary FY19 budget.

Voted 5 – 0

Open May 2018 Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrants –

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to open the May Special and Annual Town Meeting warrants. **Voted 5 – 0**

Mrs. Marini noted that warrant articles will be due on March 16th and the Board will vote to close the warrants on March 20th.

III OLD BUSINESS

February Town Meeting – Review Articles – Mr. McCue noted the only article which needs to be address is Article 2 regarding the Transfer Station.

Health Agent Matt Tanis was present to review the needs for the article. The total amount of the Article will be \$41,869.00 which is made up by the transportation costs and disposal of solid waste totally \$19,839, \$14,000, and \$2,200. There has been a deficit in the Waste Zero costs.

The Town got a State grant which the funds can be used to offset the increase in the recycling.

Mr. Tanis is still seeking alternative companies for both solid waste, recycling and transportation. It will be a several month contract. Mr. McCue noted that he has been in contact with Town Counsel regarding the current contract with ABC.

Waterline needs to be replaced. There is a leak in the line. The cost to replace it will be \$2,200.00 Due to the water leak they received a high water bill.

Emergency repair to the septic system in the amount of \$670.00. The tank had not been pumped for more than 10 years. Mr. Tanis estimates once it is repair and pumping schedule of every 3 years would be feasible.

Sharps Disposal. – To cover additional pick ups for the sharps.

Refrigerant recovery – They pay per pound to dispose of refrigerator, air conditioners and dehumidifiers. A company will pay \$8.00 per unit for the refrigerant and the appliance will be scrapped.

Electronic Waste disposal is very expensive and are charged per pound. The older very large TV are the most costly.

MOTION by Howard, second by FitzGerald-Kemmett to recommend Article 2. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Mr. McCue noted that Mr. Tanis inherited a lot of problems at the Transfer Station and has done a remarkable job dealing with the issues.

IV TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Cherry Sheets increase is about \$33,000.00. The School will receive about \$75,000 from the Cherry Sheets. There was a decrease in the aid in Veterans benefits as there has been a reduction in claims.

Correspondence from Duxbury on regional dispatch which included the costs for Hanson. He is still working with Duxbury and the State 911. He will bring them to a future meeting.

Mr. McCue reported that he has spoken with a vendor regarding for improvement to Town Hall access. Town Meeting approved funding for key-card access. He will meet with the Police Chief regarding the security and options. Once he has all the information, he will request an executive session with the Police Chief to discuss security.

Mr. McCue notified the Board that in accordance with the Municipal Modernization Act, he has declared a Snow Emergency allowing for deficit spending in the Snow and Ice Line. He has notified the Finance Committee.

Mr. Mitchell inquired about the credit collections for the ambulance account. Mr. McCue is working with the Fire Chief on the issue.

V COMMITTEE REPORTS

200th Anniversary Committee – Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett noted that the Committee Chairman Marcus Linn is doing a great job. They have a lot of plans for various events. She recommended have Mr. Linn attend a Selectmen's meeting to review the activities.

Monponsett Pond Committee – Mr. Howard reported the meeting has been rescheduled.

Maquan School Reuse Committee – Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett reported that an appraiser viewed the building and informed the Committee the building is viable for sale. They are exploring options for senior housing. The Buildings Inspectors supports the option for senior housing and reviewed ADA requirements and Building codes. Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett noted that it does not appear the committee will be ready to put an article on the May Town Meeting warrant as there are still a lot of issues to address.

VI ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mitchell, second by Howard to adjourn. ***Voted 5 – 0***

8:27 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Marini,
Executive Assistant
Approved and Voted 5 – 0
February 13, 2018