

***Hanson Board of Selectmen
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Hanson Town Hall
Tuesday, October 16, 2018
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 meetings.

II NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of IT Director, Ryan McGonigle - Chairman Mitchell welcomed the East Bridgewater Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Police and Fire Chiefs. Mr. McGonigle has been in the IT field for over ten years. He worked in Rehoboth and Dighton. Mr. McCue reviewed the hiring process. He feels the towns have landed an extremely talented individual for the shared position. Mr. McCue reviewed the arrangement and IT coverage for both communities. He and East Bridgewater Town Administrator George Samia will meet on a regular basis with Mr. McGonigle. Mr. Samia noted the similarities between East Bridgewater and Hanson and feels it is a good fit. He also pointed out the Police and Fire Chiefs assisted with the process.

Update from Columbia Gas – Columbia Gas representatives Michael Kane and Nick Wilson were present to update the Board on the Whitman Street project and the safe guards which will be put in place in Hanson. Mr. Kane noted that the NTSB is still investigating the Merrimack Valley situation. He explained there are difference between Merrimack Valley and Hanson. The Brockton Division handles Hanson. All the services are different than the Merrimack Valley. The contractor working in Hanson also worked in Merrimack Valley. The project is currently in a moratorium, which is expected to be lifted around December 1st. Current the underground regulator is being brought above ground which is an upgrade in the system. The gas underground lines will remain until the project is tested and complete. A building will be constructed around the gas lines.

Todd Hassett - Town Accountant Update – Mr. Hassett presented the first quarter financials. He reviewed the Departmental budgets including the Water and Recreation budgets. The reports are a prelude to the Tax Levy Classification Hearing in November. Property Tax estimate is close to actual. He has few of concerns regarding the budgets.

General Funds - Excise taxes are seasonal and more heavily weighted in the Spring.

Expenditures: Most budget lines are tracking as last year. The public works line will increase in the winter. Employee Benefits, insurance and the pension assessment are payable on July 1st. He explained that paying in one payment saves 8% cost.

Debt Service: Payment occur at different times of the year.

Sources of Funds – Transfer in – Septic Loan and Ambulance receipts to offset budgets.
Transfers out – Is the annual subsidy for the transfer Station.

Mr. Hassett noted that the report does not include the funding which were approved during the October 1st Special Town Meeting. The next report will reflect those expenditures.

The Police Chief has had some equipment failures and is meeting with the Finance Committee for a transfer .

The Water Fund – The Water Department is solely funded from rate payers. They maintain a surplus account which can be used with Town Meeting approval. The Water Department reimburses the Town for employee benefits, pensions, workers compensation, police details etc. Mr. Hassett noted that licenses, permit & fees are based on seasonal work with respect to construction.

Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett asked if Mr. Hassett presents the report to the Water Commissioners. He indicated is works with the Water Superintendent and reviews the report.

Recreation Enterprise Fund - \$375,000 fund. \$50,000 of debt service for the septic system which will be paid off in five years. The amount is funded through the retained earnings to make the payment. There are adequate funds for next year. The revenue is lagging compared to last year. He has been working with the Recreation Director, the Town Administrator and Recreation Chair to discuss the finances. If revenues do not come in as budgeted, the expenses will need to be reduced.

Transfer Station – Mr. Hassett is concerned about the long term sustainability. The Budget is \$330,000 fund with a \$144,000 subsidy from the Town. The current budget is sustainable for the next two years only. The current program is operating within the budget.

Debt Service – Mr. Hassett explained the existing debt service which under just under \$13 Million. When asked what is the debt service, Mr. Hassett notes the question should be what can the Town afford. The debt excluded projects consist of the Police Station, High School and School Technology which represents \$5.8 Million of the debt.

Items within the Levy Limit include Stormwater Management, PCH Clean Up, Maquan Street design, fire engine and Middle School HVAC. All of which will be paid off by 2025.

Septic Loans have over \$1.8 Million which are paid by the home owners. The program is self funding.

Recreation – Septic System upgrade will be paid off in FY 2023.

Water Operation has \$2.6 Million for Land Acquisitions, water mains, well fields, Water tanks. All of which are paid by the rate payers.

In Mr. Hassett's opinion the Town is financially sound. He feels Hanson is in a good position, but feels we will need additional resources if the School District seeks double digit increases.

Eric Dresser – WH Community Access Update – Mr. Dresser reported that the individual who vandalized the building has been apprehended. Some fiber projects have been completed and the meetings are coming in clearer. He reported they have launched a show with the Town Administrator. They have broadcast several political forums with candidates for the upcoming election. Improvements include new doors, a generator, general maintenance of painting and landscaping and updating office equipment.

Legislation for High Definition failed. He will provide a template letter for the Board's consideration to be sent to the State Legislative delegation. CATV is concerned about the way 5G will affect cable. The ability for the cable company to charge back to the users. There is a 30 day comment period for the proposed legislation. He requested the Board's support for Community Access. He welcomed the Board to contact him with any questions.

Hanson PTO request for reduction of fee for Polar Plunge Fundraiser January 27, 2019 – PTO representative, Melissa Valachovic reported that she met with Chief Miksch, Deputy Chief O'Brien, Highway Surveyor Bob Brown to be sure everyone was on board. She met with the School Superintendent. She encouraged the Board members to participate.

MOTION by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Dyer to approve the reduction of fees for the PTO for a Polar Plunge on January 27, 2019. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Set the hours for the State General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 6th from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and sign the election warrants

MOTION Hickey, second Dyer to set the hours for the State General Election on November 6th from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Vote Energy Reduction Plan – Mr. Dyer explained the plan is part of a long process for the Town to become a Green Community. The largest impact would be street light consumption. The Energy Committee recommends the Selectmen adopt the plan. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett noted that the current Highway Facility is listed in the report. Mr. Dyer pointed out that the priority has not been set. If a new Highway facility is built, they would modify and prioritize.

MOTION by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Hickey to adopt the Energy Reduction Plan. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Mr. McCue noted that the School Committee recently adopted the Energy Reduction Plan. Mr. McCue has been speaking with a company relative to taking over the street lights. The funds from the Energy Reduction Plan would be used for the endeavor.

Declare Highway equipment surplus –

2007 Ford F150 – VIN 1FTRX14W17FB58782

2008 Ford F350 – VIN 1FDWF37Y58EC30875

Air Compressor – No. M15573

MOTION by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Hickey to declare the Highway equipment as Surplus. **Voted 5- 0**

Requests:

Hanson Youth Cheerleading – request to use Town Hall Green on Sat. & Sun., December 1st and 2nd to sell wreaths as a fundraiser for uniforms

MOTION by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Hickey to approve the request of Hanson Youth Cheerleading for a wreath fundraiser on Town Hall Green on December 1st & 2nd. **Voted 5 - 0**

Appointments/Resignation:

Theresa Cocio – Resignation from Recreation Commission

MOTION by Hickey, second by FitzGerald-Kemmett to accept the resignation of Theresa Cocio from the Recreation Commission. **Voted 5 – 0**

Sean Bailey 204 Main St. – Appointment - ZBA Alternate – Term to Expires 6/30/2020 – Mr. Bailey not present ***TABLED***

III OLD BUSINESS

IV TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Update on Town Meeting Actions – Mr. McCue reviewed the status of actions as a result of Town Meeting.

Article 10 - Mr. McCue explained that the Elder Affairs and Library Directors toured the Maquan School for a possible reuse of the school for senior or library needs. Mr. McCue will be meeting with a consultant from UMass.

Article 11 – Secure Maquan – The school department will commence the board up next week. A company had provided a quote from a Hazardous materials assessment. Within the next week all town departments will have access to the Maquan School to take surplus equipment. On or about November 3 the School Department will hold a yard sale for the general public.

The School District has requested that they be allowed to store equipment in the building until next Spring. The school staff will check it on a daily basis.

Article 17 – The Cell Tower at the Middle School. Mr. McCue met with the successful bidder. He anticipates the Board will sign a lease in January. Currently the company is

conducting research and data gathering in preparation to go before the local boards, Conservation and Appeals if necessary. The company will install a monopole on the site. Construction would commence in the early Spring. The installation should provide for improved cell service to the area. Mr. McCue will attend a School Committee meeting in early November at which time he will bring a representative from the Cell company. The representative will address any safety and health issues raised by the residents. Chairman Mitchell requested that the lease not be open ended as the previous lease at the Fire Station.

Article 20 – Liberty Street parcel – Mr. McCue indicated the sale will be conducted in the same manner as the sale of 270 High Street. He will install signage early in the process and hopes to get more interest in the commercial parcel.

Article 23 - EOA – Mr. McCue has forwarded the Town Meeting vote to the State Agency for approval.

Article 24 – TIF which was withdrawn at Town Meeting will be addressed at the May 2019 Town Meeting. It will be the first TIF in Hanson and he wants to get it right.

Distribute the Hazardous Building Material Survey of the current Highway Facility 797 Indian Head Street – Mr. McCue noted that the May Town Meeting funded the survey. The report was not as bad as he had anticipated. There is some asbestos and lead paint. All will be taken into consideration when the time comes for removal or reuse. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett questioned whether any review was done on the ground. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett would like the company come to a Selectmen's meeting.

The Water Department reports that hydrant flushing is on going. The Water Department has signage up in the areas in which they are working.

Mr. McCue reported that the Selectmen will conduct a hearing relative to the 16 Liberty Street debris removal. The District Attorney has no issue with requiring the removal of the debris. The Police and Fire Chiefs, Building Commissioner and Town Counsel will be present for the hearing. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett inquired about fencing around the debris pile. Mr. McCue noted it is private property and the Town doesn't have the authority to install a fence.

Mr. McCue recognized Highway Department staff, Kevin Dykes and Stephen Graham, for their participation in the Plymouth County Snow Plow Roadeo. Both gentlemen won and will advance the Statewide competition in Boxborough. There is a National event in Colorado. The Board requested a letter of congratulations to both individuals.

Mr. McCue will attend an East Bridgewater Meeting regarding the introduction of Ryan McGonigle.

Mr. McCue thanked Steve Howard of Country Rentals for donating a Bounce House for the Recreation Halloween party.

Mr. McCue was informed by the Highway Department that Private Road grading will commence on Thursday and Friday, October 25th and 26th.

Legal RFP – Mr. McCue will schedule interviews with two law firms on October 30th and three firms on November 13th.

Tax Possession Auction – Mr. McCue reminded the Board that the auction is set for Friday, October 26th at 10:00 a.m. Twelve parcels will be auctioned.

V APPROVE MINUTES

September 18, 2018 – Executive –

MOTION by Dyer, second by Hickey to approve as printed and not release. ***Voted 5 - 0***

September 25, 2018 Reg & Executive

MOTION by Dyer, second by Hickey to approve the regular and executive session minutes as printed and not release the executive session minutes. ***Voted 5 – 0***

October 1, 2018

MOTION by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Dyer to approve the minutes of October 1, 2018 as printed. ***Voted 5 – 0***

VI ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSES – Camp Kiwanee

Laurie Armstrong, Hanson, Sat., Nov. 3rd 4:00 – 10:00 p.m. – Wedding

Donald Morrison, Hanover, Sat., Nov. 17th 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. – Anniversary

MOTION by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Hickey to approve the One Day Liquor Licenses as requested. ***Voted 5 - 0***

VII COMMITTEE REPORTS

200th Anniversary Committee – Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett noted the committee will be meeting on October 25th. They are working on pop up store and still looking for volunteers to work on various events.

Final Plymouth County Hospital Reuse Comm. – Mr. Dyer - nothing to report.

Maquan School Reuse Committee – Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett noted the Town Meeting Article to secure and winterize the building was approved. The Committee is focusing on the future uses. Groups which expected to use the building during the winter can contact her or Bob Hayes in an effort to make other arrangements. The reuse survey is still available and she encouraged residents to respond. She noted it is not scientific, but public forums will be conducted. Over 400 responses have been received. She reiterated that nothing has been set as to the reuse. She questioned the hazmat completion date. Mr. McCue is waiting for a second quote from the school district. He expects once a contractor is hired, the work to be completed in

a short period of time. Mr. McCue clarified if a portion of the building is retained, it would be the front section with the gym and cafeteria.

Finance Chairman Kevin Sullivan inquired as to whether the estimate of the demo of the Maquan School included the hazmat removal. Mr. McCue noted it did not.

Highway Building Committee – Mr. Mitchell not meeting yet.

VIII EXECUTIVE SESSION Chairman Mitchell announced the Board would be going into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares. Police Lieutenant

So Moved by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second Hickey. *Roll Call Blauss aye, FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mitchell aye, Hickey aye and Dyer aye. Voted 5 - 0*

8:52 p.m. Brief Recess

9:08 p.m. Returned to Open Session

IX ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Blauss , second by Hickey to adjourn. **Voted 5 - 0**

9:08 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Marini,
Executive Assistant
Approved and Voted 5 – 0
October 30, 2018