

***Hanson Board of Selectmen
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Hanson Town Hall
Tuesday, December 17, 2019
Regular Meeting 7:00 P.M.***

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

Members Absent:

Others Present: Meredith Marini, Town Administrator; Greer Getzen, Executive Assistant

I CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m., Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Blauss read the public announcements and upcoming meeting dates.

II EXECUTIVE SESSION

To conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body, to wit, Highway Director and Town Administrator, and further, to discuss strategy with respect to discuss collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares (Opioid Litigation)

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to open the meeting and convene in executive session, to return to open session. ***Roll call vote Blauss aye, Hickey aye, FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mitchell aye and Dyer aye. Voted 5 - 0***

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer at 7:22 p.m. to adjourn the executive session and return to open session. ***Roll call vote Blauss aye, Hickey aye, FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mitchell aye and Dyer aye. Voted 5 - 0***

III NEW BUSINESS

Owen Golden to discuss Eagle Scout project proposal

This evening Life Scout Owen Golden appeared before the Selectmen to get their permission for him to move forward with his Eagle Scout project, to build a locked 4' X 10' lean to-style shed at the community garden for storage of tools and hoses that currently are kept outside. He told the Board that family, friends and fellow scouts would assist him with the construction, and that monies totaling approximately \$1,400 for materials would be raised by bottle/can drives and through donations. The project would be completed by April, weather permitting.

Mr. Dyer, as one of the residents who helped to start the community garden, was enthusiastic in his support of this addition. Mr. Golden told him that it would be located in the

middle of the garden. Mr. Hickey suggested that Mr. Golden contact the Selectmen's office when he has dates for fundraising so they could be posted on the Town website.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer to approve this project and waive the building permit fee. **Voted 5 – 0**

Annual License Renewals

Liquor Licenses

14-58 Liquors, Inc.	Liquor – Package Store All Alcohol	470 Liberty Street
Butterfield's II, LLC	Liquor – Restaurant – All Alcohol	1486 Main Street
Cahill and Driscoll, Inc. Damiens	Liquor – Restaurant – All Alcohol	279 Spring Street
Cranberry Deli & Convenience, Inc.	Liquor – Package Store Wine & Malt	1375 Main Street
Hanson American Legion Post #226	Liquor – Club – All Alcoholic	92 Robinson Street
Hanson Athletic Association	Liquor – Club – All Alcoholic	171 Reed Street
Hanson Market & Liquors	Liquor – Package Store All Alcohol	12 Monponsett Street
Hanson Tavern	Liquor – Restaurant – All Alcohol	278 Main Street
House of Pizza	Liquor – Restaurant – Wine & Malt	309 Main Street
Myette's Country Store	Liquor – Package Store – Wine & Malt	156 Liberty Street
Olde Hitching Post Restaurant	Liquor – Restaurant – All Alcohol	48 Spring Street
Sahiyog Corp., Village Mini Mart	Liquor – Package Store – All Alcoholic	911 Main Street
Venus III Bros., Inc.	Liquor – Restaurant – All Alcohol	252 Main Street

Common Victuallers

Butterfield's II, LLC	Common Victuallers	1486 Main Street
Cahill and Driscoll, Inc. Damiens	Common Victuallers	279 Spring Street
Connie's Restaurant	Common Victuallers	270 Main Street
Cranberry Deli & Convenience, Inc.	Common Victuallers	1375 Main Street
Dunkin Donuts	Common Victuallers	318 Main Street
Dunkin Donuts	Common Victuallers	1120 Main Street
Dunkin Donuts	Common Victuallers	487 Liberty Street
Expresso's Pizza	Common Victuallers	470 Liberty Street
Hanson Athletic Association	Common Victuallers	171 Reed Street
Hanson Bowladrome	Common Victuallers	171 Reed Street
Hanson Gold Corp, Golden Roll	Common Victuallers	470 Liberty Street
Hanson Historical Society	Common Victuallers	Main Street
Hanson Market & Liquors	Common Victuallers	12 Monponsett Street
Hanson Tavern	Common Victuallers	278 Main Street
Heidi's Hollow	Common Victuallers	165 Liberty Street
House of Pizza	Common Victuallers	309 Main Street
McDonald's	Common Victuallers	318 Liberty Street
Olde Hitching Post Restaurant	Common Victuallers	48 Spring Street
Sahiyog Corp., Village Mini Mart	Common Victuallers	911 Main Street
Sandy's Coffee Shop	Common Victuallers	12 Monponsett Street
Shaws Supermarkets	Common Victuallers	476 Liberty Street
Spiro's II	Common Victuallers	1064 Main Street
The Café Deli	Common Victuallers	1280 Main Street
Venus III Bros., Inc.	Common Victuallers	252 Main Street

Automatic Amusement

Cahill and Driscoll, Inc. Damiens	Automatic Amusement	279 Spring Street
Hanson American Legion, Post #226	Automatic Amusement	92 Robinson Street
Venus III Bros., Inc.	Automatic Amusement	252 Main Street

Live Entertainment

Butterfield's II, LLC	Live Entertainment	1486 Main Street
Cahill and Driscoll, Inc. Damiens	Live Entertainment	279 Spring Street
Olde Hitching Post Restaurant	Live Entertainment	48 Spring Street
Venus III Bros., Inc.	Live Entertainment	252 Main Street

Sunday Entertainment

Butterfield's II, LLC	Sunday Entertainment	1486 Main Street
Cahill and Driscoll, Inc. Damiens	Sunday Entertainment	279 Spring Street
Hanson Athletic Association	Sunday Entertainment	171 Reed Street
Hanson Tavern	Sunday Entertainment	278 Main Street
Venus III Bros., Inc.	Sunday Entertainment	252 Main Street

Class II

Badland Trucking	Class II	68 Industrial Blvd.
Liberty Motors	Class II	123 Liberty Street
Signature Sales	Class II	19 Mattakeesett Street
Specialty Auto	Class II	200 Liberty Street
Wheels N Deals	Class II	875 Monponsett Street

Mrs. Marini stated there have been no issues with any of the licensees.

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey to renew all licenses as printed. **Voted 5 – 0**

Josh Singer – Hanson Business Network events update

Mr. Josh Singer came in this evening on behalf of the Hanson Business Network (HBN) to give the Board of Selectmen an update on its upcoming activities. He announced that the association will be hosting its fourth annual St. Patrick's Day fundraiser to benefit the Hanson Bicentennial from 6:30 - 9:30 PM on March 14, 2020 at Needles Lodge at Camp Kiwanee. He said that last year the HBN raised over \$5,000 for the Hanson Food Pantry. The business network would also like to use the Town Green on June 6, 2020 from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. for its second Hanson Day. Any questions for the network may be directed to Josh Singer at joshua.singer@edwardjones.com.

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey to approve Hanson Business Network's use of the Town Green on June 6, 2020. **Voted 5 – 0**

National Grid – Discussion about winter preparedness

At the Board's request, National Grid representatives were in attendance at this evening's meeting to discuss winter preparedness. Joe Cardinal, National Grid's South Shore Community Liaison, introduced Ryan Kress (arborist) and Robert Richter (engineer) to the Board for an update on the electric company's recent efforts to reduce power outages in Hanson.

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett expressed the Board's concerns about the frequency and length of power outages in Hanson, citing a recent spate of storm-related outages that were inconvenient for some residents while having the potential to be very serious for others who are

on oxygen machines or are otherwise compromised. She was informed that critical care residents should contact National Grid's customer service center to get priority service.

The representatives shared information on how National Grid is maintaining and upgrading Hanson's electric distribution system, and has begun an enhanced vegetation management program to reduce the number of storm-related outages in Hanson. In particular, they have looked at areas with higher frequency of outages, and have begun cutting trees back that are within an 8 foot proximity of the poles as well as taking down undesirable tree species. National Grid also trims trees that are in soft or hard contact with lines running to houses after seeking the homeowner's permission by leaving a slip with cell phone contact information well in advance of trimming in that area. Mr. Cardinal advised residents that Elm, Franklin, Monponsett and Main Streets are targeted for takedowns and trimming now through April, so Louis and Stanley Tree trucks will be active in these areas. Trees to be removed will be painted with a red X. Residents with concerns about trees infringing on wires in their neighborhood can contact the Selectmen's office at 781-293-2131 and that information will be forwarded along to Mr. Cardinal in Brockton.

Mr. Dyer expressed his appreciation of National Grid's support of Arbor Day every year.

Mr. Mitchell was assured that National Grid arborists are EHAP certified.

When the Board learned that when National Grid takes down trees on private property and the property owners are given the options of keeping the wood or having it taken away by National Grid, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett asked for a load of the wood removed to be dropped off at the food pantry (it will yield 8 to 12 cords once split).

Mr. Cardinal explained that Hanson does not have an electric substation, so its electricity comes through feeders from circuit breakers. If one of the feeders is down National Grid cannot immediately pinpoint which circuit breaker is causing the problem, so he encouraged residents to call National Grid when their power goes out to assist in determining exactly which location that feeder is in. National Grid continues to add feeders to reduce the areas of outages.

The Board thanked the National Grid representatives for their ongoing efforts to improve the reliability of electrical service to Hanson residents.

Appointments/Resignations:

***Appoint Health Agent Gil Amado to South Shore Recycling Cooperative & Region 5
Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition***

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer to appoint Gil Amado to the So. Shore Recycling Cooperative and the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition. ***Voted 5 - 0***

Appoint Dori Jamieson as Administrative Assistant to Recreation

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett addressed recent concerns about employee appointment protocol. Mrs. Marini explained that historically the Town has used a consistent process whereby the department chairman, department head and Town Administrator select candidates to be interviewed, conduct interviews and then the Town Administrator makes a recommendation

to the Board of Selectmen for their consideration. Clerical employees belong to a union that is under the jurisdiction of the Selectmen.

Mrs. Marini summarized the hiring process for the Administrative Assistant to Recreation. Eleven applications were received and 6 candidates were interviewed with varying strong skill sets. The Town Administrator recommended hiring Dori Jamieson, who has the strongest administrative skills. Ms. Jamieson has knowledge of ethics, the open meeting law and she is a certified procurement officer.

Mrs. Marini went on to say that Town Counsel Kate Feodoroff has reviewed the Town Administrator Act and concurs that it is appropriate for the Town Administrator to recommend prospective employees to the Board of Selectmen, which then makes the appointment, if the department or board/committee is under the Selectmen's jurisdiction. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett agreed with Recreation Commissioners present this evening that there is sufficient ambiguity in the language in the Town Administrator Act that it should be tightened up.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey to appoint Dori Jamieson as the Administrative Assistant to Recreation, subject to a 6-month probation and background check.
Voted 5 – 0

Discuss School Assessment matter with Town Counsel

Town Counsel was not present this evening to discuss the school assessment matter. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett gave an update, informing the other Board members that two weeks ago she, Jim Hickey, Meredith Marini, Frank Lynam, Randy Lamattina, Carl Kowalski, Bob Hayes, Chris Scriven, George Ferrio and Jeff Symaniak had a meeting where it was abundantly clear by majority vote that the regional school district will be using the statutory assessment method in FY 21. A discussion regarding a possible incremental transition to the statutory method or some other method in between the current agreement and statutory methodologies will be considered for future fiscal years. The WHRSD school committee voted to disband the regional assessment subcommittee, and going forward these are informal meetings. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett said the Board has a fiduciary responsibility to know how school monies are being spent, in part via forensic audit, and also costs to possibly de-regionalize. She is optimistic that the group will keep the dialogue going.

Kevin Sullivan, Chairman of the Finance Committee, said that his committee will take this matter up at its first meeting in the near future. He was dismayed to learn that it appears the WHRSD is not only not cutting back on its budget in light of this shift in cost apportionment in FY21, but that there could be a \$5,000,000 budget increase recommended.

Accept November Donations

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Dyer to accept the November 2019 donations. ***Voted 5 - 0***

No Knock Policy

Mrs. Marini told the Board that Police Chief Miksch is not in favor of instituting a no knock list so that when solicitors register with the Police Department, residents not wanting them

to knock on their doors will be identified for solicitors. Maintaining such a list is difficult since residents might not keep the police department informed if they move, etc., so the Chief suggested that residents not wanting solicitors on their property to put up a No Trespassing sign, which is enforceable by the police.

Requests:

Melissa Valachovic – PTO – Request to use Maquan and Botieri Parking lots for the Polar Plunge January 26th

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to allow the PTO to use Maquan and Botieri parking lots for the Polar Plunge on January 26th. ***Voted 5 - 0***

IV OLD BUSINESS

Approve and Execute Town Administrator and Highway Director contracts

Mrs. Marini reviewed the provisions of the contracts for the new Town Administrator, John Stanbrook, and the new Highway Director, Matt Cahill, who start on January 6th and January 2nd respectively. Chairman FitzGerald- Kemmett added that the Town is moving away from an unlimited sick time policy, and each has been offered a supplemental sum if they elect to purchase their own long-term disability insurance. She said that she knows that she speaks for the Board of Selectmen collectively when she says she is “thrilled” to have both new employees coming on board. Further, she thanked Mrs. Marini for all of her hard work in supporting the Board during these hiring processes.

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Mr. Dyer to approve the Town Administrator’s contract. ***Voted 5 – 0***

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Dyer to approve the Highway Director’s contract. ***Voted 5 - 0***

Recap 2019 Accomplishments

The Board reflected briefly on its accomplishments in 2019, which included the following:

- Hiring a new Town Administrator, Highway Director, Executive Assistant to the Board, Town Counsel, Conservation Agent, Health Agent, Recreation Director and Conservation Administrative Assistant
- Acquisition of the Sleeper property using grant and CPC monies
- Identifying Main Street as an Economic Target area, worked with the Cranberry building owners to get it into compliance, and initiated discussions with MassWorks regarding grants available to assist in mixed use build-out in that area. Over 100 taxpayers completed an online survey regarding what they would like to see happen on Main Street
- A Maquan School Request for Information was issued for possible conversion to senior housing to fill need for affordable senior housing, reuse the building and potentially put a stop to 40B requests as a result of increasing the percent of units considered “affordable”
- The site of the former JJ’s Pub was cleaned up at no additional cost to taxpayers
- The Board implemented plastic bag and polystyrene bans

- Worked on plans for events to be held throughout 2020 for Hanson's 200th Anniversary Celebration
- Voted to implement regional public safety dispatch which will provide state of the art dispatch at the same or lower cost to taxpayers
- Conducted a successful Hanson Day in cooperation with Hanson Business Network to benefit the Food Pantry
- Joined in DEP conversations about the Fireworks Site and held an information forum for residents

V **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mrs. Marini updated the Board on recent activities of the Town Administrator:

Personnel Matters:

Recreation Administrative Assistant – Recommended Dori Jamieson.

Planning Administrative Assistant. – Received 2 applications. Conducted interviews with Town Planner and the Planning Chairman Don Ellis, and will be making make a recommendation to the Board on its January 7th meeting.

Budget & Capital improvement:

Capital Planning - Mrs. Marini and Town Accountant Todd Hassett reviewed the proposed capital plans with some of the department heads. Some revisions in priorities were made in order to accommodate funding. Review is ongoing.

ADA Grant – Thanks to the diligence of Town Planner Deb Pettey, the town has been provisionally approved for a FY20 ADA Improvement Grant in the amount of \$38,775. The funds will be used to conduct an ADA assessment of Town buildings, which has not been done since 1996. Once the assessment is completed, the Town can apply for additional grant monies to implement recommended improvements.

Meetings:

Fireworks Site – Mrs. Marini and the Health Agent took part in a monthly conference call update with representatives of DEP, the Attorney General's office, the Department of Public Health and the Town of Hanover. During Hanson's forum regarding the Firework site, three residents on Christopher Lane requested their wells be tested. DEP immediately contacted residents and took samplings at each home, and this afternoon the results were received from DEP which indicated no volatile organic compounds in any of the samples. While they did detect minor concentrations of metal barium of 22 micrograms per liter, DEP notes the amounts are well below the Groundwater Category GW-1 Standards of 2,000 microgram per liter.

Library/Senior Center – Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett, Mr. Dyer and Mrs. Marini attended a meeting with the Library and COA Director along a member of the Board of Library Trustees and the Council of Aging to discuss space at the existing facility and relocation. The library building project is projected to be 3 to 5 years out.

Miscellaneous:

Sargent property (related to Article 5 of the October Special Town Meeting) - Mrs. Marini has received the signed release of deed for the Franklin Street property.

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Approved at January 28, 2020 BOS meeting

Indian Head elevator – Mrs. Marini received a call from Facilities Director Ernie Sandland and a subsequent letter from School Superintendent Jeff Szymaniak regarding emergency repair work required on the IH elevator which is under a 90-day notice due to failure of the door restrictor. The repair is \$6,262. The Town is responsible for repairs over \$5,000. She authorized the work and will reimburse the district at the May Special Town Meeting.

Annual Town Reports are due by January 10th. All Boards, commissions, committees should forward their reports to ggetzen@hanson-ma.gov.

Holiday schedule – The Town Hall, Library, Senior Center and the Transfer Station will close at 12:00 on Christmas Eve. Town Hall offices will be closing at 5:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve and staff will be taking vacation and personal time.

VI APPROVE MINUTES

November 16, 2019 Reg. Session minutes & November 19, 2019 Exec. Session minutes
MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey to approve the November 16, 2019 regular session and November 19, 2019 executive session minutes (no release). ***Voted 5 - 0***

December 3, 2019 Regular Session minutes

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey to approve the December 3, 2019 minutes. Mr. Mitchell abstained. ***Voted 4 -0***

VII COMMITTEE REPORTS

200th Anniversary Committee

No update this evening.

Final Plymouth County Hospital Reuse Committee

Mr. Dyer told the Board that the proposed reuse plans should be ready for the Selectmen's review in January 2020.

Maquan School Reuse Committee

No update this evening.

Highway Building Committee

Mr. Mitchell reported that the committee met last evening along with Curt Maclean, Matt Cahill and a Weston & Sampson engineer to review the preliminary scope of this project, including the parking lot, new larger salt shed, cold storage with water suppression, moving the fueling station, and various interior design details. Mr. Dyer was assured that energy sufficiency/sustainability issues have been addressed, and that the possibility of locating a solar field on site will be considered.

VIII ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Dyer at 9:15 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.
Voted 5 – 0

Respectfully submitted,

Greer Getzen
Executive Assistant

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Approved at January 28, 2020 BOS meeting