

Hanson Board of Selectmen
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Hanson Town Hall
Tuesday, April 4, 2017
Regular Meeting 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Donald Howard, Bruce Young, James McGahan, Kenny Mitchell & William Scott

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. He read the announcements and upcoming meeting schedule. Chairman McGahan requested a moment of Silence for Lori Sawtelle and Joseph Norton.

II NEW BUSINESS

Welcome Hanson Boy Scout Troop 34 – The group is here for their communication badge.

Introduce Karen Stolfer - Library Director - She was the Reference librarian for 13 years. She became interim director in January. She was appointed as Director in March. Trustee Linda Wall indicated that Karen comes with a lot of experience and are confident in Karen's abilities.

Dedication of the Nancy M. Cappellini Children's Room - Linda Wall indicated that Mrs. Cappellini was the children's librarian for many years. The dedication will be held at Noon on April 21st. The public is invited. There will be children's events from 10 – 12

Review and Approve Family Medical Leave Policy – **Tabled**

Historical Society request for letter of support for CPC funds to repairs to School House #4 - Mrs. Kemmett reported that as part of the application process the groups need letters of support from the Town and other organizations.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to send a letter of support for the for the Historical Society.

MOTION by Howard second by Mitchell to amend the motion to and authorize Mr. McCue to sign such letter.

Voted 5 – 0

Rob Lynch – review of Fiscal Year 2016 Audit – Rob Lynch – had previously met with management of the audit. He provided an overview of the audit. The audit results in the opinion of the Town reporting and internal controls. They issued an unmodified opinion. No significant deficiencies. It is a government wide state of full accrual. The total net position of the town is \$7.9 Million deficit which is primarily due to pension obligations of \$13.6 million and other post employment benefits which are \$4.5 million. He noted that all municipalities are in the same

situation. The bond companies like to see that the municipalities are setting aside funds toward the obligations.

They recommended the OPEB and Pension be shown in the Enterprise Accounts. Major funds are broken out separately, septic loan \$1 million, CPA \$1.3 Million and ambulance fund \$799,000.

Mr. Young noted that controls at Camp Kiwanee need to be implemented. Mr. McCue indicated that the new Recreation Director has been tasked with setting up the controls.

Mr. McCue indicated that he plans to have the Auditor to come on an annual basis and review the audit.

Declare Fence at Plymouth County Hospital surplus - Mr. McCue reported the fence will be taken down once all the debris has been removed. An offer has been made to have the fence removed if they can retain the fence. Mr. McCue does not see a future use for the fence as storage is not available.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to declare the fence as surplus. **Voted 5 – 0**

Mr. McCue indicated the radio tower has already been declared surplus and out for auction with bids due by Friday, April 7th.

Appointments:

Interim Animal Control Officer – Mary Drake – Term to Expire 3/31/18 – Chairman McGahan reviewed Ms. Drake’s resume. She is a dog trainer. She is pursuing an animal science degree.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to appoint Mary Drake as Interim Animal Control Officer. **Voted 5 – 0**

Board of Registrars – Marion Elms – Term to Expire 3/31/20 – Tabled

Records Access Officer Recreation – Marybeth MacKay – Mr. McCue noted that Ms. MacKay is the new Recreation Director and will become the records access officer for recreation.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to appoint Marybeth MacKay as the Records Access Officer. **Voted 5 – 0**

Capital Improvement – James Egan 63 Monponsett St. – Term expired 6/30/19 -
Unexpired term of Marylou Sutter

Mr. Young made the following statement: “Unfortunately I will not be casting a yes vote for this appointment. This is very difficult for me under the circumstances. But I want everyone to know, This is not about Mr. Egan but about some of his actions. Please understand this is not at all personal, as I do not cast votes for or against anyone on that basis.

In this case I happen to be aware of serious actions of this applicant that in my strong opinion were not only ethically wrong but also not in the best interest of the Town of Hanson and its Citizens. I am not going into any detail at this point. But I will just leave it at that. "

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to appoint James Egan to the Capital Improvement Committee.

Chairman McGahan noted that as Mr. Egan is running for Selectmen and if elected he may have to step down.

So voted 3 – 2 (Young Scott)

Community Preservation Member at Large – Diane Cohen 767 Pleasant Street – Term to expire 6/30/17

Chairman McGahan reviewed her resume.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to appoint Diane Cohen as member at large.
Voted 5 – 0

Requests:

Hanson Rod & Gun Club – Permission to use Town Hall parking lot for Sunday, June 4th for the Annual Fishing Derby from 7:00 a.m. to Noon

MOTION by Howard, second by Young to approve the request of the Hanson Rod & Gun Club fishing derby on June 4th. *Voted 5 – 0*

III OLD BUSINESS

Discuss and Vote Whitman Hanson Community Access Agreement – Mr. McCue indicated that he had a meeting with the Chairman of the WHCA, Arlene Dias committee along with Mr. McGahan and Mr. Young. They agreed to add a matrix which includes a list of documents which should be submitted to the town at a specific timeframe. Chairman McGahan reviewed this items listed in the matrix. Chairman McGahan requested the performance review of the director be deleted from the matrix. Ms. Dias reported that an annual audit is based on accounts over \$500,000.

The initial cable boards from Whitman and Hanson created a 501 3c non-profit to protect the two communities. There are three members from Hanson and 1 member from Whitman. There is supposed to be 4 members from each community.

Chairman McGahan indicated that the plan was to start recording other committee meetings. However, they are having difficulty getting volunteers to record the meeting. As an alternative, the committee chairman would start the camera for the meetings using cameras and tripods.

Ms. Dias indicated that the equipment in the Selectmen's meeting room is analog. Comcast will switch to digital in 2018.

The Board requested that Mr. McCue send a letter to Comcast relative to the status of implementation of digital.

Eric Dresser, the Community Access Director, indicated there are organizations statewide working on the issue with high definition.

Mr. Edgehille noted that the audit has not been submitted and the Board should consider that before signing a contract and he asked who the reporting authority is for the Whitman Hanson Community Access.

Mr. McCue reported that the Town could withhold the payment of Comcast to the Community Access. Currently the payments go directly to Cable Access. However the Town has the option

According to Mr. Young the full audit should be completed every three years. The next full audit is not expected until August.

Mr. Young will not sign the agreement until all the necessary audits and financial reports have been filed.

MOTION by Scott, second by Howard to put the matter on hold until we receive more information and receipt of the full audit. **Voted 5 - 0**

Review Town Meeting Articles

Special Town Meeting –

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to open the Special Town Meeting Warrant
Voted 5- 0

Remove current article 19 – Excess borrowing for Plymouth County Hospital and replace with new article for W&P amendment.

Mr. McCue reported that the Town Accountant does not feel all the amounts will be fully paid out on the Plymouth County Hospital project and the access borrowing will not be known in time for Town Meeting.

MOTION by Mitchell, second by Howard to remove the current Article 19 regarding PCH borrowing and inserting in its place the Wage and Personnel article relative to benefits to place and recommend. **Voted 5- 0**

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to close the Special Town Meeting. **Voted 5 - 0**

Annual Town Meeting -

MOTION by Mitchell, second by Howard to open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.
Voted 5 – 0

Article 6 – Override article. Whitman is reviewing their budget for funding the school.

Article 19 – Conservation Commission – Transfer Care and Custody of Plymouth County Hospital. Conservation Chairman Phil Clemons indicated that the Final Plymouth County Hospital Committee has not voted on the article. The group has always wished to keep it open space. Consequently, it is unmarked and unmaintained. The Commission would commence to manage the property. They could make recommendations for use of the property. They want Parcel 3 as conservation land.

Chairman McGahan understands the Commission’s concerns. However, he is concerned that placing the property under the custody of Conservation the Town will be restricted on its uses.

Mr. Howard would prefer to wait until the October Special Town Meeting for discussion. There is no plan for the other parcels.

Mr. Clemons indicated Conservation wants to be part of the solution. The area is only useful for passive recreation as there are several wetlands. Mr. Clemons noted that the fields are disappearing on the parcel.

MOTION by Mitchell, second by Howard to remove article 19 from the warrant and address it in October. **Voted 3 – 1 - 1 Young nay, Scott abstain.**

Article 21 – Establishing a revolving account to forestry – Conservation would like to harvest some of the tree on conservation land. He feels that \$15,000 is the most income generated in the harvest.

Mr. Clemons noted that many of the grants require a matching amount. This fund would be a source of monies for the matching grants.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to recommend Article 21 with the limit of \$15,000. **Voted 5 – 0**

9:01 p.m. – Brief Recess

9:08 p.m. – Return to open session

Chairman McGahan noted that a correction in meeting dates. Community Preservation will not be meeting on Wednesday, April 12th. They will be meeting in May.

Article 27 – Solar By-law – Mr. McCue noted that the previous articles 27 and 28 have been combined into one article by Town Counsel. Planning Chairman Joe Weeks reviewed the article noting the by-law sets forth parameters for solar projects.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place and recommend article 27 as amended by Town Counsel. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 28 – Driveway access – Mr. Weeks report that Fire Chief Thompson approached the Planning Board relative to access to properties with driveways longer than 150'. Planning Board set the parameters of 16' wide and 16' high to accommodate emergency vehicles. The article is for new construction.

Mr. McCue noted that the Planning Board will be conducting a hearing on the marijuana moratorium.

Article 30 – Revolving Funds – Mrs. Marini noted that the article we revised by Town Counsel in accordance with the modernization act.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to recommend Article 30. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 31 – Petition Article – Septic Loan program - Richard Edgehill was present noting he was on the Board of Health for nine years. The plan has been in place since 2002. The funds have been replenished several times over the years. The money is borrowed from DEP and loaned from the Town. Borrowers will pay an additional 2% on top of the 2% charged from DEP. He noted that some people cannot borrow from a bank. Mr. Edgehill reported that there are seven people currently on the list.

Mrs. Kemmett asked why Mr. Edgehill asked for \$500,000. Mr. Edgehill indicated that some of the systems are very expensive.

Chairman McGahan questioned why the article is not presented to Town Meeting on a regular basis. Mr. Edgehill does not feel the Board of Health fully understands the program.

MOTION by Mitchell, second by Howard to recommend Article 31. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 15 – Capital Project – Item 8 – Recreation Septic system.

MOTION by Mitchell, second by Howard to remove item 8, Recreation Septic System of Article 15. **Voted 5 – 0**

New Article - To see if the town will vote to borrow a sum of money to fund the repairs to the septic system at Camp Kiwanee or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Recreation Commission.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place and recommend a new article for Recreation Septic system. **Voted 5 – 0**

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. **Voted 5 – 0**

IV TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

\$320,000 of Chapter 90 funds – Mr. McCue reported there was a slight decrease in Chapter 90 funds. He is seeking information on the decrease over the last few years.

He signed a 3 year contract with WasteZero for the bags

Tax Title properties - The tax title attorney is still working on the parcels. She needed to do additional research on several of the parcels. The shore line has moved relative to the Lakeside waterfront property. He asked the board to refer questions to him.

Update on PCH – Mr. McCue reported the asbestos completed, salvage items set aside, chimney ash has been collected and will be tested. The project is moving forward. There will be additional water line work for the residents of High Street which were originally connected to the hospital line. No change orders to date. He expects the project will run less than the bid amount. All the buildings are down. The smoke stack remains. The out buildings have been removed.

The Board of Health met with two finalists for the Health Agent's position.

Mr. McCue reported that he has received some interest in placing a solar project at the Hanson Middle School. He has reached out of the parties to see if they have conducted their due diligence.

V APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2017

Mr. Young asked about space design regarding the number of students. Mr. Young will submit the figures Bruce provided.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to approve the minutes of March 21st as amended.
Voted 5 – 0

VI COMMITTEE REPORTS

Monponsett Pond Committee – Mr. Howard nothing to report. He expects Brockton may have taken water as the rain has raised the levels of the pond.

Indian Head & Maquan Priority Repair Comm. – Mr. Young had nothing to report. He indicated there will be a meeting prior to Town Meeting. He will no longer be serving on the committee as he will no longer be on the Board of Selectmen.

Highway Building Committee – Mr. Scott reported that they will start the plantings. Someone is accessing the pole line, but it is not Hubbell representatives or the Town.

Final Plymouth County Hospital Committee Update – Already given.

VII EXECUTIVE SESSION – Chairman McGahan announced the Board will be going into Executive Session to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. Administrative Professionals, Dispatcher, Firefighters & Highway Unions. Return to open session only to adjourn.

So Moved by Howard, second by Mitchell to go into Executive Session. *Roll Call Howard aye, Young aye, McGahan aye, Mitchell aye and Scott aye. Voted 5 – 0*

9:55 p.m. Brief Recess.

10:10 Return to open session

VIII ADJOURNMENT

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

10:10 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Marini,
Executive Assistant
Approved and Voted 5 – 0
March 15, 2018