

***Hanson Board of Selectmen  
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Hanson Town Hall  
Tuesday, April 9, 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.

**II NEW BUSINESS**

***Michael Doucette - Eagle Scout Project*** – Michael Doucette of Troop 68 Hanson, was present and requested the Board's support for improvements to the Howland Cemetery and the creation of a path to Camp Kiwanee Road. He will install landscape ties and woodchips to make it maintenance free. The path will be 6 feet wide. He has contacted Dig safe.

***MOTION*** by Dyer, second by FitzGerald-Kemmett to approve Michael Doucette's Eagle Scout project for improvement to Howland Cemetery. ***Voted 5 – 0***

***Town Accountant Update*** – Todd Hassett reviewed the third quarter report. The revenue section has increased due to the first motor vehicle excise tax commitment. Most of the investment income has been better than in past years. He is concerned with the building permit trend which may effect new growth.

General Government – Full compliment of staff. Public safety is trending on target. Education is tracking at 76%. Public Works is of concern, snow and ice, overtime and fuel use will need to be supplemented in May. Human services appears to be lower than average due to the fact there is no Health Agent. Library has some building maintenance issues which will need to be addressed at May Town Meeting or as a transfer. The General Fund overall is tracking on target.

Water Fund – No concerns at this time. The actual revenues are lagging but it is due to the billing cycle. With the new meter replacement program the Water Department may alter the billing cycle next year.

Recreation Fund – Mr. Hassett has some concerns about the revenues. At this time last year they were at 68% and this year this revenue is only 53% of projections. The salaries are seasonal with most of the costs occurring early in the Fiscal Year. They have taken in \$55,000 of revenue for the last three months.

Solid Waste – Tracking fairly tight for this year. The expenses listed only reflect through February. He is tracking it closely but expects to get through the balance of the year.

Mr. Blauss asked if the Solid Waste has any other sources of revenue other than bags. Mr. Hassett indicated bulky items supplement the line. He asked if any of the enterprise funds pay

for anything other than the Transfer Station expenses. Mr. Hassett indicated it does not fund anything other than Transfer Station. The Town can only use the Retained Earnings for two more years. Mr. Dyer asked if the price of bags has increased. Mr. Hassett said the price for bags has not increased. Mr. McCue indicated that the Board of Health has considered adding a \$30.00 sticker fee for a three year sticker. They are reviewing Transfer Station fees for bulky items. They will also review the expenses.

Mr. Hassett reviewed the Sources and Uses for the Fiscal Year 2020. He closed the deficit gap. The Snow & Ice deficit will be less than the anticipated \$250,000. The group health insurance only increased by 1 ½% which presented a significant savings. The Finance Committee is reviewing the budget. The High School Capital items are unknown as he does not know what Whitman can afford. He is confident that the Town can present a balanced budget in May. If Whitman cannot fund any of the High School Capital, Mr. Hassett recommended that the Town place the funds set aside for capital into the School Capital Stabilization account.

He is allotting 6 ½% for the school budget, the amount which the School Committee has requested.

Mr. McCue indicated that the School Committee will be making a modification to the school budget tomorrow night. He does not know what or when Whitman will have a figure for the school budget.

Mr. Hassett explained that the total budget has increased 4.2% which includes all costs and the 6 ½% increase for the schools.

Mr. McCue thanked Mr. Hassett and Mrs. Marini for their work on the budget. He asked if the Board had any questions on the Enterprise Funds in Article 6 and 7. Mr. Hassett noted that the DOR is very strict with respect to Enterprise funds when it comes to setting the Tax Rates.

**MOTION** by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Blauss to recommend Article 6 Recreation Enterprise Fund and 7 Solid Waste Enterprise Fund of the Annual Town Meeting. **Voted 5 – 0**

**Update from the Legislative Delegation** – Rep. Josh Cutler and Senator Michael Brady - Senator Brady noted he serves on the Revenue and Public Service committees. The Legislature increased spending for the education. He noted revenues are down this year. April will see an increase in revenue as income tax returns are received. The legislature passed legislation for AirBNB and short term rentals. They are looking to be creative to increase revenues. He is also on Veterans Affairs Committee and is working to find additional resources for the veterans.

Chairman Mitchell inquired about the revenue from Marijuana. Senator Brady indicated it is undetermined at this time.

Rep. Cutler congratulated the Town on the Green Communities designation. The legislature is working on the budget, with the House Ways & Means budget due out tomorrow. Last year they were able to get some funds for Hanson; economic development, historic restoration and computers for the schools. He will provide more information tomorrow. Rep. Cutler hopes to see an increase in Chapter 70 funds. There may be an adjustment to the school funding formula.

Mr. Dyer requested an update bottle bill – Rep. Cutler indicated that he does not see a lot of action on the bottle bill at this time. The nip bottles have been added to the bill. Rep Culter noted that Plastic Bag bans have been support by area communities. While there is legislation in the works, he noted it is faster for communities to set regulations for plastic bag bans than wait for the State legislature. The supermarkets have lobbied for a fee for plastic bags. Senator Brady discussed green energy including solar energy.

Mr. Dyer asked about the MBTA services and rate increases. Rep. Cutler has been advocating for better service with a later train on weekends. They need to find another revenue source for the MBTA.

***Review Warrant Articles –  
Special Town Meeting***

Mrs. Marini informed the Board there were a few adjustments to the warrants.

***Special Article 2*** - Mrs. Marini explained that \$75,000 for Recreation had been included in Article 2 – Supplemental budget. However, after consultation with the Town Accountant, he recommended having a separate article for the Recreation funds.

***MOTION*** by Hickey, second Dyer to open the Special Town Meeting warrant. ***Voted 5 – 0***

***MOTION*** by Dyer, second by FitzGerald-Kemmett, to place an article in the Special Town Meeting warrant to supplement the Recreation budget in the amount of \$75,000.00. ***Voted 5 – 0***

***Article 8*** – Sargeant property – Mr. McCue indicated that Town Counsel discovered some title issues with the property. He recommended the Board withdraw the article and revisit the matter at the October Special Town Meeting.

***MOTION*** by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Hickey to withdraw Article 8, Sargeant property. ***Voted 5 – 0***

***MOTION*** by Hickey, second by Dyer to close Special Town Meeting Warrant. ***Voted 5 – 0.***

***MOTION*** by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Dyer to open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

***Article 26*** - Minimum Value - Mrs. Marini pointed out that the Assessor has provided information on Article 26 relative to adoption of the minimum value of \$3,000.00 for personal property tax bills.

***MOTION*** by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Dyer to recommend Article 26. ***Vote 5 – 0***

***Article 30*** – Stipends for Assistant Clerk, Treasurer and Collector - Mr. McCue informed the Board that after consulting with Labor Counsel, he recommended withdrawing the article.

***Article 31*** – Amend Zoning - Recreational cultivation, manufacturing and testing of marijuana – Mr. Mccue reported that after further investigation, Town Counsel realized that the provision

was already included in the current zoning by-laws. Consequently, the article is not needed. He recommended removing both Article 30 and 31.

***MOTION*** by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Dyer to remove Articles 30 & 31. ***Voted 5 – 0***

***MOTION*** by Blauss, second by FitzGerald-Kemmett to close Annual Town Meeting Warrant. ***Voted 5- 0***

### **ANNUAL**

Chairman Mitchell reviewed the articles which had not yet been recommended by the Board.

***Article 8*** – CPC Budget –

***MOTION*** by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Blauss to recommend Article 8. ***Voted 5 - 0***

***Article 10*** – Capital improvement projects –

***MOTION*** by Blauss, second by Hickey to recommend Article 10. ***Voted 5 – 0***

***Article 11*** – School Capital items. Mr. McCue explained Hanson can fund all the items requested. However, he is unsure what the Town of Whitman can afford. In the event of surplus funds, he will recommend the Board add additional funds to the Article 17 – School Capital Stabilization.

***MOTION*** by Blauss, second by Hickey to recommend Article 11 subject to funding - Mr. Dyer questioned Item 7 – resurfacing the track noting the school is only 10 years old. If it has to be resurfaced every 10 years it will be very expensive. He would recommend putting in a dirt track. After lengthy discussion the recommendation was held for further information.

***Article 14*** – PCH Improvements – Mr. McCue explained any funding would be under the direction of the Board of Selectmen. The Reuse Committee would have to request the funds from the Board.

***MOTION*** by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Hickey to recommend Article 14. ***Voted 5 – 0***

***Article 25*** – Old Pine Road Conservation property. Mr. McCue pointed out that additional language has been added to the article in which a suitable parcel will replace the land which has been taken for water purposes.

***MOTION*** by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Hickey to recommend Article 25. ***Voted 5- 0***

***Article 29*** – CATV PEG – Mr. McCue noted that the Town Accountant recommends the article.

***MOTION*** by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Dyer to recommend Article 29. ***Voted 5 – 0***

### **SPECIAL** –

***Article 1*** – Unpaid bills – Mrs. Marini informed the Board there is one unpaid bill in the amount of \$6,730.00.

***MOTION*** by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Dyer to recommend Article 1. ***Voted 5 – 0***

**Article 3** – Election Equipment

**MOTION** by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Dyer to recommend Article 3. **Voted 5 – 0**

**Article 7** – Thomas Mill – Maintenance repairs

**MOTION** by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Hickey to recommend Article 7. **Voted 5 – 0**

**Article 9** – Demolition of Maquan School – Borrowing – Mr. McCue is seeking authorization for demolition of the school. The committee is working with a consultant in an attempt to have a developer fund the removal. They should know by October Town meeting whether the Town will have to fund the demolition.

**MOTION** by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Hickey to recommend Article 9. **Voted 5 – 0**

**ANNUAL**

**Article 23** – Woodbine Avenue Easement – Chairman Mitchell noted he spoke to Town Counsel and there is no value to the land. The bank will not pay for the easement. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett is concerned about setting a precedent. Mr. McCue said that he doesn't believe the bank will pay for the easement. She feels there is a value to the easement. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett doesn't feel comfortable with moving forward. Mr. McCue suggested that the Board withdraw the article to get additional information.

**MOTION** by Blauss, second by Dyer to withdraw Article 23. **Voted 5 – 0**

**Treasurer/Collector request to set Municipal Lien Certificate fees** – Mrs. Marini explained that the Treasurer saw that the Board was setting fees and could not find any record of the Board setting the Municipal Lien Certificate fees.

**MOTION** by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Dyer to set the fee for a Municipal Lien Certificate at \$50.00. **Voted 5- 0**

**Accept Donations** – Chairman Mitchell announced the donation from Timothy and Caroline Travers in the amount of \$100.00 to the Fire Gift fund. Mr. Dyer explained that Earth Related Products donated waste baggies for dog owners. In his efforts to find sustainable options to plastic bags, Mr. Dyer contacted Earth Related Products who made the donation.

**MOTION** by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Hickey to accept the donations as presented. **Voted 4 – 0 – 1 Dyer.**

**III OLD BUSINESS**

Update on Transfer Station – Mr. McCue noted that Town Planner Deb Pettey sat in on a seminar for grant opportunities for the Transfer Station.

**IV TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. McCue reported that he, Selectmen Blauss and Town Planner Deb Pettey attended the ceremony for the Green Communities Designation. He noted that it started with former Planner/Conservation Agent Laurie Muncy with the efforts of Lisa Sullivan from Old Colony Planning Council and Mrs. Marini, which brought the designation to fruition.

Mr. McCue reported that on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> Hanson hosted the Watershed Alliance conference, which was well attended.

Monday the Recreation Committee voted a Recreation Director. Mr. McCue will be reaching out to the successful candidate and will bring him to an upcoming Selectmen's meeting.

On April 26<sup>th</sup> there will be an Arbor Day event at the Library. National Grid will provide three trees for planting. He invited school students to attend the event.

Plymouth County Hospital Reuse Committee – Mr. McCue reported the committee met last week and decided to seek a different consultant. The committee will meet with another consultant.

Mr. McCue attended the Key Ceremony for Veteran Skarinkas's home on State Street. There were at least 100 people, including trade union members and local residents.

He and Selectmen Hickey met with Representative from Pembroke to discuss Oldham Pond clean-up. One fifth of the pond is in Hanson. The cost of Hanson's share is \$9,600. He anticipates the Town will need to provide additional fund in future years.

On Friday he and Deb Pettey toured the Town with Frank Mahady for the Economic Development assessment. Mr. McCue has provided Mr. Mahady with the contact number of Hanson officials.

## **V      APPROVE MINUTES**

January 29, 2019

March 26, 2019 Reg. & Executive

**MOTION** by Blauss, second by Dyer to approve the minutes of January 29 as printed.

***Voted 5 - 0***

**MOTION** by FitzGerald-Kemmett second by Dyer to approve the regular and executive session minutes of March 26<sup>th</sup> as printed, with the Executive Session minutes to be held. ***Voted 5 – 0***

## **VI      COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee*** – Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett did not attend the last meeting. Next meeting is Thursday. Mr. Dyer noted they discussed events going forward.

***Final Plymouth County Hospital Reuse Comm.*** – Already provided – Mr. Dyer noted they are looking into possible grants opportunities and who will be in charge of maintaining the property.

***Maquan School Reuse Committee*** – Meeting tomorrow

***Hanson School Repair Committee*** – Mr. Blauss, committee will be meeting April 18<sup>th</sup>.

**VII    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.   Fire Chief

***SO MOVED*** by Dyer, second by Hickey to go into Executive Session.   ***Roll Call Blauss aye, FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mitchell aye, Hickey aye and Dyer aye. Voted 5 – 0***

**8:58 p.m. Brief Recess**

**9:27 p.m. Returned to open session.**

**VIII   ADJOURNMENT**

***MOTION*** by Dyer, second by Hickey to adjourn.   ***Voted 5 – 0***

***9:27 p.m. Meeting Adjourned.***

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Marini,  
*Executive Assistant*  
***Approved and Voted 5 – 0***  
***April 30, 2019***