

Thursday, September 16, 2021 AT 6pm

Hanson Board of Selectmen

Selectmen's meeting room, Town Hall

Open Session

Members Present: James Hickey, Matthew Dyer, Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Joseph Weeks

Members Absent: Kenny Mitchell

Others Present: Lisa Green, Town Administrator; Greer Getzen, Executive Assistant; Kate Federoff, Town Counsel

I CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dyer called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING MEETINGS

As this was the second meeting of the week, Chairman Dyer skipped over the majority of the public announcements with the exception of Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett reminding the public of Hanson Day this upcoming Saturday, and Mr. Weeks reading a notice about a special voter registration on Friday, Sept. 24.

IV OLD BUSINESS

Reopen and Discuss Special Town Meeting Warrant

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to reopen the October 4, 2021 Special Town Meeting Warrant. ***Voted 4 - 0***

Ms. Green informed the Board that the only section they need to review is Article 27 which relates to Wage and Personnel. The only change is an increase to the annual salary for Veterans Agent from \$25,000 to \$33,000. Additionally, there were a few things pulled from the Special Town Meeting Warrant. There was an article pertaining to a position with the library staff, however the position was already listed in the contract so there was no need for a separate article. There was a second article accompanying this first one that funded the position, but given the same reasons it was pulled from the warrant.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to accept the above listed changes to the Special Town Meeting Warrant. ***Voted 4 - 0***

Members of the Board expressed how constituents had reached out concerned about the distribution of allocated funds as described in a certain article, and they believe there may have been issues with transparency on what projects were funded by the article. While Ms. Green didn't have an explanation for the oversight that may have occurred, she assured that there were funds allocated to the school system should they need them. She also explained further that there had been no formal statements from any agency that they had done the process wrong. Kate Federoff, Town Counsel, provided further explanation to the Board regarding budget and the processes involved.

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett addressed one final article that had been proposed concerning a potential change in name of Board of Selectmen to the Selectboard. Chairman Dyer explained that typically Special Town Meetings are reserved for budgetary topics, and Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett agreed that this article could be held off until the spring Town Meeting.

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to close the Special Town Meeting Warrant. ***Voted 4 - 0***

Vote recommendations on Special Town Meeting Warrant articles

Chairman Dyer prefaced the discussion by stating that there would be a handout available soon regarding certain articles, so if a member of the Board was unsure of their position tonight, they would have up to the date of the Town Meeting to state recommendations.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to recommend Article 1. ***Voted 4 - 0***

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 2. **Voted 4 - 0**

The Board is holding off on recommendations for the following articles: 3, 4, 5, 6.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 7. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to recommend Article 8. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 9. **Voted 3 - 1**

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to reconsider the vote to recommend Article 9 on the grounds for a need to discuss before moving to vote. **Voted 4 - 0**

The Board briefly discussed their decision to reconsider recommending Article 9, and confirmed that it was for the best as they needed more information on certain aspects of the project. It was confirmed that the cost to design the turf alone reached \$90,000, and it would be in the best interest to take more time to consider this article.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 10. **Voted 4 - 0**

Ms. Green informed the Board that the Conservation Commission received a grant of \$100,000 towards the purchase of the property described in Article 10.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 11. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 12. **Voted 4 - 0**

Ms. Green explained that the funds from Article 12 would go towards hiring a consultant who will do an evaluation on the area ponds and complete a pond management plan. She had spoken with other towns to better understand the average budget for pond management, and the answers she received greatly trumped her expectations, reaching over \$200,000 a year allocated to pond management. Hiring a consultant is the first step towards pond management.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to recommend Article 13. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 14. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to recommend Article 15. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to recommend Article 16. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to recommend Article 17. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to recommend Article 18. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to recommend Article 19. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to recommend Article 20. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to recommend Article 21. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 22. **Voted 3 - 1**

There was heavy discussion concerning specific wording of certain sections and what exactly was covered. Members of the Board thought it important to consider all possible outcomes of introducing an article like Article 22, especially to protect individuals from discrimination. Ms. Federoff agreed to modify the article to account for these concerns. Following this however, the Board continued their discussion on the process of holding a public hearing given 150 signatures on a petition and the pros and cons of this article.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to reconsider the vote to recommend Article 22. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to recommend Article 22 given modifications that Ms. Federoff will make. **Voted 3 - 1**

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to recommend Article 23. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 24. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 25. **Voted 4 - 0**

There was brief discussion concerning the wording of this article as the Board intended for it to be specific to One-Day Liquor Licenses for events at Camp Kiwanee. There was a misunderstanding on what was included in the article, and it was decided to hold the article until the next meeting to discuss further.

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to recommend Article 26. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to recommend Article 27. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 28. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to recommend Article 29. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to recommend Article 30. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 31. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 32. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 33. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to defer Article 34 to Town Meeting. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to defer Article 35 to Town Meeting. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to defer Article 36 to Town Meeting. **Voted 4 - 0**

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to defer Article 37 to Town Meeting. **Voted 4 - 0**

V

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to enter Executive Session to conduct the following business: to conduct strategy sessions in preparation with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining session or conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel pursuant to Mass

General Law ch. 30a sec.21 a2 to wit: Interim Town Administrator and union negotiations, not to return to open session. ***Roll call vote Mr. Weeks aye, Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Chairman Dyer aye. Voted 4 - 0***