



Tuesday, April 4, 2023

***Hanson Select Board***

Select Board's meeting room, Town Hall

Open Session

***Members Present:*** Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, James Hickey, Joseph Weeks, Edwin Heal  
Ann Rein

***Members Absent:***

***Others Present:*** Lisa Green, Town Administrator; Lynn McDowell, Executive Assistant;  
Dori Jamison, Camp Kiwanee; Eric Kinsherf, Interim Town Accountant;  
Robert O'Brien, Acting Fire Chief, Michael Dugan; Bill Gillespie, Design  
Engineer for National Grid

***Whitman Members***

***Present:*** Randy Lamattina, Chairman; Daniel L. Salvucci, Vice Chairman; Shawn  
Kain; Justin Evans; Timothy Hanlon, Whitman Police chief; Timothy  
Clancy, Whitman Fire chief; Frank Lyman

**I CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of  
Allegiance

**II PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Ms. Rein read the public announcements and upcoming meetings.

**III JOINT MEETING BETWEEN HANSON AND WHITMAN SELECT  
BOARDS**

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett welcomed the Whitman Board of Selectmen and thanked them for  
coming and meeting with the Hanson Select Board to discuss the School assessment as well as  
what is needed from both boards to best serve the schools and the respective communities.

Mr. Lamattina stated Whitman offered to provide up to 5% of the assessment. According to its  
budget needs, the town cannot go any higher. He shared Whitman is in a similar situation to  
Hanson; going any higher would lead to crippling department and capital cuts. He thanks the  
Hanson Select Board for hosting this meeting. He also shared his frustration with the schools not  
listening to either town's needs outside of the schools.

Both boards acknowledged they cannot sustain the amounts requested by the schools; it will  
eviscerate the respective budgets. Both boards also prefer not to go to their respective town  
meetings to present override requests. Each stated the best outcome is a unified message.

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, on behalf of Hanson, stated while the Board is a strong proponent of education and providing the students of the Town with the best options possible, the numbers presented are too out of line. She and the Board would agree to reasonable and somewhat beyond reasonable, the Board needs to represent everyone in Town. At this point, this presented budget cannot be included in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. Weeks noted each member of both boards have children, in previously or current, in the school system, as well as older family members living in the respective towns. As a board member, all must be mindful of the role is to advocate for the Town's entire constituency.

Mr. Lamattina noted that a primary issue is the schools' use of one-time funds for reoccurring expenses, including opening full day kindergarten. He understood the need but felt the process was reckless. He shared it is something the Whitman Board tries to not use itself when working to balance its budget as there is no actual revenue being generated to cover the expenses. He found it to be very frustrating that the schools created a budget without this forethought and consideration.

Mr. Salvucci stated that while the town offered up to 5%, it is going above and beyond where it should be. The new Town Administrator told department heads to cut where possible from their respective budgeting needs. Both police and fire will be affected to the most if enacted. Mr. Evans also shared that Whitman itself is using one-time funds to cover its own operating needs.

Mr. Kain noted that there needs to be financial planning that is sustainable and balanced. He shared that other departments, such as police and fire, repeatedly take hits and end up working very lean. With strong financial planning, there may eventually be additional revenue generated to meet all needs. At this point, if the school committee truly needs what it is requesting, it needs to come forward with an override plan for each town, however, this is not happening.

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett questioned why the schools are not presented as another department of the town. It prevents it from working with other departments and sharing needs and wants as the budgets are developed. She shared that Hanson too has once time funds that can be used to fill holes, however the Board is does not want to fall into that pattern as it is a short time fix for a longer-term issue. Mr. Lamattina stated there will be additional funding requests for next year's budget, again using one-time grants. During a recent school committee presentation, he noted the increased growth from 2021, with over 30 new positions, not including paras, provided by either grants or one time funding. Whitman cannot pick up and continue the funding that will be needed one the schools exhaust the funding used. He expressed is disappointment that both Whitman and Hanson are meeting to discuss tonight two weeks prior to their respective meeting, yet the next school committee meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, April 5, did not have the budget on its agenda. He emphasized it is not an education issue, but a management issue.

Mr. Hickey stated other departments are not going beyond 2.5% increases, why is it accepted for the schools to demand up to 8%. There are several positions that may not be needed. While Covid-19 made keeping students' safety top priority, the district received funding as well to provide the necessary resources. He questioned how were they used, and why does the school not come to either town with these requests.

Both boards support the children of both towns receiving quality educations; as policymakers, they also support their respective towns maintaining the resources and services to keep them strong. Neither board can support this budget request. Both towns gave more CARES money than needed to keep students safe. The reoccurring costs from positions created from one time funding cannot be covered by the towns. Neither can mathematically afford these costs.

Mr. Hickey noted Whitman offered to reduce the budgets of fire and police to be able to provide 5% to the schools. This will effect Hanson, as its fire and police will be strained too, as they will be providing support. He suggested instead to consider matching Hanson at 3.75%. Mr. Salvucci noted that the dollar amounts will be different as Whitman has more students, but it would be preferable for the percentages be the same.

Mr. Lamattina suggested, as an act of unity, that each board to make a motion not supporting or endorsing the WHRSD budget for fiscal year 24. Mr. Hickey agreed.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Lamattina, seconded by Mr. Salvucci, for the Whitman Board of Selectmen to not endorse or support the FY24 Whitman Hanson Regional School District budget as presented. ***Voted 4 – 0***

***MOTION*** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Hickey, for the Town of Hanson Select Board to not endorse or support the FY24 Whitman Hanson Regional School District budget as presented. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett requested the respective Town Administrators for correspondence to the School Committee stating on April 4, 2023 during a joint meeting, each board independently voted and request a reconsideration of the assessment. The School Committee is scheduled to meet April 12, 2023, and will have opportunity to read and consider the respective boards decisions. She noted, for Hanson, during Town meeting it will need to propose an article for the warrant.

Mr. Weeks noted the demographics of Hanson. One third of the Town is of retirement age and cannot afford cost. While the schools are in charge of advocating for students, to provide necessary services, but as leaders, the Boards need to come to an agreement that works for everyone. There is a possibility of an override, and there are people who are willing to pay to

ensure school services are available. But there is one-third of Hanson residents who cannot afford to pay for that override. This is not coming from a divisive place, but need to be fiscally responsible when balancing the budget with respected competing needs.

Mr. Lamattina requested a motion for the Whitman Selectmen to adjourn their meeting.

#### **IV            HEARING**

1. Franklin Street – National Grid to place a utility pole in a Public way on Town property

***MOTION*** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to open the hearing. ***Voted 5 – 0***

***Roll call – Heal -Aye; Weeks -Aye; FitzGerald-Kemmett-Aye; Rein-Aye; Hickey-Aye***

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett read the petition for pole and wire locations.

Mr. Gillespie, representing National Grid, stated it is proposing to set a pole on Franklin Street, as it is needing a push brace to prevent existing pole to fall due to the attached wires. The base will be approximately 10 feet from the existing pole and attach at an angle.

Ms. Green shared it is historical practice by National Grid, to have the hearing and answer any questions. The Board happy seeing this being a proactive and preventative practice.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to approve National Grid's petition to install one SO Pole on Franklin Street. Beginning at a point approximately zero feet of the centerline of the intersection of Franklin Street and driveway for 201 Franklin Street and continuing approximately 10 feet in a Southwest direction. ***Voted 5 – 0***

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to close the hearing. ***Voted 5 – 0***

***Roll call – Heal -Aye; Weeks -Aye; FitzGerald-Kemmett-Aye; Rein-Aye; Hickey-Aye***

#### **V            NEW BUSINESS**

1. Reopen Annual Warrant/ Close Annual Warrant

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to reopen the May Annual Town Meeting Warrant. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Ms. Green noted last week's version was a draft. This week she updated and added missing information. Some articles were moved to provide a better flow.

- For the Special Town warrant, Article 7 was updated by taking some of the single articles for capital items in the Annual warrant and placing as a group here instead. Two line items are related to Hanson Middle School. They are emergency reimbursements from the summer of 2022 that were not included in fall meeting. The explanations for all are listed directly below.
- The Board questioned Ms. Green about the proposed ARPA funding. She stated, currently from Plymouth County, the entire balance of \$1.191M is available. For the Treasury funds, the Town has made two disbursements. The remaining balance is \$1.2M. The Board suggested she create a spreadsheet to tally total spending vs availability for future reference.
- For Article 4, the Board requested Ms. Green confirm with the Acting Fire Chief that the full amount of his funding request is truly needed. Ms. Green has spoken with him about this as well as Article 2; she expects confirmation later this week.
- For Article 6, the Board requested Ms. Green confirm with the Planning Board that it is presenting this article, not the Select Board.

#### **ARTICLES for SPECIAL TOWN MEETING:**

- 1 – MOTION* by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to place and recommend. ***Voted 5 – 0***  
*2 – MOTION* by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to place and recommend. ***Voted 5 – 0***  
*3 – MOTION* by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to place and recommend. ***Voted 5 – 0***  
*4 – MOTION* by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to place and recommend. ***Voted 5 – 0***  
*5 – MOTION* by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to place and recommend. ***Voted 5 – 0***  
*6 – MOTION* by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to place and recommend. ***Voted 5 – 0***  
*7 – MOTION* by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to place and recommend. ***Voted 5 – 0***

#### **ARTICLES for ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:**

Ms. Green noted for this copy she updated and made some changes to this document as well. She also included the Board's vote from last week.

- For Article 3, Ms. Green noted the salary increase will be 3%.
- For Article 7, the amount allocated to the Schools will be determined by what the Select Board decides. That will then be reflected in the Informational warrant. Town Counsel recommended that, as an option, the dollar amount can be read in the motion during the meeting.
- For Article 10, the changes are:
  - Section 11B needed to be updated to reflect salary change to A.
  - Section 11C needed to be updated to reflect additions to FF.

- Section 11E needed to be added back in.
- For Articles 13 and 32, the Board requested Ms. Green confirm the Planning Board's action prior to recommending.
- For Article 15, the comment in the explanation is all the information received. The Board suggested instead of using Free Cash to reach out to the state representatives requesting an earmark.:
- For Article 22, Ms. Green is waiting on feedback regarding the earmarks.
- For Article 27, Ms. Green will invite Mr. Clemons and Mr. Schellenger to the next meeting to answer outstanding questions the Board has.
- For Article 29, Ms. Green will restructure the wording.
- For Articles 32 – 37 , all need to updated to the formatting consistent to the rest of the Warrant. Ms. Green needs to confirm the Planning Board's actions as well.
- For Article 38, Ms. Feodoroff informed the Board the cost to the Town for legal work related to this will be up to \$75,000. The Board would like it reflected in the Article; Ms. Green stated it will be included in the Informational Warrant. This is not in the annual budget, and will not be added to the budget. If accepted, something else will need to be cut on the floor. Also, if accepted, the Town needs to implement the process within 120 days of the accepted vote. The Board emphasized that Town Counsel will need to be present to share all details related to the process.

**1 – MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**

**2 – MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**

**3 – MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**

**4 –** Placed and recommended last week; No change needed

**5 – MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**

**6 – MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**

**7 – MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to place. **Voted 5 – 0**

**8 – MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to place and recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**

**9 – MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to place and recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**

**10 – MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to place and recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**

**11 – MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to place and recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**

**12 – MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**

**13 – No Vote.**

**14 –** Placed and recommended last week; No change needed

**15 – MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to place and defer to Town Meeting for recommendation. **Voted 4 – 1**

**16 – MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**

**17 –** Placed and recommended last week; No change needed

**18 –** Placed and recommended last week; No change needed

**19 –** Placed and recommended last week; No change needed

**20 –** Placed and recommended last week; No change needed

**21 –** Placed and recommended last week; No change needed

**22 – MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**

- 23 – Placed and recommended last week; No change needed  
24 – Placed and recommended last week; No change needed  
25 – Placed and recommended last week; No change needed  
26 – **MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**  
27 – **No Vote.**  
28 – Placed and recommended last week; No change needed  
29 – **MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, that Town meeting will be initially paying out of free cash and seeking reimbursement from Plymouth County ARPA funding; however, if the Town is not reimbursed, payment is appropriated from Free Cash. **Voted 5 – 0**  
– **MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to place and recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**  
30 – Placed and recommended last week; No change need  
31 – **MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to remove from the Warrant. **Voted 5 – 0**  
32 – **No Vote.**  
33 – **MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to place and recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**  
34 – **MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to place and recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**  
35 – **MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to place and recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**  
36 – **MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to place and recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**  
37 – **MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to place and recommend. **Voted 5 – 0**  
38 – Not required to vote  
39 – Not required to vote

The Board decided to not close the Warrants as there are issues still needing resolution.

## 2. Vote the hours and sign the Warrant for Town Election

The Town Clerk provided a memo requesting the Select Board vote on the May 20, 2023 election hours, as detailed in said memo and sign the election warrant.

**MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to have the voting for the May 20, 2023 Annual Town Election, being held at the Hanson Middle School, to begin at 10:00am and end at 5:00pm. **Voted 5 – 0**

## 3. Camp Kiwanee/Recreation update

Ms. Jamieson provided an update to the Board, including the improvements throughout the site:

### *Camp Kiwanee*

- Signage at the entrance of Camp Kiwanee was refurbished and solar lighting added by Litchfield's Art & Sign.

- Due to a storm in In October of 2020 a cabin in the south end was destroyed. It has been rebuilt, gaining three feet in height, and now has electricity. This electrical work provides electricity also to the bath house. The cabin will be painted this spring.
- The two chalets in the south end have new asphalt roofs, replaced due to an October 2021 storm.
- 200 new mattresses are on order for the cabins, providing a much-needed upgrade.
- The Bridal Cottage in the south end has received a face lift with new decor and two window air conditioners. The interior will be painted this spring.
- The front of Needles Lodge was landscaped with flowering trees and some boulders. She also thanked Ed Sheehan for the donation of the granite welcome marker; it is now engraved to say "*Welcome to Camp Kiwanee*". Solar lighting was added to the flag pole.
- Inside the Needles lodge, the kitchen was renovated, including hood and duct work, and an upgraded fire suppression system. The floors and butcher block cutting tables were sterilized and sealed. The ten-burner stove can again be used; the Blodgett pizza oven was completely refurbished. During this renovation, it was discovered weakness in the roof due to rotting timbers. She thanked Eagle Build & Remodel locating and transporting the last batch of green shingles in existence to complete the repair.
- The interior Lodge walls were painted and new LED lighting was installed. The rugs were professional cleaned and preserved. Both fireplaces were repaired and now are fully functioning. With assistance from Gordon Licoln all the drop down windows on the back deck are repaired. Lastly, the heat was repaired with the installation of a thermostat. The floors of needles lodge will be sanded and polished next week.
- Security cameras were installed at the lodge; there will be additional ones installed for the camp ground.
- In the North end, thanks to CPA funding, the blinds were replaced with wooded shudders.
- For the Frontier cabin, the wood stove was repaired with a new flu liner and a new hearth.
- Two weeks ago, a new metal roof was installed on the boat house. It is expected to last a lifetime. Some rotting timbers repaired.

#### *Cranberry Cove*

- She anticipates the Cove to be up and running with swim lessons, season passes, lifeguards, and kayak rentals. Roger's Wicked Fun Tours will be back.
- Both ARPA funds and Community Preservation Committee funding will be used to address stormwater management issues, including erosion, add more birch trees and loam, and install playground equipment.

She highlighted her team hosting the Senior Center during its renovations. She and Ms. Collins coordinated resources to keep the transition seamless and activities available for the seniors

participating. Once the Senior Center is reopened, she and Ms. Collins plan to meet to discuss sharing of resources in the future.

She thanked her team for their continued dedication and hard work, and is looking forward to a very busy season of events, including a Bridal Show on May 7, 2023. She also thanked all the departments who assist everyday throughout the year.

Lastly, she noted the Dragon Boat will be moored of the Boathouse starting April 29, 2023. At this time it will be used only for storing and practice runs.

**4. Discuss and vote to accept bench located on Town Hall Green**

Mr. Hickey shared that the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee had issue with time capsule with a covering not suitable. It decided instead to donate it to the Town, and the bench sits where the time capsule is buried. As it sits on a hill, it's not level. He is addressing this and expects it to be resolved shortly.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to accept the donation of the town bench on Town Hall Green. ***Voted 5 – 0***

**5. 2023 Annual Licensing – Class II license – Auto Express**

The Select Board asked for some background, as it believed this is not the first request for signatures. Ms. Green informed the Board that Mr. Glass recently revisited the property, finding it much improved from his last visit. Due to this, he reversed his previous decision and asked the Board to approve the license. The Board would like something in writing prior to taking a vote.

**6. Press Release for Fire Chief**

Ms. Green stated she intends to issue a press release announcing the appointment of Chief O'Brien. Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett read the release to the Board.

**7. Dollars for Scholars**

- a. Declare April "Dollars for Scholars Month"
- b. Erect a fundraising thermometer on Town Hall Green

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks , to declare April "Dollars for Scholars Month". ***Voted 5 – 0***

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to give permission to erect a fundraising thermometer on Town Hall Green. ***Voted 5 – 0***

## **VI                    COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- Ms. Rein updated the Board that the Highway Building Committee met last week. Ms. Green stated the committee voted to no longer consider Hawks Avenue a viable location for the Highway Department. It also voted to move forward with a survey for 797 Indian Head location, where it is currently located, pending Town meeting.

## **VII                    ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSES**

1. 09/24/2023 – 11:00am – 4:00pm – Lisa Allington – Bridal Shower

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to approve the one-day liquor licenses as printed on the agenda. ***Voted 5 – 0***

## **VIII                    APPROVE OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

1. March 14, 2023
2. March 21, 2023
3. March 28, 2023

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks , to approve meeting minutes as presented on the agenda. ***Voted 5 – 0***

## **IX                    TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- The Maquan demolition bid was reposted, going live April 5 on the Central register. Site visits are scheduled for April 21 and bids are due May 4.
- She is focused on wrapping up the budget.
- Still responding to several public records request, forwarding fee requests for each one.
- She spent several hours this week filling missing information in both the Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting warrants. She felt it to be in good shape and appreciates the assistance she received from staff at Town Hall.
- She and Mr. White completed the search for the new Veterans Service Officer. He will be attending the April 11 meeting for his appointment.
- Also, interviews for the parttime planning board administrative position are complete. The candidate will meet with the Planning Board for consideration and appointment, and come to the Select Board for the April 25 meeting.
- She attended this month's MMMA as there was a presentation from the Mass Cyber Center discussing the different ways cybersecurity is being tested by hackers as well as the cyber security training resources available.
- The work on the back of Town Hall continues, with the rotted wood replaced with siding with a stronger durable material. Mr. Baker is overseeing the project, keeping it on time and under budget.

- The installation of Town Hall's new front doors is complete. Now all doors locked electronically; an employee will no longer need to manually lock the doors with a key. She thanked Mr. Moberg and Mr. Baker for their work on this project.
- To follow-up last week's conversation regarding the updating of paystubs, she noted the assistant treasurer will not be verifying the accuracy of time on paystubs. She only adds information that she is provided. Instead, it will be the responsibility of the respective departments to track subordinates' vacation and sick time. The Treasurer/Collector is drafting a policy and will review and finalize with Ms. Green. She will then present to the Board for review.

**X                    ADJOURNMENT**

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to adjourn to Executive Session. ***Voted 5 – 0***

*Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn McDowell*