



Tuesday, August 9, 2022

Hanson Select Board

Select Board's meeting room, Town Hall

Open Session

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

Members Absent:

Others Present: Lisa Green, Town Administrator, Katherine Feodoroff, Patrick Roche, Jason and Lori Cook, Kim McCoy, Feasibility Committee

I CALL TO ORDER

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

II PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mr. Weeks read the public announcements and upcoming meetings.

III HEARING

1. Olde Hitching Post, 48 Spring Street, application for the Transfer of the On-Premises Restaurant and All Alcohol Beverages license

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Hickey to open the Hearing. **Voted 4-0, 1 absent**

The restaurant is in the process of being sold to Mr. and Mrs. Cook. They are working with the previous owners and the bank to determine a date to close. They are Hanson residents, with prior experience in catering. They also own the Forke in the Road and Primrose Tavern, and have been great community partners in town.

The Town's Conservation Agent wants to ensure they need to retain an occupied apartment on the premises, in accordance with the original ZBA approval of the restaurant. And a perpetual requirement that the catch-basin at the end of the parking area to be cleaned annually and reported when cleaned.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal to approve the liquor license transfer for the Olde Hitching Post. **Voted 5-0**

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal to close the hearing on the transfer of a liquor license. **Voted 5-0**

IV APPOINTMENTS

1. Roger Means as Facilities Manager at Camp Kiwanee – Pending Recreation Commission appointment on August 15.

Mr. Means is the number one candidate for the position. He has been a caretaker there for several years and highly respected. He is very excited to get started and working with the team at the Camp.

MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks to appoint Roger Means as the facilities manager at Camp Kiwanee, pending Recreation Commission appointment on August 15, 2022. **Voted 5-0**

2. Patricia Norton – Community Preservation Committee term – 2022 – 2025

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal to appoint Patricia Norton to Community Preservation Committee. **Voted 5-0**

V. LICENSE

1. Approve Common Victualler's License application for Two Gals Grill Hanson, Inc. 1280 Main Street, Hanson. Formally Café Deli

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal to approve a Common Victualler license for Two Gals Grill. **Voted 5-0**

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Interview finalists for Executive Assistant position

Diane Farrell

Ms. Farrell has worked several positions, including customer service, which she considers one of her strengths. Thought of applying previously but wasn't certain she was ready for the role. She now believes she is ready to take it on. She is currently working for an insulation distribution organization but is ready to move on.

Mr. Hickey notes that previously she met with Mr. Hickey and Ms. Green and presented more strongly than she is expressing tonight. She started with the school systems to be able to be with her children. When her husband was laid off, she took a fulltime roles, moving up and improving her job skills each time. She is now looking for a position that she can stay, settle in and learn as she likes to be challenged.

Lynn McDowell

Ms. McDowell has been an executive assistant for thirty years of her professional career. Primarily worked in financial services; currently working within the healthcare industry. She has done a great deal in her current role and is ready to make a change; particularly more project focused.

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett and Mr. Weeks discussed the changes in priorities that happened daily. Ms. McDowell shared some of her experiences from previous roles how she managed her time and her managers' time.

Discussion –

Ms. Green and the Board discussed both candidates to determine which would be the best fit.

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks to offer Lynn McDowell the Executive Assistant position with the Select Board office. **Voted 5-0**

2. TMS – De-Regionalization Feasibility Study Committee report

Mr. Hickey thanked the committee for its work on this project. He was greatly impressed with the conversations during meetings leading to tonight's report. He shared that TMS created a 180-page report that will be available online on the town website.

The Board was pleased with the number of people offering to be on the committee, leading to diverse background of opinions, knowledge and disciplines.

Ms. McCoy presented to the Board on behalf of the Committee. Been exploring the feasibility of de-regionalization of the school district and contact TMS Solutions to conduct the study to answer the following questions:

- What are the educational impacts of separation that would include what are potential impacts on current and future students
- What curriculum choices would be lost or added, and what special education issues may arise.

- What are the financial impacts of separation, what would be the cost of withdrawal, and who would the owned assets,
- What potential state and additional aid would be added or lost, what are the effects on the taxpayers would be,
- What are the legal considerations of separation, what is the statutory process that would have to be followed,
- What town meetings or other votes would be necessary, what public forums would be required,
- What are other considerations for the separation timeline step by step road map

TMS outlined three choices as followed.

1. Full separation

A full separation would consist of full withdrawal from current Whitman-Hanson Regional school committee. Each town would have its own operating school system with its own school committee, budget, superintendent and staffing. Would be the greatest autonomy, would also provide the greatest expense. TMS estimated the total annual cost to be \$24 million. In addition to the new cost of the new Hanson High School, which is estimated to be \$72 million

2. Partial separation

Partial separation involving sharing staffing, primarily superintendent and administrative staffing. Both towns would retain own school committees, and be responsible for students K- 8th grade. And a shared school committee for the high schools. TMS offered two plans, one being more union with shared aspects, while the other would be tuition based. The first, with a full separation of K- 8 grade, agreement for high schools and shared administration is estimated to be \$26 million; the second would be about \$23 million. The report gives more specifics in the breakdown of costs.

3. Status quo

The final option is that the Town of Hanson remains part of the regional system as it provides the most continuity for the town. Based on the estimate for FY 23, the Town's cost will be \$13million. There would also be additional funding lost from the state, including Chapter 71 funding. Also, separation would impact curriculum, as less students would lead to less course offerings. Special education would increase. And the high school would lose some extra curriculum activities in sports.

After reviewing the document, the committee feels de-regionalization, either full or partial, is not advisable at this time. The educational and financial impacts would be too great to recommend.

Ms. McCoy stated the committee wanted to present some other options include:

- Renegotiating the contract with Whitman;
- Leave for the regional district for another district;
- Start a dialog with DESE, to discuss how the budget impacts smaller towns;
- Address how school members are assigned – population vs financial.

At the last Select Board meeting, the superintendent and the chair of the school committee were present. The Select Board requested renegotiating the Town's current contract and informed them that the Town would like more representation. Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett also agreed another discussion with DESE may be helpful, especially including other towns having the same experiences as Hanson. The committee is willing to stay together to advocate for Hanson, including follow-up with DESE. The Board would like to see some next steps from this committee, including the renegotiating with the contract with Whitman and advocating at the State level.

3. Patrick Roche – Good Energy update on Aggregation program

Mr. Roche with Good Energy is the consultant for the Municipal Aggregation program – Hanson Community Plan. Tonight he is providing updates and changes for the plan for the program governance. He would like to open a 30 day public review period on these changes.

He presented a PowerPoint plan show the town is creating new choices for supply and delivery to customers. It was voted on during Town Meeting in 2021. The draft plan was released in December 2021 for a month for public review followed by a public hearing in January 2022.

Updates to the plan include customer additional communication and specifying how customers will be transitioned to the new ESA. There will be four options for enrollment; one is automatic while the other three are optional.

Moving forward, the plan would be to have a 30 day public review period starting August 10, 2022; followed by a public hearing and potential vote on September 13, 2022. Good Energy has created a website - <https://hansoncommunitypower.com/> - that have the details and updated plan. They will also have hard copies available for Town Hall and the Library to residents to pick up.

Once finalized, all Town residents will be automatically enrolled. Mr. Roche did note there will be a period time that residents can default out and remain with their previous carrier.

MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks to open a 30-day public review period on August 10, 2022. **Voted 4-0, 1 abstain**

MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Hickey to schedule a public hearing and potential vote on September 13, 2022. **Voted 4-0, 1 abstain**

4. Discuss Selectmen Town Meeting Warrant Articles

The Board discussed possible warrant articles for the October Special Town meeting. Some that have already been brought forward are:

- Part-time Administrative Assistant for the Select Board office.
- Cannabis delivery
- Library generator and security cameras
- Full-time Library custodian
- Capital improvement articles
- Transfer station/Board of Health
- CPC has potential articles

Capital Improvement will have a matrix prepared for the August 23 Select Board meeting. If anything to add to the Warrant, all information needs to be included by August 23, 2022. Also need to speak with the Town Accountant by this date.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Confirmatory Order of Taking Sleeper Property

When initiated the order to taking in June 2002, the Board indicated the damages due would be \$203,000, which mirrors grant award from the State. The Property was being purchased with Land Grant funds and Community Preservation Act Fund. Community Preservation granted \$90,000 and the Town provided \$203,000, which is returned by the Land Grant.

By clerical order, when the Board approved the taking, it was noted the damages due to be \$203,000 rather than the purchase prices, which was \$300,000, based upon the agreement with the previous owners due to title issues.

MOTION by Mr. Heal, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to approve taking to correct the June 2022 Motion, as read by Ms. Feodoroff. **Voted 5-0**

The Sleeper Property will now be deeded to the care and custody of Conservation.

2. Ratify and sign Hanson FireFighters Contract

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Heal, to ratify and sign fire fighters' contract. **Voted 5-0**

3. Committee Updates

- Mr. Hickey noted Parks and Fields' summer season has wrapped. For boys baseball – 10 year old and under team won their league. For the girls Red, White and Blue divisions – 14 year old, 12 year old and 10 year old teams all won their leagues. For the girls 10 and under, they won Halifax tournament. Congratulations!

VIII. ONE DAY LICENSES

1. 09/11/22 – 11am-4pm – Bridal Shower – Kerri Goodwin
2. 09/03/22 – 5:30pm-10:30pm – Wedding – Ashley Kemmett
3. 10/01/22 – 3pm-9pm – Wedding reception – Ashley and Brittany Bannon

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks to approve a one-day liquor license as noted on the agenda. **Voted 5-0**

IX. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Ms. Green noted that July 23 is deadline for ARPA. She was successful in the request. The town will be receiving the second allocation of \$572,000; the first was received in June 2022.
- Recognized the teamwork of Town Counsel, the Conversation Chair and the Commission, Town Accountant, Treasurer/collector for bringing the Sleeper Property to close. The State was going to walk away, but all was sent as needed for the grant within hours.
- Ms. Green met with the Strategic Planner Ann Donner and showed her around Town to get an idea of the area.
- Car Show will be on October 9, 2022 at held at Whitman-Hanson High School this year. Expecting about 300 cars this year.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein to adjourn the meeting. **Voted 5-0**

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn McDowell