



Tuesday, June 27, 2023
Hanson Select Board
Select Board Meeting Room, Town Hall
Open Session

Members Present: Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Joseph Weeks, Edwin Heal, David George, Ann Rein

Members Absent:

Others Present: Lisa Green, Town Administrator; Lynn McDowell, Executive Assistant; Fire Chief Robert O'Brien, Deputy Chief Barends, Lieutenant Tyler Bryant, Lieutenant Thomas White, Hanson Fire Department; Elizabeth Sloan, Town Clerk; Jane Friedman, Town Counsel; Eric Kinsherf, Interim Town Accountant; Frank Schellenger, Philip Clemons, Conservation Commission; Charles Armanetti, Richard Harvey, Middleborough Retirees Insurance Group

I CALL TO ORDER

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett called the meeting to order.

II PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING MEETINGS

Ms. Rein read the public announcements and upcoming meetings.

III APPOINTMENTS

1. Swearing-in ceremony for Lieutenant Tyler Bryant
2. Swearing-in ceremony for Lieutenant Thomas White

Chief O'Brien introduce newly promoted Lieutenants Bryant and White, respectively and shared personal stories of both. Ms. Sloan swore in Lt. Bryant, followed by Lt. White.

The Select Board congratulated each lieutenant and looks forward to working with them.

3. Appoint Laura Salonga as an associate member of the Conservation Commission for a three-year term

Ms. Salonga shared some of her history as a resident of the Town. She is very interested in helping and learning, feeling she would be a good fit on the commission. She did disclose she has protected land on her property.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to appoint Laura Salonga as an Associate member of the Conservation Commission for a three-year term. ***Voted 5 – 0***

4. Appoint Christopher Costello as a full member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a three-year term

Mr. Costello currently sits on the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Associate member. This appointment would fill the vacancy from Ms. Minutti's resignation earlier this year.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to appoint Christopher Costello as a full member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a three-year term. **Voted 5 – 0**

5. Appoint Alexander Stewart as a full member of the Recreation Committee

The Select Board clarified that this is a committee created to determine the direction for recreation in town, including formulation of a commission and possible membership, hiring staff, creating programming, etc.

Mr. Stewart has volunteered for Town committees in the past, including the 200th Anniversary Committee.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to appoint Alexander Stewart as a full member of the Recreation Committee for a three-year term. **Voted 5 – 0**

6. Appoint Percy Child as the Adult and Youth Services Support Librarian

Ms. Green shared the process completed by the Library Director, concluding with offering Mr. Child the role of Adult and Youth Services Support Librarian.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to appoint Percy Child as the Adult and Youth Services Support Librarian. **Voted 5 – 0**

7. Accept Jane Durante's resignation from the Hanson Council on Aging

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to accept Jane Durante's resignation from the Hanson Council on Aging, with regret. **Voted 5 – 0**

8. Appoint June Sullivan as a member of the Hanson Council on Aging for a one-year term

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to appoint June Sullivan as a member of the Hanson Council on Aging for a one-year term. **Voted 5 – 0**

9. Appoint James Hickey as a member of the Hanson Council on Aging for a two-year term

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to appoint James Hickey as a member of the Hanson Council on Aging for a two-year term. **Voted 5 – 0**

10. Appoint Christian MacCallum as Camp Kiwanee Life Guard

11. Appoint Benjamin Sheehan as Camp Kiwanee Life Guard

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to appoint Christian MacCallum and Benjamin Sheehan as Camp Kiwanee Life Guard. ***Voted 5 – 0***

IV

NEW BUSINESS

1. Fire Department update

Chief O'Brien updated the Select Board regarding the events of the past six months. He started with the run volume, with over 1000 calls to date, and 18% of these calls being multiple runs. With this tracking he is able to determine staffing ratios per shift. Generally there will be a lieutenant and three fire fighters/paramedics per shift. He has two new hires, one with some training. The Chief worked with the Union to create solutions to have both onboard and take on shifts prior to attending the academy in September. This now allows an additional person on each shift, better providing the community.

Addressing staffing, he is reviewing the SAFER grant, which will cover 100% of employee costs, excluding overtime, for three years. The Town will then be fully responsible for the employee cost. The grant will reopen March 2024, the application and award process takes about two years to complete, which provides the Department about five years before the additional staffing will need to be added for future budgeting. He intends to coordinate with both Mr. Kinsherf and the Finance Committee to determine the sustainability before moving forward. The Select Board would like this included with the five-year strategic planning development currently in progress.

He noted for the upcoming October Town Meeting, the issues of overtime will need to be addressed. There was an error in the May Town Meeting; overtime was to be charged to FY24 but was listed in the motion as FY23. He has spoken with both the Finance Committee and Ms. Green to address in the Fall, to reallocate the funds. He also intends to place an article for an ambulance to replace the current one. He noted it may be a two-year process once the order is placed. Once the older ambulance is removed for service it will instead be used for specialty equipment. For the tower truck, he hopes to received federal grant money to cover a portion of that expense.

Engine1 is currently out of service due to engine issues. He is working with both Ms. Green and Mr. Kinsherf to find funding for the repairs. Lastly for Town Meeting, he will request \$500 for Emergency Management funding to replenish what was used last year.

The Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan was completed and updated, with sign off expected in July. He will forward via email to the Select Board.

He and the Deputy Chief attended a Medical Reserve Corps meeting in Duxbury last week related to medical professional volunteers for sheltering. He noted the Fire Department acquired shelter equipment from grants in the past that is not being used as the Town's seniors do not

leave their homes. But in the future that could change. He will work with Medial Reservice Corps and Ms. Collins to create a shelter plan in Hanson.

He is also working with Whitman Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Whitman Fire Chief to regionalize this asset in Hanson, which will increase the opportunity for additional grant funding.

Lastly he offered to lead a National Incident Management System (NIMS) class for elected officials this Fall. It will cover documents presented during states of emergency and how they are used. The Board agreed it would be very helpful and said to move forward with the training. He will also schedule with Mass Maritime to do some Table Top exercises in preparation for emergencies. He reminded all that hurricane season is now progress. He is coordinating with WHCA to create PSA. Ms. Green suggested Capital Strategic Solutions to craft the messaging. During emergency events he intends to schedule meetings 72 hours ahead of time with department head to ensure all are on the same page.

Some of the initiatives the Department worked on include:

- Feasibility Study RFP
- DRONE Program
- State Earmark for Cardiac Screening
- Grant submitted for Cascade system
- Fire Prevention
- Training at the Maquan School for Firefighter bailout, Firefighter Survival & Active Shooter

For the training, he will post on social media to give the community a heads up. And knowing the building will be demolished with asbestos being removed, he coordinated with Ms. Green for a location on the opposite side of the property to safely implement the training.

In wrapping up, the Chief invited the Select Board and anyone interested to come to the Fire House and take a tour to see what both the awarded grant funding and ambulance account have supplemented, providing no additional charge to the Town.

The Select Board congratulated him and his team on the work being done. All are very engaged and enthusiastic.

2. Kerry Glass certifications update

Tabled as Mr. Glass is on vacation. Ms. Green will request he attend the next Select Board meeting.

3. Alden Way, Gray Street and Stringer Way acceptance update

Ms. Friedman updated the Select Board some of the changes that are needed due to the layout vote accepted during the May Annual Town meeting did not reference the modified street plans. As a citizens' petition is not reviewed by the Select Board's office as it cannot alter the petition, the modified plans were not known until after May Annual Town meeting concluded. As this is

a technically the Select Board intends to correct at the next Town meeting, it will be presented during the October Special Town meeting. The Select Board will place a Select Board article in the warrant for the October Special Town meeting to correct the technicality. By coming from the Select Board instead of another citizens' petition, it will be reviewed by Town Counsel prior to October Town meeting, ensuring nothing is missed.

As voted during the May Annual Town Meeting, and accepted in excess of the required two-thirds vote, all roads attached to this citizens' petition are now public. Ms. Green will contact the Highway department to remove private way signage.

4. Pond Management Discussion

Mr. Heal shared during the latest Conservation Commission meeting the topic of pond management was discussed. Primarily how they are a town resource, with oversight by the Select Board. The Select Board has allocated funds but does not directly manage.

Mr. Clemons noted there have been several conversations related to water quality and plant life. He also noted that that Conservation has a lot to do and not realistic for it to manage the ponds. The Select Board stated Conservation needs to be involved and suggested Mr. Clemons and Mr. Schellenger schedule time to meet with Ms. Green and work together to create a plan. It stated it is in the Town's best interest to leverage the expertise the Town already has in place. Ms. Green offered to reach out to the chair of the Board of Health as well as the Taunton River Watershed Alliance and North and South Rivers Watershed Association.

5. Recreation Committee/Commission discussion

As stated above, the Select Board clarified that this is a committee created to determine the direction for recreation in town, including formulation of a commission and possible membership, hiring staff, creating programming, etc.

6. Plymouth County Retirement Association COLA option

Ms. Green updated the Select Board of legislation signed by former Governor Baker to address cost of living (COLA) for all retirees in municipal government who retired prior to June 30, 2022. It was introduced by Plymouth County Retirement Association to increase an additional 2%, providing a total of 5% for three years. It will take effect FY25 and run through FY29. The cost to the Town will be about \$53,000 for each year, totaling about \$265,000 for five years. The communities throughout Plymouth County have been voting during the month of June, as it is due by June 30, 2023. The majority have voted in support, putting it close to the two-thirds needed to implement.

Mr. Kinsherrf shared that the retirees will receive \$360 increase. The Town's liability will increase approximately \$251,000 for over five years. It should be noted that the numbers presented are considered the worst case scenario; he does not expect the finalized numbers to be higher. He did stress the Town will need to find the money as it will add to the structural deficit. He will build it into the next budget cycle request.

Charles Armanetti, and Richard Harvey, representing Middleborough Retirees Insurance Group, provided some history and why it was so late being presented to all boards across Plymouth County. While the bill passed in December 2022, former governor Charlie Baker added an amendment requiring towns within the system to decide if they will to provide this increase to local retirees. Correspondence was not forwarded and voted on April 13, 2023 due to issues at the leadership level. Once a new director was hired in May, he went to Plymouth Country Commissioner's office and requested a vote. He then sent correspondence to all effected towns on May 31, 2023, for boards to approve and discuss prior to the June 30, 2023 deadline.

Mr. Armanetti further explained the COLA is set up similar to social security, except this is setup on a base amount, currently at \$16,000. The amount being requested is additional 2% of this \$16,000 for FY23. It will be retroactive to the retirees who retired prior to June 30, 2022. The monthly dollar amount per retiree will be \$26. Both Social Security and CPI had 5.9% and 8.7% respective increases; this COLA request is to be compatible.

Mr. Kinsherb stressed regardless of the Select Board's vote tonight, there will be no changes in budget for FY24. This will be effective FY25. Mr. Armanetti continued, stating there is one caveat – the actuarial was using the old tables. Once he makes adjustments with the new tables, the amount may increase. Mr. Armanetti stated the plan would most likely change from a five-year to a six-year plan. Based upon returns. If all goes as planned, there should be a reduction for all during FY29.

MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to approve the (one-time) 5% Cost of Living Adjustment as authorized by Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022.
Voted 5 – 0

7. October 2023 Special Town meeting warrant articles discussion

To date, the Select Board will have articles for October Special Town meeting for the following items:

- Alden Way public way update
- Fire Department budget adjustment

The Select Board reviewed the October Special Town Meeting opening memo and had no concerns.

8. Strategic Planning update

Ms. Green, along with Mr. Moberg, is confirming a date with Capital Strategic Solutions to discuss the website. With the holiday and vacation schedules, she anticipates the week of July 17, 2023. She will include Ms. Rein in the scheduling process.

She shared that Mr. Moberg has taken several pictures around town to for the website. Today she joined him at the Burrage, as he was using the drone to take aerial video and pictures.

9. Nuisance Dog update

Mr. Kenney shared that the video received is one of the dogs that has been discussed in a previous hearing. Mr. Leighton admitted to it being his dog. He had company at his home. One of the guests entered by the front door, did not close the door firmly and the dog let himself out. He immediately went out, retrieved the dog and secured him in the yard.

Mr. Leighton emphasized to the Select Board that he is working very hard with the dog to keep him on a leash or tether, but accidents do happen. Mr. Kenney stated he did fine Mr. Leighton for this action and Mr. Leighton paid the fine. Mr. Kenney has not received any other notices. He noted, and Mr. Leighton confirmed, there is another dog in the neighborhood that is very similar to Mr. Leighton's dog. He anticipates calls increasing.

The Select Board appreciated the work Mr. Leighton has done and this was a one-time event. Mr. Kenney felt it was not necessary to have another hearing as the incident was not negligence or intentional. He suggested to continue the process as is with the Board; if there are changes, he will then suggest moving to another level. The Board suggested Mr. Leighton provide additional training, including a training collar.

V OLD BUSINESS

1. Vote Treasurer-Collector contract

Ms. Green discussed the proposed contract for Ms. Sullivan, indicating it is a six-month contract as Ms. Sullivan is retiring on December 31, 2023. Also, if the Town does not have a new Treasurer-Collector in place by that date, Ms. Sullivan offered to come back as an annuitant until the search is complete.

The job description is being updated and will be posted in July 2023. Per her contract, Ms. Sullivan will train her staff in her current functions as well as assist with onboarding the new Treasurer-Collector, if hired prior to her retirement date.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to allow Ms. Green to enter in a contract with Ms. Sullivan as Treasurer-Collector, commencing July 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023, as reviewed and discussed in Executive Session.

Voted 5 – 0

2. Vote for Professional Administrative Union – Events Coordinator

Ms. Green intends to have the revised job description for the Events Coordinator complete and ready for review for the July 25, 2023 Select Board meeting. Agreement was reached with the Professional Administrative Union to have the Event Coordinator position included in the union as a Grade 1, Step 1 employee. This will be effective July 1, 2023. This will be an increase in salary for the current role, but with the creation of the Recreation Committee, the role will be shared with Recreation to provide administrative support.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to place the Events Coordinator position as a Grade 1, Step 1. **Voted 5 – 0**

3. Vote for vacation buyback – Assistant Collector

Ms. Forte requested to buyback and carry over her vacation time, as she is covering for the Treasurer-Collector during her medical leave.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, allow Ms. Forte to carry over and buyback vacation time, according the Administrative Professionals Union contract and subject to Ms. Green’s reconciliation of Ms. Forte’s vacation records.

VI **ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSES**

1. 07/08/2023 – 4:30pm – 8:30pm – Jennifer Paul – Birthday Party

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

VII **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Mr. Heal discussed the work of the Energy Committee, that includes Prism Energy developing a plan for the installation of a new HVAC system for Town Hall to be energy efficient. The plan includes requesting funding this Fall from the State. Ms. Rein shared that heat pumps need a backup. Mr. Heal shared the same concern; the new systems will accommodate up to -30 degrees. Ms. Green shared Green Communities will be the funder for the system, which is part of the State’s weatherization program, as was the foam installation in the attic. Green Communities is moving away from funding requests for fossil fuel type of systems; heat pumps are the focus of the grants.

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett updated that the Economic Development Committee worked with Mr. DeFrias as well as Capital Strategic Solutions to create correspondence to be mailed to local businesses informing them of the Economic Development Committee, contact information of the committee members and what it can do for supporting local businesses in town.

She also updated the Board of the TIF committee meeting from last week, highlighting the conversation regarding tax incentives that exist and how to share that information as well as identify those businesses needing assistance. How to coordinate efforts with the Economic Development Committee to best use resources. Ms. Green is researching and will report back.

VIII APPROVE OPEN SESSION MINUTES

1. May 30, 2023
2. June 6, 2023
3. June 20, 2023

MOTION by Mr. Weeks , seconded by Ms. Rein, to approve the meeting minutes as printed on the agenda. ***Voted 5-0***

IX TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Ms. Green, along with Select Board members Ms. Rein, Mr. George and Mr. Heal, joined the North and South Rivers Watershed Association (NSRWA) in a site walk of the Indian Head River Ludden's Ford Dam, Hanover/Pembroke and State Street Dam in Hanson. The NSRWA received a feasibility study grant to remove the dams to restore fish habitats on the Indian Head River. Mr. Mahoney, a Plymouth Select Board member, also attended and shared his positive experience with removing multiple dams along the Plymouth Town Brook. Once the feasibility study is complete, NSRWA intends to apply for a grant for the reconstruction of the areas from where the dams were removed.

There was a Maquan kickoff meeting with Southern Middlesex Industries (SMI), who will initiate the removal of asbestos from the building. This process will take approximately six weeks. SMI will then move forward demoing the building. Information will be posted on the website. She noted that fencing will be placed around the perimeter and the playground behind the building most likely will be unavailable during this time. Mr. Baker completed an inventory Ms. Green will present next meeting for surplus to auction out. Again, information will be posted on the website and all social medial platforms as the project moves forward.

Ms. Green completed the insurance renewal applications for MIIA. Due to a good year with minimal claims, there will be a 1% reduction in our insurance premiums. This will not include the Bonney House, due to the condition of the building. As the Historical Committee is entertaining activities in the building, she will look to see if gap insurance would be possible. The Board questioned other possible insurers providing better rates to the Town. Ms. Green noted MIIA's specialty is insuring municipality buildings, so not certain a better rate would be possible.

She is happy to welcome back the Treasurer-Collector, from her unexpected medical leave. It's great to have her back in the building.

The Town Hall newsletter *Hanson Happenings* was released this week. She is coordinating with Capital Strategic Solutions to create a version to release to the public.

The Department of Transportation has started milling and repaving around town. The Highway department has announcements posted on the Town website and Facebook.

The Select Board has received several questions and comments related to the Maquan and Hawks Ave property discussions during the last strategic planning session. It reiterated that all

discussions were just that – discussions; no decisions have been made by anyone on how either sites will be utilized in the future. For Hawks Avenue, there are documents noting the cleanup initiated by Lite Control. However there are restrictions attached to the property deed that need to be honored. Ms. Green reminded the Board, for Hawks Avenue, there are two lots. The majority of the documented cleanup focused on the front of the property, which is lot 2. Most of the questions are related to lot 1, which is located behind the buildings.

X ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to adjourn to Wage and Personnel. ***Voted 5 – 0***

*Respectfully submitted,
Lynn McDowell*