

Town of Hanson
542 Liberty Street, Hanson, MA 02341

October 2003 Special Town Meeting

Special Town Meeting
October 6, 2003

Due to the failure to achieve a quorum of 100, with only 67 registered voters in attendance, the Moderator Charles W. Mann dissolved the meeting at 7:40 p.m. in the auditorium of the Middle School with no action being taken on any of the 20 articles contained in the warrant.

Town Counsel was Richard Bowen from Kopelman and Paige.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to pay unpaid bills from fiscal year 2003 or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: There are a few unpaid bills from various departments, which were received after the end of fiscal year 2003. Requires a 9/10 vote.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the May 2003 Annual Town Meeting Article 5, Line 110, Other Tuition & Transportation and/or Free Cash to be added to the May 2003 Annual Town Meeting, Article 5, Line 7, Town Insurance or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The actual town insurance figures were received after the May Town Meeting. All the major insurance premiums have been paid but the budget line has been exhausted. The requested amount will be used to cover pre-employment physicals, professional bonds, and adjustments to coverage throughout the year.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the May 2003 Annual Town Meeting Article 5, Line 110, Other Tuition & Transportation and/or Free Cash to be added May 2002 Annual Town Meeting, Article 7, GASB 34 or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The initial GASB 34 inventory has been complete. These funds will be needed for a 2003 update.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of \$3,600.00 from available Free Cash and/or transfer from the 2003 Annual Town Meeting, Article 5, Line 110, Other Tuition and Transportation to purchase twelve (12) new tires and rims to be installed on two (2) highway trucks or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Highway Surveyor

Explanation: The new tires and rims are to replace the tires and rims that are presently on the Highway Department's 1994 International dump truck and on the 1990 GMC dump truck. This request is for safety.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the May 2003 Annual Town Meeting Article 5, Line 110, Other Tuition & Transportation and/or Free Cash to be added May 2003 Annual Town Meeting, Article 5, Line 6 Town Benefits or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This transfer is necessary as result of a settlement with the Firefighter's Union relative to their grievance regarding co-pay increases. The settlement required the Town to pay the difference between the original co-pay and the current co-pay for prescription drugs. Requires 9/10 vote.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to accept a parcel of land known as Assessor's Map 37, Lot 2 from Joseph R. & Sheryl Sargent for the sum of \$1,500.00 or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This town-owned parcel was erroneously offered and sold at auction in 1998. This sale needed a 2/3 vote of Town Meeting to release it and a special petition to the General Court, but did not receive either. Mr. & Mrs. Sargent will deed the property back to the Town and the Town will reimburse Mr. & Mrs. Sargent the sale price of the parcel as well as taxes paid since 1998.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$1,500 for the reimbursement to Joseph and Sheryl Sargent for the transfer for the of property located at Assessors' Map 37, Lot 2 or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: These fund are necessary to complete the transfer of the parcel referenced in the preceding article.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from May 2003 Annual Town Meeting Article 5, Line 110, Other Tuition & Transportation and/or free cash a sum of money to fund retirement buy-outs or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by Treasurer/Collector

Explanation: This will fund the Buy-Outs for employees as they retire (i.e. sick time, vacation, etc.)

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the May 2003 Annual Town Meeting Article 5, Line 113, Whitman Hanson Regional to be added to the May 2003 Annual Town Meeting Article 5, Line 93 South Shore Vo-Tech or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: Due to the recalculation of the South Shore Vocational Technical School's budget the Town's assessment has been increased by \$39,746.00.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the May 2003 Annual Town Meeting Article 5, Line 113, Whitman Hanson Regional to be added to the Stabilization Fund or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: These funds will replenish monies withdrawn from the Stabilization fund during the May 2003 Annual

Town Meeting for the Whitman Hanson Regional School budget. A 2/3 vote is required.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$2,000 to the 2003 May Annual Town Meeting, Article 5, Line 31 Selectmen Expense or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: These fund are necessary to pay for advertising for the Executive Secretary's position.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the town will vote to transfer a sum from free cash to be added to the May 2003 annual town meeting as follows:

Line 22 – Fire Department Building Maintenance \$7,000.00
Or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Fire Chief

Explanation- To replace the worn out 25 year-old floor in the “Alarm Room” with a new plastic floor, \$4,000.00; replace the radiator on the Emergency generator at the headquarters station \$1,500.00; and re-point the chimney <> \$ 1,500.00.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Reserve for appropriation school debt exclusion reserve account an amount of money for the purpose of making debt payments on debt issued by the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District, which debt was authorized by Article 34 of the May 2002 Annual Town Meeting and subsequent debt exclusion vote on May 18, 2002, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Treasurer/Collector

Explanation: The estimated amount for payment in November is \$17,101.74.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Water Surplus account to fund the first phase of a Water Conservation Program Plan for the Town of Hanson or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Water Commissioners

Explanation: The funds requested will allow us to provide the initial effort to established a Conservation Program.
Estimated amount of \$21,500.00

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote passed under Article 20 of the warrant for the May 7, 2001 Special Town Meeting, which vote authorized a borrowing of \$500,000.00 for the installation of water mains on Main Street, to authorize the use of the proceeds of such borrowing for the installation of water mains on other streets and roads in the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Water Commissioners

Explanation: Bids for work on Main Street were lower than expected. Therefore there are funds still available to enable us to address work on other water mains in Town what require our attention.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to accept as a Town way Joshua Lane and to see if the Town will further vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or eminent domain an easement to use said street for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Hanson, and to transfer from free cash the sum of \$1.00 or take any other action in relation thereto.

Joshua Lane as shown on the plan entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan, Meadowbrook Estates, dated October 23, 1998, prepared by Land Planning, Inc."

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: Joshua Lane has been constructed in accordance with Town standards and the Planning Board and Highway Surveyor have recommended acceptance. The subdivision control law contemplates that towns will accept as public ways all such roads, which are constructed in conformance with local standards while they are still in good condition.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hanson General By-Laws Article 2 – 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS GOVERNING ALL DEPARTMENTS BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND ELECTED OFFICERS, by adding at the beginning of Section 1 the following:

All elected Boards, Committees, Commissions and Officers shall reorganize at their first meeting following the Annual Town Elections and all appointed Boards, Committees, and Commissions shall reorganize each year at their first meeting following June 30th.

or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$400,000.00 for the purpose of financing the following water pollution abatement facility projects: repair, replacement and/or upgrade of septic systems, pursuant to agreements with Board of Health and residential property owners, including without limitations all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Health and
Treasurer/Collector

Explanation: We are seeking an additional \$400,000.00 from the trust for a second round of betterments. Requires a 2/3 vote, as it is a borrowing.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the town will vote to transfer to the care custody, management and control of the Conservation Commission for all purposes included in G.L. Ch. 40 & 8C the following parcel of land located on the southerly side of West Washington Street, shown on Assessors Plan 92, Lot 23 containing 8.18 acres more or less or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Conservation Commission

Explanation: This 8.18 acre parcel abuts a 54.4 acre parcel under the control of the Conservation Commission. When joined together the parcels will provide 62.58 acres of an open space area extending from County Road to West Washington Street. The parcel was acquired by a Land Court Final Judgment in Tax Lien Case for the Town of Hanson, July 12, 1999. Requires: Town Meeting adoption by a two-thirds vote. Treasurer's deed to record the vote at the Registry of Deeds

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate with the Whitman Hanson Regional School District for the use of school property by locally based non-profit organizations whose main purpose to distribute proceeds collected for the benefit of citizens to the Community or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by Daniel Ward and 127 others

The meeting was dissolved at 7:50 p.m. by Moderator Charles W. Mann due to the failure to achieve a quorum .

Attest:

Sandra E. Harris, CMC, CMMC
Town Clerk