

Town of Hanson
542 Liberty Street, Hanson, MA 02341

October 2012 Special Town Meeting

Special Town Meeting
October 1, 2012

Moderator Sean J. Kealy called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M. in the auditorium of the Middle School and called a brief recess while waiting for voters to come in to make a quorum. The meeting reconvened at 7:49 P.M. with Robert Hayes, Robert O'Brien and Joseph Pelligra appointed and sworn in as tellers.

Town Counsel was Jeffrey Blake from the firm of Kopelman and Paige.
A quorum was declared present with 108 voters in attendance.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Town Meeting.

Moderator Sean J. Kealy recognized Town Administrator, Rene Reed who went over the Town finances as to date and thank all those who have worked on the financial process.

Selectmen David Soper presented Bruce Young a citation for three decades of service to the Town of Hanson and thanked him for his dedication.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash and/or Stabilization to pay unpaid bills from Fiscal Year 2012 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 2012. Requires a 9/10 vote.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: David Soper
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye unanimous vote to transfer \$4,720.21 from Free Cash to pay unpaid bills from Fiscal Year 2012.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to be added to the amounts appropriated to Article 5, Line 56, WHRSD Operating Assessment of the May 2012 Annual Town Meeting or take any other action

in relation thereto.

Proposed by the School Committee

Explanation: These funds are needed to cover the cost of the additional school assessment. Approx. \$36,000

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Robert Hayes

Second: James Egan

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$36,000 from Free Cash to be added to the amounts appropriated to Article 5, Line 56, WHRSD Operating Assessment of the May 2012 Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to be added to Article 9 of the May 2007 Special Town Meeting or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: These funds are needed for the next phase of the required Comprehensive Site Assessment and Corrective Actions Alternatives Analysis Reports related to the closure of the landfill at the Transfer Station Site.~ The Town is under an order of the DEP to bring the Transfer Station into compliance with State solid waste management regulations. Approx. \$50,000

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Donald Howard

Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye 71, Nay 13 to transfer \$50,000 from Free Cash to be added to Article 9, of the May 2007 Special Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to be added to the amounts appropriated to Article 5, Line 61, Engineering of the May 2012 Annual Town Meeting or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: These funds are needed for various engineering projects throughout the town which include the preparation of a subdivision plan and septic design plan for the former Superintendent's Building at the Plymouth County Hospital as well as projects at Camp Kiwanee. Approx. \$12,000.00

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Stephen Amico

Second: James Egan

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$12,000 from Free Cash to be added to the amounts appropriated to Article 5, Line 61, Engineering of the May 2012 Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$27,200.00 from the ambulance account to line 220 Fire & Ambulance Salaries, Article 5 of the May 2012 Annual Town Meeting or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Fire Chief

Explanation: These funds are requested to restore position number sixteen and return the staffing of the Fire Department to four members per shift effective January 1, 2013.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Jerome Thompson
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$27,200 from ambulance account to Line 220 Fire & Ambulance Salaries, Article 5 of the May 2012 Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$8,500.00 from the ambulance account to line 914 Group Insurance, Article 5 of the May 2012 Annual Town Meeting or take any other action in relation thereto

Proposed by the Fire Chief

Explanation: These funds are requested to cover insurance benefits for the restoration of position number sixteen.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Jerome Thompson
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$8,500 from Ambulance Account to Line 914 Group Insurance, Article 5 of the May 2012 Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$40,000.00 from Water Surplus to be added to the amounts appropriated at the May 7, 2012, Annual Town Meeting Article #5 Line 91 Expenses, for Engineering and associated costs for the Woodbine Avenue Extension water main project or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners

Explanation: This article will provide the funds necessary to complete the design portion of the Woodbine Ave. Extension water main project. These costs include design, permitting, bid services, and field investigation.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Donald Howard
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$40,000 from Water Surplus to be added to the amounts appropriated at the May 7, 2012 Annual Town Meeting Article #5 Line 91 Expenses, for Engineering and associated costs for the Woodbine Avenue Extension water main project.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$40,000.00 from Water Surplus for a Uni-directional flushing program for the water distribution system, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners

Explanation: A unidirectional flushing program (UDF) will improve water quality by removing sediment that slowly builds up in water mains over time and will improve the reliability of our system

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Donald Howard

Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$31,500 from Water Surplus for a Uni-directional flushing program for the water distribution system.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$13,000 from the amounts appropriated under Article 5, Line 91, Expenses of the May 2012 Annual Town Meeting, to be added to the amounts appropriated under Article 5, line 90, Salaries for the purpose of funding and implementing the cost item of a collective bargaining agreement between the Hanson Water Department and the AFSCME Local-1700 Water Union for the period beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners

Explanation: This is to fund the line for the settlement of the Water Department's FY13 Union contract.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Michael Duffy

Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$13,000 from the amounts appropriated under Article 5, Line 91, Expenses of the May 2012 Annual Town Meeting, to be added to the amounts appropriated to Article 5, Line 90, Salaries for the purpose of funding and implementing the cost item of a collective bargaining agreement between the Hanson Water Department and the AFSCME Local 1700 Water Union for the period beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$20,000 from Water Surplus for a water rate study, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners

Explanation: This study will review existing rates to ensure that the operations and maintenance as well as the capital

improvement needs of the Department can be adequately funded. Water service fees and charges will also be reviewed.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Michael Duffy
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$20,000 from Water Surplus for a water study.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$16,500.00 from Free Cash and/or transfer from the Stabilization Fund to purchase new radios for the Highway Department to comply with the Federal Communications Commission Law to have all Municipal radios operate on a narrow band frequency, or take any other action in relation thereto:

Proposed by the Highway Surveyor

Explanation: The law requires municipal radios operate on a narrow band frequency. Radios which cannot be narrow banded must be replaced. These funds will be used to purchase new radio equipment and the narrow band frequency. This is an unfunded Federal mandate.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Robert Brown
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer a sum of \$16,500 from Free Cash to purchase new radios for the Highway Department to comply with the Federal Communications Commission Law as printed in the warrant.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$3,000.00 from Free Cash and/or transfer from the Stabilization Fund to be added to the amounts appropriated in Article 5, Line 98, Street Signs & Lines of the May 1 2012 Annual Town Meeting or take any other action in relation thereto:

Proposed by the Highway Surveyor

Explanation: Due to the price increase in asphalt based traffic paint and the increase in aluminum and steel the budget funds have been depleted with nine months remaining in the fiscal year.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Robert Brown
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer a sum of \$3,000 from Free Cash to be added to the amounts appropriated in Article 5, Line 98, Street Signs & Lines of the May 2012 Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash or appropriate from available funds, the sum of \$30,000.00 to be expended under the direction of the Highway Surveyor for the purpose of complying with the EPA's 2012 MS4 (Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System) General Permit or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Highway Surveyor

Explanation: This article will add funding required for consultant assistance in preparing workshops, Storm Water Planning, regulatory review, financial advocacy (loans/grants) and preliminary culvert mapping, to address the Environmental Protection Agency requirements for Phase II Storm Water Management, which is a Federal Mandate.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Robert Brown
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer a sum of \$30,000 from Free Cash to be expended under the direction of the Highway Surveyor for the purpose of complying with the EPA's 2012 MS4 (Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System) General Permit.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash for the future purchase of a new sander for the Highway Department or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Highway Surveyor

Explanation: These funds will be used to re-place the 1994 International Dump/Sanding Truck.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Robert Brown
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$60,000 from Free Cash for the future purchase of a new Heavy Sander & Plow Truck for the Highway Department.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$2,000 from the Historic Resource Reserve Community Preservation Fund balance to be used by the Hanson Historical Society to commission the construction of a digital book scanner. This book scanner will be used by the Hanson Historical Society to digitize the historical books and documents in its collection and will also be available for other town departments to use or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Community Preservation Comm.

Explanation: The majority of the documents and books in the Hanson Historical Society's collection are in a rapid state of deterioration threatening the ability for future generations to enjoy and access them. This book/document scanner, once built, would allow for the easy and reliable conversion of these documents into digital formats. The Town Clerk, Town Assessors, and Library also have historical documents/books that would benefit from digitization. Once converted, rare manuscripts, books, and documents held by the town of Hanson could be easily disseminated and access to these resources increased without subjecting them to constant wear and risk. This technology has been used successfully by museums and libraries.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Laura Kemmett
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to appropriate \$2,000 from the Historic Resource Reserve Community Preservation Fund Balance to be used by the Hanson Historical Society to commission the construction of a digital book scanner as printed in the warrant.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free cash to be added to Stabilization or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

Explanation: These funds will be used to increase Stabilization as recommended by the Auditor and the Bonding Company in an effort to maintain a positive bond rating.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: James Egan
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, unanimous to transfer \$40,000 from Free Cash to be added to Stabilization.

ARTICLE 17: To see if special town meeting will amend the current Septic Loan Program from a 5% loan interest rate to 2% loan interest rate.

Proposed by the Board of Health

Explanation: The town of Hanson, as well as communities throughout the Commonwealth, offer low interest rate septic repair/installation loans to members of their respective communities to encourage and facilitate the upgrading of septic systems to comply with Title V DEP regulations without putting an onerous financial burden on the homeowner. Currently the Town of Hanson has a loan return rate that ranges between 3% and 5%. The Hanson Board of Health is asking Town Meeting to reduce the interest rate of the Septic Loan Program to 2% to comply with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law.

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting

Motion: Tom Constantine

Second: Stephen Amico

Motion amended by Tom Constantine and Seconded by Stephen Amico as follows: I move that the Town amend the current Septic Loan Program to charge an interest rate of 2% above the interest chargeable to the Town.

VOTED Aye, voice to the amendment and Aye voice to amend the current Septic Loan Program to charge an interest rate of 2% above the interest chargeable to the Town.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a contract for the disposal of the Town's solid waste for a period not to exceed ten (10) years commencing on January 1, 2015, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deem to be in the best interests of the Town, which contract may include a provision that the Town shall not be exempt from liability for the payment of contract sums in future fiscal years; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The current contract for solid waste disposal will expire in 2014. For the last several years the Town has been working with other Tier 1 communities to negotiate a new contract.

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting

Motion: David Soper

Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a contract for the disposal of the Town's solid waste for a period not to exceed ten (10) years commencing on January 1, 2015 as printed in the warrant.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to transfer to the care and custody of the Conservation Commission, a parcel of land located at the Plymouth County Hospital more specifically described as "Lot 3" on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Hanson, Massachusetts, owned by the Town of Hanson Dated June 12, 2008 prepared by Land Planning, Inc." and recorded with the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds as Plan #376 of 2008 for the purpose of open space, passive recreation and wildlife habitat protection; and further to name this parcel "Bonney Hill Meadows Conservation Area", or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Hanson Conservation Commission
And Open Space Committee

Explanation: This piece of the Plymouth County Hospital property located on the eastern slope of Bonney Hill has been identified by the Plymouth County Hospital Reuse Committee as being poorly suited for development due to its long, narrow shape, wetlands, and lack of road frontage. Protecting this resource is a major goal of the town's state-approved Open Space and Recreation Plan as there are currently scenic trails on this property with the potential to add more. In addition, conservation of this land would allow relocation of a half-mile of the Bay Circuit Trail.

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting

Motion: Phil Clemons

Second: James Egan

VOTED Aye 54, Nay 28 (2/3 vote not archived) to vote to transfer to the care and custody of the Conservation Commission, a parcel of land located at the Plymouth County Hospital more specifically described as "Lot 3" on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Hanson, Massachusetts, owned by the Town of Hanson Dated June 12, 2008 prepared by Land Planning, Inc." and recorded with the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds as Plan #376 of 2008 for the purpose of open space, passive recreation and wildlife habitat protection; and further to name this parcel "Bonney Hill Meadows Conservation Area".

Quorum count was requested at 9:00 P.M. with the count of only 87 registered voters in the Town Meeting, At 9:05 P.M. the Moderator called the Meeting recessed until 7:30 P.M. Tuesday, October 2, 2012 in the auditorium of the Hanson Middle School

Special Town Meeting (Second Session)
October 2, 2012

Moderator Sean J. Kealy called the meeting to order at 7:33 P.M. in the auditorium of the Middle School and called a brief recess while waiting for voters to come in to make a quorum. The meeting was dissolved at 7:45pm with a quorum not reached with only 59 registered voters in the Town Meeting.

A true copy of the vote, Attest:

Elizabeth Sloan, CMC
Town Clerk