

Tuesday, December 7, 2021
Hanson Board of Selectmen
Selectmen's meeting room, Town Hall
Open Session

Members Present: James Hickey, Kenny Mitchell, Matthew Dyer, Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett,
Joseph Weeks
Others Present: Lisa Green, Town Administrator; [name], Town Clerk

I CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dyer called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then asked for a moment of silence to honor and remember those lost in the attack on Pearl Harbor as this meeting occurred on the 80th anniversary of the event. After the moment of silence, Chairman Dyer informed the audience that the Patriotic Observance Committee would be an ideal outlet for citizens who want to be involved with the town to honor those who have served us. For further information, residents are urged to contact the Town's Veteran Agent, Tim White.

Mr. Hickey informed the audience that the gala for the 200th Anniversary Committee would be held on Saturday, December 18th.

II PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mr. Weeks read the public announcements and upcoming meetings.

III NEW BUSINESS

Recognize New Town of Hanson Executive Assistant

Chairman Dyer wanted to recognize Lucia Silveira, Hanson's new Executive Assistant for the Board of Selectmen's office. Lucia will be joining the office at the start of 2022, and Chairman Dyer reiterated that the Town will be lucky to have her working with them.

Revote the 2020 Precinct District

It was explained that new districts had to be drawn using an old town census from 2010 as the most recent census had been delayed due to COVID-19. A representative from [department] used a map of the Town to demonstrate the boundaries of the new precincts to the Board and the audience.

Precinct 1: Beginning at the point of intersection at the Whitman-Hanson town line and the East Bridgewater town line, and proceeding easterly along the Whitman-Hanson town line to the Rockland-Hanson town line, and proceeding easterly along the Rockland-Hanson town line to the Hanover-Hanson town line, and proceeding easterly along the Hanover-Hanson town line to Winter Street, and proceeding southerly along Winter Street to Brook Street, and proceeding easterly along Brook Street to Indian Head Brook, and proceeding southerly along Indian Head Brook to [street name] Drive, and proceeding westerly along [street name] Drive to [street name], and proceeding westerly along [street name] to High Street, and proceeding southerly along High Street to [street name], and proceeding westerly along [street name] to West Washington Street, and proceeding westerly along West Washington Street to the East Bridgewater-Hanson town line, and proceeding northerly along the East Bridgewater-Hanson town line to the original point of intersection at the Whitman-Hanson town line.

Precinct 2: Beginning at the point of intersection of shoreline and Indian Head Brook, and proceeding northerly along shoreline to Indian Head Brook, and proceeding northerly along Indian Head Brook to Liberty Street, and proceeding easterly along Liberty Street to [street name] Drive, and proceeding northerly along [street name] Drive to Indian Head Brook, and proceeding along northerly along Indian Head Brook to Brooks Street, and proceeding westerly along Brooks Street to Winter Street, and proceeding northerly along Winter Street to the Hanover-Hanson town line, and proceeding easterly along the Hanover-Hanson town line to the Pembroke-Hanson town line, and proceeding southerly along the Pembroke-Hanson town line to Union Street, and proceeding southerly along Union Street to [street name] and proceeding northerly along [street name] to Indian Head Street, and proceeding northerly along Indian Head Street to Indian Head Brook, and proceeding southerly along Indian Head Brook to the original point of intersection.

Precinct 3: Beginning at the point of intersection of West Washington Street and the East Bridgewater-Hanson town line, and proceeding northerly along West Washington Street to Home Street, and proceeding southerly along Home Street to High Street, and proceeding northerly from High Street to Liberty Street, and proceeding easterly along Liberty Street to Indian Head Brook, and proceeding southerly along Indian Head Brook to shoreline, and proceeding southerly along shoreline to Indian Head Brook, and proceeding southerly along Indian Head Brook to Indian Head Street, and proceeding southerly along Indian Head Street to Monponsett Street, and proceeding southerly along Monponsett Street to Union Street, and proceeding northerly along Union Street to the Pembroke-Hanson town line, and proceeding southerly from the Pembroke-Hanson town line to the Halifax-Hanson town line, and proceeding westerly along the Halifax-Hanson town line to the East Bridgewater-Hanson town line, and proceeding northerly along the East Bridgewater-Hanson town line to the original point of intersection.

To summarize, Precincts 1 and 3 will remain the same while there is a modification to Precinct 2.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to approve the precincts as described above. ***Voted 5 - 0***

Discussion of the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Audit

Ms. Green reminded the Board that back in January of 2020, both Whitman and Hanson agreed to post a bid for an audit for the financial operations of the WHRSD. After a bid was posted, the Town unfortunately only received a response from one company. In the year and a half since the primary decision, the Town of Hanson had decided to undergo a deregionalization study during which the audit was put on hold until now.

Ms. Green explained that the original company, Team TMS, who had put in the bid initially for the audit had also been the company to conduct the deregionalization study. She has since been in contact with this company and they agreed to honor the price they proposed in March of 2020 for the audit. While Ms. Green offered the suggestion to put out another bid like Whitman had recently discussed, she also reminded the Board that the last time they put out a bid for this project they had only received one response, and they could experience difficulties in this process.

Chairman Dyer opened the discussion to the Board, and he added that he would recommend moving forward with the initial company for the audit as funds had already been allotted for this specific amount and he didn't want to risk putting this off further. Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett voiced her concern over several elements of the idea of moving forward with Team TMS. Some of these concerns included that they should be making this decision unilaterally with Whitman as the audit

involves them, and that she felt insecure in their potential hasty decision to use the same company given their experience thus far.

After lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of the situation, Chairman Dyer ultimately decided to table the discussion to the following week to allow for more time to gather information.

Discuss and potentially vote Sheila Morris to the Recreation Commission

Ms. Morris spoke briefly to the Board about her history as a resident in Hanson and her desire to join the Recreation Commission. While she had previously been appointed to the Commission, she unfortunately did not get to experience the position before the Commission fell dormant.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to appoint Sheila Morris to the Recreation Commission. **Voted 5 - 0**

In discussion following the motion, Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett reiterated that they should revisit the vacancies in different committees after they have held their upcoming planning meeting to avoid any confusion with potential merging of different committees.

PTO Polar Plunge

Allison Dillon, representative from the Hanson PTO, informed the Board that the PTO is looking to host a Polar Plunge on February 6th, 2022. While this event had not been held the previous year due to COVID-19, the event had previously been very successful and the PTO hopes to bring this back.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to approve the PTO's request to hold the Polar Plunge at Camp Kiwanee on February 6, 2022 with a back up date of February 13, 2022. **Voted 5 - 0**

Vote to approve multiple license renewals

Ms. Green confirmed that all those included in the list for license renewals were up to date on relevant information like taxes and while there had been no violations brought to her attention thus far for any of the renewal applicants, she had not yet heard from departments like the Building Inspector. Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett suggested moving forward with all the licenses except the auto-related licenses to allow for time for the Building Inspector's information.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to hold the license renewals for auto-related licenses and all those who had not submitted an application before December 7, 2021, and to approve all other license renewal requests. **Voted 5 - 0**

Rescind the vote from November 9, 2021 naming Lisa Green as the ARPA representative and authorized reporter

Ms. Green clarified that they had since learned that she could not serve as both the representative and the reporter, and normally the Town Accountant serves as the reporter.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to rescind the vote from November 9, 2021 naming Lisa Green as the ARPA representative and authorized reporter. **Voted 5 - 0**

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to name Todd Hassett, Town Accountant, as the ARPA authorized reporter to prepare and enter information into the Plymouth

County American Rescue Plan Portal in support of 1 or more applications to Plymouth County for the ARPA grants. ***Voted 5 - 0***

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to appoint Lisa Green, Town Administrator, as authorized ARPA representative to approve, finalize, and submit on behalf of the Town of Hanson any such ARPA grant applications and to make all representation certifications required to be made on behalf of the Town to complete each application with approval, representations, and certifications to be evidence by the signature of Ms. Lisa Green, Town Administrator, on such an application. And if any such ARPA grant is awarded, Lisa Green, Town Administrator, will be the recipient of such grant on behalf of the town. ***Voted 5 - 0***

Discuss Town holiday hours for Christmas and New Year's Day

Considering union negotiations, Chairman Dyer wanted to discuss these days further and deferred to Ms. Green for more input.

Ms. Green explained that due to the fact that the two holidays fall on Saturdays, and that there is a Wage and Personnel meeting that meets on Friday nights, there is a conflict in the time required to close in order to honor a holiday on a Saturday. She offered that the Board either close Thursday at noon to accommodate for the required day off but still allow for the Wage and Personnel meeting or they can close the following Monday, but she opened discussion to the Board for the final decision. The Board decided to close the Thursday before Christmas to honor the holiday.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to close the Town Hall the Thursday and Friday before Christmas to honor the Saturday holiday. ***Voted 5 - 0***

Mr. Hickey brought the discussion back to the designated days off to honor Christmas and noted that they had not accounted for the 4 floater hours clerical workers are entitled to in their contract. After more discussion, Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett suggested that the Town Hall still close Thursday and Friday before Christmas, and the clerical workers decide at their leisure when to use the 4 floater hours.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to amend the previous motion to the following: department heads will work half a day on Thursday, and they will not work on Friday. Clerical workers will take the 4 floater hours and use them at their leisure before the end of the fiscal year in compensation for Christmas Eve. ***Voted 5 - 0***

In regard to the New Year's holiday that falls on a Saturday, the Board decided to close the Thursday and Friday before New Years Day given there are no contractual barriers.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to close the Town Hall the Thursday before New Years Day to honor the Saturday holiday, and department heads will work a half day on Friday before New Years Day. ***Voted 5 - 0***

The Board decided to table the discussion to the following week to allow for more time to check with union obligations for the clerical employees.

Resignations

Brian Smith - Recreation Committee

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett with regret, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to recognize the resignation of Brian Smith from the Recreation Committee. **Voted 5 - 0**

Joan [last name] - Recreation Committee

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell with regret, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to recognize Joan [last name] resignation from the Recreation Committee. **Voted 5 - 0**

Brian [last name] - Recreation Committee

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell with regret, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recognize Brian [last name] resignation from the Recreation Committee. **Voted 5 - 0**

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett asked that in the future the Board reaches out to past and present members of committees for feedback on the support they are providing, especially once seeing mass resignations like this from an individual committee.

Accept Donations

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to accept a gift of \$35 from Webster Printing to the Council on Aging. **Voted 5 - 0**

Approve meeting minutes

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to approve meeting minutes for the following meetings: 6/29/21, 9/13/21, and 9/16/21 with amendments specified. **Voted 4 - 0 - 1**

Appointments

Ryan Kelly - Skilled Laborer for Highway Department

Ms. Green explained that Mr. Kelly comes to the Town with experience with asphalt which will be beneficial, and she also noted that this appointment will finally result in a fully staffed Highway Department.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to approve the appointment detailed above. **Voted 5 - 0**

Miranda Mahoney - Treasurer/Collector Municipal Assistant (January 4, 2022)

Ms. Green explained that herself and the Treasurer/Collector interviewed a variety of candidates and the final decision was made to bring Miranda Mahoney on board to the office.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to approve the above detailed appointment. **Voted 5 - 0**

IV

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Ms. Green informed the Board on recent events, as follows:

1. They are starting the budget process for the FY23 budget. The department heads are currently gathering their budgets to give to the Town Accountant who will assemble the budget with Ms. Green for FY23.
2. Through a grant in assistance with the Old Colony Planning Council, they were able to assemble the Green Communities Annual Report which is required of all communities. This grant was submitted by the deadline of December 3, 2021 and this will qualify Hanson to be eligible for the next round of grants. They have also begun the different

projects previously discussed like the LED light upgrade at the middle school and the Water Department, and more.

3. Ms. Green wanted to provide an update to the Town given the recent spike in COVID cases, and she reported that there had been 21 new cases in the town. She asked that the town continue to be cautious and she noted that they would keep the town updated.
4. Ms. Green is also working on collecting information on the circuit breaker matter as mentioned by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett.
5. Ms. Green thanked the Executive Assistant from the Planning Board who had been helping her fulfill all the responsibilities of the Selectmen's office as they are currently short-staffed. She also thanked the department heads for their help during this time with all these projects.

V

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to enter Executive Session, not to return to Open Session, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open body may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the Chair so declares to wit. Town Administrator. ***Voted 5 - 0***

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Guindon
Minutes Clerk