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Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Hanson Board of Selectmen

Selectmen's meeting room, Town Hall

Open Session

2022 APR 13 A 8:55

Members Present: Kenny Mitchell, Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Joseph Weeks, James Hickey
Members Absent: Matthew Dyer
Others Present: Lisa Green, Town Administrator

I CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Mitchell 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. Mr. Hickey also spoke briefly at the upcoming Gala.

III ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to adjourn Open Session and convene in Executive Session, to return to Open Session, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation with non-union personnel, or to conduct collective bargaining session or contract negotiations with non-union personnel pursuant to M.G.L c30a section 21 to wit: Town Administrator and Police Chief, to discuss with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of a public body and the Chair so declares to wit: Katie [LAST NAME]. ***Roll call vote Mr. Hickey aye, Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Mitchell aye. Voted 4 - 0.***

IV NEW BUSINESS

Announce amendment to the Police Chief's salary and amended agreement for salary increase for Town Administrator

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett explained that they had increased the Police Chief's salary by 2% effective July 1, 2021, and they had also voted to give Juneteenth as a holiday in the contract. These amendments had already been budgeted and voted on at the last Town Meeting, but the Chief's specific contract hadn't yet been addressed.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to make the above described amendments to Chief Miksch's contract. ***Voted 4 - 0***

Mr. Mitchell explained that they had agreed upon a salary increase for the Town Administrator effective November 1, 2021, and they had also agreed to buy back 5 days of Ms. Green's vacation time. He stated that the Board had voted on these amendments and the job title change on October 19, 2021, however they had not been able to address it until now.

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to make the above described amendments to the contract of the Town Administrator, Lisa Green. ***Voted 4 - 0***

Good Energy Presentation, Patrick Roche Aggregate Energy Saving Plan Public Review Process

The Chairman of the Energy Commission first explained that the decision to authorize the aggregation was voted on at Town Meeting, and since then they have partnered with Good Energy as the aggregation consultant and have begun to draft a version of the Aggregation Plan.

Patrick Roche then described what would be coming next in this process. He explained that he worked closely with people like Ms. Green to develop a plan that was modeled after the best practices observed in the surrounding areas, and the plan was now ready for a public hearing. After receiving feedback, Mr. Roche explained that they would then ask the Board of Selectmen to approve the plan before sending it to the next stages of review of the state's Department of Public Utilities.

The next step following the approval of both the Board of Selectmen and the Dept. of Public Utilities include Hanson opting to go out to bid for electricity for the community, however Mr. Roche explained that Hanson would not be under obligation to continue with the plan following the required approvals.

Mr. Roche began his update on the draft by reminding the Board of the goals for the project including expanding consumer choice for electricity supply, providing advantageous and predictable rates, and more.

The four product options under this plan include Hanson Standard for automatic enrollment, or Hanson Basic; Hanson 50; or Hanson Plus as optional products. Hanson Standard adds 10% MA Class I RECs, Hanson Basic meets the State standards for renewable energy, Hanson 50 matches 50% of consumption with MA Class I RECs, and Hanson Plus matches 100% of consumption with MA Class I RECs.

At least 30 days before the start of the program, each customer eligible for automatic enrollment will receive 2 pieces of mail: a postcard introducing the new Town program and the date of a community meeting to learn more, and a letter with all the program details and directions for how to opt out via phone, web, or pre-paid mailer. They will also provide ample opportunity to spread awareness on the program and to answer questions the community may have.

In regard to next steps, Mr. Roche explained that they would open the public review period on 12/14, provide a reminder to the community at the 1/4 Board of Selectmen meeting, and hold a public hearing at the 1/25 Board of Selectmen meeting. Mr. Roche then explained that the draft plan would most likely spend at least a year with the Dept. of Public Utilities before the Town could move forward as they are not required to review the draft in a specific time frame. Launch for this program is not anticipated until the spring/summer of 2023.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to approve the drafted timeline as presented by Good Energy for the public review period. *Voted 4 - 0*

IT Update - security badges for Town Hall employees for entry purposes, Town Hall identification and security cameras outside of Town Hall

Steve Moberg, IT Director, informed the Board that they had purchased the printer and supplies for the badges but were looking for approval before moving forward with the implementation of this security measure.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to support the addition of the ID badges for Town Hall employees. *Voted 4 - 0*

Camp Kiwanee discussion on event rate increases

A representative from Camp Kiwanee explained that it had been upwards of 10 years since Camp Kiwanee had increased or updated their event rates, and she prepared a short presentation that demonstrated the current rates and where the camp would be if they did not make a change.

She explained that with the current set rates, Camp Kiwanee would not reach their income goal of \$350,000 for FY24 (FY23 is abnormal given the rescheduled events due to the pandemic). She proposed that they increase the cost of a wedding to \$7,500 and increase the camping aspect from \$500 to \$1,000. While the Board was concerned with the price increase affecting the amount of events Camp Kiwanee would book, she explained that the rate is still comparable to other similar event sites in the area and would likely not affect these numbers. She also added that they would like to start charging a Kitchen fee that would go to the caterer as events typically use their facilities.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to approve the above described event rate increases for Camp Kiwanee. *Voted 4 - 0*

Vote to approve the purchase of 485 Winter Street, Hanson

Mr. Clemmens of the Conservation Commission spoke briefly to the Board about the conservation property at 485 Winter Street and he outlined each approval this purchase had received from different committees and commissions.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to approve the purchase of 485 Winter Street, Hanson. *Voted 4 - 0*

Audit Update

Ms. Green informed the Board that while the Whitman Board of Selectmen did not discuss the audit at their previous meeting, she had reached out to the Chairman of their Board to emphasize Hanson's desire to go out to bid for the audit and the Chairman agreed. The next steps would include the Board finalizing their decision and going out to bid for this audit, and Ms. Green also agreed to discuss a revision of the bid to include the different pools of funds available through COVID relief funds.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to rebid the audit. *Voted 4 - 0*

Town Hall holiday schedule - Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day

Ms. Green informed the Board that the Union had voted to reject the Board's offer for the holiday schedule. The new proposal states that the Town Hall will be open on December 23 (which had previously been voted to close on that date by the Board), and the Union has opted for an 8 hour floater to accommodate for the weekend holidays.

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to rescind the holiday schedule that the Board had voted on at the previous meeting and to adhere to the Union contract. *Voted 4 - 0*

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to give Union employees 2.5 days worth of floaters to be used at their discretion. *Voted 4 - 0*

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to close Town Hall on December 24, 2021.
Voted 4 - 0

Appointments

Laura Brown - Esquire to proceed with Public Auction on 62 Ocean Ave. and 69 Wood Street.

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to approve the above listed appointment. ***Voted 4 - 0***

One-day Liquor Licenses

June 4 - wedding

June 12 - wedding

August 28 - wedding

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to approve the above listed One-day Liquor Licenses. ***Voted 4 - 0***

V

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

1. Ms. Green recently learned that the boarding up of Light Control buildings would be starting December 15, 2021.
2. There are 120 COVID cases in the Town of Hanson which was a significant increase from the 21 cases the previous week, and Ms. Green encouraged everyone to continue masking and social distancing to reduce the spread.
3. Ms. Green lastly wanted to wish the town happy holidays and a happy new year.

VI

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to adjourn to the Wage and Personnel meeting. ***Voted 4 - 0***

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Guindon
Minutes Clerk