

***Hanson Board of Selectmen
Board of Selectmen's meeting room, Hanson Town Hall***

Tuesday, January 7, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Regular meeting

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Kenny Mitchell, Matt Dyer, Jim Hickey, Wes Blauss, Board of Selectmen; Town Administrator John Stanbrook & family; Interim Town Administrator Merry Marini; Executive Assistant Greer Getzen; Police Chief Mike Miksch; Fire Chief Jerry Thompson; Members of the Hanson Police and Fire Departments; Town Clerk Beth Sloan; Assessor Lee Gamache; Treasurer/Collector Jeanne Sullivan; Highway Director Matt Cahill; Conservation Commission Chairman Phil Clemons; Residents Jane Durante, Corinne Cafardo, and Catherine Coakley; Carol Brewster, Whitman-Hanson Cable Access T.V.

I CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m., Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Blauss read the public announcements and upcoming meeting dates.

II NEW BUSINESS

Official Swearing in of Town Administrator John Stanbrook

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett said that after an exhaustive search for a Town Administrator as the Board lays the foundation for the future of Hanson, she was very pleased to announce that John Stanbrook has been selected and gave him a warm welcome. Mr. Stanbrook comes highly qualified, having mostly recently served as a Finance Director, Assistant Town Manager and Interim Town Manager for the town of Mansfield.

Town Clerk Beth Sloan formally swore Mr. Stanbrook in, after which the Board took a brief recess for a meet and greet with the new Town Administrator, his wife, son and daughter.

Acknowledgement of Public Safety for the New Year's Eve Maquan Pond water rescue

Chairman FitzGerald offered a heartfelt thank you on behalf of the Board to the many Hanson Firefighters and Police Officers in attendance this evening for their outstanding service to the Town when they faced a life-or-death situation where two individuals were rescued from the icy waters of Maquan Pond after capsizing a kayak on New Year's Eve.

Fire Chief Jerome Thompson read the following statement:

“At 22:35 on December 31, 2019, the Hanson Emergency Communications Center received a report of people yelling from the area of the water on Maquan Pond. Crews arrived on scene to find two male parties approximately 100 yards offshore in an open water area holding on to a capsized vessel. Firefighters in survival suits deployed an ice rescue sled and were able to reach the parties that were in the cold water for an unknown amount of time. The combination of ice and open water made this rescue difficult. The coordinated effort of the fire and police personnel on scene to pull the firefighters and victims to shore contributed to this positive outcome. Both men were transported to South Shore Hospital for exposure by Hanover and Pembroke ambulances. A Whitman ambulance was called to standby and evaluate the

firefighters that performed the rescue. The Fire Department was assisted at the scene by Hanson Police.”

Chief Thompson told the Board that this incident was a true team effort of dispatch, the police and fire departments in a dire situation, as well as medical personnel from other towns because of mutual aid agreements the Town has in place.

Mr. Mitchell expressed his appreciation, having listened to the entire incident as it unfolded over a scanner, and said he was very impressed with how well everyone worked together.

Open May Special & Annual Town Meeting Warrants

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Dyer to open the 2020 Annual and Special Town Meeting warrants, with articles due back to the Selectmen’s office by March 13th, and the warrant closing on March 17th. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Bay Circuit Trail discussion

Mr. Dyer gave a presentation this evening tonight related to the Final Plymouth County Hospital Reuse Committee’s (FPCHRC) request for the Selectmen’s permission to relocate approximately one mile of the Bay Circuit Trail. They would like to have engineering drawings prepared to illustrate a potential recreational trail route around the eastern perimeter of a proposed park at the old hospital site as an integral feature of the park as well as taking those transiting the route off busy roadways (High Street) beginning at Pierce Avenue and into a woods-and-meadow setting, terminating in forested wetlands near Bonney Hill Lane. To obtain funding for this project, a grant application must be submitted to Mass Trails along with a letter of support in February.

In light of the fact that there is an existing 2002 easement agreement allowing a 10-foot-wide path along Lot 3 on Anne Marie Lane would which become part of the proposed trail, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett asked Mr. Dyer to make sure the FPCHRC engages the neighbors at that location about their plans to use this easement. Phil Clemons of the FPCHRC told her that there are complementary grant opportunities for the future trail work.

Mr. Hickey asked if the proposed trail could interfere with the future potential installation of a solar park. Mr. Dyer explained that the trail would be pushed out to the perimeter of the former hospital site and would not present a problem.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey to authorize Mr. Stanbrook to draft a letter of support for this project on behalf of the Selectmen. ***Voted 5 - 0***

***2020 Annual License Renewals – Upscale Autos & Cappellini Collision (Class II)
and Hanson Manor (Lodging House)***

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey to approve the 2020 Class II licenses for Upscale Autos and Cappellini Collision. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Lodging House license approval for Hanson Manor will be rescheduled to a future Selectmen’s meeting after all required paperwork is received.

Right of First Refusal – Dunham Farm Condominiums, 902 Main Street, Unit 6

Mrs. Marini asked the Board to act on the Town's 30-day Right of First Refusal to purchase an affordable unit located at Dunham Farms, 902 Main Street, Unit #6. If the Board waives its right to purchase the property, the Hanson Housing Authority, which serves as the monitoring agent, will be notified, and the owner and the Housing Authority can move forward to find a qualified purchaser for the affordable unit.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey to waive the Town's right of first refusal on this unit. ***Voted 5 - 0***

Appointments/Resignations

Heidi Baacke, Dighton – Administrative Assistant to the Planning Board

Mrs. Marini reported that she, the Town Planner and the Chairman of the Planning Board recently interviewed the two applicants for the Administrative Assistant to the Planning Board, both of whom were well qualified. She is recommending Heidi Baacke, who has extensive relevant experience, having served on Dighton's Planning Board, Open Space Committee and Community Preservation Committee.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey to appoint Heidi Baacke as Administrative Assistant to the Planning Board subject to background and CORI checks.
Voted 5 - 0

John Stanbrook:

Records Access Officer – No Expiration
ADA Coordinator – 6/30/23
Economic Development Committee – 6/30/23
Disabilities Committee – 6/30/23
Oldham Pond Committee - 6/30/23

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey to appoint John Stanbrook as Records Access Officer (no expiration date), and as ADA Coordinator, and to the Economic Development, Disabilities and Oldham Pond Committees to expire 6/30/23.
Voted 5 - 0

Matthew Cahill –

Drainage Committee – 6/30/21
Highway Building Committee 6/30/21
Parks & Fields Commission 6/30/22
Trench Inspector 6/30/23
Records Access Officer – No Expiration

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey to appoint Matthew Cahill as Records Access Officer (no expiration date), Trench Inspector (expiration date 6/30/23), to the Parks and Fields Commission (expiration date 6/30/22) and to the Drainage and Highway Building Committees to expire 6/30/21.
Voted 5 - 0

III OLD BUSINESS

Discuss School Assessment matter with Town counsel

Chairman Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett began discussions regarding the 2021 school budget. She discussed her interest in having an audit into where costs are apportioned into the budget. An audit would investigate the needs of the school as well as the financial position of the town. The Hanson Board of Selectmen followed by having a discussion with Kate about this and what can be done following an audit.

The Chairman discussed how the school committee has voted to use the statutory method to determine the budget. The Whitman Board of Selectmen is also in favor of using the statutory method. However, there is still a regional agreement in place that has not yet been terminated. Knowing that there is still a regional agreement, the Chairman would have preferred there to be negotiations opened rather than these votes approving the statutory method.

The Chairman wanted an explanation of what options were available. Kate followed this request by explaining the process of approving the school budget. First, the school committee submits a budget and presents it to both town meetings. The options for the selectmen are to approve it or reject it. If it is rejected, other town meetings can be called. However, it is important to keep the July 1st deadline in mind. If an agreement on the budget is not made by July 1st, automatically there is a 1/12 budget. This takes last year's budget and breaks it up into 12 parts. This is known as the statutory method. It is usually a smaller budget than what is wanted. Then, a big tent meeting happens between both towns. Under these circumstances, if a budget is not approved by December 1st, the statutory method continues by having the Massachusetts Department of Education taking charge of the schools.

There is concern over the use of the statutory method because under this process, the state would determine the budget by looking at the wealth of the town and other factors. It would not be based on per pupil. Therefore, under the statutory method, there is concern over there not being enough funding to cover all necessary services.

IV TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

***Town Administrator's Report
January 7, 2020***

Happy New Year to All

Personnel Matters:

Matt Cahill started as the new Highway Director on Thursday, January 2nd – A huge thank you to Curt MacLean serving as interim Highway Director.

Dori Jamison started today as the Recreation Administrative Assistant.

New Town Administrator John Stanbrook started – Yay! My job is complete!!

Meetings:

Annual MMA Meeting – If the Chairman doesn't attend the MMA Annual Meeting, then the Board should appoint Mr. Dyer as the Town's designee to vote at the meeting.

Wage & Personnel – Departments with Wage & Personnel staff should forward any requests by this Thursday to be on the agenda for next week's Wage & Personnel meeting.

The Cell Tower hearing was continued to tonight.

Miscellaneous

The Chapter 90 notice has been received. Hanson will receive \$353,909 plus an additional \$32,174 as a result of new legislation. Matt Cahill has received a copy of the notice.

Sargent property – The purchase of this property is completed. Mrs. Marini recorded the deed last Friday.

0 Liberty Street – The RFP has been reviewed by Town Counsel. It will be in the Central Register tomorrow. Copies are available at the Selectmen's Office. The deadline for responses is Monday, February 10th at 10:00 a.m.

The Town has received a \$18,000 Hazard Mitigation Plan grant. This is in addition \$6,000 we already received. Deb Petty will be handling the funds.

Indian Head Boiler – The Boiler replacement has been put out to bid. Unfortunately, the project will not be completed in time under the Green Communities Program. It will be installed next year for the next round of Green Communities funds.

Annual Town Reports are due this Friday. All boards, commissions and committees should forward their reports to Greer at ggetzen@hanson-ma.gov.

V ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSES – Camp Kiwanee

Lauren Pomakis, Hanson, January 11th, 6:00-11:00 p.m., Birthday party

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to allow the one-day liquor license for Birthday party at Camp Kiwanee (Laura Pomakis), Hanson, January 11th, 6:00-11:00pm.

Voted 5 - 0

VI COMMITTEE REPORTS

200th Anniversary Committee

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett discussed the gathering of memorabilia for the 200th anniversary celebration on February 22nd at Lakeside Villa. Sales have been brisk. About nearly half of the 200 tickets that are available have been sold. There is a list of events coming up but the very first event is on February 22nd, the 200th Anniversary of Hanson's founding.

Final Plymouth County Hospital Reuse Comm.

Mr. Dyer discussed how the Hanson Board of Selectmen recently approved the Bay Circuit Trail to be put up on the property. A lot of progress had been made in the previous week on drafting where they would want resources to be put up to make it look like an area for play and parking. A meeting is going to be held on January 8th to send these ideas to land planning so that a draft can be sent back to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

Maquan School Reuse Committee / Highway Meeting

Chairman Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett asked when the next meeting with the Maquan School Reuse Committee is. She asked if the RFI has been issued. It will be issued on January 15th. Mr. Mitchell followed by saying that they meet Thursday at 5pm. He has invited John Stanbrook to join him for an hour before the meeting. Then, they will go to the Highway Meeting at 5pm.

VII ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to adjourn the meeting at 8:43pm.

Voted 5 - 0

