

Hanson Board of Selectmen
Board of Selectmen's meeting room, Hanson Town Hall
Tuesday, February 25, 2020
7:00 p.m.
Regular meeting

ATTENDANCE: Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Kenny Mitchell, Jim Hickey, Matt Dyer, Wes Blauss, Board of Selectmen; John Stanbrook, Town Administrator; Greer Getzen, Executive Assistant; Matt Cahill, Highway Director; Bruce Young; Arlene Dias; Don Ellis, Joe Gamache, Joe Campbell, Kevin Cohen, John Kemmett, Planning Board; Marianne Dimasio; Tract Seelye, W-H Express; Maureen Twomey; Dina Amado

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

*(Police Chief business moved to March 17, 2020 Selectmen's agenda)**

Planning Board in joint session with the Board of Selectmen to appoint new Planning Board member to fill vacancy until the May Town Election

Planning Board Chairman Don Ellis introduced Planning Board members John Kemmett, Joe Gamache and Joe Campbell and told the Selectmen that there is one applicant who is interested in filling the vacancy on that 5-member board until the May 16, 2020 Annual Election. Mr. Ellis introduced Mr. Kevin Cohen and asked him to share with both boards why he is interested in this position.

Mr. Cohen said that he grew up in Hanson and returned to Hanson after attending business school. He opened a local pet day care, which he later had to move to a larger location in Hanover as the business grew. He told both boards that he would like to be part of making Hanson a better town.

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Dyer to appoint Kevin Cohen to the Planning Board until the May 16, 2020 Town Election. ***Roll call vote Dyer aye, Mitchell aye, FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Hickey aye, Blauss aye, Ellis aye, Kemmett aye, Campbell aye. Voted 9 - 0***

Highway Director re: Complete Streets

Highway Director Matt Cahill gave the Board of Selectmen a brief update on the Complete Streets project which consists of intersection improvements at Liberty Street and County Road. He has met recently with Environmental Partners to establish hours of operation to keep the construction interference with traffic to a minimum. A conduit has been designed to allow the traffic lights at that intersection to connect to traffic lights (to be replaced during the second Complete Streets) at the intersection of Liberty Street and Winter Street. This will allow coordination of timing of the lights at these locations to improve traffic flow. Crosswalks will be installed at both locations, making foot travel safer for Middle School children.

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Cahill for sharing this information with them.

Marianne Dimascio, Green Hanson re: Community Choice Aggregation

Marianne Dimascio of Green Hanson appeared before the Board this evening to discuss Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). She informed them that CCA is a way for communities to aggregate and switch the electricity of households and small businesses from basic service through National Grid to buying cleaner energy in bulk. This in turn cuts climate pollution.

If the town elects to participate, an energy broker would be engaged to ensure that the town can purchase the amount and mix of energy desired. Electricity would still be distributed and billed through National Grid. At the outset, all households would be converted to CCA, but residents may opt out at any time. The state requires communities with CCA to commit to a minimum of 14% renewable energy, or they can commit to a higher percentage.

Ms. Dimascio explained the process for CCA: Residents would need to be voted affirmatively at Town Meeting to create a support committee to pursue a CCA plan, then engage a broker to create an aggregation plan (at no charge to the Town) which would ultimately be approved by the Board of Selectmen. Once approved, the broker would issue an Invitation to Bids, an electricity supplier is chosen, and the broker publicizes CCA to residents and small businesses and handles all opt out requests. If no plans or energy prices are acceptable, there is no obligation for the Town to proceed. Mr. Dyer said as the Chairman of the Energy Committee, he would be in favor of this initiative, and asked if this would locally grow jobs. Ms. Dimascio answered that it would create more jobs in the Northeast. Mr. Blauss was interested in aggregation to lower costs.

MOTION by Mr. Blauss, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to add an article to the warrant for the Town to consider Community Choice Aggregation. *Voted 5 - 0*

Execute Treasurer/Collector's contract for 7/1/20 – 6/30/21

Mr. Stanbrook told the Board that he has negotiated a one-year contract with Treasurer/Collector Jeanne Sullivan with a 2% increase. All other provisions are unchanged from her current contract.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer to execute the contract between the Town of Hanson and Treasurer/Collector Jeanne Sullivan for July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.
Voted 5 – 0

Approve January donations

MOTION by Mr. Blauss, seconded by Mr. Dyer to approve the donations for January 2020 in the amount of \$201.00. *Voted 5 - 0*

Review Selectmen Proposed Articles

Mr. Stanbrook requested the Board review the proposed articles submitted to date for the upcoming Town Meeting warrant. The recurring articles were identified and clarification on

some the other articles was provided to the Board by Mr. Stanbrook. A list of proposed articles to date is below:

- 1) Proposition 2 ½ Override re: Whitman-Hanson Regional School District*
- 2) Accept MGL Chapter 59 Section 5 Clause 22G ("BRAVE" Act Veterans Exemptions)
- 3) Home Rule Petition Placeholder for Rep. Cutler
- 4) FY21 Annual Budget – all but Recreation, Transfer Station, and Community Preservation
- 5) FY21 Annual Budget – Recreation Enterprise
- 6) FY21 Annual Budget – Transfer Station Enterprise
- 7) FY21 Annual Budget - Community Preservation
- 8) FY21 Treasurer/Collector's Tax Title Account Transfer
- 9) Highway Garage Debt Exclusion
- 10) FY21 Capital Improvement Program Plan Adoption
- 11) FY21 Capital Improvement Program – Town
- 12) FY21 Capital Improvement Program – Whitman-Hanson Regional School District
- 13) Chapter 90 Funds Acceptance
- 14) Highway walk-behind Blower purchase
- 15) Highway Berm repair machine purchase
- 16) Green Hanson Community Energy Aggregation Authorization
- 17) Plymouth County Hospital property improvements
- 18) Mass Trails Matching Grants Funding
- 19) Repave parking lot at 228 High Street
- 20) Stabilization Funding
- 21) Regional Schools Capital Stabilization Funding
- 22) FY21 MGL Chapter 44 53E ½ Revolving Funds limit authorizations
- 23) Planning Board Master Plan Update
- 24) Planning Board Flood Insurance Study By-law Amendments
- 25) Planning Board Correct Zoning By-law Errors
- 26) Change Highway Surveyor to Highway Director in the Town's By-laws
- 27) Amend the Town's Sick Leave By-law
- 28) Amend Marijuana By-law Title
- 29) Adopt the amended Regional High School agreement placeholder

*Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett emphasized that the Board of Selectmen has not determined as of this time whether an override will be needed. This article is a placeholder currently. Mr. Blauss pointed out that if it does get placed on the warrant, it will also appear on the Town Election ballot.

The Chairman also suggested that the Board put a placeholder on the list for energy aggregation even though it is unclear whether residents would realize cost savings if this were to be approved at Town Meeting.

MOTION BY Mr. Blauss, seconded by Mr. Dyer to approve the boilerplate articles on the Annual and Special Town Meeting warrant. **Voted 5 – 0**

MOTION BY Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey to approve the remaining articles. **Voted 5 - 0**

The Board reminded everyone that the deadline for submission of articles is March 17th, and the Board will close the warrants on March 24th.

Requests

Dollars for Scholars request to use Maquan School parking lot on May 2, 2020

MOTION by Mr. Blauss, seconded by Mr. Hickey to allow Dollars for Scholars to use the Maquan School parking lot on May 2, 2020. ***Voted 5 - 0***

First Cast Fishing Derby use of Town Green on September 12th, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

MOTION by Mr. Blauss, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve the use of the Town Green on September 12th from 8:00 a.m. to noon for the First Cast Fishing Derby. ***Voted 5 - 0***

Requests: Camp Kiwanee

Declare doors and metal cots surplus (salvage)

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Dyer to declare doors and metal cots at Camp Kiwanee surplus. ***Voted 5 - 0***

Approve donation of 200 tote bags from Walker-Clay, Inc.

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey to declare the donation of 200 tote bags from Walker-Clay, Inc. ***Voted 5 - 0***

Appointments/Resignations

Dina Amado, 205 South Street - Capital Improvement Committee, exp. 6/30/23

Ms. Amado told the Board that her husband has encouraged her to get involved with the Town as a volunteer for the 25 years. Several years ago she was the secretary for the Hanover Capital Improvement Committee, so she has familiarity with its function.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey to appoint Dina Amado to the Capital Improvement Committee. ***Voted 5 - 0***

III ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSES – Camp Kiwanee

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey to approve the one-day liquor licenses as presented. ***Voted 5 - 0***

IV OLD BUSINESS

U.S. Census Boundary Survey

Mr. Stanbrook reported to the Board that Assessor Lee Gamache has reviewed the boundaries for the Town of Hanson as they are currently recorded with the U.S. Census Bureau and she determined that they are correct. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett signed the survey confirming these boundary lines are accurate.

Town Administrator Goals & Objectives

The Selectmen's goals and objectives for the Town Administrator have been compiled and were presented to the Board for its review. All 25 have been broken down into categories:

Governance; Budget/Finance; Economic Development; Communications and Stakeholder Outreach; Town-wide Improvements; and Other. Mr. Blauss voiced his concern that this number of goals & objectives is overly ambitious, especially given that Mr. Stanbrook is new in his position. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett clarified that these goals and objectives are not only for the Town Administrator but should also be assigned to the various Board members. She asked the other the Selectmen to work with Ms. Getzen on who should be assigned to which item. The remaining goals and objectives would be the responsibility of the Town Administrator in a separate document. The other Board members agreed.

Discuss Override Committee

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett stressed that if an override committee was formed, it is not a foregone conclusion that there will be an override in May. Mr. Mitchell said that it is too early to form such a committee since it is unclear what the Whitman Hanson School Committee will be putting forward as its FY21 operating budget for the district.

The Board of Selectmen and members of the community discussed the concern over the formation of a committee without input and feedback from the public community. While arguably would be important for the town to provide input on the discussion of the potential override, Mr. Blauss and Mr. Hickey both emphasized that the timeframe required for this decision may not allow for the formation of a committee. There will be a plan for a Citizen's Information Panel for some time in March to provide information to the public, and to solicit feedback. This panel would grant citizens the opportunity to weigh in on the decision given information from different resources to appease the concern over the public's input on the decision.

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett suggests that the Override Committee discussion be removed from the agenda prospectively.

V TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Old Business
- 1. A tentative agreement between the Town Council and New Bedford Waste has been reached concerning a potential 6-month contract for recyclables. Town Council is working on this agreement, and it will confirm that the price will remain the same for the rest of the fiscal year.
- 2. The invitation for bid for the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Operation and Comparative Audit has been posted with a due date for responses by March 12th, 2020.
- 3. Mr. Stanbrook spoke to the Town Moderator Sean Kealy about overflow crowd preparations at the annual town meeting. Mr. Kealy confirmed that if another room is needed at the middle school, he will appoint a temporary moderator to oversee that room and to report questions to the main room. Sound and video will have to be set up in this additional room. If there is an even larger crowd than anticipated, then Mr. Kealy suggested holding the meeting at the high school to accommodate everyone. The pair will meet again next month to further discuss details and to plan a strategy.

4. Mr. Stanbrook met with the Zoning Board of Appeals' Chairman to discuss a rundown of where they are with the tower in the lease agreement. Mr. Stanbrook then lists relevant dates of events up to the present.
 5. Regarding the sale of a firetruck, the fire chief has been in contact with two companies concerning the auction of the truck. Only one of the companies has responded to the chief so Mr. Stanbrook gave the chief the go ahead to work with the company that is currently in contact with him. This auction is ready to go with Auctions International and this will be up and running very soon.
- New Business
 1. The town website has been down for the previous few days. The town is not at fault for this, the vendor through which the town runs their website has been down region wide. The town apologizes for any problems resident's have had with the website, and Mr. Stanbrook emphasized that this problem is being resolved outside their control.
 2. Mr. Stanbrook has received the Capital Plan from the Capital Plan Committee and he is working with the committee and the town accountant to go through the list, and he will provide updates moving forward.
 3. Mr. Stanbrook notes that the due date to receive responses to the request for information regarding Maquan School has passed, and they had not received any responses. He will now meet with the town planner to discuss and plan the next steps.
 4. The ADA Self-Assessment bid has been sent out with a due date of March 4th. Mr. Stanbrook thanked the town planner for their diligence is getting the process going with this.
 5. The town auditor's [] has been tentatively scheduled for March 24th to come in and speak and give an overview of the audit.
 6. Mr. Stanbrook attended the bi-sentential gala recently and it was a wonderful event with extreme dedication from the staff of the event, so he applauds their effort in this event.

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett agreed with Mr. Stanbrook in that this event was really well done and that all the members of the board enjoyed their evening at this event. She then continues to detail the next event, a St. Patrick's Day event, and the following event, Hanson Day.

VII COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Dyer reported that they are moving along with the Plymouth County project. The committee will continue to meet to refine and finalize plans, and Mr. Dyer hopes to have more information to offer for the town meeting.

VIII ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Dyer to adjourn. *Vote 5 – 0*

