

*ATTENTION: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED TELEPHONICALLY. AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE MEETING BY LOGGING ON TO THE WHITMANHANSON CABLE ACCESS TV'S YOUTUBE SITE: [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/USER/WHCA9TV](https://www.youtube.com/user/WHCA9TV)

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Executive session/Regular meeting

Attendance: Kenny Mitchell, James Hickey, Wesley Blauss, Matt Dyer, Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Board of Selectmen; John Stanbrook, Town Administrator; Greer Getzen, Executive Assistant; Todd Hassett, Town Accountant; Kate Feodoroff, Town Counsel; Diane Cohen, Recreation Commission

I CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to enter executive session and to reconvene in open session at 6:00 p.m. or upon completion of the executive session. ***Roll call vote Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman Mitchell aye. Voted 5 – 0***

II EXECUTIVE SESSION

To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel, to wit: Fire Local 2713, pursuant to MGL, C. 30A, §21(a)(2)

To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel, to wit: Fire Chief Jerome Thompson, pursuant to MGL, C. 30A, §21(a)(2)
(*Reconvene in open session*)

III Public Announcements & Upcoming Meetings

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett read the public announcements and upcoming meetings.

IV NEW BUSINESS

Recreation Chairman Diane Cohen re: event programming

Diane Cohen spoke about the concerns over the Recreation Department's yoga program and how they were asked to adjust the hours of operation to accommodate for the hours they have caretakers available. She is now waiting on guidance from the Board on how to move forward with a decision like this.

Mr. Dyer explained that he wanted the Board to discuss the potential of raising fees and what that would mean for other programs in the town. He was concerned that by raising the fees of the yoga class they would have to raise the fees of all other programs to maintain a level system.

After discussions concerning the budget and the inability to operate any program in a deficit given the current state of the budget, the Board decided to leave the decision up to the discretion of the Recreation Commission.

Open May 2021 Annual & Special Town Meeting warrants

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to open the May 2021 Annual and Special Town Meeting warrants. ***Roll call vote Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman Mitchell aye. Voted 5 – 0***

MassHousing request for comments on site approval application for Cushing Trails (C.40B)

Kate Feodoroff, a representative from Town Counsel, spoke about the 40B project and what the Board can now do concerning the application. They are now able to open discussion and speak on their concerns, and questions about the project. She recommends that the Board now circulate this information to the other department heads to have better insight in all areas.

Mr. Stanbrook informed the Board that they had received a letter from Mass Housing noting that they have received and are reviewing an application submitted by Cushing Trails LLC. The proposed development will compose of 40 units of home-ownership housing on 9.6 acres of land located on Williams Trail in Hanson. Mass Housing has requested comments from all the department heads concerning this property, and they will also be conducting their own site visits.

FY22 Preliminary budget assumptions discussion

Chairman Mitchell explained to the Board their concerns over the upcoming budget and potential shortfalls they will have. Mr. Stanbrook noted that the budget shortfall will be approximately \$2 million, and there are a lot of different factors contributing to this that were sent out to the Board.

The Town Accountant informed the Board that they are anticipating about \$108,000 from tax revenue from new construction. They are also assuming a level-funded state aid, which may be ambitious, but they will know more once Governor Baker releases his budget in the coming weeks. He also spoke on various other factors that contributed to the budget and noted that the Board members were sent information about these factors.

Discuss forum for future Selectmen's meetings

Chairman Mitchell explained that he thought the Board should operate under Governor Baker's orders until he declares otherwise. Once the restrictions allow for 25 people to gather then they should return to having meetings at the Town Hall under social distancing guidelines as this worked well for the group before. Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett emphasized that each member should be allowed the option to participate remotely, and Chairman Mitchell agreed that members should do what is most comfortable for them.

Accept December donations

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to accept the December 2020 donations. *Roll call vote Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman Mitchell aye. Voted 5 – 0*

Appointments:

Kevin Cohen, Planning Board – Economic Development Committee, exp. 6/30/23

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to approve the appointment of Kevin Cohen to the Planning Board – Economic Development Committee with a term to expire 6/30/23. *Roll call vote Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman Mitchell aye. Voted 5 – 0*

Thomas Roffey Jr. - Conservation Commission, full member to fill unexpired term of William Woodward to 6/30/22

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to approve the appointment of Thomas Roffey Jr. to the Conservation Commission to fill the unexpired term of William Woodward to expire 6/30/22. *Roll call vote Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman Mitchell aye. Voted 5 – 0*

Ruth Anne Fleming – Registrar (Republican) to fill unexpired term of Marion Elms to expire 3/1/23.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to approve the appointment of Ruth Anne Fleming to Registrar (Republican) to fill the unexpired term of Marion Elms to expire

3/1/23. *Roll call vote Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman Mitchell aye. Voted 5 – 0*

V

OLD BUSINESS

Review revised Notice of Right of First Refusal for 485 Winter Street

Kate Feodoroff, a representative from Hanson's General Counsel, spoke to the Board concerning property for sale and how the Board has the right of first refusal on this chapter land. There were questions about if the property was buildable or not, and so they wrote a letter to the property owners concerning these deficiencies and the buildability. There was conversation about what the next steps will be with the property and the information they have gathered since.

Mr. Blauss expressed his concerns over the cost of certain aspects of this project and noted that he would rather see money go towards a different property than this one. This conversation continued and included information concerning different funds the town would have available to them for this property.

VI

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

Approve July 14, 2020 & August 20, 2019 open session minutes

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Blauss, to approve the July 14, 2020, and August 20, 2019 open session meeting minutes. *Roll call vote Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Chairman Mitchell aye. Voted 4 – 0 – 1.*

VII

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

- a) Mr. Stanbrook updated the Board on the FY22 Budget, and he provided the Board with a FY22 Override calculator that calculates what a dollar amount of override would have cost a taxpayer in FY21. He noted that they must use FY21 values because we have not calculated FY22 property values yet. We will not have FY22 property values completed until August or September of 2021. For round number comparisons, each \$1M is around \$250 to the average single-family house.
- b) Mr. Stanbrook updated the De-regionalization 3 quote solicitation based on the Board's feedback and sent it out to 10 vendors. The deadline for quotes is Friday January 22nd. In a packet provided at the previous meeting, Mr. Stanbrook added a copy of the de-regionalization studies done for Dennis-Yarmouth, Groton-Dunstable, and Spencer-E. Brookfield for comparison and for the Board to help understand what the product could look like.
- c) The Senior Housing Maquan Re-use Request for Proposals deadline has been extended to Wednesday January 27, 2021, at 4PM.
- d) The Whitman-Hanson Regional School Operational and Comparative Audit (\$28K) has been delayed until Whitman places their \$14K on an upcoming Special Town Meeting warrant later this month.

NEW BUSINESS

- e) Read press release from MassDEP regarding the management of the clean-up effort at the old National Fireworks site in Hanover. This info is also on the home page at the Town of Hanson's website <https://www.hanson-ma.gov>, and it was distributed on the Town's Facebook page.
- f) A remedial plan for the National Fireworks Site in Hanover has been released. Go to Hanson's website for a link to the plan: <https://www.hanson-ma.gov>, and this was distributed on the Town's Facebook page.
- g) The Town's contract with New Bedford Waste lapsed again on December 31, 2020. Mr. Stanbrook is working with Town Counsel to extend the contract until the end of the year while we still evaluate our options.
- h) Moody's Investor Service has given a Aa2 rating to the Town's debt. He then read through some of the highlights from Moody's Investor Service.

- i) Mr. Stanbrook provided an update on the Monthly Financial Report. The Hanson Town Administrator Special Act requires Mr. Stanbrook to render a monthly financial report to the Board. Town Accountant Todd Hassett has been providing him those reports monthly, and he has passed them along, and he will continue to pass along the reports as he receives them each month. Mr. Stanbrook asked the Board to please hold their questions for Todd until the meeting on the 26th, as Todd will be present to lead the FY22 Budget discussion.
- j) Mr. Stanbrook provided the Board a CARES Act update, emphasizing that the deadline for incurring eligible costs has been extended from Dec. 30, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2021. The County has made available all the funds to the cities and towns except for \$7M, which has been set aside for support of a Rental Assistance for Tenants (RAFT) program. They have submitted to date 9 requests for reimbursement totaling \$912,877.01. They have received 2 requests totaling \$263,091.42 and a third school-only payment is pending for \$172,774.36 for a total amount of reimbursement of \$435,865.38. Todd Hassett and Mr. Stanbrook are re-aligning the remaining spending amounts left so that already pledged amounts are spent accordingly and any leftover amounts are spent on priorities like COVID-19 testing and tracing, PPE supplies and cleaning, and vaccination distribution and mobilization.
- k) Mr. Stanbrook received notice that Fire Chief Jerome Thompson, Lt. Keith Wilson, Firefighter Timothy Royer, Firefighter Gary Somers, and Firefighter Thomas White will be honored for their outstanding acts of heroism during the ice rescue that happened back on December 31, 2019. This year's award ceremony will be virtual due to COVID-19 concerns. Congratulations to all for a job well done!
- l) Concerning coming attractions, the next scheduled meeting is January 26th, 2021, at 6PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room or via the GoToMeeting platform– the FY22 Budget review and FY21 2nd qtr. Town Accountant financial update are the highlights on the docket as of now.

VIII ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to adjourn the meeting. ***Roll call vote Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman Mitchell aye.***
Voted 5 – 0

Announcements

Nomination papers for the May 15th Town of Hanson Annual Election are now available at the Hanson Town Clerk's office. Nomination papers can be obtained by contacting the Hanson Town Clerk's office at (781) 293-2772 and making an appointment.

The Treasurer/Collector for the Town of Hanson wishes to inform residents that the 3RD and 4TH quarter real estate and personal property tax bills for Fiscal Year 2021 were mailed on December 30, 2020 and will be due on February 1, 2021 and May 3, 2021.

We urge any taxpayer who has NOT received a bill to contact our office at (781) 293-2422. Thank you.

Volunteers are needed on the following committees: Face Book Upkeep Committee, 200th Anniversary, Conservation Commission Associate members, Cultural Council, Disabilities, Economic Development, Highway Building Committee, Historical Commission, Memorial Day Patriotic Observance, Memorial Field Trustees and North River Commission. Applications for Appointment and info on the committee are available on the town website www.hanson-ma.gov

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Board of Selectmen – January 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Selectmen – February 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.