

Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall, Selectmen's meeting room
Regular meeting

ATTENDANCE: Kenny Mitchell, Matt Dyer, Wes Blauss, Jim Hickey & Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Board of Selectmen; John Stanbrook, Town Administrator; Greer Getzen, Executive Assistant; TJ Woodward & parent; Scott Davis; Pat Wheeler

I CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance

At 6pm, Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II Public Announcements & Upcoming Meetings

III NEW BUSINESS

TJ Woodward re proposed Eagle Scout project at Poor Brook Meadow nature trail

As Mr. TJ Woodward went up to propose his Eagle Scout project, Mrs. Kemmett wanted to clarify what it was. She said that the project is about a piece of property that the town applies with community preservation funds and not much has been done with it.

Mr. TJ Woodward then explained his project to the Board of Selectmen:

"It's pretty much an undeveloped area. To give an idea of where it is, it is right by Hanson Grain right by the railroad tracks. Currently there is a partial trail there, a couple existing trails kind of winding through. So basically, what I plan on doing, starting with the parking area, I would like to square off the parking area, clean everything up, put new gravel or recycled asphalt throughout the area to make it accessible for parking, and then planting a trail kiosk in a designated location which I will be building with South Shore carpentry at VocTech. I am in the carpentry program so that is a good resource for me. Then, going off of that, I am going to put a mile to mile and a half trail that is being planned currently throughout the trail or throughout the area pinpointing several different locations, nature locations or historical locations as well. So, as you can see in the proposal, I have put two pictures of what is currently there. That is basically the parking area and the existing trail that is there. We'll be going off there and making our own trail throughout as a loop through the area."

Mr. Woodward answered questions from the Board of Selectmen. He explained that the trail would be designed wide enough so that two people would be able to walk easily on the trail side by side. Regarding whether any trees would need to be cut down, he stated mainly just brush would need to be taken down, not many trees. The asphalt would be spread down by using a Bobcat which he states does not take too long. As for the funding of the trail, Mr. Woodward states that most of the funding will be coming from bottle and

can drives. Then, Mr. Dyer offered to have him contact the Board of Selectmen if he needs any help in advertising for the bottle and can drives.

Mr. Woodward states that he has gotten approval from the Conservation Committee. His deadline for this project is June of 2021.

MOTION by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to approve Mr. Woodward's Eagle Scout Project at Poor Brook Meadow Nature Trail. **Voted 5 - 0**

Annual License Renewals

There are no issues. The Police Chief said that there are no problems for the liquor licenses. All taxes have been paid, and each place has provided proof of workers compensation if they have employees. They have all sent in their license fees. The only licensee currently that will need to be moved to December 15th is Shaw's Supermarket. This is because they have not gotten back all their paperwork. Their corporate office has assured that all the paperwork will be in by the 15th.

MOTION by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to approve the liquor licenses for 2021. **Voted 5 - 0**

Review draft Solicitation for Quotes for De-Regionalization Feasibility Study

Mr. Stanbrook discussed how at the last meeting the Board of Selectmen asked him to come up with a De-Regionalization study three-quote solicitation. Mr. Stanbrook has presented a 3-page draft and is looking for feedback on what the Board of Selectmen thinks should be included in the study.

There is a requirement in the draft of having somebody with 5 years of experience performing school De-Regionalization studies. Also, it requires proof of that person having done at least 3 prior school De-Regionalization studies in the commonwealth. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett expressed her concern about not that many people having done De-Regionalization studies. Someone qualified is obviously desired. However, Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett expressed the desire of putting in more flexible language so that there is not a case scenario where nobody applies. Therefore, the Board of Selectmen decided to change the criteria to *giving preference for those who have demonstrated previous work in de-regionalization*.

Mr. Dyer then asked Chairman Mitchell whether May 1st was an appropriate deadline for the De-Regionalization Study to be submitted. The Board of Selectmen agreed that May 1st was an appropriate deadline

MOTION by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to approve this solicitation based on Mr. Stanbrook making the changes that are needed. **Voted 5 - 0**

Execute Lakeville Animal Shelter Agreement

Hanson has a one-year contract with the Lakeville Animal Shelter to kennel dogs if necessary. Lakeville is looking to renew this contract for about one year.

MOTION by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to renew the Lakeville Animal Shelter Agreement for one year. *Voted 5 - 0*

Execute Memorandum of Agreement with the International Association of Firefighters, Local 2713

This concerns a one-year agreement with the Firefighters, Local 2713. The agreement has been signed by them.

Chairman Mitchell read that the Agreement states that the agreement has been *“made by and between the town of Hanson and the International Association of Firefighters, AFLCIO Local 2713. The parties have met and negotiated a successor collective bargaining agreement to be in effect from July 1st, 2020, through June 30th, 2021, subject to ratification by the parties. The parties agree that the terms and condition of their previous collective bargain agreement shall not change in the successor collective bargain agreement except as modified below. A two percent cost of living adjustment shall be applied to the collective bargaining agreement salary schedule effective January 1st, 2021. Those adjustments have been included in the addendum A which are attached to this agreement.”*

MOTION by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to execute the Memorandum of Agreement with International Association of Firefighters, Local 2713. *Voted 5 – 0*

Consider delegation of all responsibility of Maquan School playing fields to Parks & Fields Commission

Chairman Mitchell explained that the Maquan School has been closed since September of 2018. At the school, there are seven fields there. This availability of fields has caught the attention of several sports groups that would like to rent the fields. Parks and Fields are always under the jurisdiction of the schools, not the Parks and Fields Commission. Since Maquan has been closed, the Whitman-Hanson Regional Schools has been kind enough to maintain the grass and the fields. What the Board of Selectmen wants to do is change the jurisdiction from the schools to the Parks and Fields Commission.

MOTION by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to turn the Maquan fields jurisdiction to the care and custody of the Parks and Fields Commission. *Voted 5 - 0*

Accept Community Compact Cabinet information technology grant award

Mr. Stanbrook explained to the Board of Selectmen that the Town of Hanson was rewarded by the state with a grant of \$81,050 for Community Compact grant for information technology. Deb Petty was the one who applied for this grant. The money will be used for online permitting purposes to get away from the paper usage that has been done in the past. COVID has made doing business online much more imperative. Having this money will allow for there to be one system that allows more connectivity between several of the town departments. Among the departments that will be helped are the assessors, building, police, fire for burning permits,

highway, and others. Overall, it is a way of bringing everything together so that the town's business is manageable and easier to conduct during these tough times.

MOTION by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to accept the grant. *Voted 5 – 0*

Accept Sustainable Materials Recovery Program grant

Mr. Stanbrook explained to the Board that this is a grant received every year through the recycling dividends program. The Sustainable Materials Recovery Program of the Department of Environmental Protection provides this money to maximize reuse, recycling, and waste reduction. The sum of money is \$9,000.

MOTION by Mr. Blauss, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to accept the grant. *Voted 5 - 0*

Accept November donations

This is regarding the Center Protection Civic \$5,000 donation and the donation of \$1,026 from the 200th Anniversary Committee.

MOTION by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to accept both donations. *Voted 5 - 0*

Appointments/Resignations:

Bill Woodward – Resignation from the Conservation Commission, eff. 11/17/20

MOTION by Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to accept Bill Woodward's resignation from the Conservation Commission, effective 11/17/20. *Voted 5 - 0*

IV OLD BUSINESS

Town Administrator review

The Board of Selectmen is discussing the 6-month performance review that they must do for Mr. Stanbrook, the Town Administrator of Hanson. The Board of Selectmen has a packet of six different things that they discussed in September. Chairman Mitchell asked if this is something that they should use as criteria for Mr. Stanbrook's review. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett said that these items are part of it. However, Mr. Stanbrook joined Hanson as Town Administrator only about 2 months before COVID hit. To her, it seems that much of agenda has been taken up by COVID related issues and rightfully so. This means that it is possible that Mr. Stanbrook could not have had as much time to meet the goals of the six topics listed. With that being said, Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett's concern is just that it does not seem realistic for one person to have satisfied the needs of all these duties given that the pandemic put great strain on being able to do so. This is important to keep in mind when the Board of Selectmen does its review.

She does not want to have a high bar and say that he did not reach that bar when there was not enough time for him to satisfy the goals. Mrs. FitzGerald-Kemmett acknowledges that Mr. Stanbrook deserves to have a performance review. It is required and is in his contract. However, we need to balance the review with the COVID demands.

Mr. Dyer then weighed in by saying that the six topics presented in the packet are good for doing a review. His only question is *what is the scale to rate? Are they saying does he meet the goals? Does he not meet the goals? Is there a scale that is on a basis of 1 to 10?* Mr. Dyer brought this up because he does not want an inconsistent rating system among the Board of Selectmen where, for example, Mr. Blauss uses a “does meet/ does not meet” rating system whereas Mr. Dyer uses a numerical system possibly.

Mr. Blauss responded to this question by saying that he personally would not feel comfortable using a numerical system. What he would do is go through the 6 topics and ask himself “have most of these 6 things been accomplished?” Based off his own viewpoint, he would say that 5 out of six of those things have been close to achieved.

Mr. Hickey then gave his input by saying that he does not have a problem with using the topics that they have presented. When it comes to assessing performance, he also would prefer not to use a numerical system.

V TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

2022 Budget Plans

The fiscal year 2022 budget and the capital plan were submitted to Mr. Stanbrook by the deadline. The budget review will start next week with Todd Hassett. Just so the Board of Selectmen knows, Mr. Stanbrook said that there is a large deficit already in the first run through of the budget. An operational override will likely be needed or whenever the town meeting is held. This is to help meet the needs of the town. Mr. Stanbrook also noted that due to the deficit present, cuts in personnel may be needed.

Mr. Stanbrook began department head reviews at the end of the week and continue them into the next week. They are going to be using forms from the last time people were reviewed.

Update on the purchase of 485 Winter Street

The Town Counsel sent a notice of insufficiency to the owners of the parcel notifying them that the time clock has not started on the town’s right of first refusal to purchase the property. This is due to deficiencies and the notice of the town. They are currently waiting for a response from the owners for that notice.

Update on Outstanding Legal Matters

The Hanson Town Administrator Special Act requires the Town Administrator to give the Board of Selectmen an update on all outstanding legal matters. Mr. Stanbrook has given his monthly update via letter, but it will not be a public document. It may contain personnel, union bargaining or health related issues that cannot be discussed in public session. However, Mr. Stanbrook says that he has complied with his requirements under the Act.

Monthly Financial Report

The Special Act requires the Town Administrator to render a monthly financial report to the Board of Selectmen. The Town Accountant Todd Hassett has provided it to Mr. Stanbrook. He

has been giving Mr. Stanbrook those reports monthly. Mr. Stanbrook has passed along the latest report through November.

County CARES Act

County Treasurer Tom O'Brien said that the invoices for COVID-19 related costs incurred through December 30th must be submitted to the county by mid-January for reimbursement. The county has until March 31st to send Hanson the reimbursement amount. Regarding the allocation of the Plymouth County Cares Act, Hanson has received five phases of the Cares Act. The County released the money in phases so there have been five phases that amount to a total of 1.6 million dollars.

Maquan School Reuse

There is a request for a proposal that was issued by Keller Williams commercial with the January 15th due date. This went out. The Request for Proposal (RFP) is for senior housing and redevelopment. It is on the Hanson Town website. On December 8th, 2020, there was an informal walk through with five interested bidders. This was not required, but they did show up. Deb Petty and Mr. Stanbrook were there to greet the potential bidders and answer any questions.

Hanson Water Department

The Hanson Water Department has received a 2020 public water system award program from the Massachusetts DEP. The award is for not having any enforcement or compliance issues for 2019 and for the prior 5 years. Therefore, out of 779 community and non-community systems, Hanson is in the top 12.1 percent of systems.

Annual Town Report Notice

Today, the annual town report notice went out to everyone. The due date for annual town reporting responses is January 11th. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday December 15th at 6pm at the Middle School Auditorium

VI ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Blauss, to adjourn the meeting at 6:59pm.
Voted 5 - 0