

Hanson Board of Selectmen
Thursday, March 12, 2020
Hanson Selectmen's meeting room
Town Hall
Regular Meeting 6:00 P.M.

Followed by
Hanson Board of Selectmen
In attendance at
Whitman-Hanson Regional School Committee meeting
WHRSD High School Library
Thursday, March 12, 2020
Special Meeting 7:00 P.M.

Members present: Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett; Kenny Mitchell; Matt Dyer; Jim Hickey; Wes Blauss

Attendance: Kevin Sullivan, Finance Committee; Bob Hayes, WHRSD School Committee; Corinne Cafardo; John Stanbrook, Town Administrator; Greer Getzen, Executive Assistant

I CALL TO ORDER

At 6:00 p.m., Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett called the meeting to order and led Pledge of Allegiance. There were no public announcements for this meeting.

II NEW BUSINESS

Discuss Whitman-Hanson Regional School Committee FY21 Budget

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett told those present that it has become apparent that the Whitman Board of Selectmen are in favor of switching from the current per pupil methodology to determine assessment to the Towns of Hanson and Whitman to the statutory or "default" methodology which would mean that in FY21 Hanson's assessment would increase significantly. She also indicated that this evening the WHRSC will discuss the FY21 school budget, also leaning towards the statutory method of calculation.

Finance Committee Chairman Kevin Sullivan reminded the Board that in FY20 the Town of Hanson was set back and additional \$300,000 and if in fact, the methodology to be used in FY21 is statutory, that Hanson will be assessed an approximately \$1.88 million dollar deficit. He has asked Town Accountant Todd Hassett to give the Finance Committee a better picture of what a 10% cut in all Town budgets across the board would look like along with other possible options. He said that with the exception of the

Library, all positions that were cut over the last ten years have been reinstated. Staffing may have to be cut back in FY21.

Chairman FitzGerald said that the Town's of Hanson and Whitman are partners in this situation, it is a district problem and she hopes the School Committee would take a serious look at lowering the school FY21 budget amount.

Mr. Stanbrook shared several scenarios using figures he received from Superintendent Symaniak. Under scenario one, level service, the increase to Hanson would be 21.49%. The second scenario would be 22.58% to Hanson. Scenario three would be the equivalent to if the town had a level service budget, so a 3.5% increase.

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett suggested starting with a level service budget and adding the additional four teachers, which was not a scenario Mr. Stanbrook had considered. She asked if this were something they could do without drastic cuts.

Mr. Mitchell agrees that both with the cuts and the school committee cooperating, they would be on their way to a solution, and the solution being the override. He believes that the only question remaining would be how much that override would be.

Corona Virus Update

Mr. Hickey expressed concerns over the extracurricular activities, like sports and other groups, that take place in the schools following the recent declaration of a pandemic. Clarification is provided that this topic was being discussed at the School Board meeting that evening.

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett emphasized that she has already asked if the heads of the Fire, Police, and Health departments can attend the meeting the following week to provide updates as they see fit, and to address public concerns.

III RECESS TO TRAVEL TO WHRSC MEETING

The Board issued a recess to allow for travel to the Whitman Hanson Regional School Committee Meeting.

III ADJOURNMENT

At 6:45 p.m., **MOTION** by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to adjourn the meeting and attend WHRSD School Committee meeting. **Vote 5 – 0**

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Guindon
Minutes Clerk