

**TOWN OF HANSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN VIRTUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021
5:00 PM**

This meeting was conducted telephonically. An audio recording of the meeting will be available during or after the meeting as soon as practicable by logging on to the Whitman-Hanson Cable Access TV's YouTube site: <https://www.youtube.com/user/whca9tv>.

Members Present: Kenny Mitchell, James Hickey Wesley Blauss, Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Matthew Dyer
Others Present: John Stanbrook, Town Administrator; Kate Federoff, General Counsel; Sean Kealy, Town Moderator; Greer Getzen, Executive Assistant; Beth Sloan, Town Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 5:00 p.m., Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Mitchell made a motion to enter 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 pursuant to Mass. General Laws C. 30A, §21(a)(2), and to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than the profession competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual pursuant to Mass. General Laws C. 30A, §21(a)(1).

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to enter Executive Session. The Board will reconvene in Open Session at the end of Executive session. **Roll call vote Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mr. Blauss aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman Mitchell aye. Voted 4 – 0 (Mr. Hickey not yet joined meeting)**

III. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING MEETINGS

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett read the public announcements and upcoming meeting dates.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Vote to close May 2021 Special & Annual Town Meeting warrants

Before issuing a motion to close the May 2021 Special & Annual Town Meeting warrants, Mr. Dyer asked to add the following article to the warrant: Tree By-law – to enhance the beauty of the town of Hanson as well as to prevent clear-cutting, which would have an impact on the wildlife of Hanson.

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

Discuss Town Meeting logistics

Chairman Mitchell explained that he wanted to maintain the current date of the Town Meeting as he was concerned about sending out a ballot before getting the chance to discuss at Town Meeting. These concerns were shared by Beth Sloan and Sean Kealy as well. The Board also discussed where the Town Meeting should be held to accommodate for appropriate social distancing measures while also allowing for overflow crowds.

Review May 2021 Special and Annual Town Meeting submitted warrant articles

Mr. Stanbrook introduced the first draft of the Special Town Meeting warrant articles:

- Article 1 For payment of unpaid bills from previous years.
- Article 2 To transfer from available funds a sum of money to supplement appropriations previously voted on at the previous Annual Town Meeting in July 2020.
- Article 3 For the town to vote to transfer the sum of \$25,600 to pay for a reimbursement to the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District for emergency repairs.
- Article 4 For the town to vote to transfer the sum of \$13,000 for the purchase of 10 electronic control weapons (tasers). These will replace current tasers that are over 8 years old.
- Article 5 For the town to vote to transfer the sum of \$15,655 for the purchase and installation of 12 desktop computers to be located at the Police Station.
- Article 6 For the town to vote to transfer the sum of \$14,000 for improvements to private gravel roads in town.
- Article 7 For the town to vote to transfer the sum of \$14,500 for the purchase of a 72" commercial lawnmower.
- Article 8 For the town to vote to transfer the sum of \$16,600 for the purpose of replacing the guardrails near Poor Meadow Brook on Route 27.
- Article 9 To change the voted purpose of Article 11 #5 of the July 29th, 2020, Annual Town Meeting. The original purpose of that article was to replace the electrical wiring at the Camp Kiwanee Lodge, and the proposed new purpose is to replace and update any electrical wiring and fixtures at Camp Kiwanee Lodge to ensure that it is up to date.
- Article 10 For the town to vote to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a postage meter contract for a period of 5 years instead of the standard 3-year agreement.
- Article 11 Changes to the Wage & Personnel bylaw— these changes are mostly related to the increase in minimum wage, however there was the addition of an Associate Youth Service Librarian, and a change to the Reference Librarian.

Two additional articles were submitted, and they are as follows:

- For the town to vote to do Main Street conceptual design with \$12,500 monies that was set aside at the October 2014 Special Town Meeting Article 40 for updating sidewalk designs.
- Winter Street culvert – replacing the culvert will cost approximately \$180,000. As of the current moment, this money will come from Free c=Cash, but that is subject to change.

Mr. Stanbrook then introduced the first draft of the Annual Town Meeting warrant articles:

- Article 1 Hear the reports of the various town officers, committees, special committees, etc.
- Article 2 For the town to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to enter into compensating balance agreements during FY22.
- Article 3 Fix the salary and compensation of all paid elected officers and committees of the town (Town Clerk and Tree Warden).

For Articles 4 and 5, Mr. Stanbrook proposed two options for presenting the budget article. The first option would be to list both the estimated amounts with and without the override in columns in Article 4, and the

second option would be to list the estimated amounts as separate articles (Article 4 being without the override, Article 5 being the additional). It was the consensus of some members of the Board that it would be easier to view the information in columns to prevent confusion on the warrant, however some were concerned that people would be confused and suggested a handout option to provide information.

- Article 6 Voting the Recreation Department budget for FY22 as proposed by the Recreation Commission.
- Article 7 The Solid Waste Enterprise fund budget for FY22.
- Article 8 FY22 Community Preservation Fund – this concerns their budget for FY22.
- Article 9 To adopt the Capital Improvement Program as presented by the Capital Improvement Committee
- Article 10 Town and Hanson School article for the Capital Plan – this will include all the Town and Hanson school related capital items that will be found on the Capital Plan
- Article 11 Whitman-Hanson Regional High School capital items that can be funded
- Article 12 For the town to vote to transfer a sum of money from the Community Preservation Committee's unreserved fund balance to pay for a redesign for the athletic fields at the middle school.
- Article 13 To purchase the parcel located at 0 Main Street
- Article 14 Adoption of the Chapter 90 funds that the Commonwealth gives the town every year.
- Article 15 Set the spending limits of the revolving accounts that the town has under the General By-law.
- Article 16 Authorize the South Shore Regional Vocational School District to incur debt of \$18,960,537.
- Article 17 To place the Webster-Billings Conservation Area under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission for the purpose of wildlife recreation and forestry.
- Article 18 Place the property identified as Assessors Map 49, Parcel 1-1A under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission for the purpose of wildlife recreation and forestry.
- Article 19 Community Choice Aggregation Program Agreement as proposed by Green Hanson – this would allow the town to buy electricity in bulk, and municipalities can combine and switch electricity use by household and small businesses into cleaner energy.
- Article 20 Adopt the flood insurance maps as proposed by the Planning Board.
- Article 21 Amend the Town of Hanson Land Use Regulation Zoning By-law – this would be to correct all the miscellaneous errors in the Zoning By-law book.
- Article 22 To amend the Zoning By-law to accommodate for all the additional terminology that is given with marijuana establishments in the town of Hanson.
- Article 23 Election article

Mr. Dyer proposed to add one additional article prior to closing the warrant. The proposed article would return the \$10,000 that the town currently has back to the General Fund as the town is not prepared to match the grant. Mr. Stanbrook clarified that they would not need an article to complete this. Chairman Mitchell suggested adding this to the agenda for the future to have the Board vote.

Reauthorize outdoor dining in Hanson

Kate Feodoroff explained that while some of the constraints on restaurants have relaxed, the order to allow for outdoor dining had been extended as well. Governor Baker has allowed towns to extend the approvals 60 days past the end of the State of Emergency. Ms. Federov explained that the Board could either create their own arbitrary deadline prior to the 60-day mark, or just enforce the Governor's deadline.

After a brief discussion by the Board, everyone agreed that it would be best to extend the deadline as late as possible to help support these businesses.

MOTION by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to extend the outdoor dining in Hanson per the Governor's orders. **Roll call vote Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Blauss aye, Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman Mitchell aye. Voted 5 – 0**

Authorize the Town Administrator to sign payroll, vendor & withholding warrants on behalf of the Board of Selectmen through April 30, 2021

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, to authorize the Town Administrator to sign payroll, vendor & withholding warrants on behalf of the Board of Selectmen through April 30, 2021. **Roll call vote Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Blauss aye, Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman Mitchell aye. Voted 5 – 0**

V. OLD BUSINESS
FY22 Budget Update

Mr. Stanbrook updated the Board on several things that were discussed at the previous meeting. The first topic of discussion was that the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District came out with their operating assessment, and the total to Hanson ended up being \$12,951,003. This was lower than the estimate given at the previous meeting.

Concerning the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Transport assessment to the town, the total for Hanson ended up as \$117,956, and this was an increase from what was said the previous week. Finally, there was a small correction to be made on the fire salaries of \$9,156. This would bring the shortfall to \$2,181,208.

Mr. Stanbrook explained the different options that the Board must address the shortfall and the override.

Update and review of outstanding Selectmen-controlled articles

- Article 1 Concerning the amount of money left allocated to Oldham Pond. Options on the best way to handle this amount have been discussed with the Conservation Commission.
- Article 2 Concerning the money allocated to Monponsett Pond.
- Articles 3 Concerning the Maquan School as discussed at a previous meeting.
- Article 4 Concerning Plymouth County Hospital improvements and the money allocated to this project.
- Article 6 Operational audit – Whitman will be putting money towards this at FY22, so this should be matched by Hanson in the future as well.
- Article 7 Concerning the Plymouth County Hospital engineering and the money allocated.

VI. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT
OLD BUSINESS

At the February 23, 2021, Board of Selectmen meeting, the Board authorized Mr. Stanbrook to sign payroll, vendor, and withholding warrants on behalf of the Board through March 31, 2021. Mr. Stanbrook signed the following 3 warrants on behalf of the Board of Selectmen since the last meeting:

3/18/21 Warrant 38	\$50,567.51	Vendor Warrant
3/18/21 Warrant 38PR	\$133,408.11	Payroll Warrant
3/18/21 Warrant 38WH	\$25,368.20	Payroll Withholding Warrant

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Stanbrook updated the Board on new business, as follows:

- a) Mr. Stanbrook updated the Board on the videotaping of meetings, and noted that at the Tuesday May 16, 2017, Board of Selectmen meeting, under Old Business the Board discussed the taping of Board and Committee meetings. Mr. Stanbrook then read the meeting minutes from this meeting and informed the Board that he found two memos in the computer backup files that look like they could have been sent out to everyone, but he does not know if they were sent. He then asked the Board if this was something they wanted to reinstitute, and Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett spoke briefly on this topic.
- b) Mr. Stanbrook noted that the Mass. Department of Public Health (DPH) has changed the Town of Hanson's COVID-19 color from yellow to red. A red color indicates that the Town has a COVID-19 positivity rate of 10 or more cases per 100,000 of population and a 5% or greater testing positivity rate. He directed those looking for more information to the Mass. DPH website: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting> or go to the Town's website at hanson-ma.gov.
- c) Mr. Stanbrook updated the Board on snow and ice – as of now, they have a \$3,778.60 deficit. All known invoices have been paid, so he thinks this will be the solid deficit amount. This deficit will be made up with a transfer from available funds at the Special Town Meeting. He gave kudos to Interim Highway Director Curt MacLean and Jamison Shave and the other members of the Highway department for their great work during this winter.
- d) The Whitman-Hanson Regional School District has released their FY22 assessments to the Town, and Mr. Stanbrook read letter from School District to the Board.
- e) The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 – ARPA – was signed into law on March 11, 2021 by President Biden. The MMA analysis of the money to be distributed lists Hanson as receiving \$1,076,727 of Direct Municipal Aid and \$2,116,703 of money that will go to Plymouth County to be distributed back to the Town. Early guidance on this money says that it can be used for revenue replacement, for which the CARES Act money could not be used. According to the MMA, funds may be used to replace revenue lost or reduced as a result of the pandemic, fund COVID-related costs, provide support to aid households and businesses impacted by the crisis, invest in economic recovery and renewal, and fund investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. The funds will be provided in two blocks, in 2021 and 2022, and will be available for use through 2024. The Treasury Department will provide specific guidance on allowable uses of the funds and will determine final allocations based on the most recent census data and the final language in the law. As an example of first usage of the money, it could be used to replace the revenue lost at Camp Kiwanee due to lost bookings of events during the COVID-19 crisis. More to come on this as things develop.
- f) Mr. Stanbrook continued reading a letter from Kathleen Clark letter concerning vaccine distribution.
- g) Mr. Stanbrook commented on coming attractions, noting that the next scheduled meeting is April 6, 2021, at 6PM via the GoToMeeting platform, and the highlights will be to vote articles, set override amount, and discuss impacts to Town services.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION at 6:29 p.m. by Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to adjourn the meeting. ***Roll call vote Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Blauss aye, Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mr. Dyer aye, Chairman Mitchell aye. Voted 5 – 0***