**\*ATTENTION: THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED TELEPHONICALLY.**

**AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THE MEETING CAN BE ACCESSED IN REAL TIME BY LOGGING ONTO WHITMAN-HANSON CABLE ACCESS TV:**

**(http://whca.tv/watch/live-hanson)**

***Hanson Board of Selectmen***

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

5:00 p.m.

***Virtual Meeting***

**I CALL TO ORDER**

At 5:00 p.m., Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett called the meeting to order and led the

Pledge of Allegiance. She asked for a moment of silence to honor the Hanson resident who died in last night’s fire, firefighters and first responders who worked the blaze and those affected by COVID-19.

**II**  **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Mr. Blauss read the public announcements and upcoming meeting dates.

**III NEW BUSINESS**

***Tim White, Veterans agent re: Memorial Day exercises***

Veterans Agent Tim White described three options for recognizing the upcoming Memorial Day amid the current COVID-19 climate: 1) a small ceremony, but cancel the parade, 2) postpone the parade, perhaps to combine it with the Town’s 200th anniversary parade in September, or 3) organize an alternative event, maybe in the form of a vehicle parade.

Mr. Dyer suggested a community recognition of Memorial Day, perhaps with residents placing a remembrance in their yard to honor the service of veterans. He also noted that the unattended graves of veterans could be planted with flowers.

Mr. Hickey expressed support of a small ceremony that would be broadcast live on the cable channel so that the community could enjoy it together.

After continued discussion, there was consensus of Mr. White organizing a small memorial ceremony, with no parade, working with Eric Dresser concerning a cable broadcast and with the Boy Scouts for the placement of flags on veteran graves.

Mr. Dyer also encouraged spreading the message for residents to place a star symbol in their yard as a visual way to thank veterans for their service this Memorial Day.

***Sean Kealy, Town Moderator re: Town Meeting update***

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett noted the Board’s past vote to postpone Town Meeting until June 15, with Town Moderator Sean Kealy present to discuss further delay if need be.

Based upon deadlines shared by Town Clerk Beth Sloan, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett stated that if Town Meeting were to be postponed again, it would need to be decided upon at the Board’s May 19 meeting. With the governor’s advisory board results expected to be announced on May 18, Board members were in agreement to waiting until May 19 to determine if Town Meeting will be June 15 or later.

***Vote to close June 2020 Annual & Special Town Meeting warrant***

Town Administrator John Stanbrook said that the Community Preservation Committee withdrew its article for an athletic field design, resulting in twelve Special Town Meeting articles and thirty Annual Town Meeting articles.

Mr. Stanbrook asked the Board if they want to add the school de-regionalization article that was discussed at the last meeting to the warrant. And it was noted by Mr. Hickey that it had been requested by a resident that a de-regionalization committee be formed. The Board was in agreement that a committee not be formed at this time and that the de-regionalization topic may be more suitable leading up to the October Town Meeting.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. ***Roll call vote Dyer aye, Mitchell aye, Hickey aye, Blauss aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0***

***MOTION*** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to close the Special Town Meeting Warrant. ***Roll call vote Dyer aye, Mitchell aye, Hickey aye, Blauss aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0***

***Review proposed warrant articles***

Mr. Stanbrook explained that the Board is in receipt of the Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting articles, but precise wording in some cases has not been finalized, awaiting review by counsel.

***Town Clerk’s voter registration and absentee ballot procedures***

Ms. Sloan explained that the ballots for the June 27 election have not been printed yet, with tomorrow [May 6] being the last day to pull papers for required return by Friday. She continued that the last day to withdraw is May 27, after which the ballots will be printed.

Ms. Sloan said that both absentee and early voting are allowed for this Town Election, clarifying that early voting is the same as absentee voting but with no excuse needed.

Ms. Sloan explained that residents can find the absentee/early voting application on the Town website, which can be returned to her (with an original signature) by scanning, placing in the drop box or by mail, and must be received prior to election day.

***Discussion of Town Administrator budget reports***

Mr. Stanbrook referenced reports for the Board’s review that he uses to keep track of town meeting data, as follows:

1. FY2020 Spring Special Town Meeting – Itemized listing of the aforementioned twelve articles with data
2. FY2021 Annual Town Meeting Funding – Listing and detail of the thirty town meeting articles, balances and the sources of funding
3. General Fund Revenue Summary – Showing revenues this year vs. last year (indicating the current $1.5M deficit as of 4/30)
4. FY2021 General Fund Budget Article Breakdown - Budget article for the general fund, showing how each line item was voted this year and last year, with a dollar amount difference and percentage difference shown.

The Board expressed appreciation to Mr. Stanbrook for sharing the informative reports and commented that they would be interested in seeing them going forward.

***Consider opening the Community Garden***

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett stated that she was contacted by Evelyn Golden with a request to re-open the Community Garden and start planting. She relayed from Ms. Golden that upon opening, they would abide by all social distancing protocol, in part, by limiting the number of individuals present at the garden at any given time.

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett explained that access to the property was shut down amid COVID-19 as were other Town properties. She said that Health Agent Arlene Dias stated no objection to its opening provided that safety guidelines are followed.

Mr. Dyer affirmed support of its opening noting food security concerns. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett added that the garden regularly donates to the Hanson Food Pantry.

Mr. Hickey remarked on the opening of the Community Garden versus opening Camp Kiwanee or other Town properties, with Chairman Fitz-Gerald Kemmett commenting that each opening will be considered by the Board on its own circumstances.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to re-open the Hanson Community Garden. ***Roll call vote Dyer aye, Mitchell aye, Hickey abstain, Blauss aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 4 – 0 – 1***

***Accept April donations***

***MOTION*** by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to accept April donations to the fire department, police department, Board of Health and Elder Affairs. ***Roll call vote Dyer aye, Mitchell aye, Hickey aye, Blauss aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 – 0***

**IV OLD BUSINESS**

***Regional School Assessment matter***

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett explained that she and Mr. Dyer have been representing the Hanson Board of Selectmen on the Regional Agreement Review Committee. She said that she wanted to communicate to the Board what has transpired so far and allow them opportunity to express their viewpoints.

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett pointed out that options on the table by the committee at this time are as follows:

1. A ‘split the difference’ approach between the statutory and per pupil calculation methods, which would reduce Hanson’s obligation this year
2. A transition period, followed by full statutory calculation at some point, with some committee members in favor of full statutory method beginning at the end of this fiscal year

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett confirmed for Mr. Hickey that it appears as if the full statutory calculation will be the eventual result, but that a timeline of how and when it will get to that point has not as yet been fully explored by the committee.

Mr. Blauss expressed interest in knowing the stand of the individual committee members by review of their meeting minutes.

**V TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

Mr. Stanbrook updated the Board on recent activities, as follows:

1. Mr. Stanbrook itemized warrants that he has signed on behalf of the BOS as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 4/23 | Warrant 39 VD4-23 | ($6,990.00) | Correction of a vendor over payment |
| 4/23 | Warrant 43 | $132,095.90 | Vendor Warrant |
| 4/23 | Warrant 43-PR | $134,807.88 | Payroll Warrant |
| 4/23 | Warrant 43-WH | $25,130.17 | Payroll Withholding Warrant |
| 4/30 | Warrant 44 | $230,040.53 | Vendor Warrant (major invoice health insurance for May) |
| 4/30 | Warrant 44-PR | $129,008.75 | Payroll Warrant |
| 4/30 | Warrant 44-WH | $24,424.84 | Payroll Withholding Warrant |

1. Mr. Stanbrook said that the Town has contracted with KMA to perform a town-wide assessment of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, which is being paid for by a state grant. He explained that they are conducting a public survey of ADA access in Hanson and need the public’s input. Mr. Stanbrook said that the survey can be found at the Town’s website ([www.hanson-ma.gov](http://www.hanson-ma.gov)) under the heading “ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan Public Survey Due May 8th,” and encouraged the public to complete it.
2. Mr. Stanbrook reported that that he has been working with Highway Director Matt Cahill about a plan for the tree stumps in the road leading to Camp Kiwanee.
3. Mr. Stanbrook stated that he has been cleaning up the Town website of outdated information and asked that the Board share anything that they would like to see added to the site.
4. Mr. Stanbrook expressed his appreciation of the hard work by all Town government employees during the pandemic to keep their departments up and running.

**VI ADJOURNMENT**

***MOTION*** at 6:18 p.m. by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to adjourn the meeting. ***Roll call vote Dyer aye, Mitchell aye, Hickey aye, Blauss aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 - 0***

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Schindler

Minutes Clerk