

Hanson Board of Selectmen
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Hanson Town Hall
Tuesday, March 21, 2017
Regular Meeting 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Donald Howard, Bruce Young, James McGahan, Kenny Mitchell & William Scott

Members Absent:

Others Present: Town Administrator, Michael McCue
Executive Assistant Meredith Marini

7:00 p.m. Chairman McGahan called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance. He read the announcements and upcoming meeting schedule.

II NEW BUSINESS

Discussion regarding the Future of Maquan School – School Committee Chairman Bob Hayes reported that the School Committee has discussed the closure of Maquan School. The committee has determined that the closure should take place next year at the end of the 2017-2018 school year.

Superintendent Ruth Whitner indicated she reviewed the issues with various focus groups – The building principals of Hanson discussed space and space issues. They discussed programs and age of students. What will it take to move from one location to another. They met with the second group regarding special education. There are many required guidelines for special needs students. Superintendent Whitner explained that while the special needs students use more space staying in the district is much more cost effective. The Middle School has many programs including language, speech therapy etc. The third group was the pre-school students. They take up 5 classrooms. The group considered the Duval School in Whitman and the High School. They feel a move for the fall of 2018 is very comfortable. There is a declining birth rate which will free up classroom space. They reviewed the impact – realignment of resources specifically special ed., testing requirements, school specialist and nurses. There are reconfiguration and retrofitting of the facilities. They reviewed gym needs. They discussed relocating the Maquan playground. Facilities Director Ernie Sandland believes the playground could be moved to Indian Head School. Decking would have to be provided at the new location. Schedules and services to students. The paraprofessionals would be affected. Staff parking facilities will have to be considered. If pre-school moves to the high school, reconfiguration of restrooms and computer labs. The groups considered the emergency plans for the schools. Mr. Sandland is getting estimates for moving costs.

Superintendent Whitner noted that the Collaborative groups would lose space if Maquan is closed.

She pointed out that all grandfathering of regulations and codes will expire once the school is closed.

Superintendent Whitner noted that the school committee has not voted on the issue. They wanted to discuss the matter in an open session.

Mr. Young asked about space design enrollment for the schools. Discussion regarding the number of students in each school. Mr. Young provided the following information: “The Hanson Middle School has a design Enrollment to comfortably house 650 Students, the present enrollment including some Whitman Special needs students as well as all Hanson Students is 402 which = an enrollment gap of 248 much of it due to declining enrollment. The same holds true for the Indian Head School: Max. Enrollment Capability of 675 vs. current enrollment (including Whitman special needs) of 343 = enrollment gap of 332 students. Maquan: 570 vs 421 (includes 48 pre-schoolers from Whitman and 9 special needs from Whitman) = 149. To my knowledge this is the first and only time these differences have been spelled out in plain language and have been available to the Public”.

Superintendent Whitner indicated more space will become available over time. She acknowledged there will be cost savings of approximately \$800,000 by closing Maquan, however, it would not be an immediate savings. Currently there is a plan to repair the roof. She recommended repairing the roof for future reuse.

Mr. Howard inquired about the reuse of the building for Senior Housing to supplement Meeting House Lane. Superintendent Whitner suggested an engineering study to determine the feasibility of converting the building for other uses.

Michael Jones of Hanson Housing reported that Meeting House Lane is full it but would need a lot of money update the school.

Laura Kemmett indicated that CPC could fund housing feasibility study of the school next round.

Mr. Hayes indicated by closing next year, it will give the Town an opportunity to determine the reuse. The School Committee will be voting on April 12th.

MOTION by Young, second by Howard to concur with the school committee’s recommendation to close Maquan School in 2018. **Voted 5 – 0**

Discussion and possible vote relative to an override question

According to Finance Director Christine Suckow, there is currently a \$2.1 Million deficit. Hanson currently is offering 4%. To close the gap, Whitman’s override would be \$600,000 and Hanson’s override would be \$400,000 from Hanson. Example to taxpayers - A \$300,000 home would be \$100. Per household per year. She explained that Whitman has a higher ratio due to student enrollment.

If the override does not pass, there will be cuts in school services. Superintendent Whitner indicated the School District was able to fund the level service budget within the levy limit. The school will provide an exact figure for the override at a later date.

Review Warrant Articles

MOTION by Mitchell second by Howard to place a question of the ballot

1. Shall the Town of Hanson be allowed to assess an additional ?????? in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of paying the Town's assessed share of the Fiscal Year 2018 operating budget of the Whitman Hanson Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017?

Yes_____ No_____

Voted 5 - 0

Mr. McCue recommended reviewing the school articles before the School Committee representatives left for the evening.

Special Town Meeting – Article 9 – School – Elementary School Repairs – The School representatives discussed the projects for the three elementary schools. Some of the items are related to Maquan School.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Article 9. ***Voted 5 – 0***

STM – Article 10 – School – High School repairs.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place and recommend Article 10. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Annual Town Meeting Article 15 Item 4. Dave Hanlon indicated the Highway will be replacing a 1998 6-wheel dump truck with a 10-wheel dump truck. This is a heavy duty truck will last 10 years.

Item 3 – Swipe cards for access to Town Hall – Mr. McCue explained it will provide better security and the cards could be used as IDs.

Item 8 – Recreation – Septic System - Mr. McCue requested the \$50,000 remain which would be used to supplement the first phase of the project. He is investigating the possibility funding the entire project through borrowing. Originally the project was going to be completed in phases.

8:37 p.m. Brief Recess

8:43p.m. Returned to open meeting

Mr. McCue recommended addressing the other agenda items prior to returning to the warrant articles.

III REQUESTS

Dollars for Scholar – Request to declare April as Dollars for Scholars Month – Dollars for Scholars Michael Ganshirt was present.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to declare April as Dollars for Scholars Month. ***Voted 5 - 0***

Dollars for Scholars – Request to erect a fundraising Thermometer on Town Hall Green during the month of April.

MOTION by Howard, second Mitchell to approve the placement of the fundraising thermometer on Town Hall Green in April. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Calvary Baptist Church – Camp Kiwanee Fee waiver - \$1,000 to \$350.00 Community Easter Service at the Pavilion. Mr. McCue reported that the Recreation Commission has approved the request.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to approve the fee waiver request for Calvary Baptist Church for the Easter Service. ***Voted 5 – 0***

IV OLD BUSINESS

Discussion regarding the Hanson Food Pantry Building – Building Commissioner Robert Curran was present to discuss issues at the former Extension Service building on High Street, which is the front section of the building which houses the Food Pantry. He reported the portion of the building has approximately 27 windows which need to be addressed or replaced. Also the handicapped ramp at the Food Pantry does not meet ADA requirements. The Architectural Access Board has notified the Town that the ramp needs to be replaced and brought up to code. Mr. Curran has received a quote for over \$27,000. He is reviewing alternative options. Mr. Curran did respond to the Architectural Access Board that the Town will be addressing the matter. He believes the new estimate could be around \$8,000. He also noted that one of the door thresholds may also have to be replaced.

Mr. McCue noted that he is seeking a possible grant through the Massachusetts Disability Commission. Mr. Curran will make a list of issues with the building, but the windows will need to be replaced as they are not functioning.

Mr. Curran will ask the Highway Department for assistance with grading of the parking lot relative to the handicap ramp. Mrs. Kemmett noted that the Historical Commission would like to house some of their items, but the windows need to be secured. The Food Pantry group would be willing to assist with any repairs through volunteers.

Vote Acceptance of Donations –

2/13/17	Claire Counter	\$25.00	Elder Affairs
2/16/17	Creative Product Sources	\$1,417.50	DARE
2/16/17	Wilson & Carol Seward	\$100.00	DARE

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to accept the donations as presented. ***Voted 5 – 0*** .

Mr. Young noted that at the end of his campaign he will donate the balance of his campaign funds.

Clean Up Day – April 22nd - Mr. McCue reported that two offers of donations have been made for the upcoming Clean up day on Saturday, April 22nd.

Noonan's Dumpster, - will donate a dumpster for the Clean Up day
Walker Clay - Tee-shirts 75 bright yellow shirts for the volunteers.

The group is looking for volunteers for the event.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to accept the donations from Noonan's Dumpsters and Walker Clay. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Mr. McCue noted that there are still trash bags from WasteZero which were donated bags for the previous year's event.

Resignation:

Robert Overholtzer – Resignation from the Community Preservation Comm.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to accept with regret Mr. Overholtzer's resignation. ***Voted 5 – 0***

The Board thanked Mr. Overholtzer for his years of service in various capacities.

V ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSES - Camp Kiwanee

Lions Club of Rockland, Rockland – April 4, 2017 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Dinner

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to approve the one day Liquor License. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Mr. McCue indicated the Lions Club would like to come in early for prep for the event. The Recreation Commission is OK with the request.

Returned to Town Meeting Article Review.

Special Town Meeting document dated March 21, 2017 Proposed Ver2.

Article 1 – Selectmen – Unpaid bills – Mr. McCue reported no unpaid bills at this time. Place only.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place article 1. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Article 2 – Selectmen – Supplemental budget – Mr. McCue indicated the items are being assessed and recommended placement only.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Article 2. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Article 3 – Town Clerk – Voting Machines

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 3. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Article 4 – Fire Chief – paving parking lot.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 4. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Article 5 – Historical Commission – Historical survey.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 5. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Article 6 – Selectmen – Grading Private ways.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 6. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Article 7 - Veterans Agent – Naming parcel after veteran – Mr. McCue recommended placing the article. He is reviewing the request with Town Counsel.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Article 7. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Article 8 – Veterans Agent – Funding marker for veteran dedication

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Article 8. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Articles 9 & 10 previously addressed

Article 11 – Selectmen – Add to Stabilization – Mr. McCue recommended placing. An amount will be determined closer to Town Meeting.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Article 11. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Article 12 – Selectmen – Add to School Stabilization

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 12. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Article 13 – Selectmen – Wage & Personnel – Section 1A – housekeeping

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 13. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Article 14 – Selectmen – Wage & Personnel – Section 1C – housekeeping.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 14. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Article 15 – Selectmen – Wage & Personnel – Section 7F – housekeeping

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 15. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Article 16 – Selectmen – Wage & Personnel – Section 12C – housekeeping

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 16. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Article 17 – Selectmen - Wage & Personnel – Section 12D – housekeeping
MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 17. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 18 – Selectmen – Wage & Personnel – Compensation Plan – Mr. McCue indicated that the minimum rates have been adjusted to the State minimum wage. Mr. Scott inquired whether the STAP (Senior Tax Abatement Program) volunteers will have their rate adjusted. Mr. McCue indicated that STAP does not fall under Wage & Personnel. Mr. Scott feels the rate should be adjusted for the STAP volunteers. Mr. McCue indicated the addition of an IT Director has been added to the matrix. The Town is still receiving services from Whitman Hanson, but he continues to seek options for future IT services.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 18. **Voted 4 – 1 Scott**

Article 19 – Selectmen – Rescind Borrowing for PCH balance – Mr. McCue suggested placing the article until the final balance is determined.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Article 19. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 20 – Water Commissioners – Rescind Borrowing for Water Tower balance – Mr. McCue indicated the balance has not yet been determined by the Water Commission. He recommended placement only.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Article 20. **Voted 5 – 0**

Annual Town Meeting document dated March 21, 2017 Proposed Ver2.

Article 1 – Selectmen - Town Report

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 1. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 2 – Treasurer – Compensating balances

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 2. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 3 – Treasurer – Tax title accounts

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 3. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 4 – Selectmen – Set elected officials salaries

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 4. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 5 – Selectmen – Budget – Mr. McCue pointed out the final budget has not been set. He recommended placement only.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Article 5. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 6 – Selectmen – Override article. – Mr. McCue recommended placement only.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Article 6. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 7 – Selectmen – Ratify Union contracts – Mr. McCue recommended placement only. He is currently in negotiations with the unions.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Article 7. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 8 – Recreation – enterprise fund.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 8. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 9 – Board of Health – enterprise fund. Mr. Mitchell requested that Board of Health look into the cost of curbside pick up.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 9. **Voted 5 – 0**

Articles 10 – 13 – Community Preservation budget article, Housing production plan, repairs to schoolhouse #4 and access to Poor Meadow Brook project.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Articles 10 -13. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 14 – Capital Improvement matrix.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place. Article 14. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 15 – Capital Improvement – projects

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 15. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 16 – School Committee – High School projects.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 16. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 17 – Selectmen – Chapter 90

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 15. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 18 – Selectmen – Second phase of Rt. 14 Rehab - Mrs. Marini explained the article is a placeholder and will be revised based on the figures for the next phase of engineering.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Article 18. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 19 – Conservation – Take over Care and Custody of a portion of Plymouth County Hospital. Mr. McCue suggested placement only. He would has a Conservation representative come to the next meeting to address the article.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Article 19. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 20 – Conservation – Replenish Conservation Fund –

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 20. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 21 – Conservation – Establish a revolving account for forestry. Mr. McCue suggested placement only until additional information is provided.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Article 21. **Voted 5 – 0**

Articles 22 – 26 – Water - Meters, new truck, emergency fund, new backhoe, replacement of gates.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 22 - 26. **Voted 5 – 0**

Articles 27 & 28 – Planning Board - Zoning by-law regarding solar. Ms. Marini explained that two articles are placeholders and will most likely be combined into one article at Town Counsel's review.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Articles 27 and 28. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 29 – Planning Board – Zoning by-law - driveway access. Planning Board Chairman Joe Campbell thanked Chief Thompson for his assistance with the by-law
MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 29. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 30 – Selectmen - Marijuana moratorium - Mr. McCue recommended the moratorium of retail sales until the State provide guidelines, rules or regulations to the municipalities. He used West Bridgewater by-law as a sample which has been approved by the Attorney General's office.
MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place & recommend Article 30. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 31 – Selectmen – Revolving Accounts – Mr. McCue reported the article may be revised due to the new Modernization Act. Town Counsel is reviewing. He recommended placement.
MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Article 31. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 32 – Petition Article – Septic Loan program.
MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Article 32. **Voted 5 – 0**

Mr. McCue noted that Town Counsel is concerned of the legality of using town funds for a private organization.

Article 33 – Petition Article – Violence Intervention
MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Article 33. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 34 – Petition Article – South Shore Women's Resource Center
MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Article 34. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 35 – Town Clerk – Election article
MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to place Article 35. **Voted 5 – 0**

Vote to Close Warrants for May Annual & Special Town Meetings

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to close the May Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrants. **Voted 5 – 0**

Letter of Support relative to insurance reimbursement for Ambulance Services – Per Chief Thomas, the matter was tabled.

Authorize letter regarding Chapter 70 and Unrestricted General Government Aide – Mr. McCue reviewed the letter addressed to Senator Brady and Representative Cutler to support increasing Chapter 70 and per student rate.

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to sign the letter of support for the Chapter 70 funds.
Voted 5 – 0

VI TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. McCue indicated that he received information from the Mass. Office of Disabilities relative to grant funds which could possibly be use for food pantry building repairs and also hearing assistance at Town Meeting for ADA issues. He is researching the information.

Mr. McCue reported that Recreation Commission hired the Town's first Recreation Director Marybeth MacKay. Her salary will is \$42,000. She is scheduled to start on April 3rd. Mr. McCue noted he, Selectman Scott and Recreation Commission member Rachael Gross had a difficult task selecting a final candidate but feel they made the right choice.

Mr. McCue reported the Town Accountant is working with the Department heads reviewing outstanding articles from past Town Meeting to close them out and clean up the books.

Mr. McCue requested Land Planning to complete the Form A of the Superintendent's House at Plymouth County Hospital for approval by the Planning Board.

Mr. McCue informed that Board that several Hanson residents have complained about PA Landers trucks creating a nuisance from its property in Hanover. Hanover was meeting with PA Landers today to address the issues. Hanover will attempt to hold future meeting on a night other than a Tuesday.

Mr. McCue noted the Watershed Alliance conference was held last week at Camp Kiwanee. They were very happy with the facility and the conference seemed to be a success. The conference provided good exposure for the Camp.

Mr. McCue updated the Board on the Tax Title properties. He will disseminate the details from the Tax Title properties at the next meeting.

Mr. McCue indicated that at the next meeting, he will request the Board appoint a different Animal Control Officer. The agreement with Pembroke is not going to work out. He met with an individual today and is considering having Hanson's own Animal Control Officer. The individual will pick up road kill. Mr. McCue reported that the costs will stay within the current budget.

Plymouth County Hospital Update – Mr. McCue reported the asbestos abatement is 100% complete. The debris from the annex is nearly complete. The utilities have been disconnected. The demolition permit will be issued on Thursday. The the actual demolition is expected start by the end of the week.

Mr. Howard asked about the water services which are fed water from the hospital. New water services will be fed directly from High Street.

Mr. Scott reported that he was at the site yesterday. Some of the debris is taken to Ohio.

VII COMMITTEE REPORTS

Monponsett Pond Committee – Mr. Howard reported that Brockton took water from Monponsett for 5 days in March. 13 Million gallons per day. Brockton has been shut off until the end of the month. Brockton was supposed to use Aquaria but they have not taken any water from Aquaria. Mr. Howard is concerned about the bacteria in the ponds. The next meeting is Thursday in Halifax

Indian Head & Maquan Priority Repair Comm. – Mr. Young reported there was a quorum in attendance at the School Committee meeting last Wednesday. Mr. Young is questioning whether it is worth submitting an SOI for the closure of Maquan.

Highway Building Committee – Mr. Scott reported no meeting. The engineering is on schedule to start the plantings of the shrubs. They hope to be ready for an article in October Special Town Meeting.

Final Plymouth County Hospital Committee Update – Already provided.

VIII ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Howard, second by Mitchell to adjourn. ***Voted 5 – 0***

10:16 p.m. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Marini,
Executive Assistant
Approved and Voted 5 – 0
April 4, 2017