

***Hanson Board of Selectmen
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Hanson Town Hall
Tuesday, September 10, 2019
Regular Session 7:00 P.M.***

Members Present: Wesley Blauss, James Hickey, Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Kenny Mitchell, and Matthew Dyer

Members Absent:

Others Present: Meredith Marini, Town Administrator
Greer Getzen, Executive Assistant

7:00 p.m. Chairman FitzGerald Kemmett called the meeting to order, led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Blauss read the announcements and upcoming meeting schedule.

NEW BUSINESS

Recreation Commission – Discuss Business Plan – The Recreation Commission will not be presenting to the Board of Selectmen this evening. They will attend an upcoming Selectmen's meeting on a date to be determined.

Board of Health Update – Board of Health Chairman Arlene Dias appeared before the Board this evening to provide the Board with an update on Hanson's status with respect to the Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) threat. She reported that Hanson is currently categorized by the Department of Public Health (DPH) as moderate risk for EEE from dusk to dawn. Precautions that residents should take when outdoors until the first frost include wearing long sleeves and pants, using insect repellent and not having outdoor areas with standing water where preventable. Hanson is not currently scheduled for a third spraying by the State as some other communities are. She said that the Board of Health is not taking any additional actions with regard to outdoor playing fields and Town building areas unless the DPH determines Hanson's risk to be critical. Ms. Dias has not heard of other area municipalities closing their playing fields.

Resident Michelle Bourgelas said that in her opinion the risk was raised to critical after humans and animals were diagnosed with the virus. She was concerned that Hanson children were still using the fields despite these developments. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett said that the schools did not have to wait for the Board of Health to restrict activities on the fields – the schools could make a separate, independent decision to close them temporarily. Board of Health Chairman Dias responded that the state currently does not recommend closure of playing fields for communities at moderate or high risk, only those at critical risk. Resident Danielle O'Brien is concerned that insect repellent loses its effectiveness after a short period of time, exposing students to further risk. She said that her brother experienced lasting health problems from EEE a number of years ago.

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett asked Chairman Dias if her board would consider revisiting this issue. Chairman Dias said the Board of Health meets again next week, and that after talking to schools about their position, she will bring this matter back to her board. Ms. Bourgelas pointed out that the local schools and athletic teams are following the lead of the Board of Health.

Resident Marie Clifford told the Board that her son contracted EEE many years ago, and it has left him with permanent brain damage. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett encouraged concerned residents to engage in a dialogue with the Board of Health.

On a different topic, Town Administrator Meredith Marini observed that, in consultation with Town Counsel, it was determined that the plastic and polystyrene bag articles currently on the draft Special Town Meeting warrant could alternatively be unilaterally voted by the Board of Health to be incorporated into their regulations instead. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett said that residents should have an opportunity to give input at town meeting.

Ms. Clifford asked why the Town couldn't provide curbside pickup instead of having residents charged for taking their own trash to the Transfer Station by taxation as well as by purchase of trash bags and vehicle stickers. Chairman Dias responded that only \$90,000 of the \$300,000 Transfer Station budget is funded by taxation, primarily for employee salaries. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett added that curbside pickup would cost significantly more money.

Returning to the request to close the playing fields, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett asked the Town Administrator if it was within the Board of Selectmen's purview to declare a state of emergency due to the EEE threat. Mrs. Marini responded that all Town properties are under the Selectmen's jurisdiction. After a lengthy discussion, the Selectmen decided to take action.

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to close all Town fields from dusk to dawn at a time to be determined by the Board until the first frost, with an advisory memo to be sent to the schools.

Voted 5 – 0

Mrs. Marini will look into DPH's times for dusk and dawn to set the exact times by week.

Review Warrant Articles – add one article - Mrs. Marini reviewed the list of warrant articles and updated the Board on changes and additions as follows:

Article 3 - Based on a meeting she and Town Accountant Todd Hassett had with Recreation Director Billy Boyle today, a \$73,000 total increase has been made to the Recreation Department's amended budget request to cover the addition of the Recreation Director's salary as well as indirect costs related to health insurance and workers' compensation for a total of \$181,759.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to amend the requested amount. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Article 4 – The Board of Heath's budget amendment request has been changed by \$40,000 in retained earnings for a total of \$55,000.

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to approve this increase. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Article 6 – The Fire Department's request for monies for a patient loading system has been reduced from \$70,000 to a more accurate cost of \$60,000.

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to reduce the requested amount to \$60,000.

Voted 5 – 0

Article 17 – This is an article for \$15,000 from Free Cash to add to the monies already appropriated at last May's Town Meeting to allow Camp Kiwanee to be included in the upcoming fiber project.

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to recommend an additional \$15,000 for the fiber project. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Article 18 – The Recreation Commission has withdrawn its request for monies for improvements and repairs at Camp Kiwanee due to the fact that State Representative Josh Cutler has earmarked \$25,000 of the 2020 state budget that can be used for this and other purposes.

In order to remove this article from the draft warrant, Mrs. Marini advised the Board that the warrant would first need to be reopened.

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to reopen the Special Town Meeting warrant. **Voted 5 – 0**

MOTION by Blauss seconded by Dyer to remove Article 18 from the warrant. **Voted 5 - 0**

Article 19 – Mrs. Marini recommended that this article pertaining to removal of trees at Camp Kiwanee be sponsored by the Tree Warden instead of the Recreation Commission since the work will be handled by Tree Warden Dave Hanlon. Mrs. Marini will look into whether the Tree Warden has consulted with an arborist regarding which trees should be removed, and she will report back to the Board.

Article 23 – Mrs. Marini told the Board that this article related to potential revocation of the amended Whitman-Hanson Regional School District agreement has been added since the Board last met.

Article 24 – This article, sponsored by the Finance Committee, is for revocation of the Transfer Station enterprise fund. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett said that the Finance Committee makes recommendations to Town Meeting, but the Board of Selectmen is the sole policy-making body. Chairman Dias explained that the Finance Committee's rationale for revoking the enterprise fund alternated between closure of the Transfer Station, for more transparency or some other kind of benefit that she could not recall. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett was clear that in the future, the Finance Committee must come to the Board of Selectmen in order to determine the source of funding for operating budgets or warrant articles. Resident Bruce Young explained to those present that the pay-as-you-throw program was never intended to be totally self-sustaining; at the 2014 Annual Town Meeting there was a discussion which concluded with the understanding that pay-as-you-throw would be substantially, not entirely, self-supporting.

MOTION by Mr. Blauss, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to remove Article 24 from the warrant. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 26 – Moderator Sean Kealy is in agreement about changing in the Town Moderator's term from one to three years.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Blauss, to recommend changing the Moderator's term from one to three years. **Voted 5 – 0**

Article 30 – This article was added to the warrant after the Wage & Personnel Board voted on September 3, 2019 to propose a bylaw which provides for the Board of Selectmen to offer more than the current two weeks' vacation to new employees with extensive municipal experience at its sole discretion.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to place and recommend Article 30.

Articles 32 & 33 – The effective date for the proposed plastic bag and polystyrene bans should be July 1, 2020 after approval by the Attorney General. Town Counsel removed the reference to the Attorney General's approval. Mr. Dyer and Mrs. Dias will do a final review of the articles. The Selectmen will make their final recommendation at the next meeting.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer to close the warrant. **Voted 5 – 0**

Community Compact Best Practices selections – The Town Planner is asking the Selectmen to select two of three categories of best practices, and she will apply for them in the next round of Community Compact grants. The three choices are: Housing and Economic Development best practices, Information Technology best practices and/or Asset and Infrastructure Management. Mrs. Marini told the Board that the Town’s IT Director Ryan McGonigle has expressed an interest in using grant monies for a permitting software project which requires several servers and switches.

The Board will take this under advisement for further discussion at its September 17, 2019 meeting.

Town Administrator Hiring Process – Municipal Resources Forums – Mon. Sept 16th - Mrs. Marini informed the Board that she has been working with Municipal Resources, Inc. (MRI) representative Buzz Stapczynski on next steps in the Town Administrator hiring process. MRI representatives will be seeking input from the Selectmen, department heads, board and committee members, and residents to determine the qualities they are seeking for the next Town Administrator. Two sessions will be held on Monday, September 16th: the first session is 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Hanson Senior Center for all residents of all ages, and the second is at the Town Hall in the Selectmen’s meeting room from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. She urged everyone to attend to help Hanson find the most qualified and best suited candidate to lead Hanson into the future. For those who are unable to attend, they may submit confidential comments to MRI via hansontarecruitment@mrigov.com.

Appointments/Resignations

Cultural Council – Jennifer Durant, 1022 E. Washington Street - Term to expire 6/30/20

Cultural Council – AnnMarie Hyslip, 21 Richard Road - Term to expire 6/30/21

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to appoint Jennifer Durant and AnnMarie Hyslip to the Cultural Council for terms to expire June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2021 respectively.

Voted 5 – 0

Requests:

Hanson Little League Annual Freaky 5K Road Race – Sun. Oct. 27th at 10:00 a.m.starting at Damien’s Pub

Survivor Tales Animal Rescue – Request to use Town Hall Green Sat. Sept. 21st from 8:00 to 3:00 p.m. for a fundraising yard sale

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett asked Mrs. Marini if anyone had reached out to the Police Department regarding the above events. Mrs. Marini answered affirmatively.

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to approve the road race and fundraising yard sale requests. **Voted 5 - 0**

III OLD BUSINESS

Discussion Regarding School Assessment – Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett informed the other Board members that she will attend the Whitman-Hanson Regional School Committee meeting on September 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at which the school assessment method will be discussed. She will share that

information with the other Selectmen. Other Board members expressed an interest in attending, so that meeting will be posted as a precautionary measure.

Approve locating EV Charging Stations at the Police Station – Police Chief Miksch would like direction from the Board of Selectmen on whether to apply for a grant to locate EV charging stations at the Police Department. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett supports energy efficiency initiatives. Mr. Dyer added that the Town has voted in the past to support any energy efficiencies possible with the exception of emergency vehicles. He went on to say that this would be an investment in the Town's future economic development ahead of the curve. Mrs. Marini said costs to the Town would be \$500 per year in fees, and potential costs resulting from lengthy chargings.

MOTION by Mr. Blauss, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to locate EV charging stations at the police station contingent upon being awarded the grant to cover costs for equipment and installation. ***Voted 5 - 0***

IV TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mrs. Marini shared the following information:

- Filming by Netflix at Camp Kiwanee was a success and wrap up was completed last week
- The gas line for the new generator is yet to be connected – There may be a Town Hall shut down day when the connection occurs
- The ZBA's Cell Tower hearing is being held this evening
- Complete Streets – Waiting on the status from Town Counsel. Additional funds of approximately \$5,000 have been added to the supplemental budget article to pay for rebidding the project
- The new Conservation Agent, Frank Schellenger, started yesterday
- The Final Economic Development Plan has been posted on the Selectmen's page of the website
- The Police and Fire Departments will be conducting training at the Maquan School next week
- A Street Light Audit will start on Thursday and should be completed by next week
- Fireworks update – Information from Hanover can be found at <https://www.hanover-ma.gov/home/pages/fireworks-site>
- The Impressed, Inc. marijuana license application has been received, and the hearing will be October 1st
- The Highway Director position has been posted in house, with applications due on Sept. 18th
- A new Civic Plus tracking program for infrastructure issues (e.g., reporting potholes) and internal requests for IT assistance will be installed in the near future for a start-up cost of \$9,180 plus \$2,700 for training using Community Compact grant monies, with a recurring annual cost of \$6,400

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer, to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the CivicPlus contract. **Voted 5 - 0**

V COMMITTEE REPORTS

200th Anniversary Committee – Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett reminded residents that the 200th Anniversary Committee will be holding a fundraiser. A Monte Carlo night will be held in October. The Chairman was pleased to report that a member of the Mattakeeset Indian Tribe brought Chief Wompimeequin to a recent committee meeting to share some history on the tribe which goes back many generations in Hanson, Pembroke and Duxbury. The committee is pleased that they will be integrated into the 200th Anniversary Celebration.

Final Plymouth County Hospital Reuse Comm. – Mr. Dyer said the committee will meet again tomorrow.

Maquan School Reuse Committee – Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett said Duncan Chapman will meet with her and Mrs. Marini soon

Highway Building Committee – Mr. Mitchell said that the engineers could not make it to the last meeting.

VI EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett announced the Selectmen were entering into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 93, - Highway as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and she as Chairman so declared; not to return to open session.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer, **Roll call Mr. Dyer aye, Mr. Mitchell aye, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mr. Hickey aye, Mr. Blauss aye. Voted 5 - 0**

VII BRIEF RECESS

At 8:37 p.m., there was a brief recess.

VIII RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

At 9:07 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

IX ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to adjourn. **Voted 5 – 0**

At 9:07 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Greer Getzen
Executive Assistant