

***Hanson Board of Selectmen
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Hanson Town Hall
Tuesday, October 22, 2019
Regular Meeting 7:00 P.M.***

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m., Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Blauss read the public announcements and upcoming meeting dates.

NEW BUSINESS

7:00 p.m. – Annual Tax Classification Hearing

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett read and moved the hearing notice:

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 56, a public hearing will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, Hanson, Massachusetts on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 7:30 P.M. for the purpose of allocating the percentage of tax levy to be borne by each class of property for Fiscal 2020. All interested taxpayers are encouraged to present oral or written information on their views. This is a necessary hearing, which must be held prior to certification of the fiscal 2020 tax rate.

So moved by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Assessor Lee Gamache was present with Board of Assessors member Emer McDonough and the Administrative Assessor, Denice Alexander. Mrs. Gamache reviewed the classification data and explained that the Assessors are seeking three separate votes from the Selectmen, which include deciding on a split tax rate, residential exemption and small business exemption.

Ms. Gamache explained that Hanson is comprised of 92.2651% residential, and 7.7349% commercial, industrial and personal property combined. The Board of Assessors does not recommend a split rate as the Town is made up primarily of residential properties, and Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett agreed that businesses considering moving to Hanson could be dis-incentivized.

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to adopt a uniform tax rate of \$15.27 per \$1,000 [down \$.26 from last year]. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Ms. Gamache reviewed the last three years of tax rates. She said that the Small Residential Tax Exemption is for Class I residential property owners who own and occupy their properties. She explained that the exemption is generally for communities with a large percentage of rental properties. The Board of Assessors does not recommend the Small Residential Tax Exemption.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer not to adopt the Small Residential Tax Exemption. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Small Commercial Tax Exemption is applied to the real estate, but is not given to the individual businesses who lease space from the building owner. Only 16 business owners would qualify for the exemption. Historically, Hanson has not adopted the exemption. Consequently, the Board of Assessors has voted not to adopt the Commercial Tax Exemption.

Ms. Gamache advised the Board the the Excess Levy Capacity for FY2020 is \$10,015.14.

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell not to adopt the Small Commercial Tax Exemption.
Voted 5 – 0

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer to close the Tax Classification Hearing.
Voted 5 - 0

Ms. Gamache thanked the financial team for all their excellent work.

Accept Sustainable Materials Recovery Program grant – Town Administrator Marini told the Board that the Town of Hanson has received a \$9,000 Recycling Dividends Program award from the MassDEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program.

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to accept these grant monies. **Voted 5 - 0**

Community Preservation Committee discussion regarding playing fields maintenance – Community Preservation Committee Chairman Tom Hickey has requested an audience with the Selectmen as well as the Parks & Fields Commissioners to discuss maintenance of the fields at the Hanson Middle School (HMS). The soccer league has deemed the current fields as unsuitable for play. Specifically, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) anticipates that it will be approached by the local sports leagues seeking funding from CPC for improvement of the fields' conditions. An engineer is developing two schematic options with accompanying cost estimates for HMS. The first is would be to restore the playing fields and track to their original design when HMS was opened. The second is to consider the current field needs of the Town in developing a schematic based on programmatic needs. However, the CPC is concerned about investing heavily in infrastructure improvements and getting support for the fields without a definitive plan in place on how those fields would be maintained on an ongoing basis.

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett led this discussion on roles and responsibilities with regard to field maintenance. She acknowledged that generous volunteers like Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Hickey have kindly donated their time to mow, etc., but noted that this was not a particularly sustainable model.

WHRSC Chairman Bob Hayes suggested using CPC monies for the “structural underbuilding and drainage” for artificial turf playing fields, with fundraising monies used to purchase and install the covering. WHRS Athletic Director Bob Rodgers added that most communities are going to artificial turf because it is cost effective and can withstand use by one athletic team after another (softball, lacrosse, soccer, etc.) without damage as occurs with grass fields. He said that there is no water or pesticide usage, and turf has a longevity of 10 to 12 years before the covering needs replacement.

There were several different opinions regarding whether youth groups and/or clubs could be charged an hourly fee or the schools could take a percentage of gate proceeds for turf field usage to fund future replacement coverings.

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett thanked everyone involved in this evening's robust discussion. It was a great start to an ongoing dialogue around this matter.

Requests:

Waiver of Fee Request - Kelly Carlini, Rustic Bridal Shows, Sunday, March 29, 2020

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Dyer to waive the fee for this bridal show. **Voted 5 - 0**

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Town Administrator Search – Mrs. Marini informed the Selectmen that MRI received a total of 39 applications for the Town Administrator position, and has narrowed the pool down to 14 applicants to whom relevant essay questions were sent. Most of the essays have been received back and are currently being scored by MRI. The consultants recommended that the Selectmen interview all finalists in one sitting, and if second interviews are desired, to have those individuals back as quickly as possible since they are probably candidates in other communities also.

It was the sense of the Board that MRI should decide how many applicants should be finalists to be presented to the Board. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett said all questions asked of the candidates should be consistent to allow for comparisons between candidates, and Mrs. Marini said she will get a list of interview questions that can and can't be asked from MRI.

Hanover Fireworks discussion and vote to send letter to Tetra Tech regarding clean up – Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett reported that two MassDEP representatives met with Hanson residents on October 16th for a discussion about the Phase III Remedial Action Plan for the former Hanover Fireworks site, and to detail the history of the contamination at this site, particularly as it pertains to the impacted area in Hanson, what efforts have been made to date to clean it up and next steps. Residents were able to ask questions and give their input on this important matter. This was a very informative session. She said that the representatives were extremely responsive to individual residents' concerns, even promising to follow up with several citizens.

The Chairman reminded residents that the deadline for public input on the two alternatives for the extent to which the site will be cleaned up closes on October 25th. She asked the Board if they would vote to send a letter to TetraTech to effectuate a cleanup in the Factory Pond area back to "background" condition (to its original pristine condition) at no cost to Hanson or state taxpayers.

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded Mr. Hickey to have Mrs. Marini draft a recommendation to Tetra Tech to return Factory Pond to its background state. **Voted 5 - 0**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (Part 1)

Recommendation of Conservation Commission Administrative Assistant – Mrs. Marini explained that when Becky Nehiley retired from her combined Conservation/Planning Administrative Assistant position recently, Mrs. Marini exercised her management right to split that job into two separate positions: A Conservation Commission Administrative Assistant 25 hours per week and Planning Board Administrative Assistant 19 hours per week. She posted the Conservation position internally in accordance with the clerical union's collective bargaining agreement, and one internal candidate applied and was interviewed by Mrs. Marini, the Conservation Commission Chairman and the Conservation Agent collectively. The Town Administrator is recommending Lan Woodward for the Conservation Commission Administrative Assistant position, adding that Mrs. Woodward would be willing to remain in her current job as the Recreation Administrative Assistant until November 12th.

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve Mrs. Marini's recommendation. **Voted 5 -**

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APPROVE MINUTES

October 15th Reg. & Executive – The draft minutes were tabled this evening.

ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSES – Camp Kiwanee

Recreation Dept., Hanson, Saturday, October 26th, 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.*(time change)

Melissa Mangini, Weymouth, Saturday, November 2nd, 4:00-10:00 p.m., wedding

Erica Silva, Whitman, Saturday, November 9th, 3:00-9:00 p.m., wedding

Marjorie Young, Hanson, Saturday, November 16th, 6:00-10:00 p.m.

Kelly Carlini, Rustic Bridal Shows, Sunday, March 29, 2020, 12:00-4:00 p.m.

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve the One Day licenses. **Voted 5 – 0**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT (Part 2)

Personnel Matters:

Recreation Administrative Assistant – The Board’s vote this evening to affirm Mrs. Marini’s recommendation to appoint Lan Woodward to the Conservation Administrative Assistant position has created a vacancy for the Administrative Assistant in Recreation, which will be posted internally for one week per union contract and then open up to the public.

Planning Administrative Assistant – There were no in house applicants for this part-time union position. The position has been advertised publicly with the deadline of November 15th.

Highway Director – The deadline to apply for this position was last Friday, and 5 applications were received. Interim Highway Surveyor Curt McLean and Mrs. Marini are reviewing applications and will conduct interviews next week. Mr. Blauss will be the Selectmen’s representative on the interview panel.

Health Agent – The deadline for this position was also last Friday. Two applications were received and Board of Health Chairman Arlene Dias and Mrs. Marini will interview the applicants shortly.

Supportive Day Care Coordinator – There were no internal candidates, but two external applications have been received to date. The deadline for this position is Monday, October 28th.

Budget & Capital Improvements:

The FY2021 Budget and Capital Improvement message and request – These were sent out to all Town departments and the schools today. The budgets and CIC plans are due on Friday, November 22nd.

Meetings:

Indian Head School boiler replacement - Mrs. Marini has scheduled a meeting with the Town Planner, the Director of Facilities, the Plumbing Inspector and the WHRSC Chairman for this Thursday to discuss the boiler replacement at the Indian Head School, which will be funded with Green Communities grant monies.

Maquan School Reuse – Discussions with realty firm Keller Williams are set for next Tuesday, Oct. 29th to explore various options for that property.

Cell Tower – The continued ZBA hearing will take place on November 12th. Verizon is seeking to move the tower 100’ south away from the abutter’s property line at their request. Town Counsel is reviewing and revising the lease.

Miscellaneous:

Town Hall Generator – Connecting the natural gas line to the generator is on hold due to the moratorium on connections after the Merrimack Valley calamity.

Residents are encouraged to complete the Senior Center Needs study – The surveys are due by Oct. 31st. Links to the survey can be found on the Town website home page and the COA page.

The Street Light survey has been completed – The Town Administrator has received this comprehensive survey back and has forwarded copies to Mr. Dyer and Jim Armstrong of the Energy Committee for that committee's review.

8:00 p.m. - Appointment to Board of Health sitting in joint session with the Board of Selectmen

Candidates: Kevin Perkins 137 Lakeside Road
Joseph Weeks 83 Hancock Street

Two candidates have put in requests to be considered for the vacant seat on the Board of Health created by Gil Amado's recent resignation. This appointment will expire on May 16, 2020 (Town Election). Kevin Perkins and Joseph Weeks each offered their qualifications and reasons why they were qualified to fill this position. Both boards asked questions of the candidates, then moved to a vote.

MOTION by BOH Chairman Arlene Dias, seconded by Dennis O'Connell to appoint Joseph Weeks to the Board of Health. ***Roll Call Dias aye, O'Connell aye, Blauss nay, Hickey nay, FitzGerald-Kemmett aye, Mitchell nay and Dyer nay. Voted 3 – 4 Motion did not carry.***

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey to appoint Kevin Perkins to the Board of Health. ***Roll Call Mitchell aye, Hickey aye, Dias nay, O'Connell nay, FitzGerald-Kemmett nay, Blauss aye and Dyer aye. Voted 4 – 3 Motion carried.***

Discussion regarding field closures – Athletic Director Bob Rodgers has asked the Board of Selectmen to revisit the closure of all school playing fields due to the EEE threat. BOH Chairman Arlene Dias said that she had a conference call about the EEE risk levels with the Department of Public Health (DPH). She said that DPH's opinion was that outdoor activities did not need to be restricted, that using precautions such as long sleeve shirts, long pants and mosquito repellent were sufficient to protect people in moderate risk communities such as Hanson. Discussion ensued about how temperatures and circadian rhythms affected mosquitoes, and what populations were at higher risk in the decision-making process.

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to re-open the High School playing fields. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Mrs. Marini will change the Town website to reflect this decision and will also inform the schools.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

200th Anniversary Committee - No update.

Final Plymouth County Hospital Reuse Committee – The committee is in the process of drafting plans.

Maquan School Reuse Committee – Will meet tomorrow.

Highway Building Committee – They met with the engineer yesterday.

ADJOURNMENT

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

8:56 p.m. Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Greer Getzen,
Executive Assistant