

***Hanson Board of Selectmen  
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Hanson Town Hall  
Tuesday, February 13, 2018  
Regular Meeting 7:00 P.M.***

***Members Present:*** James Hickey, Donald Howard, Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, James McGahan and Kenny Mitchell

***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, read the announcements and upcoming meeting schedule.

## **II NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Discussion regarding naming of Winter Street Bridge after Charlie Mann –***

Representative Josh Cutler thanked the Board for having him and briefly updated that Board on the status of the \$20,000 for Wampatuck Pond testing which has been released.

Rep. Cutler provided that Board with a copy of the bill which he and Hanover State Representative David DeCoste filed in the Legislature in order to name of the Winter Street Bridge after former Representative and Moderator Charles W. Mann. Rep. Cutler reviewed Mr. Mann's history noting he moved to Hanson when he was 5 years old, graduated from Hanover High, served in the army and graduated from North Eastern. Mr. Mann served on the Hanson School Committee in 1963, elected as State Representative from 1966 to 1970. Served as Assistant Legislative Secretary to Gov. Frank Sergeant. He returned to the legislature to serve as State Representative from 1980 to 1994 as the Minority Whip. He served as Hanson Moderator for 20 years, was a deputy sheriff, was active in several CIVIC organizations. Mr. Mann passed away 2016.

Rep. Cutler filed legislation in May 2017, which is still pending. Mass DOT said the bridge was not named and the project will be managed and paid for by Mass DOT Region 5. The current bridge is new and replaced an older bridge in which a foundry was located in the area of the bridge. He reviewed the history of the bridge which during research discovered the bridge had been known as the Teague Bridge.

Rep. Cutler recommended placing a historical marker honoring Mr. Mann and noting the Teague heritage. A recommendation was made by Conservation Commission Chairman, Phil Clemons to place a small park near the base of the bridge. Rep. Cutler indicating he was seeking support from the Board and that of the Hanover Board of Selectmen.

***MOTION*** by Mitchell, second FitzGerald-Kemmett to name the Winter Street Bridge after Rep. Charles W. Mann.

Mr. Hickey asked that Hanover be involved in the park to be named for the Teague Family.

***So Voted 5 - 0***

***Review FY2017 Audit with Auditors*** – Auditors Rob Lynch and George Gilmore of Lynch, Marini Associates were present to review the FY2017 annual audit.

George Gilmore indicated the audit objectives are to issue opinion on the financial statements, issue report on internal controls and compliances and other matters for audits conducted in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. Unmodified opinions. No weaknesses or deficiencies.

Mr. Gilmore explained the two financial statements – government-wide and fund basis. The total unrestricted net position is a deficit of \$9.7 Million which is primarily due to the pension liabilities in the amount of \$13.3 Million and the post-employment benefits of \$4.6 Million.

There was a decrease in Chapter 90 funding of \$400,000. Expenses fell below revenues but increased by 3.7% in total primarily due to education, employee benefits and insurance.

Water enterprise fund \$12.3 Million of which \$9.3 Million is net invested in capital assets, with \$3,000,000 as unrestricted.

General fund of \$5.3 Million is an increase over previous year of \$4.4 Million. Includes Stabilization of \$1,181,770.00

Major funds included, Septic Loan fund \$1.1M, CPA fund balance \$1.5M, Ambulance \$925,000. PCH fund in deficit \$672,655 which will be covered by a future debt issuance.

The Auditors suggested that the Water Fund contribute to the net pension liability

The Board reviewed the management letter with the auditors.

Recommendations – that Board of Health should maintain a list of private wells in town. It has been mentioned in previous year audits.

GASB 75 – requires that the Town reflect the full liability on the financial statement. It will affect the Town's bond rating. Mr. McCue pointed out that the majority of the towns in the State are in the same situation with the pension liability.

Mr. McCue indicated that he works with the auditor to ensure that their recommendations are being addressed in accordance with their comments.

Capitalization policy – Capital assets – the Town needs to decide the amount which is currently \$5,000.00. Auditors recommend increasing to \$15,000 - \$25,000.00. There should be a formal vote on the Capital Assets.

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett asked when the Town will get a clean bill of health on all the recommended internal controls at Camp Kiwanee. Mr. McCue indicated that almost all the recommendations have been implemented.

Chairman McGahan requested that there are no gaps in receipts and requested no more cash transactions at the Cove.

***Blue Wave Solar Presentation*** – Betsy Glynn of Blue Wave Solar was present to review their proposal of net metering. Blue Wave is a certified B corporation which works with an initiative for societal change and a mission to make solar energy available to everyone. Blue Wave is working on three projects in Westport – offering a net metering discount of 22% to municipalities until the end of February.

They can provide Hanson with 405,000 kw hours of annual consumption which reflects an estimated savings of \$14,700 annually and a total of \$294,000 over 20 years. Blue Wave will provide Hanson with the first 100,000 of kw hours for free in the first year with an estimated value of \$16,500.

Blue Wave has a long history in Massachusetts and worked with more than 30 cities, towns and housing authorities.

The three solar arrays under development in Westport will produce 13.5 megawatts. They have ground leases with local family owned farms. One megawatt requires approximately 4 acres. They will be using 50 acres in Westport. The solar panels are surrounding by trees to block the view from abutters.

Ms. Glynn reviewed the process of billing which appears as a credit on the National Grid invoice. She also explained that the contract is for 20 years with the option of extending it for 5 years. Blue Wave estimates the savings over 20 years of the contract ranges from \$293,960 to \$323,746 which is based on the Town's historic usage.

Mr. Mitchell inquired if the Town could lease town owned land for solar panels and receive a discount. Ms. Glynn indicated the proposed agreement with Blue Wave would not preclude the Town from erecting its own solar farm and reaping additional savings.

Mr. McCue informed the Board that he spoke with Sprague Energy which is the Town's current purchase power supplier. Sprague does not have an issue with Town partnering with Blue Wave.

The Board expressed reservations as to whether the savings will carry through the years. Ms. Glynn explained that the program is based on State incentives to encourage developers to sell solar to public entities. The State and utilities are required to work together to adopt and increasing amount of renewable energy over time.

Mr. Hickey inquired about the five year extension. Ms. Glynn explained the extension option is by mutual agreement. He also inquired how the citizens save money by the Town signing onto the agreement. Ms. Glynn noted the Town's electric expenses will be reduced.

Chairman McGahan inquired if Town Counsel has reviewed the contract. Mr. McCue requested the motion be subject to Town Counsel's approval. He anticipates Town Counsel has already viewed this type contract. Any issues can be addressed at the next meeting.

**MOTION** by Mitchell, second by Hickey to execute an agreement with Blue Wave Solar contingent upon approval by Town Counsel.

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett requested that Mr. McCue check out the references. Mr. McCue noted he is aware of the company from the other towns he has worked, but he will do additional checking.

Mr. Mitchell inquired about lack for production with the Middleboro solar field. Ms. Glynn explained the contract provides for 85% production guarantee every year. If issues arise, they will get the system back on line as soon as possible and cover the costs.

**So voted 5 – 0**

***Discussion relative to increasing the membership of the Maquan School Reuse Comm.***

– Committee Chairman, Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett indicated that the committee would like to add one more member due to quorum issues. She is looking for someone who is collaborative. They meet once every other week and meetings last about an hour to 90 minutes. There will be an end date to the committee once the decision is made as to the building's future.

**MOTION** by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Mitchell to add one citizen at large member to the Maquan School Reuse Comm. **Voted 5 - 0**

***Discussion/Vote regarding Indian Head School Playground*** – Chairman McGahan recommended combining the discussion with Item 7 – Hanson School Repair Committee. Chairman McGahan read the following letter from School Facilities Director Ernie Sandland to Superintendent Ruth Gilbert-Whitner dated January 23, 2018 –

*Dear Ruth,*

*Due to the age and safety concerns the Indian Head School Playground, it is my recommendation to remove all structures immediately. I had the playground surveyed by Playground Inspections of New England, LLC. The survey came back detailing that 70% of the play structures do not comply with CPSC, ASTM 1487-17, 1292 and ASTM 2223. During the inspection /evaluation, it was evident that the structures are old and worn and there were many hazards that would prohibit this structure from being retrofitted. Temporarily we have placed saw horses and caution tape in this area until the structure is removed.*

*Sincerely  
Ernest Sandland  
Director of Facilities*

Chairman McGahan asked the Town Administrator to investigate whether it were better to repair or replace the playground. Mr. McCue indicated that he spoke with the school representatives. A consultant has evaluated the facility and has determined that the cost of repairing the structure is similar to replacement, he recommended replacement. Moving the Maquan playground to the Indian Head is not feasible. The cost of a new structure is \$96,000 and the flooring would be \$67,300.00.

By consensus, the Board agrees the current playground should be removed. The Board inquired as to the cost of removal. The amount was not known and who will be paying for the removal.

Mr. McCue believes that the school committee can fund the removal and is only seeking permission to remove the structure.

The Board supports the construction of a new playground and a warrant article for Town Meeting. The playground is listed on the Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Mitchell requested additional quotes for the playground. Mr. McCue indicated that the project would require an RFP.

Lengthy discussion regarding the reactivating School Repair Committee and its current mission. Chairman McGahan felt had the repair committee been active, the Board would have been aware of the condition of the playground. There is a need for a playground at the Indian Head School with the closing of the Maquan. Once closed the Maquan School building costs will become the Town's responsibility.

Discussion regarding the transom at the Indian Head School above the pillars needs to be repair. Mrs. Marini indicated repairs were made several years ago. However the contractor, Lifetime Exteriors, is out of business. Chairman McGahan recommended that the School Repair Committee could revisit some outstanding items the prior committee didn't complete which included the middle school water heater and Indian Head paint removal.

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett would like to have direct relationship with the school committee and the schools facilities manager. Mr. McGahan feels the Town should have a committee to deal with the issues on the Town's behalf.

Mr. McCue noted that the Town's proposed facilities manager would only deal with Town Buildings not the schools. Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett and Mr. Mitchell expected the Town's facilities manager would work in conjunction with the schools' facilities manager. Mr. McCue did not expect schools as the responsibilities of the Town's facilities manager because as it was only a part-time position. But this facilities manager could work with the school repair committee at some point in the future.

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett feels the Town needs a better line of communications with the school committee regarding school maintenance issues.

***Requests:***

Calvary Baptist Church – Reduction in Fee for Camp Kiwanee from \$1,000 to \$360.00 resident rate. The Recreation Commission has approved the request.

***MOTION*** by Mitchell, second by FitzGerald-Kemmett to approve Calvary Baptist Church request for a reduction in the fee as approved by Recreation. ***Voted 5 - 0***

**III     OLD BUSINESS**

Discussion regarding Hanson School Repair Committee – ***Previously addressed.***

**IV     TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT** – Mr. McCue reported that the he sent out to all departments packages of properties for the next round of the Tax possession auction.

He received five responses for Engineering services which he is reviewing and will report back. He attended an OCPC Economic Meeting and they will come to a meeting to discuss getting an Economic Development committee.

Mr. McCue also attended a meeting with the Police and Fire Chiefs and representatives from E911 to discuss regional dispatch. There is a negotiation process in regionalizing and incentives for joining. There will be another meeting in the near future. Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett asked if he will seek info from other communities to see what they have received.

Recreation Director position – Mr. McCue indicated that three individuals will be interviewed on Thursday.

Facilities Director – He was waiting for a proposal from a vendor which was interesting. He will be interviewing a few individuals. He hopes to have a recommendation in two weeks.

Chairman McGahan inquired about the status of Legal RFP – Mr. McCue will send the legal RFP out after the engineering RFP is resolved.

He is still working on the antenna on the Plymouth County Hospital antenna. There have been weather related issues and the need of a crane for removal.

The Cell tower issue is on his list to research.

## **V ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSES – Camp Kiwanee**

Hanson Business Network, Sat., March 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. – Fundraiser

***MOTION*** by Howard, second by Mitchell to approve the one day Liquor license ***Voted 4 – 0 – 1***  
***FitzGerald-Kemmett***

## **VI MINUTES**

January 9, 2018

January 30, 2018

***MOTION*** by FitzGerald-Kemmett, second by Howard to approve the minutes of January 9<sup>th</sup> and January 30<sup>th</sup> as presented. ***Voted 5 – 0***

## **VII COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee*** – Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett requested that committee Chairman Marcus Linn attend a meeting with the Board to update it on the committee's progress. Mrs. Marini will contact Mr. Linn.

***Monponsett Pond Committee*** – Mr. Howard reported treatment of West Monponsett Pond will begin in May when Brockton stops taking the water.

***Final Plymouth County Hospital Reuse Comm.*** – Mr. Howard reported no meetings held. Mr. McCue reported the Conway School will be moving forward in the next few weeks to set up meeting dates in April. Students will be assigned to work with the Town. Phil Clemons

will attend a student presentation in Easthampton on May 25<sup>th</sup>. They are following the other areas which need to be addressed such as the sale of the Superintendent's building.

***Maquan School Reuse Committee*** – Mr. McCue spoke with a representative from Mass Housing regarding converting the school into senior housing. They will determine whether the building is viable for housing needs such as senior, affordable or assisted housing. Mr. McCue will meet with Tom Thibault from Hanson Housing in the morning.

***Hanson School Repair Committee*** – Already discussed

***Highway Building Committee*** – Nothing to report

Chairman McGahan noted that the School Committee presented their budget last week and there was a \$2M shortfall. For clarification purposes Chairman McGahan reviewed the items which were included in the budget: Chromebooks, tech plan, two special education teachers, family liaisons and instructional materials which had previously been funded by other sources. The item not included in the budget was full day kindergarten of which \$226,000 would be Hanson's share.

Chairman McGahan would like to be able to fund full day kindergarten in Hanson within the school budget.

Mr. McCue noted that he received a report from the Plymouth County Registrar reporting that the Town of Hanson received \$42,920 from State CPC funds which is consistent with previous years.

## **VIII ADJOURNMENT**

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

**9:43 p.m. Meeting adjourned**

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Marini,  
*Executive Assistant*  
***Approved and Voted 5 – 0***  
***March 15, 2018***