

***THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED TELEPHONICALLY VIA “GO TO MEETING”, CONSISTENT WITH GOVERNOR BAKER’S ORDER NOT TO CONGREGATE IN GROUPS OF MORE THAN 10 AND TO PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING DUE TO THE PANDEMIC. ALL PEOPLE WHO WISHED TO PARTICIPATE WERE ABLE TO DO SO BY CALLING IN ON THE PHONE NUMBER PROVIDED ON THE TOWN WEBSITE (www.hanson-ma.gov)**

Hanson Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, March 24, 2020
7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

I CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m., Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mr. Blauss read the public announcements and upcoming meeting dates. Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett outlined procedures to ensure that all Board members and the public were clearly identified with only one person speaking at a time.

III NEW BUSINESS

Introduce Moira Rouse, Southeastern Regional Services Group & authorize Hanson to participate in the consortium

Moira Rouse of Southeastern Regional Services Group (SERSG) thanked the Board for this opportunity to share information about this municipal consortium for public purchasing. She said that SERSG was established in 1993 to provide centralized purchasing of supplies and services using state procurement laws to secure group cost savings. The six procurements that are administered include DPW services and supplies, drug and alcohol testing, office supplies, paper and water & sewer treatment chemicals. It also provides annual trainings for departments of public works.

SERSG is a non-profit organization currently supporting 23 contiguous towns and cities to the west of Hanson, and its board of directors consists one member from each community who authorize all SERSG work. Membership is \$4,100 per year for all participating municipalities regardless of population, and that fee is usually quickly recouped through use of SERSG contracts for supplies and services. Ms. Rouse gave an example of the potential cost savings by use of the consortium’s contracts: Last year the Town of Medfield purchased office supplies through SERSG which resulted in cost savings of either \$14,000 using list price or \$7,000 had the town done its own bidding process.

Highway Director Matt Cahill told the Board that he had recently met with East Bridgewater Director of Public Works John Haines to discuss SERSG. Both he and Town Administrator John Stanbrook are in favor of joining the consortium. It was pointed out that time saved not having to bid is also very important. The Highway Department would be the first Town department to use SERSG’s services, with the Water Departments and all other Town offices to follow, if

satisfied with the savings. Mr. Blauss thanked Mr. Cahill and Mr. Stanbrook for taking this initiative.

Ms. Rouse told Mr. Mitchell that while SERSG does not bid out trash hauling services, that service is exempt from Chapter 30B procurement requirements.

MOTION by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Hickey to enter into a contract with Southeastern Regional Services Group for the purpose of participating in consortium bidding and authorize the Town Administrator to sign any associated documents [e.g., intermunicipal agreement and Chief Procurement Officer delegation form]. **Roll call vote Blauss aye, Hickey aye, Mitchell aye, Dyer aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 - 0**

Mr. Dyer asked Ms. Rouse to prospectively sign Hanson up for a cost savings analysis to be published in SERSG's annual report.

Coronavirus Update:

Discuss temporary ban on reusable bags

A number of citizens have reached out with the concern that the coronavirus could be carried and transmitted by reusable shopping bags. Health Agent Gil Amado thought that only Shaws Supermarket is using reusable bags. Each of the Board members shared their recent experiences at both Shaws and Stop & Shop, which varied markedly as to whether the store employees or the purchasers were placing groceries into those bags and also whether they should be banned.

Mr. Amado will speak with Shaws in the morning and request that either buyers pack their own reusable bags or not use them at all. He added that he is on regular conference calls with the state for updates and recommended protocols, and he has been to local salons to enforce Governor Baker's order to close temporarily. He continues to monitor restaurants to ensure they are also closed (except for take-out) and businesses for non-essential employees. He told Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett that Governor Baker has also ordered that each municipality's 911 administrator is informed of positive cases of Covid-19 in their community. The Department of Public Health does not permit the public to know of positive tests in the community due to HIPPA regulations. MAVEN will post positive numbers by county only.

MacKenzie Johnson – Request to approve his proposed Eagle Scout project

MacKenzie Johnson of Troop 138 walked the Board through a power point presentation of his proposed Eagle Scout project [the Board members were provided with this presentation in their electronic packets]. The project entails installation of three fire pits at Camp Kiwanee. Mass Port has donated the materials (cobblestones and mortar) to refurbish the circular fire pit at the Needles lodge, and to install square fire pits at the north and south cabin sites. He added that he would clear gravel from the parking lot area and level some uneven areas. Mr. Johnson told the Board that growing up in Hanson he spent a lot of time at Camp Kiwanee and Cranberry Cove. He told Mr. Hickey that this will be completed before June, and assured the Board that he will use small groups consisting of three or four assistants at a time practicing social distancing. He informed Mr. Blauss that the Recreation Commission has already approved this work despite Town properties being temporarily closed. In response to Mr. Dyer's questions about drainage

for the fire pits and having community water buckets on site, Mr. Johnson said he will speak with the Fire Chief for suggestions.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer to approve Mac Johnson's Eagle Scout project contingent on coordination with Mr. Stanbrook on the opening and closings of Town properties.

Roll call vote Blauss aye, Hickey aye, Mitchell aye, Dyer aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye.

Voted 5 - 0

Governor's order related to non-essential workers

In response to the Governor's order commencing at noontime today which prohibits non-essential employees from reporting to their workplace, Mr. Stanbrook explained that he has sent all Town employees deemed "non-essential" home pending a subsequent order allowing them to return to work. He stressed that all employees are in fact essential and do very important work for the Town, but only a handful need to perform the Town Hall functions in house that cannot be done at home. Non-essential employees have been set up to work remotely from home via computer, email and telephone. Employees are practicing social distancing and hand washing to keep risk minimal. All of the Town's dedicated employees will continue to serve the public. Mr. Dyer thanked everyone for making this possible.

On behalf of the whole Board, Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett thanked IT Director Ryan McGonigle for all of his hard work setting up employees to work remotely and putting these virtual meeting capabilities in place.

Discuss temporary measure for signing warrants

Mr. Stanbrook told the Board that MGL Chapter 41 §56 provides for one member of the Board of Selectmen and/or a department head can designate one of its members to approve drafts, bills, orders and payrolls provided that that board member or department head make available a record of that action. Alternatively, in an emergency such as this one, the Selectmen could authorize the Town Administrator to sign all warrants temporarily to limit the number of people in Town Hall.

MOTION by Mr. Blauss, seconded by Mr. Dyer to authorize the Town Administrator to sign all warrants until May 1, 2020, at which time this matter will be revisited. **Roll call vote Blauss aye, Hickey aye, Mitchell aye, Dyer aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 - 0**

In order to be as transparent as possible, on an ongoing basis Mr. Stanbrook will report what documents he has signed since the last Board meeting, and any Board member wishing for the backup detail will be provided with same.

Consider postponement of Town Election pursuant to recent emergency legislation

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett reminded everyone that at the Selectmen's last meeting, it was unanimously voted to move the Annual and Special Town Meetings to June 15, 2020. In light of the recent Governor's order allowing for municipalities to postpone their town elections, Town Clerk Beth Sloan has proposed moving the Town Election to Saturday, June 27, 2020 because Town Meeting first has to vote to hold the Town Election, and this new date would correct that sequence. Accordingly, that would change other related election dates as follows: Last day to

obtain nomination papers – May 6, 2020; Last day to submit nomination papers to the Registrars – May 8, 2020; Last day to file nomination papers with the Town Clerk – May 22, 2020; Last day to object or withdraw – May 27, 2020; Last day to register to vote at the Annual Town Meeting and the Town Election – May 26, 2020.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey for the Board of Selectmen postpone the date of the Annual Town Election to Saturday, June 27, 2020 pursuant to Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2020. **Roll call vote Blauss aye, Hickey aye, Mitchell aye, Dyer aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 - 0**

Vote to appoint members to the Regional School Assessment Committee

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett said that the Whitman Hanson Regional School Committee will meet tomorrow night, some present but all other participants virtually, and they will ask what Hanson representatives have been selected for the regional agreement committee. She has inquired of Finance Committee Chairman Kevin Sullivan who that committee's appointee will be, but has not heard back from him. Discussion ensued whether the Selectmen wanted to appoint one Board member and the Town Administrator, or two Board members. It was concluded that two Selectmen would represent Hanson as voting members (as well as one Finance Committee representative and Bruce Young as Hanson's citizen-at-large), with Mr. Stanbrook in an important supporting role, relying on his financial acumen as he is able to as he has been a great asset so far.

MOTION by Mr. Blauss, seconded by Mr. Hickey to appoint Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett and Matt Dyer to this [regional school] committee. **Roll call vote Blauss aye, Hickey aye, Mitchell aye, Dyer aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 - 0**

Review & vote new Recreation Department rates for services

The Recreation Commission voted on March 9, 2020 to make changes to the current rate structure:

Camp Kiwanee Wedding Packages

1. Wedding and Reception rate for Saturday -- \$5,000.00 – **No Change**
Change – A lesser rate for Reception only (no wedding ceremony) for Saturday - \$4,500.00
Wedding and Reception rate for Friday and Sunday - \$3,500.00 – **No Change**
Change – A lesser rate for Reception only (no wedding ceremony) for Friday/Sunday - \$3,000.00

It was further voted to implement an off season 20% reduction in all wedding package rates from November 1 through April 30 of each year.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Dyer to accept these rate changes to wedding packages at Camp Kiwanee. **Roll call vote Blauss aye, Hickey aye, Mitchell aye, Dyer aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 - 0**

Consider Right of First Refusal on 902 Main Street, Unit 40

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hickey to waive the Town's right of first refusal on 902 Main Street, Unit 40. ***Roll call vote Blauss aye, Hickey aye, Mitchell aye, Dyer aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 - 0***

Appointments

Appoint Old Colony Planning Council Representative

Mr. Dyer is no longer able to serve as Hanson's representative on the Old Colony Planning Council, which meets the third Wednesday of every month in Brockton. Mr. Dyer recommended selecting either a Town Official or employee, or a citizen-at-large who is very knowledgeable about Hanson to represent its needs. Mr. Stanbrook thought that Town Planner Deb Pettey would be a good, logical fit for this position. He will inquire about her availability and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Acknowledgments

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett acknowledged Mr. Stanbrook's diligence and earnest working with the staff to make sure they are supported and have the tools they need to do their jobs during the pandemic.

The Board thanked all Town employees for their hard work, and residents who are supporting the Town's takeout restaurants.

IV TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

1. Old Business – Board action items from previous meetings:
 - A placeholder article for Green Hanson's Energy Aggregation article has been added.
 - Citizens Information Panel – This will be scheduled after the Governor lifts bans due to coronavirus.
2. New Business –
 - Town Hall Generator is now operational. Mr. Stanbrook is working with Highway Director Matt Cahill to improve the aesthetics of the generator area, possible placement a fence or plant shrubs or plants.
 - ADA Self-Assessment – This was a MGL C. 30B solicitation of \$10K- \$50K. Two quotes were received by the due date. The contract to KMA LLC of Newton MA for the amount of \$38,200 and a successful contractual agreement was reached. The other bidder was lower with their bid, but the apparent low bidder did not include Towns' parks in their price, and offered to add the parks on at another price. Therefore, their bid was non-responsive to the quote solicitation and a contingent bid, which was rejected. The work will start immediately and needs to be completed by June 30th. Mr. Stanbrook thanked Town Planner Deb Pettey for her hard work to get this process going.

- Sale of Fire Truck – Auctions International bid closed on Friday March 13th. The highest bid was \$2,900.00 by Robert Moholland from Wolfeboro Falls, NH. The bid has been awarded and the Town will be receiving the check shortly. Mr. Stanbrook thanked the Fire Chief for his great work in keeping this ball rolling.
- The Whitman-Hanson Regional School Operational and Comparative Audit bid deadline has passed. One bid was received and it is being reviewed for completion and responsiveness. Mr. Stanbrook will meet with the Whitman Town Administrator in the near future and report back once the bid is evaluated.
- Liberty Street Complete Streets project has been advertised in the newspaper, on the COMMBUYS website, on Town Bulletin Board, and the Central Register with a deadline of March 26th. Mr. Stanbrook recognized Matt Cahill and Town Planner Deb Pettey for the great job they have done on this.
- Library Temporary Part-time Youth Services Librarian – Library Director Karen Stolfer, Mr. Stanbrook and Ms. Getzen interviewed both respondents, who were excellent. The Town Administrator recommended to the Library Trustees that they hire Lisa Crowley for the position. She will start whenever normal business is resumed. Ch. 90 – the Governor filed his annual
- \$200M Ch. 90 bond bill – Hanson’s share of the bond is \$322,487. That’s \$752 over what the Town of Hanson received last year (\$321,735) or 0.23% up.
- FY21 Health Insurance rates – Mayflower Health Consortium voted a 2% increase on March 11th, using \$3M+ of reserves to stabilize the rates. BCBS rates increased 7.5% a 1.5% administrative fee increase. Harvard Pilgrim increased 8.75%. Treasurer/Collector Jeanne Sullivan calculated the new total for the employee benefits budget and it is a savings of \$265,055, which will be factored that into the budget. Mrs. Sullivan had put a 10% placeholder in the budget, which without the reserves use would have been a close estimate.
- The sale of 0 Liberty Street re-bid has a deadline of this Friday March 27th at 10AM. Because the Town Hall is closed, Mr. Stanbrook will hold the bid opening outside the building in the lower parking lot area instead of in the building. Those who wish to attend the bid opening will be required to maintain social distancing requirements.
- Mr. Stanbrook asked the Board to review a hypothetical calendar of events related to Town Meeting and Town Election for discussion at the April 7, 2020.

In closing, Mr. Stanbrook told the Board that he is impressed with the professionalism and the dedication shown by the Town’s elected officials, employees, and volunteers. He thanked them along with the Town’s residents for their resiliency and understanding given the current situation.

V **OLD BUSINESS**

Regional School Assessment matter

This item was tabled for this evening.

Chairman FitzGerald-Kemmett observed that many people have been hit hard by the coronavirus situation due to layoffs. Those in need may wish to avail themselves of resources such the local

Food Pantry and the United Way. Interested residents are encouraged to follow Representative Josh Cutler's legislative updates. She urged residents to support local small businesses that are struggling at this time.

VI ADJOURNMENT

MOTION at 9:10 p.m. by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Mr. Blauss to adjourn. ***Roll call vote Blauss aye, Hickey aye, Mitchell aye, Dyer aye and FitzGerald-Kemmett aye. Voted 5 - 0***

Respectfully submitted,

Greer Getzen
Executive Assistant