



Tuesday, February 7, 2023

***Hanson Select Board***

Select Board's meeting room, Town Hall

Open Session

***Members Present:*** Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, James Hickey, Joseph Weeks, Edwin Heal  
***Members Absent:*** Ann Rein  
***Others Present:*** Lisa Green, Town Administrator; Lynn McDowell, Executive Assistant; William Solomon, Cable Counsel; Eric Dresser, WHCA, Timothy White, Veterans Service Officer; Elizabeth Sloan, Town Clerk; Dr. Joel Jocelyn, Principal, Indian Head Elementary School; Superintendent Jeffrey Szymaniak; Carlos Caldas; Teresa Santalucia; Arlene Dias, WHCA; David Beauvais, WHCA

**I            CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. FitzGerald Kemmett called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II            PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Mr. Heal read the public announcements and upcoming meetings.

**III           COMCAST HEARING**

Ms. FitzGerald Kemmett read the notice and opened the hearing for the renewal of the cable television license of Comcast Cable Communications Management.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to open the hearing. ***Voted 4-0***

Ms. Green shared the information regarding the current license, which expires in June 2025, concluding a 10-year term. It is required to start the renewal process early due to all the formalities related. The process started with the scheduled hearing. Ms. Green then introduced Mr. Solomon, who is representing the Town during the negotiations.

Mr. Solomon stated he worked with the Town for the past two renewal licensing. He highlighted the strength of strong community cable television programming that was essential during the Covid lockdown. He shared the Cable Act of 1984, federal law that incentives both parties to determine what is important for the Town. He reminded that Comcast started as a local company, and still understands localism which will make it a better business. Comcast will be watching the hearing to hear what the residents feel are the most important aspects.

Mr. Dresser shared some of the history of Whitman Hanson Community Access through a brief presentation. He stated they have added addition staff to provide more opportunities of events to be covered and broadcast. The Board of Directors has volunteer residents from both Hanson and Whitman, who were also in attendance, supporting the hearing. Since the last cable license renewal, they have had great technology improvements, making sharper viewing for the community. The cable access manages the educational channel, supporting the schools in both towns. It also upgraded the broadcasting equipment for both Select Boards. With Covid, it developed a hybrid process that allowed local government meetings to continue to be broadcasted through today. He shared he received several testimonials and looked forward to hearing from those in attendance.

Mr. White (413 Brook Bend Road) is here to support the WHCA by sharing a story from the community. On 2020, during Covid, there were restrictions on gathering; it was limited to outdoors with no more than ten people. On Memorial Day, due to the restrictions, the parade was changed to a ceremony. One of the people in attendance was a cameraperson from WHCA to videotape it for the community. Also, Mr. White discussed that since there was no parade there was a request to residents to forward family pictures of what they usually do after the parade. WHCA gathered all pictures and created a loop for the community to watch through the weekend. He shared the access channel provides a tremendous service to the community as it continually worked through obstacles to ensure the community is served.

Dr. Joel Jocelyn, Principal at Indian Head Elementary School spoke of the constructive and beneficial partnership between WHCA and the School. The School is very interested in having the community have an inside look in the School. Several events that happen at the School are broadcasted and later replayed for community viewing. More importantly, students are provided equipment to videotape several of their own events and projects. They will edit and forward to WHCA to post on YouTube, which the students can then watch with their family and friends. He shared also the leadership skills students develop working in teams and directing each other while doing their own videotaping; it is a priceless experience.

Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Szymaniak echoes Dr. Jocelyn. He also stated the School Committee Board unanimously supports WHCA. As a Principal and Superintendent, he understands the world of social media but sees the continued strength of cable television. WHCA attends all meetings for rebroadcast; including the current regional agreement meetings, as it is an opportunity for viewers to watch live what is happening within the schools. He then tweets out for all to watch. He is very pleased with the work of the team and its consistent support of all activities happening at the schools.

Mr. Caldas (87 Waltham Street) had some questions. He wanted to know if there was a cable committee. At this time, it no longer exists but the Board does see the need to have it be

reestablished. He wanted to know what is Comcast currently offering the Town. At this time, it is unknown as this is the first step in the process. The hearing is in anticipation of negotiations.

As he would like to part of the negotiation process, he offered to be a member of the committee, and be a representative of the Town as he has a strong background in IT services and consulting. The Select Board agreed it would be beneficial and pleased to see members of the community interested. Mr. Solomon shared that each town is different in how it works. For those with active committees, they generally –

- receive questions and complaints from residents
- monitor the license
- review monthly payments as the accountants would most likely not
- discuss future planning; for renewals, it is helpful for strategic leverage though not necessary.

If the Select Board decides to move forward with forming a committee, there will be applicants. If only one person, he can be a resident advisor to the Town Administrator. For the next board meeting, discussion of the cable committee and its mission/purpose will be added to the agenda.

Ms. Sloan stated there is a committee and any appointments will be valid through June 2023. However, the Select Board dissolved the committee June 2022.

Ms. Santalucia spoke to the support WHCA provided for the Historical Commission during the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. The Commission decided to do interviews of Hanson residents. She found WHCA to be a great resource professionalizing the final product as well as being completely supportive throughout. It is now posted on the Town of Hanson Public Library website for all to watch and learn. While Covid interfered with some of the project, the Historical Commission is gearing up to do more interviews in the future, and she is looking forward to the continued collaboration with WHCA. And personally, she wanted to share that WHCA has also covers her family's Christmas events each year at Red Acres. WHCA videotapes annually, posting also to the website, allowing those unable to attend in person to watch and enjoy the community spirit.

Ms. Green, presenting as a Whitman resident, also shared her support for WHCA, discussing the Halloween-themed car show she holds annually in partnership with Dollars for Scholars. WHCA records the entire day, with interviews throughout to be rebroadcasted later on for those unable to attend to watch.

Mr. Beauvais shared he has been a board member since the founding of WHCA and has a history with broadcasting for over 40 years. It gives him great pleasure to be part of the planning and organization of the board and its activities. From his personal perspective, information is gained

know in several different platforms. It is important to continue to support WHCA to keep community information available to the audiences for both towns.

Mr. Weeks shared his children watch faithfully and want to be part of student council from learning and watching from cable access. He used the daily bulletin boards of information to know what is going on in the community, and relied on that heavily during Covid for the testing site updates. He commended the staff for it continued professionalism.

Ms. FitzGerald Kemmett shared, prior to joining the Select Board, for her fundraising activities she used WHCA to get messages out into the community about the organization or event happening. She found it done flawlessly each time. She also mentioned that she misses the candidate forums and debates as well as interviews. She found them to be very informative and helpful, providing insights into the direction the candidates see as the Town's future. She second Mr. Weeks comment regarding children watching and learning what the democratic process is and how decisions are made. As part of a regional school district, there is also the opportunity to learn what is happening in Whitman compared to Hanson.

Mr. Hickey added "you had me at hello". He shared the team at WHCA gets the best out of the people they are interviewing and videotaping. Mr. Heal seconded his comments.

Mr. Dresser shared he is receiving several messages of support and is still receiving them now. He requested it be kept open for the replay for any additional testimonials. Since 2018 there are over 200 local nonprofits and over 40 Town of Hanson departments and committees WHCA is serving. For the educational over 82 unique events, including graduations, athletic events, showcases, etc. for public programming, WHCA has aired over 1400 unique programs, including talk shows, parades, public forums, etc. Mr. Dresser stated these are the four pillars of its programming. It is providing great deal of content that is shared daily as well as working with local leadership. He also noted the Covid-19 link that ran daily for local, state and federal updated information, which was housed on a specialized bulletin board that was ran continuously. WHCA is still maintaining the hybrid coverage as organizations found it helpful to maintain the contact, reaching a broader audience.

Mr. Dresser shared they are a small tight team. Most of the team are parttime staff. He also shared how working at WHCA is a great opportunity to start or redirect a career in broadcasting as there is a great deal of opportunity with cable access.

Mr. Solomon stated the hearing can be closed; the ascertainment process is continuing. Letter and comments of support can continue to be forwarded. He suggested some of the next steps to include finalizing the ascertainment, developing a capital plan; developing high-definition channels and higher-grade videos. Then, he, along with Ms. Green and Mr. Kinsherf, would

meet with the Comcast representatives to discuss major issues, hopefully within the next three months. At the next meeting he will prepare two memos of the timeline and create a list of tasks a cable committees could address.

Mr. Caldas asked if the contract license would allow other vendors access? Mr. Solomon responded that state law requires the contracts to be non-exclusive. Currently Verizon is not building additional FiOS systems. Mr. Caldas disagreed and suggested the Town build its own with Whitman. The Board would be interested in discussing further other options that may be available in the future.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to close the hearing. ***Voted 4 – 0***

#### **IV            NEW BUSINESS**

1. Request Town Clerk – Approve Early Voting Hours for the May 20, 2023 Annual Town Election

Ms. FitzGerald Kemmett read the request for early hours for voting.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to hold in person Early Voting for the May 20, 2023 Annual Town Election, to be held at the Town of Hanson's Town Clerk's office for the following three days:

Monday, May 15, 2023, from 9:00am to 4:00pm

Tuesday, May 16, 2023, from 9:00am to 7:00pm

Wednesday, May 17, 2023, from 9:00am to 4:00pm. ***Voted 4 – 0***

2. Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Agreement and Budget

Ms. Green and Mr. Hickey have been attending weekly Monday evening meetings. Mr. Hickey shared they reviewed and wrapped up discussion on some of the large issues – leasing, bussing, statutory methods. He felt they were good roundtable discussions. The committee chair is putting information together the language for review and further discussion. A major concern is the number of committee members attending, as Whitman has a larger presence than Hanson. It was discussed to make all votes two-thirds. The school committee members should vote what is best for the school and students, not the individual town. The other concern is school busing as it will be not by student but by mile, making a higher cost for Hanson.

To make it cleaner across the board, Mr. Hickey suggested using a two-thirds vote. Was there a downside, related to quorum? Mr. Hickey stated it was discussed. He also stated, for an important vote for the Town, he expects Hanson to represent in full force. He said there was pushback but hopes it will be supported in a show of partnership between both towns.

Mr. Hickey discussed moving forward to set in place what will be needed for those in the future. He expects at a September Select Board meeting, every three years, to have a member join the Regional District Agreement Committee to review documents. This will ensure the School and both towns are held accountable to the contract, providing checks and balances to the process.

For the budget, the committee is expected to vote at the February 15, 2023 meeting. The agenda has not yet been posted.

### 3. Discuss draft Fraud Risk Policy

Ms. Green presented the latest draft of the Fraud Risk Policy, to include comments from the Interim Town Accountant. He added what an employee can do if fraud is suspected – to whom to reach out. There is also expanded information for the whistleblower protection as well as a developed policy.

The Board requested training for all staff once the policy is finalized and accepted, to provide education. It also suggested combining it with ethics training. Ms. Green will reach out to Ms. Feodoroff to coordinate.

Ms. Green also spoke with Mr. Kinsharf about that could lead to fraud. He offered to put together a list of examples. She has reached out to Ms. Feodoroff for training about minutes and agendas already; fraud and ethnics training can be included. The Board suggested doing something quarterly, with guest speakers.

Mr. Weeks had a few questions surrounding what would be the consequences for speaking with the media, primarily for elected officials. Ms. Green will have Town Counsel review for any suggestions. The Select Board would like the Definitions section to include what is expected of employees, and what are the consequences if a person refuses to sign off. Also questioned whether employees, including elected officials, are acknowledging reading the policy or requesting compliance with the policy, or both.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to approved the Fraud Prevention policy with the addition of definition of how an employee is defined and generally acknowledge that an employee as defined in the state of Massachusetts Ethics Commission, which includes any municipal employee, whether paid or not. ***Voted 4 – 0***

### 4. Accept Patty Norton's resignation as a member of Hanson Historical Commission and the Hanson Community Preservation Committee.

Due to her husband's health issues, Ms. Norton needed to take a step back from her duties and resigned her positions on the Hanson Historical Commission and the Hanson Community Preservation Committee.

**MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to accept Ms. Norton's resignation, with regret, from both the Hanson Historical Commission and the Hanson Community Preservation Committee. **Voted 4 – 0**

## 5. 2023 Annual Licensing

Ms. FitzGerald Kemmett read correspondence from the Town Building Inspector stating Auto Express is licensed for twenty cars on the property and currently has close to forty-nine, in various states of disrepair. He requested the Board not approve the license until the property is cleaned up and has the proper number of cars.

The Board would like to know what will be done to get in compliance. Correspondence will be forwarded to inform Mr. Miller of the final decision. A cease and desist of operations will follow if the business remains noncompliant and continues to operate. The company can also be invited to a Select Board meeting to provide his side. The Board would like to follow the same process previously implemented with other locations, fining as necessary.

The Board would like to speak with Mr. Glass to address this issue as well as the previous ones, as well as recommendations.

**MOTION** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, based on the recommendation of the Town Building Inspector, to not renew Auto Express's Class II license. **Voted 4 – 0**

## V

### **APPOINTMENT**

1. Appoint Charles Baker as a member of the Highway Building Committee

Ms. Green shared that the current committee has only three members, with one not being a Town of Hanson resident. This prevents the committee from meeting. Mr. Baker offered to be a member of the committee. It is an annual term, expiring June 30, 2023.

**MOTION** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to appoint Charles Baker as a member of the Highway Building Committee, for a period to expire on June 30, 2023. **Voted 4 – 0**

## VI

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

1. High Street Park committee had a walk-through last week. It was great to see what is happening but based on comments discussed, there may need to be some minor changes to the plans, which include more natural features in what is already happening. The Committee is working with Land Planning to review the changes to see if they can be realized with the plan to bring to Town meeting in May.

**VII                    ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSES**

1. 06/24/23 – 3:30pm – 8:30pm – Wedding – Kenneth Hawes
2. 09/16/23 – 3:00pm – 8:00pm – Wedding – Patricia Hackett

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to approve the one-day liquor licenses as printed on the agenda. ***Voted 4 – 0***

**VIII                  APPROVE OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

1. January 24, 2023
2. January 31, 2023

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to approve meeting minutes as presented on the agenda. ***Voted 4 – 0***

**IX                    TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Ms. FitzGerald Kemmett first discussed Ms. Green's review. Ms. Feodoroff offered some suggestions. Ms. McDowell will include the section Mr. Weeks would like to include. The deadline for completion will be for next meeting, February 21, 2023. And the review will be in March.
- Ms. Green updated the Select Board of the launching of new conflict of interest law online training through the State Ethics Commission. The program is hosted on its own website; will no longer need to watch the videos. The Town Clerk has the paperwork with an imbedded link to completed by March 1, 2023. The Board would like to ensure, for annual appointments, ethics training is completed.
- Ms. Green recognized –
  - Hanson first responders for fighting fires through the frigid weather as well as assisting Brockton Hospital with relocating patients.
  - Mr. Baker and Ms. Collins for attending to the burst pipe at the Senior Center. Mr. Baker has been onsite, coordinating plumbing and cleanups crews. Mr. Milisi offered to host the seniors at Camp Kiwanee during the rebuild process. Mr. Baker is working with the adjuster to move forward with repairs; Ms. Collins is trying to work out how to have programming continue onsite as well as touching base with Mr. Milisi and other locations around town.
- Regarding open positions –
  - Interviews for the Planning Board Administrative Assistant are scheduled for Thursday afternoon. There are two strong candidates.
  - For the Veterans Service officer, received two resumes through the Indeed posting; only one applicant. Mr. White also shared it on veterans' message boards.



- Ms. Green is waiting on the proposal from John Madden. She expected it today; she will bring it to the next meeting.
- Good Energy is working with the Town on the municipal aggregate plan. Today there was a public hearing; Patrick Roche attended with Ms. Green. She attested that the Town of Hanson is supportive of the program, as noted by the Town meeting vote and looking forward to move forward with the program. No waiting on next steps.
- She thanked Ms. McDowell for her assistance; the Select Board office is in a good state. Additional staff member is being addressed with the Union, regarding job classification.
- To follow-up on Camp Kiwanee offering military discounts, Ms. Jamison emailed addition details to clarify how the discount will be enacted. For selling wood, there will be an additional fee added to the agreement for every renter.

**X                    ADJOURNMENT**

***MOTION*** by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to adjourn. ***Voted 4 – 0***

*Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn McDowell*