



Tuesday, January 23, 2024
Hanson Select Board
Select Board Meeting Room, Town Hall
Open Session

Members Present: Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Joseph Weeks, Edwin Heal, David George, Ann Rein

Members Absent:

Others Present: Lisa Green, Town Administrator; Antonio DeFrias, Town Planner; Frank Milisi, Camp Kiwanee Commission; Jamison Shave, Kevin Dykes, Highway Department; Elizabeth Sloan, Town Clerk

I CALL TO ORDER

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett called the meeting to order.

II PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING MEETINGS

Ms. Rein read the public announcements and upcoming meetings.

III NEW BUSINESS

1. Town Planner Update

Mr. DeFrias prepared and shared a project update PowerPoint related to the current projects the Planning Department is working on. There are six current projects; each either funded or partially funded through grants received:

- MBTA Zoning District And Bylaws
- Main Street Pedestrian Improvements Design (High Street - Elm Street)
- Master Plan
- 0 West Washington Street
- Starter Home District
- Hawks Avenue

For the MBTA Zoning project, the district modeling is complete. Last year, Old Colony Planning Council began the process. There have been some adjustments, enlarging the footprint. Also, there is a subdistrict that falls within the mixed use. It has been forwarded to the State for approval. The Planning Board closed its public hearings, completing the related drafts zoning bylaws. This too will be forwarded to the State for approval. It will then be added to the May 2024 Town meeting for approval. Mr. DeFrias will next submit to the Select Board for consideration the district and draft bylaws; the Select Board will request a draft report, as required. If all works as anticipated, it will be ready for May Town meeting. Otherwise, it will need to be included in the October Town meeting as the deadline is December 2024.

Failure to comply will eliminate the Town from future grants. It will also open the Town to future liability and litigation. The Attorney General's office issued an advisory that towns need to comply as it is the law; not complying will lead to fines.

It will assist with any affordable housing the Town creates. The State mandated that for commuter rail zoning areas, towns need to create a district. It is not required to create the housing; that will be developed in the private sector. Hanson Housing owns a piece of property within the proposed district.

For Main Street Pedestrian, there is an existing conditions survey and the design concept is 25% completed. It will address sidewalk design from Elm Street to High Street as well as improvements. Mr. DeFrias has provided these plans to the Planning Board and will present them again at the Planning Board Hearing scheduled in early February 2024 for all interested parties to attend for input in the final design. Next steps include applying for grant money for the final construction. Sidewalk area will be near the MBTA area.

Additional grant projects include:

- Master Plan, updating through the Master Plan Steering Committee and Old Colony Planning Council
 - There is a Master Plan survey on the Town's website that Mr. DeFrias asked for all to complete. It should take no more than 10 minutes.
- 0 West Washington Street
 - Assigned a Mass certified engineering company to review the property for survey work and create a preliminary plan. At the beginning stages.
- Starter Home district
 - Contract is signed and choosing a consultant to review the areas within the Town as a whole that can be created for the district for single family homes.
- Hawks Avenue
 - Contract is signed and choosing a consultant.

Miscellaneous projects include:

- Seeking funding through Municipal Vulnerability Action Grant for Pratt Place Culvert Replacement and Camp Kiwanee drainage.
- Researching National Grid Fleet Advisory Services Program for possible electric vehicles for various town departments and installation of charging stations.
- Researching funding sources to update Hanson Housing Production Plan and Open Space and Recreation Plan. Both are key in obtaining certain grants
- Researching possible grant opportunity through Mass Housing for development of Hanson Housing Authority property on Phillips Street.
- Researching locations for Main Street Boardwalk.
- Researching compliance requirements with new Cannabis Control Commission regulations.

Lastly, Mr. DeFrias noted the One Stop Grant Program Opens February 9, 2024. As the Town has been successful in the past, he intends to again submit five Expressions of Interest.

2. Town of Hanson Agreement with Lakeville Animal Shelter

Ms. Green stated that the Town has been partnering with the shelter for several years. This is the annual agreement. She noted for the first time the Town is being assessed a fee of \$250 for improvements, which will be charged to the Animal Control budget line.

The Board queried previous charges. Ms. Green stated there are charges if a dog is picked up and left at the shelter, which is covered by the owner.

She stated there will be another source of revenue if the Town pursues opening its own shelter. The Board asked Ms. Green to share possible projections based upon the past five years as well as clarifying who is paying the current charges.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to enter in to the annual Lakeville Animal Shelter agreement, as discussed. **Voted 5 – 0**
Roll call –George-Aye; Rein-Aye; FitzGerald-Kemmett-Aye; Weeks -Aye; Heal-Aye

3. Approve and sign Treasurer/Collector contract

Ms. Green presented the updated Treasurer/Collector contract, noting the changes of language the Select Board requested.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to execute the employment contract with Ms. Clark as Interim Treasurer/Collector, December 18, 2023 through December 31, 2023 and as Treasurer/ Collector's, January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026. **Voted 5 – 0**
Roll call –George-Aye; Rein-Aye; FitzGerald-Kemmett-Aye; Weeks -Aye; Heal-Aye

4. Registrar of Voters

Ms. Sloan requested the Select Board once again approved early voting , as done in previous years, providing consistency to the Town elections.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to hold in-person Early Voting for the May 18, 2024 Annual Town Election, to be held at the Hanson Town Clerk's Office for three days as follows: Monday, May 13, 2024, 9am – 4pm; Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 9am – 7pm; Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 9am – 4pm. **Voted 5 – 0**
Roll call –George-Aye; Rein-Aye; FitzGerald-Kemmett-Aye; Weeks -Aye; Heal-Aye

5. Appoint Kevin Dykes to Town Master Mechanic

Ms. Green stated she and Mr. Shave and Mr. Graham interviewed Mr. Dykes for the Master Mechanic position. All were very impressed with his knowledge and understanding of the equipment within the department. He has licensing required for the role as well as 15 years of historical knowledge for repairs.

Mr. Shave shared that Mr. Dykes has been working in the role for the past eight months. He is comfortable with all equipment, and more importantly, he is capable to cover all subordinate roles if needed. Mr. Shave noted that while Mr. Dykes does not have all the educational certificates, he knowledge of the equipment and tools needed make up the difference. The Board questioned if additional training should be added to the Highway department budget. Mr. Shave agreed it was an opportunity.

Ms. Green noted she received recommendations from both Chief Miksch and Chief O'Brien, highlighting Mr. Dykes community involvement in addition to his skillset in the role.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to appoint Kevin Dykes as the Town of Hanson Town Master Mechanic, effective January 24, 2024. ***Voted 5 – 0***
Roll call –George-Aye; Rein-Aye; FitzGerald-Kemmett-Aye; Weeks -Aye; Heal-Aye

6. Camp Kiwanee

a. Late payments for One Day Liquor licenses

Mr. Milisi shared there have been a few issues recently with late checks. Ms. Jamison has addressed the issues with some late checks the following:

- All Select Board Meetings have been added to the master calendar, ensuring when booking an event, the party is informed when the check is due.
- The party will be informed that if the check is not received by that time, there will NOT have a bar at the event.

b. Accept Roger Means resignation

Tabled for executive session next week.

c. Approval of Food Pantry St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser, March 16, 2024, at a rate of \$25.00 per hour, four hours

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to approve the request for the Food Pantry St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser, March 16, 2024, at a rate of \$25.00 per hour, for four hours. ***Voted 4 – 0 – 1***
Roll call –George-Aye; Rein-Aye; Weeks -Aye; Heal-Aye

d. Appointment of Malcolm Hession, Caretaker, \$15.00 per hour

Mr. Milisi shared the Mr. Hession was previously employed by the Town as the Library as a parttime custodian. As the position moved to full time, his role was eliminated. The Camp has a need and Mr. Hession has the skills needed. He met with Mr. Hoffman and they are working well together.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to appointment of Malcolm Hession as a Caretaker at Camp Kiwanee, effective January 24, 2024. **Voted 5 – 0**
Roll call –George-Aye; Rein-Aye; FitzGerald-Kemmett-Aye; Weeks -Aye; Heal-Aye

- e. Approval to move forward with renovating the old store and bringing it back into operation for next summer
 - i. Have already received Building Inspector approval
 - ii. Coordinating with Board of Health for prepackaged foods only
 - iii. Wedding Exposition to be held on May 5, 2024

Ms. Jamison suggested to reopening the previous store, currently being used for storage. There is a budget to clean up and repairs. The building is in good shape but need to do some cosmetic work as well as update the electrical inside.

The plan is to sell prepackaged snacks and camping needs during the summertime. The Commission also discussed selling Camp Kiwanee merchandise – hats, sweatshirts, bumper stickers, etc. – and passes when the Cove opens. The Commission is working with the Board of Health and the Building Department to ensure meeting all necessary codes. Ms. Green will confirm details for the Town selling merchandise. The Commission may need to create a “Friends of” to be the overseeing body.

Mr. Milisi stated there will be an option added for wedding events to hire the store and keep it open during said event.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to approve the renovation of the old store and Ms. Green working with the Camp Kiwanee Commission to bring it back into operation for summer 2024. **Voted 5 – 0**
Roll call –George-Aye; Rein-Aye; FitzGerald-Kemmett-Aye; Weeks -Aye; Heal-Aye

Mr. Milisi stated the Camp hosted its first wedding expo last year and had a very good turnout and booked four weddings. Thus, it decided to move forward with it again this year, with several of the same vendors from last year. He noted there was a raffle prize of half off a wedding package. The Board suggested including a discount for bookings at the event.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to allow the Wedding Exposition to be held on May 5, 2024 a Camp Kiwanee, with the fee being waived as it is hosted by the Camp Kiwanee Commission. **Voted 5 – 0**
Roll call –George-Aye; Rein-Aye; FitzGerald-Kemmett-Aye; Weeks -Aye; Heal-Aye

IV OLD BUSINESS

1. 2024 Annual Licensing: Class II Auto dealer – Upscale Autos

Ms. Green stated the Upscale Auto was very late submitting its application. The Board questioned if late fees were charged. She noted not this time but she would like to institute charges moving forward.

Ms. McDowell addressed the concerns expressed by the Board during its previous meeting, stating all outstanding issues surrounding the license had been addressed and approved.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to approve a Class II license for Upscale Autos. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Roll call –George-Aye; Rein-Aye; FitzGerald-Kemmett-Aye; Weeks -Aye; Heal-Aye

Ms. Green shared with the Board that several businesses were tardy with payments this year, with some of it related to the implementation of the online payment process. Going forward, with notification of licensing renewals, there will be language included noting charges incurred for late payments. Ms. McDowell research what other towns in the surrounding area do; most charge a delinquent fee of the same cost of the original renewal fee.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to prospectively impose charging delinquency fees for late payment for all licensing, the charge to match the initial cost of the license. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Roll call –George-Aye; Rein-Aye; FitzGerald-Kemmett-Aye; Weeks -Aye; Heal-Aye

V ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSES

1. 01/21/24 – 11:30am – 4:30pm – Alison Ramsey – Baby Shower

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to approve the one-day liquor licenses, as presented on the agenda. ***Voted 5 – 0***

VI APPROVE OPEN SESSION MINUTES

1. January 9, 2024

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to approve the meeting minutes as presented on the agenda. ***Voted 5 – 0***

VII COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Economic Development Committee

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett stated the committee is meeting tomorrow. It is also creating a PSA to share with local businesses what assistance the committee can provide.

2. High Street Park Committee

Mr. Weeks stated there is a meeting tomorrow at 6pm, in the Select Board conference room. There will be a landscape presentation.

3. Highway Committee

Ms. Rein would like to schedule a meeting. Ms. McDowell will coordinate. Mr. DeFrias forwarded the feasibility to Ms. Green earlier today. She will forward to Ms. Rein.

4. Maquan Property Reuse Committee

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett would like to schedule a meeting. Ms. McDowell will coordinate.

5. Recreation Commission

No update to report.

6. Transfer Station Taskforce

No update to report.

7. Whitman Hanson Regional School Agreement Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2024.

8. Other Committee updates

No update to report.

VIII TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Ms. Green reminded all boards, committees and commissions for the Town of Hanson, regardless of reporting status to the Select Board, need to record all meetings. It was adopted as a bylaw May 2022 Annual Town Meeting. The Select Board office will be implementing an audit. For those needing equipment, please reach out to WHCA-TV directly.
- The Town received the Green Communities grant totaling \$173,654 for the Town Hall Heat Pump heating and cooling system as well as \$10,000 towards the purchase of two hybrid police cruisers. Thank Green Communities for this opportunity and Old Colony for the support.
- She attended the Massachusetts Municipal Association Conference January 19-20, 2024. Governor Healy spoke and announced some increases to her budget for unrestricted municipal aid, up to 3.0%, for Chapter 90 roadway repair money and schools. The announcement will be released later this week.

- John Madden requested a postponement of his financial analysis presentation for either the end of February or beginning of March. He is still waiting on some numbers and additional information, particularly from Impressed Cannabis. He plans to be present his report either the end of February or beginning of March. He did find money on www.findmassmoney.com. The Select Board suggested the Treasurer/Collector's office doing an annual search be part of its process.
- The EPA/DEP conducted the Fireworks presentation on January 18, 2024 at the Hanson Middle School, with 44 in person and 24 Zoom attendees. It went very well as they provided some updates and contact information. The presentation has been posted to the website and on social media. The Town of Pembroke voted to its support; the Town of Hanover continues to hold off making a decision. Of note, the EPA stated the process is moving forward regardless of the Town of Hanover's decision. Ms. Green is drafting correspondence to forward the governor as well as the senators.
- The Good Energy Municipal Aggregate Program was conditionally approved by the Department of Utilities. The final documentation was filed by Good Energy with the intention of launching the program later this year. Good Energy will conduct the bidding process for the energy providers.
- Ms. Green held the Hawks Avenue kickoff meeting with Verdantas. The team is waiting until snow is gone to do a site walk, review the buildings and site testing.
- She requested adding Pratt Place to the next agenda related to ARPA funding. She has an estimate from 2021 for repairs, about \$1.25 million. She spoke with Tom O'Brien and he confirmed the property is eligible under ARPA. The Board needs to vote to accept the money, then placeholder will be added to the May Annual Town meeting warrant.
- She and Mr. Milisi met with the Collin Center to discuss the draft Capital improvement plan. With the Collin Center assistance, there will be an in-depth review of each asset/funding opportunities, including photos of all equipment. The next meeting will occur after May Town meeting.
- Chief O'Brien informed Ms. Green that MEMA no longer holds night classes. Ms. McDowell will coordinate with the Chief for dates for the Board.

IX ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to adjourn to Executive Session.

Voted 5 – 0

Roll call – George-Aye; Rein-Aye; FitzGerald-Kemmett-Aye; Weeks -Aye; Heal-Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn McDowell