



Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Hanson Select Board

Select Board's meeting room, Town Hall

Open Session

Members Present: Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Ann Rein, James Hickey, Joseph Weeks, Edwin Heal

Members Absent:

Others Present: Lisa Green, Town Administrator; Lynn McDowell, Executive Assistant; Mary Collins, Director, Council on Ageing; Ann Donner; Eric Kinsherf, Interim Town Accountant; Marianne DiMascio

I CALL TO ORDER

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

II PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING MEETINGS

Ms. Rein read the public announcements and upcoming meetings.

III DOG HEARING – Hearing to Close

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to close the hearing regarding the dog complaint by Mr. Williams regarding Mr. Leighton's dogs. ***Voted 5-0***

IV NEW BUSINESS

1. Elder Affairs update

Ms. Collins shared she will miss Mr. White as well, and wished the Select Board a Happy New Year.

She updated the Board with some of the highlights of the past year for the Council on Ageing.

- During Medicare open enrollment, she met in person with 104 seniors and spoke with an additional 17 on the phone as a Shine counselor to help them navigate the program options and find saving of approximately \$45,000 on their medication.
- In addition, she saw over 171 residents for retirement planning assistance with MassHealth. Ms. Mulrey will complete the Shine training in the spring. Two senior center volunteers will be participating in the training as well.
- Twenty-two families enrolled for fuel assistance through December 2022. Those who are eligible can still enroll through April 2023; please contact Ms. Mulrey for assistance. Ms. Collins noted that younger families are applying online, which allows them to focus on the seniors. The criteria for fuel assistance are:
 - Family of 1 \$42,411
 - Family of 2 \$55,461

- Family of 3 \$68,511
- Family of 4 \$81,561
- Family of 5 \$94,610
- She encourages anyone listening to apply if meeting the criteria. Or call the Senior Center for assistance. It is open until April.
- She also noted that Ms. Mulrey, who started in September 2022, is doing a fabulous job supporting residents in need.
- She shared some new program information - the South Shore Elder Mental Health Consortium awarded a grant that will have second year Master of Social Work students intern at the Council on Ageing, providing mental health appointments to seniors as well as workshops, including a six hour Live Your Life Well program. It will begin this Fall.
- She encouraged everyone to stop by and say hello.

Lastly, she wanted to thank the following:

- Hanson Community for the generous Christmas gifts for seniors
- Hanson Action Club, in partnership with the Kiwanis club of Hanson for donating Bomba socks to the seniors.
- The friends of the Hanson senior center for their generosity throughout the year, including funding the Annual Veterans' breakfast, special entertainment and providing gift bags for veterans and meals on wheels recipients at Christmas.
- To all who work and volunteer at the senior center; providing a warm and welcoming atmosphere.
- To the Select Board for its continued support.

2. Strategic Planning update

Ms. Donner focused on the key strategies developed as part of the November meeting and layout the framework to pursue those goals. She shared her PowerPoint presentation, stating it is in draft form as it does not reflect all feedback, but it is a fluid working document. She thanked everyone who participated for creating a productive day and document.

Five priorities determined, with mission statements and goals. They are:

- Public Facilities
- Public Programming and Recreation
- Economic Development
- Citizen Engagement
- Town Administration

For each goal there are high level initiatives, 5-year outcome, stakeholders and resources. This is will managed on a dashboard for reporting, with updates that can be shared with the community through the Town website and social media.

Going forward, there will be a reporting schedule each year. For 2023, March 7, May 30 and December 5 are the scheduled dates for public reports of how these initiatives are moving forward. It is also an opportunity to share what is happening, what is still challenging and how to reverse course.

As part of this forward movement, the Select Board hired Capital Strategic Solutions to develop an improved Town website and social media exposure. The Economic and Capital Improvement committees are working towards their respective goals. For staffing, there has been some turnover and will see what happens within the next five years. Now that committees are filled and working, how can the Town develop some diversity and competitiveness within, and develop a possible waiting list for participants.

The Board requested that Committee updates be added as a standing agenda item going forward.

The Board will also be implementing reviews for all Town Hall staff members. Mr. Hickey suggested using Ms. Donner's slide of a sample strategic action plan dashboard for the next strategy session, for committees to use for their respective presentations. The Board would like Ms. Green review and highlight what she will be prioritizing for the Board review.

For assistance in the future, Ms. Donner can make herself available as needed. She congratulated the Board as it has done the hard work and is heading in the right direction. Ms. Green will schedule time with Ms. Donner and Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett to discuss further offline. They will then report back to the Board.

3. Green Hanson to use the Town Green on April 29, 2023 for the annual Clean Up Green Up and EarthFest event

MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to allow Green Hanson to use the Town Green on April 29, 2023 for its annual Clean Up Green Up and EarthFest event. ***Voted 5-0***

4. Veterans' Service Officer update

Ms. Green updated the Board that she and Mr. White met with Town of Hanover regarding sharing a Veterans Service Officer between the two towns. While there were pros and cons, it will challenge the new officer. Some issues included coverage of Memorial/Veterans days events, housing of the Officer, payroll disbursements. Ms. Green stated that Hanover preferred having the Officer maintain an office there, making it a hardship for Hanson residents. Ms. Green also spoke with Mr. White and Mr. Kinsherf about adding a fulltime Veterans Service Officer in Hanson. Mr. White shared there is more than enough work to full time, especially for outreach related the PACT Act.

Mr. White discussed the PACT Act for veterans, a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances during their time of service, covering Gulf wars as well as Vietnam. Due to the information out to Veterans, as well as Mr. White speaking about it, more than half his workload is assisting veterans with questions they have as well as filing claims for this assistance. He is also meeting with surviving spouses, as they are eligible to file a claim as well if it is service related. He is also experiencing increases in the number of veterans reaching out now that Covid-19 is no longer impeding traveling and meetings. He is speaking with more veterans who need to know its ok to ask and file for assistance.

Regarding the ceremonies, he needed to change Hanson times to coordinate with Rockland to be certain both towns are well represented. He had the same issue for Veterans Day, trying to cover breakfast meetings and speaking engagements for the various legions. Finally, what the Officer does during outreach will bring money back to the Town; funding veterans receive provides the opportunity for them to have funds to spend in Town.

Ms. Green shared that FY23 budget the salary at \$32,000, for FY2024, is it budgeted for \$32,637. Ms. Green did a salary survey of the surrounding towns, with salaries ranging from \$56,000 to \$73,000. She proposed the position be 32 hours at \$55,000 annually. It is already set in the budget and can use ARPA funds to supplement for the first two years. The Board reminded that ARPA is onetime money and not sustainable for salaries.

Mr. Kinsherf stated that the ARP funds will not be more than \$25,000 and used as a bridge for two years. For the third year, funding for the salary could be covered with funds received for cannabis and meals tax. Mr. White believes the salary is competitive for the community. If the Town continues to grow and experiences increases in VA claims and outreach, it may need to be adjusted and revised then. The decision does not need to be made yet, as still need to review all the budget numbers.

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to post the Veterans Service Officer position as fulltime at 32 hours with a salary range of \$55,000 - \$60,000. ***Voted 5-0***

5. Draft Fraud RISK Policy update

Ms. Green requested to table for the next meeting with all revisions incorporated.

- 6. Accept donation to the Hanson Conservation Commission for purchasing materials for future bog bridges that will be located on Hanson Conservation Properties**
- a. Marianne DiMascio \$250

As a member of the Conservation Committee, Mr. Heal thanked her for her donation.

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to accept the donation to the Hanson Conservation Commission for purchasing materials for future bog bridges that will be located on Hanson Conservation Properties. ***Voted 5-0***

- 7. Camp Kiwanee Commission**
- a. Selling wood at Camp Kiwanee

Ms. Green stated that when cabins are rented, wood is taken for personal use in the firepits. The Commission decided instead of giving wood away to charge a moderate fee. This would also prevent wood being brought in that may carry invasive disease or parasites. The Commission is still working out some of the issues related to the general sales, sales tax, and turnover of cash. Ms. Green spoke with the auditors, who suggested she speak with Town Counsel, who suggested

using it as procurement. As firewood does not reach the pricing threshold, the next suggestion was to add a wood fee to all rental agreements, including not allowing wood to be brought in. The Commission will discuss further all suggestions at its next meeting.

b. Implementing a Military discount – 20%

The Commission would like implement a discount for events. It is not clear what the exact discount will be, as it is still working out the details. The Board would like to know what the vetting process will be and how will the policy be written.

c. Hosting a Bridal Show on May 07, 2023

V ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSES

1. 02/09/23 – 5:00pm – 7:00pm – Dance – Melissa Scarrissi

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

VI APPROVE OPEN SESSION MINUTES

1. January 24, 2023

Tabled for the next meeting

VII TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Ms. Green updated the Board regarding MASS DOT Tip project. She attended a meeting with Mr. DeFrias, the Old Colony Planning Council and Representative Cutler, who coordinated legislature partners State Senator Brady and Mr. Jackman from Congressman Keating's office, as well as Environmental Partners join the meeting. Some progress occurred with a timeline and a direction. However, the SUE – a utility evaluation – needs to be completed to determine the location and depth of the pipe and its structural condition. Once this is done, then there is a direction for the design process. The cost of study would be \$100,000. Money was discussed and phone calls were made. Ms. Green suggested ARPA money; the Select Board believes this is not the best solution. It would prefer the State to find money to cover this solution. Ms. Green stated the meeting did not identify any potential sources, but are looking for other funding sources. The timeline is to complete the study in six months. She has not yet scheduled a follow-up meeting; she is waiting to hear back from Old Colony Planning Council. The Board would like an update for the February 21, 2023 meeting; Ms. Green stated she plans updates for each meeting until resolution. The Board also mused, as the Town accepted the grant for the road without knowing about the issue with the pipe, would it be possible to give it back or should it continue as is. Or is there anything that could be done without lowering the road. The Board would like Ms. Green to address this issue with

the Town's engineering partners as it appears to be a large oversight on the company's part. It would also like her to press the Town's state representatives for some type of assistance to pay for the additional costs. Ms. Green will reach out and ask them to attend the February 21 meeting. Mr. Hickey stated he will see Mr. Cutler on Friday and will speak with him as well.

- Ms. Green shared that the representatives are working behind the scene and are directing funding to Hanson. The Select Board thank Mr. Cutler and Mr. Brady and their respective staff, and hope to have continued support in the future.
- The posting for the Veterans Service Officer was submitted but Ms. Green will update the advertisement to reflect the changes discussed tonight.
- Ms. Green and Mr. DeFrias met with General Code Bylaw Codification team. An initial draft is available; there is training to be completed before they can review. Then will forward to the Bylaw Review Committee for its review.
- Ms. Green met with Mr. Madden to discuss creating a financial analysis report that will examine spending, forecasting, revenues, capital plans, etc., and then created a report of solutions. She will present once she receives his proposal. He has created this report for the Town of Whitman as well.
- Regarding open positions –
 - Resume requests for the Planning Board Administrative Assistant closed today. She and Mr. DeFrias will review resumes and set up interviews.
 - The Town Accountant position has not yet been posted due to funding that needs to be approved at Town meeting in May.
- For the Highway Building Committee, Mr. Shave received a proposal for a study. The Board requested Ms. Green coordinate with the committee to schedule a meeting.
- Ms. Green shared an update regarding cannabis distribution. She received an update from Mr. Moghaddam that January 20, 2023 they had their first substantial sale but do not anticipate payment for thirty days. He noted there are more sales in the pipeline but will take 30 to 60 days to finalized. She shared if there are any changes in management she will find out.
- Ms. Green received a notice for a February 1 meeting of the Whitman-Hanson Regional School Committee public hearing for its budget. She will attend as a member of the public and provide the Board with an update. There is also a meeting on February 15 that Mr. Hickey is attending related to the agreement.

VIII ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Heal, to adjourn. ***Voted 5-0***

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn McDowell