



Tuesday, October 10, 2023
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; Lynn McDowell, Executive Assistant; Emily Sprague, Administrative Assistant

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.

Ms. Rein noted it is challenging finding the application for volunteers online when using a smartphone. Ms. Green will address with Mr. Moberg.

The Select Board shared an updated from Mr. Amico regarding the Holiday Festival. He noted that due to the cost, there will not be fireworks this year. If anyone is able to assist, please reach out directly to him.

III NEW BUSINESS

1. Registrar of Voters vacancy

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein to accept the resignation of Mary Foley from the Board of Registrar of Voters, with regret. ***Voted 5 – 0***

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein to appoint Nancy Brown to the Board of Registrar of Voters. ***Voted 5 – 0***

2. MMA Healey-Driscoll Administration discussion

The Select Board discussed the request from the Healey-Driscoll Administration on what towns would like them to do, and as a board, present a unified response for Ms. Green to forward.

Ms. Green also shared with the Board her attendance

Ms. Green attended listening conference at Bridgewater State University listening conference and presented by the Collins Center, hosted by Lt. Governor Driscoll. The Collins Center created a list of high impact items. The attendees highlighted the items that effected their respective towns, leading to discussions of how the administration could best assist with resources. Top items discussed included funding for schools, infrastructure, health and human

services, procurement law and migrant mandate crisis. Lt. Governor Driscoll is taking all comments and ideas back to her office with the intention of sharing with the Governor Healey and determine how to best work with municipalities going forward.

The first step is reaching out to select boards across the Commonwealth to get feedback and other areas of interest. The Select Board would like request additional funding for:

- The schools, with a focus on special needs
- Town infrastructure
- Structuring of regional agreement review to benefit all towns involved
- Elder services and affairs
- Budgeting for public safety/first responders

Ms. Green will draft for correspondence for Board review and signature at the next board meeting as the deadline is October 20, 2023.

3. WHRSD School Committee Borrowing discussion

The focus is on the Whitman Middle School. Overall, it will not affect the Town of Hanson tax base as it is not Town related.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein to defer this issue back to the School Committee. **Voted 5 – 0**

4. Surplus furniture at the Town of Hanson Library

The library had some bookcases that are no longer needed in the building. They were offered to other departments. Some were taken and reused; the Library Director would like to declare remainder surplus to be auctioned off.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein to declare the remaining bookcases from the Library as surplus items to be sold through an auction. **Voted 5 – 0**

5. Appoint Thomas Roffey Jr to the Master Plan Steering Committee

MOTION by Mr. Heal, seconded by Mr. Weeks to appoint Thomas Roffey Jr to the Master Plan Steering Committee. **Voted 5 – 0**

6. Appoint Jean Dean to the Maquan School Reuse Committee

Ms. Green met Ms. Dean through their mutual affiliation with Dollars for Scholar. Ms. Dean generously volunteers her time and Ms. Green stated she will be an asset to the committee.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to appoint Jean Dean to the Maquan School Reuse Committee. **Voted 5 – 0**

IV OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Discuss the Vitolo Bill, a sign-on letter in support of legislation of affordable electrical aggregation programs**

Ms. Green updated the Select Board that the support letter was due last week. However, there will be a second letter addressing the same issues through the Department of Utilities. Ms. Green requested a representative from Good Energy to attend the a Select Board meeting to address all questions and concerns.

- 2. October 2023 Special Town Meeting recap and next steps**

The Board addressed the group involved for Town Meeting preparation and implementation – Town Administrator’s office, Town Moderator, Interim Town Accountant, Town Clerk’s office, Finance Committee – thanking all for the hard work allowing the process to move along smoothly. All is expected going forward for the next Town meeting. It did suggest, if not already implemented, to create a timeline for May 2024.

The Board did express its concerns for a possible override for the May 2024 Annual Town Meeting. As per Mr. Kinsherf, Ms. Green shared the certified number for Free Cash was \$2,267,948. Of that number, \$781,514.44 was authorized and adopted at Town Meeting. At this point, the Free Cash balance is \$1,486,433.56. The Select Board requested Mr. Kinsherf to continue reviewing accounts for any possible unused funds as well as any reimbursement for grant moneys that can be reallocated.

The Board appreciated how the Moderator presented articles, and kept the meeting moving along. Also pleased with Ms. Green’s attention, including the legality of all articles presented. There was a particular query for one of the articles that was still in question after all business was concluded. Ms. Green reached out to both Town Counsel and Mr. Kinsherf for further review and discussion; all concluded the Town was within legal parameters and did not act inappropriately

- 3. Strategic Planning update**

During the last meeting focused on possible uses for the Maquan school property. For this next session the Select Board would like to address:

- Communication
 - Related to internally within Town Hall as well as externally to the Town.
 - An update on the Town’s grant status; what is currently in hand as well as what is in progress.
 - A status report from the IT Department regarding the new phone system in Town Hall as well as the revised website status
 - Feedback on the monthly newsletter
 - Other ideas to improve communication
- Public outreach to fill committee positions/restructuring
 - Recreation Committee

- Ad hoc Land Use Committee for large/40R projects
- Department of Public Works

The Select Board has had several discussions. At this time, it would like other departments and committees to express opinions and feedback for next steps.

Ms. Donner is confirmed. Reminders have been sent; the agenda will be forwarded once finalized.

V **ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSES**

1. 12/02/2023 – 1:00pm – 6:00pm – Michelle Rocheleau – Baby Shower
2. 12/09/2023 – 12:00pm – 5:00pm – Taylor Heine – Birthday Party
3. 01/06/2024 – 12:00pm – 6:00pm – Anna-Maria Caramanica – Baby Shower
4. 09/24/2024 – 5:00pm – 10:30pm – William Breckwoldt – Wedding

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

VI **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

1. Economic Development Committee

No updates.

2. High Street Park Committee

Mr. Weeks noted the next committee meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2023 at 6pm in Town Hall for any who wish to attend. The Board suggested the sharing of plans to prevent the duplication of services on the properties.

3. Highway Committee

No updates.

4. Maquan Property Reuse Committee

No updates.

5. Recreation Committee

No updates.

6. Transfer Station Taskforce

Now that Ms. Dias is sworn in the committee is coordinating schedules to meet soon.

7. Other Committee updates

No updates.

VII APPROVE OPEN SESSION MINUTES

1. September 26, 2023
2. October 2, 2023

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

VII TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Ms. Green thanked the Town Clerk's office, Mr. Baker and her team for making the October Town meeting a smooth success.
- She also Mr. Moberg and Ms. Jordan for installing the Town Hall phone system. It is already an improvement as callers can hear who they are calling.
- For the Maquan property, Eversource capped off the gas supply from the street to the property. It also forwarded correspondence confirming the gas disconnection. She expects demolition to begin within the next two weeks.
- The Treasurer Collector vacancy was posted on MMA and Indeed websites and in the Whitman Hanson Express. She and Ms. Sullivan will interview candidates within the next couple of weeks.
- Town Planner Tony DeFrias will be attending Procurement courses through the Inspector General's office. The courses are offered as a pilot program, providing tuition at no cost and a waiver of the Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official designation fee.
- She received the draft Hanson Personnel Policies for review. After her initial review she will forward to the Select Board, Town Counsel and Union stewards for review and feedback.
- Her office is working with Harpers to finalize the employee timesheet pilot. She noted it will be implemented very soon.
- Town Hall had a special visitor last week; a small water snake made its way into the Assessor's office. The Town Veteran's Agent assisted Ms. Gamache with removing the snake from the building.
- She shared the Police Chief's message from X/formerly Twitter: A resident report today that our local bear and livestock had a negative interaction. If you have small domestic animals, please take steps to protect them and discourage the bear. Please visit Mass Wildlife's webpages for more information.

VIII

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