



Tuesday, September 12, 2023
Hanson Select Board
Select Board Meeting Room, Town Hall
Open Session

Members Present: Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Joseph Weeks, Edwin Heal, Ann Rein
Members Absent: David George
Others Present: Lisa Green, Town Administrator; Emily Sprague, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Sullivan, Finance Committee; Adam Valachovic, Parks and Fields; Eric Kinsherf, Interim Town Accountant; Chief Robert O'Brien, Deputy Chief Charles Barends, Fire Department

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. Appoint Leonard Cipolla as a member of the Parks and Fields Commission for a three-year term.

As Mr. Valachovic was present for the warrant discussion, Ms. Green thought he was staying to provide some background. She will reach out to both him and Mr. Cipolla. Tabled.

2. Accept resignation of Teresa Santalucia from the Community Preservation Committee

MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to accept Teresa Santalucia's resignation as a member of the Community Preservation Committee, with regret.
Voted 4 – 0

3. Accept resignation of Teresa Santalucia from the Historical Commission

MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to accept Teresa Santalucia's resignation as a member of the Historical Commission, with regret. ***Voted 4 – 0***

IV OLD BUSINESS

1. October Special Town meeting warrant review

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett introduced the newer member of the Select Board to Mr. Sullivan, Chair of the Finance Committee, as well as Mr. Valachovic, Chair of Parks and Fields.

Mr. Sullivan stated the Finance Committee is meeting later this evening but wanted to provide the Select Board related feedback. He met with the Interim Town Accountant and both agreed it

is important for the Town's financial stability to maintain a balance of five percent (5%) in cash reserves. Based upon the Town's budget for this fiscal year, it would need to have \$1.7M. If the Town accommodates all articles in the Warrant, there would be an estimated balance of \$300,000 - \$400,000, which is well below the 5%. They also anticipate a \$1M deficit come spring 2024. Thus, he and the Finance Committee are taking a hard look at free cash as well as recommending maintaining the highest possible balance. He did recognize it is the vote of the citizens. He did emphasize in the spring there will be conversations related to overrides and possible trimming as there is not the revenue base to support the expenses generated. The Board agreed that the conversation does need to occur. He emphasized the Town is reaching a critical point that there may not be any Free Cash in the Spring; that would have a negative effect to the Town's bond rating.

Reviewing the Warrant, Mr. Sullivan did not find anything egregious, however there are some that are more considered good to have but not needed now. He noted some of the requests are needed – student transportation, preventative maintenance – prohibiting any flexibility. And is it possible some could be deferred to the spring.

Mr. Kinsharf stated that a similar account to Mr. Sullivan, agreeing to maintaining a minimum of 5% of the budget. He noted, when he reviewed the Warrant, there were several operational items included that that should be in respective department budgets.

Ms. Green and Mr. Kinsharf have reviewed previous warrants for unspent article money. With his findings, Mr. Kinsharf has already allocated fundings to the current warrant articles. The School District is also reviewing unspent money from its articles. Ms. Green received notification that \$87,000 will be returned to the Town; Mr. Kinsharf incorporated that into this warrant. She stated she also requested return of capital funding that the Schools did not use, which has been incorporated. Both Mr. Kinsharf and Ms. Green noted the School District has not completed its review and it is possible more funds could be returned to the Town. She, at this time, does not have an estimate. The Select Board queried the possibility of expediting the process. Ms. Green and Mr. Kinsharf will reach out and follow-up.

Lastly, Mr. Sullivan stated November is when the tax rate will be set; he advocated raising taxes as a preventative measure, related to his concerns for the Town come May 2024 Annual Town meeting. He intends to meet with Mr. Kinsharf to review numbers as well as do a comparison of the surrounding towns. He reiterated that the Town of Hanson is well below the average tax rate.

The Select Board continued to make its recommendations for each article.

MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 1 **Voted 4-0**

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to recommend Article 2 **Voted 4-0**

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to recommend Article 3 **Voted 4-0**

MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 4 **Voted 4-0**

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to recommend Article 5 **Voted 4-0**

MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 6 **Voted 4-0**

MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 7 **Voted 4-0**

MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 8 **Voted 4-0**

MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 9 **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 10 **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 11 **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 12 **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 13A **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to place and recommend Article 13B,
contingent upon the Water Department timely discussion and voting **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to place and defer Article 14 to Town Meeting
Voted 3-1
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 15 **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 16 **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to deferred Article 17A to Town Meeting
Voted 4-0
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 17B **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 18 **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 19 **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 20 **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 21 **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 22 **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 23 **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 24 **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 25 **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 26 **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 27 **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 28 **Voted 4-0**
MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to recommend Article 29 **Voted 4-0**

For detailed discussions on each article, please view the meeting here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtYF6q4ZGXo&t=164s> at 2:36

MOTION by Ms. Rein, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to close the Special Town
Meeting warrant for October 2, 2023. **Voted 4 – 0**

2. Strategic Planning update

Ms. McDowell reached out to Ms. Donner and confirmed her to moderate the next session. The date is Tuesday, October 17, 2023

V COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Economic Development Committee

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett hopes to see everyone for Hanson Day. She noted it is currently predicted to rain; it will be Saturday, September 23, 2023 if that occurs. An announcement was sent to all via email earlier today.

2. High Street Park Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 6pm.

3. Highway Committee

No update

4. Maquan Property Reuse Committee

Ms. Green confirmed that fencing is up around the building. Depending upon the weather, the building should start coming down the week of September 18. The playground is also separately fenced off as it will be very dangerous for children to play during demolition; it will not be touched nor the parking area for it.

The Select Board asked about the memorial bricks, as they should not be destroyed. Ms. Green will follow up. The Board also asked about the memorial stone for one of the teachers located by the tree; Ms. Green stated it was already moved to Indian Head. She noted all will be leveled, including the parking lot located in front of school.

5. Recreation Committee

No update.

6. Transfer Station Taskforce

No update.

7. Other Committee updates

Regarding the Regional School Agreement Committee, Ms. Green shared she spoke with the Superintendent about possibly changing the meeting date. He advised, at this time, the committee needs to keep the date for the first meeting. It will be added to the agenda for discussion.

VI TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Ms. Green updated the Select Board that the Community Compact Grant was awarded \$25,000 for the Capital Improvement plan. She already informed Mr. Milisi, who is very pleased. She will start working to receive proposals.

The Elevator Maintenance and Repair Service bid was revised and will be available on Wednesday, September 20, 2023.

She submitted an application for ARPA for reimbursement of funding for the first payment of the Maquan demolition, which was \$499,935 for the complete asbestos abatement. If the application is approved, the Town will be reimbursed close to the full amount.

She participated in the bid opening for the Middle School field renovations. There were two bids; CLC Design will be forwarding the award letter. Although Parks and Fields is the lead, she represented the Town as the MCPPO (Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official) and CPO (Chief Procurement Officer).

She updated the Board regarding the solar net metering agreements, as she received two proposals for consulting. And they were both the same amount. One was offering a wider scope of services than the other; she preferred this company. She is investigating funding sources as ARPA is exhausted.

VII ADJOURNMENT

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

Voted 4 – 0

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

Respectfully submitted,