



Tuesday, September 26, 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; Mary Collins, Lianne Gagnon, Council on Aging; Frank Schellenger, Phil Clemons, Conservation, Gilbert Amado, Board of Health; Robert O'Brien, Charles Barends, Fire Department; Elizabeth Sloan, Town Clerk; Katherine Feodoroff, Town Counsel; Dylan Sanders, Michael S. Campinelli, Beveridge & Diamond; Frank Milisi, Camp Kiwanee; Matthew Dwyer, Indian Head River Restoration Steering Committee; Kate Melanson, Charlotte Gray, Mandy Liao, Robert Cianciarulo, Chao Wu, Environmental Protection Agency; Diane Baxter, Cathy Kiley, Department of Environmental Protection

**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. Regional Agreement Committee representative**

Ms. Green reached out to the Superintendent regarding possibly moving the meeting night from Mondays, which he deferred to the meeting last night. The consensus of the committee that it would be challenging to change the meeting night due to other commitments. The committee noted the meetings are posted with enough time to allow participants to alter their schedules and attend. The next Regional Agreement Committee is scheduled for Monday, November 6, 2023 at 5pm.

At this time, none of the Select Board members will not be able to act as a representative.

**2. Request by Hanson Troop 68 to reserve Town Hall Green for its annual Pumpkin Sale (10/14/23 – 10/15/23, 9am – 2pm)**

***MOTION*** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein to approve Hanson Troop 68 to reserve Town Hall Green for its annual Pumpkin sale, to be held on Saturday, October 14 and Sunday, October 15, 2023, 9am-2pm. ***Voted 5 – 0***

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

Ms. Green noted a bill has been introduced to make the aggregate process easier to obtain. The process in place, the Town is in year 2 of the process. There are a number of towns in the queue waiting for its respective aggregate plan to be reviewed and approved. This legislation introduces a way to be easily obtainable for more towns interested in joining the process. The letter of support would acknowledge the Town of Hanson's support.

The Select Board would like more detail before signing. Ms. Green will review the bill in greater detail as well as reach out to the Energy Committee to attend a meeting to share its thoughts. Good Energy forwarded the request to Ms. Green, as it is working with the Town on the aggregate.

**4. Appoint Lianna Gagnon as the Council on Aging's Assistant Program Coordinator**

Ms. Collins shared that Ms. Gagnon has been volunteering at the Council on Aging for the past year, her focus being caring for frail elders. She is also a longtime Hanson resident. Ms. Gagnon is currently attending in college, studying human services with the plan to make that her career.

Her position is funded through an increase in the Formula Grant, as there has been a substantial increase as the number of seniors over 60 years of age has jumped to over 1000 people in the past decade.

Ms. Gagnon is very excited to start.

***MOTION*** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal to appoint Lianna Gagnon to the Council on Aging as Assistant Program Coordinator, effective September 27, 2023. ***Voted 5 – 0***

**5. Fireworks discussion**

Ms. Green noted the firework site that the cleanup, primarily focused in the Town of Hanover, has now expanded to include the Town of Hanson; the Town now needs to focus and address. The Select Board noted both the Conservation Agent and the Health Inspector's continued participation in monthly meeting, keeping Ms. Green apprised of all updates and changes.

There is a trust dedicated for cleanup through the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, however the funds are nearly depleted. As the site is reviewed and cleaned up, it was estimated funding in the amount of \$200M will be required to continue the cleanup. Members of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) attended to discuss the current site conditions and what is needed to continue moving forward.

The teams from the EPA and the DEP thanked the Board for inviting them to present an update on this project as well as some forward movement updates. This presentation was a follow-up from the meetings held over the summer, providing the site background and current status. Key points included:

- No public or private water supply wells have been impacted by contaminants released at the site.
- Potential risk from direct contact with contaminant-impacted soil and sediment is restricted and patrolled by Hanover Police Department.
- As there are possible risks to people, fish-eating birds and wildlife from ingestion of contaminants found in fish, a fish advisory for Factory Pond is in place.
- As munitions items have been identified in the southern portion of the site, making them risks to people, access to Factory Pond is restricted.

As of August 2023, over 190,000 munitions items have been removed from the site. Of this, 11% was determined to contain explosives and posed a public safety hazard; they were destroyed on site by the Massachusetts State Police. At this point, with the amount of work completed and what is expected to still be done, only \$10.21M is remaining from the initial \$73.84M in trust. Given the projected costs for the remaining cleanup and status of settlement negotiations, MassDEP reached out to the EPA as a possible option for funding the cleanup at the site through the Superfund National Priorities List process.

A Superfund – the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) –allows EPA to clean up contaminated sites. It also forces the parties responsible for the contamination to either perform cleanups or reimburse the government for EPA-led cleanup work.

The National Priorities List (NPL) is a national list of sites that EPA determines require further detailed investigation, and potential cleanup action in accordance with CERCLA. Adding the National Fireworks site to the NPL allows the following;

- Sites on NPL subject to detailed investigation and cleanup where warranted.
- Only sites on the NPL are eligible to receive federal Superfund resources for comprehensive cleanup.
- Federal resources can include monetary support, as well as expertise/staffing.
- Absent the use of federal resources, comprehensive cleanup strategies may not be able to be pursued.

Sites can only be added to the NPL through federal rulemaking, which includes proposing the site to the NPL, a letter of concurrence from Governor, then a sixty-day public comment period. Currently a site reassessment is ongoing. An expanded site inspection will be conducted next to address data gaps and additional sample to prepare a Hazard Ranking System package (which takes about one year to complete).

While there is no requirement for towns to forward letters of support, Ms. Liao stated it is helpful to include in the information package to NPL.

The complete presentation can be located on the Select Board webpage under September 26, 2023 Meeting agenda, as well as the EPA website.

***Discussion:***

The Select Board queried what is being done for Community outreach. Ms. Liao stated there will be newspaper posting and updating its website as well as working with the towns to coordinate outreach that works best for each town. Ms. Green offered to provide the link on the Town's website.

The Board questioned the timeline for cleanup; how long are they anticipating and does the Town need to be a superfund first. Ms. Liao stated the Town needs to be included on the superfund list for the resources to be available. Once the Town is added, a project manager will be assigned and be the point person moving forward.

The Board also questioned the accuracy of \$200M to complete the clean-up. Ms. Kiley stated, due to less sampling done downstream, no one is quite certain how much it will be. The current number is an estimate of costs based on current information. She also believed EPA, when the time comes, will do its own investigation and determine the expense then. She did emphasize numbers will change based on data refinement, and an expected increase in costs.

The Select Board asked about the various methodologies of cleanup, as previous presentations focused on cleanup above factory pond dam. Ms. Kiley several plans focused on remediation above Factory Pond. Without knowing all specifics, she noted there is an area known for its high metal density. There were various plans in place to address that contamination, including draining the pond.

If the project price exceeds \$200M, who will cover the balance. And the Town of Hanson has not been treated as a full partner as the Town of Hanover was maintaining leadership and direction. The Board would appreciate some guarantees from both present organizations that the Town will have a voice in how this will be addressed moving forward and including members of the Town's professional staff during discussions. Mr. Cianciarulo stated, working under the regulations of the superfund program, there is a required formal public comment process, leading to a feasibility study. There will then be a preferred remedy offered to the public with feedback expected through public meetings and hearings. Then move forward with the plan. He shared funding is in a federal trust fund received through taxation of chemical feedstock and petroleum.

Lastly the Board queried a timeline before it becomes an EPA NPL. Ms. Liao stated currently all data collected from 2012 to present is being reviewed, comparing what, if anything, changed. Depending upon when the next proposal can be submitted will be the base of the start time. She estimated 18 – 24 months for the superfund. Continual cleanup will remain while this process is happening, using the remaining \$10M funds.

The Board further queried outcomes if another town does not want to move forward with the superfund when Hanson does. Ms. Baxter responded that it is DEP's plan is to encourage the Governor to move forward with the project; the Town of Hanson sending correspondence of

support directly to the Governor's office would be helpful. She noted there is no veto power for any one town; she would like to see support from all three communities.

Meeting with Pembroke with October. Then will plan a joint meeting. Want to hear what each community wants.

Several members of both Town Hall as well as many citizens of the Town shared support moving forward. There were requests to have more citizen outreach to provide additional education of this process. The Select Board stated public forums and hearings will happen in the future. Town Hall staff also requested the opportunity to be present during meetings going forward.

## **6. October Special Town Meeting Preview**

Ms. Green informed the Select Board that Article 17 needs to be tweaked. The totals were rounded up, but needs to actually read as \$322,282.50. She suggested making a motion on the floor. Ms. Feodoroff suggested making the motion very specific and have Mr. Kealy note the amount varies slightly from what was printed in the Warrant.

She stated Article 2 will be addressed during the May 2024 Annual meeting, as there are positions needing to remove as well as salaries to be updated through Wage and Personnel. She and Ms. Feodoroff noted Articles 15 and 16 relate only to staff classified through Wage and Personnel.

Mr. Kinsharf notified the Board that Free Cash has not yet been finalized but certification is very close. He has a good sense of the number and believes the Board will be please. He is anticipating it to be close to \$2M. He expects to receive the confirming email over the next few days.

Mr. Milisi stated he noted during the last meeting there were questions related to the capital improvement items in the Warrant. He would be happy to address at this time, if there are still concerns.

Mr. Milisi remarked, related to the School items, while the Town could purchase the touchscreens at this time, they will not be installed until summer of 2024. If there is a strong need to reprioritize articles, this could be held for May 2024 Town meeting, as they will be still be able to order for summer 2024 installation. The Select Board questioned about pricing if it placed this on hold for now. Mr. Milisi shared that the technology director from the school district presented to the Capital Improvement Committee, with details related to cost breakdowns, including touchscreens decreasing in cost. He agreed with Mr. Kinsharf to used the unspent articles from the Schools to cover expenses in the Spring; he emphasized the network switches are absolutely needed.

In another option to save Free Cash, Mr. Kinsharf questioned if the motion from the floor could be alter to use some free cash and the balance from other unused articles, particularly for Article 17. Ms. Feodoroff suggested it would be preferable to defer to the Town Moderator. Mr. Milisi

suggested a better option may be to use the unused article funding for FY25 capital improvement instead.

Mr. Milisi stated he intends to make a motion to change the retained earnings Camp Kiwanee Commission. Ms. Feodoroff stated again, it would be preferable to defer to the Town Moderator. Mr. Kinsherf suggested to keep as is, then request the balance for the May 2024 Town Meeting. Mr. Kinsherf will work with Mr. Milisi to make it to cover what is needed for July 1, 2024. Ms. Feodoroff believes there will be enough funding to get to May Town meeting.

For detailed discussions on each article, please view the meeting here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIZsPcKoywU> at 1:29.

To ensure there will be a quorum, Ms. Green advertised on social media; the Warrants are posted on the Town Administrator page as well as the Select Board page.

#### **IV ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSES**

1. 11/11/2023 – 4:00pm – 9:00pm – Michell Pierce – Wedding

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

#### **V COMMITTEE UPDATES**

1. Economic Development Committee

Hanson Day was very successful and well attended, despite the rain moving it indoors. Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett thanked Kevin Cohen and Chris Ernst for their support coordinating the event. She also thanked the Whitman Hanson Regional School District for accommodating the need to move the event inside.

2. High Street Park Committee

Mr. Weeks noted due to weather, the meeting was rescheduled for September 27, 2023.

3. Highway Committee

Ms. Rein stated, due to scheduling, it has not yet met. Ms. Green updated the Board that the feasibility study is close to being finalized for where to relocate the Highway department. She anticipates receiving the report very soon.

4. Maquan Property Reuse Committee

If residents of Hanson are interested in having a voice in how the committee will update and renovate the property, please complete an application, which can be found on the Town of Hanson website under Volunteer Opportunities, and join the committee. All decisions related to

this property will occur within this committee. At this time, no final decisions have been made about the property.

5. Recreation Committee

No other applications received to date.

6. Transfer Station Taskforce

Mr. Weeks stated the taskforce has not yet met. It is working to schedule and reform the committee.

7. Other Committee updates

The next Select Board meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2023, concurrent to the next Strategic Planning session. The Board is concerned there will be follow-up from the Special Town meeting needing to be addressed that will not be covered during the October 17 meeting. A meeting will be added for Tuesday, October 10, 2023 in the Select Board meeting room.

**VI APPROVE OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

1. August 29, 2023

**MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to approve the August 29, 2023 meeting minutes as printed on the agenda. ***Voted 5 – 0***

2. September 5, 2023

**MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to approve the September 5, 2023 meeting minutes as printed on the agenda. ***Voted 5 – 0***

3. September 12, 2023

Mr. Heal had some questions regarding the September 12 minutes.

**MOTION** by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to approve the September 12, 2023 meeting minutes as printed on the agenda. ***Voted 5 – 0***

**VII TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Ms. Green thanked Ms. McDowell and Ms. Sprague for their work preparing for next week's Special Town Meeting.
- She also recognized Mr. Moberg and Ms. Jordan for installing the new Town Hall phone system. A tremendous amount of time and effort went into this project and residents will hear a great improvement when calling Town Hall.

- She noted the next issue of the Hanson Happenings newsletter will be released soon. It will be posted to the Town's social media platforms and website.
- She submitted an application for ARPA Funds reimbursement related to a portion of the Maquan demolition costs. It was approved at the first level and waiting on second level review.
- She stated demolition is temporarily on hold as Eversource confirms the gas delivery system disconnection, as neither the Town nor Eversource could locate records of when the gas was disconnected from the street. She intends to follow-up with Eversource regularly to get the demolition back on schedule.
- The Building department is reconfiguring the entryway to better secure the office.
- She attended the Mass Municipal Management Association meeting as meeting topics included fire and police recruitment. As many towns are facing a shortage of career firefighters and police officers, all brainstormed creative ways to reach out college and high school.
- Lastly, she noted there is a slight increase in public record requests. It is a timely process needing review and preparation of all requests for documentations, then creating the fee estimate, before documents can be released within the ten-day window.

## 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*