



Tuesday, September 27, 2022

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: Lisa Green, Town Administrator

Others Present: Joseph Kenney, Animal Control Officer; Kerry Glass, Building Inspector; Michael Dugan, Finance Committee; Joshua Pratti, Zoning Board; William Cushing, Zoning Board; Jason Talerman, Town Counsel; James Armstrong, Energy Committee; Patrick Roche, Good Energy; Charles Williams; Valencia Williams; David Leighton; Matthew Dyer

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 NEW BUSINESS

1. Hearing for Dog Complaint by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Williams, 115 Leon Court, Hanson on dogs owned by Mr. David Leighton, 73 Leon Court, Hanson.

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett noted the Board has documentation from Animal Control, the Town Clerk (for registration of dogs) and the Police as well as the Williams. She also emphasized this is not a court of law or trial; they are here to review the incident.

Mr. Williams stated that it has been challenging for his to family to deal with the dog, including changing his child's bus stop. He would like support to live peacefully.

His wife, Mrs. Williams, stated the dog jumped on her care, and has tried to chase her and her son. She emphasized the additional anxiety and stress in their lives due to the interaction with the dog.

Mr. Leighton apologized for what is happening. He acknowledged the dog running out the front door and escaping out the back due to damaged fencing. He emphasized that the dog has never bitten anyone but does bark and chase cars. Currently he is tethering the dog in the backyard and training the dog with an electric fence and collar.

Mr. Kenney has been to the house a few times. He stated he knows the dog never tried to bite but does appear to be aggressive due to his barking. For a Dangerous dog he would recommend a six foot fence and kennel or enclosed yard. In this incident he believes repairing the fence should be sufficient. The electric fence is a great backup.

Mr. Talerman stated the dog meets the standard of Nuisance dog and recommends fencing and mandating the dog stay in backyard. If out in the front yard, the dog needs to always be accompanied and on a leash. The dog cannot be tethered when alone.

Mr. Leighton anticipates completing the fencing repairs within two 2 weeks. The electric fencing will be back up to the front door. He is also posting signage to not let the dog out. The Board requests Mr. Kenney to visit the home in two weeks to ensure everything is completed as Mr. Leighton stated. It is also encouraging training and neutering.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Hickey to find the dog Scout, owned by Mr. David Leighton at 73 Leon Court, Hanson, to be a Nuisance dog. **Voted 5 - 0**

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to have Mr. Leighton repair the fencing, to not open the front door until the dog is in the back yard, and to have guests enter the property via the backyard gating. **Voted 5 - 0**

MOTION by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Weeks, to close the hearing. **Voted 5 - 0**

2. Request by Town Clerk's office to approve early voting hours for the November 8, 2022 State Election.

Ms. Rein read the request for early hours for voting.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal, to Approve Early Voting Hours for the November 8, 2022 State Election. **Voted 5 - 0**

3. Request – Approval of Private Way Plow List for 2022/23

Mr. Weeks read the list. There is one new additional address to the list.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to Approve Private Way Plow List for 2022/23. **Voted 5 - 0**

4. Status of roof repairs.

There is a section of the roof is leaking in Town Hall. Mr. Glass reviewed it, stating is it the upper section of an older area of the building. He stated the last time the roof had similar repairs was close to thirty years ago. He requested bids and has three quotes ranging \$9000 - \$14,450, which were all under his expectations.

Ms. Green will speak with the Town Account on Tuesday to ensure there is money in the budget to cover this expense. Mr. Hickey questioned whether additional funds would be needed due to related unexpected costs. Mr. Glass stated he intended to go with the lower bid, and should be fine moving forward even if change orders are needed.

Ms. Green brought to the Board's attention that under procurement laws, need to use best business sense. If going with upper bid, will need to solicit three additional bids. Also, allowed to have change orders up to 10% and stay within requirements.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to have Mr. Glass and Ms. Green to hire one of the proposed bids and work with the Town Accountant to determine where in the budget there is funding. **Voted 5 - 0**

5. Public Hearing on revised Hanson Community Power Plan for electricity aggregation. Vote to Approve Hanson Community Power Plan and submit Plan to Department of Public Utilities (DPU) for its review and approval.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal to open the public hearing regarding the submitted plan from the Hanson Community Power Plan. **Voted 5 - 0**

Mr. Armstrong discussed updated modifications of the plans of buying aggregated electricity for the Town. This option should provide saving to the town and offer more green power. It would be purchased twice a year, Mr. Roche would advise the best time to buy.

Mr. Roche shared and discussed the Hanson Community Power PowerPoint presentation. The public review has been open since August 10, 2022. If the Select Board sees no need changes during this hearing, he suggests submitting the plan to the Department of Public Utilities for the state approval. He anticipates it will take a year to complete that level.

The Select Board had several questions for both Mr. Roche and Mr. Armstrong. Both gentlemen gave detailed information to alleviate the concerns of the Board.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Hickey to close the hearing. **Voted 5 - 0**

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Hickey to approve the submitted plan to public utilities for approval. **Voted 5 - 0**

IV OLD BUSINESS

1. Special Town meeting – Review and Discussion

The Board gave a final review of the articles with Mr. Dugan from the Finance Committee. There was some discussion with the articles. Overall the board and Mr. Dugan were in agreement for presenting to the Town.

Ms. Green will speak with the town accountant to confirm some budget item issues.

Prior to the May 2023 Town Meeting Ms. Fitzgerald-Kemmett requested a strategy meeting with members of the Finance, Capital and Town Planning committees as well as the Town Accountant, Town Clerk and Town Counsel to discuss how to improve our process, and determination of roles and responsibilities weeks prior to Town Meeting..

2. Discussion and approval - Town of Hanson Citizen Survey

With the use of a grant obtained by Ms. Green and Mr. DeFrias, Ann Donner created a citizen survey to ask what the citizen of Hanson feel the Town should focus its energy and direction proactively. It will be posted to the Town Website, Library and Council on Ageing. Hard copies will also be brought to the October 3, 2022 Special Town Meeting.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to approve the citizen survey.
Voted 5 - 0

V ONE DAY LICENSES

- 1. Vote to approve One Day Liquor License for Camp Kiwanee, Nicole Vacher, on December 3, 2022, between hours of 3:00pm and 10:00pm for a wedding**
- 2. Vote to approve One Day Liquor License for Camp Kiwanee, Joana Jean-Francois, on December 4, 2022, between hours of 12:00pm and 5:00pm for a baby shower**
- 3. Vote to approve One Day Liquor License for Camp Kiwanee, John Thomas Sr, on October 30, 2022, between hours of 10:30am and 3:30pm for a baby shower**

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

VI. Appointments

1. Zoning Board of Appeals Members reappointment for Mr. Cushing and Mr. Pratti

Previously, it was suggested by Town Counsel to appoint for three months as the Select Board is waiting for the investigation to conclude. Ms. Green stated Mr. Lampke is waiting on materials from the Board of Health and Building; she will reach out this week for an update.

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett suggested the Board appoint again for one month, as a full term would require a hearing for both Mr. Cushing and Mr. Pratti. She reminded everyone present that this was not instigated by the Board but from a citizen petition signed and voted at town meeting to move forward. The Board wants to be thorough, which is leading to the delay. Mr. Lampke stated he had some outstanding issues he expected to wrap up shortly.

Mr. Cushing understands the Board's wish to be detailed. He also stated if the investigation finds cause, he offered to resign. For this meeting he does not want a temporary appointment. Mr. Hickey reminded the Board he suggested three months prior if the investigation was not completed to appoint both Mr. Cushing and Mr. Pratti to the Zoning Board. The motion did not move forward and now the investigation is still not complete. He would like them to be reappointed with the knowledge there may need to be a hearing in the future. Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett emphasized that would be moving against the advice of Town Counsel.

The next Zoning Board meeting is two weeks of tonight. There are concerns that the board will not have a quorum. And any work that is currently in motion will need to be stopped and reinitiated with new members, if the investigation finds cause.

MOTION by Mr. Hickey to appoint Mr. Cushing and Mr. Pratti to three year terms to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion not seconded; not passed.

Mr. Pratti stated he did not wish to be appointed to a temporary term. No appointments will occur. Mr. Cushing tendered his resignation to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Cushing would also like to receive a copy of the completed report when it arrives. Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett requested Ms. Green to reach out to Mr. Lampke and Mr. Donovan for an update to bring resolution.

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett suggested the Board reappoint Mr. Cushing and Mr. Pratti for one month while waiting for the final out of the report. A full appointment, followed by a negative report would necessitate hearings for Mr. Cushing and Mr. Pratti. At this time, Mr. Perkins can

be heard using profanity while coughing. Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett required him to leave the meeting and requested a break.

Ms. Green will also speak with legal counsel to determine what the ramifications will be to the Zoning board not having enough members to sustain a quorum.

Mr. Pratti also tendered his resignation to the Zoning Board of Appeals. James Hickey is resigning as liaison to the Zoning board.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to accept resignations of Mr. Cushing and Mr. Pratti from the Zoning Board of Appeals, and Mr. Hickey as the Select Board Liaison for the Zoning Board of Appeals. **Voted 5 - 0**

Both Mr. Pratti and Mr. Cushing offered to be reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals after the investigation is concluded, baring there is no cause attached to either party.

2. Matthew Dyer – Hanson Member to the Indian Head River Restoration Steering Committee

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to approve Mr. Dyer's appointment to the Indian Head River Restoration Steering Committee. **Voted 5 - 0**

3. Robin Bousquet - Alternate to the Council of Elder Affairs

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to approve Ms. Bousquet's appointment as an Alternate to the Council of Elder Affairs **Voted 5 - 0**

VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. Ms. Green will be using Mr. Matye, Administrative Intern, to assist with researching and drafting documents related to procurement and grants.
2. The Community IT Grant is open. She is working with Mr. Molberg to determine projects that would be applicable.
3. Ms. Green is drafting a template RFP for the Maquan project. Mr. Matye will research what other towns have done for comparison.

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett mentioned that some IT articles missing and would like to have it addressed. She requested for the next meeting ARP and ARPA funding be added to the agenda for a strategic discussion.

VIII. APPROVE OPEN SESSION MINUTES

The Board tabled this item as Ms. McDowell has not finished finalizing drafts of the past months' minutes.

IX. COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Mr. Hickey shared that the Town of Hanson 200 Committee has placed a time capsule. Thank you to Theresa Cocio for providing Covid numbers. He expects one more meeting to wrap up outstanding details.
2. The Council on Aging is hosting a luncheon with Representative Cutler and State Senator Brady on Monday. Please RSVP
3. Parks and Fields dedicated the new softball field on September 11, 2022. The first game was played on the field this week.
4. Ms. Economic development committee Hanson Day – on Saturday. Great day. Thank you to all attending. Thank you to all behind the scenes making a smooth day

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to adjourn the meeting. **Voted 5-0**

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn McDowell