

Special Town Meeting
October 3, 2020

Moderator Sean J. Kealy called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM at the gymnasium of the Whitman Hanson Regional High School with Jerry Thompson and Barbara Arena appointed and sworn in as tellers.

Town Counsel was Katherine Feodoroff from Blatman, Bobrowski & Mead.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Town Meeting and a moment of silence was observed in memory of Keith Fontaine, Lester Wyman and Deborah Clemons. A quorum was declared present with 55 voters in attendance in accordance with Covid-10 Emergency, Chapter 92 of the Acts 2020, Section 7, that was voted by the Selectmen on September 15, 2020 to reduce the quorum required for this Town Meeting from not less than 100 registered voters to not less than 50. The Moderator, Sean Kealy announced that he would be using Town Meeting Time as the guide for the Town Meeting.

The Moderator asked for a motion to request the Town Meeting allow the Moderator to declare 2/3 and 9/10 majority of a voice vote. Motion was made by Sean Kealy and 2nd by Kenneth Mitchell. **Voted: Aye, voice.**

The Moderator recognized all the hard work and cooperation that the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District gave to the Town of Hanson to help set up and hold both of our July and October Town Meetings at the High School, specifically Robert Hayes, Jeff Szymaniak and Ernie Sandland.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$758.59 from the funding sources stated below to pay for the following unpaid bills from prior fiscal years; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Unpaid Bill No.	Department	Vendor	Amount	Funding Source
1	Public Buildings	C&S Refrigeration	\$294.00	Free Cash
2	Recreation	Wal-Mart	\$65.96	Recreation Enterprise Retained Earnings
3	Recreation	Verizon	\$59.96	Recreation Enterprise Retained Earnings
4	Recreation	Verizon	\$59.99	Recreation Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings
5	Recreation	National Grid	\$7.00	Recreation Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings
6	Recreation	National Grid	\$258.73	Recreation Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings
7	Recreation	National Grid	\$12.95	Recreation Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings
	Totals		\$758.59	

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: These funds are needed to pay for prior years' bills received after the close of the fiscal year. Requires a 9/10 vote.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Kenneth Mitchell

VOTED Aye, voice declared 9/10 by moderator to transfer the sum of \$294.00 from Free Cash and the sum of \$464.59 from Recreation Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings for a total sum of \$758.59 to pay seven unpaid bills from prior fiscal years as printed in the Special Town Meeting Informational Warrant.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation the sum of \$111,100.00 to supplement the appropriations stated below that were previously voted in Article 6 of the July 29, 2020 Annual Town Meeting for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020 for various Town Departments; or take any other action in relation thereto.

No.	Department	Budget Line Item	Amount	Purpose
1	Conservation Commission	Expenses	\$3,000.00	Crooker Place/ Hawkes Avenue Land Appraisal
2	Police	Capital Outlay	\$50,000.00	Police Cruiser Replacement
3	Police	Capital Outlay	\$10,000.00	New Radios
4	Council on Aging	Salaries	\$31,100.00	Van Driver Salaries
5	Board of Health	Expenses	\$2,000.00	Personal Protective Equipment
6	Water	Expenses	\$15,000.00	Emergencies and potential water purchases from Brockton
		Totals	\$111,100.00	

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The purpose of this article is to supplement a number of line items in the current fiscal year's budget (FY21) in order to fund a number of additional expenses incurred during the fiscal year. A detailed handout will be presented to the voters at Town Meeting outlining these expenses.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Kenneth Mitchell

VOTED Aye, voice to raise and appropriate from taxation the sum of \$111,100.00 to supplement the six appropriations listed in the Special Town Meeting Informational

Warrant that were previously voted in Article 6 of the July 29, 2020 Annual Town Meeting for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$742,050.00 and to transfer from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund the sum of \$61,000.00 for a total amount to be transferred of \$803,050.00 to pay for the capital projects stated below; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Line	Dept.	Item	FY21 CIP Report	Town Admin./ FinCom Recommendation	Funding Source
1	Town Buildings	Town Hall Maintenance/Repairs	\$40,000	Town Administrator recommends FinCom Recommends 5-0	Free Cash
2	Information Technology	Server Switch/Network Upgrades	\$210,000	Town Administrator recommends FinCom Recommends 5-0	Free Cash
3	Fire	Replace Car #2	\$67,000	Town Administrator recommends FinCom Recommends 5-0	Free Cash
4	Fire	SCBA Equipment	\$40,000	Town Administrator recommends FinCom Recommends 5-0	Free Cash
5	Fire	3 Heart Monitors/ Defibrillators	\$61,000	Town Administrator recommends FinCom Recommends 5-0	Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriations
6	School-Middle School	Roadway Replacement	\$210,000	Town Administrator Does Not recommend	Free Cash

				FinCom Does Not Recommend 5-0	
7	School- Indian Head and Middle School	Window Balances Replacement	\$50,000	Town Administrator recommends FinCom Recommends 5-0	Free Cash
8	School- Indian Head	Replace Phone System	\$27,948	Town Administrator recommends FinCom Recommends 5-0	Free Cash
9	School- Middle School	Replace Phone System	\$32,102	Town Administrator recommends FinCom Recommends 5-0	Free Cash
10	Highway	Stormwater Management Phase II	\$65,000	Town Administrator recommends FinCom Recommends 5-0	Free Cash
		<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$803,050</i>		

Explanation: *Item 1* - Various Town Hall repairs. *Item 2* - Servers, Switches and Network Upgrades to allow for Town-wide Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) communications. *Item 3* - Car is at end of useful life. *Item 4* - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) at end of warranty period. *Item 5* - Replace out of warranty defibrillators. *Item 6* - Cost to repair sections of the main roadway due to heavy usage, poor drainage, and age. *Item 7* - Replace the existing window balances that are undersized for the weight of the current windows. *Items 8 and 9* - The district phone system is not supported, parts are no longer available, and no service contract can be purchased due to the age of the equipment. *Item 10* - Implement Phase II of mandated Stormwater Management Plan.

Proposed by the Capital Improvement Committee &
Board of Selectmen

Finance Committee recommends Items 1-5 and 7-10, Finance Committee does not recommend Item 6

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Kenneth Mitchell

Item 6 was not recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, and Town Administrator and was not mentioned in the motion.

VOTED Aye, voice transfer the sum of \$532,050.00 from Free Cash and the sum of \$61,000.00 from Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriations for a total amount to be transferred of \$593,050.00 to pay for Items 1-5 and 7-10 as printed in the Special Town Meeting informational warrant.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$2,335.00 and to transfer from the previously voted Article 11 of the May 6, 2019 Annual Town Meeting the sum of \$84,378.00 for a total to be transferred of \$86,713.00 to pay for the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School capital projects listed below; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Line	Dept.	Item	FY21 CIP Report	Town Admin./ FinCom Recommendation	Funding Source
1	School-High School	Fix Existing Fire Lane	\$23,000	Town Administrator recommends FinCom Recommends 5-0	Article 11 of May 6, 2019 Annual Town Meeting. High School-Roadway Repairs
2	School-High School	Replace Phone System	\$63,713	Town Administrator recommends FinCom Recommends 5-0	\$61,378 from Article 11 of May 6, 2019 Annual Town Meeting. High School-Roadway Repairs; \$2,335 from Free Cash
	Total		\$86,713		

Explanation: *Item 1* – Added to existing fire lane article with balance of \$10,045 to replace roadway and drainage in fire lane that does not meet standards. *Item 2*– The district phone system is not supported, parts are no longer available, and no service contract can be purchased due to the age of the equipment.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Kenneth Mitchell

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer the sum of \$2,335.00 from Free Cash and to transfer the sum of \$84,378.00 from the previously voted Article 11 of the May 6, 2019 Annual Town Meeting for a total to be transferred of \$86,713.00 to pay for the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School capital projects as printed in the Special Town Meeting informational warrant.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$30,410.00 from the Community Preservation Committee's Reserve Funds to pay for the local share of a State Matching Trails Grant; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Community Preservation
Committee

Explanation: These funds will be used to provide the local share of a Mass. Trails Matching Grant. The State's portion of this grant is \$100,000.00. This project will create a new recreational foot trail on town-owned land, previously the site of Plymouth County Hospital. It will enable the relocation of nearly a mile of the Bay Circuit Trail off of busy roadways and into 50 acres of forest and meadow. The trail will improve public access and enjoyment of this scenic open space, and will be compatible with passive recreation that is envisioned for other parts of the property in the future.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Kenneth Mitchell

VOTED Aye, voice to appropriate the sum of \$30,410.00 from the Community Preservation Committee's Reserve Fund Balance Reserved for Open Space to pay for the local share of a State Matching Trails Grant.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$14,000.00 to pay for an operational and comparative audit of the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The purpose of this article is to conduct an operational and comparative audit of the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District finances. The proposed audit shall include review of all school accounts, programs, program revenues, revolving accounts, excess and deficiencies, non-school and non-state revenues such as rental fees for use of buildings and fields, and detailed expenditures of all accounts and review of salaries and benefits. The audit costs will be divided between the Towns of Whitman and Hanson.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Kenneth Mitchell

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$14,000.00 to pay for an operational and comparative audit of the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Overlay Surplus (Excess Allowance for Abatements and Exemptions) the sum of \$30,000.00 to pay for the Fiscal Year 2022 Re-certification Year adjustments and the Commercial/Industrial/Personal Property Cyclical Re-certification of the Town's Real Estate and Personal Property values, as required by Mass. General Laws Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Assessors

Explanation: Mass. General Laws require that valuations be re-certified every five years. All building schedules, land tables, depreciation schedules, etc. are recalculated according to the current real estate market. New income and expense figures are also adopted based on the current commercial/industrial market. This is to fund the last year of contract changes adopted to the prior legislation amendments imposing a 5-year requirement.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Kenneth Mitchell

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer from Overlay Surplus (Excess Allowance for Abatements and Exemptions) the sum of \$30,000.00 to pay for the Fiscal Year 2022 Re-certification Year adjustments and the Commercial/Industrial/Personal Property Cyclical Re-certification of the Town's Real Estate and Personal Property values, as required by Mass. General Laws Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$35,000.00 to pay for engineering costs related to the park to be located on the old Plymouth County Hospital site; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Final Plymouth County Hospital
Re-Use Committee

Explanation: These funds are needed to design construction plans for the infrastructure and roadways of the proposed park at the former Plymouth County Hospital site located off of High Street.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy
Second: Kenneth Mitchell

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$35,000.00 to pay for engineering costs related to the park to be located on the old Plymouth County Hospital site.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$20,000.00 to pay for stump grinding, stump removal, and related improvements located at Camp Kiwanee; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Recreation Commission

Explanation: This article will fund the removal or grinding of all tree stumps from the trees that were recently cut down at Camp Kiwanee. This article will also fund loam and re-seeding of the area near the Lodge as well as stone backfill for all stumps ground or removed near the roadway. The stumps that are removed will be re-used in Smitty's Bog for habitat reclamation purposes.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy
Second: Kenneth Mitchell

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$20,000.00 to pay for stump grinding, stump removal, and related improvements located at Camp Kiwanee.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$7,500.00 to pay for repairs to the parking lot located at 228 High Street; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Interim Highway Director

Explanation: The parking lot at 228 High Street is in disrepair. The pavement has buckled and there are numerous dips and divots. These funds will repave the parking lot and make repairs so that the parking lot is passable and usable.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Kenneth Mitchell

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$7,500.00 to pay for repairs to the parking lot located at 228 High Street.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$55,000.00 to pay for 5 new compactors to be located at the Town of Hanson Transfer Station; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Health

Explanation: The compactors at the Transfer Station are old and in disrepair. This article will fund 5 new compactors at the Transfer Station.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Kenneth Mitchell

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$55,000.00 to pay for 5 new compactors to be located at the Town of Hanson Transfer Station.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000.00 to replenish the Conservation Fund for open space management and related conservation purposes; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Conservation Commission

Explanation: One of the more important responsibilities of the Conservation Commission is the care and custody of open space land the Town has designated for conservation. These open spaces are included in the Hanson Open Space and Recreation Plan, which describes the Town's goals for acquiring and protecting open spaces and

providing public access and passive recreation opportunities. The Conservation Commission has a lead role in implementing this Plan, and works to provide a linked system of trails and greenways that are accessible to the public; creates parking spaces at open space access points; and provides passive recreation information by issuing maps of open space lands, installing kiosks and signage at access locations, and working with other land conservation groups to expand the open space inventory and access. The Conservation Fund is the means to facilitate these activities.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Kenneth Mitchell

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000.00 to replenish the Conservation Fund for open space management and related conservation purposes.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation the sum of \$25,000.00 to be added to the Town's Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This article will place funds into the Town's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund. OPEB costs include non-pension costs the Town is required to pay after an employee retires, such as health insurance. The Town's OPEB liability as of June 30, 2020 is estimated to be approximately \$19,500,000 by the Town's actuarial firm. The OPEB Trust Fund has approximately \$132,000 in it as of June 30, 2020.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Kenneth Mitchell

VOTED Aye, voice vote to raise and appropriate from taxation the sum of \$25,000.00 to be added to the Town's Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$50,000.00 to be added to the Town's Stabilization Fund; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This money will be used to increase the Stabilization Fund. A stabilization fund is a mechanism for setting aside money either for unforeseen needs or for capital projects. The

Town's target has been to maintain close to 5% which is the industry standard minimum amount for Stabilization Funds as recommended by our auditors and will help to maintain a positive bond rating for future borrowing purposes.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Kenneth Mitchell

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$50,000.00 to be added to the Town's Stabilization Fund.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000.00 to be added to the Regional Schools Capital Stabilization fund as established by the October 2014 Special Town Meeting; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This Stabilization Fund sets asides funds for the exclusive use of paying for capital improvements to the Hanson School Buildings and the Whitman-Hanson Regional High School.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Sean Kealy

Second: Kenneth Mitchell

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$25,000.00 to be added to the Regional Schools Capital Stabilization fund as established by the October 2014 Special Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to make the office of Tree Warden an appointed position under the authority of the Board of Selectmen as per the provisions of Mass. General Laws Chapter 41 Section 1B; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This article will change the office of Tree Warden from an elected position to an appointed position under the Board of Selectmen's control; but only if this article passes and a ballot box vote to be held in the spring of 2021 also passes.

Finance Committee does not recommend.

Motion: Sean Kealy
Second: Kenneth Mitchell

VOTED Aye, voice to make the office of Tree Warden an appointed position under the authority of the Board of Selectmen as per the provisions of Mass. General Laws Chapter 41 Section 1B.

Voted Aye, voice to dissolve the meeting Motion: Sean Kealy, Second: Kenneth Mitchell at 10:48AM.

A true copy of the vote, Attest:

**Elizabeth Sloan, CMC, CMMC
Town Clerk**