

# Board of Water Commissioners

January 10, 2022

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Present:

- Board of Water Commissioners: Mr. Bill Ramsey (Chair), Mr. Joe Fisher and Ms. Liz Klein
- Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator
- Ms. Michelle Monsegur, Assistant Town Administrator for Finance
- Mr. Art Robert, Assistant Town Administrator for Operations

## **6:00 PM: Call to order**

Mr. Ramsey called the meeting to order and read the following statement:

“This meeting is being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording. “

Mr. Ramsey asked if any participants were recording the meeting. No one indicated they were recording.

Mr. Ramsey announced that Select Board members participating in the meeting were himself, Ms. Liz Klein and Mr. Joe Fisher. The meeting took place in person and remotely via Zoom.

## **Approval of Minutes**

**Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes dated December 20, 2022. Ms. Klein seconded.**

## **Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

## **Agreement with Everett J. Prescott, Inc. for Water Main Replacement Project Construction**

WRWS Superintendent, Mr. Russell Tierney, explained that they have three upcoming water main replacement projects. Because they have been having some supply chain issues, he would like to order the materials now to ensure that they will arrive by the time construction can begin. He hopes to complete the projects by the end of the summer. He felt that Everett J. Prescott offered a very good price. The bid came in under budget at \$770,000. While he has not worked with them in Hingham, he has in another community and said that they are a very good supplier.

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to approve of the Agreement with Everett J. Prescott, Incorporated to provide the Town of Hingham with Miscellaneous Materials and Supplies for Water Main Replacement Construction for the Weir River Water System in an amount not to exceed \$770,881.00. Mr. Fisher seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Water Superintendent Update**

Mr. Tierney reported that the newly ordered centrifuge for the Water Treatment Plant is scheduled to be delivered in the next few weeks. It should be up and running by mid-February. Unfortunately, their other centrifuge is starting to give them some trouble. While they have been doing some minor repairs in-house, Mr. Tierney may potentially need to go out bid for a new one. Since it has taken a year for their other one to be repaired, he felt that it would be a good use of Capital funds to replace the second one. He anticipated the cost to be approximately \$650,000. A new centrifuge would be more energy-efficient and would be able to process more sludge than the one they have now.

Capital improvement projects for next year include upgrades in Downer Avenue, Planter's Field Lane, Samoset Ave (Hull) and the Shipyard area. Due to the construction of a new Foster School and a number of recent water main breaks on Downer Avenue, he would like to increase the size of the water main there. Upgrades are needed in the Shipyard because they are not getting good flows on one side of the Shipyard. The Shipyard job would be paid for by the complex. The WRWS would only be responsible for the cost of the materials.

Because the Town of Hull is planning to repave Samoset Avenue, Mr. Tierney would like to get at least 50% of that water main replaced before paving is complete. If Hull agrees to put the paving off for one year, he is confident that they would be able to install new mains in the entire street before the repaving.

He reported that collections are going well. They have collected about \$8.2 million in revenue. He said that their goal is to reduce the amount of outstanding collections by 50%. He plans to make collections a big focus in the next 4-5 months.

Mr. Tierney will meet with the Advisory Committee tonight to review the WRWS budget.

The WRWS recently participated in a survey with the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) who is interested in expanding into the South Shore. The purpose of the survey was to gauge interest in them doing so. Mr. Tierney suggested that it might be a good resource to have them as a supplement to the WRWS. One part of the MWRA's proposal is to put a water tank in Hingham, which he is considering.

Mr. Ramsey said that he has been getting a lot of positive feedback from residents who have commented on Mr. Tierney's responsiveness to customer issues. He thanked Mr. Tierney for everything he does for the WRWS and the Town. Mr. Fisher echoed Mr. Ramsey's comments and said that he too has received positive feedback from residents. He also asked for an update on how the billing system has been working. Mr. Tierney reported that, while there were a few issues when it was first

implemented, it has been working smoothly. He does have some adjustments that he would like to make that he feels would make it more user-friendly.

Ms. Klein asked Mr. Tierney to keep the Board members updated on collections activity. Mr. Tierney said that he has been working with residents and has coordinated payment plans as needed.

**Public Comment**

“The Board of Water Commissioners encourages community engagement and welcomes questions and comments as agenda items are discussed at the meeting. In addition, we have set aside up to fifteen minutes for public comment for items that fall under the purview of the Select Board and are not already on tonight’s agenda. If any guests wish to speak, please seek to be recognized. Once recognized, state your name and address and address your comments to the Chair. Comments will be limited to three minutes per speaker and must relate to topics within the scope of the responsibilities of the Select Board. Speakers are encouraged to present their remarks in a respectful manner and not to indulge in personalities. The Public Comment period is not a time for debate by members of the Select Board. The Select Board is not adopting or endorsing any of the comments made during the Public Comment period.”

There were no comments from the public.

**Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Klein seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 PM.