

Select Board

January 10, 2022

Present:

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

6:18 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. “

He announced that Select Board members participating in the meeting were himself, Bill Ramsey, Ms. Liz Klein, and Mr. Joe Fisher. The meeting was conducted both in person and remotely via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

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

Roll Call Vote:

**Mr. Fisher: yes
Ms. Klein: yes
Mr. Ramsey: yes**

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the minutes dated January 3, 2023. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

**Mr. Fisher: yes
Ms. Klein: yes
Mr. Ramsey: yes**

Common Victualler License submitted by JM Food Group Boston 8, LLC d/b/a Jersey Mikes

Mr. Andrew Kubli of Jersey Mike's was present. He explained that JM Food Group took over as new owners of the franchise on January 3, 2023 and are seeking a new Common Victualler License.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the issuance of a Common Victualler license to JM Food Group Boston 8, LLC, d/b/a Jersey Mike's Subs, 400 Lincoln Street, Hingham. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Dealer in Old or Second-hand Metals and Precious Metals submitted by The Estate Sale

Mr. Matthew Shannon, the applicant, told the Board that his establishment sells second-hand items, such as furniture, artwork, collectibles, housewares, as well as fine jewelry and costume jewelry. Mr. Mayo confirmed that Police Chief Jones has reviewed the application and is comfortable with the request. As a condition of the license, Mr. Shannon will be required to record any old or second-hand metal products with the Police Department.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the issuance of a Dealer in Old or Second-hand Metals and Precious Metals submitted by The Estate Sale, 37 Whiting Street, Hingham. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Agreement with D'Allessandro Corporation for Sewer Dig Repairs

Assistant DPW Superintendent, Mr. Matthew Cahill and Procurement and Contracts Manager, Ms. Kathy Reilly, presented. Mr. Cahill explained that the DPW has three contracts for consideration by the Select Board. Each of the contracts are for a one-year period, with an option to extend for two years. Mr. Cahill reported that the Town has had a good working rapport with all of the contractors.

Regarding the Sewer Dig Repairs contract, Ms. Reilly said that they received four bids of which D'Allessandro was the most competitive. Mr. Cahill explained that the contract is mainly for on-call services of an emergency nature. Invoices would be reviewed and paid upon completion of each job.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Agreement with D'Allessandro Corporation for Sewer Dig Repairs in an amount not to exceed \$671,128.34. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Agreement with Truax Corporation

Mr. Cahill noted that the Town has worked with Truax on Sewer issues before and they have been very happy with their work.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Agreement with for Cleaning and Inspection of Sewers in an amount not to exceed \$168,927.00. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Agreement with National Water Main Cleaning Company

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Agreement with National Water Main Cleaning Company for Trenchless Sewer Repairs in an amount not to exceed \$741,330.00. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Select Board sponsored Warrant Articles for 2023 Annual Town Meeting

Town Administrator Mayo explained that a Select Board vote to include the following articles in the Town Warrant is not an endorsement of the articles, but rather it is just a vote to allow them to be included. The Select Board is not taking a position on the articles at this time.

Article P: Tax Mitigation Stabilization Fund

Article P asks Town Meeting to vote on the establishment of a “Tax Mitigation Stabilization Fund” for the purpose of setting aside funds for future appropriation by Town Meeting in order to reduce the need to raise these funds through the annual tax rate and to transfer an amount of money from available reserves into said “Tax Mitigation Stabilization Fund.”

There was some discussion about what would happen to the Stabilization Fund in the event that Town Meeting does not pass the proposed override. Mr. Mayo explained that, if that were not to happen, then the Town would be able to release any money in the Stabilization Fund back to the General Fund. Mr. Ramsey was in favor of alleviating the financial burden on residents and he was interested in hearing feedback from the Advisory Committee. Mr. Mayo added that the establishment of this fund may require a change to the Town’s Financial Policy. He said that there would be future discussions with the Advisory Committee in order to make that determination.

Article Q: Establishment of a Capital Stabilization Fund

Article Q asks Town Meeting to establish a “Capital Stabilization Fund” for the purpose of setting aside funds for future appropriation by Town Meeting in order to pay for capital equipment and/or capital projects and to transfer an amount of money from available reserves into said “Capital Stabilization Funds.” This article also asks the Town to dedicate all general fund receipts from the sale of tangible supplies (including the sale of motor vehicles, machinery, computer equipment, furniture, and other items of personal property but excluding real property into this “Capital Stabilization Fund.”

Mr. Mayo explained that the Town intended to add funds to this account right away. He said that the Town has recently received approximately \$50,000 in proceeds from a newly implemented online auction for unused or underused property.

Article S: Sale of 32 Rockwood Road

Ms. Emily Wentworth, Community Planning Director presented.

The proposed warrant article would authorize, but not require, the Select Board to sell, lease, or transfer a parcel of land located at 32 Rockwood Road. As required by Article 5A, Section 4A of the General By-laws, the warrant article specifies the intended use of the property following disposition as residential, which would include customary accessory residential uses.

The Town acquired the property through tax taking in 1990, with Final Judgement ordered by the Land Court in 2003. It consists of 25,833 SF of unimproved land located on the west side of Rockwood Road. In recent years, the Hingham Affordable Housing Trust explored the development potential of the parcel for affordable housing purposes. A soil evaluation completed last year confirmed that there are insufficient naturally occurring soils available onsite to install a Title 5 compliant septic system to support a single-family dwelling.

The property may still be of value for other purposes, including for accessory uses to neighboring residential properties. The Warrant Article would enable the Select Board to consider disposition for this purpose. The current assessed value of the property is \$47,300.

Ms. Wentworth added that the Town could benefit, not only from the proceeds of the sale, but from the future property tax revenue. In addition, the Town would no longer need to perform maintenance on the property. She had no concerns about selling the property.

Town Counsel, Mr. John Coughlin, explained that, if Town Meeting approves this Warrant Article, then the Select Board would set the terms and conditions of the sale. There are different types of sales that the Select Board could choose: a 30b sale through a RFP or an auction sale, among others. He confirmed that the sale of the property would not require any future Town Meeting votes. The proceeds of the sale would be put into the new "Capital Stabilization Fund." If that fund is not yet set up at the time of the sale, the proceeds could be put into the General Fund.

Mr. Michael Saitow, 34 Rockwood Road, an abutter to the 32 Rockwood Road property, reported interest in purchasing the property. He told the Board that he has obtained signed letters from the other abutters supporting his interest in bidding on the property.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to propose Article P: Tax Mitigation Stabilization Fund, as presented, for inclusion in the 2023 Warrant for Hingham Annual Town Meeting. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes
Ms. Klein: yes
Mr. Ramsey: yes

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to propose Article Q: Capital Stabilization Fund, as presented, for inclusion in the 2023 Warrant for Hingham Annual Town Meeting. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:
Mr. Fisher: yes
Ms. Klein: yes
Mr. Ramsey: yes

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to propose Article R: Sale of 32 Rockwood Road, as presented, for inclusion in the 2023 Warrant for Hingham Annual Town Meeting. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:
Mr. Fisher: yes
Ms. Klein: yes
Mr. Ramsey: yes

Police Officer Interviews

Each of the Police candidates were given an opportunity to tell the Select Board a little about themselves personally and professionally. Following that, each candidate was asked the same series of questions by the Select Board members. While the interviews were conducted, the other candidates waited in the hallway.

Mr. John Grenier is a graduate of Hingham High School and the Norwich University Corps of Cadets. His professional experience includes service in the Vermont Army National Guard and the Massachusetts Army National Guard. He is currently employed by the Hingham Police Department as an Assistant Harbormaster.

Mr. Jacob Foss is a graduate of Hingham High School and Bridgewater State University. He also attended Quincy College. He has professional experience as an Aviation Ordnancemen in the United States Marine Corps and is currently employed as a Police Officer for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

Ms. Gina McCarthy graduated from Marshfield High School, has attended online classes at the American Military University and studied Intelligence at Cochise College. She is currently attending the University of Massachusetts, Boston in pursuit of a degree in Criminal Justice. Her professional experience includes service as an All-Source Intelligence Analyst/Security Manager for the United States Army.

Mr. Justin Worth graduated from Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School and Bridgewater State University. He also attended Springfield College and interned at the West Bridgewater Police Station.

His professional experience includes a Head Laborer position with Crow Point Construction and work as a JV Boys Soccer Coach for the Bridgewater-Raynham Athletic Department. He is currently employed as a Public Safety Officer at Good Samaritan Hospital in Brockton, MA.

The members of the Select Board will review the candidate resumes and interview answers and plan to announce their appointments at their meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

FY24 Department Budget Request

Debt Service

Assistant Town Administrator, Ms. Michelle Monsegur and Town Accountant, Ms. Sue Nickerson presented. Ms. Monsegur reported a total Debt Service budget of about \$8.2M for the General Fund, which includes principal and interest. Non-excluded debt service is part of the Operating Budget and is not included in the Debt Service Budget. Any debt relating to Water, Sewer, CPC, Lincoln School Apartments or the South Shore Country Club is not included in the Deb Service Budget because they have different revenue streams. Ms. Nickerson added that the amounts of debt service for the new Public Safety facility and the new Foster School are placeholder estimates until they learn more in February. The Select Board members reviewed and discussed the Debt Service Budget with Ms. Monsegur and Ms. Nickerson.

Appointments (for a list of Talent Bank Applicants, please visit [Hingham-ma.gov/SB](https://hingham-ma.gov/SB))

There were no appointments.

Public Comment

“The Hingham Select Board 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.

Town Administrator and Select Board Reports

Mr. Ramsey thanked the Hingham community for their tremendous support in the wake of a devastating family tragedy.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Documents: A complete meeting packet of supporting documentation is on file and available for public review in the Select Board office