

Select Board

February 7, 2022

Present:

- Select Board: Ms. Liz Klein, acting Chair, 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

6:00 PM: Call to order

Ms. Klein 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. “

She announced that Select Board members participating in the meeting were herself, Ms. Liz Klein, acting Chair, and Mr. Joe Fisher. Mr. Ramsey was not able to attend due to his military service. The meeting was conducted both in person and remotely via Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

The Select Board members decided to discuss the minutes at their next meeting.

Agreement with CES to provide Commissioning Agent Services

Ms. Kathy Reilly, Procurement and Contracts Manager, and Mr. Bob Garrity, Chair of the Public Safety Building Committee, were present. Ms. Reilly advised that the consultant, Consulting Engineering Services (CES), has agreed to act as the Town’s Commissioning Agent for the new Public Safety Facility. Seven vendors submitted RFPs. They were ranked by price and CES was the lowest bidder. Mr. Garrity reported that these types of services have become very popular with large building projects. The Commissioning agent looks at the design plans and proposals for the project’s systems and equipment and will be actively involved in testing equipment and providing oversight for the project. The Public Safety Building Committee has budgeted \$75,000 for these services but CES proposed a price of \$70,470. Mr. Garrity felt that they proposed very thorough oversight of the project. The commissioning agent would report to the OPM, Hill International, and the Public Safety Building Committee. Mr. Garrity noted that the Public Safety Building Committee voted to agree to contract with CES at their last meeting.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Agreement with Consulting Engineering Services, LLC to provide Commissioning Agent Services for the Public Safety Facility Project in an amount not to exceed \$70,470.00. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article Discussion

Article H: Disbursement of Electric Lighting Department Receipts

Article H asks Town Meeting permission to appropriate money from the receipts of the Hingham Municipal Light Plant (HMLP) to pay for the maintenance and operation of the Plant for FY23. Mr. Mayo reported that this is an annual article presented to Town Meeting. He said that this disbursement represents a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) that HMLP makes to the Town each year.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article H. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Article P: Establishment of a Tax Mitigation Stabilization Fund

Mr. Mayo presented. Article P seeks to establish a “tax mitigation 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. Mr. Mayo expected a transfer of at least \$1M in Unassigned Fund Balance into this account during the first year. Additional funds could be added to the account from other sources, for example, the sale of a Town property. Ms. Klein was in favor of the creation of this account and said that it was discussed by the Sustainable Budget Task Force and is used as a best practice by several other communities.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article P. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Vote to declare Saturday, February 11, 2023 as Lincoln Day in the Town of Hingham

Mr. Fisher and Ms. Klein read a proclamation that declared Saturday, February 11, 2023 as Lincoln Day in Hingham, in memory of Benjamin Lincoln and Abraham Lincoln.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to proclaim Saturday, February 11, 2023 as Lincoln Day in the Town of Hingham. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Appointments (for a list of Talent Bank Applicants, please visit 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. Art Robert reported that the Town has created a webpage for the proposed FY24 override. This page is accessible via a link on the home page of the Town of Hingham website, www.hingham-ma.gov, and at <https://www.hingham-ma.gov/1025/Town-of-Hingham-FY24-Override>. The webpage contains extensive information about the proposed override, an override calculator (coming soon), information on property tax relief and a number of presentations and related material. To make the information easy to find for residents, a FY24 Override button has been added to the top of the site’s homepage.

Mr. Robert also reported on the status of the Town of Hingham’s recent Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Assessment. The Town has created a webpage with information from the self-assessment report. The webpage can be reached on the Town of Hingham’s website at <https://www.hingham-ma.gov/1028/ADA-Self-Evaluation-and-Transition-Plan>. Under Title II of the ADA, the Town is required to complete a self-evaluation of the Town’s public facilities, programs, services, activities and events to determine compliance with the ADA and identify any barriers to accessibility. Once the Self-Evaluation is complete, the Town will develop a Transition Plan to prioritize the identified barriers and how they will be corrected. The Town launched this project with planning grant funding provided by the [Massachusetts Office on Disability \(MOD\)](#). The Town hired the [Institute for Human Centered Design \(IHCD\)](#) to assist with the self-evaluation process. Mr. Robert added that the Town is seeking feedback from residents, which will help inform a final transition plan which that will be presented to the Select Board at a later date.

Mr. Fisher said that he recently attended the swearing-in of a new Police Officer, Jacob Foss. He reported that it was a very nice ceremony and he was looking forward to swearing-in the additional three newly appointed Police Officers once they have completed their training at the Police Academy.

Ms. Klein reported that she met with the Capital Markets team today to review the Hingham BAN bid results (short-term bonds) for the Foster School and Public Safety Facility projects. The total amount is \$83M. The lowest bidder was Jefferies, with a rate of 2.864%. In their discussion, Capital Markets

Advisors told Ms. Klein that they expect long-term rates to go down. They quantified Hingham's estimated savings, as a result of being an Aaa-rated community, as being \$264,000 versus a Aa-rated community. She said that the Board would review this more in detail at the Select Board meeting on Thursday, February 9. Capital Markets Advisors plan to attend that meeting to help answer any questions.

Ms. Klein also announced that February is Black History Month. She thanked the Hingham Human Rights Commission for the list of resources that they have posted on their web page at <https://www.hingham-ma.gov/933/Human-Rights-Commission>.

Ms. Klein also encouraged the community to attend the annual Lincoln Day Ceremony this coming Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 10:15 am at the Memorial Bell Tower at the Old Ship Church. The ceremony will then move inside the church and will be followed by a stroll to the Lincoln Statute.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM.

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