

Select Board

February 28, 2022

Present:

- Select Board: Mr. Bill Ramsey, Chair 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. “
No one indicated that they were recording.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes was moved to the next meeting of the Select Board.

Special (One Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license: South Shore Conservatory’s Summer Music Festival Reception

Ms. Sharon Bohane of the South Shore Conservatory was present. She explained that they are planning a reception to kick off their Summer Music Festival, a music day camp for kids, and plan to have approximately 25 guests. The reception is geared towards parents, Board members and donors. Mr. Ramsey noted that the Police Department has reviewed the application and had no concerns

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the request of South Shore Conservatory for a Special (One Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license for South Shore Conservatory’s Summer Music Festival Reception to be held at South Shore Conservatory on Sunday, March 12, 2023 from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Special (One Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license: Performathon

Ms. Bohane explained that the event is a marathon of many of their students performing. For a fee of \$50, adult students can attend, perform and join others for cocktails in the evening. Ms. Bohane expects approximately 70 participants at this event.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the request of South Shore Conservatory for a Special (One Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license for Performathon to be held at the South Shore Conservatory on Saturday, April 1, 2023 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T: Installation of Telecommunications Equipment on Fort Hill Street

Mr. J.R. Frey, Town Engineer, and Mr. Ed Pare, attorney from Brown, Rudnick, on behalf of Singular Wireless AT&T, One Financial Center, Boston, MA, were present. Mr. Pare explained the plans for the two locations, including that they had entered into an agreement with the Hingham Municipal Light Plant approximately a year ago for the first two sites that AT&T would like to propose. A cylindrical antenna would be added to existing poles, with wiring running to an equipment cabinet. These two installations would be identical, except for the fact that they plan to replace the pole at 44 Fort Hill Street. Approval has already been granted by HMLP. Mr. Ramsey asked about the range that they cover. Mr. Pare said that the two poles are about ½ mile away from each other and he estimated coverage at approximately ¼ mile each. He noted that coverage on that portion of road is spotty and they are looking to improve it for residents. Mr. Frey, reported that he has not received any concerns from residents. Mr. Pare said that AT&T plans to follow all conditions of the Town Engineer in his recommendation letter. Mr. Ramsey added that he has been working with the Town Administrator in response to residents' concerns about another cell service provider, with respect to dropped calls, economic development and safety concerns. He said that these new antennas would improve service and would help those who need to call 911 for help. Mr. Pare expected the work to take several months, mostly due to the permitting process.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the request of New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T to install and maintain telecommunications equipment on the existing poles located near 44 and 136 Fort Hill Street. The proposed equipment will be located on existing poles within the right of way. This approval is subject to the stipulations of the Department of Public Works as outlined in the letter dated February 14, 2023. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

License agreements with Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant

Tom Morahan and Brianna Bennett of the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant were present. Mr. Art Robert explained that the installation of two electric car charging stations is part of the Town's broader sustainability plan, which began about a year ago.

Ms. Brianna Bennett, Sustainability Coordinator for HMLP, walked the Board through a presentation, which included their request for installation of two direct current fast charging stations, also known as level 3 charging stations. She said that these stations require 30 minutes-2 hours for a full charge, which is an improvement from the charging stations that were installed in Hingham last year, which require 6-8 hours for a full charge. Ms. Bennett requested the Board's permission to install one level 3 charging station to be installed at the Lynch Field parking lot and two to be installed at the Station Street parking lot off Water Street. Because they would be utilizing two parking spaces at Lynch Field, they did obtain the necessary permissions as required by the State for the grant process. A site plan review approved and a special permit A-3 was approved by the Planning Board. She expects that installation and grant reimbursements could be complete by the end of the summer. Mr. Ramsey asked about the level of usage of the chargers that are already in place. Ms. Bennet stated that the existing chargers have had approximately 100 usages around Town so far, with those at Station Street accounting for 2/3 of the total usage. He also asked if the cold weather would affect the chargers. Ms. Bennett said that they decided to use a company based out of Canada because their chargers have a good track record in cold weather. She added that the charging equipment is constantly evolving, which is why they have opted for the level 3 charging stations.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to authorize the Chair of the Select Board to sign two license agreements with Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant for the installation of direct-current fast electric vehicle chargers at 226 Beal Street (Lynch Field) and 62 Water Street (Station Street Parking Lot). Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article Discussion: Article AA: Route 3A Sewer Project and Plymouth County ARPA Funds

Mr. Clark Frazier, Sewer Commissioner, and Mr. Randy Sylvester, DPW Superintendent were present. Mr. Sylvester explained that this request is for the Route 3A Sewer project. They plan to have an Engineer evaluate the gravity main and the force main, which are both at the end of their life and are approximately 70 years old. He reported that there have recently been main breaks every other year, which have cost over \$50,000 each. He said that they have already received some grant money for part of the project, but they would like to finish the project as soon as possible.

Mr. Clark Frazier, 50 Bonnie Briar Circle, member of the Sewer Commission, said that this system is used by many developments, including Beals Cove, Avalon, The Cove, etc., which have increased the load on this part of the system. He reported that the Sewer Commission has voted to approve \$500,000 for the engineering for the project. There could be potential to receive some Federal funds for this project.

Right now, they are seeking approval for \$900,000 for associated project fees. He emphasized that it is essential that the Town move quickly on this project to make sure that there are not any additional repairs and costs. Completion of this project would ensure essentially a new main from Broad Cove to Stoddard's Neck, which should last for more than 50 years.

Ms. Klein asked about the impact on the Route 3A project.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Proposed easement agreement with Hingham Launch Properties

Town Counsel, Ms. Susan Murphy, presented some plans of the location and easements associated with the proposed Public Safety Building. She reported that she and the Town Administrator have been in touch with all of the property owners. She explained the process the Town has engaged in in thus far related to the easements in the Shipyard. This has included locating all the easements, especially the subsurface utilities and deciding where they would be relocated, in order to serve the new Public Safety Facility. Subsequently, the Town wrote up a relocation and modification agreement with the Hingham Launch for various drainage and water easements. Town Counsel and staff have reviewed the current form of the easement agreement and have approved what is being proposed. The easements are also being evaluated by Samuels and the MBTA for internal approval. Ms. Murphy and the Town Administrator have been in touch with nine property owners who have rights to the easements and reported they have all consented to date.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion that, pursuant to the authority granted to the Select Board under Article 1 of the November 21, 2020 Special Town Meeting, the Board enter into the Agreement for the Relocation and Modification of Easements with Hingham Launch Properties, LLC in connection with the public safety facility to be constructed at 335 Lincoln Street substantially in the form reviewed by the Board. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

National Grid: Gas Main Installation at High Street and Free Street

Mr. J.R. Frey, Town Engineer, and Mary Mulroney of National Grid were present. Ms. Mulroney said that this project is for work in conjunction with a project that is already being implemented in Weymouth. This project would begin at the town line with Weymouth and continue easterly on High Street to 281 High Street. The gas main in French Street would originate with the new main at High Street and would continue to 8 French Street. The new mains would replace mains from 1932, 1942, and 1968. Mr. Frey did not have any concerns with the project. Typically, abutters are notified as part of the hearing process. Abutters are also notified by National Grid two weeks prior to the work and

again 48 hours prior to work directly in front of a homeowner's property. National Grid hopes to start the work as soon as possible. Mr. Frey reported that the hours of construction would be typical hours, beginning at 7:00 AM and running through 5:00 PM, unless otherwise notified.

Rick Pereno, 6 French Street, brought up the safety concerns at the intersection of French, High, and Ward Streets. He asked what the Town plans to do to mitigate safety concerns during construction. Mr. Frey said that the traffic would be managed by one to two officers at that location as well as a cruiser and officer at the line with Weymouth. Mr. Pereno felt that traffic management would be a challenge, especially at peak commuting times. Ms. Klein suggested that the Town could look at doing the work around peak commuting times and around the arrival/dismissal hours of Plymouth River School. Mr. Frey said that they could certainly work with the Police on that. Mr. Ramsey suggested that Mr. Frey could work with Traffic Sgt. Jeff Kilroy to see if there is any other mitigation that the Police Station might suggest in order to address Mr. Perano's concerns.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the request of National Grid to install and maintain approximately 1,660 feet of 4-inch gas main in High Street and 365 feet of 2-inch gas main in French Street. The gas main in High St. will originate at the within Weymouth, entering Hingham at the Town Line, and continuing easterly in High St., to the limit of work near 281 High Street. The gas main in French St. will originate with the new main in High St. at the intersection, continuing northerly in French St., to the limit of work near 8 French Street. This gas main will replace existing 4-inch bare steel (1932) and 2-inch coated steel and bare steel main (1968 and 1942, respectively). The age of the abandoned main is between 55 and 91 years old. This approval is subject to the stipulations of the Department of Public Works as outlined in the letter dated February 14, 2023. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Appointments

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.

Town Administrator and Select Board Reports

Mr. Mayo thanked the DPW for their efforts in clearing the snow from the recent snow storm.

Ms. Klein reported that she would be conducting office hours, along with Nes Correnti of the School Department, on Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00PM at Town Hall. Mr. Ramsey also plans to hold office hours at the Senior Center on Friday, March 3 at 11:00 AM. Residents were encouraged to sign up with Jennifer Young of the Senior Center.

7:04 Mr. Ramsey said that the Select Board would stand in recess until the joint session.

7:08 PM: Mr. Ramsey reconvened the meeting of the Select Board.

7:08 PM: The School Committee and Advisory Committees called their meetings to order.

Joint Session with the Advisory Committee, the School Committee, and the Capital Outlay Committee.

Chair of the Capital Outlay Committee, Mr. Eric Valentine, gave a summary of the Capital Outlay Process and their FY24 recommendations. Mr. Valentine explained that the charge of the Capital Outlay Committee is “to ascertain annually what capital outlays will be required by the Town during the next five years.” The Town Financial Policy specifies that the Capital Outlay Plan should be budgeted at between 3-6% of the Town’s Operating Budget for that fiscal year. The FY24 COC budget (tax levy): \$2,800,000 (≈2.7%). The committee evaluates departmental requests for capital using the following criteria:

- Safety/risk: The lack of this particular capital item puts citizens or Town employees at risk
- Broken: Capital item is broken
- Core: Capital item is core to the department’s mission/department cannot function without it
- End of life: Capital item is substantially over its originally projected life and its failure would jeopardize the performance of the department’s overall function
- Significant repairs: Capital item is still functional but repairs are required that would cost at least 25% of the new purchase price
- Payback: Cost of the capital item can be recovered in three years or less.

The Capital Outlay Committee recommended the following FY24 Funding Sources:

- Tax Levy - \$2,797,477
 - Available Reserves/Excess Ambulance Receipts (\$404K) - \$404,000
 - Municipal Waterways Improvement and Maintenance Fund (Harbormaster) - \$144,000
 - User Rates/Charges - \$6,394,000
 - Warrant Article (TBD) - \$0
 - Other - \$272,000
- Total Funding: \$10,511,183

Mr. Valentine reported that the committee recommended funding for the following capital projects with the use of the \$500,000 in override funds:

- GAR Hall: exterior repairs, windows, wood and painting - \$94,000
- Police Department: Utility Truck - \$66,706

- DPW: Trackless Municipal Tractor - \$124,000
 - High School: Mobile Phone Signal Boosters - \$100,000
 - School System: School Transport Van - \$115,000
- Total Override: \$499,706

Mr. Ramsey asked if the recommended number was actually enough to fund what the Town needs. Mr. Valentine said that, in the past they have had difficulty funding some of the more expensive DPW equipment. He felt that the Town needs to fund more Capital just to catch up because the backlog of projects keeps growing each year.

Ms. Klein felt that the \$500,000 was the bare minimum in order for the Town to be in compliance with its Financial Management Plan. She shared that the Master Plan reported that residents feel that investing in Capital projects and preventative maintenance is very important.

Mr. George Danis, asked about the 5-year forecast. He asked if there are typically many new requests each year in addition to the deferred items. Mr. Valentine said that the numbers in their five-year plan are generally accurate, with the exception of an occasional large project, such as the field maintenance project, as recommended by the field maintenance study, or a new roof for South School, etc. Items tend to stay on the request list for years.

Ms. Davalene Cooper said that the extra money this year is nice, but felt that, if the override is approved, it is important to continue to increase the Capital spending. Ms. Nancy MacDonald asked if there were other ways to add money, in addition to moving \$300,000 from school technology. Other than adding a fee for bags of trash at the Transfer Station, Mr. Valentine didn't feel that there were any outstanding ways to increase capital funding sources.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the FY24 Capital Outlay Budget as recommended by the Capital Outlay Committee. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

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

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM

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