

# Board of Selectmen

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March 21, 2019

Joint Session with the Town of Hull Board of Selectmen  
Hull High School

Meeting called to order at 8:15pm

Present: Mr. Paul Healey, Ms. Mary Power, Ms. Karen Johnson, Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator, John Coughlin, Legal Counsel, Jon Asher, Water Company Acquisition Study Committee, Chair.

Introductions were made to the audience.

Hull Board of Selectmen Chairman recognized Mary Power to begin the presentation.

Ms. Power presented slides 1-15 and discussed the history of the ownership of service area A and the reasons, operational and financial, that public ownership is advisable.

Ms. Power introduced Ms. Johnson at 8:43pm.

Ms. Johnson presented slides 15-18 and discussed the proposed governance model as well as the anticipated transition process.

Ms. Johnson introduced Mr. Healey at 9:09pm.

Mr. Healey discussed the system specifications including sources, design, size, age, etc. as well as Hingham's road replacement process and working relationship with the utility companies.

Mr. Healey further discussed the environmental efforts made by the Town of Hingham to-date and thanked the Hull Board of Selectmen for their support.

The Hull Chair thanked the Hingham Board of Selectmen for their "strong" presentations and stated that they have discussed these same issues over time. Further explained Aquarion's responsibilities to their shareholders.

Other Hull Board of Selectmen members stated problems with Aquarion ownership including problems with hydrants and emergency water.

Mr. Lemnios explained the hydrant issue in Hull.

Transition team members from Hull and Cohasset would be welcomed by the Hull Board of Selectmen.

The Hull Board of Selectmen noted that the Strawberry Hill water tank removal is a problem for pressure in Hull. Also, without this tank, there is a lack of emergency water in Hull.

The Hull Board of Selectmen concerned with Hull representation on Citizens Advisory Board.

The Hull Board of Selectmen stated that Capital improvement needs in Hull are a concern. Ms. Power replied that capital needs will be fixed by need not by geography. Jon Asher explained that it is in the interests of all ratepayers to fix capital needs to avoid expensive emergency fixes.

Ms. Power and Mr. Healey spoke to unaccounted for water problem.

Mr. Lemnios explained that for the first time, ratepayers will set their own rates. The model planned is similar to Hull's Light Board which is a very common model.

Mr. Lemnios further noted that zero Hull residents attended the DPU hearings.

Mr. Lemnios spoke to transparency of public process versus that of private owners.

Mr. Lemnios explained PG&E's difficulties in California wild fires and that public entity will always be available should problems arise.

Jim Watson spoke regarding concerns with the stressed watershed. He would like to ask the Board of Selectmen to work on drainage with private developers.

A Hull resident expressed concerns with water loss. Ms. Power explained unaccounted for water is self-reported. Mr. Asher explained where to find source documents. This Hull resident would like more representation on Citizens Advisory Board going forward.

A Hull resident asked why Hingham didn't purchase Water Company when sold to Kelda. Ms. Power stated purchase price was never set.

A Hull resident stated water is a vital resource. Concerned with "Bait and Switch" tactics from Aquarion, complained about old infrastructure and small pipe size. Would like Hull's representation on Citizens Advisory Board to be higher.

A Hull resident inquired whether MOU will be issued to Hull Board of Selectmen. Stated this is very important to get. Concerned with allocation of capital. Happy that capital allocation will not be done by geography. Would like this memorialized in MOU.

Ms. Johnson explained that as of now, no community has an ability to affect capital investment. Also, explained importance of public, open process.

A Hull resident represents as an expert on utilities. Thought (Hingham) Board of Selectmen presentation was excellent, no further reservations. Worried about Board of Selectmen expertise in running a water system. Would like larger representation on Citizens Advisory Board.

**Meeting adjourned at: 10:25pm**  
**Approved April 2, 2019**

**Tom Mayo**

**Documents:** A complete meeting packet of supporting documentation is on file and available for public review in the Board of Selectmen's Office.

