

Select Board

April 4, 2023

Present:

- Select Board: Mr. Bill Ramsey, Chair, Ms. Liz Klein, and Mr. Joseph Fisher
- Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator
- 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 in person and/or remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 and all other applicable laws temporarily amending 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, Ms. Liz Klein, and Mr. Joseph Fisher.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes dated March 28, 2023. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the minutes dated March 30, 2023. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Special (One-Day) Wine and Malt Beverages: TAPPED Beer Truck

Mr. Erik Auerbach, 70 Apple Blossom Lane, Lynne, Ma, of TAPPED Beer Truck requested a Special One-Day Liquor License for their event that will take place on Thursday, April 13 from 2:00 pm to 6:30 pm at DTM Packaging, located at 150 Recreation Park Drive. Mr. Auerbach expects 40 guests at the event.

Mr. Mayo reported that Police Chief David Jones has reviewed the application and had no concerns.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the issuance of a Special (One-Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license for a private employee event to be held at DTM Packaging, 150 Recreation Park Drive on Thursday, April 13, 2023 from 2:00 pm to 6:30 pm. DTM packaging has pre-paid for the event, so no alcohol will be sold on site. They plan to serve beer and wine by TIPS-certified servers. They expect approximately 40 people at the event Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Agreement with Signature Roofing Systems, Inc.

Ms. Linda Harper, Library Director, and Ms. Kathy Reilly, Procurements and Contracts Manager, were present. Ms. Harper explained that the roof in need of replacement is located over the lobby area of the Library. Ms. Reilly reported that they received 5 electronic bids through OpenGov. Signature Roofing Systems was the lowest bidder. She also noted that the project would include some engineering work through Building Envelope Analysis. Engineering work would include writing specifications, the actual invitation to bid, and managing of the roofing project, for a total cost of \$5,450. Town Engineer Jr. R. Frey highly recommended the contractor and provided a written recommendation, which Ms. Harper read to the Select Board members. Work is expected to be complete by May 29th. The expected life of the new roof is 20 years

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Agreement with Signature Roofing Systems, Inc. for the retrofit of the Library Connector Roof Replacement Project in an amount not to exceed \$57,524.25. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

National Opioid Settlements: Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens and Walmart

Town Counsel, Mr. Kerry Ryan, explained that the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office has entered into a settlement agreement with 5 entities for their conduct concerning their sales and/or manufacture of opioid-related products. The Attorney General's office is requesting that all Massachusetts municipalities join in this settlement. The structure of the settlement includes two manufacturers, Teva and Allergan, and three pharmacies, CVS, Walgreens and Walmart, for ongoing litigation related to opioid abuses. The settlement agreements with the Commonwealth was as follows:

- Allergen - \$19 million
- Teva - \$32 million
- Walmart - \$24 million
- CVS - \$43 million

- Walgreens - \$47 million

Each municipality would receive a percentage of these totals. Hingham will receive .48287% of the State's portion of each settlement. This percentage has been determined by the Attorney General's Office, the State and others based upon several factors that include, among other things, population and the number of local opioid-related deaths. The Town of Hingham would receive the following payments, in addition to any previous payments that the Attorney General has entered into:

- Allergan - \$94,000 over 7 annual payments
- Teva - \$159,000 over 13 annual payments
- Walmart - \$119,000 over 6 annual payments
- CVS - \$21,000 over 10 annual payments
- Walgreens - \$229,000 over 15 annual payments

Due to the size of the settlement, the terms are non-negotiable. The Board had various questions for Mr. Ryan. Mr. Ramsey asked if there would be any restrictions regarding the use of the funds. Mr. Ryan advised that the release requires that they be used for particular uses regarding any type of opioid prevention, care, treatment or education. Mr. Fisher asked what the implications would be if a town does not participate. Towns that opt not to participate would not receive any payments. In addition, if the State does not receive a certain percentage of participation amongst towns, then the State would receive less money. Mr. Ryan did not anticipate any risk for the Town through opting into the agreement. He further noted that there was overwhelming participation from municipalities in the first two rounds of settlements and he anticipated that there would be similar participation in this round.

Mr. Ramsey asked about the status of the funds that have been awarded to Hingham in past settlements. Mr. Robert explained that the Town has already received \$214,000 through participation in previous settlements and is waiting on a vote from Town Meeting in order to proceed with using them. While the Town will receive the new funds throughout the summer, the Town cannot use the new funds until a Town Meeting vote in 2024. Mr. Robert noted that the Town is hoping to use some of the funds to hire a part-time outreach coordinator, to do other community outreach, to obtain vouchers to help residents pay for treatment or residential post-treatment activities. Mr. Ramsey requested that the Select Board be involved in the plan for using the funds. There was some discussion regarding whether the funds could be carried over from one year to the next. It was Mr. Robert and Mr. Ryan's understanding that this would be possible.

Kristen Arute, President of Hingham Cares asked if members of the community would have a chance to weigh in on how the funds are going to be allocated. Mr. Ramsey said that he would like to have a public discussion and would like to solicit feedback from residents.

Ms. Libby Claypool, 45 Backriver Road, member of Hingham Cares, asked for clarification on how the Town Meeting vote would allocate the funds for usage. The Board members explained that the Town Meeting vote would allow the opioid funds received by the Town to be earmarked for usage in the previously stated categories, as explained by Mr. Ryan.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to authorize the Select Board Chair to execute and file the settlement forms on behalf of the Town of Hingham for the National Opioid Settlements: Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens and Walmart, in the form attached hereto. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Amendment to Grant Agreement with Hingham Community Access and Media, Inc.

Mr. John Rice, 12 Lafayette Avenue, Chair of the Cable Advisory Committee, explained that the Town recently entered into a new agreement with Harbor Media. One of the clauses in the new agreement is a new production grant, which they plan to implement after the amendment is approved. After the amendment is approved, then Harbor Media can issue an RFP, and grants could begin to be awarded as soon as this summer.

Michelle Balconi, 40 Riverside Circle, Marshfield, Executive Director of Harbor Media, explained that the grant program is available to members of the community who live, work or “play” in Hingham. These grants would reimburse folks for their private production, for featuring their own TV show or videos of any genre. The purpose of the grants is to encourage both individuals and community groups to produce their own programming. She further explained that cable funding is restricted by the Federal Government, in that funding can only go towards public education or government programming. Harbor Media would like to further restrict a portion of funding by putting funds into a grant program. She noted that they have worked with Town Counsel John Coughlin in crafting the amendment and the RFP for the grant program. The grant program will be monitored by a three person panel, including Ms. Balconi and two members of the community. There were three community members presented to the Cable Advisory Committee and two were selected. A social media campaign, broadcast promos and other outreach is planned to advertise the grant opportunities. Mr. Rice felt that this program could be a great way to diversify Harbor Media’s programming. Ms. Klein echoed his comments. All programming would need to fit the existing guidelines of Harbor Media’s current programming, including its hyper-local nature.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion, to approve the Amendment to Grant Agreement with Hingham Community Access and Media, Inc. in the form attached hereto and to authorize the Town Administrator to execute said Amendment. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Verizon Agreement Discussion

Mr. John Rice, 12 Lafayette Avenue, Chair of the Cable Advisory Committee, explained that Hingham has two cable providers: Comcast (60%) and Verizon (40%). This latest agreement with Verizon is for a 5-year term with the ability for them to opt-out at 3 years. Mr. Rice explained that Verizon is looking to possibly get out of the cable business or at least change their business model a bit. The Cable Advisory Committee has been negotiating the terms of this agreement with Verizon with the intent to protect residents, in the event that Verizon opts out in 3 years. Mr. Rice noted that they are close to signing the deal with Verizon. He introduced Attorney William Solomon who has been working with Verizon on this agreement.

Attorney William Solomon, New Salem, MA, has worked with the Town on prior cable licenses. He walked the Board members through the agreement as presented. As far back as 6 years ago, Verizon expressed interest in moving away from cable programming, after which they entered into a 5-year agreement with the Town. If they were to exit from the new agreement with the Town, there is a 270-day notice clause. Most communities that have had similar agreements have had a 180-day notice. He went on to explain that PEG payments made to the Town would continue at 4.85% of the company's gross revenues. All payments would be made to the Town prior to the 3 year opt-out date. Also included in the new agreement is a clause that states that, if notified by the Town to do so, Verizon must provide cable access to public buildings in Hingham. Currently this service is only provided by Comcast. He felt that the license was very strong, in the best interest of the Town, and would protect residents. Mr. Rice explained that the Cable Advisory Committee plans to vote on the proposed agreement at their next meeting, and the agreement, after which it would be brought back to the Select Board for a vote.

Mr. Fisher asked how the trend of residents leaving cable and turning to streaming services has impacted this agreement. Mr. Rice said that the 3-year out in the agreement was a reflection of this changing media landscape. He said that cable has been losing subscribers in the last few years, but have been gaining revenue through pay-per-view services, etc. He also noted that Verizon has been considering moving toward being a provider, through which residents could access streaming services.

Earth Day in the Town of Hingham

Mr. Jim Huse, Chair of the Shade tree Committee, 50 Florett Circle, explained that Hingham has been a "Tree City USA" for the past 50 years. Hingham has been able to keep that distinction by celebrating Arbor Day each year. This year the Town has combined Earth Day and Arbor Day into one celebration. He invited the members of the Select Board to join in the celebration on April 28 at 9:30 am at Taurasi Park on the corner of Hobart and Cross Streets. They plan to plant a red maple tree, donated by the Hingham Garden Club, in honor of Arbor Day. A reading of the Arbor Day proclamation will take place at the ceremony. The Select Board members read the Earth Day Proclamation

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to proclaim April 22, 2023 as Earth Day in the Town of Hingham. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Arbor Day in the Town of Hingham

The Select Board members read the Arbor Day proclamation.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to proclaim April 28, 2023 as Arbor Day in the Town of Hingham. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

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

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to appoint William (Paul) Koenen to the Grand Army of the Republic Hall Trustees to fill an unexpired term ending June 30, 2025. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to appoint Rachel Sadhwani to the Taxation Aid Committee. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

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/Select Board Reports

Mr. Robert reminded the public that there will be a remote Public Information Session regarding the FY24 budget and proposed override next Tuesday, April 11 at 7:00pm via Zoom. Details can be found at <https://www.hingham-ma.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=7981>.

Mr. Mayo clarified information previously discussed regarding the warranty for the new roof at the Library. The new roof will have a 20-year full system warranty and a 2-year construction warranty.

He also announced that the Town's Mental Health Coalition plans to hold a discussion and information session regarding suicide awareness on April 12 at 7:00 pm in the Sanborn Auditorium at Town Hall. State Senator, Patrick O'Connor will be present to discuss a new mental health resource funded by the State.

Ms. Klein noted that all three board members attended the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) training that the Police Department took part in recently. This is a national training and support initiative for U.S. law enforcement agencies committed to building a culture of peer intervention that prevents harm. Mr. Fisher noted that there are only 20 communities in the State that are currently taking part in this training. He called it an "honor and a privilege" that the Hingham Police Department is taking part in this work.

Ms. Klein announced that the Citizens Police Academy kicks off on Wednesday, April 4.

She also reported that she was recently able to discuss several bills that relate to Hingham with Rep. Joan Meschino. Most relevant to Hingham is a potential bill proposing to set up a Public Safety Building Authority, which could be useful as Hingham is building a new Public Safety Building. Another bill related to the meals tax could have a great impact on the Town.

Ms. Klein also reminded the public that April is Autism Awareness Month. She drew people's attention to the Special Needs registry, which can be found on the town website on the "Programs and Services" page. The Exceptional Needs Registry was created as a method to enable first responders who are called in to assist an individual with unique circumstances. More information can be found at <https://www.hingham-ma.gov/406/Exceptional-Needs-Registry>.

Ms. Klein also reported that, in addition to the formal public information sessions, Select Board members will be holding informal office hours and "coffee chats" on the below dates and times:

- Office Hours: Saturday, April 8 from 11:00 am -12:00pm via Zoom with Liz Klein and Nes Correnti, member of the School Committee.
 - Website: <https://www.zoom.us/>, meeting ID: 891 2729 5095, Passcode: 955963
- Coffee Chats: Saturday, April 15 from 8:00 am – 10:00 am at the following four sites:
 - Brewed Awakenings, 19 Main Street – Bill Ramsey, Select Board Chair
 - Red Eye Roasters, 3 Otis Street – Nes Correnti, School Committee
 - Atlantic Bagel, 282 Main Street – Michelle Ayer, School Committee Chair

- Starbucks, 1 Derby Street – Liz Klein, Select Board
- Dunkin Donuts, 187 Whiting Street - Jen Benham, School Committee

Mr. Fisher reported that he and Ms. Klein recently attended the 60th Anniversary of the Old Colony Montessori School. He said that it was a wonderful event and he wished the school success in the next 60 years.

Mr. Ramsey congratulated the Hingham-based South Shore Regional Emergency Communication Center (SSRECC) for receiving this year’s Massachusetts Communicator’s Supervisor Association “Team of the Year Award.” This is an award given to them regarding their work on the incident that took place at the Apple Store at the Derby Street Shoppes in November of 2022. He thanked Mr. Aaron Smith for his leadership of SSRECC and all their great employees.

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 7:29 PM.

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