

# Board of Selectmen

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May 4, 2021

Remote meeting via telephone conference call

Present:

- Board of Selectmen: Ms. Mary Power (Chair), Mr. Joseph Fisher and Mr. Bill Ramsey
- Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator
- Ms. Michelle Monsegur, Assistant Town Administrator

## **7:00 PM: Call to order**

Ms. Power 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. “

Ms. Power asked if any participants were recording the meeting. There were no responses.

Ms. Power also noted that the Board of Selectmen members who were participating remotely were herself, Mary Power, Chair, Joe Fisher, and Bill Ramsey.

## **Approval of minutes**

**Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the minutes dated March 30, 2021. Mr. Fisher seconded.**

## **Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Power: yes**

## **Reserve Fund Transfers and Article 11 Transfer**

Mr. Mayo gave an overview of the Article. He explained that the Board is being asked to consider a transfer of money from the Reserve Fund in order to pay for expenses due to anticipated shortages in a number of key areas. The total anticipated cost of shortages is \$588, 884. Shortages are expected in the following categories: legal expenses, property and liability expenses, the Fire Department, Worker’s Compensation, and Town Meeting.

**Vote: Ms. Power made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article 11. Mr. Fisher seconded.**

## **Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Power: yes**

Mr. Mayo explained that the reason for the Reserve Fund transfer to Property and Liability Insurance was due to the premium being higher than budgeted because of the following:

- The replacement value of the Town's assets
- Several high claims
- Some new vehicles, including a new Fire truck
- To fund a settlement with the insurance company regarding an insurance coverage dispute for a claim involving a personnel matter.

**Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to recommend a transfer from the Reserve Fund to Property & Liability Insurance in the amount of \$353,047. Ms. Power seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: abstain**

**Ms. Power: yes**

### **Approve the Sale and Issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes**

Mr. Mayo explained that, every year, the Town issues bond anticipation notes for short-term debt. Ms. Jean Montgomery, Treasurer, reported that on Thursday, April 29, 2021 the Town held a competitive sale for the issuance of \$22,043,652, for a one-year note. The Town received eight very competitive bids. The one-year note was awarded to T.D. Securities for a net interest cost of 0.159%. She commented that this is one of the lowest rates that the Town has ever had. This is nearly a full percentage point down from the previous year's net interest cost of 1.06%. She stated that the Town would also receive a premium at the time of closing of \$440,873.04. The coupon rate on this note would be 2% but the net cost to the Town would be 0.159%, with a net interest cost to the Town of \$35,049.49.

**Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the sale of \$22,043,652 2.00 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes (the "Notes") of the Town dated May 12, 2021, and payable May 12, 2022, to TD Securities (USA) LLC at par and accrued interest, if any, plus a premium of \$440,873.04.**

**Further Voted: that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Notes, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated April 20, 2021, and a final Official Statement dated April 29, 2021, each in such form as may be approved by the Town Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.**

**Further Voted: that the Town Treasurer and the Board of Selectmen be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a significant events disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the Town, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Notes for the benefit of the holders of the Notes from time to time.**

**Further Voted: that we authorize and direct the Town Treasurer to establish post issuance federal tax compliance procedures and continuing disclosure procedures in such forms as the Town Treasurer and bond counsel deem sufficient, or if such procedures are currently in place, to review**

and update said procedures, in order to monitor and maintain the tax-exempt status of the Notes and to comply with relevant securities laws.

**Further Voted:** that we hereby, individually authorize the use of our respective facsimile signatures on the Notes and direct Locke Lord LLP (“Bond Counsel”) to affix the facsimile signatures provided to Bond Counsel for this purpose to the Notes, if necessary or convenient.

**Further Voted:** that any certificates or documents relating to the Notes (collectively, the “Documents”), may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be regarded as an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same document; delivery of an executed counterpart of a signature page to a Document by electronic mail in a “.pdf” file or by other electronic transmission shall be as effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart signature page to such Document; and electronic signatures on any of the Documents shall be deemed original signatures for the purposes of the Documents and all matters relating thereto, having the same legal effect as original signatures.

**Further Voted:** that each member of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

Except for the town meetings called pursuant to G.L. c.39, §10, all proceedings essential to the issue of the Notes and the authorization of the bonds and deliberations of a quorum relating thereto have been taken at a meeting or meetings open to the public; notice of each such meeting was filed in my office and publicly posted in the time and manner set forth in the General Laws, as amended, in effect at the time of each such meeting (Chapter 30A, §§18-25) and as further suspended, supplemented, amended or modified by the Executive Order of the Governor of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, Chapter 30A, §20 dated March 12, 2020 (the “Executive Order”), or, if applicable, in accordance with an alternative method of notice prescribed or approved by the Attorney General as set forth in 940 CMR 29.03(2)(b); no deliberations, decision or vote in connection with the Notes or bonds were taken in executive session and no vote was taken by secret ballot; and the official record of each such meeting was made available to the public and remains available to the public as set forth in G.L. c.30A, §§18-25, as further suspended, supplemented, amended or modified by the Executive Order.

Mr. Fisher seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Ms. Power extended her appreciation to Ms. Sue Nickerson and Ms. Jean Montgomery for their efforts in making this sale happen and thanked them for their credibility and professionalism.

**Employee recognition: Deputy Fire Chief Bill Powers**

Fire Chief Steve Murphy announced the retirement of Deputy Chief Bill Powers after 35+ years of service to the Town of Hingham. Chief Murphy commented on how well known Deputy Powers is both in and out of the Fire service. He said that his ability to tell stories would be missed by everyone in the Fire Department. He thanked Deputy Powers for his service in the Fire Department. He noted that Deputy Powers had worked his way up the ranks over the years and was one of the longest serving Shift Commanders, doing so for 18 years. Chief Murphy said that Deputy Powers was well known and respected for that. Chief Murphy added that Deputy Powers also worked as a Fire Investigator and a Deputy Chief of Operations, overseeing all of the training and operations for the Fire Department. Chief Murphy extended his thanks to Deputy Powers and wished him well in his retirement.

Ms. Power added that Deputy Powers' "institutional knowledge of every nook and cranny in Hingham is both remarkable and helpful." Mr. Fisher said that Deputy Powers is the "face" of the Hingham Fire Department, responding to fires around town and he will be missed. Mr. Ramsey said that he had the pleasure to serve with Deputy Powers on the Traffic Committee and was so impressed with his knowledge of and commitment to the Town. He thanked Deputy Powers for his service and wished him well. Ms. Power read the following proclamation in honor of Deputy Powers' exceptional service to the Town of Hingham:

*THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY ISSUES THIS PROCLAMATION  
FOR THE EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE RENDERED BY*

***William A. Powers***

*Whereas, you, William A. Powers, began your career serving the citizens of Hingham as a Firefighter in 1986, moving up through the ranks until your promotion to Deputy Fire Chief of Operations for the Town of Hingham in 2018; and*

*Whereas, you ably served the Hingham Fire Department in many capacities, including Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, Shift Commander, Fire Investigator, and Deputy Chief; and*

*Whereas, members of the Hingham Fire Department and our community have benefitted from your leadership, training, and mentorship of new generations of firefighters through the "Powers University;" and*

*Whereas, you have been an integral member of the broader regional fire and emergency medical services community by contributing your time and expertise to many projects and committees to improve the emergency response profession; and*

*Whereas, during a time of unprecedented crisis, you demonstrated extraordinary commitment and strength in guiding your team and continuing to provide critical services to members of our community throughout a global pandemic; and*

*Whereas, over your thirty-five years of employment with the Hingham Fire Department, you have displayed the highest example of character, integrity, and unselfish service; and*

*Now, therefore we, Mary M. Power, Joseph M. Fisher, and William C. Ramsey, members of the Board of Selectmen of Hingham, proclaim our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for all you have done on behalf of this great Town, and wish you and your family much happiness as you begin this new chapter in life.*

*Signed this fourth day of May, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.*

**Approval of employment agreement with Fire Chief Steve Murphy**

**Vote:** Mr. Fisher made a motion to sign the employment agreement with Fire Chief Steve Murphy. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Fisher:** yes

**Mr. Ramsey:** yes

**Ms. Power:** yes

**Approval of employment agreement with Police Chief David Jones**

**Vote:** Ms. Power made a motion to sign the employment agreement with Police Chief David Jones. Mr. Fisher seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Fisher:** yes

**Mr. Ramsey:** yes

**Ms. Power:** yes

Mr. Ramsey noted that a lot of work went into finalizing these contracts and said that he was happy to have both men serving in these roles. Mr. Fisher looked forward to working with both Chiefs. He said that their contributions to the Town are vital and felt that these contracts solidify their ongoing relationship with the Town. Ms. Power endorsed the comments of her colleagues. Mr. Mayo said that both Chiefs have the Town's best interest at heart. He was looking forward to working with both of them.

**FY21 Financial Update**

Ms. Monsegur reported that, at the end of FY21 Q3, the Town is projecting a surplus of \$1 million surplus, which means a balanced budget. She said that this means that the Town may not end up using \$1 million of the \$3.3 million in Unassigned Fund Balance that had they had anticipated needing. She said that the Town received \$1.7 million in State Aid in FY21. She did report some dips in other revenue categories that have been impacted by the pandemic, especially meals tax, motor vehicle excise tax, investment income, and fines and forfeits. Overall, revenue is trending ahead at approximately \$1 million. She also noted that the Town took many steps early in the year to control expenditures and costs, specifically by holding off on filling several vacancies, deferring some capital projects, and scrutinizing purchases to a higher degree. Expenditures overall are trending as expected. The Town is anticipating some sizable reimbursements through the CARES program as well as through FEMA. So far, the Town has submitted six reimbursement requests through CARES, totaling \$2.7 million. The Town has received about \$736,000 in reimbursements to date, but have just heard that two more requests, totaling approximately \$900,000, have been approved. Ms. Monsegur added that most of the reimbursements have gone to the schools. Approximately \$300,000 has been reimbursed to Municipal

government and the rest has been reimbursed to the schools. Ms. Power commented that Hingham has been fortunate to not have had furloughs like some other communities and has been able to use Unassigned Fund Balance to mitigate the financial impact of the pandemic. Mr. Ramsey asked if the State has issued any guidance for future years with regard to State Aid. Ms. Monsegur commented that they only have guidance from the State through FY22. She added that the American Rescue Plan could be an additional source of aid that could be used in the future to help with lost revenue. Ms. Power extended her thanks and appreciation to the members of the Forecast Group: School Superintendent Paul Austin, Business Manager John Ferris, School Committee Chair Kerry Ni, School Committee member Michelle Ayer, Advisory Chair Bob Curley, Advisory Vice-Chair Julie Strehle, Tom Mayo, Michelle Monsegur, and Sue Nickerson. She noted that the Forecast group usually meets on an “as needed” basis. In light of the extraordinary circumstances this year, the Forecast Group has been meeting monthly to carefully look over our revenue and expenditures. She cited the active engagement of all members of the Forecast Group as a reason why Hingham has been able to weather so well the financial implications of the past year.

### **Complete Streets Policy**

Ms. Power reported that Town Engineer J.R. Frey has submitted a draft Complete Streets Policy to the Board. Mr. Frey explained that the Complete Streets Policy is a program that is promoted by MassDOT. Towns that adopt the Complete Streets Policy become eligible for additional money from MassDOT to implement right-of-way enhancements. The policy aims to provide the following:

- Safety and accessibility for all users of roadways, trails, and transit systems, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, commercial vehicles, freight and emergency vehicles and for people of all ages and abilities.
- Enhancements to the safety, health economic viability, and quality of life in a community by providing accessible and efficient connections between homes, schools, work, recreation, and retail destinations
- Improved pedestrian and vehicular environments throughout communities

Mr. Frey said that, by adopting this policy, Hingham would be eligible for a technical grant from MassDOT that would assist Hingham in preparing a “Complete Streets Prioritization Plan.” The Town would then put out a RFQ for a Consultant. The public would be involved in the subsequent Prioritization Plan. That plan would allow for the creation of several project that would fall under the categories outlined by the Complete Streets Plan’s grant scheme. Every Town that is part of the Complete Streets Policy is eligible for grant of up to \$400,000 annually. Mr. Frey felt that the benefit to the Town was significant. Grants from the Complete Streets Policy could include new sidewalks, paint and changes to portions of a right-of-way, as well as other community benefits.

Mr. Fisher clarified that Hingham had not previously registered for this program like many neighboring and benchmarking towns. Mr. Frey said that he has written the Complete Streets Policy in a way that allows for the Town to prioritize for itself where the Town makes these Complete Streets improvements. Mr. Fisher asked how the Complete Streets Program would interact with other areas of the Town such as Conservation, Harbor projects, etc. Mr. Frey said that the program would be complementary to other ongoing projects in Town. He added that the primary responsibility of the Board of Selectmen would be the approval of contracts, with most of the day-to-day activity monitored by the Traffic Committee. Mr. Frey also noted that the policy has been reviewed by Town Counsel.

Mr. Ramsey asked what projects could apply to this program in Hingham. Mr. Frey suggested the following projects that could be undertaken under the Complete Streets Policy:

- Completion of the Harbor side biking and walking path
- Connection of sidewalk segments along High Street and Newbridge Street where there are gaps in the sidewalk
- Additional rapid flash beacons at frequently used crosswalks, especially crosswalks on Rt. 228
- Improved pedestrian connectivity between the Station Street parking lot and the Harbor and Downtown
- Pedestrian enhancements along Rt. 3A

Mr. Ramsey clarified that the Board of Selectmen would have the ultimate approval of any associated projects. Mr. Frey also noted that participation in the Complete Streets Policy would have no impact on the Chapter 90 State Aid that Hingham already receives.

Mr. Mark Buonagurio, 10 Cliff Road, commended Mr. Frey on his work on this project. He said that 250 towns in MA have participated in this project, including every neighboring town. He felt this was a very valuable opportunity for the Town of Hingham.

Mr. Fisher said he was fully in support of the program but asked to review the policy. Mr. Frey also suggested some additional adjustments to the policy's wording. Ms. Power suggested that the Board would take a vote at their meeting on May 18, 2021.

#### **Harbormaster Update: What to expect on the Water this summer**

Mr. Corson told the Board that he is cautiously optimistic that activity on the water could be somewhat closer to normal this summer. To date, the Harbormaster's Office has issued approximately 80% of all mooring permits. Pump-out services will proceed as normal this summer. His office has started taking reservations for mooring rentals. He reported that he would continue to communicate with the public if any changes arise during the season. He said that the Special Regulations that were adopted last summer are presently in place until July 28, 2021. He plans to present to the Board update mooring regulations that would replace the Special Regulations from last summer. He is also planning a new mooring plan for World's End. Ms. Power asked for information regarding boats mooring at World's End. Mr. Corson said that, presently, three boats are allowed to raft on a mooring. Boats on anchor are not currently allowed to raft. He advised that the new mooring regulations for World's End would accommodate 13 new moorings, which would increase access to this area. Anchoring would remain limited however.

Mr. Ramsey asked for the number of Assistant Harbormasters. Mr. Corson said that there are currently 11; however, he expected that number to change as the season approaches, with the possibility of seven new hires.

#### **Appointment of Robert Sullivan as a part-time Assistant Harbormaster**

Mr. Corson gave the Board some information on Mr. Sullivan's background. He stated that Mr. Sullivan grew up in Hingham, went to Hingham High School, attended Holy Cross, and presently works for a local environmental firm. He has been an Assistant Harbormaster for the past 3 years and has a vast knowledge of Hingham's waterways.

**Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to appoint Robert Sullivan as a part-time Assistant Harbormaster for a three-year term ending June 30, 2024. Mr. Fisher seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Power: yes**

Ms. Power encouraged Mr. Corson to communicate with permit holders with any changed to regulations.

**Town Administrator annual performance review**

Ms. Power advised that the Board is required, as part of the Town Administrator's contract, to conduct an annual public performance review. She noted that the Board had received input from three department heads and the Chair of the Advisory Committee. Ms. Power acknowledged the following accomplishments by Mr. Mayo over the past year:

- Reimagined services, programs, public meetings during the pandemic
- Engaged the public during the pandemic while keeping citizens and employees safe
- Established the Restaurant Reopening Group
- Opened of a Covid-19 Testing Facility
- Opened of a Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic while the Town had access to vaccines
- Secured of \$2.7 million in CARES Act funding to date
- Secured \$800,000 in FEMA funding
- Led the review of the Financial Management Plan
- Made sure the Town was compliant with commitments made to Town Meeting
- Drove the Board to a data-driven forecasting process with the use of metrics
- Made many high-level new hires
- The transition of the water system
- Reaffirmed the Town's Aaa bond rating
- Assembled a Climate Action Task Force
- Completed a Wage and Classification Study
- Secured the purchase of the Benjamin Lincoln House
- Helped to minimize service cuts to the Greenbush Rail Line

Ms. Power made some additional comments regarding Mr. Mayo's performance, highlighted his relationships with Town volunteers and his peers in other communities. She felt that the hiring of an additional Assistant Town Administrator would allow Mr. Mayo some additional time to mentor Town employees and to focus on long-term planning. She acknowledged the significant time he dedicates to the Town and said that Hingham is very fortunate to have a loyal and committed Town Administrator.

Mr. Fisher said that Mr. Mayo's commitment to the Town is extraordinary and works tirelessly to make sure that the Town functions successfully. He also cited Mr. Mayo's honesty compassion for employees and residents as an important part of his work ethic. He expressed his gratitude to Mr. Mayo. Mr.

Ramsey echoed his colleagues' comments on Mr. Mayo's performance and highlighted three of Mr. Mayo's accomplishments during the past year:

- Establishing the Covid testing facility at 308 Cushing Street
- Working to keep the ferry and Greenbush Rail Line running amidst proposed MBTA service cuts
- Obtaining CARES and FEMA reimbursements for the Town

Mr. Ramsey noted Mr. Mayo's strong work ethic and his ability to connect with residents as strengths. He encouraged a restructuring of the Town Administrator's Office with the addition of a second Assistant Town Administrator.

Mr. Mayo thanked the Board for their kind words and expressed his appreciation for being able to do his work. He expressed his gratitude for Hingham's many volunteers and Assistant Town Administrator Michelle Monsegur

### **Inside Town Finances: Volume 15 – Overrides and Debt Exclusions**

Ms. Power presented the fifteenth in a series of presentations on Town Finances: Overrides and Debt Exclusions. The entire presentation can be found online at [www.hingham-ma.gov](http://www.hingham-ma.gov).

### **Appointments**

#### ***Police Prosecutors***

Police Chief Jones explained that Police Prosecutors are full-time Police Officers from neighboring communities that work at the courthouse in Hingham. The purpose for appointing them as Special Police Officers in Hingham is so they can act as a law enforcement officer if the need arises while at the courthouse in the event that the Hingham Court Officer is tied up in a hearing or not available. He explained that the Liquor Enforcement designation is needed so that Hingham Police Detectives can conduct liquor establishment inspections and annual reports. Mr. Fisher clarified that the appointment of the Special Police Officers has no fiscal impact on the Town. Chief Jones added that the Special Police Officers are full-time employees paid for by other municipalities.

**Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to appoint the following Police Prosecutors and back-ups as Special Police Officers for the Town of Hingham for a one-year term ending April 30, 2022.**

#### **Hanover PD**

**Sergeant Daniel Salvucci  
Sergeant Timothy Kane**

#### **Hull PD**

**Officer Michael Flaherty  
Detective Andrew Reilly**

#### **Norwell PD**

**Sergeant William Pasteris**

#### **Rockland PD**

**Officer Sean Brundige  
Officer Jeffrey Drenzo  
Officer Joseph Zielinski**

**Scituate PD**

**Sergeant Kenneth Bates  
Sergeant James Bulman  
Detective Owen Kirkbride**

**Ms. Power seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

***Liquor Enforcement Officers***

**Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to appoint the following detectives as agents of the Board of Selectmen to enforce the laws of the Liquor Control Act and the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) regulations for all licensed liquor establishments in the Town of Hingham for a term ending April 30, 2022:**

**Detective Sergeant Phil Emmott  
Detective Heather Hermida  
Detective Michael Gervasi**

**Mr. Ramsey seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Power: yes**

### **Inside Town Finances: Volume 14 – Assessments**

Ms. Power presented the fourteenth in a series of presentations on Town Finances: Assessments. The entire presentation can be found online at [www.hingham-ma.gov](http://www.hingham-ma.gov).

### **COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Mayo gave the following update on the Covid-19 pandemic:

#### COVID-19 Data

As of yesterday, confirmed COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts totaled 648,249. The 7-day average of new COVID-19 cases in the state has been trending downward since early April. According to public health data from the MA Department of Public Health (DPH) released last week, the Town's designation remains "yellow," indicating a "medium risk" of spread in the community. There have been 72 new cases of COVID-19 in Hingham over the past 14 days, and a total of 1,929 cases in Hingham since the start of the pandemic.

The average daily incidence rate for the Town of Hingham was 21.4 per 100,000 residents, and our percent positivity rate was 2.43% for the previous 14 days.

#### Vaccine Rollout

The general public ages 16+ became eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Massachusetts as of Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. According to DPH's [daily COVID-19 vaccine report](#), over 2.6 million people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated as of yesterday. As of April 29<sup>th</sup>, approximately 42% of Hingham residents have been fully vaccinated, up from 36% last week. Tomorrow, a team of Hingham Health and Fire Department staff will administer the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine to 7 homebound residents.

The State's Homebound Vaccination Program is another resource for individuals who may require in-home vaccinations because they are unable to leave their home to get to a vaccination site, even with assistance. Individuals can contact the Homebound Vaccination Central Intake Line at 833-983-0485 to schedule an in-home vaccination through the State.

#### State Reopening Guidance

As of last Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Governor relaxed the Face Coverings Order for some outdoor settings:

- In particular, face coverings will be required outside in public when it is not possible to socially distance, and at other times they are required by sector-specific guidance.
- However, please note that face coverings will continue to be required at all times at events, whether held indoors or outdoors and whether held in a public space or private home, except for when eating or drinking. In line with this guidance, masks are still required at Annual Town Meeting on Saturday.
- Face coverings will still be required at all times in indoor public places.
- At smaller gatherings in private homes, face coverings are recommended but not required.

Additional changes will go into effect on Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, impacting large venues like stadiums, and arenas, amusement and theme parks, road races, sports tournaments, and indoor singing. Changes potentially going into effect on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> may increase the gathering limits to 200 people indoors and 250 people outdoors for event venues, public settings, and private settings. As we reported last week, subject to public health and vaccination data, the state may lift all industry restrictions as of August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Ramsey asked for an update on the mPathy Covid testing site. Mr. Mayo noted that the numbers have dropped significantly from 200 during the peak to approximately 50 per day. He said that he is evaluating the future of the site and costs to the Town. Ms. Power clarified that any costs to the Town could be reimbursed by CARES Act funds. Ms. Power asked for an update on Hingham's role in administering vaccines. Mr. Mayo said that the State has been reluctant to have towns take on the responsibility of vaccinations but he would welcome the opportunity to provide that service to Hingham's residents.

### **Public Comment**

The Board of Selectmen sets aside up to 15 minutes for public comment for items not on the Board's agenda, but within the purview of the Board of Selectmen, during which time they follow the guidelines of the Open Meeting Law. They encourage speakers to present remarks in a respectful manner and not to indulge in personalities. The Public Comment time is not a period of debate for the Board of Selectmen and the Board is neither adopting nor endorsing any of the comments made during the Public Comment period.

There were no comments from the public.

### **Town Administrator/Selectmen Reports**

Ms. Monsegur reported that applications for the Senior Means Tested Tax Relief are now available on the Town of Hingham website at [www.hingham-gov.gov](http://www.hingham-gov.gov). She also noted that all requirements are available online as well. The deadline to submit applications is September 10, 2021.

Mr. Mayo announced that the Town is currently interviewing candidates for Deputy Fire Chief Powers' replacement. He also reported that promotion of Colby Wilcox from Lieutenant to Captain for the Fire Department.

Mr. Fisher announced that Boston Harbor City Cruises who operated the ferries for the MBTA is looking for deckhands for the ferries to Boston now that service has been restored. They plan to hold a job fair on May 19, 2021.

Ms. Power reported that she has received a notice from the MSBA notifying the Town of the selection of an Owner's Project Manager for the Foster School project. She said that this is an important project milestone..

She also noted that, as part of an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Civics project funded by the Hingham Education Program, schoolchildren had an opportunity to meet with Town Engineer J. R. Frey, Superintendent Austin, Assistant Superintendent LaBillois, members of the School Committee and herself. Class projects include helping the Food Pantry to establish a website, sidewalks, and garnering support for a town-wide

Climate Action Plan. She expressed thanks to the students for their engagement and to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and Social Studies Director for initiating the program.

Ms. Power announced that Town Meeting would take place on Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 2 pm, with check-in beginning at 12:30 pm. She encouraged residents to attend and to come prepared for the elements.

She reported that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen would take place on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

**Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ramsey seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Power: yes**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.**

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