

# Select Board

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May 10, 2022

Present:

- Select Board: Mr. Joseph Fisher, Mr. Bill Ramsey, 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

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

Mr. Fisher 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. “

Harbor Media was the only party recording the meeting.

He announced that Select Board members participating in the meeting were himself, Mr. Bill Ramsey and Ms. Liz Klein.

## **Approval of Minutes**

**Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the minutes dated April 26, 2022. Ms. Klein seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to approve both sets of minutes dated April 28, 2022. Mr. Ramsey seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

## **Special (One Day) License: Hingham Unity Council**

Ms. Katie Sutton of the Unity Council explained that they plan to hold a number of small group discussions followed by a reception. Police Chief Jones reported no concerns with this event.

**Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the request for a Special (One -Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Katie Sutton on behalf of Hingham Unity Council “#WeAreHingham: A**

**Community Conversation” to be held at the South Shore Conservatory on Sunday, May 22, 2022 from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Ms. Klein seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Special (One Day) License: Suddenly Simple Events**

Melissa Peralta of Suddenly Simple Events and Carola LaCoste of the OCMS PTO were present. The event is a “Casino Night” fundraiser for the Old Colony Montessori School. Approximately 60 people are expected. Police Chief Jones reported no concerns with this event.

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the request for a Special (One -Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Suddenly Simple Events on behalf of Old Colony Montessori School for a fundraiser for Old Colony Montessori School to be held at the Hingham Historical Society on Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Mr. Ramsey seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Amendment to Agreement with Comm-Tract Corp.**

Mr. Bill Hartigan, IT Director, presented. Part of the fiber optic project is a 192 strand loop of fiber that circumferences the town. Along that loop, there are a number of reclosures which help HMLP manage the network. By doing this work during the current fiber optic project, there would be a significant savings to the Town. All associated costs would be borne by the Light Plant. No disruption of service is expected.

**Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Amendment to Agreement with Comm-Tract Corp. to expand the scope of work to include the Hingham Municipal Light Plant (HMLP) addition of Recloser and Capacitor sites as part of the Fiber Optic Municipal Network in an amount not to exceed \$121,662.70 subject to and conditioned upon a transfer of the funds for this Amendment from HMLP to the Town. Ms. Klein seconded.**

**Agreement with Hingham Access and Media, Inc. d/b/a Harbor Media**

Mr. Tom Mayo explained that the Town is looking to approve a five-year contract with Harbor Media to provide public educational and government access television for the town. He reported that the Cable Advisory Committee was a full participant in the negotiations and has fully endorsed the contract, as has the Harbor Media Board of Directors.

**Vote:** Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the Grant Agreement between the Town of Hingham and Hingham Community Access and Media, Inc. d/b/a Harbor Media for a five-year term commencing on May 16, 2022 through May 15, 2027. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

**Appointment of Liquor Enforcement Officers**

Police Chief Jones explained that Liquor Enforcement Officers are appointed annually and conduct unexpected inspections of all licensed liquor sellers (bars and restaurants) in Hingham. They also provide an annual report to the Select Board on their findings. Chief Jones said that Liquor Enforcement Officers receive special training regarding liquor inspections. The purpose of the inspections are to make sure that all licenses are posted and that management is listed properly. They also make sure that the establishment is selling only the types of liquor as indicated on their license.

**Vote:** Mr. Ramsey made a motion to appoint the following detectives as agents of the Select Board 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, 2023:

Sergeant Detective Phil Emmott  
Detective Heather Hermida

Detective Michael Gervasi  
Detective Scott Tracey

Ms. Klein seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

**Maddie's Promise Proclamation**

The Board plans to discuss this agenda item at their next meeting.

**Proclamation for Rabbi Shira H. Joseph**

Mr. Fisher read a proclamation written in honor of Rabbi Shira H. Joseph on the event of her retirement from Congregation Sha'aray Shalom after 19 years of service.

**Vote:** Mr. Fisher made a motion to issue a proclamation honoring Rabbi Shira H. Joseph upon her retirement. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

### **Town Administrator Annual Performance Review**

Mr. Fisher reported that an annual performance review of the Town Administrator is required under the Special Acts of 2016 and is also a requirement of the employment contract of the Town Administrator. The Select Board is required to evaluate the Town Administrator's ability to accomplish the following tasks:

1. Supervise municipal employees properly
2. Administer Town government effectively
3. To effectuate policy
4. Accomplish established goals

Mr. Fisher noted that each Board member has had a chance to meet with Mr. Mayo individually to discuss their review. Each Board member then provided comments on Mr. Mayo's performance as Town Administrator. Particular attention was given to Mr. Mayo's strengths in the following areas:

- His tremendous leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly with respect to the Town's budget
- His strong work ethic and ability to manage people
- His investment in the job and the community
- His creation of the Sustainable Budget Task Force
- His facilitation of major Capital projects, such as Foster School and the Public Safety facility
- His commitment to environmental concerns
- His commitment to making Town services and businesses accessible to persons with disabilities
- His focus on affordable housing in Hingham

The Board cited the budget, an anticipated operational override and major capital projects as challenges for the Town Administrator going forward.

### **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."**

### **Town Administrator/Select Board Reports**

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

“In Hingham, the presence of COVID-19 continues to evolve. Through the week ending May 7, Hingham experienced 103 confirmed & probable cases, up 72% over the 60 cases experienced through the week ending April 30. During the week of April 30, the number of cases increased 22% over the 49 cases experienced during the week ending April 23. These numbers capture only cases from PCR tests and undercount the presence of COVID-19 in our community. These numbers do not include cases identified using rapid antigen tests.

The CDC looks at the combination of three metrics to measure our COVID 19 levels in our County. This data is updated weekly, on Thursdays based on new admissions and inpatient bed metrics, based on the currently level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days.

Currently, Plymouth County is a **Medium** and CDC recommends:

- Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines.
- [Get tested](#) if you have symptoms.
- Wear a mask if you have symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19.
- Wear a mask on [public transportation](#).
- You may choose to wear a mask at any time as an additional precaution to protect yourself and others.
- If you are at [high risk for severe illness](#), consider wearing a mask indoors in public and taking [additional precautions](#).

We will continue to monitor data and take coordinated action as needed. If the CDC were to determine our COVID-19 level to be **High**, it would recommend wearing a mask indoors and on public transportation.

As we can see, there is a significant uptick in the number of cases in Hingham. This is concerning and we are monitoring it as this trend could end up with a new mask [recommendation](#). We will certainly report out as we know more.”

Mr. Mayo also reported that seniors could call the Senior Center for help with transportation to vaccination appointments

Mr. Art Robert reported that the Town, in partnership with the American Red Cross, would be holding a blood drive on May 31, 2022 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. More information will be available soon

Ms. Klein reported that the Sustainable Budget Task Force recently met and identified some projects that they plan to work on during the summer. She also noted that the Harbor Development Committee is working on their Master Plan and is looking for community input. Residents will be invited to email comments on their vision for the harbor to the Harbor Development Committee in preparation for three upcoming visioning sessions.

Ms. Klein also reminded residents that this Saturday, May 14 is Election Day in Hingham. Information regarding the new voting precincts is available at [www.hingham-ma.gov](http://www.hingham-ma.gov).

Mr. Ramsey invited residents to attend a Peace Officer's Memorial Service at Town Hall on Friday, May 13 at 1:00 pm in honor of police officers killed in the line of duty.

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**The meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.**

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