

Select Board

June 7, 2022

Present:

- Select Board: Mr. William Ramsey (Chair), Mr. Joe Fisher, and Ms. Liz Klein
- Ms. Michelle Monsegur, Assistant Town Administrator for Finance
- Mr. Art Robert, Assistant Town Administrator for Operations

7:00 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. “

Harbor Media was the only party recording the meeting.

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

Approval of Minutes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes dated May 27, 2022. 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 May 31, 2022. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Agreement with Siemens Industry, Inc.

Mr. Jeff Pizzi, Facilities Manager, and Ms. Kathy Reilly, Procurement and Contracts Manager, were present. Mr. Pizzi explained that all of the fire alarm devices in the Town Hall building are no longer being manufactured as they are approximately 24 years old. It is necessary to upgrade to the current technology because any replacement parts would not be compatible with the existing fire alarm panel. The fire alarm panel is also in need of a few upgrades, such as new control boards, so that it will be compatible with the new devices. Ms. Reilly added that the vendor, Siemens, is on the State contract

and has been used by the Town for a number of years. She noted that the contract calls for 269 pieces of equipment to be upgraded. The contract specifies that the work will start in July 2022 and should be completed no later than December 31, at a cost of \$82,000. The cost of this work has been included in the FY23 budget. Mr. Pizzi did not anticipate that the replacement of these parts would cause any disruption to employees at Town Hall.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Agreement with Siemens Industry, Inc. to upgrade all fire alarm initiating devices in Hingham Town Hall in an amount not to exceed \$82,000 with an effective date of July 1, 2022. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Special (One-Day) License: Back Patio Beer/Wine & Barbeque Fundraising Event

Ms. Julia Whitney, Director of the Hingham Community Center, explained that they have done some recent upgrades to the inside of the Community Center and would now like to raise funds for upgrades to the center's back yard. The event will take place from 7:00-10:00 pm on June 17 with 75-100 guests. They plan to have four beer trucks on site to serve guests. Food and live music will also be provided. Police Chief Jones has reviewed the application and has been working with Ms. Whitney to set up a Police detail.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the request for a Special (One -Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Julia Whitney on behalf of the Hingham Community Center for the Back Patio Beer/Wine & BBQ Fundraising event to be held on Friday, June 17, 2022 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Special (One-Day) License: Barrel House Z

Ms. Mary Heissner, co-owner of Barrel House Z, explained that the brewery was part of the Weir River Farms' Sunset Picnics last summer and are planning for a similar series this summer. They plan to have two TIPS-certified bartenders serving beer to guests. Police Chief Jones noted that he has reviewed the application and has no concerns. The Board was familiar with the series of events and was comfortable with the events as presented.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the request for a series of Special (One -Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Barrel House Z for the Weir River Sunset Picnics to be held on Thursday,

June 30, July 7, July 14, July 21, July 28, and August 25, 2022 from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Human Rights Commission

Mr. Ramsey explained that Boards and Committees are usually permitted to elect their own leadership, but, in the case of the Human Rights Commission, a statute requires the Select Board to make the appointment for leadership. Mr. Fisher suggested that the Board elect the Chair and Vice Chair to serve for one year, at which time the Commission could choose to reorganize or could choose to keep the current chair. He further suggested that the appointments of the Chair and Vice Chair should serve for a term ending on June 30, 2033, subject to reappointment or a new appointment by the Select Board. Mr. Ramsey and Ms. Klein felt that was a good idea since the Commission was newly formed.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to appoint Stephen Leary as the Chair of the Human Rights Commission for a term ending June 30, 2023 or until his successor is appointed. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to appoint Tien Do-Suarez as the Vice Chair of the Human Rights Commission for a term ending June 30, 2023, or until her successor is appointed. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Approval of the American Rescue Plan Act Grant Agreement with Plymouth County

Assistant Town Administrator Michelle Monsegur presented. She explained that the Board is being asked to approve the grant agreement that Plymouth County is using with their member communities in order to disperse American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds that the County has received from the Federal Government. The Town has already received two allocations of ARPA funds, which have been applied to FY22 and FY23 budgets. The grant in question is one of two more grants that are expected from Plymouth County. Hingham has been allocated approximately \$1.2 million through this grant. The Town is considering using these funds for the following projects:

- Reimbursement for the cost associated with the Town's Covid-19 testing center

- To develop and implement a Stormwater Master Plan, in coordination with the DPW
- To improve the air quality in the schools and municipal facilities by replacing some HVAC equipment

There was some additional discussion regarding Covid-19 reimbursement funding that the Town has received and hopes to receive via CARES and ARPA funding. Ms. Monsegur was hopeful that the Town would receive three additional allocations of a similar size going forward. It was noted that the amount of the allocations is roughly based on population size. Ms. Klein clarified that there is a very specific process for applying the Town's allocation to specific projects; it cannot just be applied to the operating budget.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the Grant Agreement with Plymouth County to access American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated to the Town of Hingham by Plymouth County. 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](https://www.hingham-ma.gov/SB))

There were no additional appointments this evening.

COVID-19 Update

Assistant Town Administrator Art Robert presented the following COVID-19 Report:

"Last Thursday, the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) determined that Plymouth County's COVID 19 community presence is now "Medium" – down from "High" over the past few weeks. This decision to downgrade our community presence level is consistent with other data we've seen for Hingham, suggesting decline in cases over the last few weeks.

At Medium, the CDC does not recommend indoor masks, regardless of vaccination status. As such, we are removing signs with this recommendation from exterior doors of Town buildings.

While this is an improvement, COVID-19 persists. At the Medium community presence level, the CDC recommendations include:

- If you are [at high risk for severe illness](#), talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions.
- Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines
- [Get tested](#) if you have symptoms

Going forward, we will provide updates based on changes in the CDC's COVID community presence level or other compelling data."

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."

Select Board and Town Administrator Reports

Ms. Klein congratulated the Hingham High School Class of 2022 on their graduation. She said that the Board had the pleasure of attending graduation over the weekend.

Mr. Ramsey reported that a fundraiser for SNAP is scheduled for Friday evening, June 10, which he is looking forward to attending.

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 7:41 PM.

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