

Board of Water Commissioners

July 11, 2022

Present:

- Board of Water Commissioners: Ms. Liz Klein, Chair, Mr. Joseph Fisher and Mr. Bill Ramsey,
- Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator
- Ms. Michelle Monsegur, Assistant Town Administrator for Finance
- Mr. Art Robert, Assistant Town Administrator for Operations

6:00 PM: Call to order

Ms. Klein 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. “
No one indicated that they were recording.

Board of Water Commissioners participating in the meeting were Ms. Liz Klein, Chair, Mr. Bill Ramsey, and Mr. Joseph Fisher. The meeting was conducted both in person and remotely via Zoom.

Reorganization of the Board of Water Commissioners

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to appoint Ms. Liz Klein as Chair of the Board of Water Commissioners. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Approval of Minutes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes dated May 2, 2023. Ms. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement with Environmental Partners Group, LLC

Water Superintendent Russell Tierney and Contracts and Procurement Manager Kathy Reilly were present. Superintendent Tierney explained that the contract was originally just for design services in an amount of approximately \$25,000. At the time, they didn't know if they would be able to procure the necessary materials. They planned to go out to bid for materials at a later date. Amendment #2 is for bidding assistance and for additional design work so the water main can be extended up to Otis Street.

This would bring a new 12" main from Otis Street, down Downer Avenue and Conditto Way, reaching all the way to the Shipyard. This new main will greatly improve efficiency in the area. This was part of the Water System Capital Agreement, with some additions. As things progressed with the approval of the new Foster School and with a main break on Downer Avenue, Superintendent Tierney felt that it was a good idea to proceed at this time. The amendment includes progress billing to EPG.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement with Environmental Partners Group, LLC to provide engineering services associated with water main improvement projects for the Weir River Water System in an amount not to exceed \$41,420.00. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Amendment No. 3 to the Agreement with Environmental Partners Group, LLC

Originally, Mr. Tierney thought that the proposed Assistant Superintendent would have been in place by now, however, since that position has not yet been hired, some additional engineering work from EPG would be required for the project. Superintendent Tierney expects the job to be complete by the end of the year. Mr. Tierney noted that there was capacity in the Capital budget to cover the cost of these additional services. The Water System will pay for services by the hour with payment not to exceed \$246,620.00.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign Amendment No. 3 to the Agreement with Environmental Partners Group, LLC to provide engineering services associated with water main improvement projects for the Weir River Water System in an amount not to exceed \$246,620.00. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Agreement with Waterline Industries Corporation

Mr. Tierney explained that Waterline Industries Corporation was originally the third lowest bidder. Bidder #1 came in as the lowest bidder but their experience did not match what was required of the project. They were given an opportunity to improve their experience, but they did not respond. Bidder #2 was also disqualified. Even though Waterline's proposal was a bit more expensive than the other bidders, approximately \$80,000 higher than expected, Mr. Tierney reported that he has received very good feedback about Waterline Industries and has worked with them in the past. The deadline for this part of the project is April 2024. The Water System budgeted \$1M for this part of the project so it is expected not to exceed that amount. The aim is get all three filers upgraded by the end of the year.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign Agreement with Waterline Industries Corporation for filter underdrain upgrades for the Weir River Water System in an amount not to exceed \$987,677.00. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Water Superintendent Update

Mr. Tierney provided an update to the Select Board on recent activities of the Weir River Water System. Highlights included the following points:

- The Capital Budget balance is currently \$4.9 million, less the projects just approved by the Select Board.
- They have decided to only borrow \$2.7 million this year instead of the projected \$4.4 Million because he anticipated that they would lose money or have to pay interest on it.
- Centrifuge #1 has been replaced at the Water Treatment Plant and is up and running.
- Centrifuge #2 is currently being built and is expected to be complete next year.
- The PFAS sampling has been very good. After treatment, the water has been sampling at 2.22. The maximum level allowable by law is 20, so Hingham is well below that number.
- Accord Pond is full and all ground wells are doing well, which is unusual for this time of year.
- Bids for various Capital projects are opening Wednesday, July 12, 2023.
- The water main project in Samoset Avenue in Hull has been pushed back, but design work is currently underway.
- Mr. Tierney has been recently contacted by the Town of Hull regarding their ongoing project to replace the sea wall on Nantasket Avenue in Hull. Because there is some extra money in the budget, he is considering replacing some main in Nantasket Avenue concurrent with the sea wall project.
- Materials have been ordered for the new Public Safety Facility have been delivered to the vendor.
- Materials for the projects on Downer Avenue and Free Street have been received.
- Annual Collections to date for FY23 was \$14.02 million, but there are still \$607,000 in uncollected fees that are over 120 days old. He plans to meet with Veolia next week to discuss a strategy going forward.
- Mr. Tierney hopes to receive a GIS grant, with a 50/50 cost share, of up to \$250,000, which would allow the Town to do \$500,000 worth of work for \$250,000.
- There is some emergency water main work going on now on Nantasket Avenue in Hull. There was a major collapse of the water main, dated from 1914. The WRWS had an emergency procurement for materials. They plan to do the bulk of the work next week.
- An upcoming Personnel Board meeting is planned to discuss the Assistant Water Superintendent position.

Mr. Tierney fielded several questions about the GIS grant, collections and the remaining budget of \$1.5 million. Mr. Fisher asked for a breakdown of collection per Town in the future. Mr. Ramsey commented that he often received emails from residents who comment of the great work that Mr. Tierney is doing. Ms. Klein and Mr. Fisher echoed his comments.

Public Comment

“The Hingham Board of Water Commissioners 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 Board of Water Commissioners. 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 Board of Water Commissioners is not adopting or endorsing any of the comments made during the Public Comment period.”

There were no comments from the public.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM

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