

# Board of Water Commissioners

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January 4, 2022

Present:

- Board of Water Commissioners: Mr. Joseph Fisher (Chair) and Ms. Liz Klein, 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**

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. “

Mr. Fisher asked if any participants were recording the meeting. No one indicated that they were recording. He said that the Select Board members participating in the meeting were himself, Mr. Bill Ramey and Ms. Liz Klein.

## **Approval of Minutes**

**Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the minutes dated November 4, 2021. Ms. Klein seconded.**

## **Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

## **Carbon Filtration Systems, Inc.**

The Board considered approval of a contract with Carbon Filtration Systems, Inc. for inspection, repair, and rehabilitation of Filters #1 and #2 at the Weir River Water System Treatment Plant, 900 Main Street, Hingham, MA. Russell Tierney, Superintendent of the Weir River Water System presented. Mr. Tierney said that this contract is for the repair of filters #1 and #2 at the water treatment plant. He said that the work would be similar to that done to filters #3 and #4 over the summer. They plan to remove the media from both filters and make all necessary repairs, as outlined in the scope of services. Consulting firm, Environmental Partners plans to be “on-call” in case there are any questions for them during the process. Mr. Tierney reported that he was very pleased with the work they performed over the summer and was happy they are on-board for these repairs. The total amount of the bid is \$606,985, which includes \$150,000 in repairs. He estimated that the repairs could come in under budget. He acknowledged that the cost of the repairs is slightly over budget, but that the cost of materials has gone up recently. Mr. Tierney anticipated that the repairs would be similar in nature to those done on filters

#3 and #4. Mr. Ramsey asked how often it is necessary to change the filters. Mr. Tierney said that the manufacturer recommends that they be changed every 4-5 years.

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the agreement with Carbon Filtration Systems, Inc. for the inspection, repair, and rehabilitation of Filters #1 and #2 at the Weir River Water System Treatment Plant in an amount not to exceed \$606,985.00. Mr. Ramsey seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Water Superintendent Report**

Mr. Tierney announced that the WRWS recently received the results of a sanitary survey, which was very successful. There were no Table A or Table B deficiencies, which are the top two violations. Table A deficiencies are violations of the Drinking Water Act and require a notice of non-compliance. Table B deficiencies are lesser violations, such as paperwork not being in order, where that the public would not be in jeopardy. The WRWS received three very minor Table C violations. One recommendation was to finalize execution plans to rehabilitate the water tank at Turkey Hill, which he plans to discuss with Environmental Partners tomorrow. He expects that Environmental Partners will present him with a timeline for the project. One thing Mr. Tierney would like to improve is the cross connection program. He said that, while it was hard to get into facilities throughout Covid and to test devices, he hopes to continue to improve the program. The other thing that he would like to improve is to review the residuals management and to make sure that they have a plan for alternative disposal options should the centrifuges fail.

He read the following email from the Drinking Water Section Chief of the Southeast Region of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection,

“We are very happy to see the transition to municipal ownership is going well and that there is a reinvestment in the water system. The Surface Water Coordinator who actually did the survey is very familiar with the requirements for your surface water system and to give you such a positive report is truly a testament to the professionalism of the staff from top to bottom.”

“The Weir River Water System has made tremendous progress in the first year of operation and it is clear to this surveyor that all personnel involved take great pride in the system.”

It was noted in the sanitary survey that, “all records were immediately available and found to be in excellent condition.”

Mr. Tierney said that the survey team was very impressed with the WRWS’s 10-year plan. Mr. Fisher said that he was pleased with Mr. Tierney’s professionalism and expertise as well as his communication with the Board. Ms. Klein said that the staff should be very proud of their work. Mr. Ramsey echoed their thoughts.

Mr. Tierney reported that they are slightly behind with collections and Suez is in the process of hiring another staff member. He also reported that there have been a large number of main breaks over the last couple of months, at an amount of nearly \$160,000. He is looking into the reasons for that and potential ways to mitigate that over the next few years. There was some additional discussion regarding regulated and unregulated water contaminants. Mr. Tierney advised that they test for all regulated contaminants as listed by the EPA. He added that the WRWS is well below the limits for any of the unregulated contaminants.

Mr. Tierney also gave a quick update on the ongoing Cost of Service Study. He said that he has plans to work with the Transition and Evaluation Committee before the end of the month. He also anticipated finalizing the Master plan memo at that time as well. He did not anticipate an increase in rates for 2022.

**Public Comment**

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**The meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM.**

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