

Board of Water Commissioners

January 12, 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
- Mr. Russell Tierney, Superintendent, Weir River Water System

6:30 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 anyone was recording the meeting. There were no responses.

Agreement with Environmental Partners for engineering services related to the FY21 water main replacement

Mr. Russell Tierney explained that this project is the second water main replacement project and consists of work that was set aside during the transition of the water company operations from Aquarion to the Town of Hingham and had been partially designed. He said that streets involved in this project would be Downing Street, Wompatuck Road, Maple Lane and Hayes Road. He noted that the mains on Maple Lane and Hayes Road are both bleeders and he would like them to be replaced at a normal depth. Mr. Tierney explained that a “bleeder” is a main that is subject to freezing due to its depth. To avoid freezing in the cold weather, the pipe is cracked open a bit to let a small amount of water run. Because this wastes water, he recommended that they be replaced. He decided to stay with Environmental Partners for this project due to the high quality of past work and their knowledge of the water system. He also felt that contracting with Environmental Partners would provide consistency throughout the mains projects. Mr. Tierney hoped to start this project in March. He noted that there is also an upcoming project after this one. The total cost for this project was estimated at \$323,000, which would be paid for out of the Weir River Water System Capital budget.

Mr. Fisher asked if the cost for the project is consistent with what had been budgeted for the work. Mr. Tierney was confident that the project would be within budget. Mr. Fisher also asked why the contract had a completion date of August 31, 2021 and whether Mr. Tierney was expecting any additional water main replacement work after that date. Mr. Tierney explained that he wanted the date extended beyond the fiscal year in case the end of contract documents are not complete by June 30, 2021. He expected this job to take 2-3 months. Mr. Fisher also asked if emergency water main projects would have a separate contract or if they would be an addendum to this contract. Mr. Tierney stated that it would most likely be done as an addendum.

Ms. Power commented that there have been discussions regarding the possibility of establishing a Capital Stabilization Fund that could cover the cost of any unplanned capital expenditures. Given the age of the Town's water mains, she felt that this would be an important tool going forward. She noted that the water company has 192 miles of mains with an average age of 67 years. The average life of a main is 70 years.

Mr. Ramsey asked who would be doing the physical work of the project. Mr. Tierney said that it would be put out to bid and the work would be done by a contractor.

Ms. Power commented on how fortunate the Town is to have such a great partnership with Environmental Partners Group (EPG), particularly with Ryan Trahan and Mark White. She felt that EPG's familiarity with the water system was particularly helpful. Mr. Mayo echoed Ms. Power's comments.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the agreement with Environmental Partners Group, Inc. for engineering services related to the FY21 water main replacement project in an amount not to exceed \$323,100.00. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Ms. Power commented that Hingham is lucky to have Mr. Tierney as a wonderful water superintendent. In addition, she reported that recently, while he was driving through town, Mr. Tierney came across a house on fire. He stopped, called 911 and checked to see if anyone was in the home. The home was vacant at the time, but without his quick actions, there could have been much more damage to the home.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 PM.

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

