

Board of Water Commissioners

January 18, 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 Water Commissioners 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 January 4, 2021. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Board of Water Commissioners' sponsored Warrant Articles for 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

Article V: Appropriation of Bond Premium and Excess Bond Proceeds

Ms. Monsegur asked if the Board would consider submitting the following two Articles for consideration at the Annual Town Meeting. Article V deals with appropriating the \$7 million bond premium that the Town received when the bonds were issued to purchase the Weir River Water System. The main purposes for the appropriation would be for designing and constructing a new water tank and rehabilitating the tank at Turkey Hill and for other capital improvements to the water system. There would also be a small sum of money of excess bond proceeds. This Article would allow the Town to utilize that money for system improvements

Article W: Authorization to Borrow for FY22 and FY23 Water Capital

Ms. Monsegur said that this Article proposes to confirm Hingham's use for FY22 and to authorize for FY23 the use of \$2.7 million in each year for capital improvements to the water system. Neither Articles would raise water rates beyond what has already been contemplated.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to propose the articles as presented for inclusion in the 2022 Warrant for Hingham Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Water Superintendent Report

Mr. Tierney gave an update on the centrifuge in need of repair at the treatment plant. He said that they would like to repair the existing one and add a replacement centrifuge into next year's capital improvement budget. The repair cost is estimated at \$90,000 and replacement is estimated at \$650,000. There would be no effect on water quality during the repair or replacement.

Mr. Ramsey asked what sort of precautions the Water System is taking during the recent extreme cold temperatures. Mr. Tierney said that they have sent reminders to ratepayers regarding freezing pipes and keeping water running. The message would be available on the website as well. They have been taking lots of precautions with respect to keeping staff members warm out on the road.

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

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 6:15 PM.

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