

# Board of Water Commissioners

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February 3, 2021

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

## **7:00 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. “

No one indicated they were recording. Board of Water Commissioners participating in the meeting were himself, Mr. Bill Ramsey and Ms. Liz Klein.

7:03 PM: Chair Chrissy Roberts called to order the meeting of the Weir River Water System Citizens Advisory Board. Also participating from the CAB were Stephen Weiss, Stephen Girardi, Sam Mullen, and John Strussieri. Donna Pursel was not present.

Mr. Russell Tierney presented the FY23 Weir River Water System Budget. The Mission of the Weir River Water System is to provide outstanding customer service to their valued customers in Hingham, Hull and Cohasset while continuously supplying the highest quality water while improving the water system infrastructure. He highlighted some items the WRWS has been working on this year:

- The WRWS ran a new gas line from Main Street to the plant and replaced an aging boiler with two energy-efficient gas boilers.
- Water treatment
- Billing services
- They implemented 24/7 customer service
- Emergency repairs
- Capital repairs
- Public outreach and education
- Conservation

Key initiatives include:

- Improve water quality by implementing programs
- Water Main Replacement Program
- GIS and GISIP Program

- Update and improve GIS mapping
- Utilizing GIS System for asset management
- New water storage tank design and construction
- Implementation of Capital Study Report
- Aggressive hydrant flushing program
- Equipment upgrades and improvement for preventative maintenance

Mr. Tierney requested the following

- Salaries - \$257,380
- Contract Services - \$5,082,605
- Property Taxes / Insurance - \$980,325
- Other Expenses - \$583,700
- Debt Services - \$5,977,432
- DPW Support - \$10,000

Mr. Tierney spoke a little about the Capital Study Report and what was included in his budget request, including work on Wompatuck Road and some additional projects. His two highest priorities going forward would be water main work and the rehabilitation of the tank at Turkey Hill.

Mr. Ramsey thanked Mr. Tierney for his efforts helping some residents of Rockland Street who needed water assistance. Members of the CAB complimented Mr. Tierney and his crew for the amazing job that they do.

There was additional discussion regarding a Five-Year Outlook on rates. He said that without a rate increase in FY25, the system could start to lose some of its retained earnings. He did not recommend a rate increase for FY23.

**Public Comment**

There were no comments.

7:29 pm: The meeting of the Weir River Water System Citizens Advisory Board adjourned.

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**