

Board of Selectmen

February 11, 2020

Regular Session

Present

Selectmen: Ms. Karen Johnson, Chairman, Mr. Joe Fisher, Ms. Mary Power
Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator, and Ms. Michelle Monsegur, Assistant Town Administrator.

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

Ms. Karen Johnson

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Johnson invited Mr. Keith Jermyn, Director of Veterans Services, to the front to lead the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2020 meeting. Ms. Power seconded. All were favor, 3-0.

Public Comment

none

Warrant Articles

Article M: Community Preservation Committee

Mr. Larry Lindner was asked about the CPC budget. He explained that the CPC had \$1,692,999 to spend this year, including \$459,000 in returned funds. Mr. Fisher asked if the returned money that had initially been intended for a certain project would then have to be held for another project of the same category (for example: recreation, open space, affordable housing, etc.) or if the funds would go back into the CPC's general fund. Mr. Lindner said that usually the funds would go back into the general fund. Ms. Power added that a few years ago, CPC modified its 2-year requirement that approved funds be used to exclude affordable housing projects. Mr. Lindner further explained that last year's returned money had been allocated for a specific Affordable Housing project that didn't take place, thus the funds went back into the general CPC fund rather than in the Affordable Housing's Opportunity Fund.

Votes:

- 1.) Ms. Power made a motion to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$272,300 from the Community Preservation General Fund to be used by the Hingham Affordable Housing Trust for the HAHT Opportunity Fund. Mr. Fisher seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.
- 2.) Mr. Fisher made a motion to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$75,000 from the Community Preservation General Fund to be used by the Hingham Recreation Commission to repair the tennis courts at Plymouth River School located at 0 High Street, Map 124/Lot 43. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.
- 3.) Ms. Power made a motion to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$8,000 from the Community Preservation General Fund to be used by the Hingham Conservation Commission to re-survey the property boundary of the Lehner Conservation Area, erect two way-finding kiosks, and mark with fence posts a boundary between the Lehner Conservation Area and a private property located at 0, 32, and 56 South Pleasant Street, Map 137/Lots 1, 18, & 21b. Mr. Fisher seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.
- 4.) Mr. Fisher made a motion to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$40,000 from the Community Preservation General Fund to be used by the Hingham Historical Commission to clear the land and repair gravestones at the Canterbury Street Cemetery located at the intersection of Canterbury and Rockland Streets, Map 43, Lot 110. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.
- 5.) Ms. Power made a motion to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$500,000 from the Community Preservation General Fund to be used by the South Shore Country Club for the

design and construction documents of a new pool to be located at 274 South Street, Map 70/Lot14. Mr. Fisher seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

- 6.) Ms. Power made a motion to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$32,030 from the Community Preservation General Fund to be used by the Congregation of Second Parish to restore the tower clocks located at 685 Main Street, Map 126/Lot 47. Ms. Johnson seconded. The vote passed, 2-0-1. Mr. Fisher abstained.
- 7.) Ms. Power made a motion to appropriate the sum of \$772,000, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, to be used by the Hingham Historical Society to help purchase the Benjamin Lincoln House located at 181 North Street, Map 61/Lot 12, in order to repurpose the property as a museum, and to meet such appropriation by a) expending \$42,313 from the Community Preservation Historic Preservation Reserve and \$234,356 from the Community Preservation General Fund and b) authorizing the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow \$495,331, together with the costs of borrowing, under Massachusetts General Laws chapter 44, section 7, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Mr. Fisher seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Article MM: Community Preservation Committee: Benjamin Lincoln House

The Board all expressed their gratitude that the Town was able to preserve the Benjamin Lincoln House as an important piece of Hingham's history, not only for the importance of the house but for its contents as well. Ms. Johnson added that she wanted to clarify to the public that the CPC funds are funds that are not available to be used as part of the Town's general operating budget. The CPC funds can only be used as set forth in the Community Preservation Act for the following: Open Space, Affordable Housing, Recreation, and Historic Preservation and the Town cannot spend them otherwise. She added that this money, should it not be voted to be used for one of the aforementioned project categories, is not otherwise available to the Town for any other purpose.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion for the Town to appropriate the sum of \$772,000, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, to be used by the Hingham Historical Society to help purchase the Benjamin Lincoln House located at 181 North Street, Map 61/Lot 12, in order to repurpose the property as a museum, and to meet such appropriation by a) expending \$42,313 from the Community Preservation Historic Preservation Reserve and \$234,356 from the Community Preservation General Fund and b) authorizing the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow \$495,331, together with the costs of borrowing, under Massachusetts General Laws chapter 44, section 7, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, or act on anything relating thereto. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Article N: Amendment to Council on Aging By-laws

Will the Town vote to amend Section 16 of the General By-laws of the Town, adopted March 13, 1939, as heretofore amended, as follows:

*'By deleting the first sentence of Section 4 of Article 16 and replacing it with the following sentence:
The Council on Aging at its annual meeting to be held at a date, time and place as determined by the Council shall elect from its membership a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.*

And by deleting Section 5 of Article 16 and replacing it with the following:

Section 5 - The Council shall submit an annual report of its activities to the Town and shall send a copy thereof to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

or act on anything relating thereto?

(Inserted at the request of the Council on Aging)'

It was noted by Ms. Johnson that the Department of Elder Services has worked with Town Counsel, John Coughlin, in reviewing and revising their By-laws.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to recommend favorable action of Article N. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Article CC: SSCC Turf Care Center

*ARTICLE CC: Will the Town raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$2,200,000 for the design and construction of a new maintenance facility for the South Shore Country Club, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted at the request of the South Shore Country Club Management Committee)*

Mr. Kevin Whelan, Executive Director of the South Shore Country Club stated that the request for an Article at Town Meeting is to appropriate the funds to design and build up to an 11,500 square foot Turf Care Center. He said that this facility will provide a maintenance area for all mechanical work, cold storage that will house equipment, office space, bathrooms for golf course staff, and an Environmental Management Center for the storage of fuel, pesticides, and recycled water.

He went on to explain that the current structure has deteriorated to the point that access is restricted to sections of the maintenance area as a result of falling concrete. He said that this request is an emergency for safety and the continuity of the golf course operations. He added that the golf course is responsible for 85% of the revenues at the South Shore Country Club (SSCC). He also said that disruption in providing a structure to maintain the equipment could result in deteriorating conditions on the golf course.

Mr. Whelan went on to say that the SSCC has had the area surveyed by an engineering firm to note wetlands, etc. and have created a preliminary site map. He also said that they have met with the Town's Engineering consultant to discuss the next steps of the project. He added that the SSCC has met with the Town of Hingham's Historical Commission, Building Inspector, Planning Board, and Conservation Commissions representatives to understand what will need to be done to move the project forwards. The Country Club Management Committee has approved and begun the process of hiring a Project Manager. He added that the \$2.2 million request is based on historical revenues and what SSCC can reasonably afford for debt service over the next twenty years.

Mr. Fisher asked when this project would begin. Mr. Whelan said that they have met with all the appropriate boards and he hopes to begin in about five months.

Ms. Power explained that this gets paid for out of the enterprise fund of the country club and is tax payer neutral. She said that Town's financial advisory recommend using a borrowing rate assumption of 3.5% for any projects being financed more than 6 months from now.

Vote: Mr. Fisher moved to recommend favorable action of Article CC. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Article E: Salaries of Town Officers

Will the Town fix the salaries of the following Town Officers:

- 1.) *Selectmen*
- 2.) *Assessors*
- 3.) *Town Clerk*
- 4.) *Municipal Light Board;*

Or act on anything relating thereto?

(Inserted by the Board of Selectmen)

Vote: Ms. Power made a motion to recommend favorable action of Article E. Mr. Fisher seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Lincoln Day Proclamation

Ms. Johnson announced that the annual Lincoln Day celebration will take place this Saturday, February 15, 2020 at Old Ship Church and she encouraged all Hingham citizens to attend. She then read the Lincoln Day Proclamation:

WHEREAS, The Town of Hingham was settled in 1635 by a small band of puritan pilgrims many of whom came from Hingham, England and environs; and,

WHEREAS, Among the descendants of those original settlers, were two famous American public figures who shared the common family name "Lincoln" as well as a common heritage; and,

WHEREAS, It is a long-standing Hingham tradition to honor and celebrate their birthdays: General Benjamin Lincoln, a life-long Hingham citizen and a hero of the American Revolution; and, Abraham Lincoln, our 16th President and the towering figure of the Civil War; and,

WHEREAS, We honor and celebrate the lives and deeds of the two Lincolns because of the indelible legacy of community-building and preservation they have left for us; and,

*WHEREAS, In this year, Two Thousand and Nineteen, we pay special honor to four centuries of our citizens--those famous like Benjamin Lincoln, and Abraham Lincoln-- and those unknown to history, who worked in myriad ways to build and sustain this wonderful community Hingham and the broader communities of state and nation; and,
WHEREAS, The preservation of community is a perpetual task in which each generation must fully participate.*

Now, Therefore: We, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Hingham, do Hereby Officially Proclaim: Saturday, February 15, 2020 Lincoln Day. We urge also that as many citizens as possible join us at Old Ship Meeting House on Saturday, February 15, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. for a patriotic ceremony of celebration.

Finally, we urge each citizen to take to heart the examples of the two Lincolns and those of four centuries of Hingham citizens, and we urge each citizen to participate in some concrete way in the strengthening and preservation of this community of Hingham and the broader communities of state and nation for the generations which will succeed us.

Given under our hands and seal of Hingham, this eleventh day of February 11, 2020

Vote: Ms. Power made a motion to execute the Lincoln Day Proclamation. Mr. Fisher seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

One Day Liquor License

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the issuance of a Special (One Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Laura Glennon on behalf of South Elementary School for the South Elementary Spring Social to be held at Hingham Community Center on March 14, 2020 from 7 pm to 10:30 pm. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Selectmen / Town Administrator Reports:

Ms. Monsegur: nothing to report

Mr. Mayo: nothing to report

Mr. Fisher reported that the State has agreed to conduct a permanent monitoring of the air quality surrounding the proposed site of the Weymouth Compressor Station in South Weymouth. He added that this is one of many steps needed to ensure that the nearby residents are protected.

8:00 PM: Joint Session with the Advisory Committee and School Committee

The School Committee and the Advisory Committee were both called to order.

Forecast update

Mr. Mayo said that the Town is now facing a \$1.7M deficit after reflecting both the Town Administrator and School Superintendent recommended budgets. He added that the forecast also includes an additional \$400,000 in State aid for the Town of Hingham. He said that, in addition to that, the Town has received indications from our health care provider, the Group Insurance Commission (GIC), that the Town's healthcare costs have gone up by 6% instead of the usual 10%. He said that the forecast has been updated to reflect all of these things.

Mr. Victor Balterra asked a question regarding the Overlay in the forecast. He was wondering why it is in the forecast at \$850,000 when last year it was \$350,000. Ms. Nickerson explained that the "Unused Levy Capacity" is now \$0 because the Town has taken the \$500,000 that was in the "Unused Levy Capacity" and have added it to the "Overlay" to account for the "Senior Means-tested Exemption."

Ms. Johnson explained that this is not an "exemption", but rather a "reduction" in taxes for those most needy seniors who apply for it and who qualify for "circuit breaker" at the State level. She added that this is a type of targeted tax relief that can be evaluated on an annual basis. She further explained that this \$500,000 in tax relief had previously been distributed amongst all Hingham taxpayers but that it has now been decided to give it instead to Hingham's neediest senior citizens.

Libby Liewicki, 370 Gardner St., asked a question about local receipts, specifically what would account for the reduction in receipts since 2018 and why 2018 was such a big year. Ms. Power said that there

were a larger than average amount of building permits issued in 2018 due to the construction of the Avalon and Broadstone Bare Cove projects, which provided significant one year local receipts revenue for the Town. Ms. Johnson added that the Town carefully analyzes five-year trends in income from excise tax, meals tax, etc. and budgets for it in the upcoming year, adding that these numbers are fine-tuned right up until Town Meeting.

FY21 Municipal Financial Update

Ms. Power presented an analysis of Town Revenue and Expenses. She said that the Town's revenue is about \$109 million dollars. She said that 75% of that revenue comes from the Town's tax levy, which is only allowed to grow by 2.5% a year under Proposition 2 ½.

She compared Hingham's revenue numbers versus benchmark communities. She said that Hingham falls in the mid-range with respect to total tax levy. She also noted that Hingham ranked 17 out of 20 for the residential tax rate.

She showed a chart of the Town's revenue growth, noting that our growth is slowing down and that it is only projected to grow by 1.6% next year. She explained that new growth has slowed down because there are no large building projects such as Avalon on the horizon.

Ms. Power identified policy actions taken by current and past Boards of Selectmen to increase revenue including:

- Adoption of the Meals Tax
- Creation of Ambulance service
- Adoption 43D to accelerate commercial development
- Commissioning the South Hingham Study Group
- Increasing the amount of funds that can be withdrawn from Building Dept. revolving fund every three years
- Instituting fees and permit review every three years
- Securing \$2.8 million in grant funding for 2019

Ms. Power then explained the Town's three operating expense categories:

- Municipal Services: General Government, Public Safety, Public Works, Human Services & Culture and Recreation
- Education Services: Regular Education, Special Education & Vocational Education
- Town-wide Services: Debt Service, Employee Benefits, Unclassified (primarily insurance) & Capital Outlay

She went on to explain that the Town's operating budget (excluding Capital Outlay) has been growing, on average, by 4.3% in each of the last ten years.

She went on to break down Hingham's % spending by budget category from 2011-2019. The spending by category for 2019, was as follows:

- Municipal: 26.3%
- Education: 52.1%
- Town-wide: 21.6%

Ms. Power stated that Hingham's 19 Town benchmark communities spending by category for 2018 was 26.5% for municipal services, 49.7% for education, and 23.8% for Town-wide services.

Ms. Power provided a sensitivity analysis for the 5-year forecast dated 1/29/20. She stated that in the forecast, Municipal and Education budgets are expected to grow by 2% per year. Group insurance is expected to grow by 10% and debt, pension and OPEB are expected to keep to their funding schedules. Ms. Power noted that these assumptions produced annual deficits ranging from \$2.4 to \$3.4 million per year.

She also showed the impact of a 3%, 4%, and 5% increase in municipal and education budgets in FY2022 and beyond.

Ms. Power also spoke to the large capital projects under consideration, emphasizing that they would be difficult to absorb into the operating budget without significant reductions in services. Ms. Power

showed the property tax impact of financing these projects through a debt exclusion, which would result in a 20-year tax increase.

Ms. Power also stated that the purchase of the water company will be from water rates, and will not affect either property taxes or the Town budget.

Ms. Power concluded her presentation by emphasizing the importance of considering the cumulative financial impact of budget and capital decisions.

Ms. Johnson commented that creating the budget is difficult but it shows the careful stewardship of every tax dollar. She also said that the Town's financial advisors have prepared models showing that the Town would borrow at an interest rate of 3.5% when, in actuality, the Town is borrowing at an interest rate of 1.4%. She added that the reason the Town is able to borrow at that rate and has access to the capital markets in that very favorable way is because Hingham is a AAA rated community.

Michelle Ayer, Chairman of the School Department, said the budget presentation was very helpful.

Questions from the School Committee

Eliza O'Reilly, 19 Porter's Cove Rd., asked about the status of a long-term financial plan for the Town.

Ms. Power responded that the Board of Selectmen approached this effort by first considering the impact of the many large capital projects under consideration. She noted that a committee created a model to assist in this effort, which led to a presentation by the Board of Selectmen that was socialized to boards and committees in the fall of 2017. Ms. Power stated that the board considered continuing this work as part of its goal setting process, but felt that it would be best to wait until the Town knew whether or not Foster School would be accepted into the MSBA Program. Ms. Power stated that decision would have a significant impact on any modeling or priority setting Ms. Power added that there are several master planning efforts underway this year, which could inform this plan.

Ms. Johnson added that the Board of Selectmen submitted a warrant article for Town Meeting's consideration to help inform the board of options with respect to solving the many space needs in the Town. Ms. Johnson emphasized this work would involve analysis of facilities and space needs, not priorities.

Libby Claypool, 10 Shipyard Drive, of the Advisory Committee made some comments on the connection between large capital planning and long term planning. Ms. Johnson commented that she feels that long term financial planning is informed by the Town's capital planning. She also added that if there is a way to maximize the Town's assets in a way that would benefit all Town departments they should be doing so.

Mr. Fisher said that he felt that there is some opportunity for growth in South Hingham. Mr. Fisher is the liaison for the development of South Hingham and is aware of the Town's concerns for additional development in that area.

Leslie Whitman, 1 Rocky Run, asked why the personal tax rate is going down. Ms. Nickerson said that as assessed values goes up the rate goes down.

Sarah Ader, 32 Highview Drive, stated she was concerned about the statistic that 47% of Hingham citizens are senior citizens. She felt that this statistic may be misleading and asked for some clarification. Ms. Johnson explained that 47% referred to the percentage of homes with at least one senior citizen and that this percentage was one of many metrics that informs the Board's decisions.

Libby Lewicki asked how close the Town is to a tax override and stated there is community support for an override. She said that the Town can increase taxes by more than 2.5% if we vote on it at Town Meeting. Ms. Power and Ms. Johnson both said that they anticipate several significant debt exclusion projects which would require tax increases.

School Budget Presentation

Michelle Ayer, Chairman of the School Committee, said that, while we aim to meet the needs of all students, we are also required by law to meet these needs. She said that the School Committee is here to explain what they are requesting and what they need it for.

Dr. Paul Austin addressed the crowd and began his presentation. He said that we are incredible lucky for the support of the community. He thanked John Ferris and the principals of the schools for their help throughout the budget process.

He started with the mission and core beliefs of the HPS and the guiding principles of the FY21 budget. Her explained that the proposed budget was developed to address the following:

- The needs of all the students
- The mission and vision of the School District
- The priorities set by the School Committee
- The needs/expectations of the community

He gave an enrollment overview and explained that since 2011, overall enrollment has gone up by 4%, but that enrollment at the high school has gone up by 18.8%, putting a strain on office support and administration and on class size in all core-content areas. He presented additional enrollment data as well.

Dr. Austin presented the results of Hingham's MCAS testing, saying that Hingham's students tested very well and fell in the following percentiles:

- Hingham High School – 98th percentile
- Hingham Middle School – 85th percentile
- Elementary schools – 93rd-99th percentile

He noted that the students perform very well, but that it is our most vulnerable students who are most at risk.

He added some information on AP exams and college placement, including 91.2% of High School seniors are going on to college and 47% of High School Seniors are taking AP exams.

He gave a Special Education overview. He said that as of January 1, 2020 there were 631 students identified for special education supports and services, with 87 of these students receiving this support in out of Hingham's schools and 44 enrolled in an out of district school.

He then went over some facilities challenges including the following:

- Hingham High School – Boilers and roof in need of replacement
- Foster Elementary – in the pipeline with the MSBA
- Plymouth River Elementary – windows in need of replacement
- South Elementary – major exterior and mechanical work and a plan for roof replacement

He discussed some additional space needs and preventative maintenance issues including:

- A new space for the TRACES program and the Robotics program
- More classroom space for KIA
- Additional special education space across the district

He stated that since 2012, the average annual budget increase was 4.43%. He said that the Approved 2020 Budget was \$54,319,826. His Status Quo budget for 2021 is \$56,730,985. He went on to present his FY21 budget in a Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier3 format designed to express their needs in a prioritized manner.

- Tier 1 – Most Critical
- Tier 2 – Highly Critical
- Tier 3 – Critical

He ended his presentation with some future-focused budget concerns including:

- To balance the maintenance needs of the school buildings with the technology needs of the students.
- Free full-day Kindergarten (98% of Hingham families enrolled in Kindergarten opt to pay for full-time Kindergarten)

A number of residents voiced their concerns on the following topics:

- The possible hiring of a Fine and Performing Arts Director at the High School
- Special Education needs
- A new location for the TRACES program

The Board discussed the following:

- Retirements and leaves of absence that could free up some room in the budget
- Athletic fees and funds raised by booster parents

- State aid
- Shared efficiencies between the School Committee and the Municipal budgets
- The Foster School project
- Tax increases and upcoming capital projects

Ms. Power asked Dr. Austin and the School Committee to do three things; 1. Review revolving account balances and apply more dollars to the budget, 2. Meet with Tom Mayo to discuss having Food Service benefit costs paid from the Food Service revolving fund (this fund had an \$800,000 balance as of June 30, 2019), and 3. Consider reducing the budget request in light of the forecast, recognizing that has been the tradition for both the Board of Selectmen and School Committee for many years.

Victor Balterra, Chairman of the Advisory Committee, called a recess for the Advisory Committee in order to reconvene upstairs.

Warrant Articles

Article S: Additional Funds for Foster School Feasibility Study

Will the Town vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, a supplemental amount of money (in addition to those funds appropriated under Article 20 of the 2017 Town of Hingham Annual Town Meeting) to be expended under the direction of the 2017 School Building Committee for a feasibility study for Foster Elementary School located at 55 Downer Ave (Assessor's Map ID 38/0/1), for which feasibility study the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the Town incurs in connection with the feasibility study in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town, or act on anything relating thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the School Committee)

Dr. Austin explained that in 2017 town meeting approved \$750,00 for a Foster School feasibility study. He said that the School Department is requesting a supplemental amount of \$350,000 for the purpose of paying the costs related to this feasibility study.

Ms. Johnson said that she supported moving forward with the project. Ms. Johnson noted that this study was done three years ago and the Board recognizes that the cost may have increased since then.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to recommend favorable action of Article S. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Statement of Interest for MSBA / Plymouth River Elementary School

Mr. Ferris said that the documentation of the need to replace some of the windows at Plymouth River began in 2006. He explained that the amount of the upgrade triggered costly ADA requirements and they were not able to replace them all. He said that there is still about 10,000 square feet of glass that needs to be replaced. He added that the steel framed windows are damaged and failing, have damaged or no screens, have poor thermal performance and are original to the 1969 structure. He said he has seen the cost for heat has go up significantly. He also commented that the building is in good shape, except for the windows.

Ms. Johnson asked when the statement of interest is due. He said that it is due Friday would find out in June if their project has been accepted by the MSBA. He stated that if they were to get accepted into the program, they would receive a minimum of 31.5% of the total cost of the project from the MSBA.

Ms. Power confirmed the total cost of the project is approximately \$3 million. The MSBA project could pay for about one third of the cost and the Broadcove mitigation funds could pay for approximately one third, leaving the Town to pay for \$1M for the balance of the project. Ms. Power also asked Mr. Ferris to confirm that the work would need to be completed within 18 months of being accepted by the MSBA program.

Mr. Fisher asked what was the usual life of the windows. And Dr. Austin and Mr. Ferris said that they are well overdue.

Vote: Mr. Fisher moved the following resolution: Having convened in an open meeting on February 11, 2020, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the Hingham Board of Selectmen of Hingham, MA 02043, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February

14, 2020 for the Plymouth River Elementary School located at 200 High Street, Hingham, MA (Assessors Map 124/0/32 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future for an accelerated repair project for the purpose of replacing steel framed windows, many of which are damaged and failing, have damaged or no screens, and they all provide poor thermal performance. The windows are original to the 1969 structure; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the **Town of Hingham** to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Article II: Transfer of Insurance Funds Related to High School Fire

He said that they have repaired the damage from the fire and the flood but they need the BOS to vote4 to move the money back to the operating budget.

Vote: Ms. Power made a motion to recommend favorable action of Article II. Mr. Fisher seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Article JJ: Transfer of Insurance Funds Related to East School Flood

Vote: Ms. Power made a motion to recommend favorable action of Article JJ. Mr. Fisher seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

A Report from the Chief Procurement Officer

As Chief Procurement Officer for the Town of Hingham, Mr. Tom Mayo read a Notice of Determination of Award for the Operation and Maintenance of the Hingham Water System which determined that Suez Water Environmental Services to have submitted the most advantageous proposal in response to the Town's Request for Proposals for the operation and maintenance of the Hingham Water System, now known as the Weir River Water System.

Jason O'Brien, General Manager for the New England Region for Suez said that he was looking forward to working with the Town of Hingham and he thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Ms. Johnson thanked Mr. Taylor for the efforts of the Water Transition and Evaluation Committee.

Joe Siriani, 120 Kilby Street, representative of the employees of the Aquarion Water Company and their Union, said he was here to ask what is the plan for the Aquarion employees going forward. Mr. Mayo acknowledged that there was concern amongst the Aquarion employees and stated that, in the company's bid, Suez agreed to interview all current Aquarion employees. He also said that the Board of Selectmen are working on a regular basis to make the transition smooth for everyone and he thanked Mr. Siriani for his patience. Ms. Johnson also said that the employees are very important to the Town. She thanked Mr. Mayo and Ms. Monsegur for all their efforts in getting through this process. She also thanked the Town's legal team of Kerry Ryan, Susan Murphy and John Coughlin for their help with the very technical procurement process.

Ms. Power made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fisher seconded it. All were in favor, 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 11:04PM.