

Board of Selectmen

February 12, 2019
Regular Session 7:00pm

Present: Mr. Paul Healey, Ms. Mary Power, Ms. Karen Johnson, Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator, Ms. Michelle Monsegur, Assistant Town Administrator.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes dated February 7, 2019. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Public Comment

None.

Announcement:

Mr. Healey stated that recently, the Board of Selectmen had voted to advance the purchase and acquisition of the water company. The work leading up to this decision represented a culmination of literally thousands of hours. He recognized and thanked Jonathan Asher and Ed Siegfried for their significant contributions. The Town is fortunate to have the kind of skills and people willing to offer them and share them with us for the greater good.

Mr. Healey stated that this effort began close to 10 years ago. We are now moving into a different phase. As such, we will lead off with a public information forum regarding the water company purchase that will take place on Saturday, March 9th from 1-3pm at the Sanborn Auditorium located in Town Hall. We will continue our efforts to educate the citizens with respect to the issues that are of interest to them and continue on with an eye towards having a fully informed electorate at the 2019 annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Healey thanked the Water Company Acquisition Study Committee members Joshua Krumholz, Joseph Bierwirth and Robert Higgins. He noted their great work and ton of dedication and stated that he can't appreciate it enough.

Section 15 Wine and Malt Beverages License by Bloomy Rind LLC

Mary Sullivan Gonsalves, Manager, present.

Ms. Gonsalves provided a brief history of the Bloomy Rind. She stated that receiving this license would help them offer a full experience to their customers by pairing quality wines with their artisanal cheeses.

Ms. Power made a motion to approve the application for a Retail Package Store Wine and Malt Beverages License by Bloomy Rind LLC d/b/a Bloomy Rind, 21 Main Street, Mary Sullivan Gonsalves, Manager. This vote is subject to the approval of the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission. Ms. Johnson seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Police Sergeant Appointment

Chief Glenn Olsson and Deputy David Jones present.

Chief Olsson read a letter to the Board stating the recommendation to appoint Officer Nicholas Smith for promotion to the rank of permanent full-time Police Sergeant.

There were comments from the Board in favor of Officer Smith. Congratulations were extended to Officer Smith as well as Officer Sullivan and Officer McCracken.

Mr. Healey made a motion to appoint Nicholas Smith as a Permanent Full-Time Police Sergeant for the Town of Hingham. Ms. Johnson seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Warrant Articles

Article N: Community Preservation Committee

Carol Pyles and Larry Linder present.

There were comments from the Board. It was noted that this is a worthy project. CPC members in the audience were thanked.

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

Article Q: Additional Engineering Funds for Completion of Route 3A Design

Roger Fernandes and Harry Sylvester present.

Mr. Fernandes provided background on original funding for the project which was voted on at 2015 Town Meeting (\$400K towards initial design). It was determined at that time that additional funding would be required. Requesting additional \$195K. Funding through Town Fund balance.

There were questions and comments from the Board.

Ms. Power made a motion to recommend favorable action of Article Q. Ms. Johnson seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Article P: South Shore Country Club Equipment

Kevin Whalen and Christine Smith present.

Mr. Whalen stated that the original amount of \$530K has been amended to \$415K for equipment costs. Funding through the Enterprise Fund.

There were questions and comments from the Board.

Mr. Mayo noted to the Board that Mr. Whalen was hired six months ago and concluded that he was a good hire!

Ms. Johnson made a motion to recommend favorable action of Article P. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Article U: Plastic Bag Reduction and Encourage Reusable Bags By-law

Andrew Ayer present.

Mr. Ayer provided background on the origin of the Plastic Bag Ban and provided a slide presentation. There are 92 cities and towns in the Commonwealth with the plastic bag ban in place.

Mr. Mayo commented that during a previous meeting with Mr. Ayer, he had recommended that Mr. Ayer circulate the idea of the Warrant article to businesses around the town. Mr. Ayer has done that as well as finding a sponsor for this Article: Hingham Cleaner Greener Committee. Mr. Mayo stated that this is not a citizen's petition article.

There were questions and comments from the Board concerning Board of Health administrative requirements, the Downtown Association's reaction on this program, Fruit Center feedback (they are going all reusable in May, 2019), Farmer's Market, Board of Health enforcement, and adequate tools to get up to speed.

Ms. Johnson made a motion to recommend favorable action of Article U. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Article I: Disbursement of Electric Light Department Receipts

Mr. Mayo provided background on this perennial Article - receipts from the Light Dept. \$450K average over the last 3-4 years.

Ms. Power noted: Hingham Municipal Light Plant does not pay taxes – they give the town a payment in lieu of taxes which is called a Pilot. The revenue contributes to the tax base. If the town were to make favorable action on the water company articles, the amount of money that is currently paid to the Town in property taxes (approximately \$1M) would be set up as a Pilot in a similar fashion. This is how we capture revenue.

Ms. Johnson made a motion to recommend favorable action of Article I. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Article H: Transfer from Meals Tax Stabilization Fund – deferred to Feb 26th meeting

Mr. Mayo asked that Article H be deferred to the February 26, 2019 meeting. The Board agreed.

Forecast Update

Mr. Mayo provided an update on the Five Year Forecast.

Changes/updates noted: Building Department, State Aid, Total Town budget, Total Education, Health Insurance rate projection.

Ms. Power noted: Right now, \$1.2M deficit - in past years, that number has been a lot higher at this point in the process. With collaboration of everyone involved in the budget process, we should be able to balance this budget. Thanked Mr. Mayo, Sue Nickerson and Michelle Monsegur for their work with this.

Ms. Johnson had questions concerning new growth - Building permit revenue – Ms. Power provided clarification on new growth.

Possible Vote

Mr. Healey provided background on ceremony that honors the legacy of Ben Lincoln and Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Healey read the Town of Hingham Proclamation proclaiming Saturday, February 16, 2019 Lincoln Day.

Saturday, February 16, 2019 at 11:00a.m., there will be a patriot ceremony of celebration at the Old Ship Meeting House. Mr. Healy encouraged all to attend.

Appointments

No appointments this evening.

Selectmen/Town Administrator Reports

Ms. Monsegur – Nothing to report.

Mr. Mayo - Nothing to report.

Ms. Johnson – Wished Randy Sylvester (DPW) and crew good luck as well as public safety folks. Slippery on roads – take care. Mr. Healey and Ms. Power will share Historical Society adventures this past weekend.

Ms. Power – Saturday was Family History Day at the Heritage Museum.

Last night, the Advisory Committee Water Company Acquisition Subcommittee held another hearing. It was a 2.5 hour discussion covering a lot of ground. There were lots of thoughtful questions. The recording is available on Harbor Media.

Met with one of the members of the Hingham Residents against the Compressor Station Committee. We discussed ways to engage from the political end. Will meet at end of month for an update and to see what else we can do to offer support.

Mr. Healey – Attended appreciation lunch at Heritage Museum on Sunday. Sat in the Lincoln Chair!

Thanked those that came out tonight (snow storm) doing the Town's work. The Town is fortunate to have the dedication and commitment of the community in working for the common good. Relying on sense of commitment and goodwill as we move forward on this discussion with respect to the acquisition of the water company.

Water company acquisition - generational important decision that we are being called to make. Such importance. He feels an obligation to work as hard as he can with his colleagues, along with the good people who have put so much time into this worthy effort to do our best to persuade and convince you that this is the right step for this

town to take. He asked that citizens not be distracted or misled by a counter message. We come to you with the purest of motives in hearts. We only want what's good for this community. He asked that, in the coming weeks, you accept the message in the light that it is intended.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will take place on February 26, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:20pm
Approved February 26, 2019

Sally Sinclair

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

