

Board of Selectmen

February 18, 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

Public Comment

none

Warrant Articles

Article V: IT Department Upgrades

ARTICLE V: *Will the Town raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be expended by the Board of Selectmen to be used for the design, engineering services, and renovation of the Town Hall data center, or act on anything relating thereto?*

(Inserted by the Board of Selectmen)

Ms. Johnson invited Mr. Steve Becker, IT Director, to explain the necessities for the upgrade and the changes to the server room. Mr. Steve Becker stated that the current data center doesn't have enough requirements for electricity, standby power, grounding, weight bearing requirements and back-up power. He explained that the room is very limited in space requirements, adding that right now the data room houses servers, racks, and switches but also houses a workbench, file cabinets, and a desk. He said that, in order to install a server, there needs to be a minimum of three feet on each side of it to safely move around and lift the necessary heavy equipment. He added that right now there is enough room in the front of the racks but about one foot of space behind them.

Mr. Fisher asked what the timing was on completing the upgrades. Mr. Becker said that the vendor has not yet given him a concrete time frame yet, but they plan on working in a phased approach. He said that they plan on starting with modifying the data room so that they can install the new servers and then will work on moving equipment from the old racks to the new ones. Mr. Becker confirmed that he will be overseeing this whole process.

Ms. Power asked how Mr. Becker went about finding the vendor to do the work and what his process was for getting estimates. He explained that he found the vendor by speaking with other IT professionals. Ms. Monsegur added that the project will still need to be bid on because of the cost of the project but she was confident that it could be completed before Mr. Becker's retirement. Mr. Mayo added that he expects that they would have all the proper procurement documents ready for a vote right after Town Meeting.

Ms. Power said that IT is a critical resource that touches all Town departments, from looking at permit information online to paying bills. She added that she felt this project would really shore up the Town's IT infrastructure. She added that this upgrade has been talked about for several years and as the demands on the IT department increase, the need to move forward on this project increases as well. She concluded that she didn't feel this project could wait any longer. Mr. Fisher concurred.

Ms. Johnson added that she appreciated the detailed analysis that the vendor provided and said that their estimate for this work was approximately \$250,000 without floor and structural changes. She thanked Mr. Becker for his work on this project. Mr. Mayo added that the scope of this project would also include new office furniture for the rest of the IT Department.

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

Article X: Town-wide Facilities Study

ARTICLE X: *Will the Town raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be expended by the Board of Selectmen to fund an independent review of existing municipal and school facilities, which would include an analysis of space and service demands and deficiencies and provide a summary report detailing findings and providing options, or act on anything relating thereto? (Inserted by the Board of Selectmen)*

Ms. Monsegur stated that the purpose of this article is to have an independent study done to look at the Town's current facilities (municipal and school) and to analyze how the Town is using these buildings in regard to the Town's service demands and space needs. This analysis would offer recommendations about how the Town could better use their existing facilities or possibly renovate or upgrade what is already available. She stated that they had been in touch with HKT Architects, who had previously worked on a similar project for the Town of Needham, in order to get some pricing. She added that similar projects have cost around \$200,000, though for fewer buildings. Ms. Monsegur stated that the Town is requesting \$300,000 for this project, which the architect felt was reasonable. She went on to say that this would be a fee-based project and would not exceed the \$300,00 request.

Mr. Fisher said that he felt this was an essential plan for the Town. Ms. Power said that the Selectmen's office has been focused primarily on the financial side of capital planning but this project would focus on space planning. She added that, while the Town has a strong volunteer community, she felt there was great benefit in having an independent analysis by a professional. She added that this analysis would also touch on buildings that the Town may want to sell or lease on a long-term basis. She said that she views this study to be a way of informing the Town's long-term financial planning and views the scope of this effort to be similar to the Town's fields study that is currently taking place.

Ms. Johnson concurred with Ms. Power that this would be an informed response to concerns from the public and from the Advisory Committee. She added that she feels this is an exciting opportunity for the Town. She added that the Town has essentially outgrown the "one-campus" approach, and she feels like the decisions needed now include how to best utilize the assets that the Town has and where best to locate services in the buildings owned by the Town. She felt this analysis will be a great way to address the Town's space needs and financial planning. Ms. Power added that her hope was that this study could form the basis of the long term planning they will do over the next several years.

Mr. Fisher asked how this analysis of the space needs at the South Shore Country Club would interact with the CPC grant for the SSCC pool. Ms. Monsegur said that the consultant would have to take into consideration the projects that are already in the works. She also stated that she feels that the consultant would look at other areas of the SSCC, not just the pool, and could suggest better ways to use some of the space given the types of activities that take place there.

Ms. Johnson read a list of the current municipally owned facilities for inclusion in the analysis including:

- 8 Short Street
- 308 Cushing Street
- Bare Cove Park buildings x8
- Bathing Beach bathhouse
- DPW
- Fire Station x3
- GAR Hall
- Harbormaster's leased office space at Shipyard
- Library
- Lynch Field House
- Old DPW barn
- Recreation barn
- Schools x6
- School depot
- South Shore Country Club
- Town Hall
- Water treatment plant

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

[Article EE: Amendments to Harbor By-law Discussion](#)

Ms. Johnson stated that the Board of Selectmen will not take action on the proposed Harbor By-laws at this time because the Harbor Development Committee had not had a chance to vote on them yet. She asked Mr. Ken Corson, Harbormaster, to explain the new By-laws as proposed. First, Mr. Corson stated that the Harbor Development Committee is scheduled to meet this Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 7:30pm, at which time he anticipated that they would vote on the proposed By-law changes. He added that he will be at that meeting talking about proposed changes to the Harbor's mooring field and encouraged the public to attend.

He explained that there are three adjustments to the Harbor By-laws:

- 1) They would like anyone planning to scuba dive in the harbor to notify the Harbormaster's Office. He said that the current By-law just lists skin diving, but he would like scuba diving to be included. He added that all scuba-divers are required to have a flag but he thinks it would be good for them to alert the Harbormaster as well.
- 2) Wants the ability to issue fines from \$50-\$300. The only change he is seeking is when there is a violation during a dredging season where someone doesn't remove their boat from the inner harbor and added that the fine for this could be up to \$300. He said that they have used this process for that last two dredging cycles and it has worked well so he would like to officially add it to the By-laws.
- 3) Ms. Johnson added that the third change to the By-law is a technical change. She explained that there are some harbor regulations that need the approval of the Board of Selectmen and there are others that go straight to the Environmental Police. She added that right now the By-law reads as if everything needs to be approved by the Board of Selectmen but she agrees that there should be a hearing in front of the Board of Selectmen even if they are not going to approve those regulations. She said that she would like the language of the proposed By-law to make it clear that, in all cases, the Board of Selectmen would hear changes but would only approve them where that's warranted under State law or otherwise by Town By-law.

Ms. Power asked if the reason to increase the fine had anything to do with their dredging experience this past fall. Mr. Corson said that, while they didn't have any problems with anyone not removing boats this time, he wanted to make the process clear for the next dredging cycle in ten years.

ARTICLE EE: *Will the Town vote to amend Article 15 of the General By-laws of the Town, adopted March 13, 1939, as heretofore amended, as follows:*

By amending Article 15, Section 3 by deleting the second sentence and replacing it with the following sentence:

"These regulations shall be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for approval to the extent necessary and then if approved, to the Environmental Police for review and approval to the extent necessary." By amending Article 15, Section 5 by deleting the section title and first sentence and replacing them with the following:

"SECTION 5 – Skin Diving and Scuba Diving

Any person skin diving or scuba diving in Hingham Harbor shall."

And by amending Article 15, Section 10 by deleting "fifty (\$50) dollars" and replacing it with "three hundred (\$300) dollars." Or act on anything relating thereto?

(Inserted by the Board of Selectmen)

Appointments

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to appoint Lucinda King-Frode to the Council on Aging to fill an unexpired term ending June 30, 2020. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Ms. Power added that there still is one opening on the Council on Aging and invited any interested residents to fill out a talent bank application.

Votes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to sign the Warrant for the 2020 State Primary. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

One Day Liquor Licenses

Ms. Johnson stated that she had spoken to the Chief of Police and that he has approved both one-day liquor licenses.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the issuance of a Special (One Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Alexandra Joy on behalf of Rev'd Indoor Cycling for the Rev'd Unclipped Self-Care Social to be held at the Derby Street Shops on Friday, February 28, 2020 from 6 pm to 8:30 pm. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Vote: Ms. Power made a motion to approve the issuance of a Special (One Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to John Davenport on behalf of Friends of Hingham Cemetery for the Ames Chapel Author Reading and Talk Event to be held at Ames Chapel on Thursday, April 30, 2020 from 7 pm to 10 pm. M seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Selectmen and Town Administrator Reports

Ms. Monsegur stated that she had the pleasure last weekend of ringing one of the bells in Memorial Bell Tower and she enjoyed learning about the eleven bells from Daniel Cushing, Martha Ryan and their other bell ringing colleagues.

Mr. Mayo – nothing to report

Mr. Fisher reported that he had the honor of reading the Town's proclamation at the annual Lincoln Day celebration at Old Ship Church over the weekend. He added that it was a moving experience to walk through the cemetery and to learn about various grave sites as was watching those who participated in the ceremony from Hingham and from surrounding areas. Ms. Power thanked the Heritage Museum and Executive Director Diedre Anderson. She added that Paula Baggers' remarks about Benjamin Lincoln were very thoughtful. She said that a highlight for her was when Rosy Woodard, who is a descendant of Benjamin Lincoln and who lives in the Benjamin Lincoln house with her husband Charlie, read a very inspirational letter that Benjamin Lincoln had sent to his wife and children after he was wounded.

Ms. Power added that the prior Saturday was National History Day at the Heritage Museum. She said that this event was held in conjunction with the History Department at Hingham High School and some very talented students presented their projects. She added that it is events like these that show that the Heritage Museum is a vital part of the Hingham community.

Ms. Johnson reported that she would like to congratulate Owen Collier, a six-year-old Hingham resident who has been raising money for the Australian Wildlife Fund in the wake of the fires in Australia. She added that he has been making small clay koalas that have been purchased by people all over the country. She wanted to recognize his generosity of spirit and entrepreneurship in benefitting a cause bigger than himself.

She also wanted to share the good news that the South Shore Country Club has been selected as the host of the 2020 Massachusetts Women's Senior Amateur Championship. She added that it is a great testament to the commitment of the staff of the SSCC that they have been asked to host this premier event.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

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