

# Town of Hingham



## Harbor Development Committee

### Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2020

#### Attendees

Members: W. Reardon, D. Anderson, B. MacAloney, R. Conroy

Members by Phone: K. Doran, M. Boer

Others: A. Perrault (Bathing Beach Trustees), T. Mayo (Town Administrator), E. Wentworth (Senior Planner), Dan Gagne (Beals and Thomas), E. Las (Beals and Thomas, by phone)

1. Call to order: 1:05pm

2. Open Issues (Recurring matters):

a. Further discussion of Annual Town Meeting Article O-- "Repair/reconstruction of Town Pier"

Discussion took place regarding the significant difference between two cost estimates for the repair of town pier. The initial cost estimate was produced in 2018. Following from questions regarding the modularity of the system by Selectman Joe Fischer in February 2020, an updated cost estimate was produced. There was a significant difference per linear foot: \$2,700/lf for the 2018 estimate versus \$4,600/lf in the 2020 revised cost estimate. The data was presented to the Board of Selectmen in March 2020. The board expressed concern over the discrepancies and asked for more research before proceeding next steps on the project.

A brief discussion about the estimates took place. B Reardon stated that the 2018 cost estimate was put together by the Town's Engineering department and that the data was based on independent research with other outside parties. R Conroy noted that R Fernandes, former Town Engineer, stated in April 2018 that his estimate included feedback from the engineering firm contracted for this project, Beals and Thomas, in addition to four other sources.

Beals and Thomas worked independently on the revised 2020 estimate. D Gagne stated that the higher costs in their estimate include construction oversight, building to a higher height and other escalations in materials and site costs.

Due to the discrepancies between the two estimates, the Board of Selectmen asked Pat Brennan, one of the town's consultant engineers to review the revised estimate. P Brennan's letter confirmed that the revised estimate was accurate. He also included a recommendation that the town pier be built to a higher (FEMA) height.

## Town of Hingham



The committee discussed the difference between the two estimates and as well as P Brennan's suggestion for the new wall height. D Gagne from Beals and Thomas stated that their firm did not advise on the height but rather presented the data so that the town could make their own decision.

Owing to changes the revised estimate posed to the project, the issue of the warrant article to fund the repair of Town Pier was discussed. B Reardon suggested the committee evaluate the following courses of action:

- Proceed as planned
- Work with Beals and Thomas and P Brennan to further refine the revised estimate and amend the warrant article accordingly
- Withdraw the article

The committee had a discussion about the next steps for the warrant article. A Perreault suggested that a new warrant article asking to re-allocate funds for the other wharf repairs towards town pier might be an option. T Mayo said it might be possible but it would require further research.

B MacAloney questioned whether enough research had been devoted towards FEMA criteria and the prospect of FEMA funding. D Gagne stated that Beals and Thomas did not make recommendations as to the above. B MacAloney also highlighted that the variables between both cost and design called for further evaluation.

D Anderson questioned whether re-evaluating the wharf repairs at this time would impact the progress of the 3A corridor repairs.

After more discussion, B MacAloney recommended a motion to withdraw the warrant article. D Anderson seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to withdraw Article O from the 2020 Town Warrant. The committee agreed to request additional review of the revised estimate from Beals and Thomas.

Further discussion about the Beals and Thomas contract took place. There is \$170,000 left in the contract. \$12,000 left on Town Pier's portion. Additional review on Town Pier's estimate would be covered by the contracted amount.

R Conroy asked if P Brennan was available to peer review existing data and any forthcoming revisions. T Mayo confirmed that this would be an option.

4. Other matters None
5. Questions from the Public None
7. Adjournment: 2:15pm