

Select Board

March 10, 2022

Present:

- Select Board: 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

6:04 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 the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law may record this meeting and all communications during this meeting. 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. “

Mr. Fisher asked if any participants were recording the meeting. No one indicated they were recording.

Select Board members participating in the meeting were himself, Mr. Bill Ramsey and Ms. Liz Klein

Extension to the Grant Agreement with Hingham Community Access and Media, Inc.

Mr. Mayo said that, a few months ago, the Town entered into an agreement to extend by a few months their agreement with Harbor Media. The agreement was extended until March 15, 2022, in order to allow time for the Town to enter into a new permanent agreement with Harbor Media. He reported that they have made significant progress to that end, however he and Harbor Media representative, Laura Burns, both felt that extension of another 30 days would allow the Town additional time to enter into a new 5-year agreement before April 15. The proposed extension to the agreement would not have any financial impact on the Town.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to sign the extension to the Grant Agreement with Hingham Community Access and Media, Inc. effective until April 15, 2022. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Public Comment

“The Hingham Select Board encourages community engagement and welcomes questions and comments as agenda items are discussed at the meeting. In addition, we have set aside up to fifteen minutes for public comment for items that fall under the purview of the Select Board and are not already on tonight’s agenda. If any guests wish to speak, please seek to be recognized. Once recognized, state your name and address, and address your comments to the Chair. Comments will be

limited to three minutes per speaker and must relate to topics within the scope of the responsibilities of the Select Board. Speakers are encouraged to present their remarks in a respectful manner and not to indulge in personalities. The Public Comment period is not a time for debate by members of the Select Board. The Select Board is not adopting or endorsing any of the comments made during the Public Comment period.”

There were no comments from the public.

Town Administrator/Select Board Reports

Mr. Robert reported that, earlier in the day, he had the opportunity, along with Ms. Klein, to meet with members of the Commission on Disabilities. They discussed ways to make some financial resources available to the Commission to support their work. He also said that they are ready to move forward with their ADA Self-Assessment and Transition Plan. He added that the Town has received grant funding and has identified a vendor to use for this study. The work will kick off next week.

Ms. Klein reminded the public to contact the Select Board Office if they require any special accommodations for attending Town Meeting. The Town plans to provide listening devices and would be happy to do their best to accommodate other requests.

Mr. Fisher reported that the Town is extending the deadline for people to apply to be on the Human Rights Commission until March 25, 2022. He encouraged community participation.

2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Article E: Salaries of Town Officers

Ms. Monsegur reported that Article E is a perennial Article that fixes the salaries of certain Town Officers, including the Select Board, the members of the Board of Assessors, the Town Clerk and the members of the Municipal Light Board. She noted that the Personnel Board has voted to approve Article E as written. Mr. David Pace of the Personnel Board was in attendance.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article E. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Article D: Report of the Personnel Board

Mr. Pace reported that it has been a busy year for the Personnel Board. The Board recommended a 3% general wage increase for all the non-union Town employees, which would be consistent with the Town’s collective bargaining agreements, which also had a 3% wage increase. The Personnel Board has settled four of five bargaining agreements that had expired at the end of the last fiscal year, June 30, 2021. Through comparisons of benchmark towns, the Personnel Board has made some equity adjustments to various positions, in an effort to bring those salaries up to the median range. He also noted that they have adopted a recent wage and classification study. As a result, there were a number of reclassifications, new hires, and promotions. Also, Juneteenth has been added to the list of State-

wide holidays observed by the Town of Hingham. Mr. Pace also noted that the amount of \$364,854, as stated in the Personnel Board Report, would cover the 3% general wage increase for Town employees, with a small amount of money added to cover wage reclassifications or new hires that could occur over the course of the year.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article D. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

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

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

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