

# Select Board

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March 15, 2022

Present:

- Board of Water Commissioners: Mr. Bill Ramsey, Chair, Ms. Liz Klein, and Mr. Joseph Fisher
- Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator
- Ms. Michelle Monsegur, Assistant Town Administrator for Finance
- Mr. Art Robert, Assistant Town Administrator for Operations

## **7:00 PM: Call to order**

Mr. Ramsey 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 this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. 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. “  
No one indicated that they were recording.

He announced that the Board of Water Commissioners participating in the meeting were himself, Bill Ramsey, Ms. Liz Klein, and Mr. Joseph Fisher. The meeting was conducted both in person and remotely via Zoom.

## **Approval of Minutes**

**Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes dated January 10, 2023. Ms. Klein seconded.**

## **Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

## **Agreement with Centrifuge-Systems, LLC**

Mr. Russ Tierney, Water Superintendent, presented. He explained that one of the centrifuge units went down about a year ago. It was then shipped to Ohio for repair. The quote was \$88,000 for the repair, which was honored, but there were some delays getting some parts. With labor, the repair went from the estimated 5 months to one year. During that time, the water system was running one centrifuge, which is also old. After a considerable amount of review, it was decided to replace that existing centrifuge as well, which has been in operation for 27 years. He felt that it was in the best interest of the Town that there be at least one brand new centrifuge. The life expectancy of a centrifuge, if properly maintained, is 25 years. He added that the parts for the existing centrifuge are becoming harder to acquire, due to age and the fact that the parts must come from overseas. The new unit will be able to process about 30% more sludge than the old unit, for the same energy level. They plan to keep the old centrifuge unit and to use it for parts. The cost for the new centrifuge is \$568,700. The Weir River Water System (WRWS) staff will install the unit, along with a licensed electrician. The cost for the new unit will come from FY23 Capital Outlay. He budget for Capital Outlay is \$2.7m and the current balance is \$1.28m. Ms. Kathy Reilly, Procurement and Contracts Manager, added that they put this out

to bid and only had one response. Mr. Fisher asked about the manufacturer's warranty on the unit, which Mr. Tierney confirmed was one year. While the manufacturer can provide labor for repairs, the WRWS staff is typically able to make repairs, if needed.

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Agreement with Centrifuge-Systems, LLC for the removal and replacement of the existing centrifuge located at the Weir River Water System Water Treatment Plant in an amount not to exceed \$568,700.00. Mr. Fisher seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

### **Water Superintendent Update**

Mr. Tierney reported that centrifuge #2 has come back and is up and running. While it is running well at the moment, he is confident that it will have a very short lifespan. If put out to bid now, Mr. Tierney expects the timeframe to receive a new unit would be close to 50-58 weeks. He felt that it was time to put a second centrifuge out to bid and to get that process started. While the purchase would likely come from the FY25 budget, he felt that there would be enough money in the FY24 budget to put a down payment on a new unit.

Mr. Tierney also told that Board that the February PFAS results have come back. The raw water tested at 8.8 and the finished water was a 2.07, so the water was well below 20 mcl, which is the State limit. These results have been posted to the WRWS website.

Mr. Tierney also gave an update on the Capital improvement projects. The projects at Downer Avenue and Planters Field Avenue in Crow Point will go out to bid in May or June, with a start date of July 1<sup>st</sup>. He would like to get the Downer Avenue project completed while school is closed for the summer.

He also reported that the Samoset Avenue project in Hull is still in the design stage. The design of the project at the Hingham Shipyard is almost complete. Once that design is complete, he expects construction to start right away.

Mr. Tierney said that the billing and collections department has collected \$10.5m to date this year. They cannot shut off water due to past due bills during the winter, however, they plan to start again on April 15, which will double their efforts on collections.

Veolia has hired a new Supervisor of Distribution, who will begin work in two weeks.

While he is still waiting on the numbers of unaccounted for water from last year, Mr. Tierney reported that they have made great strides in leak detection. He felt that the ongoing meter study would help aid this effort. That that effort is moving forward with Environmental Partners.

**Public Comment**

“The Hingham Board of Water Commissioners 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 Board of Water Commissioners. 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 Board of Water Commissioners is not adopting or endorsing any of the comments made during the Public Comment period.”

There were no comments from the public.

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**The meeting adjourned at 7:14PM**

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