

# Select Board

---

March 16, 2022

Present:

- Select Board: Mr. Mr. Bill Ramsey (acting Chair) and Ms. Liz Klein
- Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator
- Ms. Michelle Monsegur, Assistant Town Administrator for Finance
- Mr. Art Robert, Assistant Town Administrator for Operations

## **6:00 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 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. Ramsey asked if any participants were recording the meeting. No one indicated they were recording.

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

## **Discussion and potential vote of 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article F: Budgets**

Mr. Mayo explained that the Select Board took a vote last week to fund a balanced budget as presented by the Town Administrator. After consideration and deliberation, the Advisory Committee decided not to fund any additional requests, with the exception of the \$48,000 for a Sustainability Coordinator, as a one-year contract position. The Advisory Committee also decided to support funding of the poll pad for the Town elections.

Mr. Ramsey noted his appreciation for the hard work that the members of the Advisory Committee have done throughout the budget season. He also thanked Ms. Julie Strehle for her leadership of the Advisory Committee as Chair. Mr. Ramsey said that he was comfortable supporting the vote of the Advisory Committee. Ms. Klein agreed. Mr. Fisher attempted to join the meeting but dropped off due to logistics and was not able to participate in the discussion. Ms. Klein appreciated the creativity and flexibility shown by the Advisory Committee in thinking about how the Town could advance their climate action goals with the addition of the Sustainability Coordinator as a contract position. She encouraged the Board to revisit including this position in next year’s budget when the Town considers an override. She felt that the poll pad was critical to the elections process, since Hingham has committed to having Linden Ponds as a polling location. There was additional discussion regarding a significant debt exclusion coming in the fall for the Foster School project, the public safety building and a potential override.

Julie Strehle, 231 Leavitt Street, Chair of the Advisory Committee, made some comments clarifying the votes of the Advisory Committee at their meeting the prior night. The Sustainability Coordinator vote was 10 to 3. The vote for the additional poll pad was 11 to 2.

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to recommend an Education Budget of \$61,826,503. Mr. Ramsey seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: not in attendance**

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to recommend a DPW/Highway/Tree & Park Budget of \$4,327,721. Mr. Ramsey seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: not in attendance**

Ms. Dot Galo commended the Select Board and Advisory Committee for their work on the budgets. She made some additional comments regarding a potential override and the associated complexities.

#### **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**

Nothing to report

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: not in attendance**

**The meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM.**

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