

Board of Water Commissioners

March 23, 2020

Remote meeting via telephone conference call

Present:

- Board of Water Commissioners: Ms. Mary Power (Chair), Mr. Joseph Fisher and Mr. Bill Ramsey
- Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator
- Ms. Michelle Monsegur, Assistant Town Administrator
- Mr. Russell Tierney, Superintendent, Weir River Water System

Call to order: 6:30 pm

Ms. Power 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.”

Ms. Power asked if any participants were recording the meeting. There were no responses.

Ms. Power announced that the Board of Water Commissioners members who were participating remotely were herself, Joe Fisher and Bill Ramsey.

Approval of Minutes

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the minutes dated February 23, 2020. Mr. Fisher seconded

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Agreement with Environmental Partners Group, Inc. for design and engineering services for the Atlantic Avenue and Gunrock Avenue Water Main Replacement Project

Mr. Russell Tierney, Water Superintendent, summarized the project. He said that there are some very old water mains along the stretch of road between Atlantic Avenue and Gunrock Avenue. He noted that the project would include the following:

- A field survey
- Wetland delineation on the project
- A subsurface investigation of the project
- Design of the water main
- Permit the water main

He explained that there would not be any construction during this phase. Construction would take place after July 1, 2021. He said that the total cost of the project would be \$69,900, which was in line with the linear footage fees from DEP.

Mr. Fisher noted that the agreement states that all work should be complete by August 1, 2021. Mr. Tierney said that the agreement allows for additional clean-up time after the project is complete. Mr. Tierney added that they would make sure neighbors know the project's timeframe. He also reported that he has coordinated with all associated Town departments in Hull. He hoped to start the project next week. Ms. Power clarified that the entire project included 4,900 feet of main replacement. She also noted that this project had been deferred numerous times by Aquarion and was sure residents would be happy to see it completed.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the agreement with Environmental Partners Group, Inc. for design and engineering services for the Atlantic Avenue and Gunrock Avenue Water Main Replacement Project. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Water Superintendent Report

Mr. Tierney reported that the billing transition is on track for April 1, 2021. He said that letters would be mailed to customers and information would be posted to the Town of Hingham website. He announced that SUEZ has appointed Darren Dearth as Interim Project Manager for the job.

Mr. Tierney also announced that the Bulow Road project was complete and was finished under budget.

He said that their next project would be the Atlantic Avenue/Gunrock Avenue. He said that their crews encountered some issues with soil and rock at the Wompatuck Road/Downing Avenue project. They have decided to wait on that project for the moment. Mr. Tierney noted that the projects on Maple and Grove Streets would be paused as well. Because Atlantic, Gunrock and Wompatuck Streets are in need of paving, they would be prioritized.

Ms. Power asked if the ratepayers needed to do anything with regard to the billing transition. Mr. Tierney advised that customers would receive a letter with instructions on how to sign up for automatic billing through SUEZ and noted that customers would receive new account numbers. He added that the instructions would also be posted in the newspaper and on social media. He further explained that, as of April 1, 2021, customers could pay their water bill online or in person at their office on Lincoln Street. Mr. Tierney also announced that there would be a new phone number for residents to call with questions. That number will be posted to the Town of Hingham website at www.hingham-ma.gov. Ms. Power invited Mr. Tierney to attend the April 1, 2021 meeting of the Board of Selectmen in order to further educate residents on details of the billing transition.

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.

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