

Select Board

May 17, 2022

Present:

- Select Board: Mr. William Ramsey (Chair), Mr. Joe Fisher, 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

7:00 PM: Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Statement from the Chair

Chairman Fisher read a statement regarding the recent mass shooting and hate crime in Buffalo, NY. He stated that there is no place for hatred in the United States or Hingham and it will not be tolerated. He encouraged citizens to report hate issues in Hingham to Lt. John Marquardt, Hingham Police Department's Civil Rights Officer. He can be reached at 781-804-2230 or via email at civilrights@hpd.org. He also reported that the Select Board would soon be appointing members to the newly formed Human Rights Commission. While the Human Rights Commission will not be charged with adjudicating individual disputes or claims, they should be made aware of issues of concern that arise in the community. He encouraged all residents to work together to keep Hingham a safe and welcoming place to live.

Approval of Minutes

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the minutes dated April 14, 2022. Ms. Klein seconded.

All were in favor, 3-0

Approval of Minutes

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the minutes dated April 25, 2022. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

All were in favor, 3-0

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the minutes dated May 10, 2022. Ms. Klein seconded.

All were in favor, 3-0

Re-organization of the Select Board

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to nominate and appoint William Ramsey as Chair of the Hingham Select Board. Mr. Fisher seconded.

All were in favor, 3-0

Mr. Ramsey congratulated Mr. Fisher on a successful year and thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Chair.

To authorize the Chair to approve all bills, drafts, orders and payrolls

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to authorize the Chair to approve all bills, drafts, orders and payrolls on behalf of the Select Board pursuant to M.G.L. c. 41, § 56. Ms. Klein seconded.

All were in favor, 3-0

Maddie's Promise Proclamation

Mr. Ramsey acknowledged Maddie McCoy's mother who was in attendance. Ms. Klein read a proclamation that established May 23, 2022 as Maddie's Promise Day in Hingham. Maddie's Promise is a non-profit organization that works to raise money for pediatric cancer and was created to honor the life of Hingham resident Maddie McCoy.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to proclaim Monday, May 23, 2022 as Maddie's Promise Day in the Town of Hingham. Mr. Fisher seconded.

All were in favor, 3-0

Special (One-Day) License: Hingham Historical Society

Ms. Deidre Anderson, Executive Director of the Hingham Historical Society, presented. The Hingham Historical Society, in partnership with the Downtown Association, plans to hold "Springham," an outdoor music festival, on Sunday, May 21, 2022 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Several different musical acts will perform and they plan to sell beer from Vitamin Sea Brewery. They also plan to have a Police detail officer present. Police Chief Jones noted that he has reviewed the application and has no concerns with the event.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the request for a Special (One -Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Deirdre Anderson on behalf of Hingham Historical Society for Springham to be held at Hingham Heritage Museum on Saturday, May 21, 2022 with an alternate date of Saturday, May 28, 2022 from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Ms. Klein seconded.

All were in favor, 3-0

Verizon-Grant of Location: Installation of a Pole on Gardner Street

Mr. James Delturronda of Verizon New England presented. Also present was Mr. J.R. Frey, Town Engineer. Mr. Delturronda explained that the purpose of the new pole is to counteract the forces on pole #12 at the corner and would act as a support to the existing pole. Mr. Frey confirmed that the site would be inspected by Dig Safe prior to installation of the pole. He said that, currently, a tree on private property is being used as support. The new pole would act as a more secure support. Mr. Frey reported

that the pole would not present any obstructions with regard to sight lines. Abutters have been notified and no disruption to residents or motorists is expected.

Mr. Robert F. Beal, Jr., 71 Elm Street, retired Verizon Engineer, commented that he was in favor of the installation of the pole.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the request of Verizon to install and maintain a new pole at approximately 54 Gardner Street to be used as a guy pole supporting pole #17/P.12 located at 53 Gardner Street. The proposed pole will be located in the right of way and will replace the use of a private tree on private property, currently used as a guy anchor. This approval is subject to the stipulations of the Department of Public Works as outlined in the letter dated May 3, 2022. Mr. Fisher seconded.

All were in favor, 3-0

Amendment to Agreement with TL Edwards, Inc.

Mr. Frey explained that TL Edwards is the Town's choice for paving this year. He requested approval from the Board to extend the Town's current contract with them. Ms. Kathy Reilly, Contracts and Procurement Manager, reported that the MAPC does the bidding for this contract on behalf of the South Shore Regional Consortium, which Hingham is part of. A new contract will begin on January 1, 2023, which Hingham plans to join. In the meantime, Ms. Reilly requested that the Select Board authorize the extension to the current contract. Mr. Frey noted that funding would be provided through State Chapter 90 as well as through a State grant called the Winter Recovery Act.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Amendment to Agreement with TL Edwards, Inc. for Roadway Management Work in an amount not to exceed \$954,885 for a term ending December 31, 2022. Ms. Klein seconded.

All were in favor, 3-0

Amendment to Agreement with Mass Pavement Reclamation, Inc.

Mr. Frey explained that Mass Pavement Reclamation is the Town's on-call contractor, handles much of Hingham's sidewalk construction and drainage repair, and acts as a supplement to the Town's Roadway Improvement Project. The cost of the contract would be paid from the DPW's operating budget, with supplemental funds from State Chapter 90. Mr. Frey noted that the amount of the contract is consistent with the DPW's budget and that he has been very happy with their work to date.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Amendment to Agreement with Mass Pavement Reclamation, Inc. for Equipment Rental and Labor in an amount not to exceed \$443,000.00 for a term ending December 31, 2022. Mr. Fisher seconded.

All were in favor, 3-0

Appointments

The Board had no appointments.

COVID-19 Update

Mr. Mayo gave the following update on the COVID-19 pandemic:

“In my report last Tuesday, I noted that Hingham’s COVID-19 numbers were up significantly and that this may trigger new protocols in the coming days. As of Last Thursday, the CDC determined Plymouth County’s COVID-19 community level to be **high**. At this level, the CDC recommends:

- Wear a well-fitting mask indoors in public places regardless of vaccination status.
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters.
- Follow the CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine.
- Get tested if you have been exposed.

Last Friday, we informed the community of the CDC’s determination and its recommendations through our web site & posting on Town buildings.

We’ve also reactivated the COVID-19 “dashboard” on our COVID 19 Updates web page. The following data is from 4/24 - 5/7 compared to the previous week of 4/17 - 4/30:

- Hingham’s 14-day average incidence rate is 42.3, up from 30.4, a 39% increase from the previous week
- Hingham’s 14-day average positivity rate is 11.3%, up over 9.3% from the previous week

We believe that some of the drivers for this increase include vacation spikes and testing due to travel plans and the removal of the mask mandate on public transportation and airlines. Going forward, we will update the dashboard on Monday’s before noon. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) looks at the combination of three metrics to measure COVID 19 levels in our County. This data is updated weekly, on Thursdays based on new admissions and inpatient bed metrics, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days. We remain vigilant and will continue to monitor data and take coordinated action as needed.”

Mr. Ramsey asked about the availability of home testing kits. Mr. Mayo said that there are some available to the public at Town Hall. Mr. Mayo encouraged residents who test positive to notify the Health Department. Reporting positive cases would help to track Hingham’s numbers more accurately. Ms. Klein added that the public can now fill out the online form from the to request an additional eight test kits from the federal government.

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.”

Mr. Robert F. Beal, Jr., 71 Elm Street, reported some concerns with the Vietnam War and MIA/POW Memorial at Barnes Wharf, particularly with respect to placement and project delays. The Town Administrator’s Office will follow up with Mr. Beal.

Town Administrator/Select Board Reports

Mr. Robert reported that the Town is currently soliciting Talen Bank applications for volunteers to serve on the Taxation Aid Committee. He noted some openings on the Tax Committee. The goal of the committee is to connect disabled and disadvantaged people with resources that could help alleviate their real estate tax burden.

Mr. Robert also reported that the Town is planning to hold a blood drive at the Senior Center on May 31, 2022. More information can be found online at <https://www.hingham-ma.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1331>.

Ms. Klein thanked all the candidates who ran in the election over the weekend and congratulated Mr. Fisher for his re-election to the Select Board. She also reported that she and Ms. Nes Correnti of the School Committee will be presenting to the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials on Thursday, May 19, 2022 on the Sustainable Budget process.

Mr. Ramsey also congratulated Mr. Fisher on his re-election and thanked all the candidates who ran in the Town election.

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

All were in favor, 3-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

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