

Board of Selectmen

July 7, 2020

Remote meeting via telephone conference call

Present:

- Board of Selectmen: Ms. Mary Power (Chair), Mr. Joseph Fisher, and Mr. Bill Ramsey
- Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator
- Ms. Michelle Monsegur, Assistant Town Administrator

Call to order: 7:00 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 whether any participants were recording the meeting. There were no responses.

Announcement of the Town of Hingham’s Credit Rating

Mr. Mayo was pleased to announce that the Town of Hingham has received the highest credit rating of Aaa from each of the three major credit rating agencies, Fitch, Moody’s and Standard & Poor’s. All three ratings agencies cited the Town’s conservative budgeting practices, prudent fiscal management, healthy reserves, and large affluent tax base in their decision to reaffirm Hingham’s Aaa rating. Comments from the ratings agencies included the following:

- Fitch: “The Aaa reflects Fitch’s expectation for the Town of Hingham to maintain healthy financial flexibility through both the current downturn and future economic cycles, consistent with a history of strong operating performance and sound reserves. The Town’s robust financial profile reflects a wealthy property tax base, modest expenditure growth and a demonstrated ability to reduce expenditures during economic downturns.”
- Moody’s: “The Town’s financial position is expected to remain stable over the next two years due to strong fiscal management and conservative policies. Annual operations in the past six years have produced year over year surpluses in the General Fund. This trend, along with the strength of the management team, support our expectation that the establishment of a Water Enterprise Fund will be a self-supporting operation.”
- Standard & Poor’s: “Hingham’s financial management team has a demonstrated history of producing year-end results that outperform the budget through conservative underlying assumptions and in-year monitoring of performance. The Town’s acquisition of its water system represents a culmination of nearly a decade of study, including external validation of financial models and projections. We believe the Town is likely to show more than 1x coverage over the next three years, leading to our view of full self-support of this issuance and improvement in the debt profile.”

Mr. Mayo thanked the Board of Selectmen and the members of the Town's finance team, including Michelle Monsegur, Sue Nickerson, Jean Montgomery, Rick Nowland and Erin Walsh for their diligent efforts on behalf of the Town. He also expressed his gratitude to Janet Morley and Richard Tortora of Capital Markets Advisors, as well as to Bond Counsel, Rick Manley, and General Counsel, John Coughlin, for their invaluable advice and guidance along the way.

Mr. Fisher commented that he had the opportunity to speak with Capital Markets Advisors, who had very nice things to say about the Town's financial team. He attributed the Town's Aaa rating to their exceptional work and performance. He added that Ms. Power's contributions to the team has been remarkable.

Mr. Ramsey commented that this is the culmination of the hard work of many bright and dedicated volunteers and Town employees.

Ms. Power said that a Aaa rating affords Hingham the best rates in the Capital Markets, which, in turn, benefits the ratepayers. She also said that a AAA rating is not just a function of the people who are present at the time, but it is a result of the steady financial stewardship of the Town by the Financial team, past and present members of the Board of Selectmen, past and present members of the Advisory Committee, and members of the Water Company Acquisition Study Committee, in particular the financial analysis started by John Asher and Ed Siegfried in 2012. She said that a Aaa rating is such wonderful news and thanked everyone involved.

Approval of Minutes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes dated June 10, 2020 and June 17, 2020. Ms. Power seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: abstain

Mr. Power: yes

Grant of Location: 6 Station Street

7:05 PM: Public hearing on the request of Comcast to install and maintain coaxial cable in the sidewalk in front of #6 Station Street continuing to #40 North Street

Mr. J.R. Frey, Town Engineer, explained that Comcast is requesting to install a new conduit below grade for the purpose of providing communications to #6 Station Street. He said that the proposal would put the conduit near the gutter line in the parking areas along North Street and run it beneath the sidewalk. Mr. Fisher asked for clarification on who is doing the work. Mr. Frey explained that it is the site developer's job to install the conduit and once that is completed, Comcast will run their cable through it. He further explained that the Grant of Location would be for Comcast because they will maintain the conduit once installed. Mr. Ramsey asked for a timeline of the work. Mr. Frey said that, due to a miscommunication, some of the work has already started, and could be completed fairly quickly. Mr. Fisher asked for information on communications with abutters. Mr. Frey said that the developer had already notified the abutters that there would be some ongoing work at the property and would request further notification by the developer in the form of door hangers. Ms. Heidi Gaul of the Selectmen's

Office commented that their office has also sent out notices to all abutters. Mr. Ramsey noted that, as a direct abutter, he would abstain from voting.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the petition of Comcast to install and maintain approximately 160 feet of communications conduit in North Street. The conduit will originate at the Comcast vault located at #40 North Street and continuing southwest into the paved surface of the street for approximately 150 feet and crossing back under the sidewalk to provide service to #6 Station Street. This approval is subject to the stipulation of the Department of Public Works as outlined in the letter dated June 30, 2020. Ms. Power seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: abstain

Ms. Power: yes

Request from The Launch at Hingham Shipyard for Drive-in Movie Nights

Town Real Estate Counsel and members of the Restaurant Reopening Group were on the line to answer questions. Rachel, the Property Manager with Samuels & Associates, who manage The Shipyard, gave the Board an overview of the proposed project. In lieu of their regular concert and movie events that they typically have in the summer months, they proposed converting a large portion of their parking lot into a drive-in movie theater on four separate Friday nights, in an attempt to bring people back to the Shipyard and to help generate revenue for their restaurants. She explained that tickets would be sold online through Patriot Cinemas. She said that they have met with the Police and Fire Departments several times on-site to discuss the plan and have also met with the restaurant working group. There was discussion of the specifics of the plan including, traffic flow, ticket sales, portable restrooms, sounds transmission and safety. Lt. DiNapoli of the Fire Department was comfortable with the proposed plan.

Mr. Fisher asked if there had been assessment of the placement of the screen. The representatives from Samuels said they carefully considered the placement of the screen and did not think it would affect traffic. Ms. Emily Wentworth of the Zoning Department commented that the residents of the Moorings in the Shipyard have written a letter of support for the plan. There was some additional discussion of the traffic plan, police details, and COVID-19 regulations including restrooms. Ms. Susan Sarni, Executive Director of the Health Department, said that the plan is in compliance with all COVID-19 regulations and said that The Launch would be taking the names of all attendees, in the event that contact tracing is needed. Samuels & Associates said that they would be selling popcorn and attendees could also order take-out meals from the restaurants at the Shipyard. They also noted that the hours of the movies would be 8:45 pm - 10:45 pm and tickets would be \$20 per car.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion that the Board of Selectmen approve the entertainment license application of The Launch at Hingham Shipyard for a series of special event drive-in movie nights subject to the following conditions as follows:

- 1. The applicant shall comply with the sector-specific COVID-19 workplace standards for drive-in movie theaters issued by the State on May 18, 2020 (and attached to this License) as well as**

- other applicable State and local regulations, including without limitation, Chapter 90, Section 16a and the implementing regulations there under.
2. The special events may take place on four consecutive Friday nights: July 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2020.
 3. The events shall take place substantially in accordance with the Parking Map, dated June 22, 2020 and presented at the July 7, 2020 meeting of the Board.
 4. Tickets may only be sold in advance for up to a maximum of 91 vehicles.
 5. There shall be no amplified sound. All audio shall be directed to stereo systems in individual vehicles.
 6. Customers must watch the movie from their vehicles and remain in their vehicles at all times except for concession table food pick-up and to use the restroom. No customers shall be permitted to watch the movie from outside a vehicle.
 7. No food or beverage deliveries may be made to cars. No alcohol may be consumed during the event.
 8. Without limiting the foregoing references to State COVID-19 standards, all employees working at the events and all customers who leave their vehicles for any reason shall wear protective facemasks and maintain six feet social distancing at all times. The applicant shall have sufficient staff to direct movie customers to the restroom and to the crosswalk that leads to and from the pedestrian sidewalks (e.g. to pick-up food take-out orders from restaurants).
 9. The applicant shall notify all ticket-purchasers and shall distribute upon entry, a notice that informs attendees of the rules governing the event, including the prohibition on consumption of alcohol.
 10. The applicant shall hire a Police detail for each event night. The applicant shall work with Hingham public safety prior to the event to prepare an emergency vehicle evacuation plan in the event of an emergency at the site. Based on conditions on site, as observed by the public safety detail, the Town reserves the right to require modifications to layout and traffic flow for future nights of the event.
 11. Failure to comply with the conditions of this License on any event night may result in a revocation of this License for the remaining event dates.

Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Chill Gelato, LLC d/b/a Gelato & Chill

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the issuance of a Common Victualler license to Chill Gelato, LLC d/b/a Gelato & Chill located at 92 Derby Street. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Award of the bonds for purchasing the Hingham Water Company

Mr. Mayo explained that this vote would authorize the Chair to sign the documents related to the issuance of the Water bonds.

Voted: Mr. Fisher made a motion that the Chair of the Board of Selectmen (the “Chair”) is authorized, on our behalf, in consultation with the Town Treasurer, the Town’s Municipal Advisor and Bond Counsel, to award the sale of the Town’s Water Bonds in the approximate amount of \$106,740,000 to UBS Financial Services Inc., upon such terms and conditions as she shall determine, in consultation with the Town Treasurer, to be in the best interests of the Town, which shall be consistent with the Memorandum dated July 7, 2020, from the Town Administrator to the Town Treasurer, and in connection therewith, the Chair and the Treasurer, acting jointly, are authorized to execute and deliver a Bond Purchase Agreement between the Town and UBS, which shall be in such form as shall have been approved by Bond Counsel. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

COVID-19 Update

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

“Effective yesterday, July 6th, Massachusetts moved to Phase 3 of the Governor’s reopening plan. Phase 3 will have 3 steps. In Phase 3 - Step 1, the following enterprises and activities are allowed to reopen with restrictions:

- Movie theaters and outdoor performance venues
- Museums, cultural, and historical sites
- Fitness centers and health clubs
- Certain indoor recreational activities with low potential for contact
- Professional sports teams, under the authority of league-wide rules, may hold games without spectators

Under the updated gatherings order, indoor gatherings are limited to 8 people per 1,000 square feet, but should not exceed 25 people in a single enclosed, indoor space. Outdoor gatherings in enclosed spaces are limited to 25% of the facility’s maximum permitted occupancy, with a maximum of 100 people in a single enclosed outdoor space. This includes community events, civic events, sporting events, concerts, conventions, and more. This order does not apply to outdoor, unenclosed gatherings if proper social distancing measures are possible. As of today, DPH is reporting 104,799 cases in Massachusetts, of which 8,757 are in Plymouth County. As of last Wednesday, DPH was reporting 278 COVID-19 cases in Hingham.”

Town Services Update

Ms. Monsegur gave the following update on Town Services:

“The Hingham Public Library started contactless curbside operations yesterday, July 6th. To check out physical materials from the library at this time, patrons can follow these steps, which are outlined on the library’s [website](#):

- Log on to your library account online www.hinghamlibrary.org or call the library at 781-741-1405 x0 to place holds on items from Hingham collections.
- The Library will call you to let you know when your library materials are available and ready for pickup.
- Choose a pickup date/time between 9am – 5pm Monday through Thursday and Saturday. You'll have one week to come in to pick up holds after being notified.
- Holds will be available for pickup in the vestibule of the Library's main entrance between 9am – 5pm on the day you choose. Items will be already checked out to you and placed in a bag with your name on it. Only one person at a time will be allowed to enter the vestibule; if there is a wait to enter, patrons should stand on the designated social distancing lines marked on the outside walkway.
- When you're done with your library materials, please return them in the outside bookdrops at the library. All returned items will be quarantined for 3 days prior to being checked in, and no overdue fines will accrue at this time.

We are starting the reopening process for Town Hall and other municipal facilities. At this time, Town Hall and municipal facilities are open to employees only. We will continue to serve Hingham residents and businesses to the best of our abilities, and we ask that you please continue to contact Town departments via the email addresses and phone numbers listed on our website at this time.”

Public Comment

None

Selectmen/Town Administrator Reports

Ms. Monsegur: Nothing to report

Mr. Mayo: Nothing to report

Mr. Fisher highlighted the outstanding efforts of the Hingham Police Department. He reported that they have been very busy with restaurant reopenings, security issues in Town and assisting law enforcement in neighboring towns. He noted that the Hingham Police Department assisted on the scene of a recent shooting at the South Shore Plaza in Braintree. Chief Glenn Olsson praised the men and women of the Police Department for their hard work in the community.

Mr. Ramsey reported that he had recently receive an email from a resident praising Police Office Ryan Ross for his response to a 911 call which resulted in saving a child from choking.

Mr. Ramsey commented on the passing of the July 4th holiday and how different it felt this year during the COVID-19 crisis. Ms. Power agreed yet commented that there were some things that stayed the same this year. She said that the Earle family still displayed their large flag on their house at Cole Corner. She also said that it was inspirational to see the American flags along Main Street, which were hung by the Hingham Fire Department. She also noted that a bell ringing had been organized by Diane DiNapoli at 10am on the Fourth, and thanked Ms. DiNapoli

Ms. Power thanked Susan Sarni, Executive Health Officer, for everything she has done for the Town since March. She said that Ms. Sarni has been professional, responsive, patient, and focused on safety. She has helped the Selectmen navigate through the pandemic safely, while also allowing businesses to

run and restaurants to thrive. Mr. Mayo echoed Ms. Power's remarks and said that Ms. Sarni is professional, knowledgeable, pleasant and a pleasure to work with.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm

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