

Board of Selectmen

July 14, 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.”

Mr. Dave Cedrone of WATD News stated that he was recording the meeting for news purposes.

Approval of Minutes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes dated June 18, 2020 at 5:30 pm and the minutes dated June 18, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Ms. Power seconded. Ms. Power stated that she was not in attendance at the June 18 meeting at 7 pm, but she would vote so they could be approved.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: abstain

Ms. Power: yes

Review and approval of inter-department transfers

Ms. Monsegur presented to the Board two sets of inter-departmental transfers. She said that one is an additional transfer to Legal Services, in the amount \$35,000, from Engineering Salaries for additional bills that the Town has recently received. She noted that many of these bills were related to COVID-19 and to the Water System acquisition. She stated that the second transfer is a set of five inter-departmental transfers for relatively small amounts to account for payroll for five departments. She said that the last day of the fiscal year fell on a Tuesday, which is a longer than usual day for employees, thus the need for additional funds for salaries. She stated that the funds would be transferred from Land Use and Development Salaries to several Town Hall departments.

There were no questions from the Board. Ms. Power noted that any of the legal fees related to the acquisition of the Water System would be reimbursed to the Town after the closing of the sale.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to recommend an inter-department transfer to Legal Services from Engineering Salaries for \$35,000. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to recommend an inter-department transfer to Conservation Salaries from Land Use Salaries for \$236. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: abstain

Ms. Power: yes

Voted: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to recommend an inter-department transfer to Planning Salaries from Land Use Salaries for \$220. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Public Comment

Public Comment: Mr. Michael Saitow, 34 Rockwood Rd, stated that he has reached out to the Town regarding an adjacent property at 32 Rockwood Road. He asked whom he should talk to find out if the Town owns the property. Ms. Power stated that she had read correspondence that had been sent to a previous Board member and has asked Ms. Wentworth of the Land Use and Development Office to look into the issue. Ms. Power anticipated he would hear from her soon.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: abstain

Ms. Power: yes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made to recommend an inter-department transfer to Veterans Salaries from Land Use Salaries for \$157. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to recommend an inter-department transfer to Recreation Salaries from Land Use Salaries for \$25. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to recommend an inter-department transfer to Historical Salaries from Land Use Salaries for \$109. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes
Mr. Ramsey: yes
Ms. Power: yes

Board and Committee Reappointments

Ms. Power commented that the Town of Hingham is so fortunate to have so many resident volunteers. She reported that the Board is now in the process of receiving Talent Bank applications from resident who wish to volunteer on Committees and Boards and would soon be conducting interviews. She explained that they try to match volunteers with their interests. She noted that, after tonight's reappointments, there would be between 30-50 open volunteer positions.

Mr. Fisher noted that they would not be reappointing Mr. Joe Freeman to the Zoning Board, due to his recent passing.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to reappoint Joseph Ruccio, Andy Touchette, David Ullrich, Mario Romania, and Michael Mecurio as Associate Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a one-year term ending June 30, 2021. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes
Mr. Ramsey: yes
Ms. Power: yes

Ms. Power commented that she had the privilege of appointing Mr. Freeman and said that he was a voice of clarity, sound judgement and cordiality. She expressed her gratitude for the many of years of service he gave to the Town.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to reappoint Claudia Eaton and Rikard Johnson to the Bare Cove Park Committee for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes
Mr. Ramsey: yes
Ms. Power: yes

Ms. Power stated that there are still several open positions on the Bare Cove Park Committee.

Voted: Mr. Fisher made a motion to reappoint Carolyn Aliski to the Beautification Committee for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes
Mr. Ramsey: yes
Ms. Power: yes

Ms. Power noted that there is still one opening on the Beautification Committee.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to reappoint John Rice to the Cable TV Advisory Committee for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to reappoint William Harrington to the Community Preservation Committee for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to reappoint Thomas Roby, Robert Mosher and Henry Hidell to the Conservation Commission for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to reappoint Lucinda King Frode, Debra Sullivan and Linda Powers to the Council on Aging Committee for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Ms. Power mentioned to the public that there are currently two open positions on the Council on Aging.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to reappoint William Friend and Sue Sullivan to the Country Club Management Committee for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Ms. Power said that there is one open position on the Country Club Management Committee.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to reappoint Robert Beal, Jr. as a GAR Hall Trustee for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to reappoint Marco Boer to the Harbor Development Committee for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Ms. Power noted that there are two vacancies on the Harbor Development Committee. Mr. Fisher encouraged the public to volunteer for this committee.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to reappoint Elizabeth Dings, Stephen Dempsey, and Robert Stansell to the Historical Commission for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to reappoint Tom Carey as a Trustee of the Hingham Public Library for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to reappoint Ted Matthews as an Associate Member of the Planning Board for a one-year term ending June 30, 2021. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to reappoint Judith Nims as a Registrar for the Town of Hingham for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to reappoint Adam Light to the Scholarship Fund Committee for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to reappoint Michael Studley and Philip Shute to the Shade Tree Committee for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to reappoint Scott Cyr to the Water Transition & Evaluation Committee for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Ms. Power said that the Selectmen's Office would be sending notification of all reappointments to those mentioned tonight, and to each committee chair. She also mentioned that there are several newly created committees this year including the Public Safety and Senior Center Building Committees and the Tree Preservation By-Law Committee. She encouraged the public to visit the Town's website to look for volunteer opportunities and Talent Bank applications.

COVID-19 Update

Ms. Monsegur gave the following update:

"Massachusetts remains in Phase 3 - Step 1 for now. As of today, DPH is reporting 112,130 probable and confirmed cases in Massachusetts, of which 8,830 are in Plymouth County. As of last Wednesday, DPH was reporting 281 COVID-19 cases in Hingham.

As a reminder, now that we're in beach season, passive recreation at beaches is allowed under the following guidelines:

- Groups of 10 people maximum when seated
- Maintain at least 12 ft. of distance between groups
- Beach capacity can be limited by manager to achieve social distancing guidance
- Face coverings required at beaches and parking areas when social distancing is not possible in accordance with COVID-19 Executive Order No. 31
- Water sports are allowed, but organized ball games like volleyball, spike ball, Kadima, bocce, etc. are not allowed at this time
- Any food service or concessions must conform to applicable food service and restaurant guidance
- Restrooms can be open with social distancing in interior spaces and while waiting in line, and CDC-compliant cleaning protocols

Please respect these guidelines and do your part to keep yourself and fellow beachgoers safe this summer. And don't forget your sunscreen!

Starting yesterday, we have more staff coverage in Town Hall during normal Town Hall business hours, which are Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm; Tuesdays from 8:30am-7:00pm; and Fridays from 8:30am-1:00pm. While Town Hall remains open to employees only at this time, we are working towards reopening to the public later this summer. Please continue to call and email departments to get in touch.”

Hingham Downtown Association annual Summer Sidewalk Sale

Ms. Power asked Ms. Lynn Barclay, President of the Hingham Downtown Association to describe her request for use of the sidewalks for the annual Summer Sidewalk Sale. Ms. Barclay commented that the Summer Sidewalk Sale has been held annually for 30 years and is a major financial event for the merchants, helping them to prepare for the holidays. She gave a brief history of the evolution of the Sidewalk Sale and noted that it brings a festive spirit to the Downtown. She explained the scope of their request, saying that they are seeking permission for the use of the sidewalks for the use of the merchants to display tables and racks. These will be placed adjacent to the storefronts, will not obstruct or impede the pedestrian way, and will not involve road closures. The dates for the event will be Thursday, July 23-Saturday, July 25 from 9am-6pm. She listed the following locations:

- 39 Main Street to North Street
- South Street from Central to North
- North Street from Central to Mill Street
- 69 Water Street

Ms. Barclay also noted that the merchants are prepared to adhere to the COVID-19 guidelines they have received from the Board of Health. Ms. Susan Sarni, Executive Health Officer, listed the guidelines as reflected in the subsequent vote. Police Chief Olsson said that the sale has always been a positive and successful event and expected it would be this year as well.

There was some discussion about signage related to Covid-19. Chief Olsson said he would work with Ms. Barclay on signage. Mr. Ramsey thanked Ms. Barclay for her work on this event and with the merchants during the COVID-19 crisis. Ms. Power added that the Sidewalk Sale is a great way to support our local merchants who are always quick to help support local sports teams and organizations.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the request of Hingham Downtown Association to use the sidewalks located at 39 Main Street to North Street, South Street from Central Street to North, North Street from Central to Mill Street, and 69 Water Street for the annual Summer Sidewalk Sales on July 23-25, 2020 from 9 am to 6 pm subject to the following conditions:

1. Masks should be worn at all times by retailers and guests, provide signage downtown
2. No food or beverages can be served to public, no samples or free tastings allowed

3. Retailers are in charge of their store space and in front of store, post signs on wearing a mask on door

4. When possible maintain 6ft of space inside and outside of stores

5. Provide hand sanitizer to public and staff

6. Add arrows in store for flow of traffic

7. No sampling or application of personal goods

8. No alcohol can be served to the public.

9. Retailers are also responsible for keeping the sidewalks clear for free passage of pedestrians.

Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Selectmen/Town Administrator Reports

Mr. Ramsey commented that he has recently received several inquiries about which Committees have openings. Ms. Power commented that these openings could be found on the Town website on each committee's page.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

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