

# Board of Selectmen

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August 13, 2019  
Regular Session 7:00pm

Present:

- Board of Selectmen: Ms. Karen Johnson, Ms. Mary Power, Mr. Joe Fisher
- Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator
- Ms. Michelle Monsegur, Assistant Town Administrator.

## Executive Session

The Chair States: the purpose for tonight's executive session is to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property at 100 Beal Street, Hingham, MA pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(6) because holding this discussion in open session would have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Town. The Board will reconvene in open session at the conclusion of the executive session.

ROLL CALL VOTE.

## Return to Open Session at 7PM

### Approval of Minutes

Ms. Power made a motion to approve the minutes dated June 24, 2019. Mr. Fisher seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

### Items not posted on the Agenda

#### Mosquito Control Update from Health Dept.

Ms. Kathy Crowley, Public Health Nurse for the Health Department, 34 Simmonds Road, stated that she would like to review the Town of Hingham's plan for dealing with mosquitos. She stated that the Town of Hingham follows a surveillance plan put forth by the MA Dept. of Public Health and the Plymouth County Mosquito Control. The purpose of the plan is to have all the towns in MA have a consistent approach to mosquito control. She stated that there are two key parts to the plan. One is the strategic trapping of mosquitos which monitors EEE and West Nile trends. The other part is a written plan of how to proceed if the viruses come to our town. She stated that Hingham is still at a low risk but that the status could change at any time. She wanted to encourage the public to take precautions including the following:

1. Using EPA approved repellent between dusk and dawn
2. Wearing long sleeves and pants between dusk and dawn
3. Remove any standing water from properties, including bird feeders and wading pools
4. Repair any broken screens in homes

She stated that the plan can be found on the Town's website.

Ms. Johnson asked Ms. Crowley to clarify that the Town has the ability to implement a reverse 911 call in the event that the threat level changed to high. Ms. Crowley stated that the Town does have that ability.

Ms. Power asked if there was currently any spraying of mosquitos in the Town of Hingham. Ms. Crowley clarified that there was currently no spraying in town because our threat level is currently low. She stated that spraying may begin if the Town's threat level should go up. She added that they were following the plan implemented by the State of MA.

Mr. Fisher asked if she would please say the phone number for the Health Dept. in case anyone from the public would like to call. Ms. Crowley stated that the phone number was 781-741-1466.

### Public Comment

No comments.

### To adopt the order of taking for the layout of a portion of Martins Lane

Susan Murphy, Special Real Estate Counsel to the Town of Hingham, stated that at this year's 2019 Town Meeting the Town had voted to accept the layout of a small 40 square foot triangle of land at the end of Martins Lane. She stated that this area used to be part of Martins Lane until 1947 when the width of the street was made more uniform, thus separating this portion of land from the street. She went on to say that this part of land contains 10 feet of sea wall. By adding this parcel of land to Martins Lane the Town of Hingham would be able to repair this portion of sea wall, and this would no longer be a potential breach area.

Ms. Johnson asked her if there had been any response from Lynn Realty Service, Inc. Ms. Crowley said that although Lynn Realty Service, Inc. is technically the owner of the land, according to the Registry of Deeds, they had already been dissolved as a corporation in 1947. She explained that they had taken all the proper steps as required by statute including mailing and public posting and they had not received any response. She also stated that because of the size and location of the property the land would not be buildable and thus would not be of value to a public party. She stated that there would not be any payment recommended. Ms. Johnson said that she appreciated Ms. Murphy's work on this matter.

Ms. Johnson accepted a motion for an order of taking.

Mr. Fisher moved to vote that the Board adopt an Order of Taking for Martins Lane as authorized pursuant to Article 33 of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0

Ms. Murphy went on to say that she would be notarizing the signed document and she asked Ms. Johnson if it was her free act indeed as a member of the Board of Selectmen and Ms. Johnson replied that it was.

### **Harbor Dredging Contract**

Harbormaster, Ken Corson spoke about the harbor dredging project. He said that the contract will allow for the dredging to commence on the inner harbor mooring basin in October 2019 and that the work would continue until January 2020. The contract also states how the work would be paid for as well as the reimbursement process from the state for the \$2 million grant. He stated that the contract also makes provisions in case the work does not get done on time. He said that in the event that the work is not done by January 2020, the contractor would be required to come back the following year, remove all moorings and docks, complete the dredging, and then return all moorings and docks.

Ms. Fisher asked what would happen if the final volume of material was considerably larger than the estimated 61 +/- cubic yards. Mr. Corson stated that there will be a pre-dredging and post-dredging survey in order to accurately calculate the final volume removed. He indicated that the final price would likely go up according to a price per cubic yard.

Ms. Power moved to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Hingham Harbor Maintenance Dredging Agreement to be executed with the successful bidder. Mr. Fisher seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

### **Request to move the POW/MIA monument to Whitney Wharf**

Mr. Keith Jermyn, Director of Veterans Affairs, said he was present to seek permission to relocate the Town's POW/MIA monument from Hingham Harbor to Whitney Wharf. He explained that over the course of the past year he has been in touch with numerous boards and offices who have all been in favor of the move. He explained that the new location would be more prominent and more accessible. He also stated that the new site would need some prep work for the monument, stone, and footing and for the new flagpole.

Mr. Fisher asked if the new location would require more maintenance. Mr. Jermyn stated that he thought it would be a similar amount as the current location. Mr. Fisher also asked about lighting. Mr. Jermyn noted that several of the existing lights on Whitney Wharf are not working. He said that since it is a Board of Selectman parcel of land, the Board would be responsible for getting an electrician to fix those lights, not the HMLP. Mr. Jermyn also estimated that the additional cost to light the monument would be approximately \$1,000. He stated that this cost would likely be the same if they installed solar lights.

Mr. Jermyn also stated that 60-70 people now gather annually on the third Friday in September at the monument in observance of National POW/MIA day.

Mr. Fisher moved to vote to transfer the POW/MIA Memorial Stone from its current location in the harbor to Whitney Wharf. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0

### **Request regarding capital expenditure from Aquarion Water Company**

Mr. Steve Olson addressed the Selectmen about filter repairs at the water treatment plant and asked them to authorize the necessary capital expenditures to repair damage due to a lightning strike. He explained that the water treatment plant had 4 filters and each filter needs to be cleaned or "backwashed" separately. With one filter damaged by the storm, when each filter is taken offline to be cleaned the Town is left with two working filters which he explained is not sufficient to meet the needs of the Town. The initial cost of the repairs was \$47,600. Once they began to do the work, he explained, it became evident that additional repairs were necessary. He explained that the new cost for cleaning, replacing piping, removing and replacing additional broken filter underblocks, metal rebar, and tiling, grout, etc. would be \$33,250 for a total cost of \$80,850 for the entire project. He went into greater detail of the damage to the filter and showed the Selectmen some photos of the damage as well. He said that the Town is looking into

whether they would be able to file an insurance claim for the work. He did note, however, that the deductible on the insurance is \$100,000 and thus this work would not meet the deductible.

Ms. Power added that the reason the Selectmen were discussing this issue at this time is because the Town was currently in a period of Good Husbandry. She added that as part of this Good Husbandry period, Aquarion was making sure that the water treatment plant was being properly maintained, including making any emergency repairs. She also said that while repairs under \$50,000 can be authorized by the Town Administrator, the additional expenses for the project pushed the total amount over \$50,000. She added that was the reason this issue was being discussed at the meeting. She also asked how frequently the backwashing is done on the filters. Mr. Olson replied that it is typically done every 3-5 days, depending on the flow and the weather.

Mr. Fisher asked if this is the first claim to be reported to the insurance company for the year. A short conversation ensued concerning the procedure in which a claim is filed. Mr. Olson suggested that he would need to check with their in-house insurance specialist to clarify the procedure. Mr. Olen also added that he could assure the Selectmen that a claim would not be denied due to improper maintenance of the facility. Mr. Fisher also speculated whether the insurance deductible would be cumulative throughout the year or per occurrence.

A short conversation between Ms. John and Mr. Olson followed concerning preventative steps that could be taken in order to make sure the water company proactively address similar issues in the future. All parties decided that they would like to get some answers from their insurance company regarding the deductible.

Ms. Power made a motion to vote to authorize necessary capital expenditures associated with filter repairs at the water treatment plant due to a lightning strike. Mr. Fisher added that he would like the motion to include that authorization would be subject to any recovery of expenses from the insurance company. Ms. Power made the motion as amended. Mr. Fisher seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

### **Appointments**

Mr. Fisher stated that he had three recommendations for appointments.

Mr. Fisher recommended that the Board appoint David Ulrich as an Associate Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a one-year term ending June 30, 2020. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Mr. Fisher recommended that the Board appoint Stephanie Gertz to the Cultural Council for a three-year term ending June 30, 2022. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Mr. Fisher recommended that the Board appoint Sharon Allen to the Weir River Estuary Committee for a three-year term ending June 30, 2022. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

### **Possible Votes:**

Ms. Power made a motion to vote to authorize the Chair to sign a five-year lease agreement with Santandar Bank N.A. for the lease of three Ford Escorts for school department transportation. Mr. Fisher seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Ms. Michelle Monsegur, Assistant Town Administrator, explained that the Town had received a grant of \$142,000 in December 2018 and that she was looking for authorization from the Selectmen regarding the use of these funds. She stated that she and Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator, have selected four projects from a list compiled by Eversource as a result of their energy audit. Ms. Monsegur said that the proposed projects are as follows:

1. A variable frequency drive project at the Broad Cove Sewer pumping station.
2. Another variable frequency drive project at the South School sewer pumping station.
3. Demand control ventilation at Hingham High School
4. Replacement of current lighting at the high school cafeteria and kitchen with LED lights.

Ms. Power asked why the LED light project was chosen, given the relatively long payback period of 12.5 years. Ms. Monsegur clarified that while she acknowledged the payback period was long there would be a significant energy savings. She also noted that the Town may receive a further grant within the next two years at which time the Town could add more LED lighting, thus making the energy savings even greater.

Mr. Fisher made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the Green Communities Designation Grant Certificate of Application. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Mr. Fisher moved to vote to approve the issuance of a Special (One Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Sergio Pungitore for the Mary of Light Italian Feast to be held on Oak Street on Sunday, September 1, 2019 from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Ms. Power moved to vote, to approve the issuance of a Special (One Day) All Alcoholic Beverages license to Maria Cassidy on behalf of the Hingham Maritime Center for the third annual Hingham Harbor Feast to be held at Barnes Wharf on Saturday, September 7, 2019 from 5:30 pm to 11:00 pm. Mr. Fisher seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Mr. Fisher moved to vote to approve the issuance of a Special (One Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Laura Kelleher on behalf of the Hingham Gridiron Club for the Hingham High School Football Social for Parents to be held at Ames Chapel on Saturday, August 31, 2019 from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Ms. Power moved to vote to approve the issuance of a Special (One Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Andrew Li on behalf of South Shore Mini for the Mini Client Appreciation Event to be held at South Shore Mini on Saturday, August 24, 2019 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Mr. Fisher move to vote to approve the issuance of a Special (One Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Jay Tolman on behalf of the Muscular Dystrophy Association for the Tolman MDA Telethon to be held at Congregation Sha'aray Shalom on Monday, September 2, 2019 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Ms. Power moved to vote to grant permission to the Hingham Farmers Market to use the Station Street parking lot on September 28, 2019. Mr. Fisher seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Tom Mayo explained to the Selectmen that the field irrigation system at Lynch Field was damaged by a lightning strike and in need of repair. The current estimate to repair the damage is \$8,500.

Ms. Power moved to vote to recommend a transfer from the Reserve Fund to Selectmen's Expenses – Selectmen's Engineering in an amount not to exceed \$10,000. Mr. Fisher seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Ms. Power moved to vote to approve the request of Shipyard Ventures, LLC d/b/a Alma Nove for a change in Sunday opening hours to 10:00 AM. Mr. Fisher seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Mr. Fisher moved to vote to waive the building permit fee associated with the Gazebo roof repair. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator, explained to the Board that the Town has partnered with Environmental Partners Group to help assist the Town during the transition of the water company.

Mr. Fisher asked Mr. Mayo to explain what the billing process would be with this company. Mr. Mayo explained that the Town anticipates working with this company on a daily basis for approximately six months. Their help would be billed monthly on an hourly basis with an estimated total cost of approximately \$150,000. A short conversation ensued with many positive comments about the company, Environmental Partners Group.

Ms. Power made a motion to vote to authorize the Chair to sign the contract with Environmental Partners Group.

#### **Selectmen and Town Administrator Reports**

Mr. Mayo and Ms. Monsecur commented that they had nothing to report.

Mr. Fisher commented that he was at the Hingham Farmers Market this past weekend to read the Selectmen's and Governor's declarations designating August 10 Farmers Market Day and week statewide. He also commented on how successful the market has been in Hingham and that the merchants really feel part of the community.

Ms. Power stated that she saw on Twitter this morning that today was the 112<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hingham Police Department. She went on to comment that she appreciated the Police Department's community outreach via technology.

Ms. Power also congratulated new Eagle Scout, Luke Chipman, on his accomplishment. She also congratulated Luke on setting a fine example in the community and congratulated his parents Bob and Vicky Chipman for their many years of service to the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.

Ms. Johnson said that she recently stopped by the SNAP program's end of year luncheon at the South Shore Country Club. She said that all reports concurred that it had been a great summer for the SNAP program and that a lot of fun was had by all participants. She also thanked Kevin Whelan of the SSCC for his help in partnering with SNAP.

Mr. Fished made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Power seconded. All were in favor, 3-0.

**Approved October 9, 2019**

**Meeting adjourned at: 8:16pm**

**Documents:** A complete packet of supporting documents is on file and available for public review in the Selectmen's Office.